
COMMON SENSE II

Capitalizing on the familiarity and influence of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" pamphlets that provided American colonists with exposure to the conversation of great thinkers in the pre-Revolutionary period, this paper assumes the name COMMON SENSE II. Similarly, today's series of pamphlets strives to give a direct response to great political events and ideas of our time.

February 2020

Resolutions Issue

Vol. 15 Issue 2

Resolved: Restore Our Democracy

By Valerie Conner

As we enter the third decade of the 21st Century, we must deal with many issues, some of which can cause irreversible damage if we don't get it right. Other issues are important and can facilitate our accomplishing the most important ones. There are two arenas for these battles: caucuses that start our resolutions on the path to becoming planks on the state and federal party platforms (the statements of what the parties stand for and on which the candidates run) and the ballot box.

In Minnesota, the caucuses are 7:00 pm (come early to sign in), Tuesday, February 25th. Check with www.mnvotes.org to find your precinct caucus site. For your caucus going convenience, this issue is printing a number of suggested resolutions. You may not agree with all of them, but that's OK. Take the ones you feel strongly about to your caucus and introduce them to your fellow caucusgoers to discuss and vote on. The more caucuses a resolution gets through, the greater chance it has of getting through the county and district conventions to the state convention. You readers who don't live and vote in Minnesota, feel free to put any of these resolutions into your platform pipeline.

Resolutions dealing with climate responsibility and redistricting are especially important. If we don't address climate change aggressively, internationally, and immediately, it will be too late. Part of the reason we as a country are in this mess is that in 2010 not enough people voted Democratic for state legislators. The result was that Republicans were able to dictate the redistricting of their districts as well as Congressional districts for this decade. In 2020 we have the opportunity to elect Democratic legislators and adopt redistricting methods that are nonpartisan, thus helping the whole process to be fair. Without non-gerrymandered districts, we do not have a true representative republic.

That brings up voting. It is essential to participate in the presidential primary or caucus process to get a good Presidential candidate. This fall we have the opportunity to regain our democracy. Once the Senate Republicans refused to convict Trump, he assumed he no longer has any restrictions on his autocratic actions. That is a pretty good definition of a dictatorship. The only way we can save our country is to vote him out of office and hope the law enforcement agencies or if necessary the military ensure he does allow a peaceful transfer of power. That means that no matter who wins the Democratic nomination for President, **we must vote for that nominee**. We no longer have the luxury of voting for a third party candidate as a lame, selfish protest because we didn't get our way in the nomination process. We no longer have the luxury of staying home on Election Day for the same reason. We must be practical. Save the protest vote for another cycle.



Future issues of *Common Sense II* will deal with social justice issues that can help promote Democratic ideals and positions. If you have ideas for other resolutions before February 25th, please visit our website, <https://itascaprogressive.org/DFL-Resolutions/>, to let others utilize them. Our website will also offer other information for this critical time.

With our dedication, we can put this country back on the path to the America we say we are. Our country's and world's future is in our hands.



Working America

By Bob Passi

Working America is not afraid to get its hands dirty. It is not afraid of difficult challenges. It rolls up its sleeves and figures out how to solve problems. It is the backbone of America. It does not quit. It is the brawn and the brains of what makes this nation so significant. It is the epitome of what ordinary people do to make a life for themselves and their communities.

It is easy to take those workers for granted: to just assume that the garbage will be picked up, that the painters or cooks or farmers will be available when we need them and will fulfill their function dependably.

But in taking them for granted, we forget to give them the respect they deserve, and we often forget to compensate them adequately.

They understand their importance to making the whole society function well but feel devalued as human beings by our careless disregard about their lives. It grinds on them.

The last time they were more obviously valued was in the 1930s and 1940s under FDR's New Deal when they were recognized as a crucial part of a healthy democracy. They helped rebuild American infrastructure and the American spirit. They fought to save the nation and our democracy by being the backbone of the military effort in WWII.

Then we began to lose our way as a nation, and in the process we began to take those workers for granted again. They were given jobs to do—and they did them well—but as the emphasis shifted to money and power, they began to see that those in control didn't really take much time to consider and appreciate their role.

