



# Civic Insights

## A Day of Civic Action

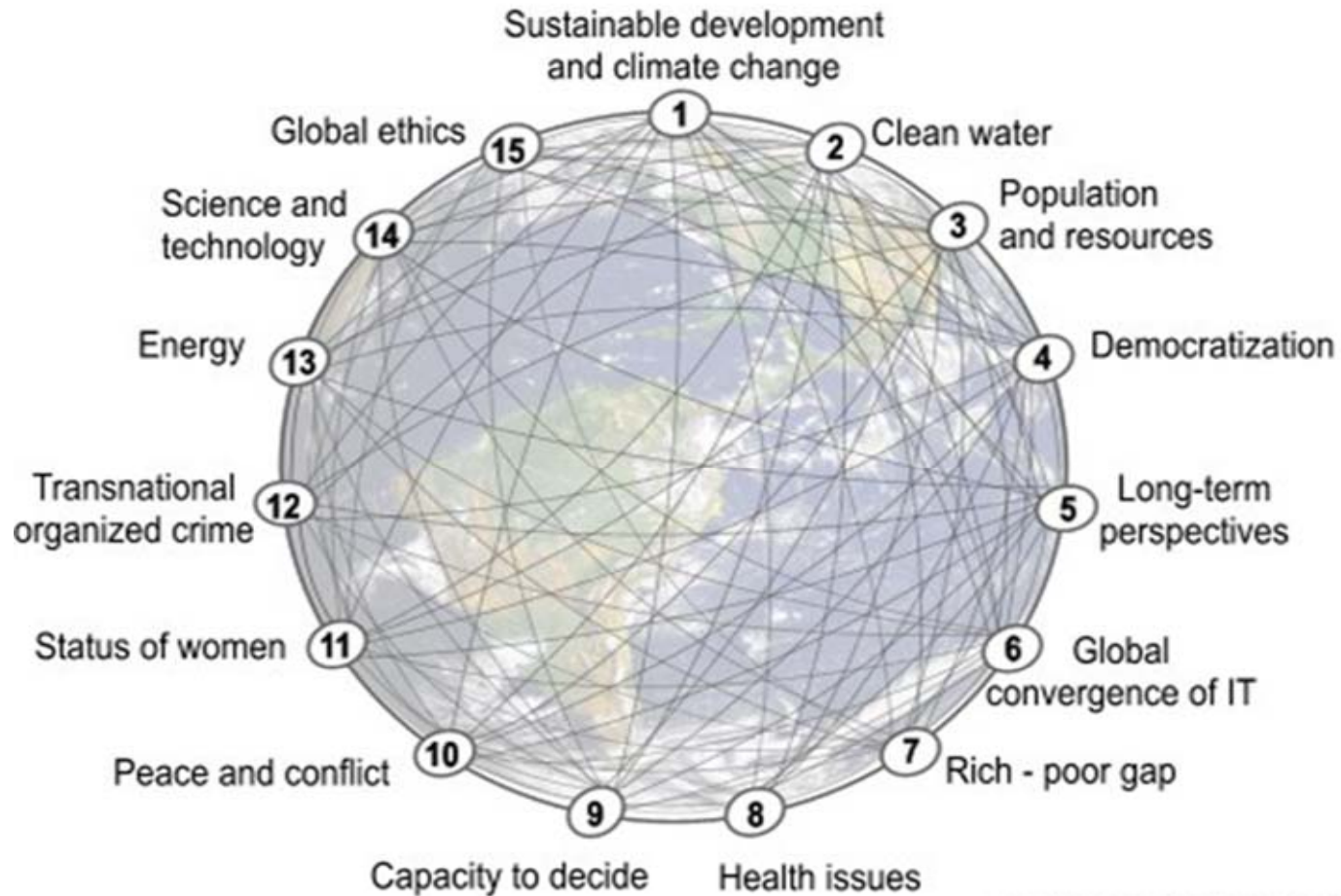
September 22, 2011



**ARIZONA CENTER FOR  
CIVIC LEADERSHIP**

Shaping Tomorrow Together.

