### Braver Angels

# LIVE. BRAVELY

Our Work is Building a House United.

We are a national grassroots, non-profit organization that seeks to depolarize American politics by transforming our attitudes towards each other. We work to heal the wounds between our partisan Red/Blue divides in the process of fostering and sustaining more civil communities. And we champion shared human values such as human dignity, respect, empathy, curiosity, contextual understanding, and deep listening. In so doing, we discover what it means to be truly 'American' together in these times.



## **Your Guidebook to Braver Angels**





There is nothing wrong with America that can not be fixed by what is right with America.

- Bill Clinton



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www.braverangels.org

#### Welcome





Spirited, partisan political dialogue is nothing new in our country. Nor are constructive differences of opinion about issues, policies, values, and election outcomes. But things are devolving as of late. Normal political competition has, too often, degraded into acts of demonizing and dehumanizing our opponents. We're witnessing a real-time, rapidly widening Red-Blue fracture.

Braver Angels doesn't accept a divided, combative, and self-destructive nation as our destiny. And we've come together in the cause of reversing this troubling trend. We work tirelessly to transform the attitudes and discourse of our nation's citizens... one person and community at a time. We seek not to force compromise surrounding existing, deeply held views in life. Instead, we strive to find lasting common ground in our shared humanity and dialogue.

Our Braver Angels journey began in December 2016 in the wake of a particularly divisive Presidential electoral contest between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. Emotions were running high on both sides. Our founders had a bold idea. They believed that, in spite of our differences, Red and Blue advocates could actually come together in a truly civil dialogue.

In 2020 alone, we more than quadrupled our dues paying members. Our online events attracted more than 22,000 unique registrants. Our subscriber list grew more than 250%. And our website traffic more than tripled. We were featured on CBS News, ABC News Nightline, National Public Radio, and in the New York Times, USA Today, and the Wall Street Journal to name just a few. Braver Angels also engaged more than 200 religious congregations, over 100 civic organizations, and some 75 colleges & universities across the country. **And we're just getting started!** 

### Join.Bravely



"In the final analysis, we are not partisan combatants. We are human beings, equally vulnerable and equally wonderful in the sight of God. We rise or fall together, and we are determined to rise."

- George W. Busi

Here's how you can get involved right now:

#### **Become a Member**

When you sign up as a Braver Angels member you become part of a thriving, growing national community of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents of all political persuasions. Membership opens myriad opportunities for you to gather together, experience, learn, grow, and contribute your capabilities, including:

- Joining or creating a Braver Angels Alliance (chapter) in your own community.
- Participating in a variety of skill building programs and workshops.
- Engaging in wide-ranging special events, forums, and town halls that help to bridge our political divides.
- Assuming additional contributing and leadership roles in support of the Braver Angels mission.
- Becoming part of our dedicated and committed 'family' in bringing our nation back together again.

Annual membership dues are only \$12 per year, but many choose to do more (as they are able) to support our crucial work.

After you've joined us, tell your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers about Braver Angels and why it's important to you. Direct them to our website to learn more. Encourage them to sign up for an event, subscribe to our mailing list, and join as a member. We want everyone to be a part of our work.

**Visit Our Braver Angels Website** 

**View Our YouTube Page** 

**View Our Documentary on YouTube** 

**Proudly Display Our Braver Angels Yard Sign at Your Home** 









### **Join.Bravely** [continued]



#### **Join Your Local Alliance**

Our Braver Angels Alliances are working to build vibrant Red/Blue 'communities' where you live locally. These alliances nurture lasting friendships, continuous leaning, and joint initiatives around shared public policy interests in areas. Our alliances are active and self-directed in advancing the work of Braver Angels in local areas. They accomplish important work that can't be done at the state and federal levels. Each local alliance is led by a Red and a Blue Co-Chair in order to ensure balance in decision making, culture, and operations.

