



Urban Land Institute South Carolina

Urban Land Institute Speech
September 20, 2012, Columbia Museum

SOUTH CAROLINA'S ISSUES ARE THOSE OF THE URBAN LAND INSTITUTE ISSUES, THEY ARE NOT GOING TO ARE NOT GOING TO BE SOLVED WITHOUT LEADERSHIP. SPECIFICALLY, YOUR LEADERSHIP."

BY THE NATURE OF ITS DEFINITION, THE STATUS QUO DOESN'T BUDGE UNTIL LEADERS SHOVE. AND HOLDING ONTO THAT STATUS QUO DOESN'T GET US THERE, IT DOESN'T MOVE SC FORWARD.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SC'S PROBLEMS, AND THE CHALLENGES STARING US IN THE FACE. HOW WILL WE SOLVE THEM ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU COME UP AGAINST INSURMOUNTABLE, INTRACTABLE BARRIERS. WHAT ARE THE BEST SOLUTIONS, WITH NO BLAME ASSIGNED, WITH NO SIDES TAKEN FOR SOUTH CAROLINA, FOR ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS.

BUT BEFORE SOLVING, COMING UP WITH THOSE BEST SOLUTIONS LET'S IDENTIFY WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT WHEN WE SAY "SC'S ISSUES."

IT IS A PRETTY LONG LIST. SO LET'S JUST ON A RANDOM BASIS PUT 4 ON THE TABLE. THEY MAY NOT BE YOURS BUT I BET SOME, PROBABLY MOST ARE. IF YOU DON'T HEAR YOURS, DON'T WORRY, IT'S IN THE STACK. THESE 4 ARE JUST TO GET THE DISCUSSION GOING.

SOME WARM-UP RANDOM SC STATISTICS. I PICKED THESE WITH THE 5 LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP FORUM IN MIND – EDUCATION, HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC POLICY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

- **EDUCATION**
 - **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE**
 - **51ST IN NATION.**
 - **SAT SCORES**
 - **48TH IN THE NATION.**
- **HEALTH**
 - **INFANT MORTALITY**

(HARD TO HAVE AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE)

- 3RD HIGHEST IN NATION.
- ADULT OBESITY
 - 7TH HIGHEST IN NATION.
 - (INCREDIBLY EXPENSIVE)
- ENVIRONMENT
 - DEFORESTATION
 - 40TH IN SIZE,
 - BUT 9TH IN DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN SPACE.
 - INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IN ROADS
 - 49TH IN NATION.
- PUBLIC POLICY
 - CIGARETTE TAX RATE
 - 51ST IN NATION.
 - VIOLENT CRIME
 - 1ST IN NATION.
 - CONSTITUTION
 - 300 AMENDMENTS
 - WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY.
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - ENTREPRENEURSHIP
 - 45TH IN NATION
 - INVESTOR PATENTS
 - 45TH IN NATION

KEEPING THESE NUMBERS IN MIND, HERE ARE SOME RANDOM SUGGESTIONS THAT WILL LEAD TO SOLUTIONS.

- COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM. A NECESSARY REVISION AND MODERNIZATION OF STATE TAX LAWS TO ATTRACT, RETAIN AND GROW BUSINESSES.
- THE REORGANIZATION OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. ADDRESSING THE INEQUITIES IN EDUCATION THAT LEAD TO WASTE AND FAILURE.
- A NEW CONSTITUTION IN LIEU OF OUR OLD MODEL. THE ONE WITH OVER 300 PLUS AMENDMENTS, ONE THAT WOULD LEAD TO THE CONSOLIDATION OF NUMEROUS AGENCIES AND BUDGETS. IMPORTANTLY, BALANCE POWER EQUITABLY.
- DESPERATELY NEEDED STRONG CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE LEGISLATION. WITHOUT IT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND PUBLIC MISTRUST ARE INEVITABLE.

GIVEN THESE AND OTHER FAVORITES THAT MAY BE ON YOUR LIST BEGS FOR AN ANSWER TO THE “WHY” QUESTION.

“WHY” WHEN THE REST OF THE WORLD SEEMS TO SOLVE ITS INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS, SEEMS TO COME UP WITH BOLD, IMAGINATIVE, OUT-OF-THE BOX SOLUTIONS WITH CERTAINLY MORE COMPLEX POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES THAT WE HAVE “WHY” DOES SC SEEM TO BE SO CHALLENGED, SO STUCK IN THE PAST?

