

# The OK Grassroots Project

A Simple Plan to Restore Accountability

In Oklahoma Government

By

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&

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The OK Grassroots Project



## Table of Contents

<a href="#"><u>Dedication</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 4</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Preface</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 8</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>1. The Problem</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 12</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>2. The Solution</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 16</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>3. The Vision</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 25</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>4. The Strategy</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 31</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>5. Why it Will Succeed</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 34</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>6. Frequently Asked Questions</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 38</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>7. From Zero to 60,000 in a Year?</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 45</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>8. Why Work in the GOP</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 53</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Just Getting Started</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 62</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>About the Authors</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>pg 64</u></a>

## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to the many grassroots activists who have worked selflessly and tirelessly for the general benefit of humankind. The calling to invest sacrificially one's time to improve the conditions of the larger society is not one that is generally chosen. Rather, it tends to be a giving in, a surrender to an impulse that seems wired into one's DNA. It is a calling that is too often taken for granted, unrecognized and thankless. I've worked with many activists over the years and know the honor you deserve. This plan is for you.

More particularly, this book is dedicated to three people, Al Snipes, Jewel Matthews, and Sandra Crosnoe.

Al Snipes and Jewel Matthews, together, with thousands of volunteers, gave birth to the conservative wing of the Republican Party in Oklahoma. In the 1960's Al had a

vision to build grassroots organizations in the precincts to topple the most powerful political figure in the state, the long-time Democrat Speaker of the House. While Al cast the vision and inspired the troops, Jewel helped organize the volunteers. Together they accomplished their goal, shocking pundits statewide.

I had the good fortune to meet Jewel after I left the House in 1984. She became a mentor and comrade for over a decade. Together we schemed and dreamed and organized, convinced that Oklahoma was a special place, meant to be an example for the rest of the nation.

A good case can be made that out of those meetings, State Question 640, which put an effective end to state tax increases, originated. I have no doubt that if Jewel were here today, she would be looking at this plan through her literal rose-colored glasses and smiling with approval.

It was only in the last few years that I've gotten to know Al Snipes better. His is a remarkable story. Today, at age 93, he still carries a burden for developing the grassroots to bring government back to the People and away from the Special Interests. What an inspiration!

Sandra Crosnoe is really representative of today's valiant army of grassroots activists. I could name many near and dear to my heart, but won't for lack of space.

Sandra has labored in the trenches for three decades, patiently been building organizational and communications infrastructure in preparation for an effort like this. One of her early proposals for organizationally "mirroring" the established parties helped inspire this effort.

Finally, several people and organizations have identified the great potential of organizing the precincts. Without their work and dedication, this plan might never have been born. They will see many elements of their work in

it. I hope they approve of our attempt to make this idea a vital reality.

Porter Haskell Davis

## PREFACE

Today our nation stands at a crossroads. Our survival as a Republic is at stake. Some would say there is nothing we can do. But history and recent experience show that when people pursue Truth and Justice, while relying on the power and guidance of Divine Providence, they can overcome any obstacle.

Proverbs 29:18 says “Without a vision the people perish.” Some translations say the people are “in disarray” or are “demoralized.” That is our situation today. Most Americans are discouraged and apathetic that we can use the political process to return this nation to its former stature as a beacon of Liberty to the world.

The Federal Government is beyond our reach. Big Money, Big Media and other Special Interests control every aspect of Presidential campaigns, as well as



Congress. The situation is much the same in the States, with a crucial exception. The People can organize and take back control of state and local politics. At the same time they can rebuild the sense of community so lacking today, yet so essential toward successfully navigating this crisis.

What you will read here is a simple idea, based on proven principles and practices. We are deeply indebted to so many people who have gone before developing them. The most important were the colonial and early American town meetings where raw democracy involved each citizen, eventually birthing representative government. The town meeting is where the grassroots began. The widespread lack of town meetings today is why accountability to the grassroots is so lacking. The roots are missing from the grassroots.

This idea birthed while contemplating joining New Hampshire's Free State Project. Since 2003 they've been

recruiting 20,000 people to move to the state to transform it. After I saw the motivating power of the principles of Liberty, along with the spontaneous, indigenous, decentralized leadership that developed around it during the Ron Paul campaigns of 2008 and 2012, I realized we didn't have to move to live in a free state. We could bloom where we're planted, in the great State of Oklahoma.

As I imagined the possibilities of transforming our governments to protect and preserve liberty, I realized that when we achieved our goals, it would no longer be appropriate to call Oklahoma a "red state." So-called "red" and "blue" states reflect governments that violate liberty far too often. A free state would need a different color to distinguish it from its less free brethren. Since Liberty is the gold standard of politics, it is only appropriate that Oklahoma should become the first Gold State.