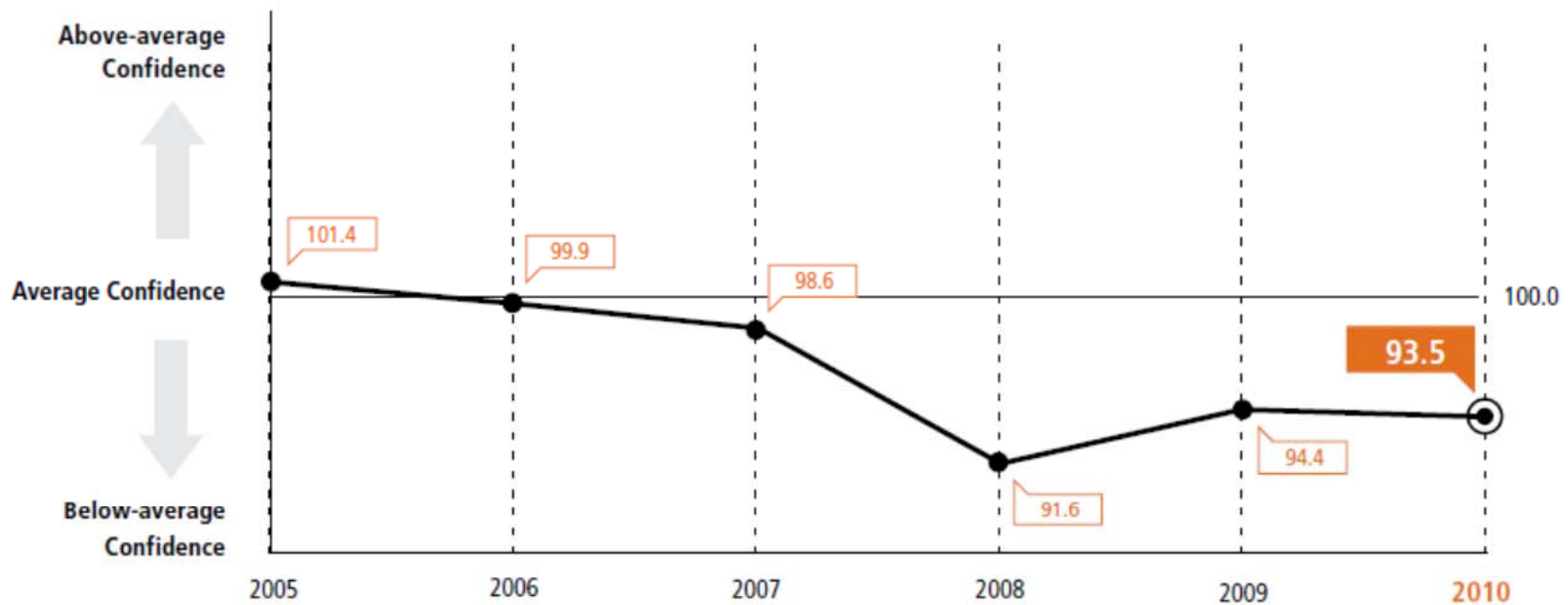
# Huge Challenges and A New Normal



by The Millennium Project  
[www.millennium-project.org](http://www.millennium-project.org)

# Lagging Confidence

AN INDEX OF AMERICANS' CONFIDENCE IN THEIR LEADERS



- For the third year in a row, Americans' confidence in their leaders is significantly below average.
- Confidence in 2010 remained at the same level as in 2009.

