The Defender

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Team Builder and Team Member Synergy is Critical

Characteristics of Winning Teams - Synergy and Mission Focus

A political party organization, whether focused on advocacy or policy, relies heavily on coordinated teamwork to function efficiently and effectively. Success is shaped by the combined roles of the team builder—such as an organizational leader (Chair) or Board of Directors who sets priorities based on the organization's Vision and Mission—and the team members (Leaders, PCOs, and Volunteers) who carry out strategic and operational responsibilities to support the priorities set by leadership.

The team builder in a political organization plays a critical role in shaping direction and coherence. This role involves articulating a clear vision, mission, aligning members around shared values, and establishing structures that support collaboration.

Research on effective teams emphasizes that strong leadership fosters trust, open communication, and accountability, all of which are essential in politically sensitive environments where differing viewpoints must be managed constructively.

Team builders are also responsible for resolving conflicts, coordinating efforts across roles, and ensuring that the organization adapts to changing political contexts. Studies on team dynamics show that leaders who focus on enabling collaboration rather than exerting control contribute to higher performing teams.

Team members, in turn, are responsible for transforming organizational priorities into concrete outcomes. Their role includes active participation in discussions, responsible execution of assigned tasks, and respectful engagement with differing perspectives.

Successful team members contribute their expertise while remaining aligned with priorities, which is particularly important in political organizations that often face external scrutiny and time pressures. Examples from real-world teamwork research highlight that mutual support, clear communication, and role flexibility strengthen overall effectiveness.

Ultimately, a successful political organization depends on balance. The team builder provides vision, stability, and encouragement while team members contribute commitment, competence, and collaboration.

When both roles function in harmony, the organization is better equipped to pursue its objectives ethically, respond to challenges, and sustain long-term effectiveness within a complex and often evolving political environment.

God Bless,
Rob Linebarger,
Chair@SpokaneGOP.com

Haley Talks Truth

What I Hope Your Generation Knows about Mine

by Haley Barkman

2026 Lincoln Day Speech Contest Champion

In my experience interacting with other generations, both within and outside the Spokane GOP, I often hear my generation, Gen Z, dismissed as lazy and overly sensitive. Perhaps my offense at that proves the latter point. But these stereotypes miss what many young people are searching for and prevent meaningful conversation across generations on both sides. Here's what I hope other generations know about mine; Gen Z deeply values truth, community, and meaningful work.

Gen Z Wants the Truth

We grew up surrounded by advertising, curated identities, political spin, and constant online performance. Because of that, many of us can spot fake messaging quickly. We are drawn to honesty, transparency, and people who mean what they say. GOP leaders, you should know that polished talking points matter to us less than authenticity. A lot of us aren't offended by truth; we're just tired of manipulation.

Gen Z Wants Community

We've inherited and embraced an isolated culture of screens, loneliness, and shallow connection. Since 2020, we have become one of the loneliest generations. In youth ministry, I often see unchurched kids drawn to the church because they are craving friendship, family, and a place to belong. We are hungry for mentorship and real relationships. Conservatives who build community will speak louder than those who only criticize culture. We want life with people. What kind of community are you building that would draw us in?

Gen Z Wants Purposeful Work

Gen Z is often called lazy, but many of us are discouraged, especially in a state where rising costs and failed policies make it harder to get ahead. We want work that matters, opportunities to contribute, and a clear path forward. We respect discipline, entrepreneurship, and craftsmanship when they are modeled well. We are not afraid of hard work, but we are tired of work that feels pointless.

At the end of the day, whether you agree with me, Gen Z is the future of the Spokane GOP. We have our weaknesses, like any other generation. But again, my volunteer experience has shown me that this generation is tired of being lied to. We're tired of not having leaders we can trust. We want to create meaningful change through meaningful work. We're looking up to you to light the way.

Election Integrity

By Tony Kiepe
Spokane County GOP State Committeeman

Vote Watch Northwest sponsored an Election Integrity Meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on April 18, drawing approximately 100 attendees from Washington, Montana, Arizona, and Idaho. Featured speakers included Seth Keshel, Dr. Douglas G. Frank, and Professor David Clements. Professor Clements also spoke the following day at an EWAFA event with similar attendance.

