

NATIONAL EDITION

# CITIZEN POWER

A CITIZEN LEADERSHIP MANUAL

INTRODUCING

*The Art of  
No-Blame Problem Solving*



Harry S. Pozycki

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## ■ INTRODUCTION ■

**O**ur participatory roles as citizens have historically been limited to voting and protesting. But the 21st Century brings with it the powers needed to take on a new role. We can now become direct participants in government problem solving. In other words, we can become “players” in the game of government decision making.

**S**o what’s been holding us back? Remember when we were little kids, standing on the sidelines as the big kids played the game. We were afraid to get in the game because we didn’t know the rules; we didn’t know the positions; we didn’t even know the basic plays.

**T**his book will give you all you need to know to become successful players in the game of government problem solving and decision making. Read it, and you will never again be relegated to sitting on the sidelines, frustrated that you don’t know how to get in the game.

### THE PLAYING FIELDS

The first thing you need to know is where the playing fields of decision making are located that are accessible to you. It may surprise you to know that there are usually four playing fields in the game of political and governmental decision making located in your own back yard - your town or county.

Most of the major decision making in your community is made at: **1)** the governing body, often referred to as the Mayor and Council or, on the county level, the County Commissioners; **2)** the Planning Board; **3)** the School Board; and **4)** the local political parties. All four of these playing fields have one thing in common: they make final decisions that can improve your community.

Since they're located in your town or county, they are easily accessible playing fields where you have a right to get in the game of political and governmental decision making. You can read about them in Chapter One.

## **THE RULES OF THE GAME**

To get in the game, you also need to know the rules of the game. The rules in the political and governmental decision making arenas are your legal rights to participate directly in the decision making process. These rules were changed at the beginning of the 21st century to greatly increase citizens' ability to review the details of their towns' existing policies, and to introduce evidence based policies that would improve their communities.

You will find the rules of the game in Chapter Two.

## **THE PLAYERS' EQUIPMENT**

All games have equipment. The search engine is the most important piece of equipment in the game of government problem solving.

Chapter Two will show you how to use search engines to easily find successful, evidence based solutions that you can import for the betterment of your community, and which will make you a powerful player in the game of government decision making.

## **BASIC PLAYS OF THE GAME**

As with any game, there are certain basic plays that give you a better chance of scoring, and in government decision making that means gaining adoption of the solutions you've found to improve your community. Chapters Three through Seven are packed with plays and strategies of successful practitioners of local government. These plays are contained in a No-Blame Problem Solving Guide regular citizens have used to pass hundreds of laws with a success rate of over 90%.

There are other plays that you may learn or even develop yourself, once you get some experience. But if you learn the basic plays explained in these chapters, you will be fully prepared to step onto the playing fields of government decision making.

## THE PLAYERS' POSITIONS

Before you step on the playing field, you will want to decide what position is best for you. Four powerful positions are described in Chapter Eight. None of them require that you run for public office with the major time demands, fundraising requirements, and other challenges associated with doing this. The four roles or positions that you can choose from include:

- 1) appointed office holder on a local board or commission
- 2) local political party representative
- 3) solutions advocate in both social and conventional media and last but not least,
- 4) the position of Civic Trustee of your community

Each of these positions can give you the power of a player in the game of governmental decision making.

Chapter Eight will teach you about how you can access these positions and about the power that each provides.



*Once you've learned about the playing fields, the rules, the basic plays, and the citizen leadership positions in the game of government decision making, you won't need to run for public office to engage in meaningful public service and enjoy the honor that comes with it.*