Where Do I Stand on the 106?

> **Read the list first.** This worksheet accompanies *The Government Fix* at SolveSomething.com, the 106 problems that still need Dialectic and Deconstruction Solutions (DDS) blueprints, with a starting position proposed on each.

Each of the 106 problems on the list sits inside a dialectic tension, two legitimate goods that pull against each other. The list proposes a position on every one. This sheet is for marking our own. Nobody needs to agree with the proposal; the point is to find out where we each land, problem by problem, and then to notice which tensions we lean on across the whole list. There is no score and no verdict. A position only means something with its reason, and the last page asks for the reasons.

The seven recurring tensions

Freedom and Safety	Protect choice and agency while addressing harm that choices can impose on others.
Individual and Collective	Protect personal autonomy while sustaining shared resources and responsibilities.
Efficiency and Humanity	Attend to speed, scale, and cost alongside dignity and individual circumstances.
Transparency and Privacy	Make public power inspectable while protecting legitimate private life.
Justice and Mercy	Maintain consistent accountability while considering context and disproportionate punishment.
Innovation and Tradition	Adapt to changing conditions while preserving useful knowledge and continuity.
Urgency and Sustainability	Relieve present hardship while maintaining the capacity to prevent its recurrence.

How to read a line

The left and right poles are two goods. Neither end is a flaw.

MARKING

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

> *An X on the left half means I would give the left pole more priority here than the proposal does. An X on the right half means the right pole.*
>
> *An X on the rust ring means I sit with the proposal. An X at either end means I would give that value overriding priority for this problem.*
>
> *A few lines use a pair of their own, such as State equality and Population equality. Each line names its own two poles.*

BEFORE I START

The three problems on the list I care about most, and why those three:

Stewardship

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
1. Public lands and monuments	Individual		Collective
2. Public resource leases The terms under which mining, drilling, grazing, and logging companies use public land.	Individual		Collective
3. Environmental deregulation Removing environmental rules, and who gets to decide a rule was unnecessary.	Freedom		Safety
4. Pollution and cleanup Who pays to clean up when the company that polluted is gone.	Individual		Collective
5. Regeneration and biodiversity Soil, habitat, fisheries, and water managed as one system instead of parcel by parcel.	Individual		Collective
6. Climate and energy	Urgency		Sustainability
7. Public access to nature Parks and public land that are protected on paper but unstaffed and unmaintained.	Individual		Collective
8. Water rights and resource allocation that can be updated Water and resource allocations written for conditions that no longer exist.	Innovation		Tradition

Filling this in on a screen: click a dot and type the letter for the mark.

Education

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
9. Foundational educational opportunity A child's school depending on the wealth of the neighborhood around it.	Individual		Collective
10. Critical thinking and civic capacity Whether school teaches people to evaluate a claim or to repeat one.	Freedom		Safety
11. Different abilities and lifelong learning Vocational, artistic, and adult learning treated as real routes rather than fallbacks.	Efficiency		Humanity
12. Teachers and educational standards Paperwork and testing that consume the time teaching needs.	Innovation		Tradition
13. Educational leadership Who gets appointed to run schools and education agencies, and whether they are qualified to.	Appointment discretion		Professional competence
14. Research and intellectual independence Who funds research and whether the funding decides what may be asked.	Freedom		Safety

Health and care

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
15. Affordable necessary care Health coverage that disappears with a job, an income change, or a move.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Collective
16. Health agency competence Who runs the public health agencies and on what evidence they decide.	Appointment discretion	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Professional competence
17. Prevention and public health Funding that rewards treating illness and neglects preventing it.	Freedom	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Safety
18. Food and consumer health Who tests the safety of what we buy, and who pays them.	Freedom	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Safety
19. Mental health and addiction Crisis response with nobody responsible for what happens after the crisis.	Freedom	○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Safety
20. Disability, aging, and caregiving Long-term care falling on families and an underpaid workforce.	Efficiency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Humanity
21. Unequal health burdens Communities carrying more disease or exposure than others, and whether that gets studied.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Collective
22. Payment incentives and medical costs A payment system that can make denying care, or over-treating, profitable.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Collective
23. Reproductive health and unwanted pregnancy Unwanted pregnancy as the upstream problem, before the abortion fight.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Collective

Infrastructure and access

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
24. Water and sanitation Pipes and treatment plants that are cheaper to defer than to replace, until they fail.	Urgency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Sustainability
25. Roads, bridges, and public buildings New projects that get ribbon cuttings while existing ones go unmaintained.	Urgency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Sustainability
26. Rail and public transportation Getting anywhere without owning a car.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Collective
27. Housing affordability and access Why there are not enough homes where people need them.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Collective
28. Housing affordability and displacement New investment pricing out the people already living there.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Collective
29. Energy, broadband, and essential utilities Reliable service that reaches only the customers it is profitable to serve.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Collective
30. Waste and resource recovery Disposal that pushes its cost onto land, water, and a future cleanup.	Urgency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Sustainability
31. Ownership of essential services Whether a water, power, or internet provider should be public, cooperative, or private.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ◯ ○ ○ ○	Collective