If you're an Oklahoman, we urge you to join our effort. While our goal is ambitious, anyone who has looked at the numbers has said that if we can put this network in place, we really can transform the state. Now we just need a few good men and women to help us!

And if you're from another state, we urge you to start a similar project there. We will do everything we can to share what we have learned with you.

# Chapter One

## The Problem

### Do You Ever Feel Like This?

- Do you feel like your elected officials aren't listening to you?
- Or that they don't care about what you think government should be doing or not doing?
- Are you sick of divisive, confrontational politics and long for intelligent conversations seeking real solutions for important problems we face?
- Do you feel as if your voice doesn't matter?

**If so, you're not alone.**

Instead of the Constitutional Republic as it was founded, America has become a *documented oligarchy*. Political Elites and Special Interests control government at all

levels. Politicians seldom represent the best interests of the People.

- The People feel disconnected from their elected representatives.
- People feel helpless to effect real change. As a result,
- Apathy is at an all-time high.
- Voter registration is low and voter turnout even lower.

### **The Political Class is out of control.**

Normal citizens feel they have no influence on Federal elections. Big Corporate and Banking Money, the Political Class, and the Mainstream Media seemingly control everything.

- Each year brings increases in taxes, regulations, and government debt.
- We are buried under restrictions on civil liberties, economic activity, favors to Special Interests and never-ending wars.

- Meanwhile, favored corporations and banks get taxpayer bailouts, subsidies and fat government contracts.
- The Political Class has bureaucratic job security, regular government paychecks, pensions and health plans.
- The rest of us are experiencing fewer, lower paying jobs, more debt and a decline in our standard of living.

### **It's not just a Federal problem!**

At the state and local levels, the situation is much the same. Legitimate government functions, -like infrastructure repair-, are neglected in favor of Special Interest honey pots. Federal regulations and incentives have fueled the growth of state and local government.

- State agencies are more and more dependent on Federal financing
- State and municipal governments are expanding in cost and regulations. The state, in turn, is reaching ever further into the lives of its citizens.

- Federal law often overrules state law, defrauding citizens of freedom and property without due process, while our law enforcement and judicial "protectors" stand idly by, or worse yet, become complicit.
- The criminal justice system is broken, too often doing too little to protect us from real criminals, while providing too little justice. It is creating more social problems than it solves, at great expense to the taxpayers.

**We need a solution, today!**

If nothing changes to reverse this situation, our children and grandchildren will grow up as slaves to an ever-increasing tyrannical State.

We have found a way to overcome this mess. Finally, there is a way for your voice to be heard, to elect better representatives, and to hold them accountable. We have a solution.

## **Chapter Two**

### **The Solution**

*“You never change things by fighting the existing reality.*

*To change something, build a new model that makes the  
existing model obsolete.”*

*– R. Buckminster Fuller*

**There is a solution!**

The solution is to empower the People, the Grassroots, to organize and hold their elected officials accountable. That means creating a new structure to apply direct political pressure from the bottom up.

**The Missing Link is the Precinct Town Meeting.**

The missing link between the People and their elected representatives is a structure and network of self-

The OK Grassroots Project



sustaining, monthly, Precinct Town Meetings, based on the existing voting precincts.

When fully functioning, the Precinct Town Meeting will be:

- Monthly
- At a public location within each precinct
- Conducted in a format that allows each and every voice to be heard. We encourage real conversations about solutions to vital issues.
- A self-sustaining unit, capable of autonomous action, to further the cause of liberty and improve their neighborhoods and communities
- Empowered by training and educational tools we provide, as well as a monthly informational video feed. (You are free to use your own, of course!)
- Have a regular attendance of 3% or more of the registered voters in the precinct
- A place to Recruit, Inform, Train, and Activate (RITA) the grassroots for effective political action and community empowerment

- Able to develop, elect, and hold accountable, elected officials closest to the people
- Part of a statewide network of precinct organizations that can work together on larger issues affecting us all.

### **It's been done before**

The town meeting is what made early American representative government so effective. The town meeting supplied the roots for the grassroots. A healthy root system means a healthy plant. A diseased, damaged or missing root system means a stunted or dead plant. Our job is to nurture and expand the grassroots.

*“Town meetings are to liberty what primary schools are to science; they bring it within the people's reach, they teach men how to use and how to enjoy it.*

*A nation may establish a free government, but without municipal institutions it cannot have the spirit of liberty.”*

-Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, Book 1  
Chapter V, 1840

**The voting precinct is a natural location for these meetings today.**

The Precinct Town Meeting is a new form, for an older, proven method to get good government. While no one is looking for another meeting to attend, there are those who *will* attend meetings where they know they can make a difference. Today our population has become so large and urbanized, that actual town meetings are seldom practical. But the smaller voting precinct provides the perfect size and neighborhood location.