Seth Keshel presented factual data from his book, The American War on Election Corruption. Keshel's book is the #1 bestseller on Amazon, and I recommend purchasing it. This book will open your eyes to what is happening with our elections.

In November 2020, 40% of those polled believed the 2020 election was rigged. In 2026, a Rasmussen poll shows that 67% of those polled believe the election was rigged.

Georgia experienced a 634% increase in mail-in ballots. The 2020 election also had a record turnout in Republican votes. We have to take a close look at prolonged voting after Election Day. We need to understand the fraud and how it is happening. Prolonged voting is the key to corruption. The data does not lie, but people do.

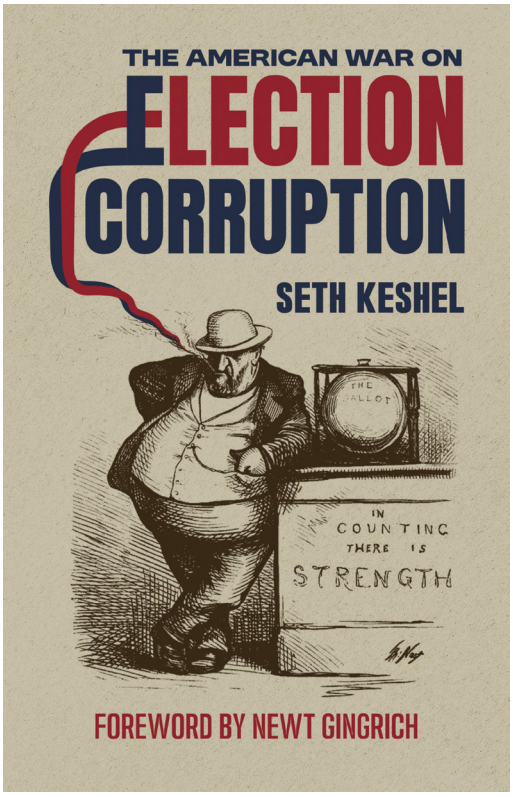
Why did the courts throw out every case, stating there was no standing? Courts and officials refused to look at the facts. This is one reason we need to ban all electronic voting, because electronic voting can easily be manipulated.

Keshel has been successful in predicting elections by analyzing voter registration trends. Most states provide information on whether Republicans or Democrats are registering. In Pennsylvania, 50,000 voters were registered and all voted, with their votes appearing in less than a minute. However, all 50,000 were inactive voters who had moved out of the county over 10 years earlier. In December, Pennsylvania cleaned up their voter rolls, and all 50,000 voters were removed.

In Georgia, Secretary of State Rosenberger stated there were 100,000 votes left to count, yet 300,000 votes were counted.

Voter registration provides better information than modern polling. To improve election integrity, Keshel recommends restricting early voting, reducing the size of precincts, banning ballot harvesting, banning electronic voting, requiring Election Day voting, and enforcing heavy prison time for election fraud.

Dr. Douglas G. Frank, who has modeled elections since 1980, discussed statistical anomalies he observed in the 2020 election. Dr. Frank has correctly predicted every election except 2020 using differential equations. He has also modeled epidemics and pandemics.



Election Corruption

Dr. Douglas Frank

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We need churches to begin talking about elections again and to use biblical principles as guidance.

Thirty-two NGOs reportedly have full access to the backend of voting systems and can manipulate the data. The Pennsylvania legislature was prepared to investigate election fraud after reviewing the data. Why did the RNC tell legislators to stop the investigation? Why were they warned that if they raised concerns about election fraud, their legislative careers would be over?

Seventy counties have contacted Dr. Frank to assist them in investigating potential election fraud. What they have discovered is that simply having evidence is not enough. We must present clear, factual evidence as issues arise.

We can do this by following these steps: get organized, get connected, formulate a county plan, implement the plan, review progress, and empower local communities.

We also need to sign IP26-500 to help secure Washington's elections.

Professor David Clements stated that the core problem is corruption. His presentation was titled, "Meeting Trump in the Middle & Restoring Our Elections." Clements is a former law professor, former prosecutor, and has received numerous awards.

