

DEPOLARIZING THE UNITED STATES



#### Polarization Over Ideas







## The Problem of Affective Polarization

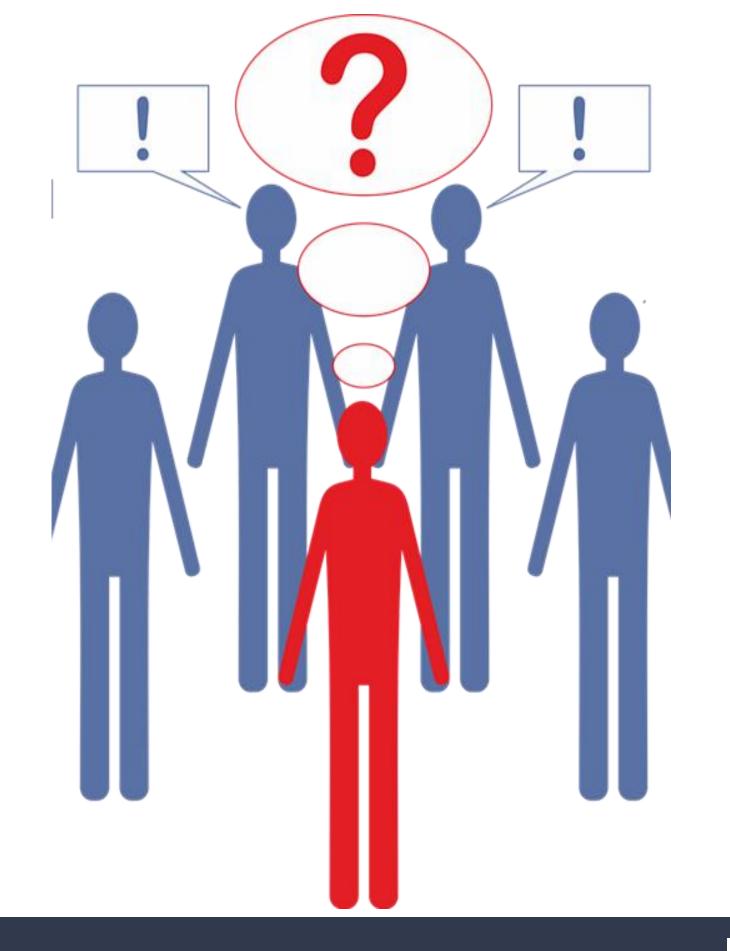


#### THREE TRAITS:

**OTHERING** 

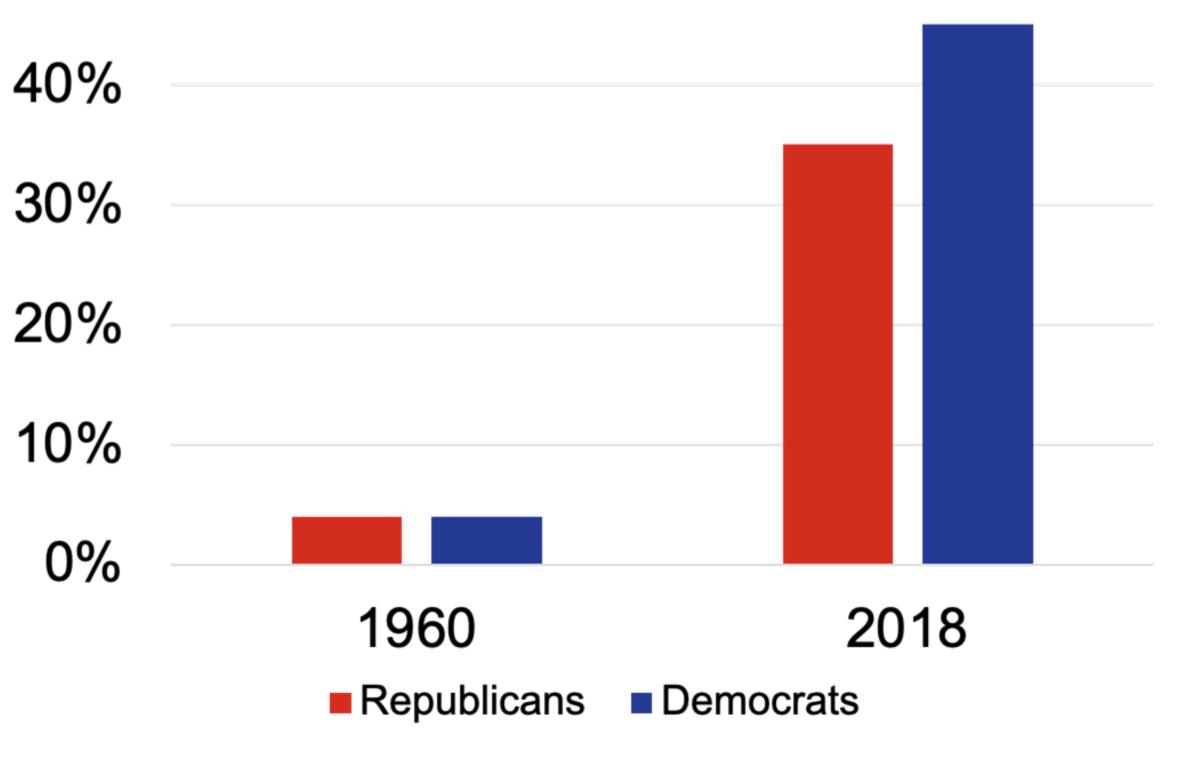
**AVERSION** 

MORALIZING



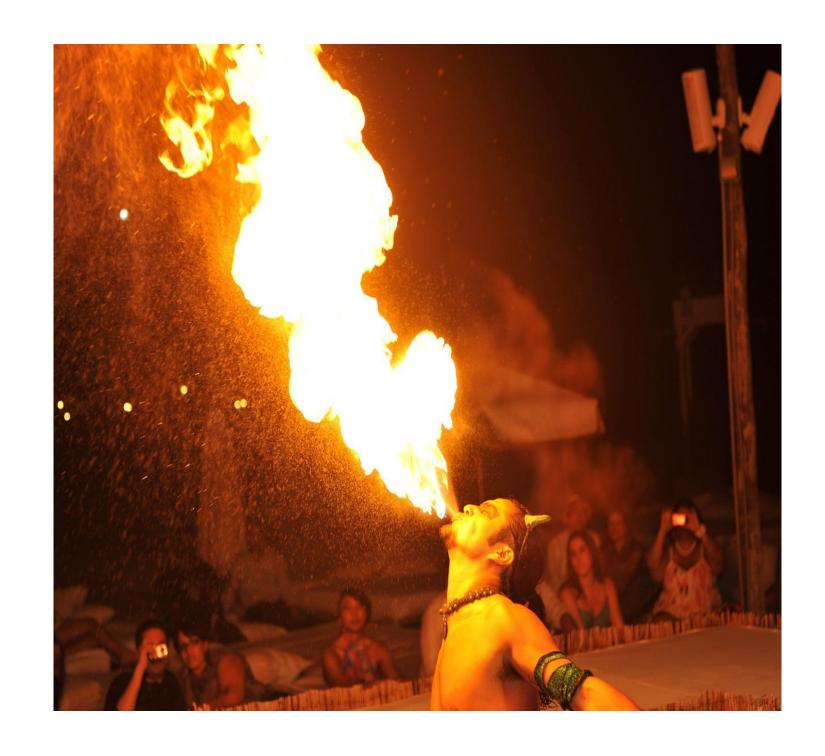


% Unhappy
If Child
Married
Outside
Party



Civic Culture Study (ICPSR), 1992 and PRPI, 2019