Our Alliances do many things, but their work is focused on the following priorities:

- Sponsor Braver Angels events and workshops in their communities.
- Delve deeper into specific issues, with the goal of seeking heightened understanding of how citizens on each side are thinking about the issue.
- Work together constructively to advocate for public policy initiatives that the group democratically agrees to work on.
- Engage in activities, such as letter-writing campaigns and meetings with local elected
  officials to promote action in areas of identified common ground within the alliance
  membership itself. Alliance actions are mutually agreed by alliance membership and
  are always conducted in the overarching spirit of advancing the Braver Angels cause of
  political depolarization.
- Conduct outreach, including publicity and the recruitment of new members (either for their own Alliances or to form new Alliances nearby).

#### Find An Alliance Near You

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### **Grow.Bravely**



"In crucial things, unity. In important things, diversity."
In ALL things, generosity."

- George H. W. Bush

#### Introduction

At Braver Angels, we want you to participate and engage. But we also want you to grow your skills along the way. This is accomplished through the wide range of workshops we make available to you as Braver Angels members. While our workshop menu is varied in terms specific objectives, one thing is common in all our programs: they build mutual understanding and respect for our commonalities and differences in lively and interactive group learning environments grounded in trust. Historically, these workshops have been in-person-based in their format. However, with our changing environment and the availability of new technologies, we're increasingly doing our workshops on-line, as well — creating emerging opportunities to reach even more people in convenient ways from home.

Our Braver Angels team creates workshops based on their extensive experience, sound principles, and the solicitation of input from workshop participants, recognized external leaders, specially formed (issue-oriented) caucuses, and our continuous research. As a result, our workshops are thoughtfully conceived—then thoroughly vetted through field testing before they're actually introduced to our members. When you attend a workshop, you'll know that the objectives, content, format, structure, facilitation, and technical support are proven. But we don't stop there. We also continuously improve our workshops based on your suggestions. We make modifications, as needed, to ensure that your workshop experience is a rewarding one that equips you to optimally contribute to our shared mission.

Read on to learn about our many workshops. We look forward to having you at them as an active participant!

### Red/Blue Workshop

Red/Blue Workshop participants develop the ability to better understand the experiences and beliefs of those on the other side of our political divide. Attendees grow in their capacity to actively listen. Not simply for the differences between them, but for areas of commonality as well. Most importantly, they build new friendships with people whom they now see in a far more human light. While participants may not change their own political views as a result of these workshops, they regularly change their views of each other.



#### **Grow.Bravely** [continued]

This highly interactive and thought-provoking workshop (on-line and in-person) is structured in either a three (3) or six (6) hour format.

Through their participation, attendees explore:

- Common, harmful stereotypes and misconceptions about their respective political party affiliations.
- The deeper meaning and transcendent values behind their positions on certain issues.
- Honest concerns about their own political party's role in our continuing national divides.
- Important questions to ask in building better mutual understanding.

Participants are encouraged to express new learnings and insights throughout. And to seek and nurture new workshop friendships through a shared commitment to continue the learning, dialogue, and collaboration after the workshops conclude.

Each Red/Blue Workshop is facilitated by two (2) Braver Angels trained moderators (one Red and one Blue), fostering structured dialogue, shared ground rules, and mutual respect. The workshop is typically composed of 5-8 Republican-leaning participants ("Reds") and 5-8 Democratic-leaning participants ("Blues"). A balance between Red and Blue participation is essential to a workshop's success.

You can find a workshop here.

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#### Skills for Bridging the Divide Workshop

In our current divisive political environment, many people avoid having political conversations with others whose political beliefs or party affiliations differ from their own. That's because, quite often, their attempts to converse on sensitive political matters often deteriorate into arguments, hurt feelings, anger, or even estrangement. Braver Angels has boldly stepped into this divide through offering our Skills for Bridging the Divide Workshop. This workshop teaches crucial capabilities for having respectful conversations that



clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the primary importance of our relationships. It also provides participants a safe environment to practice those skills, followed by interactive and enlightening opportunities to debrief the practice sessions in ways that further our learning.

This workshop is approximately 2 ½ hours long. Through their participation, attendees will:

- Understand the unhealthy tactics we often use in difficult political conversations such as evasion, escalation, generalizations, assumptions, and withdrawal.
- Learn and practice active and deeper listening skills, tone setting strategies, acknowledgment and affirmation of the other, constructive question-asking, and the articulation of 'helping' statements in our conversations.