*“My findings . . . show that citizens will participate – and often at great cost to themselves – when they know the political arena is small enough for them to make a difference and there are issues at stake that really matter to them. . . . Decentralism and empowerment: put these requirements together and democracy will flourish. Take either away and it will die.*

*Citizens are not born. They are raised. The single most recurrent theme in the literature on the town meeting in the 19th Century –when town meetings were much stronger than they are now– was the notion that town meetings are schoolhouses of citizenship.”*

From an interview with Frank M. Brian, author *Real Democracy: The New England Town Meeting*

**This is a community, trans-partisan movement**

Precinct Town Meetings will be largely trans-partisan, even if held by an officer in a party. **We want people from all parties and independents to participate.** In cases where party business needs to be discussed among party officers and members, special notice would be given for a private "party only" meeting.

**This is about more than just politics**

Meeting topics will include issues at all levels of municipal, county and state government. Moreover, they will not be strictly political. Other topics might include:

- Community gardening, playgrounds, parks and other community projects
- Mutual aid and assistance to institutions, organizations and families within the community
- Area security and infrastructure
- Community and neighborhood social gatherings.

### **We will help make it easy to participate**

We are proposing a new model, based on a proven, old idea, so we don't have to start from scratch. We intend to provide the basic tools to help you get involved.

Moreover, we recognize that you, and others called to be involved, have your own good ideas and can contribute them in various forums for what works, and what doesn't.

We plan to provide monthly video content to help you with your meetings. You are free to use these as you see

fit in your local meetings, or even from the comfort of your home, as you get started.

There will be time before and after the video for socializing and local affairs. When like-minded people come together to work on a common goal, we can have a lot of fun and make progress, too.

### **All we need is a few good people**

We are looking for the Three Percenters. That's the same number of people who were active in the American Revolution. We know they're out there. You are probably one of them, since you are reading this now.

The ideal is to have 30 activists, or Precinct Leaders, in the average Oklahoma precinct of 1,000 registered voters. That translates into a grassroots political force of almost 60,000 people statewide, and 600 per House District. During the first few years, the precinct leaders can:

- Become trusted sources of information about community and political issues.
- Build a database of their precinct, making it easy to contact, educate and mobilize their voters on vital issues.
- Build a greater sense of community for themselves and their neighbors
- Get their City Council, County Commissioners, School Board, State Representatives and Senators to pay attention to their concerns and vote accordingly,
- And if they don't, toss the rascals out and replace them with more responsive representatives.

A well organized, active and beneficial network of precinct organizations of that size *will* have the ear of local and state elected officials, and even see their influence spread to the national arena.

**Yes, what you do in your precinct can have national impact!**

What we do in Oklahoma can serve as a model for the nation.

Americans everywhere are experiencing the same, frustrating problems you are. And they're looking for real answers, too.

What we develop in Oklahoma will be available to activists in other states to serve as a model, and as encouragement. Building grassroots precinct organizations is the perfect example of thinking globally, while acting locally.



## Chapter Three

### The Vision

*"The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious." John Scully*

*"No matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, raise your sights and see the possibilities – always see them, for they're always there." Norman Vincent Peale*

**Our vision is simple.**

We want to empower the People, the Grassroots, to transform Oklahoma into the first Free State in the nation.

**A Free State will:**

- Have a strictly limited government, built upon well-established principles of liberty
- Become a land of real opportunity - an economic, cultural and spiritual oasis.

- Allow the People to achieve their highest potential, and will create an environment where innovation, openness and freedom are the norm, not the exception.
- Have thriving communities, with art, science and industry in abundance
- Be a safe haven for people who wish to be free from political oppression and are willing to live in harmony
- Serve as an example to surrounding states, the nation and our world of what is possible when normal people commit to work together for a common cause
- Use the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution to block unconstitutional Federal overreach into the affairs intended to be left to the States.
- Be an example to the rest of the nation for how we can navigate our current crisis successfully to a better future.

## **It starts at the foundation – the Grassroots**

Historically, the town meeting was the foundation of America's Constitutional Republic. Direct democracy at this level gave a real voice to the People, and kept their representatives accountable.

Today, the mechanism for doing this is the **Precinct Town Meeting**. This is where we will recruit, inform, train and activate people into an effective political force to fulfill the vision.