As they were stripped of their organized power with the slow death of unions, the focus shifted even more to those with wealth and the power that goes with it. Increases in productivity no longer led to higher pay or advancement. All the benefits of their hard work went to those on top. The workers became pawns in the competition for profits. They were often seen



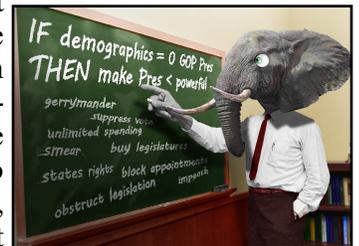
fabiusmaximus.files.wordpress.com

as expendable economic units to be used up and discarded as the need arose. They became an exploitable resource.

They still recognized the significance of the work they did and how important it was to the health of the society. It was then that they began to grow discouraged and resentful, seeing how little voice and influence they had in choosing the direction of the society and their own lives.

The Democratic Party, who from the New Deal on based its strength on the support of the workers of the nation and those who understood the value of an inclusive democracy, now began to succumb to the temptations of the power of wealth in politics. In the process they began to forsake their working base.

The Republican Party saw an opportunity to make inroads by redefining workers in terms of a less inclusive group comprised of white males. In the process, the rest of the workers, other racial groups and women and immigrant populations with the same hard-working ethic, began to be excluded. The Republicans seemed to value and validate workers who were white, Christian, patriotic citizens with root values that no longer



seemed to be the center of the nation. The Republicans could garner the support of these groups, especially if they accepted their anger, their hot issues, and their prejudices: such as their opposition to gun control, their anti-abortion stance, their distrust of immigrants and other races and religions, and their willingness to demonize what they saw as a ruling elite making rules to control their lives.

If the Republicans could validate these views of the world, they could build a powerful support group, especially if they gave them permission to flaunt the ordinary rules of civility.

The Republicans simply implied that these workers saw the world correctly and agreed that those pointy-headed liberal elites with all their rules and restrictions had it all wrong. The Republicans agreed that the workers' anger was well-aimed.

This was especially effective by presenting a leader who had made his name by flouting the rules and had gotten fabulously rich in the process. The workers were told that if they followed him faithfully, once the riffraff were expelled, they could be pure and free again; those workers could reap the benefits they knew as their due.

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That left the Democrats responding with only a call for more civility and a return to the “same-old, same-old” of workers being taken for granted again.

The opportunity for real Democratic leadership could have been to return to the model of the New Deal with its more democratizing vision for the nation, its more balanced version of capitalism, its return to community and connection and the American Spirit, offering a vision of a future without demons. A vision that was inclusive and focused on a sustainable future for the nation and the world: a return to democracy.

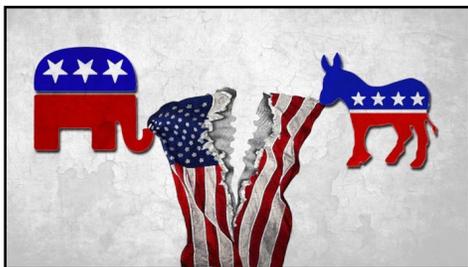
But the Democratic Party seemed only to dither about its direction, offering the nation multiple visions with its initial 17+ candidates.



Greenville Post

That muddled the water and instead of providing a clear vision only showed the Party’s reluctance to make a clear stand against the devastation of the neoliberal economics with its concomitant growth in income inequality.

This tactic only made the Democratic Party more vulnerable, practicing its own version of a suicidal divide-and-conquer for the Republican foes. Recently the Democrats



Jonathon Haidt

even introduced the gender issue, separating out the three remaining female candidates and even including the voice of Hillary Clinton from their most recent election debacle.

The Democrats seem to be willing to do all the heavy lifting for the Republicans in an election that could be won by simply returning to their base and making those unappreciated workers of all kinds the heart of their vision and their campaign. It would be the beginning of a return to democracy.

It is time to focus on the workers of this nation again.

