Framework for Discussion and Agreement

The contents of this plan were transmitted as an E-mail attachment by Richard Hammes on December 12, 2019. The text of his message is copied immediately below.

Many in the community emailed us to express their respect for the Liberal Conservative letter our group wrote regarding guns and some were interested in joining the group. I am sending this email to extend an invitation to join the group if your are interested. If so, we will be having a meeting in February for people that may be interested in joining. This will be an opportunity for you and us to get to know one another and determine fit to the group. The date, time and location will be determined in January. Please read the attached document which outlines our format for discussion and arriving at workable solutions to key issues in this country.

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Liberal/Conservative Dialogue Group (LCDG)

Stakeholder(s):
Richard Hammes: Proponent — If after reading the document you would like to come to an initial meeting to determine whether it is a fit for you and us, please let me know.

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Vision
Civil and productive public discourse is still possible even in our current polarized political environment.

Mission
To engage in dialogue with persons of diverse political views.

Values

Principles: Guiding Principles:

Timeliness: Select timely topics for discussion which involve facts and usually competing values.

Factuality: Everyone in the group will endeavor to use a common set of facts as the evidence base for the dialogue or, if needed, resolve discrepancies in the factual information being considered.

Respect: Everyone in the group is treated with equal respect.

Viewpoints: Everyone in the group is committed to genuine listening and exchanging views through a give and take dialogue.

Analysis: Everyone in the group is willing to examine the underlying assumptions they may have about the issue being discussed.

Consensus: Everyone agrees to consider trade-offs while seeking a consensus agreement on a preferred policy or action.

Action: Solutions or actions chosen will be effective, realistic, and well aligned with our key values.

Feasibility: Realistic means anticipated costs and political feasibility, or public support will also be weighed.

Publicity: We will seek to publish and publicize any agreements reached to demonstrate the value of our dialogues.

Transparency: All aspects of our work will be done in transparent fashion.

Diversity: We will explore increasing the number and diversity of participants in our dialogues to increase the credibility of any agreements reached.

Agreement: We will seek to reach agreement in a timely fashion (e.g., two months) or, if not possible, to engage on a different topic.
Agreement & Accommodation

Seek agreement and mutual accommodation on current topics.

1. Topic
   Select a topic

2. Facts
   Examine relevant facts and select the key facts.

3. Options
   Create policy or action options for addressing the issue.

4. Discussion
   Identify and discuss the pros and cons of each option.

5. Preferences
   Choose or agree on the group’s preferred option.

6. Publication
   Write and publish a joint statement describing the agreement.