Livelihood and economic life

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
32. Wages and working conditions	Individual		Collective
33. Competition and concentrated ownership A few companies controlling a market everyone depends on.	Individual		Collective
34. Household stability A job loss or an illness turning into long-term poverty.	Individual		Collective
35. Taxation and public finance Who pays, who is exempt, and whether anyone can tell.	Individual		Collective
36. Private gains and public losses Companies that keep the profits and hand the public the losses.	Individual		Collective
37. Auditors and financial gatekeepers Reviewers paid by the companies they review.	Freedom		Safety
38. Trade and economic transitions Trade that benefits the country on average and ruins particular towns.	Urgency		Sustainability
39. Debt and long-term obligations Borrowing today against bills nobody has counted.	Urgency		Sustainability

Safety and security

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
40. Disaster preparation	Urgency		Sustainability
41. Defense spending and procurement Military spending shaped by contractors and districts rather than by threats.	Efficiency		Resilience
42. War powers Who can send the country to war, and for how long without approval.	Rapid executive action		Democratic authorization
43. Diplomacy and conflict prevention A conflict avoided earns no credit, and a confrontation does.	Urgency		Sustainability
44. Community safety and firearms	Freedom		Safety
45. Policing and incarceration Measuring police and prisons by arrests and beds instead of by safety and return.	Justice		Mercy
46. Borders and immigration An immigration system too slow and too narrow to be followed.	Efficiency		Humanity
47. Cybersecurity, biosecurity, and supply resilience Who is responsible when the systems we all depend on are attacked.	Freedom		Safety

Governance and justice

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
48. Conflicts in presidential pardons Clemency in the hands of one person, with no record and no review.	Justice	○ ○ ○ ◉ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○	Mercy
49. Executive interference with authorized spending A president refusing to spend money Congress already authorized.	Urgency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ◉ ○ ○ ○	Sustainability
50. Congressional oversight Congress declining to investigate its own party's administration.	Transparency	○ ○ ○ ◉ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
51. Emergency authority Emergency powers that never expire.	Urgency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◉ ○ ○ ○ ○	Sustainability
52. Constitutional eligibility Deciding who is constitutionally eligible for office before the ballot is printed, rather than after.	Justice	○ ○ ○ ◉ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○	Mercy
53. Selective enforcement and due process The law applied to opponents and waived for allies.	Justice	○ ○ ○ ○ ◉ ○ ○ ○ ○	Mercy
54. Retaliation against scrutiny Officials punishing the journalists, critics, and whistleblowers who question them.	Transparency	○ ○ ◉ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
55. Personal enrichment through office Officials making decisions that raise the value of their own holdings.	Transparency	○ ○ ○ ◉ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
56. Nepotism and unqualified appointments Jobs going to relatives and loyalists instead of people who can do them.	Appointment discretion	○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ◉ ○ ○ ○	Professional competence
57. Politicized professional judgment Experts punished for findings their bosses dislike.	Innovation	○ ○ ○ ○ ◉ ○ ○ ○ ○	Tradition
58. Removable watchdogs and unenforced ethics Inspectors general and ethics offices that the people they investigate can fire.	Transparency	○ ○ ○ ◉ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
59. Concentrated judicial authority Nine people deciding questions that affect everyone, with no wider review.	Innovation	○ ○ ○ ◉ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○	Tradition
60. Presidential representation The Electoral College, and whether every vote should weigh the same.	State standing	○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ◉ ○ ○ ○	Equal individual votes

Governance and justice (continued)

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
61. Senate representation Equal votes for states with different populations.	State equality	○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○	Population equality
62. Gerrymandering and practical voting barriers Politicians drawing their own districts, and rules that make voting harder in some places than in others.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○	Collective
63. Large donors and unlimited outside spending Elections financed by a small number of wealthy donors.	Freedom	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○	Safety
64. Hidden and prohibited political money Political money routed through organizations that hide where it came from.	Transparency	○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
65. Coordinated outside campaigns Campaigns and outside groups that claim independence and act together.	Freedom	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○	Safety
66. Vote-linked financial inducements Paying people, in money or benefits, for how they vote.	Freedom	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○	Safety
67. Opaque online political advertising Political ads whose sponsors and targeting nobody can inspect.	Transparency	○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
68. Campaign costs and continuous fundraising Officeholders spending their working hours raising money.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○	Collective
69. Donor access and private sponsorship Donations and sponsorships that buy meetings with decision-makers.	Transparency	○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
70. Incomplete candidate platforms Candidates who run on a feeling instead of on positions.	Transparency	○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
71. Secrecy and misinformation Decisions made without records, so that claims about them cannot be checked.	Transparency	○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
72. Contract favoritism Public contracts awarded to friends under the cover of urgency.	Transparency	○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
73. Regulatory capture Regulators who expect their next job from the industry they regulate.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○	Collective
74. Agency dismantling and outdated organization Agencies shut down before anyone asks what they did.	Innovation	○ ○ ○ ○ ◎ ○ ○ ○ ○	Tradition

