

**PARTICIPATORY
DEMOCRACY:
PRINCIPLES AND
IMPACTS**

**Brian
Wampler**
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DEFINITION OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

- Participatory democracy consists of state-sanctioned processes that devolve decision-making authority to venues that are *jointly controlled* by citizens and government officials.
- Citizens exercise voice, vote, and oversight in these venues.

4 PRINCIPLES

- Voice
- Vote
- Oversight
- Social Change/Social Justice
 - The “So what” principle behind change

BRAZILIAN CITIES ADOPTING PB COMPARED TO NON-ADOPTING CITIES (100,000+ RESIDENTS) 1989-2008

- Statistically Significant Findings:
- Increase in municipal spending on Health Care and Sanitation
- Decrease in infant mortality
- Increase in number of NGOs/CSOs/CBOs
 - All three relationships strengthen the longer the program exists.
 - All three relationships strengthen when the Workers' Party is in control of the mayor's office

Controlling for city population size, size of the local economy and region of Brazil where the municipality is located.

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY IN NEW SETTINGS

- Adopt and adapt
 - What is the local problem to be solved?
 - New Policy provision? Expanding democracy? Dampening Corruption?
- Voice and Vote
 - Citizens participate, deliberate and make binding decisions
 - How much authority will governments delegate to citizens?
- Interlocking institutions
 - Tied horizontally and vertically to state agencies and to other participatory venues
 - Are government officials willing to reform how the state works?
- Social justice
 - Allocate resources in new ways
 - Are resources available?
 - Is the government willing to spend resources in new ways?



BRIAN WAMPLER

BWAMPLER@BOISESTATE.EDU