

GLOSSARY OF CIVICS TERMS

Adopted from OSPI CIVICS CBA Guide

accommodation—the act of making adjustments to settle opposing views

assimilation—adopting the cultural customs and attitudes of the people in a certain place

common good—a principle that has the goal of serving the best interest of the majority

constitutional issue—something that relates to the rights and government powers outlined in the U.S. Constitution. It often involves public disagreement.

constitutionalism—a government in which everyone, including rulers, must obey the laws

democracy—a form of government in which citizens elect their political representatives: a liberal democracy favors greater government involvement; a direct democracy is one in which people make the laws; a representative democracy is one in which people choose representatives to make the laws

governmental institutions—bodies and agencies that carry out government functions

infrastructure—the foundation for an organization or system; the essential facilities and services in a community, such as water, power, transportation, and communication

interaction—the process of acting on each other interdependence—state in which a number of people or other entities rely on each other

investment—the act of putting money into a business with the goal of making a profit in the future

lobby—a group that tries to influence lawmakers in favor of a specific cause

popular sovereignty—policy of allowing voters in a region to decide an issue populism—a political movement in the 1890s that supported the rights and power of the people

prejudice—a negative opinion formed without a factual basis

progressivism—a political movement in the early to mid-1900s that sought progress toward new ideas and improved living conditions

public good—common good; something that is for the benefit of all

public interest—something that is in the best interest of all the people

public policy—principles that guide the ways a government deals with individuals or other governments

redistribute—to deliver or distribute something again in a different way

reformers—individuals or groups who seek to change something for the better

republicanism—a form of government in which citizens elect their representatives

social program—government program to promote the well-being of the people

socialism—an economic system in which the

government controls—the means of producing and distributing good

