

Limited Government: Collectives, and Organizing Around Local Issues

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What You'll Learn About Today...

I. What Is a Collective?

II. What is Governance?

III. How to Use Local Issues for Organizing and Recruiting

**What Is a
Collective?**

What is a “Collective”?

Members agree to give the group the power:

1. To reach less-than-unanimous decisions that **bind** us all
 - a. On specific topics
 - b. Using various decision rules that can vary by topic
2. To **compel** us as individuals to honor those decisions
3. To **change** the decision **rules** via a collective process

All Organizations Are Collectives!

Not (Just) Voting!

- Two wolves and a sheep shouldn't vote on what to have for dinner.



What's a Collective?

Unanimous Agreement is:

Easy

Hard

Splitting
the
Decision:

OK

Not
OK

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Doesn't Matter

Markets
(big group lunch)

Not
OK

Talk Until Agree
(small group lunch)

Collective Choice
(shareholders)

All Collective Decisions...

- Have winners and losers (unlike Free Markets)
- Tend to be One Size Fits All
 - Run the risk of trampling the minority
 - Don't (usually) allow opt-outs
- Favor the politically powerful and connected
- Run risk of 'public cost, private profit' (and other forms of corruption)

Limited Government is about **reducing**
the **number** of decisions here

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Good Government is about making these decisions be **less bad**

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Decision:

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**What is
Governance?**

What is Governance?

A system of:

1. **Making** collective decisions
2. **Carrying out** those decisions -
auditably, verifiably, accurately,
correctly, completely
3. **Tweaking** the decision-making **rules**



**RULES & PROCESSES
FOR
DECISION MAKING**

GOVERNANCE



**RULES & PROCESSES
TO AMEND
DECISION MAKING &
EXECUTION
RULES & PROCESSES**



**RULES & PROCESSES
FOR
DECISION EXECUTION**

**Governance is
“collective¹
management² of
emergent³ issues.”**

What is the Scope of Governance?

Governance Impacts every aspect of society, and the collectives that maintain it...

Dispute
Resolution

Stakeholder
Commitment

Political and
Technical
Decisions

Incentives for
Good Actions

Stakeholder
Buy-In

Who Pays Who and For
What

Change
Management

What is Governance?

Example:

1. A group of 20 **agree** to share 5 large pizzas with specific toppings and crust options
2. Actually **putting together** the order, placing it (where?), paying for it, picking it up, and serving it
3. **Amend rules** for deciding on future shared meals

How to Organize Around Local Issues

Today (the Bitter Place)

- Few desired outcomes
- Few volunteers
- Weak organization

Key Activities

Tomorrow (the Better Place)

- More LG Policy Outcomes
- More GG Activities (anti-corruption)
- More LG Elected Officials
- Broader public support of LG

LG = Limited Gov't

GG = Good Gov't

Today (the Bitter Place)

Key Activities

- Recruit and Retain Volunteers, Activists, Politicians, and Cadre
- Identify, communicate, and recruit around Local Issues (that connect w/ our values)
- Effective Political Activity
 - Lobbying, Testifying
 - Electioneering, D2D (1:1)
 - Public Outreach, PR, Political Theater (1:M)
 - Running / Endorsing Candidates

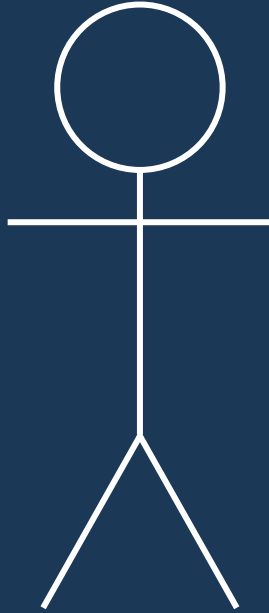
Tomorrow (the Better Place)

The Recruit

Issue they care about

Sense of Purpose

Activity they enjoy
(and training!)



Cameraderie, Sense of
Belonging and Acceptance

Victories and a Sense of
Progress toward Worthy Goals

The Organizing Cycle

Given Our Values and Purpose:

1. Notice a relevant local issue that's upsetting people
2. ID groups whose members might care
3. Ask the groups to
 - a. Ally with you, and/or
 - b. Let you address their members (or publish your article)
4. Invite to Action
5. Communicate every (small) Victory and Milestone
6. Honor the Volunteers

Where to Look for Local Issues

Tune in to local topics:

1. NextDoor (local social media)
2. Local news website comments (not just published letters-to-editors)
3. Other *local* social media groups
4. Talk Radio

Volunteer Types

Differences in volunteer types

1. Generic “Volunteer” - does 1:1 activities
2. Activists - prefer 1:M activities, often single-issue
3. Politicians - generalists, “public face of change”
4. Cadre - dedicated careerists who keep the org alive
5. Toxic Volunteers - policy purists, looking for a fight, can't work and play well with others - eject them

Questions?

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