

3. Local Community Programs

*“It is time for We the People to start taking
certain critical matters into our Own Hands.
Then our leaders will follow us.”*

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14 Local Pride and Accountability

Issue/Problem – An Opportunity

This proposal is a small, but important piece in a book of over 140,000 words about, as I have described CS2 to folks – “What is wrong with America and how to fix it.”

The proposal on Local Pride and Accountability is more a conversation about the opportunity for each of us to participate in the Change process being proposed in CS2. In working to “fix” America the Changes cannot happen in Washington, DC or your state’s capital city. Again, the phrase on the cover of CS2 sums it up very well,

*“Society’s most complex problems are made and solved
at the unit level – one person at a time”*

Meaning that each of We the People are the key to Change, not our government, and it has always been that way. It is for each of Us to decide whether or not to accept, promote, and personally participate in the national Change process. To determine whether or not to be active players in our nation’s Second American Revolution, because that is what We are talking about in CS2. And nothing less than that level of popular support for the somewhat radical, but fully practical Changes presented herein is required for Us to confront many of our long-standing national problems – and declare victory!

It is now 2008 and realistically We cannot turn back the clock to better time in America, and We certainly cannot afford to let things remain headed in their

current direction. Therefore, Change must happen and it falls to us to make those hard things happen now.

It has been estimated that less than 10% of the American colonists actively participated in the Revolutionary War. And of a 1776 colonial population estimated at less than three (3) million — under 300,000 brave people carried the fight for everyone's freedom. For our freedom! It was a glorious moment in history when the Few faithfully served the Many and in the end some 25,000 of them died in the process of winning the War of Independence for their neighbors.

Today, 10% of the American citizen population equates to thirty (30) million of us. Divided by 51 for all 50 states and DC that is over 588,000 people and 5% would still be some 294,000 of us. We could work wonders with that level of inspired, involved, and active citizen participation. We only need that patriotic core of citizens to rise up and to get the ball rolling, and I believe that the Masses, the Silent Majority will stand up and together to initiate our intense, yet peaceful Second revolution starting in 2008. The required leadership resides in every own communities.

And once We start this ball rolling, no Special Interest entity will be able to block the real progress that it will be demonstrating to an encouraged American public — the electorate.

The People's Sense

The Mechanics of Change

Beyond each of our homes the neighborhood, community, town, and the county or major city that make up our day-to-day world. The majority of our population rarely goes outside our home county or city except maybe to commute to work and then come right back — a daily pattern that is normal the world over.

Regarding the concept of “Local Pride and Accountability” — it is based on the idea the most of us can identify with our home county or the major city in which we live. The majority of us do not keep track of which one of the 435 Congressional districts we live in, but most of us feel some sense of a community bond with those living in our home county or city.

After the initial release of CS2, I will of course be promoting the overall message of the book and in particular the American Agenda you are now reading. To help facilitate the spread of this message and provide a general framework for those Americans that are moved to actively get involved I am forming a grassroots public activist group, the *Common Interest – Civil Responsibilities Union* or CICRU (sigh-crew). The CICRU will be the ultimate in a public and

political action group, because You the People will need to bring it to life!

I am challenging my fellow American men and women of their own free will to find other people within their home county or city that are similarly motivated and to form a Local Chapter of CICRU (LCC). Work the Internet, run an ad in your local paper and just plain talk with people and see if they are interested. I talk with total strangers all the time about these issues and people are hungry for hope and positive Change. Spread the word and see who willingly responds. I expect that colleges, universities, and those in their twenties are great source for people that desire to see America on the right track, simply because they certainly have the most to lose if We do not get it right! And right now!

Our Youth First

My sense is that many of these public-driven Chapters could find their initial organizational purpose and be drawn together by their common interest in the next two (2) proposals that will be direct benefit to millions of our children and many adults, as well. They both target serious problems that can be rather easily addressed by implementing the programs they recommend into our public school systems. The concerned parents of struggling children in grades K thru 12 and in college will find real solutions and lives will be changed.

The initial charter of each LCC will be to *peacefully* review the contents of An American Agenda and determine how to best promote its message and proposals within your Local area. The critical operating characteristics of the LCC's:

- Without any apology, to be an American citizen-based and promoting group. The issues We are confronting must be resolved by open-minded and common sense driven communication and understanding. This must be between our citizens, any others may watch quietly from the sidelines and nothing more!
- To promote the proposals offered in An American Agenda within your area.
- To challenge any every candidate running for Congress or the White House for their personal position of each proposal in An American Agenda.
- To be if anything an Independent political group with aggressive moderate tendencies!
- NO party politics. No hard right or hard left rhetoric.
- To be for the Common Good for our citizens.
- To be for Civil Responsibility in people, business, and politics.

Each of initial meetings would review and discuss a few of the agenda proposals.

You get the idea.

And, again most importantly in 2008 — to bring the proposals of An American

Agenda to every politician running for President and Congress in 2008 – and make them clearly state their position of the issues raised in CS2.

The driving concept that I had when starting work on this book on July 1, 2005 was that We the American people and our society in general did not have a common game plan. We do not have a common National Vision. We did not have a Common Agenda or Plan as to where our nation is or at least should be trying to go.

The concepts and proposals presented in *The Second Coming of Common Sense* are my sincere attempt to put such a National Vision for the Common Good down on paper for my fellow Americans to review, refine, and then agree to. And only time and the actions of others will determine how successful this effort will become. I am, but one citizen working and writing to and for 300 million others. There will be more on this in Part 5.

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The CICRU has a basic, but well done website developed by a volunteer. It will be further developed as I begin to build my own LCC in Yorktown, Virginia and find other volunteers with the technical expertise to enhance and populate the site. It is called CICRU.org.

It contains basic information on the organization and ideas on how to set-up a Local CICRU Chapter in your area. With public involvement, in time some larger and more populated counties and cities could have multiple LCCs. That will be wonderful. Colleges and universities could easily establish and run their own LCC.

It also offers a free download of my 2004 National Drug Reform (NDR) Proposal (about 140 pages) previously overviewed in Proposal 8. The issue of first controlling and then removing hard drugs of our nation's streets is what started me on the 25 year path to this book and An American Agenda.

The site also facilitates the acceptance of donations to the group, and all contributions will be put to good use in building the CICRU and the LCC network across the country.

In time my goal is that CICRU.org will prove to be a Plain Truth information site that the public will rely upon for the facts on key issues and meaningful statistics. It will track and periodically report a standard set of informative public and what I call "human statistics" at the county/city level, as well as state and national levels. Basic, easy to interpret numbers showing the best to the worst. The intent is to track key statistics and show the public how the benefits of the programs presented herein are being realized within our National System and

their local area.

Eventually, it could also generate a little bit of friendly competition between those county/city entities within each state, and between with the states. The goal of promoting Local Pride and Accountability, and actually improving day-to-day life in America in our neighborhoods — will be realized. And the process of Change begins in 2008 with your help.

That's all, my fellow Americans! This is a rather small proposal, but one with great potential for growing community spirit and local pride that will drive positive national Changes. America and Americans first!

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