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### Civic Engagement Beyond Voting: Preparing Community Engaged Citizens in American Secondary Schools

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# Civic Engagement Beyond Voting: Preparing Community Engaged Citizens in American Secondary Schools

Alexandra Souris  
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**OLD CIVICS**  
Knowledge & School based



**NEW CIVICS**  
Skills & Community based

*“If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow.”*  
**John Dewey**

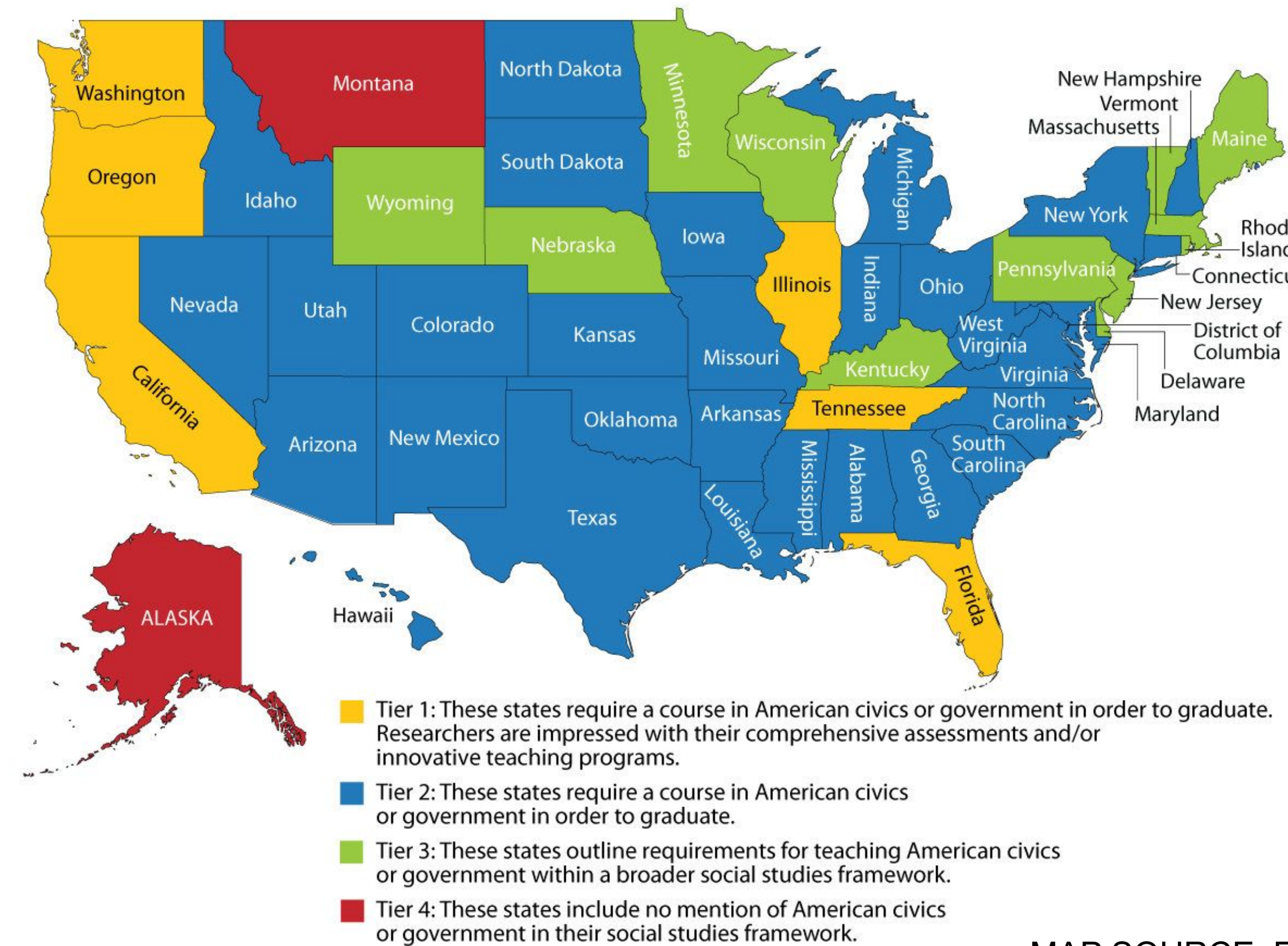
## PROBLEM STATEMENT

An increasingly unsteady political climate and growing social identity based civil unrest has magnified the need for a shift in civic education and community engagement on the local, state, federal, and global level. Undoubtedly, this tension goes beyond our voting booths, spilling into our streets, and smattering the screens of our electronic devices. Traditional civics courses lack the progressive emphasis on global citizenship.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Implement “New Civics” Course:** Frame the teaching of civic engagement by teaching the rights and responsibilities of American citizens, as global citizens, to provide students with the knowledge and skills they need to be engaged citizens.
- **Create Community Partnerships** to promote applied learning and real world connections.
- **Monitor and support Civic & Community Engagement** model in every classroom as a school wide initiative.

How civics education is being taught in public schools



## POLICY RESPONSE

In October 2018, MA Governor Baker Signs S2631, An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement for students.

## YOU MIGHT BE ASKING...

### WHAT IS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT?



SOURCE: University of Wisconsin Stout