

Run a "County Needs Assessment" Survey Campaign

A community survey is an excellent, nonthreatening entry point for "reading the temperature" in smaller, unfamiliar counties—especially in rural or low-population areas where people might be wary of outsiders pushing organized groups. It positions Tactical Civics™ as a helpful, listening-oriented resource rather than an advocacy push right away. People feel valued when asked for their opinions on local issues, and it naturally uncovers alignment with core themes like constitutional enforcement, local sovereignty, federal overreach, sheriff duties, or community self-reliance without sounding salesy.

This approach draws from proven rural organizing tactics: surveys build trust, generate leads (via optional contact info), provide data for targeted follow-up, and can even create buzz when you share summarized results locally (e.g., "Most folks here want stronger county control—here's what we heard").

Create a short survey (online via free tools like Google Forms, but with printable versions) asking about top local concerns—taxes, land rights, law enforcement—and tie them back to constitutional solutions. Distribute via mail, door-to-door drops, or at events. Analyze results to craft targeted messaging, like "82% of your neighbors want stronger local oversight—here's how Tactical Civics™ can help." Share findings publicly (e.g., in a local op-ed) to position your group as data-driven and community-focused. This not only gathers contacts but demonstrates value, making recruitment easier.

Key Advantages for Project America 125 Counties

- Low threat level — Frames you as gathering general community input, not recruiting for a "militia" or specific reform upfront.
- Data-driven momentum — Results give concrete proof of interest (e.g., "X% concerned about federal overreach"), which you can use in op-eds, commissioner meetings, or to motivate early members.
- Lead generation — Include an optional "I'd like to stay informed about local constitutional solutions" field to capture emails/phones without pressure.
- Scalable and cheap — Works well in areas with spotty internet by combining digital and physical methods.

Best Practices for Design and Execution

Keep it short (8-12 questions max, 5-7 minutes) to boost completion rates—rural folks are busy. Make it anonymous by default (state clearly: "Responses are anonymous and confidential; no names required unless you opt in for follow-up"). Use simple, neutral language to avoid bias.

Question Structure Tips

- Start with easy, local-flavored demographics (e.g., "How long have you lived in [County]?", "Rural/farm/small town?") to build rapport.
- Mix closed-ended (scales, yes/no, multiple choice) for easy analysis + a few open-ended for rich insights.

- End with the soft opt-in for more info.

Sample Questions Tailored to Tactical Civics Themes

These focus on pain points like overreach, local control, and civic readiness without naming the project initially.

1. On a scale of 1-5 (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very), how concerned are you about federal or state government overreach affecting the local community? (Follow-up: What specific areas worry you most? e.g., land use, taxes, law enforcement, education)
2. How much do you agree that county officials (like sheriffs or commissioners) should prioritize protecting residents' constitutional rights over enforcing certain federal mandates? (Strongly agree / Agree / Neutral / Disagree / Strongly disagree)
3. In your view, who should have the final say on local issues like emergency response or protecting property rights: Federal government, State government, or County/local residents? (Pick one + why in open text)
4. Have you ever felt that local law enforcement needs more support or tools to stand up for community values against outside pressures? (Yes/No/Maybe + open comment)
5. How interested would you be in learning more about ways We The People can restore local control through county-level actions? (Very / Somewhat / Not really / Not at all)
6. What do you see as the biggest challenge facing our county right now? (Open-ended – this uncovers hooks like taxes, crime, land grabs)
7. Optional: If you'd like a summary of what your neighbors think or info on local constitutional education/resources, leave your email or phone (voluntary).

Add a brief intro: "We're local folks gathering honest input on how the county can stay strong and self-governing. Your thoughts help!"

Low-Cost Distribution Methods for Small Counties

Rural areas respond best to hybrid approaches—mix personal touch with broad reach.

- **Door-to-door drop-off/pick-up** (highly effective in small towns): Print surveys, drop at homes with a friendly note ("Pick up in 3-5 days or return to [local spot]"), then collect. Reduces bias vs. pure mail and builds face-to-face rapport. Aim for 100-200 households per effort.
- **High-traffic spots:** Leave stacks with collection boxes at feed stores, post offices, diners, gas stations, churches, co-ops, or libraries. Include a QR code for online version.
- **In-Person Clipboard Surveying at High-Traffic Locations (e.g., Grocery or Feed Stores):** Standing with a clipboard at a local grocery store, feed store, or similar hub is a classic, time-tested local tactic—especially powerful in rural counties where these spots serve as informal community gathering points. People are accustomed to casual chats, and feed stores in particular attract farmers, ranchers, hunters, and self-reliant individuals who often align naturally with Tactical Civics™ themes like property rights, sheriff

authority, and federal overreach.

Pros: High visibility and foot traffic; immediate personal rapport; instant reaction gauging; strong lead generation through conversations; positions you as approachable and community-focused.

Potential Challenges and Solutions:

- Private property rules: Most stores are private businesses, so **always get permission first** to avoid being asked to leave. Approach the owner/manager politely: "Hi, I'm a local resident gathering community opinions on county issues — would it be okay to stand outside with a short survey for 1-2 hours? I'll keep it unobtrusive." Many small-town owners agree if you're respectful and not aggressive. If denied, use nearby public sidewalks (if available) or pivot to public spaces like parks.
- Perception as intrusive: **Frame it as listening, not pushing.** Smile, wear casual local attire (e.g., ball cap, boots), and start with small talk: "How's the weather treating your crops this year?"

Best Practices:

- Prep: Clipboard with the short survey; welcoming sign ("Local Community Survey: What Matters Most to [County] Residents? Your Voice Counts!"); free handouts (pocket Constitutions, one-pagers, QR codes); extra pens; optional small table if allowed; buddy system for safety.
 - Timing: Peak hours (e.g., Saturday mornings for feed stores, after-work for groceries). 2-4 hour shifts, 2-3 times per week per county.
 - Engagement script: Greeting — "Morning! Got a quick minute? I'm chatting with folks about what keeps this county strong — mind answering a couple questions?" If they hesitate: "It's anonymous, takes 2 minutes, and helps us understand local concerns like property rights or community protection." Listen actively, thank them, and close: "Thanks so much — here's some info if you're interested. Mind if I follow up?" Hand a card/flyer.
 - Safety/etiquette: Stay positive, respect "no thanks," have a partner.
- This method can yield 10-20 strong conversations per session, turning strangers into contacts or early advocates quickly.
 - Local partnerships: Ask friendly businesses, vets' groups, or churches to display/distribute. Offer to speak briefly at a meeting and hand out surveys.
 - Mail to targeted lists: Use public voter rolls or property owner lists (often cheap/free at county clerk) for postcards with QR code + short paper version. Follow up with reminder calls if possible.
 - Digital boosters: Post in county-specific Facebook groups, Nextdoor, or local radio station pages. Use free tools like Google Forms or Jotform for the online version — add QR codes to flyers.

- Events tie-in: Bring to county fairs, gun shows, or town halls—hand out and collect on-site.

Follow-Up Strategy

- Analyze quickly (use free tools like Google Sheets).
- Share non-controversial highlights locally (e.g., flyer: "Community Speaks: 70% want stronger local rights—let's talk solutions").
- Contact opt-ins personally with a thank-you + invite to a casual meetup or video viewing.
- Track in your shared system to spot patterns across the 125 targets.

This method has powered rural progressive and conservative organizing alike by starting with listening. For tiny counties (e.g., under 5,000 pop), even 50-100 responses can represent real sentiment and hit your early benchmarks.