The precinct organizations growing from these will network with others in their Wards, Counties, House Districts, and State to elect, and hold accountable, representatives who will work toward this end.

- Career politicians won't hold themselves accountable. We must do it.
- Simple community organizations have been the foundation of many great changes in our nation's history

- Everyday people want their voices to be heard. They *will* heard if they learn to apply the right leverage, at the right place, in the right way

### **We will free ourselves from the bottom up**

- When fully operational, each of Oklahoma's 1,956 political precincts will have 3% of the registered voters involved in self-sustaining, monthly Precinct Town Meetings.
- Each precinct will have about 30 activist/precinct leaders; each House District will have about 600.
- That number of precinct leaders will be able to hold any State Representative accountable, or replace them at the next election. Your State Representative and Senator *will* listen.
- Your voice, and not just your vote, will be counted.
- We can have government that makes sense in the lives of our communities and families, without accepting what is handed to us.

- It can be done within the existing structure much more easily and quickly than you might imagine. The opportunity is there!

**Working through the Oklahoma GOP is the quickest way to realize our vision.**

While the overall OK Grassroots Project is trans-partisan, from a practical standpoint working through the Oklahoma Republican Party offers the quickest way to achieve our objectives. This is because:

- Of the OK GOP foundational principles: *"We believe in limited government, individual liberty, natural rights, and personal moral responsibility."*
- The GOP is the majority party in Oklahoma government. They have the power to enact changes within the legislature unopposed.
- Influencing the GOP will give each of us the maximum possible leverage with our elected representatives.

The OK Grassroots Project

- Nearly 40% of the state's precincts went without representation in the last GOP State Convention. Show up and be counted.
- In the process, we will be building stronger and more cohesive communities that better represent all of us, so that government will not just favor the few at the top

We just have to hold the OK GOP and its elected officials to its stated principles.

## **Chapter Four**

### **The Strategy**

#### **Long-Term Strategy**

Our long-term goal is to establish a structure of self-sustaining, precinct organizations which will comprise an effective grassroots network to transform Oklahoma government at all levels. That's the main thrust of the OK Grassroots Project. Everything else flows from that.

As explained in the last chapter, we believe that working through the OK GOP will give us the most leverage and quickest return for our efforts to return government to the People

**Short-Term Objective: To gain influence through the election of precinct officers within the party**

We have an opportunity to influence OK GOP in the direction of more liberty. Every two years, party leadership will be elected at all levels – precinct, county

and state. Moreover, the party platform will be up for revision. We want to have a direct influence in all of these. Everything starts at the official precinct meetings.

**We want to elect Chairmen of the County and State GOP organizations committed to developing the grassroots with Precinct Town Meetings.**

If they do, the grassroots will be built more quickly.

We will inform all candidates of this project. We will ask for a commitment to use the power of their office to build the precinct meeting structure and to encourage many new activists to get involved. We will inform you of their commitment.

**To help, get involved at the Precinct level. Talk to your county chair for more information.**

**What if you are not a registered Republican?**

We are reaching out to Democrats and Independents, as well as Republicans. If you like what we are doing, please



consider re-registering. Changing your registration is easy, and can be done by mail. We believe this simple, straight forward strategy will succeed!

If you would rather work as in independent, Democrat or start a third party, do so. Just make sure you see a real opportunity to effect change that will help change the laws. The Bible admonishes us to count the cost before we start building something. So visualize your path and calculate the resources you will need, whatever you do.

## Chapter Five

### Why It Will Succeed

*"It does not take a majority to prevail... but rather an irate,  
tireless minority, keen on setting  
brushfires of freedom in the minds of men.  
-- attributed to Samuel Adams*

**Our plan will succeed for three simple reasons:**

**First, our vision of transforming Oklahoma into a Free State is bold, achievable, and inspiring.**

It allows for all voices to be heard, and supplies a mechanism to apply that political pressure, where it counts most, and the foundation of Oklahoma's political structure.

- The vision is simple enough to be grasped and acted upon by normal, everyday people willing to take the time and expend the energy to help.

- The structure (precincts) is already integrated into the system. We can effect change if enough of us step forward to get involved.
- Grassroots participation can shift power from the top, and help the People regain control over our own political destinies.
- Many hands make the work light. No one can do everything; everyone can do something.

**Second, our liberators are already among us. You may be one of them!**

Those who see the problem and yearn for a solution are already here. We call them the Three Percenters. They are those Oklahomans concerned enough, and bold enough, to stand up and make a difference. Their hearts and spirit are already primed for liberty. With a simple plan, we can make this happen!

- We know who many of them are already and have a plan in place to reach out to them.
- If you are reading this right now, you probably are among of us.