- Improve our ability to re-frame difficult conversations with constructive 'I' statements instead of projecting disagreements onto others.
- Explore creative ways to discover seemingly hidden areas of common ground between
- Develop good boundary-setting capabilities to ensure that our conversations begin, progress, and conclude in more respectful ways, even in difficult moments of interaction.

Anyone interested in having better conversations with people on the other side of the political 'aisle' can participate. Unlike other Braver Angels workshops, this one does not require a relatively equal number of Reds and Blues. In addition, Skills for Bridging the Divide can be offered to larger groups of up to 50 people. It's ideal for any audience, including social clubs, communities of worship, civic organizations, or educational institutions.

Here's a link to locate a workshop.

#### Depolarizing Within Workshop

In our current political climate, much of our conflict stems *not* from healthy disagreement over policies, issues, or philosophy. Instead, it's created by the often emotional, rancor-escalating, and highly polarizing conversations that we typically have with others. Braver Angels has created our Depolarizing Within Workshops to build your skills around lessening the probability and magnitude of polarization in your conversations when differences inevitably arise - as well as to help you reframe how you view the other side in the face of disagreements around politics.



This workshop teaches you:

- How to become more aware of your own 'inner polarizer' in conversations.
- How to disagree with others without demonizing, dismissing, or stereotyping large segments of our nation's population.
- Strategies for intervening constructively in social conversations with like-minded peers
  when those conversations veer into contempt and ridicule for people who hold opposing
  political views.

Successfully 'taming' our inner polarizer starts with recognizing our tendencies around harmful generalizations about the other side. This requires acknowledging how we often attribute negative intent and motivations to the other side without first trying to understand them. It also involves recognizing how we unrealistically over-idealize our own side in the equation. This workshop facilitates growth in our ability to (a) challenge our existing stereotypes and default 'labels' about our political opponents; (b) distinguish between people and their respective positions; (c) differentiate between the policies and the deeper core values of the other side; (d) become more realistic and honest about our own side's deficits; and (e) look for positive aspects of the other side in our conversations and interactions.

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#### **Grow.Bravely** [continued]

This approximately three (3) hour workshop can be conducted in either one part or two. Our two-part format entails a combination of self-directed online learning and subsequent group participation. Anyone interested in more fully exploring polarization and the remedies for it can enroll. The workshop is also ideal for organizations such as communities of worship, social clubs, or educational institutions.

**Click here to find a workshop.** 



#### **Families and Politics Skills Workshop**

Family relationships have become casualties of our toxic political environment. Family members are increasingly having nasty political arguments, avoiding each other, or even cutting off lifetime relationships.

If you want to preserve important family bonds while still being true to your values and political beliefs, this workshop will offer you:



- Insight into why family differences over politics are uniquely challenging.
- Recognition of common roles that family members often play in political conversations (for example, the Gladiator, the Defender, and the Sniper).
- Strategies and skills for handling family political differences in far more constructive ways.

Although the focus is on family relationships, you can use your learnings from this workshop with any loved one. The Families and Political Skills Workshop is a hybrid workshop that requires participants to complete a 40-minute interactive course online before taking part in the group session that runs approximately 2 hours.

Click here to find an upcoming workshop.



#### **Depolarizing Conversations About Race Workshop**

Conversations between White people about race are nearly as broken as conversations between Whites and Blacks, often descending into "Just listen to me explain racism to you" and "Don't call me a racist!" Many White Americans have trouble sustaining conversations on issues such as affirmative action, police reform, reparations, and removing statues. Conversations flare up and abruptly shut down. Relationships become strained or broken. And a shared national path forward on race becomes harder to envision.



We need to change the culture of White-to-White conversations about race, finding alternatives to the polarized and judgmental nature of these exchanges that tie our politics and problem solving into knots. This starts with acknowledging the equal worth and dignity of persons of all races and ethnicities. It proceeds with an abiding concern about our existing, long standing issues surrounding race in our nation— with all its negative impacts on people and communities of color.

Against this crucial backdrop, Braver Angels has developed its Depolarizing Conversations About Race Workshop in close consultation and partnership with Black members of our organization. The workshop strives to develop new skills for listening to each other and expressing our own views on race. Through building our capabilities around more constructive dialogue, we are better equipped to engage in conversation with people of all races and ethnicities in order to move forward together across our country.

