

**PROPOSAL**  
**For The Re-Inhabited Republic For Florida**  
**The Proposal Method**

TO: **Honorable MICHAEL BISHOP**, Governor, Florida  
From: Jim Costa  
Date: August 8, 2024

**The Problem:**

How can we make our meetings more productive and less stressful?

How can we allow time for everyone to participate and still not create longer meetings?

How can we help timid members be equal with powerful assertive members?

How can we be more certain that we get decisions right?

How can we show those that come behind us to understand why we made decisions, what facts did we consider?

**Facts & Assumptions:**

- 1) Ford Motor Company has Board Meetings that cover a lot of decisions.

I assume they use something like the Proposal Method.

This is a method I created but I am sure I am not the first Homo Sapien to do so.

This method might be used when complex ideas are presented that might not be a simple straight up/down vote with very little debate beforehand at other meetings.

- 2) The method calls for a sponsor to present a Proposal.

He must share it with all meeting participants a week prior to the meeting.

All members are instructed to communicate with the sponsor if they have a particular problem with it. Each member must act like they want the Proposal to pass and therefore negotiate with the sponsor to change the proposal in some way in order to garner his vote.

If the Sponsor agrees to a change, he notifies all meeting participants of the change.

This keeps most of the debate out of the meeting as there should be only one or two who disagree with the Proposal. They can then discuss this with the group prior to the call for a vote.

Only the Sponsor can recall the Proposal.

- 3) There are times when non-technical persons must make decisions on technical issues, such as what type of radios should be used. Under the Proposal Method, the sponsor tries to present all Facts and Assumptions in plain english to educate all members.
- 4) The method requires all Cons of the Proposal that a reader might raise.
- 5) Be reasonable about when to use the Proposal plan.  
Example: Should we have fresh green beans or canned ones at the Christmas Party?  
The Proposal Method is best for difficult proposals.
- 6) Perhaps we can have a few volunteers available to help any caller restate their proposal in the Proposal format. This levels the playing field and gives the timid no excuse to hold out their ideas.

**The Plan:**

- 1) Start using the Proposal plan when needed, teaching by example.
- 2) Use the Help Wanted tab on the Operating website to gather volunteers to help other's prepare Proposals.

**Costs:** ZIP, except for optional \$49 Carry Case.

**Pros:**

Teaches us all to analyze their suggestions and refine it for forceful presentation.

Forces outside negotiations prior to the meeting.

Makes for a more friendly and productive meeting.

Keeps out surprises and gives others the respect to be prepared.

**Cons**

Keeps possible solutions out by other members out of the negotiation process. However, if no resolution is reached before the meeting, all participants will be available as the meeting hears the discussion given by the unhappy supporters and can possibly mediate then.

Must be delivered a week prior to meeting which can be a problem for emergency matters. So in that case shorten the delivery time.

**Action Requested From the Governor:**

- 1) Approve or disapprove.
- 2) Cause it to happen.