- The tools already exist to empower you to be successful.

**Third, developing the Grassroots into an effective political force is the missing link between the People and their Representatives.**

The key to turning widespread, societal dissatisfaction into real change is the Precinct Town Meeting. It is there that we can recruit, inform, train and activate Precinct Leaders.

- The precincts ultimately determine who will be the official party nominees for political offices at every level. This gives the People a tremendous amount of power to wield for good.
- The precinct meeting is a simple, low time-commitment way for everyday citizens to be directly involved in holding elected representatives accountable to the public trust.
- This structure already exists, but it is sitting idle, ready for someone to use it to effect real, lasting,

meaningful change. All we have to do is man our posts, get to work, and have fun doing it!

### **Join with us!**

The Precinct Town Meetings, and the organizations that stem from them, will provide the foundation for restoring limited, responsive government to Oklahoma. We are committed to providing the resources to help you participate successfully.

All that remains is for you to translate desire into action and commit to joining us! Then find at least one more like you and share this vision with them. The further and faster it spreads, the easier our job will be. Will you join us?

## **Chapter Six**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Please Ask Questions**

A project as ambitious as ours is bound to raise a lot of questions. And it should.

We solicit your questions. Every question we get helps us better think through what we are doing and how we can do it better. We will be posting answers to questions as quickly as we can get them on our website and in subsequent editions of this book.

**To ask your question, please email us at:**  
**[info@OKGrassrootsProject.com](mailto:info@OKGrassrootsProject.com).**

**Q: I hate politics and everything about it. Why should I get involved with this project?**

A: The truth is political activity or community organizing might not be for you. Not everyone has a burden on their heart to make the world a better place. If you are one of those people, you could be wasting your time.

However, the fact that you are on this page, learning about the OK Grassroots Project, means that you must have some interest. So the question might be better framed: **How will I benefit if I invest time and energy in this? And will I enjoy myself doing so?**

Here is the direct benefit to you: **This project gives you a way to help provide a better future for you, your children and grandchildren.** If you study the plans laid out on this site, you will to see how an informed, trained, grassroots political force can result in better political representation and a transformed State government.

Participating should be rewarding and fun. Getting together with like-minded neighbors to work for a common cause on local issues, most always brings great

satisfaction to those involved. The key is to find out what you're good at (or want to get better at), and do that. The pay isn't great, but the benefits are huge!

**Q: I already belong to one or more educational citizens' groups. Isn't this a duplication?**

**A:** Building the Grassroots through self-sustaining, regular Precinct Town Meetings is NOT a duplication. What we are offering is a blueprint to build the missing link of accountability with our elected representatives. This is an extension far beyond the typical informational meeting.

As we build this structure, the information groups will have a better platform for extending their influence. These groups represent tens of thousands of concerned Oklahomans. As they motivate their members to get involved in the Precinct Town Meetings, they will reach many more people with their message.



There may be some informational overlap, but ideally these groups will become a resource for training material as the Precinct Town Meetings get started. We will be looking for speakers and videos on topics of interest to groups like this.

**Q: You say the OK Grassroots Project is trans-partisan, but you advocate working through the OK GOP. Isn't that a contradiction?**

**A:** No, it isn't.

**The fact is that the laws will only be changed through the political process.** The quickest opportunity for liberty-minded individuals to effect change is through Oklahoma's two existing parties. We are unaware of any state where a third party is making a significant difference in governance at the state and local level, with the possible exception of New Hampshire.

As a practical matter, we chose the OK GOP because:

The OK Grassroots Project

- It's stated, foundational principles are *identical* with those of America's Founders: "*We believe in limited government, individual liberty, natural rights, and personal moral responsibility.*"
- These principles resonate with the majority of Americans, and point the way to a brighter future. They are compelling to the point of providing high motivation for involvement.
- The GOP is the majority party, growing in voter registration and elected officials. By themselves, the Democrats can do little but talk. If united, the GOP legislators can pass any laws they want. Independents and third parties aren't even on the playing field.

Our effort is trans-partisan in that we encourage Precinct Town Meetings to be open to everyone. We want Democrats, Independents, Republicans, and the un-registered to join the process and make their voices heard. Those who want to work through the Democrat party are encouraged to do so, but realize the limitations of operating as a declining minority in the legislature.

That said, there may be circumstances that working through the Democrats may be the only practical option to promote liberty.

**Q: The OK GOP falls way short of actually promoting Liberty. Why do you think that will change?**

A: The existing Oklahoma GOP elected representatives, as well as the official State Platform, often contradict the stated principles of liberty. Among those who say they support "liberty," there is great confusion as to what it means.

