Society's Breakthrough!
Is it possible there is a simple answer to our national nightmare?

America!
We have MONSTER problems!
- Polarization — anger & distrust
- Rise of Authoritarianism
- Loss of empathy
- Fake news ... manipulation
- “Special Interest” domination of the “Public Interest”
- Politics In gridlock
- L-curve distribution of wealth & power
- Systemic Racism
- Loss of meaningful work
- Extra financial burdens on young people
...

Would you be interested in a BREAKTHROUGH SOLUTION to ALL these problems?
- It’s NON PARTISAN, QUICK ACTING, SAFE, EFFECTIVE
- It UNBLOCKS “normal solutions”— electing new leaders, educating a critical mass of people, scaling up what works, etc. —so they can be effective again
- It involves ... ALL THE PEOPLE?
- It can be applied ... NATIONALLY... Or Globally (climate change, wars, pestilence, etc.) ... Or State-wide ... Or locally
- It is ACCESSIBLE... It’s not that costly. You and I could set it in motion!

“Society’s Breakthrough”—
We can apply the “Wisdom Council Process” to the nation
- 12-16 Random citizens are gathered for 2-3 days
- Someone skilled in Dynamic Facilitation helps them face a Monster issue and reach unity through shifts and breakthroughs
- They present their shared perspective and the story of how they achieved it back it to the nation
- Generally the audience resonates—saying “YES!”—and continues building on the ideas
- Every three months the process repeats, building a legitimate “We the People”

Today’s problems result from our “Box” System, which sets the context

For example, consider how this would impact “national polarization”

1 The shared Conclusions—
   - A Wisdom Council might address the issue of polarization. They would reach a shared perspective and strategy for going forward.
   - e.g. ... They might determine specific changes to the election process
   - e.g. ... This clear expression of the “public interest” is widely supported, more so than the positions of “special interests”

2 The Process—
   - People and legislators pick up on the spirit of collaboration, no matter what issue is chosen
   - e.g. ... Media coverage shifts from negative to positive when the people work together toward a shared vision

3 The system Transformation—
   - When Wisdom Councils happen regularly, the primary dynamic for society shifts from competition to collaboration

Society’s Breakthrough sparks multi-layered benefits
1 Solving monster problems: We co-determine win/win solutions for selected issues. Leadership comes from the people to government
2 New public conversation: We all get involved, appreciate differences, build shared perspectives, and work together. This collaborative conversation “trumps” the current power struggle
3 New system: Over time the Wisdom Council Process transforms the Box, where the Constitution is in charge, to the Circle where “We the People” arise to take responsibility
What’s the magic?... Recognizing choice-creating vs. decision-making

- Choice-creating is the missing form of thinking in our society
  - Where we all stop and face our problems creatively
  - Where we include everyone and appreciate diverse views
  - Where we reach unity through shifts and breakthroughs
  - Where we solve impossible-to-solve issues
  - Where a powerful “We the People” can arise
- Choice-creating often happens naturally in a crisis when people rise to the occasion
- Choice-creating is resonant—i.e. Even though only a small group is Dynamically Facilitated, the whole-system hears the story and says “I think so too!”

Dynamic Facilitation reliably evokes choice-creating

- The randomly selected Wisdom Council sits in a half-circle facing a set of charts
  - Solutions
  - Concerns
  - Data
  - Problem-statements
- The charts provide space for any reaction or response from meeting participants
- The Dynamic Facilitator helps the group follow “energy” rather than an agenda
- Progress happens through shifts and breakthroughs

Periodically, we step back from normal “decision-making” to think in the spirit of “choice-creating”

- We face and solve impossible problems in a way that sparks “We the People” and transforms our system from Box to Circle

Are you concerned that this won’t work?

“How can ...
... 12-16 random citizens reach unity?
... we expect to solve impossible problems?"
... everyone be involved in one conversation?"
... this spark everyone to come together in unity?
... the views of the Wisdom Council exert real power?"
... ordinary people like us start this process?"

These concerns can be answered.
This strategy is already working!

Where has the Wisdom Council Process been used so far?

- **States and Cities** e.g. The state of Vorarlberg in Austria adopted it into their constitution and used it on the issue of Syrian Refugees ... As well as Land Use Planning
- **Organizations**: e.g. AgAmerica Bank used it to involve employees in becoming a “forward thinking organization”
- **Citizen sponsored experiments**: e.g. One citizen of Pleasantville NY set up a Wisdom Council to articulate a 3-fold vision for the City Council

Please support this work

1) This flyer can barely touch the surface of this holistic perspective ... Please learn more at www.WiseDemocracy.org
2) Share what you learn with others ... especially those who are fearful
3) Use www.Smile.amazon.com to redirect some of Amazon’s profits toward the Center for Wise Democracy
4) Donate directly ... Money, time, energy

The natural response to any breakthrough, especially one that promises a simple answer for solving many impossible problems is resistance and dismissal. This is real. Please stay curious and find out more.