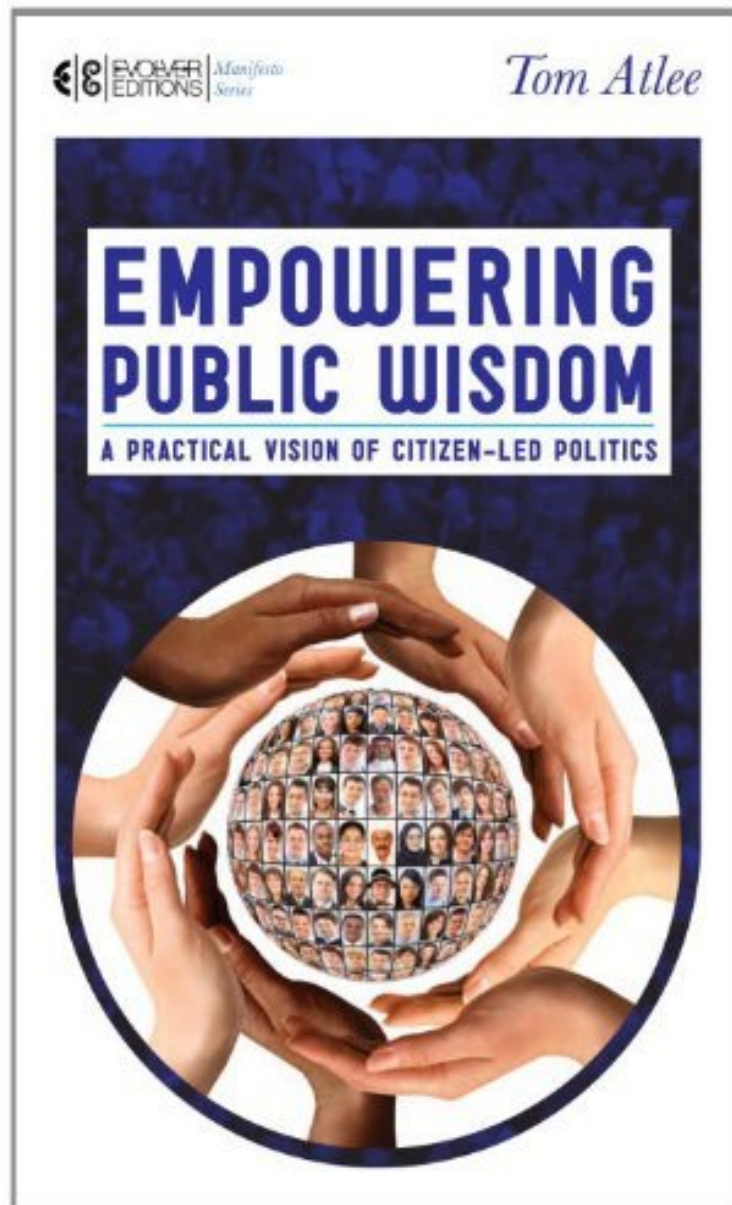


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Tom Atlee

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Tom Atlee : Empowering Public Wisdom: A Practical Vision of Citizen-Led Politics (Manifesto Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Empowering Public Wisdom: A Practical Vision of Citizen-Led Politics (Manifesto Series):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Compelling Path to Wise Democracy - Empowering the Collective Wisdom and Will of the People By Norlyn I have been passionate about the possibility of an empowered deliberative democracy since 1996, when I first encountered James Fishkin's idea of using a "deliberative opinion poll" as an accountability scorecard for our representatives. Tom Atlee's manifesto and resource guide is the single most comprehensive statement that I've read to date on what is possible. It is a blueprint for a reinvigorated Transpartisan Movement that could finally deliver power to the people. The "power with" that Tom elucidates is a power born of collective wisdom (and collective compassion). Only in fully encountering our diversity, with an open attitude of listening and learning from those with whom we disagree, can we rise above our bitterly divisive partisanship and find solutions that honor the full spectrum of values that we collectively hold. Individualism and communitarianism are not necessary enemies, and it is not only possible, but necessary to honor and balance both. The wisdom that informs Tom Atlee (and that lends credibility to his discussion of public wisdom) is rich indeed. The breadth of the bibliography is illustrative -- in addition to many of the major thought leaders who are focused on deliberative democracy, he also draws from important thought leaders in organizational development and evolutionary spirituality. Tom's annotated list of "powerful participatory processes" is the most comprehensive list that I'm aware of. I'll be referencing that appendix, and reading the books that I've not yet engaged, for years to come, as I try to do my own bit to assist the Transpartisan Movement. For anyone who believes as I do, and as Tom clearly does, in the possibility of empowering the informed and transformed will of the people, Empowering Public Wisdom is both an inspiration and an indispensable resource.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Practical examples and advice for transforming government to a non-partisan, citizen lead deliberative democracy By Jason Diceman This is my 'go to' reference for examples and explanations of how government could be lead by wise citizen assemblies, deliberative councils, workshops, juries and panels. It's quite USA centric in his perspective and references, but many of the examples are international, and the concepts, techniques and approaches he describes are universal. Meeting facilitators and stakeholder engagement consultants who work in government need to read this book cover-to-cover, twice!

