

Q & A

about

PDRBoston.org

People for Democratic Revolution

For those who have signed

“This I Believe”

(on pg. 6)



Q. Why are you collecting these signatures?

A. It's not a petition. We display the signatures publicly to let people see that they are not alone in having the egalitarian revolutionary views in “This I Believe.”

Q. Do many people sign?

A. Lots. 75% or more of those who read it sign it (see PDRBoston.org for the latest number), in black and white and Hispanic neighborhoods in and around Boston, and in rural New Hampshire too. It's a majority!

Q. Why is it so important for people to know a **majority** share these revolutionary views?

A. Here's why. The obstacle to an egalitarian revolution is not that most people don't want it (they'd love it!); the obstacle is that most people don't KNOW that most people want it. We're aiming for 130 million signatures!

Q. Why don't people already know they're not alone in having these revolutionary aspirations?

A. Our dictatorship of the rich doesn't WANT us to know. That's why these views are NEVER on TV or radio or in our magazines: not liberal NPR or right wing talk radio, not in liberal *The Nation* magazine or any conservative tabloid. The rich want us to feel so hopelessly alone that we won't even TRY to make a better world.

Q. Why does “This I Believe” have the paragraphs about laws only made locally and things not bought and sold but shared?

A. These paragraphs are the heart of the egalitarian vision. Until a majority have a shared vision of an alternative to today's social system that is both practical and much better—egalitarianism--, hopelessness will come from thinking there is no better alternative.

Q. What about Socialism and Communism?

A. They are both extremely anti-democratic and we oppose them. Most Socialists and Communists won't sign “This I Believe”: they object to the part about laws only being made locally by people who support equality. They want a strong central government that they control to rule over people.

Q. How can we remove the rich from power? They've got the money, and the military. And they were never elected and so can't be un-elected.

A. Here's how. When people learn that a majority want egalitarian revolution then they'll gain the confidence to build a huge movement explicitly declaring egalitarian revolution to be its goal. And they'll demonstrate determination to win it. Then—and only then—will it be possible to persuade a critical mass of soldiers in the military to refuse orders to attack this movement and instead to use their weapons to help defend it against those who might attack it. That is how the rich lose power.

Q. But won't that take a long time?

A. Probably. But the alternative is **never** solving the Big Problem with the Big Solution that it requires. What's the point of remaining on the treadmill of defeat forever, defensively asking for crumbs that, even if won, get taken away later because the rich remain in power? Better to devote one's energy to something that can win in the long run than to things that can't really win ever.

Q. How come there are so few of you doing this?

A. Hopelessness. It's so thick you can cut it with a knife. Most people who sign “This I Believe” say it would be wonderful but it will never happen. Hopelessness is why most people who want egalitarianism don't take the next step to start building an egalitarian revolutionary movement.

Q. What will make people hopeful?

A. The more signatures for “This I Believe,” the more people will see that their hopelessness is based on a lie, not the truth, about people. The more egalitarianism is seen as a truly better and practical alternative, the more people will stop thinking there is no alternative.

Q. Do you have meetings?

A. Some neighborhoods have a Local Assembly of Egalitarians that meets monthly (see PDRBoston.org, the “Local Assemblies” link, for details) and we encourage you to join the one in your neighborhood or start one if there isn’t one already in your neighborhood. But there are lots of ways to help build this movement other than coming to a meeting.

Q. Do you get together informally?

A. Yes. Every Thursday some of us dine together at the Dragon Garden restaurant (261 Elm St., Davis Square in Somerville) 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feel free to join us for informal conversation.

Q. How can I help?

A. Lots of different ways. You can wear a PDRBoston button to let people know you’re an egalitarian. And you can collect signatures for “This I Believe” from your friends and neighbors, and be pleasantly surprised at how many will sign.

Q. I’m nervous about doing that. What else can I do to help?

A. You can stand with us when we collect signatures in front of grocery stores etc. You

can see people signing with your own eyes and gain some hopefulness that way too. We have a banner and can use help holding it in place also.

Q. Anything else?

A. Sure. We need people to tape our egalitarian notices and posters up on lampposts etc. If you taped a few up in your neighborhood it would be very helpful.

Q. Do you need things translated?

A. Yes, from English to Spanish especially, and other languages too. Translation is extremely important.

Q. Is there anything I can do a bit more—you know—behind the scenes?

A. YES! We always need money. Can you donate some? Even a little bit regularly would help a lot! We’re a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Some signatures for “This I Believe”

To my neighbors near and far:

This I Believe

Something is very wrong about our society today. It should be based on the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” But instead it is based on the opposite: “He who has the gold makes the rules.” The ones with the gold celebrate greed and looking out for #1, destroy the environment for personal gain (like BP did to the Gulf), and pit people against each other to control them.

In the United States we have a fake democracy. Big Money owns the media and political parties, controls the electoral process and politicians, and determines government policies, which have nothing to do with campaign promises or what most people want. This is not right!

Our capitalist economy is based on, and perpetuates, enormous economic inequality. Most people are merely “hired hands” working for, and required to obey, employers who claim, illegitimately, to personally own the earth’s land and minerals as well as the material and intellectual wealth produced by millions of working people. The poorest people do the hardest work and enjoy the benefits of socially produced wealth the least; the richest do the easiest work in great luxury or do no work at all, and enjoy the lion’s share of these benefits. This is wrong!

We the undersigned want real democracy and an economy based on equality and concern for one another and generations yet unborn.

Laws should only be made by meetings at the local level open to all who support equality and democracy. Social order on a larger scale—such as complex economic coordination—should be achieved by voluntary federation of local communities and workplaces, not by laws written by so-called “representatives” in distant capital cities or by commands from CEOs imposed from above.

We should all equally own and enjoy the benefits of the earth’s resources and the wealth that we produce by working together, with nobody being rich or poor. The principle of our economy should be: “From each according to ability, to each according to need,” a Golden Rule idea as old as the Bible (Acts, 4:34-35). Work should be for shared goals, to produce things that people need and want, to share freely, not buy and sell.

A greedy, rich and powerful minority, who were never elected and therefore cannot be unelected, prevents Americans from making ours a more equal and democratic society, which is why we need a revolution to remove them from power.



Signing in rural Unity, NH



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