

A 3-D Systematic Approach to Developing Strong Democracy in Rockland County Democratic Politics

For conceptual purposes entertain the thesis that there are three models of democracy in Rockland. Elite Democracy (ED), Pluralistic Democracy (PD) and Participatory Strong Democracy (PSD).

ED is rule by money, wealth, dominance and control of outcomes. Non-decision-making is the most insidious form of control because items of importance never reach the agenda of decision-making. Next controlling the agenda of decision making comes when our decision-makers have power without countervailing forces challenging them. The five towns each have structural elite elected as town officials. Joining elected officials are leaders in political realms, businesses and school districts.

PD manifests when competing interests vie for decisions that are advantageous to the myriad of groups that have interests. Joining interest groups are those individuals with enough personal power to get their issues on the agenda of decision-making. This is the world of compromise, negotiations, deals, agreements, etc. Opponents think this process is corrupted by money and power controlling the agenda, Others think it demonstrates democracy because who gets what when where and how SOMETIMES changes. When change is not apparent, calcification sets in and trust in dialogue diminishes.

PSD is the most normative construct of democracy dependent on an enhanced willingness to become politically engaged and conscious of the worth of engagement to actualize a political system based on normative democratic values and ideals. I also believe some of us engage in politics because we seek to foster human development in ourselves and the opportunity for others to develop through civic engagement

Let's cut to the quick. The task of the democratic revolutionary is to harmoniously reconcile what ought to be, what can be and what is. Or, using my conceptualization-harmonizing PSD, PD, and ED.

We who occupy the PSD territory have made great strides since 2016. We consistently call upon our past experiences with PSD and welcome the growing revolution of democratic actualization. We are enhancing our ability to put voice to our ideas. The network of groups in Rockland has never been stronger in my forty plus years of activism in Rockland County. We will consistently be building democracy because democracy is an action, a verb, a perpetual engagement of seeking a truer manifestation of a set of ideals. My fellow activists, pause for a moment, be still, and bring to mind the many actions that we have generated during the last 2 years. Now take that recollection, and let it inculcate you with the strength of PSD NOW! Why? Because our work is cut out for us during the next six weeks.

My urgings to my fellow PSDs are the following:

1. Work for EVERY Democratic candidate because every one of them stands closer to your vision than any Republican.
2. Realize our small political territory of Rockland County, and neighboring communities, are epicenters of the most degenerate right-wing Republican demagoguery. We have Mercer money, Bannon ReclaimNY money, Koch money, and every ED financial, real estate, charter school, drug company PAC, inundating us with commercials fake news and chicanery. We need only look at Tom Basile, the darling of right-wing extremism, running millions of dollars worth of TV commercials trying to construct a false narrative of what he represents.
3. Let's stop this take-over talk with PD Democratic leaders of our Democratic Party. Our number realistically are too few at this moment and frankly IMHO the RCDC is not nearly as powerful as some think it is. Instead let's move forward on Nov. 7 and through December to ignite into action every one of the 17 RCDC Legislative Districts caucuses. During those two months we write a coherent Declaration for a Democratic Future for Rockland County. Having generated a vision we enter the world of ED institutions with a full slate of candidates for the Rockland County offices up in Nov. 2019 like the RC Legislature, Town and Village positions by January 2019. WE cannot afford to wait any longer to yield our slate of candidates and win elections. Elections are finite and we need to recover from defeats immediately.

Fellow activists, this is a rational plan for going forward. It is generated to achieve the PSD ideals that guide our political engagement. It is a structural alternative to the angry voices that can arise after hard fought battles that some of us have been fighting for a lifetime in politics and others have recently shared. We are gaining momentum. I firmly believe that good can prevail when we reconcile what ought to be, what is, and what can be as PSDemocrats.

Let's unite around democratic and Democratic victories on Nov. 6. On Nov. 7 we start a two month process and get candidates up and running in the New Year. We need a plan and this proposal puts us on a course to develop a winning strategy for 2018, 2019 and 2020.