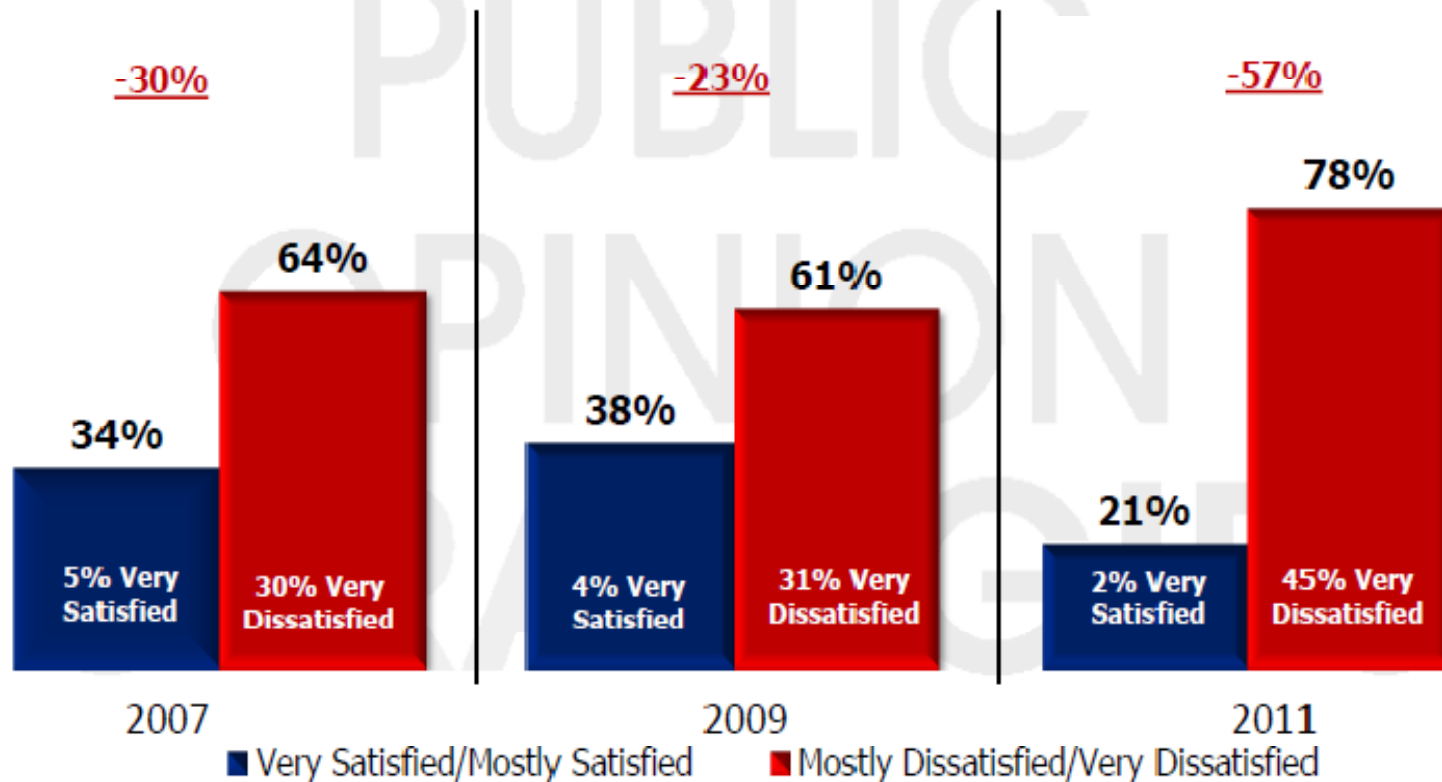
Source: Leadership Index, Center for Public Leadership, Harvard University



# Growing Dissatisfaction

## Satisfied with how the Country's Political System is Working

The Washington Post



Source: A Pivot Point in Public Opinion: The Debt Ceiling Negotiation and its Consequences, Public Opinion Strategies, September 2011

# Lingering Disapproval

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- “Low esteem for the law-making body in Arizona has been true since 2009...In every geographic region of the state, negative ratings exceed positive ones.”

*Source: Rocky Mountain Poll, Phoenix, May 11, 2011*

# Loss of Consumer Confidence

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- U.S.

- “Drop in consumer confidence is a direct consequence of the lack of confidence in our political system and its leaders...”

*Source: A Pivot Point in Public Opinion: The Debt Ceiling Negotiation and its Consequences, Public Opinion Strategies, September 2011*