Clements emphasized that federal law supersedes state law. Federal law requires states to provide voter data, yet many blue states are refusing to comply. Clements met with President Trump regarding his findings, and he emphasized that Trump still has the authority to use Article II. Article II gives Trump the power to implement the Save America Act. Trump can legally implement the Save America Act if Congress is unable to pass it.

It is hard to believe that with a Republican House, Republican Senate, and the White House, we are still having difficulty passing a law that is supported by 84% of citizens.

Clements stated that in 2020 there was a digital injection into the election that did not occur in 2024. We won the White House on election night but later lost eight Senate seats due to prolonged voting and mail-in ballots.

In 2020, the data initially came in close to 50-50, but then there were 96 voter batches that came in as 50.1% to 49.9%. According to the law of large numbers, this is statistically impossible. Clements stated that Biden received digital votes in five states.

David Clements
The Professor's Record

In 2024, Elon Musk reportedly looked at his phone and stated that Trump had won the election long before the states were officially called.

Clements also encouraged people to look at Abraham Lincoln and compare what he endured to what Trump is facing today. The courts were against Lincoln, just as they are against Trump today. Judges will protect the system at all costs. Even if the Supreme Court makes a ruling, there is often no clear way to enforce it.

A tremendous amount of information was shared at these two meetings. To get involved, sign up for EWAFA emails and texts, read your GOP emails, and attend events such as Northwest Grassroots, Spokane County Republicans, and Ponderosa Women. Find the organization that fits you best.

Have you signed Initiative IP26-500? Have you volunteered to talk to your neighbors and gather 20 signatures? We need your help, and we can turn Washington red.

"In the beginning of a change the patriot is a scarce man, and brave, and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot." [Mark Twain]

Pessimism's Corrosive Effect on our Mission

"It's easy to be negative, we are all born pessimists. It takes effort to be optimistic." Rush Limbaugh

Execution of a critical mission demands unity of effort, clarity of purpose, and shared confidence in success. Under such high stakes conditions, the presence of a persistent pessimist within the ranks can become deeply corrosive to both morale and performance. While healthy skepticism has value in the planning phase, unchecked pessimism during execution undermines the very cohesion that mission success requires.

A pessimist often amplifies doubt at moments when resolve is essential. Repeated expressions of anticipated failure, exaggerated risks, or cynical interpretations of leadership decisions can quickly spread through a team. In pressured environments, attitudes are contagious; hesitation and negativity can erode trust and weaken collective confidence. When team members begin to question not just the plan, but their leaders and each other, execution falters. Momentum slows as energy is diverted from action to reassurance and damage control.

The corrosive effect extends beyond morale into operational effectiveness. A pessimist is more likely to disengage, withhold effort, or resist adaptability when circumstances change. In mission critical situations, adaptability and decisive action are vital. Pessimism fosters second guessing and delay, increasing the risk of missed opportunities or compounding errors. Worse, it can normalize defeatist thinking, subtly reframing setbacks as confirmation that success was never possible.

Trust is another casualty. Teams succeed under stress when members believe that everyone is committed to the objective. A visible pessimist signals misalignment, prompting others to question whether sacrifices and risks are shared equitably. This perception fractures unity and weakens accountability.

Ultimately, the danger of a pessimist during execution is not disagreement, but erosion. Critical missions succeed through disciplined optimism: the belief that challenges can be overcome through action. Leaders must address pessimism decisively—either by redirecting it into constructive problem solving or by isolating its influence—because when belief collapses, even the best strategy cannot compensate.

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To learn more, register, or get involved, visit **https://humanlifewa.org** or contact **Jeryl Reinbolt at jeryl@humanlifewa.org**

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A Simple, Relational, Biblical Church

by Pastor Jay MacPherson

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If you're looking for a church home, or know someone who is, we invite you to join us for Sunday service at 10am, just a block east of Newport Highway at 4301 East Day Mt. Spokane Rd. Discover what God is doing at Liberty Remnant Church and connect with our pastor at libertyremnantchurch.org. May God bless America as America blesses God.

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