We need real conversations about the consistent application of the principles of Liberty. The platform principles provide us with a starting point. We believe the logic of liberty will lead us to the right answers.

**Transforming the GOP to consistently adhere to, and promote, its stated principles is our goal.**

The Platform is up for revision at every convention, and elected officials are up for election every two to four years. It should not be hard to imagine that a grassroots political force of 30 leaders per precinct can transform the GOP into what it could, and should be.

**When the GOP was the minority party, many Republicans developed a minority mentality.** Any elected Republican who could fog a mirror was generally better than a Democrat, or so the thinking went. Incumbents were revered, even if they weren't much better than the Democrats they replaced.

That minority party mentality still lingers. In addition, the political consultants and special interests have taken away the power from the grassroots. **All that will change as the grassroots organizations develop and begin to take back the People's power.** That is what the OK Grassroots Project is about.

## Chapter Seven

### From 0 to 60,000 in a Year?

Since launching the OK Grassroots Project at the beginning of 2015, we've shared our vision in a number of settings. It has been well-received. The plan to locate and involve 3% of the voters sounds reasonable – until we project it to 60,000 people statewide!

The next response is usually something like: *"If you can get 60,000 people organized like that, you can do anything you want."*

To which our reply is: "Now that we've settled that we can accomplish our goal if we recruit and train the people, all we have left is to do it!"

#### Why is 3% significant?

There are at least three reasons:

- 3% is the same percentage of colonists who were actively engaged in fighting the American Revolution. They prevailed.
- It's the same percentage of men that God told Gideon to take from the ten thousand after dismissing the less dedicated and vigilant. They defeated the Midianites in a single battle, without ever raising a sword!
- Based on experience, 3% of the population is a reasonable estimate of the population already prepared and called to get involved with rebuilding their communities.

### **How Do We Get From Here to There?**

Frankly, we're not sure how it will come together. We plan to start with a model precinct meeting, available in live streaming and video archives. We will be encouraging spinoffs as soon as possible. It will be a pioneering effort with lots of community involvement. The ways it will happen are as varied as the people involved.

Where might some of these people come from? Each precinct will normally have a number of neighborhood associations, each of which could send a representative. Various businesses and institutions like schools and clinics should be interested. This project should be a natural for any church that has some kind of Salt and Light Committee, especially in the surrounding neighborhood. Then there are regular citizens who just want to make a difference.

### **We Will Be Using Basic Networking Principles**

Most people are familiar with the principles of business networking, or even network marketing. Some will want to be involved, while many won't. All we have to do is to find those who will, the Three Percent. The average person has a network of 150 people. Three percent of that is five people. Since those who are called will tend to associate with like-minded people, they may easily find ten to fifteen people in their network.

Let's play with the numbers just a bit. At one meeting where we presented the idea, 15 people were in attendance. Here is what we came up with:

- If just fifteen people committed to recruit just one person each in the next month, that number would double to thirty, the size of what we envision as a single precinct town meeting core.
- After the first month, all thirty commit to recruiting one more to double the group again.
- If this pattern were repeated for 12 months, we would have our target number of 60,000 Precinct Town Meeting regulars.
- Depending how and where people were recruited, it could happen even more quickly. Just imagine!

So, while it is a big job, if each of us was willing to take the time to recruit a dozen people over the next year, we would reach our goal. We have no doubt that the people are out there, waiting to be approached with our plan,



ready to get involved in a project that can give them hope for a better future.

## **One Way It Could Happen**

Imagine that a dozen people attend the first model precinct town meeting. Twenty from around the state watch the meeting live on line. The plan is laid out, and enthusiasm is high. Plans are made to canvass the model precinct to locate the Three Percenters.

Within two months, model precinct attendance grows to thirty, with leaders from other precincts attending to get trained. Leaders in other parts of the state hold simultaneous precinct meetings that also serve as meetings for their House Districts and Counties.

From there:

- Members in the model precinct locate leaders in most of the other precincts in their House District. They divide the District into areas of 4

to 6 precincts and hold their own area meetings the next month. Over the course of the next year, those area meetings expand to each precinct. The leaders canvass their districts, locating the Three Percenters. By the time of the 2016 elections, 80 percent of the precincts in that House District have functioning precinct meetings. They have canvassed their neighborhoods, built their neighborhood databases, and have come together to clean up an unsightly lot and plant a community garden. They recruit, run and elect a new Representative who better reflects their wishes.

- Meetings in the other counties start and follow the same process, with the first meetings serving simultaneously as House District as well as county meetings. In more sparsely populated areas, meetings develop that fit best the local area's needs.
- By the time of the precinct meetings and county conventions in 2016, both political parties experience an unprecedented turnout.