### WHAT FUELS POLARIZATION

Sorting

Media

Political Elites



## Willing to Do ANYTHING TO DEFEAT the Other Party



#### Polarization is not Sustainable

It prevents us from solving our problems

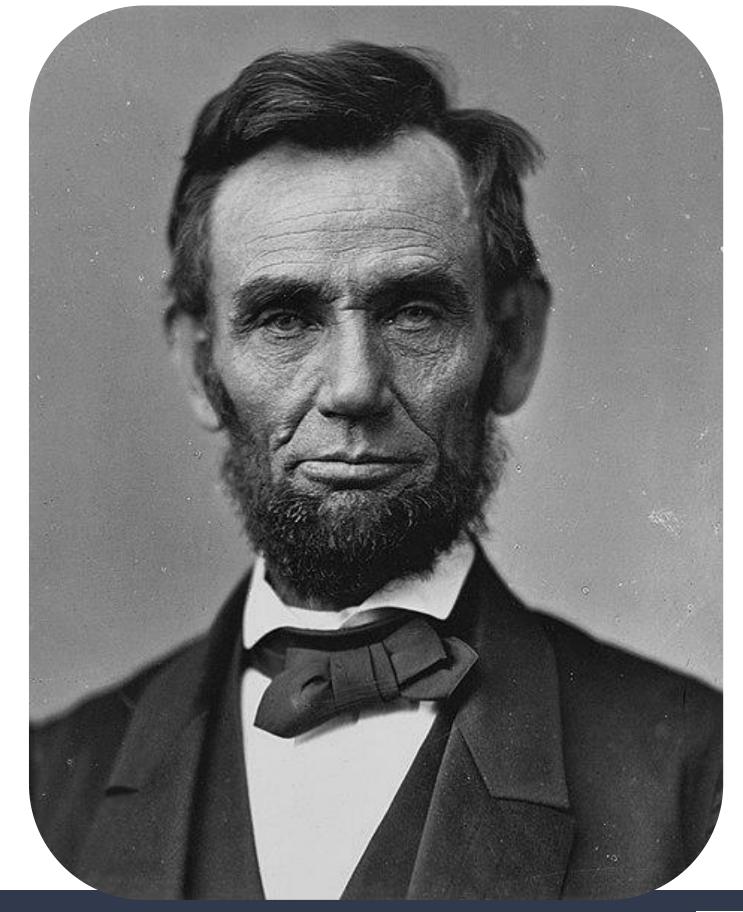
- It is driving people to extremes
- It has already resulted in political violence and threats of more