- Arizona

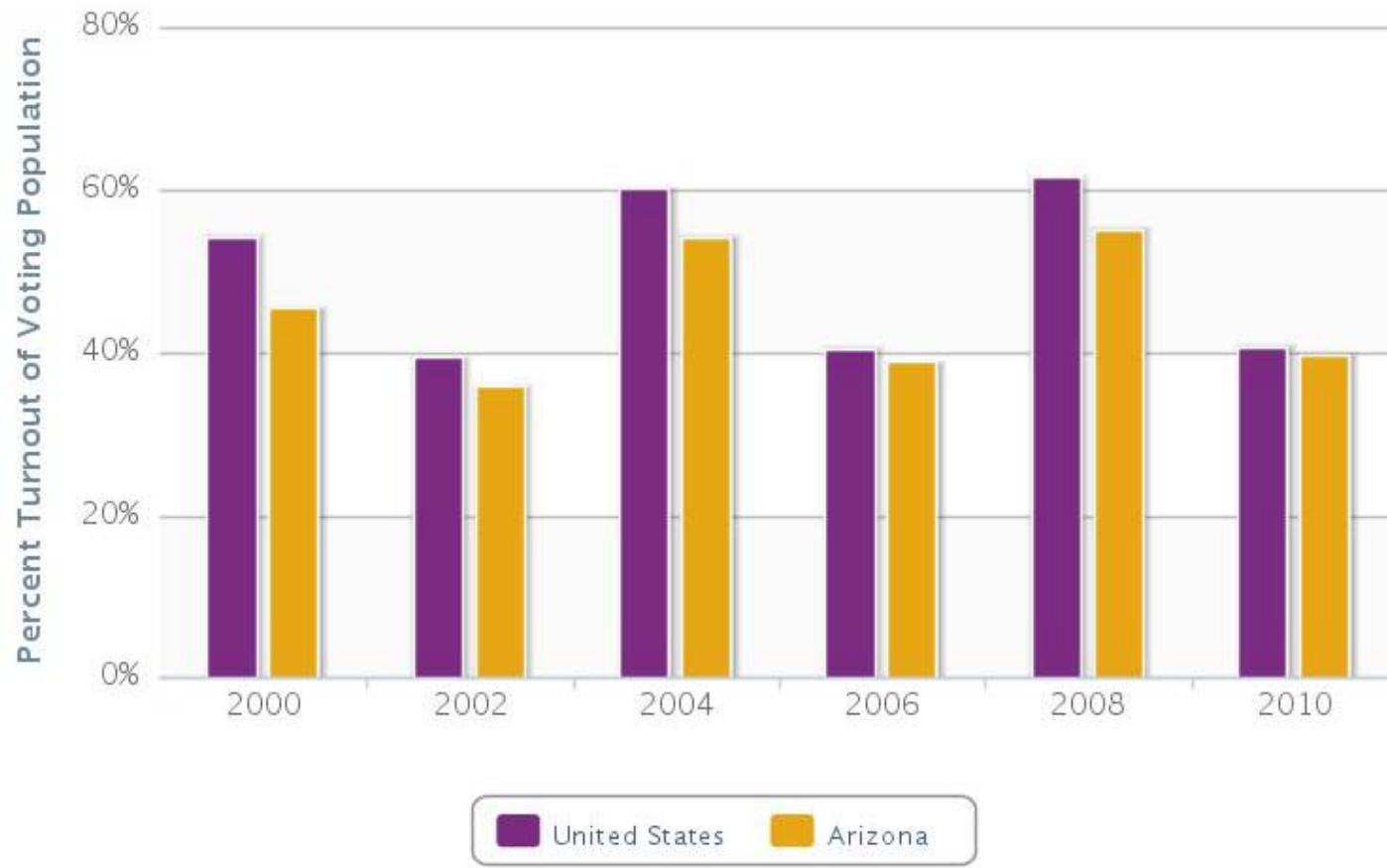
- “67% expect business conditions will remain unchanged or worsen
- 77% believe their family income situation will remain unchanged or worse.”

*Source: Rocky Mountain Poll, Phoenix, August 5, 2011*

# Unsettling Comparisons

Turnout of Voting Eligible Population

Last Updated: 2/8/2011



Source: United States Election Project at George Mason University

# Shifting Outlooks

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- 1988
  - 35% of Arizonans “conservative”
  - 50% “middle of the road”
  - 15% “liberal”
- 2011
  - 43% “conservative”
  - 36% “middle of the road”
  - 21% “liberal”

# Dismal Forecasts

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- The recovery weakened during 2011
- Fiscal tightening is a drag on growth
- Weakening confidence a threat to recovery
  - Outlook is for recovery to continue at below average rates
  - Risk of recession rising
  - Meaningful employment and housing recovery still months away
- Jobs being created are very different from the ones that were destroyed; structural unemployment a problem
  - Entrepreneurship rates low for this phase of recovery