#### Click here to find out more.



#### **Common Ground Workshop**

Very often, our Red/Blue conversations center on a specific issue that we differ on. It's sometimes important to 'drill down' on that issue; to learn how each side sees the underlying components of it; and to mutually discover areas of potential common ground and agreement. Our Braver Angels Common Ground Workshop enables participants to do just that.



As part of your participation in this workshop, you'll listen, contribute, and interactively learn together through your group as a whole, mixed small breakout groups, and via 1:1 pairings.

In this workshop you will:

- Explore your own 'connection' to the specific issue in your life, your work, and your political leanings.
- Discuss your respective positions on the issue.
- Discover shared underlying values, concerns, and desired overarching outcomes.
- Seek potential points of agreement and continued disagreement.
- Share what you've learned about the issue, about yourselves, and about your fellow participants through this collaborative effort.

The Online version is 3.5 hours long. / The In-person version is 5 hours long.

#### Click here to find out more.



#### **Skills for Social Media Workshop**

Social Media posts are often highly polarizing. Braver Angels Skills for Social Media is a new workshop designed to improve the culture of posts and conversations in social media and provide a constructive alternative to the polarized and judgmental exchanges that dominate the current discourse. This can lead to more productive conversations and maybe joint action with people of all political leanings.





#### **Grow.Bravely** [continued]

This approximately three (30) minute workshop will be conducted online as an ecourse teaching Braver Angel Skills on social media. The focus is on skills for people who choose to engage about politics on social media, not on the societal impact of social media. A follow up workshop to further practice the skills interactively will be available by early 2022.

#### Goals for Participants:

- You will have the knowledge and skills to avoid contributing to polarization in your social media use.
- You will have strategies for getting out of difficult situations on social media.
- You will have tools for using social media to depolarize yourself and engage more constructively across differences.

### **Being Red in a Blue Environment Workshop**

This 3-hour workshop is for political conservatives who are surrounded by liberals in key areas of life like work, family, social circle, religion, or community. WHY? The idea for the workshop came from conversations with individuals who said they are looking for safe and effective ways to communicate their conservative values and beliefs in environments where liberal ideas are assumed to be correct—and where conservative people may be seen as ignorant, misguided, or even immoral.



#### Goals for Participants:

- Learn new strategies for handling the challenge of being a political minority in a mostly liberal environment.
- Develop new skills for communicating your conservative values and beliefs in a way that others might hear.
- Feel more confident in conservative in environments where everyone else is trying to make you blue.

After a brief introduction and discussion of ground rules, attendees of workshops participate in four exercises:

- **Reflections Exercise**: Reflect upon the four principles of communication: Respect, Speaking from the heart, Finding common values, Self-preservation. Reflect upon three expectations to abandon: Changing minds, that others will accept your definitions and that your communication skills will be reciprocated.
- **2.** Reflections Exercise: Reflect upon the strategies for engaging: Set Boundaries, Focus on Specific Issues, Counteract Stereotypes,
- **3. LAPP Exercise**: Learn about the skills: Listen, Acknowledge/Agree, Pivot, and Perspective. Practice applying these skills using a fictional scenario, in several rounds.
- **4. Handling Difficult Moments**: Review skills for handling difficult moments in which one can become particularly triggered and practice using the following skills: Deflect, Push Back, or Hard Stop.

### **Pair Up. Bravely - 1:1 Conversations**



"I never considered a difference of opinion in politics, in religion, in philosophy, as cause for withdrawing from a friend."

- Thomas Jefferson

#### Introduction

Through our 1:1 Conversations, we facilitate bringing pairs of people together to share their respective stories, explore thought-provoking questions, find common ground, and commit to mutual actions that might follow. We seek to bridge not just political divides, but also those of geography, generation, race, ethnicity and culture. Participating in these conversations requires courage, honesty, and empathic understanding on the part of both participants. It demands a willingness to 'walk in another's shoes' as part of the 1:1 dialogue. Yet for those willing to enter into this process, new friendships can bloom. Not simply during the actual conversations, themselves. But for a lifetime of braver fellowship together.