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Radically revisioning the possibilities for collaborative governance... By R. Zubizarreta What might society look like, if real co-creativity were applied to our public self-governance? Of course, none of us can become experts on everything, nor do we have the time to do so... yet as Tom Atlee's carefully detailed book points out, with citizen reflective councils, we don't have to. Just as our current legal system allows people to be judged by a "jury of their peers", citizen reflective councils allow random microcosms of the whole, to explore and discover the "common good" with regard to particular policy issues. This book details a powerful homeopathic approach for curing our social ills -- and like homeopathy, it is much less expensive, less resource-intensive, and with vastly fewer side effects than many allopathic approaches. And also like homeopathy, Atlee's vision may require a paradigm shift in our understanding of causation. For some of us, "raising the quality of our public conversations" may not seem like much; others may understand how powerful an intervention it can be. What we make of this visionary book may also depend on our views regarding the potential inherent in ordinary human beings to rise up to the occasion when provided with the opportunity to do so, as well as our awareness of the power of certain kinds of collective spaces to bring out the best in us.

Lifelong activist Tom Atlee proposes innovative ways to distill the wisdom of ordinary people in order to better guide public policy. Empowering Public Wisdom, Atlee recognizes currently popular forms of progressive democracy advocates, such as citizen participation and voter education, but suggests that what is really needed is a re-thinking of the very concept of democracy; Atlee advocates the use of "public wisdom," a collective intelligence that can be drawn upon to guide public policy and action. Reaching beyond partisan politics, Atlee explores how a diversity of views can be engaged around public issues in ways that generate a coherent, shared "voice of the people" that takes most or all of the population's perspectives and needs into account. Atlee's core approach is through "citizen deliberative councils," in which a small group of people randomly selected creates a "mini-public" or a microcosm of the larger population. Citizen councils engage in the study of a public issue and make recommendations to public officials and the community, but disband afterward; when a new issue arises, a new council is formed. Ultimately, Atlee aims even higher, suggesting a possible fourth branch of government to better balance our current democratic system. Combining a radical vision with practical solutions, Empowering Public Wisdom provides a unique and refreshing voice in the political arena. Empowering Public Wisdom is part of the EVOLVER EDITIONS Manifesto Series. From the Trade Paperback edition.

"Tom Atlee helps us envision, in amazing detail, how we can shape democracy we believe in because we're creating together." — Frances Moore Lappe, author of Diet for a Small Planet and EcoMind

"In this practical and visionary book, filled with concrete examples of what works, Tom Atlee shows us how we can harness our collective wisdom to discern the way forward in these complex and challenging times." — Inspiring and highly recommended!

"William Ury, coauthor of Getting to Yes and author of The Third Side

"A wise and important development for the democracy movement." — Hawaii state senator Les Ihara

Jr., Senate majority policy leader "At last someone has described the conditions under which ordinary people can generate real public wisdom. The implications for democracy—especially for democratic handling of our most troubling, complex, and urgent issues—are profound. I urge activists, academics, public officials, and every concerned citizen to heed the call in this book."—Richard Sclove, author of *Democracy and Technology* "Empowering Public Wisdom" serves up a juicy antidote to today's increasingly intractable issues, political gridlock, and public disengagement. Having used many of the practices Atlee outlines, I can attest to the viability and vitality of the vision he paints and the approaches he proposes on behalf of us all."—Peggy Holman, consultant, author of *Engaging Emergence: Turning Upheaval into Opportunity* and coauthor of *The Change Handbook* "In this book, Tom Atlee highlights the seldom-noted potential of dialogue and deliberation to generate true public wisdom. He explores how to increase that potential, how to embed it in our democracy, and how to empower it to make a real difference—an important contribution to our field and our political culture."—Sandy Heierbacher, director, National Coalition for Dialogue Deliberation

About the Author Tom Atlee was born in 1947 and raised in a progressive activist family. Involved with the peace movement from an early age, he first experienced potent community self-organization and collective intelligence on the cross-country Great Peace March in 1986. Atlee founded Co-Intelligence Institute in 1996 as a nonprofit think tank to further his research into these phenomena. The author of *The Tao of Democracy* and *Reflections on Evolutionary Activism*, he blogs and writes for alternative journals. He lives in Eugene, Oregon.