#### More IN COMMON Than We Think!



"I do not like that man. I must get to know him better."







We try to understand the other side's point of view.





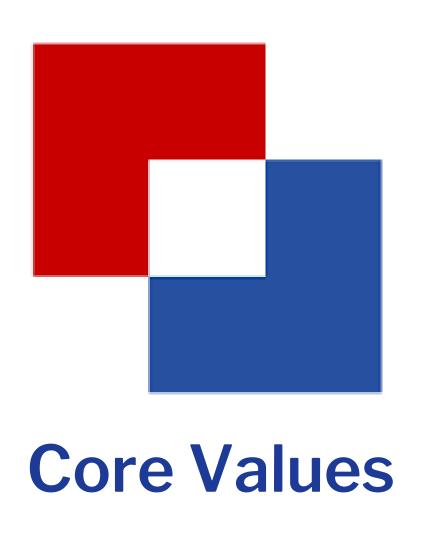
We engage those we disagree with, looking for common ground.





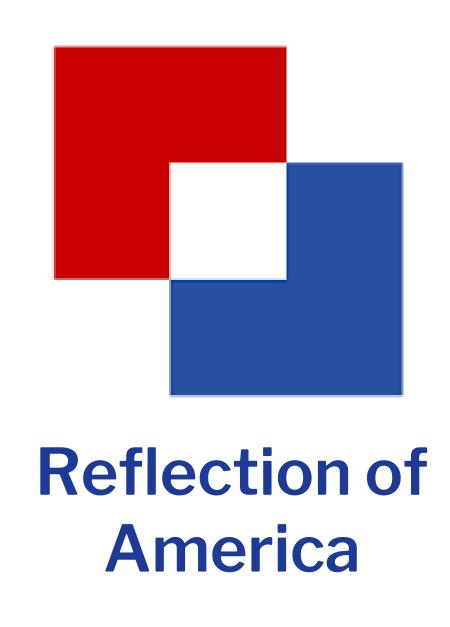
We support principles that bring us together rather than divide us.





