



BUILD UP A

THE COMMONS

RESOURCES FOR ACTION FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BUILD A STRONGER CIVIC FABRIC IN THE USA

[THE COMMONS PROJECT](#) WAS STARTED BY A GROUP OF AMERICANS TO STRENGTHEN OUR CIVIC FABRIC. IF YOU HAVE RESOURCES TO ADD, PLEASE EMAIL: COMMONS@HOWTOBUILDUP.ORG

Join our Facebook Group for regular engagement / peer community <http://bit.ly/CommonsFBgroup>
Or follow us on twitter: [#commonsusa](#)

RESOURCES

In response to the polarization happening in the United States, this is a set of tools and resources compiled to identify ways that individuals can take steps to increase listening, respect, and understanding across the political divide. See what suits you, and try it out! Resources are organized by the following:

[Understand and have more control over your social media feed](#)

[Get a bigger picture](#)

[Host or join a productive conversation](#)

[Join a national or local network](#)

[Watch, Read, or Listen](#)

Follow the Commons Project on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) for more good content and opportunities to get involved.

Understand and have more control over your social media feed

[Politecho](#): Understand the political bias of your Facebook friends and news feed. This is a Google Chrome extension that you can install to better understand your facebook feed

[Media Bias / Fact Check Google Chrome extension](#): Curate Facebook with MBFC news categorizations to be informed as you read your Facebook feed.

[Blue Feed, Red Feed](#): See Liberal Facebook and Conservative Facebook, Side by Side on a selection of topics. A stark view of what echo chambers can really look like. (tool no longer actively updated)

[Gobo](#) is a social media aggregator with filters you control. You can use Gobo to control what's edited out of your feed, or configure it to include news and points of view from outside your usual orbit.

Get a bigger picture

[Allsides](#): A news services that provides the same story reported from differently biased sources. Like their [Facebook page](#) to get these at a glance in your Facebook feed.

[The Flipside](#): A daily 5-minute email with curated news snippets of what is happening from the left and right.

[Hidden Tribes](#): Who doesn't like to take a good quiz? Find out which tribe you're in, how that compares with others in the U.S., and what core beliefs drive these differences

[Allsides Red Blue Dictionary](#): Does it ever feel like the other side is speaking a different language? Use this guide to understand the perspectives and vocabulary across political sides.

[Open Mind Platform](#): What makes you and others who disagree with you tick? Check out this online program that has five interactive steps that weave together psychological content along with engaging examples and scenarios to better understand the mindsets of progressives, conservatives, and libertarians.

[Procon.org](#): "How could anyone support *that*?" This website presents controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan, and primarily pro-con format.

[Read Across the Aisle](#): "Just as your Fitbit reminds you to get up and walk around after an hour of inactivity, this app will notice when you've gotten a little too comfortable in your filter bubble—and it'll remind you to go see what other folks are reading."

[ReConsider](#): “A twice per month podcast in which we take on, in-depth, one pressing political issue facing western Democracies with a fresh, researched, and challenging perspective. We help listeners see the full context behind the issue and make up their own minds.”

[Balancer](#): Balancer is a Chrome extension that analyses your web browsing to show you the political slant of your reading history. If you get way out of balance, they may even give you reading suggestions.

Host or join a productive conversation

[Living Room Conversations](#): Host or join cross-cutting conversations, with more than 80 topical conversation guides provided

[National Issues Forum](#): Guides to facilitating or participating in conversations around hot-topic issues

[National Conversations Project](#): This project seeks to mainstream conversations across divides in which we #ListenFirst to understand. [Find conversations](#) near you or virtual conversations available anywhere.

[The People’s Supper](#): Invite your friends to a different kind of dinner with support as a host and a discussion guidebook from the People’s Supper.

[Civic Dinners](#): Find and join a dinner or host one yourself where their technology platform makes it easy by taking care of RSVPs, reminders, and follow-ups.

[Make America Dinner Again](#): Sign up for a meal near you in cities around the country

[Better Angels](#): Engage in a practical workshop or debate in your community.

Join a national or local network

[Heterodox Academy](#): Non-partisan collaborative of more than 2,500 professors, administrators, and graduate students providing resources on expanding viewpoints on college campuses

[One America Movement](#): Convenes events and forums with diverse participants through local chapters

The Village Square: “A nervy bunch of liberals and conservatives who believe that disagreement and dialogue make for a good conversation, a good country, and a good time.” You’re able to join local events in [Tallahassee, Fort Lauderdale, Sacramento, and Salt Lake City](#)

Better Angels: Better Angels is a citizens’ organization uniting red and blue Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America. Join them for workshops, skills trainings, debates, and more.

BridgeUSA: Are you student or faculty on a college campus? This may be a network for you. Focused on reforming political cultures on college campuses, BridgeUSA believes that “we must ensure that our students are committed to ideological diversity and constructive discourse.”

Watch, Read, or Listen

Caitlin Quattromani and Luran Arledge, How our friendship survives our opposing politics: Can you still be friends with someone who doesn't vote the same way as you? For Caitlin Quattromani and Luran Arledge, two best friends who think very differently about politics, the outcome of the 2016 US presidential election could have resulted in hostility and disrespect. Hear about how they chose to engage in dialogue instead -- and learn some simple tactics they're using to maintain their bipartisan friendship.

Eli Pariser, Beware Online Filter Bubbles: TED 2011 As web companies strive to tailor their services (including news and search results) to our personal tastes, there's a dangerous unintended consequence: We get trapped in a "filter bubble" and don't get exposed to information that could challenge or broaden our worldview.

OpenMind Library: The OpenMind Library has an extensive array of essays, videos, academic articles, and books that make the case for depolarization. You'll want to share these articles and videos far and wide.

TED Playlist: 9 TED Talks on improving the political conversation

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Defusing Hate: A Strategic Communication Guide to Counteract Dangerous Speech

iHeartMob: Social media safety guides

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