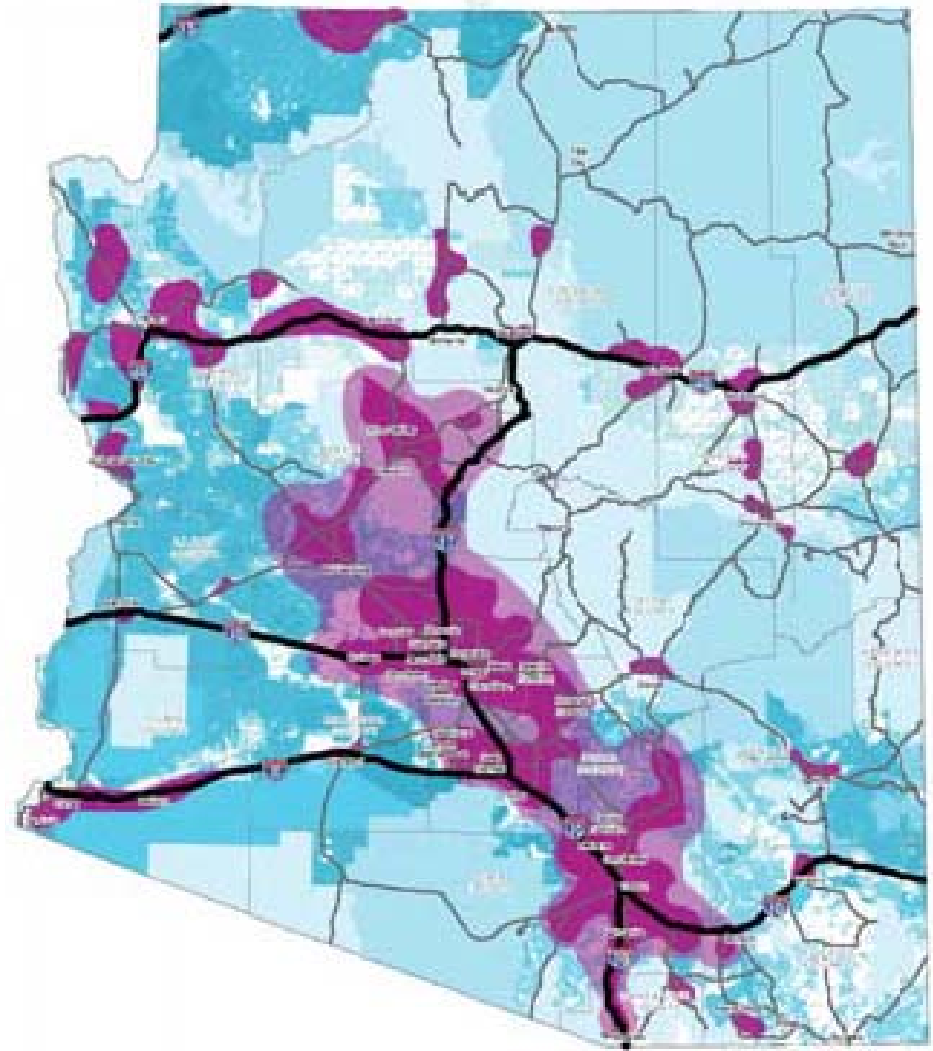
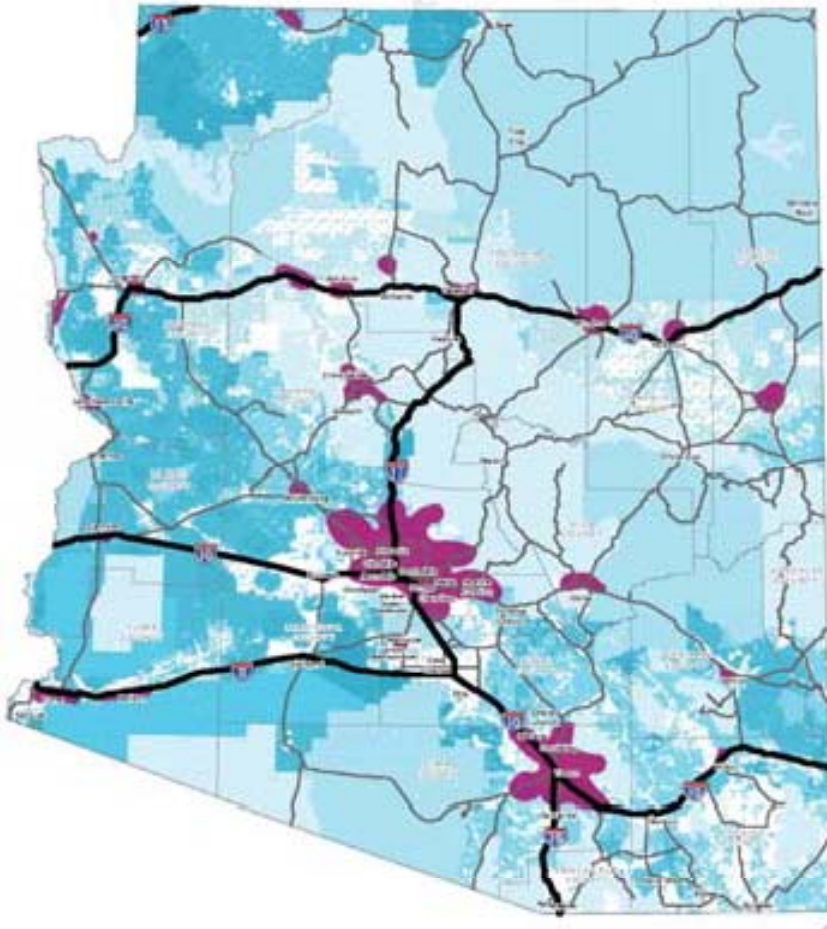
*Source: Dr. Rebecca Holmes, Arizona's Economy: Composition, Jobs, and the Future*