Fair Redistricting

By Jeanne Newstrom

According to Common Cause, “In America, no liberty is more fundamental than the right to freely choose our representatives as the ballot box. But when elected officials manipulate our maps to create gerrymandered districts, our votes no longer matter. That’s why Common Cause Minnesota is working for fair, independent redistricting.”

Common Cause is partnering with Minnesota Alliance for Democracy. They did get a bill passed in the Minnesota House, but it did not get through the Senate in 2019. They are revising it for this legislative session. Instead of promoting an advisory commission, which could just be ignored, their new bill calls for a constitutional amendment ballot question on the 2020 ballot.

The League of Women Voters’ project, People Powered Fair Maps, also aims to “Pass or protect a ballot measure implementing a fair redistricting process.” All three of the organizations mentioned have informative websites to educate the public, a key factor to success.

Itasca Progressive Caucus’ resolution confirms the current DFL Action Agenda that includes support to establish an independent redistricting commission. Decisive action must be taken this legislative session.

Numerical data from the 2020 Census will be ready for manipulation in February 2021. Redistricting must be completed before the filing deadlines for the 2022 general elections. For more information check out the following:

MN Common Cause: <https://www.commoncause.org/minnesota/>

MN Alliance for Democracy: <http://growingdemocracymn.org/>

League of Women Voters: <https://www.lwv.org/redistricting/people-powered-fair-maps-faq>

DFL resolution: <https://itascaprogressive.org/gallery/ipc%20dfl%20resolution%20redistrict.pdf>



The Karpman Triangle

By Gary Burt

**I recently sent this to Adam Schiff*

Dear Rep. Schiff:

It's been written that in order to solve a problem, one first has to identify it correctly. As well as being a problem, Trump is also a symptom of a greater problem which to my knowledge has yet to be correctly identified. Here is my analysis:

Your political rhetoric was excellent. The problem is not political as much as it is psychological, which your rhetoric did not address. I think you need to approach the whole situation from the Karpman Triangle point of view.

From what I can tell, all Republicans are fear-based personalities. What is Trump selling? Trump is selling fear. In Karpman Triangle termi-

Karpman drama triangle 🌐 ⭐⭐⭐ 📄 · Psychology

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **drama triangle** is a psychological and social model of human interaction in transactional analysis (TA) first described by Stephen Karpman, which has become widely used in psychology and psychotherapy. The model posits three habitual psychological roles (or roleplays) which people often take in a situation:

- The person who is treated as, or accepts the role of, a *victim*
- The person who pressures, coerces or *persecutes* the victim, and
- The *rescuer*, who intervenes out of an ostensible wish to help the situation or the underdog.

nology, Trump is a classic “victim.” All victims have a fear issues of which they are in denial. Once the victims deny their fear issues, they are free to blame and shame anyone they believe is causing their problems.

Those who enable victims are called “rescuers.” In this case, all the Republican Senators are enabling Trump in his victim role, because they are afraid of the power he has to affect his base, which determines whether they’ll be reelected or not.

Those who challenge or criticize the victim are called “persecutors.” They get the majority of the abuse and blame given out by the victim.

Trump’s base are also fear-based personalities who want to deny their emotional issues and blame all their fears on “the other,” such as Muslims, Mexicans, Hillary, strong women, journalists, “fake” news, and immigrants, for example.

As anyone who’s dealt with addicts or addictive personalities will tell you, the person’s denial is the hardest thing to deal with and change. Trump and his base are all in denial of their fear issues, which is why they are so extreme in their views and responses. All fear-based personalities are black and white thinkers: It’s “us vs. them.” It’s “my way or the highway.” You’re either “for me or against me.” Everything is either a “blessing or a curse.”

Anyone who challenges their point of view is automatically seen as criticizing them, which they au-

tomatically take personally. We are giving feedback, but they see it as criticism. Anytime we criticize them, we aren’t rescuing their egos, so we are automatically seen as persecutors.

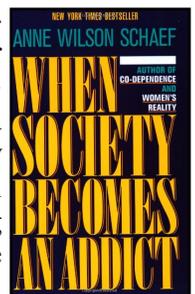
The primary trait of all fanatics is that they cannot admit to the possibility they might be wrong, because they have learned to be AFRAID of being wrong. They usually learn that tendency very early in life, which is why it’s so hard to challenge later in life.

