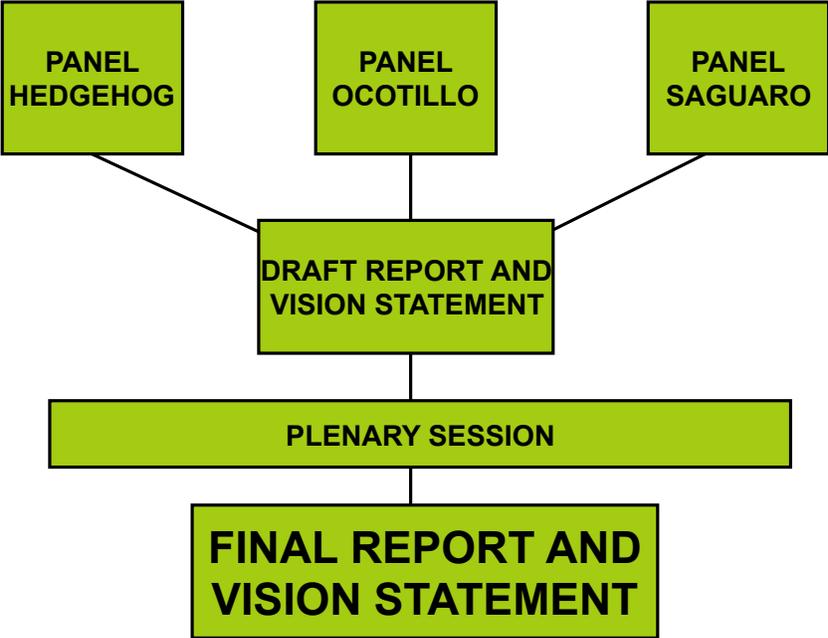


The Visioning Scottsdale Town Hall Process

From the Group Statement to the Final Report



OVERVIEW OF THE ARIZONA TOWN HALL PROCESS

Arizona Town Hall is a private nonprofit corporation founded in 1962 for the purpose of educating/engaging and empowering Arizonans to better solve critical policy issues. Much of the success of the Arizona Town Halls lies in the fact that the process incorporates the knowledge, thoughts and ideas of all the participants.

Panel Discussions

The Town Hall begins with panel discussions. Each panel addresses the same discussion outline during the first portion of the Town Hall. The process and guiding principles for the panel discussions are as follows:

- The Panel Chair reads one question at a time and discussion follows.
- It is important to stick to the question at hand.
- The panel strives for consensus (votes are taken only if absolutely necessary).
- Consensus is reached when no one wants to add anything, and no one objects strongly to the wording offered.
- The recorder's role is to keep the panel on time, capture the consensus comments, read back consensus statements to the panel and make edits with participants.
- The viewpoints of all participants are considered equally valuable, regardless of title or position.
- Discussions are encouraged to be robust while maintaining a respect for different viewpoints. Participants are allowed to criticize concepts—not people.
- Minority viewpoints must be very strong to find their way into the final document (at least 1/3 of the total group).
- Media will be present at the Town Hall and may be in attendance during panel discussions. You should assume that your comments may be quoted at any time.
- Observers may attend the sessions but cannot participate or contribute to discussions.
- The process is as valuable as the recommendations.

Creation of the Draft Recommendations Report

Once complete, the consensus statements are taken from each panel to the Report Chair. The Report Chair reviews the statements from all three panels and looks for consensus across all of the groups. With assistance from the Panel Recorders, the Report Chair creates a draft report of what appears to be the consensus of the Town Hall participants.

The draft report is distributed before the plenary session, which takes place on Monday, February 11. Panels meet prior to the start of the plenary session to review the draft and outline any areas the panel wants to address at the plenary session.

The Plenary Session

At the plenary session, all participants work as a full body to approve, amend or reject each section of the report of recommendations.