



Migration Between States

Discussion Guide

Let's review

At the start of each discussion, review the conversation ground rules for returning and new members alike to set the stage for active participation by all. You may want to use a timer as you go around the room.

And don't forget to decide who will take notes and post a discussion recap.

- **Be open and curious:** Everyone has a unique perspective, so be prepared to hear a different point of view. Listen first, and focus on the facts.
- **Be respectful and engaged:** Be sure that everyone has a chance to speak before adding a second comment or perspective. Encourage each other's participation.
- **Be focused and concise:** Keep the conversation centered on the issue and the brief.

The "Table-it" Rule: If the group has gone off-topic but the area is of interest, the group can table the conversation and save it for another time to be addressed in a different manner.

Let's begin

- Take five minutes to review the [Executive Summary](#) for this brief. Highlight the main point of each section and key statistics.
- Each member is invited to answer the following questions in a **two-three minute reaction** to the brief:
 - Introduce yourself, and share what "lens of care" did you wear when reviewing this brief (e.g. personal, professional, community, state, nation, global)?
- What did you find most interesting or surprising from reading the brief? What matters?

Spread the word: facts to share during your discussion

- [Local mobility](#) (change of in-state residence) accounts for roughly 60% of all moves and sits at a rate of 5.4% of the population. Cross-country/between state movement averages 3.5% of the population.
- More than [7 million households](#) moved to a different county in 2020, about half a million more than in 2019, reflecting the moves prompted by the coronavirus pandemic.
- More than half of local movers cite housing as [the reason for moving](#), looking for new, better, or more affordable options. About a quarter of movers cite family reasons. The majority of long-distance movers cite labor reasons, starting or relocating to a new job.

Let's discuss

Below are questions for the group to consider and discuss, or choose your own.

- **Community:** Have you moved recently, considered moving, or know someone who has? What are the driving factors influencing the decision?
- **Government:** How should the government respond to inbound or outbound migration patterns at the local or state level?
- **Business:** How has the coronavirus pandemic affected our ideas about location being tied to business and employment?

Let's act

1. **Take it local.** Talk to neighbors, friends, and family for their views on migration between counties and states. Consider hosting another conversation with community members who work in the housing market, have recently moved, or have considered moving.
2. **Explore the impact of legislation related to housing and living in your community.** The Tax Foundation breaks down information on [business](#), [sales](#), and [income](#) taxes in your state. On your state or municipality's website you can also find information about your community, from housing and properties to business development. You can search the various departments, agencies, and programs related to these areas on your state's or municipality's website. These options may also be available in a dropdown menu.
3. **Investigate community programs** in your state or municipality. See if an organization that welcomes newcomers exists in your community.
4. **Research your elected representatives positions** on the state of the inbound or outbound migration, and their vision for how to tackle related challenges facing Americans and your community. You can find contact information for federal, state, and local government officials [here](#). Your state or municipality's websites will also have information to contact leaders. Try looking at the drop-down menu for a *Government* tab.
5. **Establish a relationship with your legislators.** It's easy to establish a relationship with your legislators. Start by introducing yourself. You can also learn to write to your representatives or set up a meeting with a legislator on [The Policy Circle website](#).
6. **Consider writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed on your stance on inbound or outbound migration in your local paper.** Learn how on [The Policy Circle website](#).

Next Steps for Your Circle

- **Post a Recap:** Summarize your discussion to share thoughts with members not present, and share planned actions from group members. Designate who will post a meeting recap on your circle page.
- **Decide your next meeting topic.** Want to discuss a related brief at your next meeting? Suggestions include:
 - [Housing](#)
 - [Taxes](#)
 - [Stitching the Fabric of Neighborhoods](#)
- **Dive Deeper into the issues.** If this is an area you would like to pursue further, consider taking possible steps to influence policy. The Policy Circle offers resources for [developing a message about your issue](#) and [organizing a petition](#) to amplify your voice and raise awareness. Don't miss our [latest events](#) that help you dive deeper on this issue and more.