

TENNESSEE SENATE DISTRICT 21

VOTER EDUCATION SERIES



PART 4:

HOW TO HOLD YOUR ELECTED
OFFICIAL ACCOUNTABLE

TSD 21

Voter Education Series



PART 4: OBJECTIVES

Upon the completion of this section observers will:

- **Be** informed about the current Senator of Tennessee Senate District 21
- **Examine** a schematic model for building and maintaining a channel of communication between constituents and elected officials from the senate district level to the voting precinct level
- **Learn** how to organize a “**Precinct Governance Council**”, which is purposed to identify, represent and secure the political, social and economic interest of constituents in each voting precinct of Senate District 21

THE CURRENT ELECTED OFFICIAL IN TENNESSEE SENATE DISTRICT 21



The best way to **CONTROL** an individual is to keep them **Blind, Hungry** and **Dependent** on you!

VOTER APATHY is indicated by low voter turnout during elections. Historically the lowest voter turnout has been in precincts that are predominantly African American, where there is significant poverty, educational failure and social chaos.

Over the last eight years the above status has been a constant for Senate District 21
It's time for a **CHANGE**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR VOTER PRECINCT GOVERNANCE



Consent:

The basis for governance on any level is the expressed will of the people.

Education:

Prior to casting any ballot a voter should be “reasonably” informed about the electoral process, candidates and issues facing them.

Registration:

There should be a process in place to ensure that all eligible voters of a respective precinct are properly registered to vote in a give election.

Participation:

There should be a process in place to encourage and ensure that all eligible voters of a respective precinct have reasonable access to the poll and the opportunity to vote in elections.

Communication:

There should be a process in place to maintain an open line of communication between elected officials and constituents of the respective voting precinct.

Accountability:

Prior to, during the campaign cycle and after the electing of an official, there should be a documented agreement among the elected official and the Precinct Governance Council’s Executive Board.

PRECINCT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL: DEFINITIONS OF RELATED CONCEPTS



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- **Governance Council** - an organized gathering of residents (voters) to address issues of importance to their neighborhood (s) and the community as a whole.
 - **Policy Agenda** – written and approved guidelines for representing the interest of residents of voting precincts within political boundaries.
 - **Senate District** – the largest political boundary of the Tennessee General Assembly, where voters are assigned to an elected official to represent their interest in the Senate.
 - **House District** – the second largest political boundary of the Tennessee General Assembly, where voters are assigned to an elected official to represent their interest in the House of Representatives
 - **Council District** - the geographic and political boundary set by the Metropolitan Government for constituents (voters), represented by an elected councilperson .
 - **Voting Precinct** - the smallest division of constituents (residents) within the political boundary of a Council District . Eligible voters within a given council district are assigned to a location (site) where they cast their vote in an election.

PRECINCT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL GENERAL AIMS

- Guiding principles on voter education, registration and participation
- Bylaws
- Membership/Participation
- Strategic Planning
- Process for choosing a candidate for elected office on the local, state and federal levels

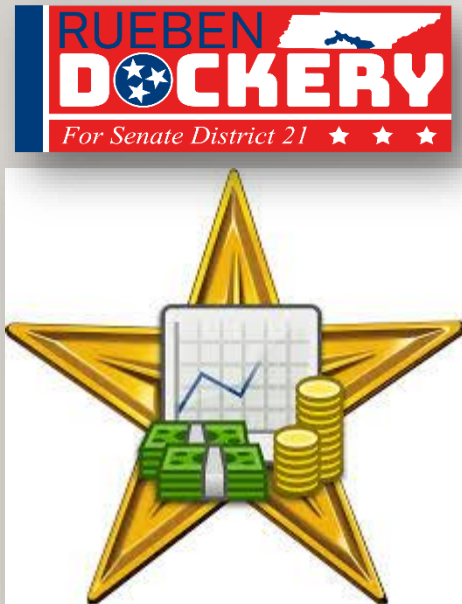


ORGANIZATION OF A PRECINCT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL



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- Forming an assembly of respective voting precinct residents
 - Electing officers
 - Establishing a by-laws committee
 - Reading of proposed by-laws before the assembly (1st, 2nd and 3rd.)
 - Adopting by-laws for the Precinct Governance Council

PRECINCT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL ECONOMIC AGENDA



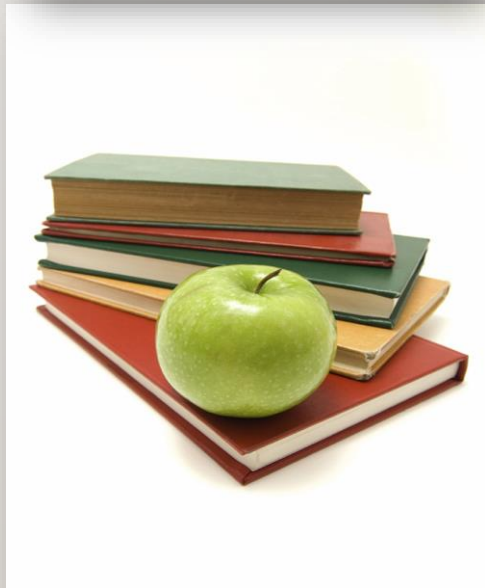
Creation of a four-year strategic plan for economic empowerment of residents who are unemployed or under employed. Such planning will include, but not be limited to:

- Cooperative Economic Development Initiative
- Business planning and start ups
- Acquisition of community funding mechanisms

PRECINCT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL EDUCATIONAL AGENDA

Creation of a four-year strategic plan for the educational advancement of adult residents and children in public schools. Such planning will include, but not be limited to, the establishing of a 21st Century Community Learning Center with an emphasis on

- ✓ Offering family education
- ✓ Training on parent involvement in schools
- ✓ Providing opportunities for adult continued education



PRECINCT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL SOCIAL AGENDA



Creation of a four-year strategic plan for improving the quality of life for all residents of the precinct governance council. Such planning will include, but not be limited to, identifying neighborhood-based solutions to

- ✓ Address criminal behavior at it's root cause
- ✓ Offer social and emotional support to families and youth
- ✓ Ensure property protection
- ✓ Form a community and district wide treaty



PREAMBLE OF THE 21st SENATORIAL DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

We the People of the 21st Senatorial District of Tennessee, in Order to form a more perfect Senatorial District, Ensure Justice, Promote Public Harmony, Provide for common protection , Promote General Interests, and Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our children, do ordain and consent to the common Organization of the electorate of Tennessee Senate District 21.