
COMMON SENSE II

Capitalizing on the familiarity and influence of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" pamphlets that provided American colonists with exposure to the conversation of great thinkers in the pre-Revolutionary period, this paper assumes the name COMMON SENSE II. Similarly, today's series of pamphlets strives to give a direct response to great political events and ideas of our time.

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County Fair Issue

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Who Are We?

What Are We Doing Here?

The Itasca Progressive Caucus is part of a movement that believes in an interdependent world that respects and upholds human rights, democratic processes, economic justice, peaceful resolutions to conflicts, and environmental preservation and protection.

We are affiliated with the Itasca County DFL. The DFL is tasked with getting Democrats elected. Caucuses, including



the Progressive Caucus, are tasked with developing policies and positions on which Democrats—and we hope everyone—can run.

We meet monthly on the third Tuesday at 6:30 pm at the Itasca DFL office at 809 NE 4th St. in Grand Rapids, MN. All are welcome to attend and participate in our lively discussions. Most of our topics revolve around our core areas of concern: healthcare for all, campaign finance reform, environmental security, investment in infrastructure

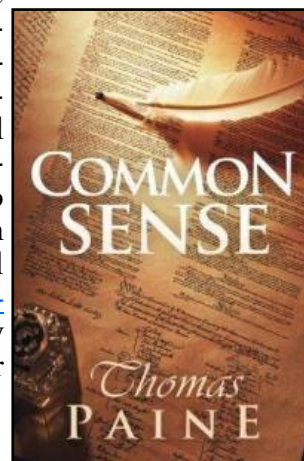


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modernization, and world peace. Our current emphasis is on healthcare, the environment, and wealth inequality. We believe in open political discourse, so we don't always agree with each other. That's the point. We believe what Thomas Jefferson said, "Dissent is the highest form of pat-

riotism."

Our newsletter, *Common Sense II*, features discussions of the important topics of our time. It is distributed mainly by e-mail and has national distribution. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, e-mail the editor, Val Conner, at conray@arvig.net. You may also like to visit our webpage, www.itascaprogressive.org.



We like to think that we take a reasoned and reasonable approach to the issues of the day, that we are in the vanguard of creating solutions to our nation's problems. By starting from our core beliefs and examining the issues, we work to develop reasoned policies to make our world better. We deny that we are extremist. Rather, we believe we have more in common with most people's positions than may be supposed. Check out some progressive positions on the next page. Turn the page to see if you, too, might be a progressive.

COMMON SENSE II is published by the Itasca Progressive Caucus in Grand Rapids, Minnesota

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Visit us at www.itascaprogressive.org

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You might be a Progressive if...

You believe in the dignity of all.

- This means you recognize that not everyone has had the same talents, advantages, or life challenges; therefore society (and, yes, government) should be set up so that everyone has an equal chance to maximize his or her potential.
- This means that rule under the economic aristocracy of the richest 1% is intolerable.
- This means that diversity is a good thing. Intelligence and other talents are too scarce to waste by discriminating against people of talent and intelligence because of their gender, race, color, religion, country of origin, or sexual orientation.
- This means that real democracy promotes fairness for all.
- This means that meanness begets meanness which in turn prevents progress and makes everyone miserable.



You believe that science is legitimate and that climate change is real and that human activity is playing a part in its acceleration.

- This means that you accept the responsibility to prevent our planet from becoming uninhabitable regardless of the cause.
- This means that you support clean, renewable energy over old fashioned fossil fuel pollution.
- This means that even if you aren't really sure, you're willing to error on the side of caution and work toward a cleaner environment.



You believe what Paul Wellstone said about all of us doing better when all of us do better.

- This means that economic fairness means everyone should be paid a living wage and have earned paid sick leave. After all, when people go to work ill, they can

infect others plus they are not highly productive.

- This means that if most people don't earn enough to buy goods and services, the wealthy can't meet their income potential.
- This means that we're all in this together and therefore need to work together to succeed.

You believe that peace is better than war.

- This means that diplomacy is stronger than military action and needs to be pursued first, last, and always.
- This means that with diplomacy, we have more say in the outcome.



You believe that reversing the accomplishments of the past hurts our future.

- This means that denying civil rights to those who are somehow "different," removing environmental protections, declaring open warfare on labor rights, public education, public employees, and tax responsibility can only make us weaker and ideologically smaller as a nation.
- This means that income disparity hurts our economy and the general welfare.

You believe that government can and should make the lives of its citizens better.

- This means that a government should not privatize its basic functions such as prisons, military, highways.

In short, you might be a Progressive if you agree with some of the above and have a positive attitude for the future despite current setbacks.

Join Us

If you are interested in joining us or just would like to receive our newsletter, *Common Sense II*, e-mail us at conray@arvig.net or attend a meeting the third Tuesday of each month at the Itasca County DFL Office and Resource Center at 809 NE 4th St., Grand Rapids, MN. We're a fun, dedicated group. Try us; you'll like us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—GET INVOLVED AND GET IT DONE!

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date /Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
DFL Headquarters Open (326-6296)	Tues & Thurs 2-5 pm	DFL Headquarters
Itasca Progressive Caucus (259-4490)	3rd Tuesday 6:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
DFL Central Committee Meets	4th Monday 6:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
DFL Social Club & Lunch	1st Wednesday Noon	DFL Headquarters
DFL Pot Luck (Open to the Public)	3rd Wednesday 5:30 pm	DFL Headquarters
Working Families Alliance	1st Monday 6:30 pm	Dutchroom
Earth Circle	3rd Saturday 2:00 pm	GR Public Library
Circles of Support	Thursdays 6:00 pm	811 NE 4th St. GR
Haven: A Place for All	Mondays 5:30	Kiesler Center
Deadline for <i>Common Sense II</i>	September 6 2019	conray@arvig.net