Our Braver Angels 1:1 Conversations process uses a tested and proven approach to help structure your dialogue. You enter into it with a conversation guide document that facilitates success. Your guided dialogue emphasizes storytelling, listening, and learning rather than declaring your point of view or debating. It's about sharing rather than teaching, convincing, or changing your conversation partner. The grounding 'power' of these conversations resides in a series of thought-provoking questions, where each person actively listens to the other without cross talk. While common ground can often be found, the experience focuses on what is actually shared and learned as a result of the dialogue. With this in the forefront, participants can subsequently pursue opportunities to collaborate around shared purpose, values, and actions where it makes sense. So, the work and the opportunities don't end when the conversation concludes!

Braver Angels has developed four types of 1:1 Conversation programs for our members. Each program type is structured around two actual conversations of sixty minutes each via the virtual web or in person. The second conversation always builds on the first one, facilitating greater depth of communications, fuller understanding, discovery of common ground, and action planning in next steps together.

#### Red/Blue Pairs

This program provides you with the opportunity to talk with someone outside of your own political group about what you each believe and want for the country.

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#### **Pair Up.Bravely - 1:1 Conversations** [continued]

Braver Angels pairs someone leaning conservative (Red) with someone leaning liberal (Blue). In these structured conversations, our Red/Blue pairs share more about:

- Where each is politically and how they got there in terms of their respective life experiences, influences, and underlying values.
- What each person feels is good about their political leanings and party affiliations, as well
  as how their side's policies are helpful to our nation.
- The reservations or concerns that each person has about their own side or affiliation.
- What each side is learning about the other as a result of what is shared.
- What areas of common ground exist for further exploration together.

#### Rural/Urban Pairs

Rural and metro communities are moving farther apart economically, culturally, and politically. Their needs and priorities seem more at odds than ever these days, and their commonalities are harder to recognize. Stereotypes and misunderstanding threaten to replace mutual understanding and a sense of joint purpose as Americans. Braver Angels Rural/Urban 1:1 Conversations help dialogue partners understand how where we live impacts our political leanings, our policy preferences, and our lives more broadly.

As part of these structured conversations, Rural/Urban pairs share more about:

- What each side values most about living where they do in their respective communities and states. Participants contribute pertinent and positive life story examples to bring this to life rather than comparing their preferences to those of the other pair member in negative, unhelpful ways.
- What each acknowledges as the difficult and challenging things about living where they do.
   Participants honestly and transparently sharing the downsides, not simply the rewarding aspects.
- The common stereotypes attributed to each person's respective rural/urban experiences, and how these often-hurtful misconceptions create negative assumptions.
- More accurate and complete images of their respective experiences that facilitate greater understanding.

#### Conversations About Race, Ethnicity & Culture

Our Braver Angels Conversations About Race, Ethnicity & Culture pair two people with differing racial, ethnic, or cultural backgrounds. This pair comes together in structured conversation to talk about the joys and the difficulties of being someone with their background, and enable the two to build new and stronger bridges of understanding, grounded in respectfully and empathetically sharing respective experiences, feelings, and beliefs with dialogue partners of a different race or ethnicity. And through this understanding, a commitment to shared actions can be built that positively benefit our nation both now and for generations to come.

As part of these structured conversations, the pairs share more about:

- How each person defines and understands their unique race, ethnicity, or cultural heritage.
- How this identity is further influenced by their geographic region, family of origin, economic or social class, religious identification, or other applicable dimensions.
- What each person values most about their respective racial, ethnic, or cultural background in their lives.
- The challenges, advantages, and misunderstandings that each may have experienced in life stemming from their backgrounds.
- What should be changed in the structures, institutions, communities, and culture of American society so that everyone can succeed and flourish.
- The resources within and external to each person's community that should be drawn upon more fully to encourage progress.
- What each can do individually (or together in pairs) to contribute to this progress in the future.

#### **Conversations Across Generations**

Young adults and seniors can feel that they occupy different worlds—different Americas—in their cultural values, politics, and views about what the country needs going forward. Stereotypes and misunderstanding can replace mutual understanding and a sense of joint purpose as Americans. Our 1:1 Conversations Across Generations provide a way for young adults and seniors to build relationships and look for common ground on public policies and issues that are important to them. The goals include:

- ✓ More understanding of the experiences, feelings, and beliefs of someone from a different generation
- Discovering any areas of commonality in addition to differences
- ✓ Ideas for how young and old might work together for the sake of the country

Click here to sign-up for a Red/Blue, Rural/Urban, Conversations About Race, Ethnicity & Culture, or Conversations Across Generations 1:1 experience.