WORLD RANDOM CHALLENGES INCLUDE:

- TAKING DOWN THE BERLIN WALL: THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM IN EASTERN EUROPE. 18 MONTHS MAXIMUM.
- SEQUENCING THE GENOME: THE MOST IMPORTANT, THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGH IN OUR LIFETIME. 5 YEARS.
- ARAB SPRING: WORKING OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM. CHANGING OUT FIVE DEEPLY ENTRENCHED GOVERNMENTS. 2 YEARS? 3 YEARS?
- CHINA WORKING IN THE SYSTEM: MOVING 350 MILLION PEOPLE INTO PROSPERITY AND OUT OF POVERTY. MORE THAN THE POPULATION OF THE U.S., WHICH IS MOVING PEOPLE OUT OF PROSPERITY INTO POVERTY.
- WHAT ABOUT THE INTERNET? AS WE SIT HERE EMAILING, TWITTERING, GOGGLING, TEXT MESSAGING, FACE BOOKING. FINGER EXERCISES THAT WERE NOT EVEN IN OUR VOCABULARY 20 YEARS AGO.

GIVEN THESE PLUS AGAIN WHATEVER YOUR WORLD-INSURMOUNTABLE AND WORLD-IMPACTFUL ISSUES MIGHT BE, THEY GOT ADDRESSED, SOLVED AND/OR RESOLVED.

SO LET’S GO BACK FOR ANOTHER LOOK AT OUR EARLIER SC LIST.

- COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM.
 - CHARLIE DANIEL, CEO OF DANIEL CONSTRUCTION NOW FLUOR. JANUARY 1960 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SPEECH.
- THE REORGANIZATION OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.
 - PROGRAM FOR EXCELLENCE IN SC. CHARLES “PUG” RAVENEL 1974.
- A NEW CONSTITUTION.
 - CHARLIE DANIEL, 1960 AND PUG RAVENEL, 1974.
- STRONG FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE LEGISLATION.
 - CHARLIE DANIEL, 1960. PUG RAVENEL, 1974. HARRIS DELOACH, CEO OF SONOCO, 2010.

AND, I BET SOMEONE OF PROMINENCE EVERY YEAR BETWEEN 1960 AND 2012.

THAT'S WHY WE STARTED LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP BECAUSE -- ONE MORE TIME HOLDING ONTO THE STATUS QUO IS NOT GOING TO GET US, YOU, YOUR FAMILY YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR COMMUNITY THERE.

RECOGNIZING THAT THESE LONG-STANDING ISSUES THESE 50 YEAR OLD ISSUES, WERE NOT GETTING SOLVED AND QUITE FRANKLY, BEYOND THE WHINING STAGE WERE NOT EVEN BEING MEANINGFULLY DISCUSSED.

WE, THROUGH LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP, ARE INVESTING DIRECTLY INTO THE BLOODSTREAM OF OUR STATE CREATING AN INCUBATOR FOR EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP, (EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE TODAY) BRINGING TOGETHER SC'S OUTSTANDING YOUNG LEADERS WITH THEIR DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVES AND WIDE RANGE OF THOUGHT. THOSE WHO ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR OWN PROFESSION, ARE PRO-ACTIVE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND IMPORTANTLY, HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO HAVE AN IMPACT AT THE STATE LEVEL.

SOME PEOPLE PICK UP A NEWSPAPER AND SIGH. OTHERS PICK UP A NEWSPAPER AND THEN PICK UP THE TELEPHONE AND MAKE THINGS HAPPEN. IT'S THOSE TELEPHONE PICKER UPPERS WE ARE BRINGING TOGETHER, GIVING THEM A PLATFORM FOR FRANK AND CANDID DISCUSSIONS ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING.

LOOK, SOUTH CAROLINA IS NOT A STATE. BUT RATHER A COMMUNITY. AND A TIGHT-KNOT ONE AT THAT WE ARE TOO SMALL AND TOO POOR TO ANY LONGER AFFORD THE SILOS OF RACE, RELIGION, URBAN VS. RURAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BARRIERS. THAT HAVE HISTORICALLY HELD THIS STATE BACK.

THE ARROGANCE OF THOSE SILOS HAVE BLOCKED PROGRESS IN OUR STATE FOR TOO MANY LIFETIMES.

SOUTH CAROLINA AND SOUTH CAROLINIANS,
CAN'T WAIT AROUND, SIT AROUND ANY LONGER
FOR CHEST THUMPERS WITH A CAUSE TO TALK
OR FOR SIDELINE SITTERS TO WHINE.
IT NEEDS PROBLEM SOLVERS NOW.
PEOPLE WHO PICK UP THAT TELEPHONE
AND SAY WE CAN DO IT
AND THEN DO DO IT.

IS LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP GOING TO SOLVE
THE PROBLEMS OF OUR STATE?
NO, IT'S NOT. BUT YOU CAN.
THE LIBERTY FELLOWS CAN.
YOU CAN MAKE A DENT IN SC.
YOU INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY
REPRESENT A TRUE MOSAIC OF SOUTH CAROLINIANS.