# AZ Collection of Contrasts

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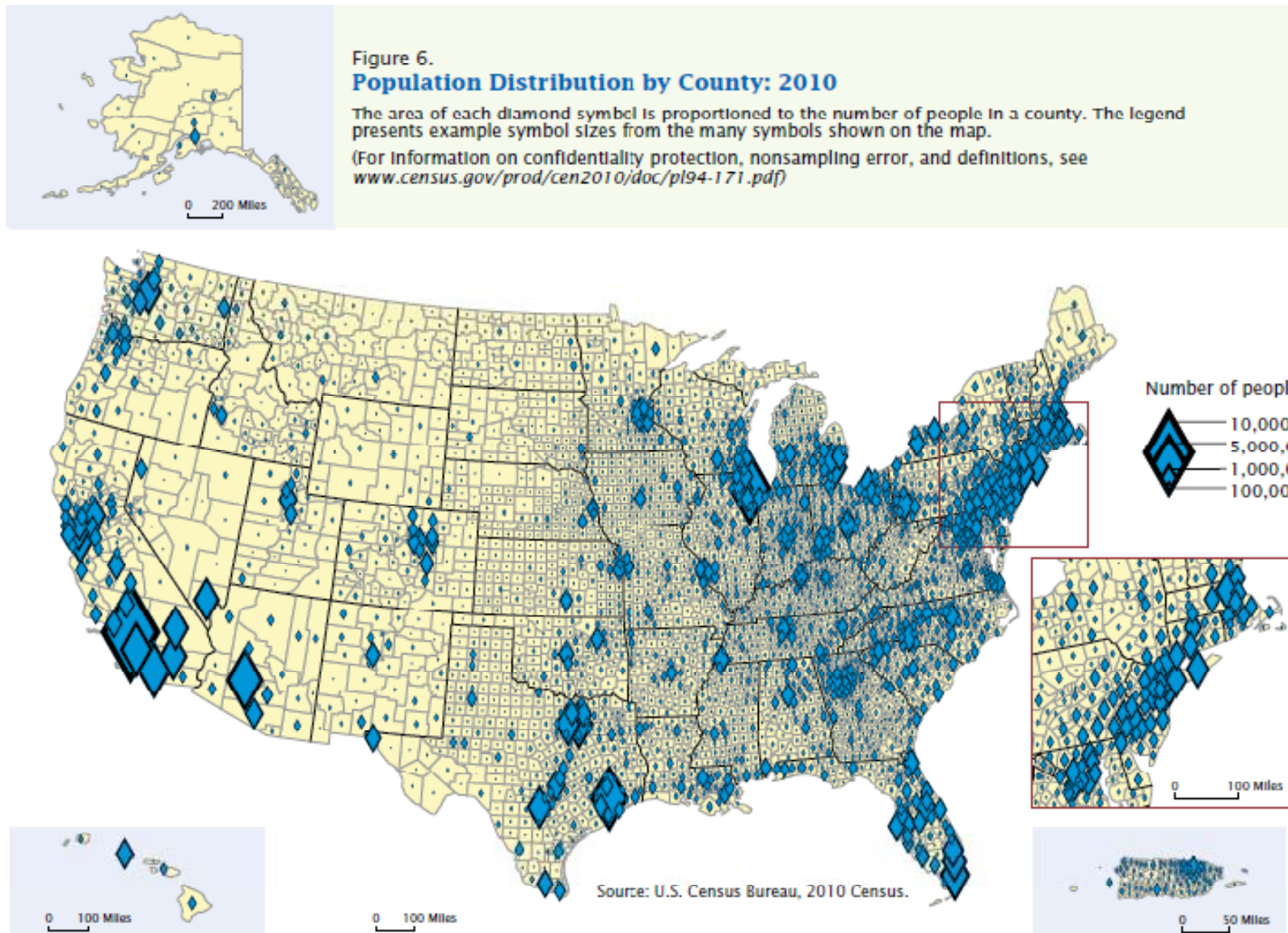
- Older and younger
- Rural perception/urban reality
- World views and local lives
- Using and sustaining
- Community and individualists

