

# **What, in your view, are likely to be the biggest challenges facing democracy in the next five to ten years?**

1. Rising inequality.
2. With benefits of globalization come big challenges with less and less influence by national and local governments.
3. Lack of participation, especially youth participation.

*Robert Bjarnarsson*

# **What impact do you think these challenges will have on local government and local democracy?**

1. Local government are front line when it comes to rising inequality and the impact of globalization on the people living in their communities.
2. There needs to be more direct citizens influence while still protecting against tyranny of the majority.
3. Local government play a critical educational role in getting citizens involved in the political process, its their neighbourhoods, their children and their schools. Many people who become active citizens locally go on being active also nationally. Democracy education needs to start at school.

*Robert Bjarnarsson*