



What We Know About the Process

1. We have 6 months to complete our work.
 - To influence the next county budget, should have recommendations available in January
2. Our work product will be a set of recommendations on county government services and how to pay for them.
 - Not asked to recommend government structure, personnel policies, etc.

What We Know About the Process

3. We will engage citizens directly in our work.
 - Began with Sept. 9 public session
 - Mid-process public sessions in January
 - Recommendation review public session in March

4. We will work in both plenary sessions and smaller work groups.
 - Plenary: Set expectations, gather group feedback, and approve & finalize recommendations
 - Work Groups: Learn about, research, and draft preliminary recommendations on specific services

Listening to Citizen Feedback

- Review ideas from the citizen meeting.
- What themes are important to remember as you do your work?
- What would you add to the citizen ideas and viewpoints?

Elements of a Successful Process

- What do you want from this process to feel that your work is worthwhile?
- What commitments should group members make to each other to make this process productive?

Envisioning the End Product

- **30,000 feet** = Aspirations/goals but no “hows”
- **15,000 feet** = Very general “how” ideas
- **5,000 feet** = Specific “hows” with discretion
- **1,000 feet** = “Just follow the directions”

Example: How to Deal with the Federal Deficit

30,000 feet:

The federal government should be debt free by 2030.

15,000 feet:

It should hold government growth to no more than X% while ensuring revenue growth is no less than Y%, with the balance going to debt repayment.

5,000 feet:

It should raise the following kinds of taxes: _____, _____, _____, eliminate the following kinds of programs: _____, _____, _____, and reduce spending in these general areas: _____, _____, _____.

1,000 feet:

It should repeal the following sections of the Internal Revenue Code: _____, _____, _____ & add the following sections: _____, _____, _____.

Setting the Level of Detail

- Talk about the different levels of recommendations.
- Look at the example and discuss the level of detail that Engage Gwinnett recommendations might involve.
- After discussion, each group member will place a dot on the easel at the level he/she believes decisions should be made.