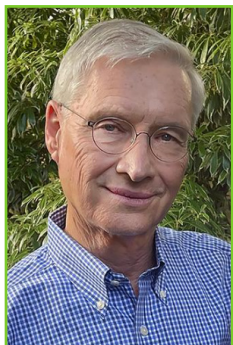


STRENGTHENING OUR CIVIC SOCIETY

AT THE CYRUS HOTEL - TOPEKA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026



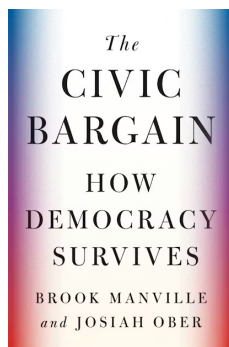
BOOK MANVILLE | Brook's career experience spans multiple organizations and sectors. Trained as an academic historian (PhD Yale), he first became assistant professor at Northwestern University, winning a Dean's award for undergraduate teaching, and publishing his first book on ancient Athenian citizenship. He later moved into business, working in media (CBS Inc), technology (start-ups in New York and Silicon Valley), and business consulting, serving as a partner in McKinsey & Company for several years. Later in his career he was an executive vice-president at the United Way of America.

For the last several years Brook has run his own consulting business, working with senior leaders in major non-profit organizations on strategy, organization and leadership development.

He's the author or co-author of several books, including his 2023 volume, *The Civic Bargain*, which the New Yorker magazine named as one of the best of the year. He currently writes a Substack newsletter about democracy, under the same name:

civicbargain.substack.com

Brook is married to Margarita Egan, with three children. They reside in Bethesda MD.



Brook's Substack

The Public Policy and Management Center (PPMC) advances public good by strengthening people, organizations and communities. The PPMC provides expertise and support to local governments, professional associations, and nonprofits in research, talent development, community engagement, and logistical support.

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PUBLIC POLICY & MANAGEMENT CENTER

STRENGTHENING OUR CIVIC SOCIETY

Convened by the
Kansas Business Roundtable

Tuesday
February 10, 2026
3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Cyrus Hotel

920 S. Kansas Avenue
Topeka, KS



**KANSAS BUSINESS
ROUNDTABLE**

[WWW.KANSASBR.ORG](https://www.kansasbr.org)





OBJECTIVES

1. Understand what makes democratic society function most effectively, consistent with historic principles of self-governance.
2. Discuss how we can build the necessary civic culture and systems to make our Kansas social fabric more robust so democracy can flourish.
3. Identify specific actions or innovations to foster civic friendship and conversations despite policy disagreements. Brainstorm how to make progress on issues of the common good.

STRENGTHENING OUR CIVIC SOCIETY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026

3:00 pm

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- Bruce Witt - Board Chair, Kansas Business Roundtable
- Introductions at Tables: When you think about the civic culture in today's Kansas, what's the one thing most on your mind, and what might need changing?
- Tables report out
- Introduce Speaker – Chris Croft, House Majority Leader



BRUCE WITT | For the past 16 years, Bruce Witt has led advocacy efforts in Kansas for Ascension Via Christi. In 2022, he became a founding member of the Kansas Business Roundtable so diverse businesses could have open dialogue around data-driven, bipartisan public policy solutions that strengthen the Kansas economy.

3:30 pm

THE CIVIC BARGAIN: HISTORICAL LESSONS ON KEEPING DEMOCRACY STRONG – BROOK MANVILLE

4:10 pm

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

4:30 pm

FACILITATED TABLE DISCUSSIONS & REPORT OUT

5:20 pm

SUMMARY AND FINAL OBSERVATIONS – BROOK MANVILLE

5:30 pm

BREAK AND COCKTAILS

6:15 pm

DINNER AND INSPIRATION TO TAKE NEXT STEPS

- What tangible action will you pursue to enhance civic friendship?
- How can the art of compromise be advanced?
- Tables report out
- KHF Innovation Grants (up to \$5,000) to assist with meetings, speakers, discussion groups, etc.
- Follow-up via email with what we heard, how to apply for a grant, and what's next

7:30 pm

ADJOURN