

Hosted by the

Maryland Forward Party

# Charlestown Community



Not Left. Not Right. *Forward.*

## VIRTUAL FORUM

Come join us for an interactive forum, where together we will prioritize the issues.



May  
2  
7pm

# AGENDA

- Welcome & Introductions
- Rules of the Debate
- **Four (4) Problem Proposals**
- Solution Brainstorming

# PRIORITIZED PROBLEMS

- Alternate Way to Debate
- We Can Agree on Problems but Disagree on Solutions
- Diverse Thinking = Diverse Solutions
- One Size Does Not Fit All

**“Not every idea is a great idea, but a great idea can come from anywhere.” - Ratatouille Principle**

# What Makes a Good Problem?

- Rule #1: No solutions!
  - If there's only one solution, it's not a problem.
  - Bad Problem: "We don't have Medicare for All"
  - Good Problem: "Healthcare Is Too Expensive"
  - Use "5 Whys" to Find the Real Problem
- Long-Lasting
- Could Apply to Anyone
- Measurable

# Encourage Collaboration, Not Fights

- Rule #2: Everybody gets 30 sec to do one of the following:
  - Ask a Clarifying Question (Proposer gets 30 sec to answer)
  - Suggest a change (Proposer can accept, reject, or modify)
  - Comment in support or opposition and share why
  - Show how the idea might be used *or misused*
  - Table the discussion if it needs more time (vote required)

# Prioritized Problems

- Rule #3: Don't make a higher-ordered Problem worse when solving a lower-ordered Problem
  - Solving one problem at a time *causes other problems*.
  - Try to solve **multiple** problems at once!
  - Single-issue voting can often cause havoc.

# PRIORITIZED PROBLEMS

## Rule #1:

Separate problems from solutions

## Rule #2:

Encourage more voices to build greater collaboration

## Rule #3:

Do not make a higher order problem worse when solving a lower order problem

1. Propose Problem & Position (2 min)
2. Debate (30 sec; 30 sec response; 10 min total)
  - Ask a Clarifying **Question**
  - Suggest an **Edit**
  - Debate **For**
  - Debate **Against**
3. Vote
  - Accept proposed order?

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## PRIORITIZED PROBLEMS

1. We are being forced to use the same reservation system in all dining rooms, losing the opportunity for change.
2. The opportunity to meet new people is reduced.
3. The inability to dine in larger groups.
4. Solutions:
  - a. Change reservation system to allow larger groups
  - b. Offer a few days where there are fewer choices, but larger tables.

**Options (30 sec):** Ask a **Question** • Suggest an **Edit** • Argue **For** • Argue **Against**  
**Rule:** Do not make a higher order problem worse when solving a lower order problem.



## We would love to do more meetings like we did with you in January

Below is a suggestion for an email you can send to friends in other Senior communities in Maryland suggesting they may be interested in inviting the Maryland Forward Party to come in and do an educational session on Election Reform, similar to what we did here in January. Feel free to edit this in any way you would like for your friends.

### Sample Email Message

Hi *(name)*

A few months ago we invited the Maryland Forward Party to come into the Charlestown Senior Living Community where I am living to give us an educational talk on Election Reform in Maryland. We had about 20 people show up for it and we all thought it very interesting and were very glad we joined that meeting. It was about an hour, including time for questions, and was not bashing Republicans or Democrats, only talking about things we can do in Maryland to get more choices on the ballot. One of their core principles is that more unites us than divides us.

If you think that some of the people in your community might be interested in a similar educational session, the Maryland Forward Party is interested in doing more sessions like the one we had here. Bill Stewart would be happy to talk to you about doing a session there and answer any questions that you have. Bill can be reached at [bills.fwd@gmail.com](mailto:bills.fwd@gmail.com) or at 240-46-9913 for text messages or a phone call.

I hope you and your friends find this as interesting as we have here at Charlestown Senior Living.

**If you have questions or would like some help on this, email, text, or set up a phone call with Bill Stewart using his contact information in the sample email above.**