



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN FOCUS GROUP

We are pleased to invite you to participate in our focus group. The purpose of the focus groups is to engage in an interactive discussion regarding the community's needs as related to equitable outcomes for all groups of people. The One Fairfax [policy](#) calls for the county to build its organizational capacity to enable the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies, programs, and practices that advance equity. To that end, we are working actively to ensure that the breadth of interests, ideas, and values of all county residents are heard and considered and that our public participation processes are inclusive of diverse races, cultures, ages, and other social statuses. Further, one of the recommendations from the [Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity](#) was to "Demonstrate intentionality in ensuring diverse representation and inclusiveness in power and decision-making opportunities" (Recommendation 19). As Boards, Authorities, and Commissions (BACs) are essential vehicles for citizen participation in local government, an analysis will help understand current demographics and how it informs members of the Board of Supervisors about BAC representation overall and their specific appointments.

We will conduct a series of focus groups with members of BACs to gather information from BAC members about their thoughts, opinions, and experiences related to the demographic composition of BACs. We hope to have representative participation from all the county's BACs; however, we must limit participation to 1 or 2 participants from each BAC to abide by the public meeting requirements. Each focus group session will last approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours. The in-person focus groups will take place at the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Room 4/5, and refreshments will be served. Virtual meeting options are also available.

The dates and timeframe for the focus groups are as follows:

Thursday, August 17th (in-person) between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 24th (virtual) between 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 7th (in-person) between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 14th (virtual) between 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

To participate in one of the focus groups, RSVP indicating your availability to Carla Brown, Training Manager for One Fairfax, via email at carla.brown@fairfaxcounty.gov by Thursday, July 20th. Carla will send calendar invitations with your focus group's confirmed date and time.

For more information on the county's efforts to promote racial and social equity, please visit the One Fairfax webpage at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/one-fairfax>.