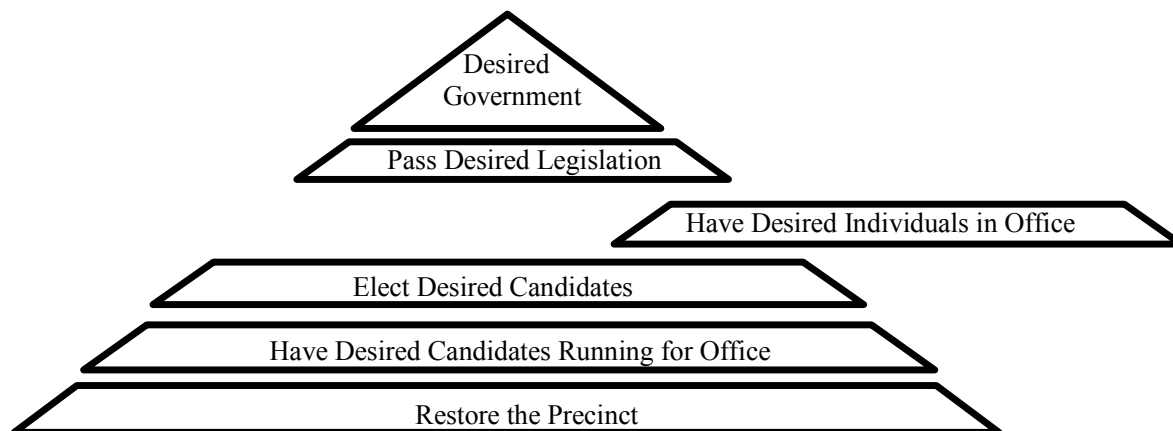


Chapter 3



Let's address the political party
issue right now

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First we must recognize that there is an irresolvable difference of opinion in party affiliation. These parties will never reach an agreement on some matters, because people will always have different political views. What we can focus on is what we agree on, instead of isolating people who have not chosen the same party affiliation as we have. In this way, we can reform all parties, while refusing to be under the thumb of any party. This is a much more attainable solution, as this book explains.

We have seen groups of people feel the only power they have is to “take over” the executive positions within their local party organization. This effort is always met with resistance from the party leadership and will

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only ever bring about changes in party platform in a small, localized area.

Let's break another myth about political parties while we are at it. The "establishment" of a party is not done by the people on the executive committee. In fact, in most cases the individuals truly in charge of the political party in your area never go to an executive meeting at all. Rarely are they seen at any functions or events. They are the ones funding the party, and they do so silently and secretly.

This reality makes it impossible to succeed at "taking over" the political establishment. Even if it was successful, the establishment can simply create a different organization within the party to retain their power. They have the money and they will just fund something new. This does not take the money or special interest out of the political system, it just changes the names on the checks.

Even if this "takeover" is a complete success, it still only results in some changes in party platform on a small level. It is still not bringing about change in the political system. You don't need the party organizations to affect the system. In fact, these political parties limit what you can do.

There are good people on all sides of the political spectrum. There are

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people who like the Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or Green Party. Still others who prefer lesser-known third parties, and some who want no party affiliation at all. Whichever party a person chooses to identify themselves with means nothing. It will not change what they would do in office. Their principles and their stances on the issues are what is important.

Working within a party establishment limits the work you can do for good candidates in other parties whom you believe to be the right person for the position. Loyalty oaths and other obscure party rules restrict you as an individual. They force you to support only people from your own party and not people you truly want to represent you in office. All of these party activities remove your *real* political power.

The party also limits the influence they as a party have, as there is a growing number of people who feel both sides of the political party system are equally bad. These parties only try to reach out and affect the vote within their own party and even that effort is ineffective. Only 20% of people within each political party are engaged enough to participate in the primaries. This means that 80% of voters are not engaged in their own party primary.

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Belonging to a political party is not necessarily a bad thing, as long as you understand their limitations, and also understand that what you need to do as an individual does not change. They are a great place to meet like-minded people, as long as you get those people active in the action of making real changes. Political parties only have the same perceived power as the groups and politicians do. The real power is with the people. So if you can influence the voters within your precinct, you can affect change in a way that no political party can match.

Why settle on having moderate influence in one party, when you can have the majority influence in your entire area regardless of party affiliation? In this method, you avoid getting mired in ridiculous party bureaucracy and can simply focus on bringing about the outcomes you desire for the election.

If you can deliver the primary and general election vote for all parties then you will have accomplished much more than you could accomplish within the party executive committees. You only need to reach two out of ten voters in each party.

We hear over and over again about how we need to unify and work together towards our common goals. This will never work when we

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only work through our chosen political party. The real answer to unifying us is to work towards our common goals without the worry or concern with party affiliation. You have more than enough people in your community to accomplish your goals. You, as an individual, can change the system as you work in your own neighborhood.

When you focus on principle, and not a party, the people will respect you and trust you as you build relationships with the people in your precinct. By visiting your neighbors in a nonpartisan fashion you are able to engage in conversation without the preconceived notions that these parties represent. This open dialogue is essential in gaining the trust of your neighbors. You will be influencing the vote as an individual, as their neighbor and as someone who simply cares. This is where we can come together. By deploying this method when asked what you are doing to advance your message you can answer: “I deliver the vote in my precinct, what do you do?”