

## 1.B Important Tenets of the Democracy Reform Movement

- 1) Building A Movement – We believe a citizen-driven movement is needed to Reclaim our Republic. We (the citizens) have waited too long to challenge the ever increasing corruption of our political system. It will take a movement the likes of *Suffrage* and *Civil Rights* to bring sovereignty back to We the People.
- 2) People-Driven Grassroots – We believe “clicktivism” will not work. We will not succeed in this movement without many citizens taking to the streets in the future – as was ultimately required for both the Suffrage and Civil Rights movements. We will have to first build power and a very loud voice (starting with many resolutions in both liberal and conservative communities.) Then we will need the persons we have enlisted (across the ideological spectrum) to coordinate in multiple channels of lobbying both state and federal representatives. This lobbying will need to continue beyond getting the 34 states needed to call for an amendment.
- 3) Non-Partisan – We believe that we **cannot** beat the leviathan Corrupt Two-Party Political **System** without both conservative and liberal citizens supporting our solution. If citizens willing to be part of the movement cannot leave their partisan opinions at home, while working to build the movement, the System will *divide and conquer* the movement. This means, not doing this democracy reform work through either political party. This also means not wearing partisan or issue-displaying tee shirts or hats. It also means refraining from discussing any issue while doing this work or representing the movement. The Powerholders use issues to divide and conquer us.
- 4) Bottom Up – We believe it is imperative to start with the closest governments (municipalities.) This is where there are, most often, politicians who both care about their community and are less likely to be corrupted (yet.) We will need these local representatives to understand how they are impacted in that role and to become part of the movement – rather than opponents – as we move up the political food chain. We need to show respect to our local governments while asking them to pass our resolution – we will need their help again in the future.
- 5) Consistent Message and Approach – We believe we must work together with strong cooperation, a consistent and unified message, and similar coordinated approaches across the state (and across the nation.) The Woman’s Rights movement failed, at least in part, because the opponents were able to both polarize people and split the groups on issues. We must have the patience and trust in each other to prevent this from happening. We must be focused.
- 6) Local Independence – We believe that the real work needs to be done by local “groups” of citizens who understand the temperaments, relationships, politics, and logistics of their community. Wisconsin United To Amend (WIUTA) exists to assist local groups with the tools and resources needed to accomplish our goals. We, through experiences, explain what we think are the best approaches. But if local leaders choose an alternative route, we will continue to support them as best we can. We need to cultivate, with patience and respect, a cooperative relationship of trust across the movement.
- 7) Collaboration – We must work with many organizations interested in building the movement their way. We are part of the Change Makers for the movement, we have to work with Reformers, and we must work with Issue Organizations and other associations who add value.
- 8) Long Haul – We believe it will take more than a decade to Reclaim our Republic. This is not a short campaign sprint, it’s a marathon. We need to grow the movement and work to make it more inclusive: youth, color, faith communities, small businesses, and coalitions with other organizing groups. We are trying to reverse the decline of our nation – and as it declines, more citizens will be spurred into action. The movement to Reclaim our Republic will continue to grow, and together we will regain our Representative Democracy and a brighter future for America – for our children.