Governance and justice (continued)

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
75. Public assets and outsourced authority Public functions handed to contractors with nobody left who can evaluate them.	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Collective
76. Technology and artificial intelligence Government adopting technology without the expertise to govern it.	Innovation	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Tradition
77. Symbolic agendas and postponed consequences Attention spent on visible fights while the pipes and the maintenance go unfunded.	Urgency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Sustainability
78. Free speech and accurate information The right to say something false, and the right to know what is true.	Free expression	○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○	Accurate information
79. Penalties below the cost of compliance Fines cheaper than compliance.	Justice	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Mercy
80. Supreme Court tenure and ethics Life tenure and no enforceable ethics code on the highest court.	Innovation	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Tradition
81. The budget process Shutdowns, continuing resolutions, and the debt ceiling.	Minority leverage	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Continuity of government
82. Primaries and ranked choice How a small slice of one party picks the candidates everyone else chooses between.	Party autonomy	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Voter choice
83. Recruiting candidates by capability Asking capable people to run instead of waiting for whoever wants the job.	Innovation	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Tradition
84. Cabinet and agency heads drawn from a field's own pool Where cabinet secretaries and agency heads come from.	Appointment discretion	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Professional competence
85. Age limits for high office	Accessibility	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Fairness
86. Incapacity in office What happens when an officeholder can no longer do the job and will not step aside.	Continuity of office	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Protection of the public
87. Standards of conduct in high office Behavior that would end any other career carrying no consequence at the top.	Justice	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Mercy

Making ordinary life affordable

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
88. Housing that people can obtain	Individual		Collective
89. Health care and prescription costs	Individual		Collective
90. Food and basic nutrition	Individual		Collective
91. Childcare and family care	Individual		Collective
92. Energy and utility bills	Urgency		Sustainability
93. Transportation costs	Individual		Collective
94. Income and the share left after essentials What a household has left after the essentials are paid.	Individual		Collective
95. Debt fees and insurance Fees and premiums that compound a household's bad month.	Freedom		Safety
96. Public services that reduce the household bill Needs we each buy separately that could cost less provided together.	Individual		Collective
97. Showing whether affordability improved Measuring affordability by what households are left with, rather than by the headline inflation rate.	Transparency		Privacy

Interrupting corruption

Mark my own position on each line with an X. The rust ring is the position proposed on the list. The middle dot is a reference point, not a target.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
98. Separate public decisions from private enrichment Officials deciding matters they have money in.	Transparency		Privacy
99. Make political money traceable	Transparency		Privacy
100. Make contracts and public resource decisions inspectable	Transparency		Privacy
101. Require competence and disclose relationships	Appointment discretion		Professional competence
102. Protect the people who investigate	Transparency		Privacy
103. Build restraints before the irreversible decision Stopping an abuse before it happens, because some cannot be undone afterward.	Urgency		Sustainability
104. Prevent oversight from becoming another instrument of the party Keeping anti-corruption enforcement from becoming the next party's weapon.	Justice		Mercy
105. Connect findings to remedies An investigation that ends in a headline and changes nothing.	Justice		Mercy
106. Keep the enforcement usable Public records nobody can search and complaints nobody answers.	Efficiency		Humanity

Where I line up

Read back over the marks before answering. Mark the overall lean on each tension with an X.

	LEFT POLE	MIDPOINT	RIGHT POLE
Freedom and Safety	Freedom	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Safety
Individual and Collective	Individual	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Collective
Efficiency and Humanity	Efficiency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Humanity
Transparency and Privacy	Transparency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Privacy
Justice and Mercy	Justice	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Mercy
Innovation and Tradition	Innovation	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Tradition
Urgency and Sustainability	Urgency	○ ○ ○ ○ ◯ ○ ○ ○ ○	Sustainability

WHERE I SIT WITH THE PROPOSAL

The problems where my X landed on or beside the rust ring, and what those problems have in common.

WHERE I SIT OPPOSITE

The problems where my X landed on the other side of the midpoint from the proposal.

THE TENSION THAT EXPLAINS MOST OF MY DISAGREEMENTS

Looking at the opposites, the one tension that keeps showing up, and which pole I protect on it.

ONE PROBLEM WHERE I WOULD MOVE THE PROPOSAL

The problem, where I would put the marker instead, what my position protects, and who would carry its cost.

A position without a context cannot be examined. The mark is the start; the reason beside it is what another person can work with.