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good local government.org

Nalbandian Isms

Soundbites of wisdom for those who govern

Vol. #1
“EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE is understanding that what gets accomplished by the organization is what which is politically acceptable and administratively sustainable.”

What could I do differently that would help the body be more effective?
How do I contribute to the body's effectiveness?

"The role of the governing body is to determine which consequences will prevail."

Decision making in politics is about making decisions based on your understanding of the consequences. The governing body should not focus on the mechanics of the alternatives but rather on the consequences — that is the realm of political acceptability.
"We VOTE on ISSUES when ALL the FACTS are KNOWN
we can STILL DISAGREE on what COURSE of ACTION to TAKE"

"EVERYONE has the RIGHT to SPEAK...
YOU EARN the RIGHT to be LISTENED to!"
"As an ELECTED OFFICIAL, you will want to deploy your strengths in ways that make you feel successful, but the key to success is to deploy your strengths in ways that other members value.

When you speak, do others listen? The answer to that question is a reflection of the respect others have for you and your ability to influence others.

"POLITICS - at its best, is about negotiation and compromise."

"WIN/LOSE POLITICS has NO PLACE when community building is the goal."
“PUBLIC SERVICE VALUES influence PUBLIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, EVALUATION and GOVERNANCE DESIGN and they are the values that UNDERPIN DEMOCRACY”

ACCOUNTABILITY/ REPRESENTATION/ PARTICIPATION
Government and public service providers answer to the will of the people

SOCIAL EQUITY and DIVERSITY
The public is differentiated by physical conditions, ethical, economic, work, age, gender and social background, as well as political, social and cultural preferences. Public service providers are expected to respect the differences and treat all people equally in policy making and program implementation and strive to provide equal opportunity for all

EFFICIENCY/ EFFECTIVENESS (Professionalism)
Citizens expect public service providers to be run prudently and for programs & policies to achieve intended outcomes, not only in the short run but also in the long run

JUSTICE/ INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS
Individuals are granted property rights & civil rights through ordinances, statutes & laws, and the constitution. They also have the right to due process that protects them from arbitrary decisions by majorities or by those who govern