14.

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#### **Experience.Bravely**



Bridging Black Perspectives - Bob Woodson meets Hawk Newsome (with John Wood, Jr.)

14K views • 6 months ago



This is a conversation like few others. Bob Woodson and Hawk Newsome are among the most important voices in black

**Braver Angels creates a variety of continuous** 'Avenues for Conversation' - grounded in diverse perspectives, transformative ideas, and subject- matter knowledge on topics of importance.

"We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond."

#### **Braver Angels Debates**

Typical debates are usually combative affairs. Participants spout 'talking points' instead of answering questions. Important and complicated issues are reduced to their least common denominator. Nuance and deeper understanding are lost in bitter and narrow binary encounters of 'right' and 'wrong'. In the face of this, we need new and transformative ways of discussing our policy differences in our country. This starts not with our politicians at the top, but with the grassroots political/policy conversations of everyday Americans. At Braver Angels, we can and must lead the way in this effort.



Ours is a truly different kind of debate. It's not about scoring points or defeating your opponent. Instead, it's a collective search for truth. When we debate, we think together, listen carefully to one another, and allow ourselves to be touched and changed by each other's ideas and views. In the process, we've created positive relationships, not adversaries.

Our debates are structured, thoughtful engagements that are moderated by a trained Braver Angels team member. Each debate highlights a specific, timely topic. Participant's express their rationale for positions not only through factual evidence and opinion—but via their own personal stories and their rich, diverse experiences. In other words, they put a human 'face' on their sincerely held convictions. It all unfolds in a safe, respectful, and energetic debate format that welcomes questions, engagement, and learning.

When you participate in a Braver Angels debate, you'll embark on a learning experience like no other. You'll grow in your ability to appreciate others without agreeing on some, or even any, of the issues discussed. You'll learn to see the best, not the worst, in your fellow debate participants. You'll expand your capacity to remain in spaces of

nuance, uncertainty, curiosity, and openness. You'll improve your active listening skills. In the process, you might even stretch your long-held beliefs a little. But one thing is certain: You'll depart each debate more respectfully understanding 'why' we see things differently. And that's a profoundly worthwhile endeavor.

Any Braver Angels member can sign up to participate or observe in our debates. Please click here.

#### **Online Book Discussions**

Braver Angels members can participate in ongoing, lively, and thought-provoking book discussions. In these book-based conversations, participants share their thoughts about the book; delve deeper into important chapters; share favorite quotes from the book; discuss the author; and apply learnings to our broader Braver Angels mission. As a participant, you can actively join in or simply listen and learn from other Braver Angels members.

Click here to learn more or find an online Book Discussion.

# Braver Angels Library ifelong Democrat and former NPR CEO Ken Stern decided to leave his "blue PM EST. A departure from our usual political fare, this discussion is guest-hoste by Mukti Lakhi Mangharam, Associate Professor of English at Rutgers Uni focused on Educated: A Memoir, by Tara Westover. Click here to register.

#### **Online Film Discussions**

Braver Angels members can participate in structured conversations about a diverse range of films. Members watch the selected movie on their own or with other members—then gather together nationally online to discuss it with others. We purposefully select films that cover topical and important social or political issues in our daily lives and our society as a whole. The films, themselves, might highlight Red leaning, Blue leaning, or Independent leaning themes or perspectives. We work to balance the films we watch and discuss in order to include all sides. That's because by offering different points



of view (in our films), we promote discovery and openness. We also create the opportunity to stretch ourselves through practicing the respectful listening and dialogue skills that are so fundamental to our Braver Angels methodology.

Click here to learn more or find the next online Film Discussion.

#### **Braver Angels Songwriting**

We welcome Braver Angels members who would like to write, perform, and submit their songs about the importance of breaking down barriers between us, as well as standing together in support of our great country-- no matter our differences in opinion about specific candidates, political parties, and candidates.