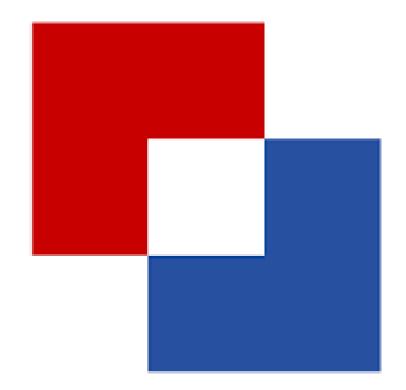
- Respect
- Humility
- Honesty
- Responsible Citizenship





We strive to be an organization that reflects the country we seek to serve.





### We are building a house united.

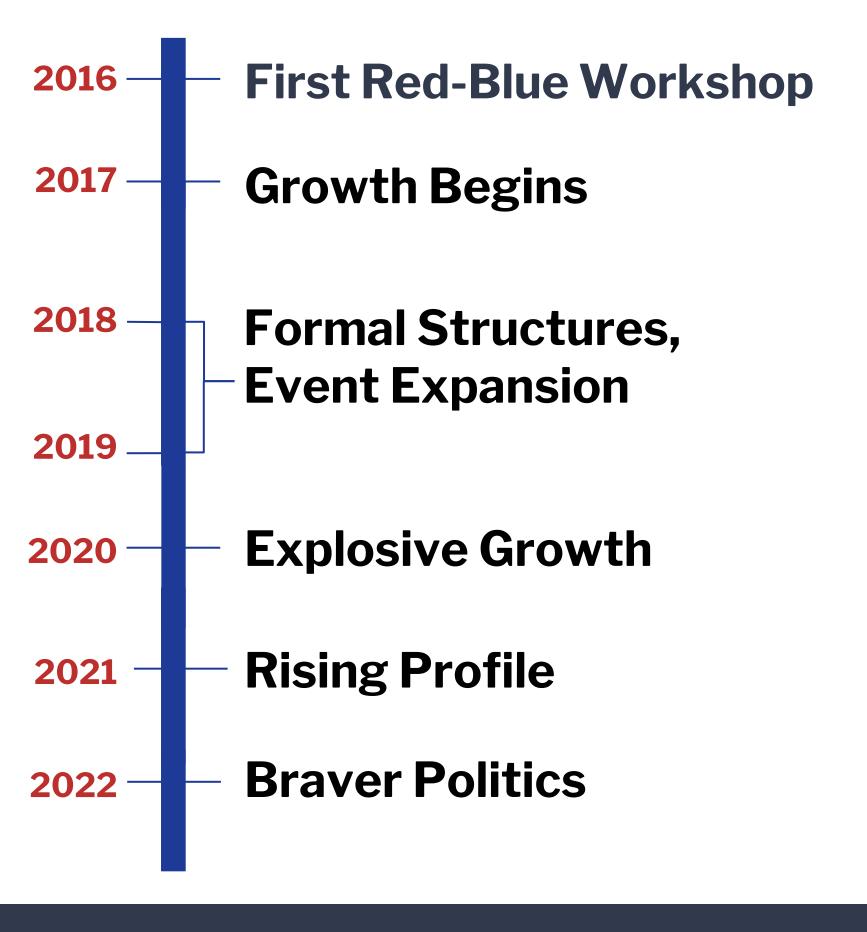


#### **Our Story**

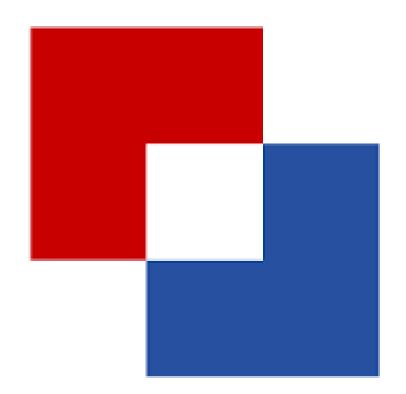




#### Our Timeline







Grow.Bravely
Pair Up.Bravely
Experience.Bravely





#### **Conversation Workshops**

- Red Blue Workshops
- Common Ground

**Grow.Bravely** 





#### Skills Training Workshops

- Skills For Bridging the Divide
- Depolarizing Within
- Families and Politics
- Depolarizing Conversations
   About Race

**Grow.Bravely** 





#### Other Programs

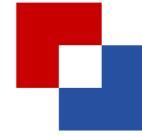
- 1:1 Conversations
- Braver Angels Debates