There are two enemies to freedom: those who want to control everyone and everything around them, and those who don’t believe they need to control themselves at all. It’s no coincidence that both traits are found in the same fear-based personalities. Currently, the two groups that exhibit this tendency are the patriarchal male Republicans or conservatives and religious extremists. I believe this is why white supremacists identify with Republicans and Trump.

This is why Republicans and extremists want everyone to think, look, and act the same. It makes them think they’re in control. When they lose control, their fear shows its face. The main problem is they are always trying to control the wrong person, which is everyone but themselves.

Trump is a patriarchal male, as are McConnell, Steve Scalise, Doug Collins, and almost all Republicans. Putin is also a patriarchal male, as are Assad, Erdogan, Netanyahu, Kim Jong-un, Boris Johnson, the leaders of Saudi Arabia, China, the Taliban, ISIS, and most male leaders in the world.

The patriarchal male system, as defined by Anne Wilson Schaeff in her book, *When Society Becomes an Addict*, is dysfunctional, addictive, and xenophobic in nature. It is the primary basis for all the emotional and mental problems we are currently dealing with in the world. Hate and anger are derivatives of fear.



The primary conflict in the U.S. is NOT between Democrats and Republicans. It is between love/truth and fear. It’s between addictive personalities and non-addictive personalities. When he was President, Obama promoted and sold hope. Trump is selling fear. That’s why the country seems to be bouncing back and forth between the two extremes.

It don’t know what you will say, but I believe this is the underlying problem to everything, which is why we haven’t solved our issues. We need to define the problem correctly before we can solve it.

Sincerely,
Gary Burt

National Popular Vote

By Jeanne Newstrom

Itasca Progressive Caucus has adopted a DFL resolution to pass the Agreement among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote.

The National Popular Vote (NPV) bill would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The bill does not get rid of the Electoral College. Instead of each state awarding all its electoral votes to the winner of the popular vote in that state, the state's electoral votes would go to the winner of the popular vote in the entire country.

If states allocated 270 of the 538 electoral votes, the majority, agree to this way of awarding all their electoral votes, then the winner would be the candidate who received the most popular votes nationwide. At this point, states representing 196 electoral votes have agreed to the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which means states representing only 74 electoral votes are needed to effect this change. This is a lower bar than going for a Constitutional Amendment.

The Republican Party is against the bill and states in their platform:

We oppose the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and any other scheme to abolish or distort the procedures of the Electoral College. An unconstitutional effort to impose National Popular Vote would be a grave threat to our federal system and a guarantee of corruption, as every ballot box in every state would offer a chance to steal the presidency. We urge state legislatures that have voted for this proposal to rescind their approval.

Neither the national Democratic Party Platform nor the Minnesota DFL Platform mentions the NPV. But Democrats, specifically Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, who was a representative at the time, first introduced adoption to the legislature in April 2007.

At the last session in Minnesota, the House did include the NPV in the omnibus bill, but the legislature adjourned without taking up the bill. Check out: <https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/state/mn>.

The impact of adopting the NPV would elevate the importance of individual votes, and campaigns would need to change their strategies. As it is now, most states award all their electoral votes to the one candidate who won that state—winner takes all. As it is now, according to “The 2020 Electoral Map Could Be the Smallest in Years,” by



Dan Balz of the Washington *Post*:

Just four states are likely to determine the outcome in 2020. The four are Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Florida. Many analysts point to Wisconsin as the single state upon which the election could turn.

Passing a law to join the agreement is a straight forward, doable process. Support should be stated in the party platform, and citizens need to provide the political will. Please present this resolution at your precinct caucus and encourage adoption.

Learn more at:

<https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Popular_Vote_Interstate_Compact

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/the-2020-electoral-map-could-be-the-smallest-in-years-heres-why/2019/08/31/61d4bc9a-c9a9-11e9-a1fe-ca46e8d573c0_story.html

The DFL resolution:

<https://itascaprogressive.org/gallery/ipc%20dfl%20resolution%20npv.pdf>

Electoral College Math

The population of **California** is 38,800,000
The population of **Wyoming** is 584,153

California has 55 electoral votes
Wyoming has only 3

it takes 705,454 **Californians** to equal 1 electoral vote
it takes 194,717 **Wyomingites** to equal 1 electoral vote

That makes every vote from **Wyoming** worth 362%
what each vote from **California** is worth in the
election for the President of the United States of America.