### **Experience.Bravely** [continued]

These are songs that can bring us together, make us better together, inspire us together, and heal us together as a nation.

Click here to learn more and submit your song to our Braver Angels song archives.

#### **Braver Politics Town Halls**

Our town hall sessions are typically conducted through local Braver Angels Alliances, and they often involve inviting outside speakers to discuss topics of shared importance to the alliance's Red/Blue members.

A specific form of this concept is our **Braver Politics Town Halls.** These are issue-focused discussions using our Braver Angels communications principles with the invited participation of local, state, or national public officials. The issues discussed may center on existing legislation or regulations, proposed policy initiatives, or the application of these in our daily lives. Participants agree



upfront about the most important elements of the issue (as well as areas of initial agreement and disagreement) in order to focus their attention at the town hall on matters of greatest priority for attendees. Through the town hall conversations that ensue, participants use their Braver Angels skills and discourse philosophy — while actively learning about the issue together. As always, we strive to create a safe and respectful atmosphere where Reds and Blues can come together in civil, respectful, and highly meaningful dialogue as friends.



#### **Braver Angels Media**

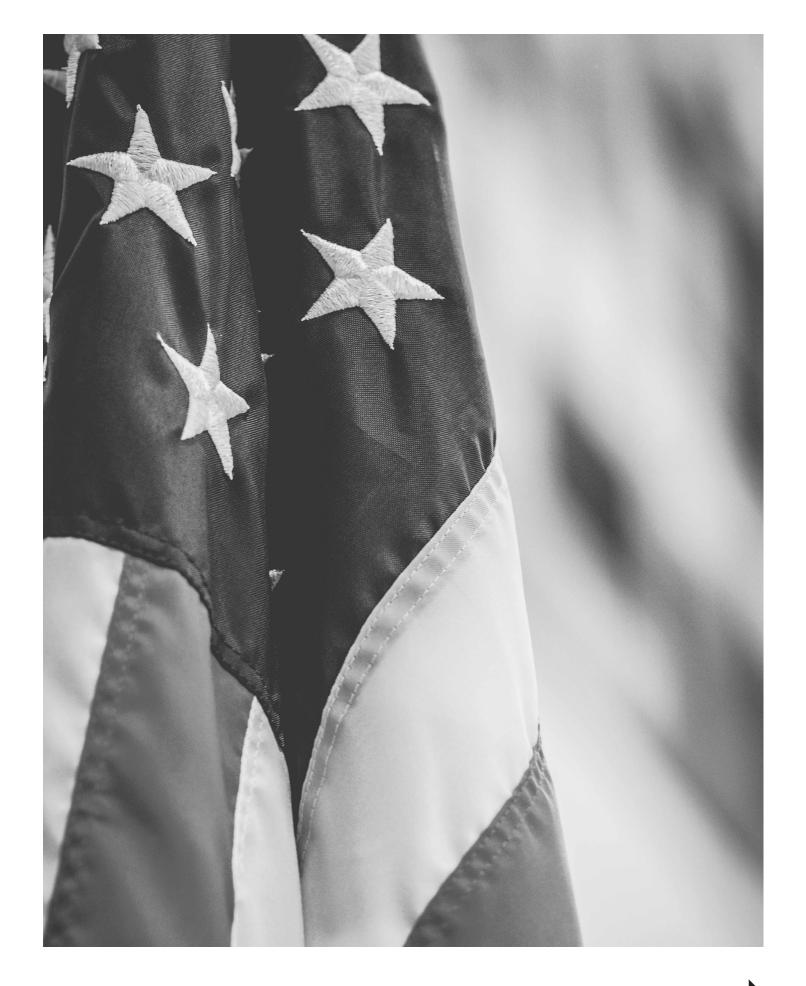
Braver Angels members can experience a wide range of political discussion via our media programs -- including video, long form journalism and podcasts.











8.

### **Special Thanks**



Jeffery C. Tucker is a volunteer for Braver Angels who authored this document with the help of other volunteers in our Alliances, States, and Regions. Jeff embodies the spirit of Braver Angels by donating his talents, skills, and time to 'build a house united' and strengthen our democracy - TOGETHER.

www.braverangels.org