Discussions about the platform and for candidates at all levels are vigorous, with several Presidential candidates getting delegates to the national conventions.

- After the filing period for legislative offices closes, fifty newcomers have filed for the State House and Senate seats. They share similar platforms designed to expand liberty in Oklahoma. The same happens for county and municipal offices.
- When the votes are counted in November, the grassroots have elected 15 new people to the House and four to the Senate.
- The media finds the story of the grassroots resurgence irresistible. Underdogs are usually popular. When they start taking out incumbents in primaries with liberty-based platforms, the story becomes as big as the Presidential races in the state. The political conversation begins to reflect the grassroots agenda, and the movement begins to grow.

- The momentum flows into the 2017 precinct meetings, with new party leadership elected in almost every county in the state, as well as the state parties.

Now, picture that enthusiasm spreading into neighboring states, and popping up across the country. Encouraged by the examples working in Oklahoma, other states begin developing their own grassroots and working to make their states free states. The American Renaissance has begun!

## **Chapter Eight**

### **Why Would a Trans-Partisan Organization Work in the GOP?**

If we are to build and energize a grassroots movement to bring people together and transform Oklahoma into a free state, we need to concentrate on the principles of liberty above any political party allegiance.

Divisive politics, fostered by the political class and the media they control, keep us apart, and keep the elites in control. So we are “trans-partisan,” not beholden to any party. We want to encourage involvement by all interested citizens, not just those from any particular party.

That said, the political structure as it exists is the reality we have to work within. That most often means working within the existing political parties to make the changes we desire. While we encourage involvement in both parties to bring about the change, there are some distinct advantages to being involved at this time with the GOP.

## So, why are we starting with the GOP?

Since we've launched the OK Grassroots Project, we've encountered a lot of enthusiasm for our plan to build the grassroots through precinct organizing. Many are fed up with the direction our country is headed, and like the idea of working locally to transform Oklahoma into a free state.

At the same time, we've encountered our share of critics and cynics. That's especially true with getting involved with the OK GOP. The criticisms include:

- There is no value in getting involved in party politics.
- The OK GOP will never change. We're just wasting our time.
- The OK GOP will cheat, just as they have before.
- It doesn't matter who chairs the County and State party organizations.

**The process for changing the political landscape is straightforward:** To change the laws, we have to change the legislature. To do that, we need to recruit and elect better candidates, and then hold them accountable.

Strong precinct organizations can also help provide cover for representatives taking bold stands on principle. They can cover their backs, protecting them from candidates sponsored by well-funded special interests.

To win elections, we need to change the culture and get out the vote. To change the culture, we have to change the conversation about crucial issues. None of this will happen automatically. But it can be done, with systematic, intentional planning and execution.

Now let's address the objections.

**Objection 1: There is no value in getting involved in party politics.**

The most expedient way to change the laws in Oklahoma is to exert influence through the GOP. That's

where the power is. Moreover, the OK GOP Statement of Principles is based on individual liberty, limited government and personal moral responsibility, as our Founders intended. When we change a majority of the legislature, we can change the laws.

The Democrat Party needs even more work to shift their principles to liberty. In fact, we have yet to find their platform on line.

Even when a third party overcomes ballot access impediments and gets on the ballot, there are no significant models of success to follow in other states, at least as measured by changes in public policy. In reality, third parties often serve to relieve pressure within to reform parties, while at the same time consigning activists into ineffectiveness and irrelevance.

In the future we intend to partner with a variety of groups with a vested interest in Oklahoma's freedom, but the GOP offers us the most fertile ground available to plant these ideas and see rapid changes happen.



**Objection 2: The GOP will never change.**

Critics using this charge fail to grasp that the GOP has changed many times. The candidacies of Barry Goldwater, Ronald Reagan, Pat Robertson and Patrick Buchanan have brought in new blood that changed the party's direction, just as has the influx of Ron Paul supporters over the last 8 years.

The critics also forget an important formula: 50% +1 wins any election for any office. Winning at politics means turning out the vote. It just takes dedication, persistence, and effort. As the precinct organizations develop, the change will be much easier. One way to ensure the GOP doesn't change is NOT to get involved changing it.

**Objection 3: The GOP will cheat, just as they have before.**

We wish we could say cheating is a misperception. But it's not. We've seen cheating and chicanery inside the party at almost every level. In 2012, the RNC cheated

numerous times against Ron Paul. The 2012 State Convention was the most egregious local example.