CALIFORNIAN **WYOMINGITE**

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Visit us at www.itascaprogressive.org

computer generated/volunteer labor

Be it Resolved:

That the Minnesota DFL stand with the Move to Amend campaign to defend democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate power by amending the United States Constitution to establish that:

1. Only human beings, not corporations, are endowed with constitutional rights, and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

Be it Further Resolved that:

The people of Minnesota hereby instruct our state and federal representatives to enact resolutions and legislation to advance this effort.

Explanation: The Citizens United v. FEC decision expanded corporate ability to influence the outcome of a core element of our democratic republic: political elections.

The decision opened the floodgates to money pouring into federal and state political elections from wealthy individuals and corporate entities through super PACs, increased dramatically "dark money" political spending (spending funneled through nonprofit organizations, which doesn't have to be publicly disclosed).

Sample Resolution Ideas and Forms

Here are some suggested resolutions with their rationale and forms. You don't need to submit on forms, but it helps. Use the other suggestions in this issue or go to <https://itascaprogressive.org/DFL-Resolutions/>

Whereas: The US invaded Afghanistan in November 2001 in response to the 9/11 attacks in New York and Washington by al Qaeda. Within a short time the US overthrew the Taliban government, installed a puppet regime, and killed or drove al Qaeda out of Afghanistan. We have spent the last 19 years fighting the Taliban (indigenous Afghans) and supporting an unpopular and corrupt regime.

Whereas: During this war we have had about 2400 of our troops killed, many more wounded, killed tens of thousands of Afghans (mostly civilians), and spent a trillion dollars. Currently the Taliban controls about half of the country and show no signs of weakening. Surging more US troops into Afghanistan, conducting more night raids into peoples' homes, bombing more hospitals and wedding parties has not worked well in the past and there is no reason to expect it to win over many hearts and minds. The Afghan people do not like foreign invaders.

It's time to admit defeat and pull out.
Be it resolved that: The Minnesota DFL supports removing all US troops from Afghanistan now.

Resolution Title: Support Northern Lights Express

Supportive Statements:

The Northern Lights Express will operate on 152 miles of existing BNSF rail corridor and will not have significant environmental impacts according to MNDOT.

It will provide faster and safer service to travelers between the two cities.

Trains consume less energy and produce less harmful pollutants than either car or air travel and will reduce traffic congestion on the roads and in the skies.

Passengers arriving in Minneapolis will be able to transfer to passenger trains traveling to other cities in the United States, further reducing automobile and airplane congestion and poll.

Therefore be it resolved:

That the Minnesota DFL support the completion of the Northern Lights Express, a higher speed passenger rail project that will provide rail service between Duluth and Minneapolis.

More?
 For more resolution ideas, go to our website:
<https://itascaprogressive.org/DFL-Resolutions/>

Don't forget to caucus
 7pm, February 25th!

CAL- ENDAR OF EVENTS: GET INVOLVED AND GET IT DONE!

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date /Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
DFL Headquarters Open (326-6296)	Tues & Thurs 2-5 pm	DFL Headquarters
Itasca Progressive Caucus (259-4490)	3rd Tuesday 6:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
DFL Central Committee Meets	4th Monday 6:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
DFL Social Club & Lunch	1st Wednesday Noon	DFL Headquarters
DFL Pot Luck (Open to the Public)	3rd Wednesday 5:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
Working Families Alliance	1st Monday 6:30 pm	Dutchroom
Earth Circle	3rd Saturday 2:00 pm	GR Public Library
Circles of Support	Thursdays 6:00 pm	811 NE 4th St. GR
Haven: A Place for All	Mondays 5:30	Kiesler Center
Deadline for <i>Common Sense II</i>	March 6, 2020	conray@arvig.net