

4 Frameworks for Holding Power Accountable

Every election, in every country, the same story plays out: a candidate speaks a community's pain back to them, wins, and changes. These four frameworks — built inside the fable and its commentary — are how you tell, early, whether the promise in front of you is real.

1 — The Five-Question Test

- What will you do?
- By when?
- With whose money?
- Through what mechanism?
- What should we do if you fail?

"A candidate who cannot answer all five is not making a promise. He is making a prediction about the weather and calling it policy."

2 — The Three Enablers of Capture

- Comfort — insulation quietly replaces closeness to the people they serve
- The Advisor — someone whose job is to 'manage' idealism into something safer
- Pace — one reasonable compromise at a time, until the sum is unreasonable

"Comfort insulates, and insulation is the enemy of empathy."

3 — The Betrayal Playbook

Promises are rarely broken with one dramatic reversal. They're dismantled in six quiet stages:

Compromise → Insulation → Reclassification → Blame → Crackdown → Entrenchment

The playbook depends on time. Naming the stage the moment you see it — at stage one, not stage six — denies it the only resource it can't do without.

4 — Hope Is a Weapon, Not a Gift

- Keep hope conditional, documented, and ready to be withdrawn — never given away unconditionally
- The Early Accountability Principle: the moment doing doesn't match saying, make noise — don't wait, don't give the benefit of the doubt

"Money can be earned again. Faith cannot."

Want the full story behind these frameworks?

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