

Clean Elections Strategy Session

June 19, 2018

Agenda w/ Notes

10:00 – 10:30 AM – Welcome, Introductions, & Agenda Review

Vision of Success/Values You Stand For

Election system for greater voter participation

Limit false and deceptive campaigning

Finance system to level playing field

Clearer election laws

Courts on conservation/environmental and preservation side

Sustained Communities

Do no harm

Respect of opinions and rights

Cooperation

Public servants and not corporate servants

Neighborly care

Env. Protection

Health Rights

Economic wealth with balance of protection

Vision of politicians not escaping who their donors are

Publicly funded elections

Being rich hurts your chances of winning and election

People’s voices heard

Respect

Accessible elected officials

Open and accessible elections (ballot access and voters)

Robust debate and open public forums

Represent constituents with discourse

Public confidence of a fair shake and the truth of a fair shake

Everyone participates, every vote is counted

Fairness and equality

10:30 – 11:00 AM – Background & Accomplishments, Q&A

11:00 AM – Noon – Vision and Goals

*Given the events and trends we know about at the state level, what’s the best time frame to use when we think about our vision of success?*

**2020 is a critical year with 2 of 5 potential Supreme Court seats open, plus Loughry’s seat possibly up for grabs in a special election before then. Our public financing system is without funding, and we need to stregthen our disclosure laws to shine light on the secret money being spent to influence WV elections. 2018 legislative races will be key to passing needed reforms.**

*By January 2019, what’s our vision of success?*

**Have a strong, bold platform with a linked policy that allies, candidates and the public can unify around that brings together democracy issues.**

*What are some tangible goals we need to achieve to realize the vision of success?*

1. **Quantitative # of elected officials positioned to lead on the legislative campaign**
2. **A broader cross-section of the public are engaged in this work**
3. **Get more people to the table: Aging communities, youth leaders, minorities, faith leaders, more women, service industry workers, health care workers, lawyers and former judges, and disabled folks.**
4. **The voices of stakeholders who don’t currently have a voice are amplified and heard.**

Noon- 12:45 PM – Lunch

12:45 – 1:45 PM – Assessment

*What components should we have in the framework?*

**Automatic voter registration**

**Voting rights for criminals (pre-detainees, misdemeanors, felons, ex-felons)**

**Public resources should be used for public good, for funding education and healthcare**

**Disclosure & Transparency including shell PAC and covered transfers**

**Public financing (supported by Jim Justices back paid taxes)**

**Voters’ guide = Accessible standardized reporting for candidates including top donors (held by the Secretary of State’s Office)**

**Change reporting timetable for candidates and add a reporting requirement to separate WV money from out of state money, requiring city and state info. from donors, in the form of a graph on the SOS website**

**Ranked choice voting (ME) and fusion voting (NY)**

**Mail in voting**

**Same day registration to reverse purging of voters**

**Judicial elections held in November**

**Eminent domain, trespassing, property rights**

**Redistricting through an independent citizen commission**

**Constitutional amendment for independent citizen commission**

**Reporting lobbyist meeting**

**Require monthly public forums for candidates with post date and location requirements**

**Move primary to July or August or filing deadline for candidates up to March 15th or so**

1:45 – 2:00 PM – Break

2:00 – 3:30 PM – Strategies & Tactics

1. **Democracy Platform Committee (DSC) –vet and refine components of framework**
2. **Timeline**
* **DSC will meet July 12 and come back with proposal at the next coalition meeting on August 9**
* **Press Conference on Sept. 17th?**
* **Our Childran, Our Future policy meeting Sept. 18th to meet again to organize**
* **Get leading Judiciary Committee members on board ASAP**
1. **Tactics**
* **Candidate forums**
* **Candidate questionnaire on platform with media and publicity on responses and ask a broad spectrum of allies to participate**
* **Bird-dogging**
1. **Message**
* **Should corruption be part of the message? If so, at what’s the balance? Aspirational vision?**
* **“Who Owns WV?” (broad)**
* **PaidForBy.com (narrowner)**
* **Take Back WV**
* **Vote or Take WV Forward**
1. **Medium**
* **Website “paidforby.com” to take date from the Sec. of State’s website and make it more accessible**
* **Democracy Owner’s Manual**
* **Candidate Questionnaire**
* **Education sessions & forums**
* **Targeted Facebook Ads**
* **Newsletters**
* **Money in Politics research**

3:30 – 4:00 PM – Actions, Resources, Next Step

**Small working group will meet July 12 at 3:30 PM to refine components of democracy platform to present at the next coalition meeting August 9 at 10AM.**

**Related to the courts, we have a brief discussion about judicial recusal. Here are links to videos from Wisonsin Common Cause on the topic.**

* [**Big Money Campaign Contributions Influence Wisconsin Judicial Decisions**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQiEOhnKfUw&t=)
* [**Judicial Recusal in Wisconsin | Equal Access to Justice**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNpHctMbsLc&t=)
* [**Judicial Recusal | Why it Matters to Wisconsinites**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEfmlOXfEFA&t=)