



# EMPOWERMENT

We will initiate and support processes that enable underserved residents to become acquainted with and part of the county and community decision-making bodies. This includes developing a format or mechanism for underserved residents to become familiar with boards, commissions and nomination processes.

*Source: 10 Point Grassroots Agenda created in 1998*

- 1) Have you seen an increase in equality of opportunity in this area in Marin County during the last 10 years? If yes, please specify.

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Our familiarity is mostly in San Rafael. I've experienced people who may usually be kept out of the loop, getting a chance to participate in events and activities which affect their lives. More resources are still needed to make this more accessible to more people, i.e. parent at Leadership Institute (PSP) being more involved in PTA's ELAC's etc...

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- 2) Based on the 10-Point Grassroots Agenda statement above, should we change our strategy to further advance equality of opportunity in this area during the next 10 years in Marin?

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I think the work that is happening is good. More is always needed, of course. Frustration arise when you face the powers that be and the "system" strategies should include a vehicle for politicians to wear the voices of the underserved.

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- 3) What is the role of leaders and legislators in ensuring that there is equality of opportunities in these areas?

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Leaders who are not politicians, need to continue the struggle of building coalitions among people whose voice needs to be heard. Politicians need to be told that people want truth and honesty in providing services that the underserved people need!

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When the power of love becomes more important than the love of power, we will have peace (and justice) Jimi Hendrix

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