- Much more!

Pair Up.Bravely Experience.Bravely



#### THE RESULTS?

# We Reduce Affective Polarization



## Goal is NOT to Change Views on Issues





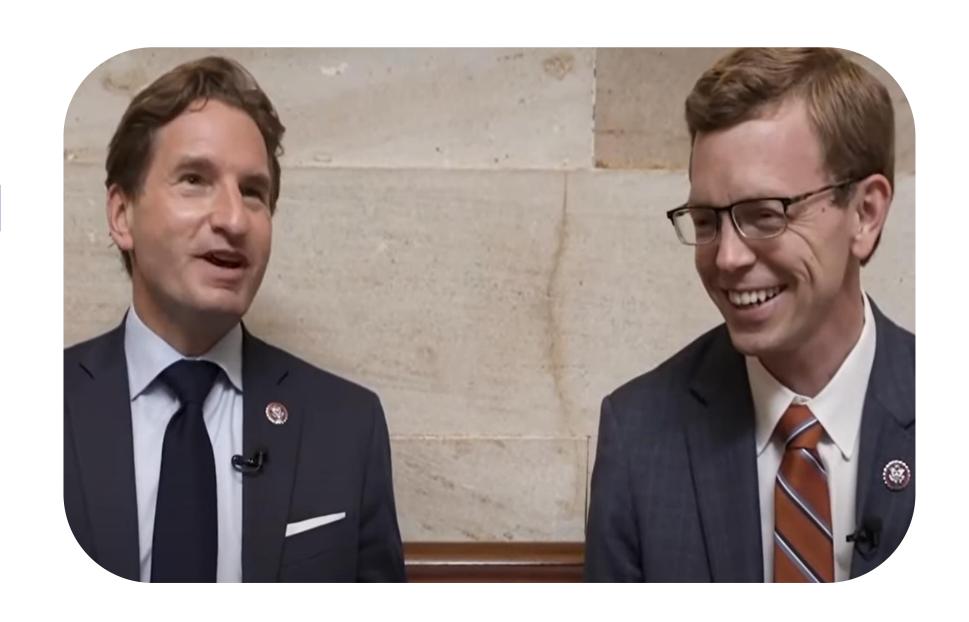
## Change How We View Each Other





#### **Braver Politics**

- Work with legislators and their staffs
- Goal of increased trust
- Connect citizens





#### How you can be involved

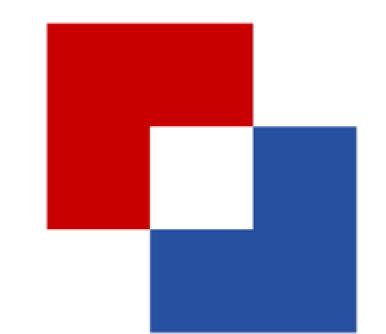
- Braverangels.org
- Braverangels.org/Minnesota
- Braverangels.org/braver-politics
- bmackenzie@braverangels.org



"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory...will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

Abraham Lincoln First Inaugural Address 1861





### Becoming Braver Angels

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