

# ***How to IMMEDIATELY spur a movement to stop the US proxy war in Ukraine***

*by Barry Klein, May 2022 (gov.reform.pro@gmail.com; 713-224-4144) Houston, Texas*

## **Daniel Ellsberg endorsement for anti-war localism:**

“Dear Barry: Sounds GREAT! Not only promising, but essential! Yes, do sign me on, enthusiastically! (The model of the Freeze referenda is why I can call it promising--when nothing else is!)” ..*Jan. 2021*

## **"The Power of One"**

In politics there is nothing more meaningful than election outcomes. Knowing this, foreign policy reformers in the progressive and constitutional conservative camps should converge on a strategy that can roil the waters in Washington within one or two weeks, preparing the way for a halt to the American proxy war against Russia, thus stopping the US from blundering into a nuclear war and World War III.

This strategy rests on the reality that a single individual in each community can be a change agent since it requires only a few phone calls. It is based on the fact that politicians do care what voters think on high profile issues.

Here are two suggestions that can quickly stoke a fear in the hearts of officeholders who support a kinetic foreign policy and US war-making, that they could lose their next election.

First, next week, or the week after, one or more of the peace seeking groups such as Veterans For Peace and CODEPINK could strike an alliance with conservative groups, such as the Ron Paul Institute and Antiwar.com, to launch a national coalition to put non-binding advisory elections on the ballots of 500 local jurisdictions this Fall that call for a restrained foreign policy based on diplomacy.

This is achievable since the US has nearly 20,000 municipalities and over 3,000 counties. The tools to make this happen are (1) petition drives to request an “advisory election” (a reform mechanism commonly seen in some states) on a proposition that lets voters express displeasure with current foreign policy, and (2) ad hoc citizen committees to visit elected officials at city and county levels urging the same action.

Activists in each community will have different ideas as to what the proposition language should be. It does not matter what is settled on. What really matters is that the statement be short.

This is my suggestion:

**The United States government should cease pretending to be "policeman of the world", negotiate the elimination of all nuclear stockpiles held by various countries, respect the constitutional limits on war making, stop doing proxy wars, and prioritize use of diplomacy to resolve international differences.**

**FOR \_\_\_\_\_ AGAINST \_\_\_\_\_**

***OVER —>***

Secondly, as cities announce their decisions to put this or a similar statement on their November ballots in support of a demilitarized and denuclearized foreign policy, and as favorable results accumulate on election day, we will see lawmakers drafting bills to implement those goals.

As those bills are referred to committees the coalition can take steps to help the bills get voted out for full votes by the House and Senate. To do that a political tool pioneered by the Sanders campaign in 2016 can be used that almost won him the Democratic nomination.

**That tool is the "Bernie Dialer"**. It is used for phone banking (YouTube has videos explaining the procedure) and is easily adapted to enable activists in the 50 states to reach out to voters in each House district whose representative sits on committees studying the bills with a request that they contact their House member to vote out the bill. The same can be done with Senators sitting on key committees.

**Each of these steps; a petition drive or a citizens committee, and a phone bank armed with the Bernie Dialer adapted to this purpose, needs only one person to get the ball rolling in each community.**

I believe this two step strategy would send tremors across the political landscape as soon as a national press release makes the announcement. **Washington will take note!** The campaign can be refreshed each week with new releases announcing the progress made the week prior.

I expect this Left-Right coalition, which will grow as more groups join the bandwagon, will see lots of news stories and talk show discussion during the run-up to the midterms. All that buzz will send a message to politicians with an eye on the next election that they ignore this growing movement at their peril.

(In addition, that single individual, to underscore the power of one, has another tactic at their disposal. They can pick up the phone and call their precinct chair (or captain) and ask that he or she put a resolution before the county organization, be it Democrat or Republican, asking all local jurisdictions to put similar statements on their fall ballots that call for sweeping reform in US foreign policy.)

The deadline in Texas to set the November ballot falls in mid-August. Other states vary.

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This strategy is based on a successful campaign 40 years ago challenging the US nuclear weapons program which is briefly summed up in **“What activists can learn from the Nuclear Freeze Movement,”** by Professor Lawrence Wittner, author of *Toward Nuclear Abolition*. A key quote: “the Freeze was endorsed by 275 city governments, 12 state legislatures, and the voters of nine out of ten states where it was placed on the ballot in the fall of 1982.” It is posted on the web.

YouTube has several videos featuring Professor Wittner. This short one is superb.

**“Interview - Lawrence Wittner - Confronting the Bomb”**

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(Join the campaign for a prudent foreign policy: search online for Foreign Policy Alliance.)