

Submissions for  
*Across the Great Divides: a Search for Poetry, Soul and Understanding  
in a Divided Nation*

This spring, City Lore and Bowery Poetry are assembling **200 straight-from-the-heart poems or short statements of why you believe what you believe** for a new book, *Across the Great Divides: a Search for Poetry, Soul and Understanding in a Divided Nation*. It will be published in early 2027 by New Village Press. This is a book in which EVERYBODY'S voice, all across the spectrum, will be Heard and Respected.

Send your responses to [poetry@citylore.org](mailto:poetry@citylore.org). Please send the poems or statements prior to December 31, 2025. Here are the themes we are requesting

1. Send us a poem or a prose statement. One approach: Begin writing "I am from. . ." expressing details that capture the places and families you come from, and then some of your political beliefs. We are looking for poems that begin with the details that capture where you're from and go on to tell a story about the evolution of your beliefs. Whether you use the *I am from* prompt or not, we are looking for pieces that don't simply state a political position. The poems we are looking for are, in a sense, your political family tree, or help provide context for the world view you've come to believe in.
2. Send us a poem you've written — or a poem you love — that mentions the iconic American symbols such as the American flag, the Statue of Liberty or other monuments. We are also interested in poems or short statements about voting.
3. We are not only interested in accessible poems and short statements about liberal and conservative beliefs. Other divides that will be featured in the book are Race, Gender, and the Israel / Palestine divide. We are also interested in laments addressing tragic violence, threats to our democracy, and other perspectives.
4. We have separate chapters on Money, and what it means to you, and Capitalism / Socialism.
5. Young people and children are welcome to participate. We have collected and will feature a number of poems by children who express their views on politics.

If you don't enjoy writing, but would like to express your views in conversation, let us know at [poetry@citylore.org](mailto:poetry@citylore.org). We will interview you, create a piece for the book, and send it back to you to edit however you would like.

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