YOU ARE SMART, PASSIONATE,
CARE ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING
AND WANT TO BE PART
OF HOW IT'S GOING TO GET DONE.
AT THE RISK OF DISTRACTING YOU
FROM PICKING UP THAT TELEPHONE
LET ME GIVE YOU A QUICK PROFILE
OF THE LIBERTY FELLOWS.
INCIDENTALLY, ALL OF THIS –
THE FELLOWS, THEIR SENIOR ADVISORS,
THE SUMMITS AND THE FORUMS,
THE ACTION GROUPS THAT SPUN OUT OF THOSE,
THE PROJECTS,
THE GLOBALIZATION SEMINAR --
ARE AT OUR WEBSITE WWW.LIBERTYFELLOWSHIPSC.ORG.
YOU ALSO HAVE A BROCHURE.

IN OUR 9TH YEAR.

PROFILE OF 185 LIBERTY FELLOWS.

ACCEPT 20 A YEAR.

- **AVERAGE AGE IS 41.**
- **ALONG GENDER LINES, IT'S ABOUT 50/50,
MAY BE 45/55.**
- **ABOUT 65% ARE CAUCASIAN
AND 35% AFRICAN-AMERICAN.**
- **GEOGRAPHICALLY IT REACHES ACROSS THE STATE
FROM ROCK HILL TO BLUFFTON.**
- **ABOUT 75% FROM BUSINESS COMMUNITY
WITH THE BALANCE BEING NON-PROFIT
AND GOVERNMENT.**
- **INTERESTINGLY,
ABOUT HALF GREW UP IN SOUTH CAROLINA
AND HALF MOVED HERE.**
- **DEGREES FROM GED AT GREENVILLE TECH
TO PhDs FROM STANFORD, HARVARD AND MUSC.**

SOME OF THE FELLOWS

WITH WHOM YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR:

- **TERRY BROWN AND JODIE MCLEAN, CEO AND COO OF EDENS.**
- **JOE SALLEY, CEO OF MILLIKEN.**
- **MICHELLE CHILDS, FEDERAL JUDGE FOURTH DISTRICT.**
- **MICK MULVANEY, TIM SCOTT AND TREY GOWDY – US CONGRESSMEN.**
- **ANN KULZE, DR. ANN NUTRITIONIST GURU.**
- **SCOTT CLARK, COO OF MICHELIN NORTH AMERICA.**
- **BETSY FLEMING, PRESIDENT OF CONVERSE COLLEGE.**
- **STEVE BENJAMIN, MAYOR OF COLUMBIA.**
- **OUR BOMB THROWER, VINCE GRAHAM, DEVELOPER.**

NOW WE ARE BACK TO WHERE I STARTED.

ISSUES. FOUR FACTS.

- 1. SOUTH CAROLINA IS AT A TIPPING POINT. ON THE POSITIVE EDGE OF MOVING TO ADDRESS OUR ISSUES IN A MEANINGFUL, CONSTRUCTIVE WAY OR ON THE NEGATIVE EDGE OF SLIDING TO IRRELEVANCY, CEDING CONTROL TO NON-SOUTH CAROLINA ENTITIES**
 - OF OUR DESTINY,**
 - OF OUR ABILITY TO CREATE WEALTH,**
 - TO BUILD OUR BUSINESSES,**
 - TO ADEQUATELY EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN,**
 - TO CONTROL, HAVE A SAY ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT,**
 - TO MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN FOR OURSELVES, OUR FAMILIES, OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR STATE.**

2. YOU ARE LEADERS. YOU KNOW THAT.
THAT'S WHY YOU ARE HERE.
3. THE WORLD HAS INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS
AND IS ADDRESSING THEM, DEALING WITH THEM,
SOLVING THEM
QUICKER, MORE QUICKLY THAN SOUTH CAROLINA.
4. LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP HAS CREATED A PLATFORM
FOR DISCUSSION.
COME ON AND GET ON IT.
NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP
OR GET NOMINATED.
JOIN A FORUM.
TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE
IN ONE OF THE ACTION GROUPS.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT
YOU ARE ACTIVE, YOU CARE,
YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
MAKE THAT DENT IN THE UNIVERSE
MOVING BEYOND
YOUR OWN PERSONAL COMFORT ZONE,
REACHING OUT TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY
A BETTER PLACE.

THERE IS A FORMULA -- 90, 9, 1 THAT SAYS
90% OF THE PEOPLE DON'T DO ANYTHING.
9% DO A LITTLE BIT, PARTICIPATE SOME.
IT'S THE 1% THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.
THINK ABOUT YOURSELF.
ARE YOU A 90%?
MAYBE THE 9% MAKING A TINY DENT?
OR ARE YOU A 1%ER?

WITH ALL OF THIS IN MIND,
LET'S ONE MORE TIME
GO BACK TO MY OPENING,
TO THE ISSUES QUESTION.

- CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
- EDUCATION REFORM
- POLITICAL REFORM
- TAX REFORM

LET'S DO SOME HAND RAISING.
THOSE WHO ARE IN AGREEMENT
THAT THESE ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES,
ISSUES THAT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DETERMINE
SOUTH CAROLINA'S FUTURE
PLEASE RAISE YOUR HANDS.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?