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Reviving Democratic Citizenship?

ABSTRACT:

Many of our inherited civic institutions are dead or dying. Besides the formal act of voting, the most significant act of citizenship is to show your passport at the border, and thereby gain re-admission to the country. But it is quite possible to live in America today without regularly dealing with others as fellow citizens – fellow workers or professionals, yes; fellow religionists, yes; but fellow citizens, focusing on our common predicament as Americans?

The “citizenship agenda” aims to create new sociological contexts for the exercise of democratic citizenship in ordinary life. This is the unifying theme of a series of books: *Voting with Dollars* (with Ian Ayres), granting each voter 50 “patriot dollars” to give to his favorite candidate or political party, *Deliberation Day* (with James Fishkin) proposing a new national holiday before each election at which citizens deliberate on the merits of rival candidates, *The Decline and Fall of the American Republic*, proposing a system of electronic news-vouchers to rejuvenate professional journalism; and *The Stakeholder Society* (with Anne Alstott), proposing a new form of citizenship inheritance of property. I will be emphasizing the synergistic relationships between these four initiatives.