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**Democracy and Local Governance: Evidence from a Neighborhood**

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One of the main concerns regarding democratic theory is dealing with the fostering of active citizen engagement in the making of public policies at the local level. With this in mind some small to medium size local governments and neighborhoods in large cities are currently experimenting with the use of NICT and Internet in order to reinforce citizen's participation and voice. The goal of these plans is to increase citizen's involvement in local policies by allowing them to participate in the outcomes of nearby public issues. However our work has found that local authorities place much less weight on democratic underlying issues and place a high value on the technologies involved expecting higher levels of participation from the citizens. This paper examines structural democratic local issues and uses a field experiment in the neighborhood of a large European city to examine the degree to which the use of Internet impact local residents, the importance they place on NICT to participate in local issues and the impact they have for enhancing local democracy and network governance.