

**PART 4:**

**HOW TO HOLD YOUR  
ELECTED OFFICIAL  
ACCOUNTABLE**

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**TENNESSEE HOUSE  
DISTRICT 53**

**VOTER EDUCATION  
SERIES**



## THD 53

### Voter Education Series



## PART 4: OBJECTIVES

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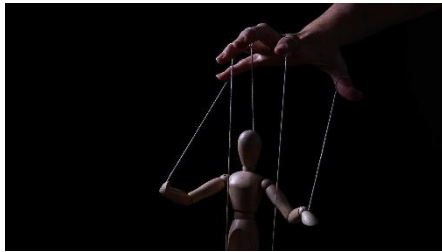
### Upon the completion of this section observers will:

- **Be** informed about the current representative of Tennessee House District 53
- **Examine** a schematic model for building and maintaining a channel of communication between constituents and elected officials from the house 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 House District 53
- **Learn** how to impose term limits for house district representation
- **Learn** how to organize a GOTV operation for Tennessee House District 53

## FACTS ABOUT TENNESSEE HOUSE DISTRICT 53

*"LEADERSHIP IS THE ART OF GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO DO SOMETHING YOU WANT DONE BECAUSE HE WANTS TO DO IT"*  
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

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- 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 comes from alack of interest of constituents due to disappointment, lack of information and disorganization
- Over the last six years the above status has been a constant for House District 53....
- 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:**

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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 an 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 site, 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 that the elected official will honor the will of the voters and the P.G.C.





# PRECINCT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL: “DEFINITIONS OF RELATED CONCEPTS”

**Governance Council** - an organized gathering of residents (voters) to address issues of importance to their neighborhood (s) and the community as a whole.

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**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”

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- To offer constituents guiding principles on voter education, registration and participation
- To establish bylaws for the governance of a voting precinct council
- To build and maintain constituent membership/participation
- To engage in strategic planning and the execution thereof
- Maintaining a process for choosing a candidate/official for elected office on the local, state and federal levels





## ORGANIZATION OF A “PRECINCT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL” (P.G.C.)

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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 (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.)
- Adopting by-laws for the Precinct Governance Council

# PRECINCT GOVERNANCE COUNCIL “ECONOMIC AGENDA”

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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”

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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 21<sup>st</sup> 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”

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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

## IMPOSING A HOUSE DISTRICT 53 “TERM LIMIT”

*“A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS  
COULD NEVER ACHIEVE THE BLESSING OF CONGRESS; IT COULD BE  
INITIATED ONLY BY THE STATES.”  
DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER*

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While there is no state law governing term limits for the Tennessee Legislature, the organized consent of any and every Precinct Governance Council (P.G.C.) within the house district can impose a rule among its members that determines how many times voters will vote for a candidate or incumbent. It is effectively enforced by:

- Maintaining a collective voter precinct agreement
- Codifying this rule via bylaws of each P.G.C.
- Ensuring proper education of P.G.C. voters







- Organize a get-out-to-vote operation in each voting precinct
- Schedule to “mass-vote” at designated poll location (s) during early voting
- Document voter actions during early voting
- Hold joint or precinct specific voting rallies throughout the election cycle