# Big Enough to Keep Growing



Source: Maricopa Association of Governments, 2011

# A Megapolitan Nation



# The Reality

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## Issues

- Transnational
- Transinstitutional
- Transdisciplinary

## Circumstances

- Complex
- Uncertain
- Urgent



# The Possibilities

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Catastrophic Results



A World that Works



# Insight: Learning and Leading

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“Once we think we’ve figured out how the world is and how it works, we become remarkably resistant to discordant information.”

*Jon Wergin, Thinking and Learning, 2010*



# Insight: A Cooperative Bent

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“The myth of universal selfishness endures in part because it’s not entirely wrong—only mostly so.”

*Yochai Benkler, The Unselfish Gene, September 2011*

# Insight: Tech and Social Learning

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- “Our inherent drive to learn together.”

*Source: The New Social Learning, 2010*



- “Hispanics are already more invested in mobile devices and mobile access than other groups.”

*Source: Connected Hispanics and Civic Engagement, The Hispanic Institute, 2011*

# Insight: Resiliency at Every Level

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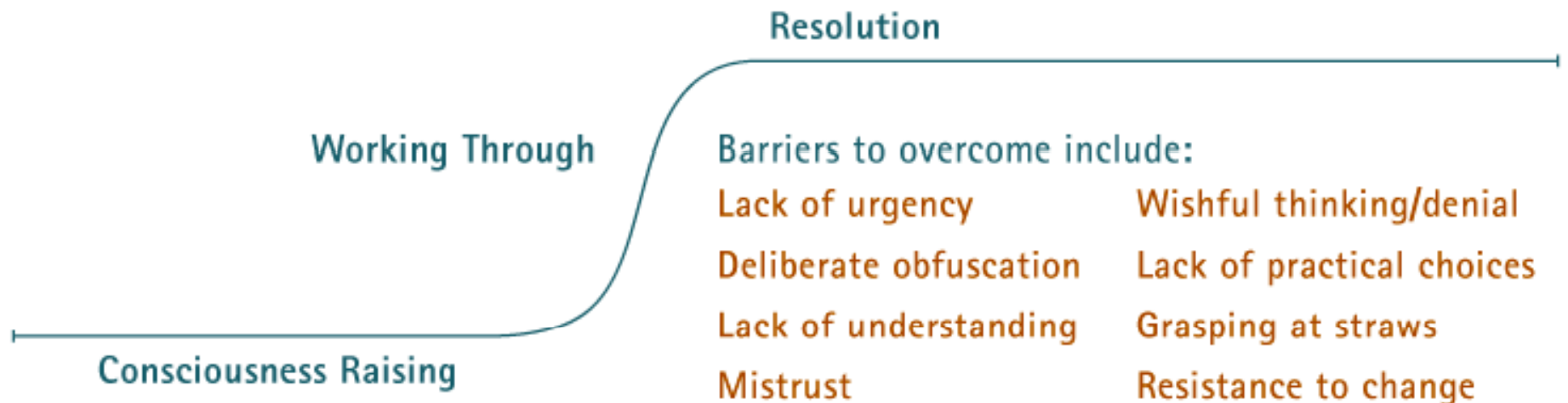
“Most Arizonans, even when they are undergoing high or moderate levels of stress, are able to overcome life’s adversities by tapping into their own strengths.”

*Source: Arizona Health Survey, St. Luke’s Health Initiatives*



# Insight: Working It Through

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See Yankelovich, "The New Pragmatism," 2009, <http://www.publicagenda.org/files/NewPrag7.pdf>.

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Source: Center for Advancement in Public Engagement

# For Civic Activists

“Collaboration is the natural byproduct of leaders who are passionately curious, modestly confident, and mildly obsessed.”

*Source: John Abele, Bringing Minds Together, 2011*