

Quickstart Guide – The Nonpartisan Movement

We present some of the key talking points of the Nonpartisan Movement which can be used as a quick reference guide to aid in training campaign volunteers or even debating your neighbors. Interested parties can find full details, including videos, about the Nonpartisan Movement at www.greghyver.com/hyver4citycouncil.

Objective: To transfer power away from the political elites, special interests and billionaires back to the original owners—the people.+

The Problems with Santa Cruz

- **Two-party, division politics** is used by the political establishment to drive wedges between us to the degree that many of us will go against our own values to protect our **tribe**. We learn to hate the other side and we stop listening to their views. We no longer question or challenge the words or actions of our **tribal leaders** so as not to expose tribal weakness in the presence of a common enemy. We give up our **free thinking** and **critical thinking** capacities. We are told what to believe, who to blame and what to do. This makes us prone to an extreme and dangerous form of manipulation.
- Eighty-percent (80%) of registered voters in the City of Santa Cruz are Democrats. Most every local government seat is filled by a Democrat. This makes Santa Cruz a **one-party, political monopoly** where the **free market of ideas** is forbidden, and only the voice of the party has authority. The **FARPS Santa Cruz Free Speech Audit (2020-21)** findings confirm that our city government practices oppression and persecution of its political minorities to silence them. **Pluralism** does not exist here.
- Santa Cruz tribalism has blurred the line between what is “weird” and what is “**broken,**” so many residents consider their system of government as operating effectively. Moreover, to admit to a problem would weaken the tribe. So, no one comes forward to call out that **the king has no clothes**.
- We each hold on to relatively stable values throughout the majority of our lifetimes, but political parties do not—they are mostly fluid. So, a party may be operating on a platform that could be the antithesis of the values shared by a large segment of party members. Even when this may be discovered, tribalism enforces the idea that to leave the tribe is to go over to the enemy. Yet, individuals can choose to leave the tribal system entirely through **nonpartisanship**. Nonpartisanship equals **neutrality**.
- Our **representative form of government** is a top-down system where policies are established at the top and delivered down the chain-of-command as marching orders to **party foot soldiers** at the state, county and city levels of government. Foot soldiers must prioritize the goals and objectives of the party, first and foremost, loosely defined as the **Public Good**, regardless if they map poorly to the unique compositions and needs of local communities, known as the **City Good**. This is why cities not only suffer from the **collateral damage** of poorly designed, top down policies, but they suffer differently from one another.
- Theoretically, representative government is accountable to the individuals who elect candidates based on their Public Good platforms. Those who are elected are chosen on a consensus of a particular collection of voters, each having a unique **Individual Good**. Yet, in reality, candidate platforms are less derived from voter input than from the input of the political elites and powerful, special interest groups, so voters are only offered candidates (Republican/Democrat) whose platforms primarily benefit a cabal of politicians and lobbyists.
- **Santa Cruz is broken**. The negative impacts of a top-down policy engine are exacerbated and prolonged by the lack of pluralism, where the free market of ideas would normally push back against a detrimental and “**compromised**” Public Good to minimize its damages to the City Good. Meanwhile, tribalism either finds excuses to shield blame from its leaders, refuses to acknowledge the problems, or silences its critics.

“The Five Point Plan” to Save Santa Cruz

- 1) Renounce party allegiances (**Nonpartisanship**), at least at the local level, to allow the free market of ideas to flourish.
- 2) View problems in a cause-and-effect light, not through a party prism (**Think Different**); view solutions in unconventional ways.
- 3) Restore community power to enact policy decisions best suited to address its unique composition and needs (**City Good**) through a semi-automated technology (**Direct Democracy Experiment Software Policy Engine – DDESPE ***) that transitions the community from a representative democracy to a **direct democracy** to enable **push-back** against the “compromised” **Public Good**. The DDESPE software also presents an attractive business model (licensing) wherein each district resident becomes a co-op member sharing in its decisions and profits, while the DDESPE acts as the vehicle to spawn and propagate direct democracy communities across the nation.
- 4) Deny party foot soldiers the ability to contaminate the City Good with the Public Good (**Decoupling**). The **United Nations Charter** declares the legal **Right to Self-Determination** of peoples. The system of representative government in Santa Cruz is no longer an effective mechanism to manifest it and our community shall exercise its legal right to decouple from city council hegemony.
- 5) Advance socioeconomic prosperity by deploying policy-making criteria (**Founding Charter**) that favors individualism over collectivism, *teaches a person to fish rather than gives fish to a person* (empowerment), stimulates re-entry into the middle class by removing welfare dependence, improves family life and ensures the safety and future prospects of children, and preserves the rich history of Santa Cruz.