The answer is to know the rules, insist they be followed, and expose the cheating. Best of all, show up at every election with more votes than the opposition. It is extremely important to get representation on the Rules and Credentials Committees. That's where much of the cheating can be prevented. Also, make ample use of cameras to record documents and proceedings. (For what it's worth, the Democrats are no different.)

*Here's what you can do to combat this behavior:*

*DOCUMENT EVERYTHING. Fill out EVERY document completely, have ballot votes for EVERYTHING, make sure they are signed and dated, and document them all with a smart phone, or tablet camera. Volunteer to coordinate collection of all the photos. Then you will have the documentation necessary to help the credentials committee if their numbers don't seem correct.*

*If you or someone you trust is not your precinct or County Chair, make a motion to do every vote by ballot. They may*

*object due to time limitations, but no rule exists limiting the length of precinct or convention meetings. We are not suggesting obstructionist behavior, simply careful adherence to the rules and thorough documentation. In the case of an appeal, these documents may prove invaluable.*

#### **Objection 4: It doesn't matter who chairs the County and State party organizations.**

This often comes from long-time activists who should know better. The truth is that the chairmen of each county and state party have enormous discretion in where they apply their efforts.

We need chairmen who will actively work to build self-sustaining, functioning precinct organizations in their counties. They also need to follow the rules, play fair, give everyone a chance to participate meaningfully, and operate transparently. If they will do that, then we have a chance of making the GOP the true party of the People.

As it stands now, the chairs run from excellent to terrible. The State Chair could make a huge difference in

whether the grassroots are developed, or the party remains in the hands of political consultants and special interests.

**We need your help with the precinct meetings and conventions.**

We can all think of things we'd rather do than to engage in political activities; just as we'd rather do other things than to fight the mugger, rapist or robber on the attack. The truth is, if we don't engage in effective political action, we will not change our political situation. It won't happen on its own.

If you are registered Republican, we need you to help us restore the party to its principles. We need you to commit to attend 3 meetings: your precinct meeting, your county convention and the state conventions, every time they come up!

In the long run, these meetings are not about the Republican Party. They are about the future we will leave to our kids and grandkids. That future depends on

our actions today. The door is open; will you join us in taking the next step towards a free Oklahoma?

## Just Getting Started!

*If ever a time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin. –Samuel Adams*

That time is now. The time for complaining without action is past. The time for partisan bickering is over. We need to stand as one and push back the tyrannical force that threatens to destroy our nation. If we retreat, or shirk our duty at this moment in history, there may not come another.

To build on the efforts of the liberty lovers who have come before, we need to complete this network to rebuild the bridge of accountability between us and our elected representatives. We need you and every liberty loving American to join with us!

Imagine the difference we can make!

The OK Grassroots Project

Here's what we need you to do!

- Visit the [OKGrassrootsProject.com](http://OKGrassrootsProject.com) today.
- [Sign up to receive our newsletters](#) and other alerts. [Volunteer as a precinct leader](#). We will notify you of subsequent free revisions to this book as we determine best practices, what does and does not work.
- Visit our website for equipping leaders at [ThePrecinctLeader.com](http://ThePrecinctLeader.com). We intend to make it a comprehensive resource to help you be the change you want to see.
- Like our [Facebook page](#) and join our [Facebook group](#).
- Be looking for our upcoming book **The Precinct Leader**. It is a comprehensive manual for the entire process. We plan to have it out before Summer, 2015.

## About the Authors



The Oklahoma Grassroots Project is the inspiration of long-time political activist and blogger, Porter Haskell Davis. A well-known local business man, Porter grew up as a part of Wm. E Davis and Sons institutional food distributors, where he served as Vice President. He served as president of the company's Chef's Market division. He was also owner/operator of the popular smooth jazz radio station, KTNT.

After earning his MBA in Organizational Behavior, he became an active participant in Oklahoma politics. From serving as an early State Chairman of the Libertarian party, to winning election as the Republican State Representative to House District 85, to founding a state-



level public policy think tank, he is steeped in political tradition and practice. He's made three trips to the Republican National Convention as a Delegate.

Porter's search for solutions to our many problems has convinced him that the missing link to restoring limited, accountable government is strong, local precinct organizations focused around the town meeting. Further, that vision goes beyond politics to become a strong, trans partisan, support structure for local communities.



His co-author, Mark Morris, is a local entrepreneur and freelance writer whose early ambitions in politics led him to attend the State Republican convention as an alternate delegate at the age of eighteen.

Since that time, Morris has focused his efforts into several small businesses, and is currently a professional freelance writer and content consultant.

Mark has authored more than a dozen eBooks, under his own name and as a ghostwriter, and has produced over a million words of website copy and service journalism. His work has been read by over six million combined readers.