

The background of the slide features a large American flag on the left and a blue-tinted image of the US Capitol dome on the right. The text is overlaid on a dark blue horizontal band.

Incivility and Political Dysfunction: What Can We Do About It?

**International City/County Management Association
Conference
Baltimore, MD**

September 24, 2018

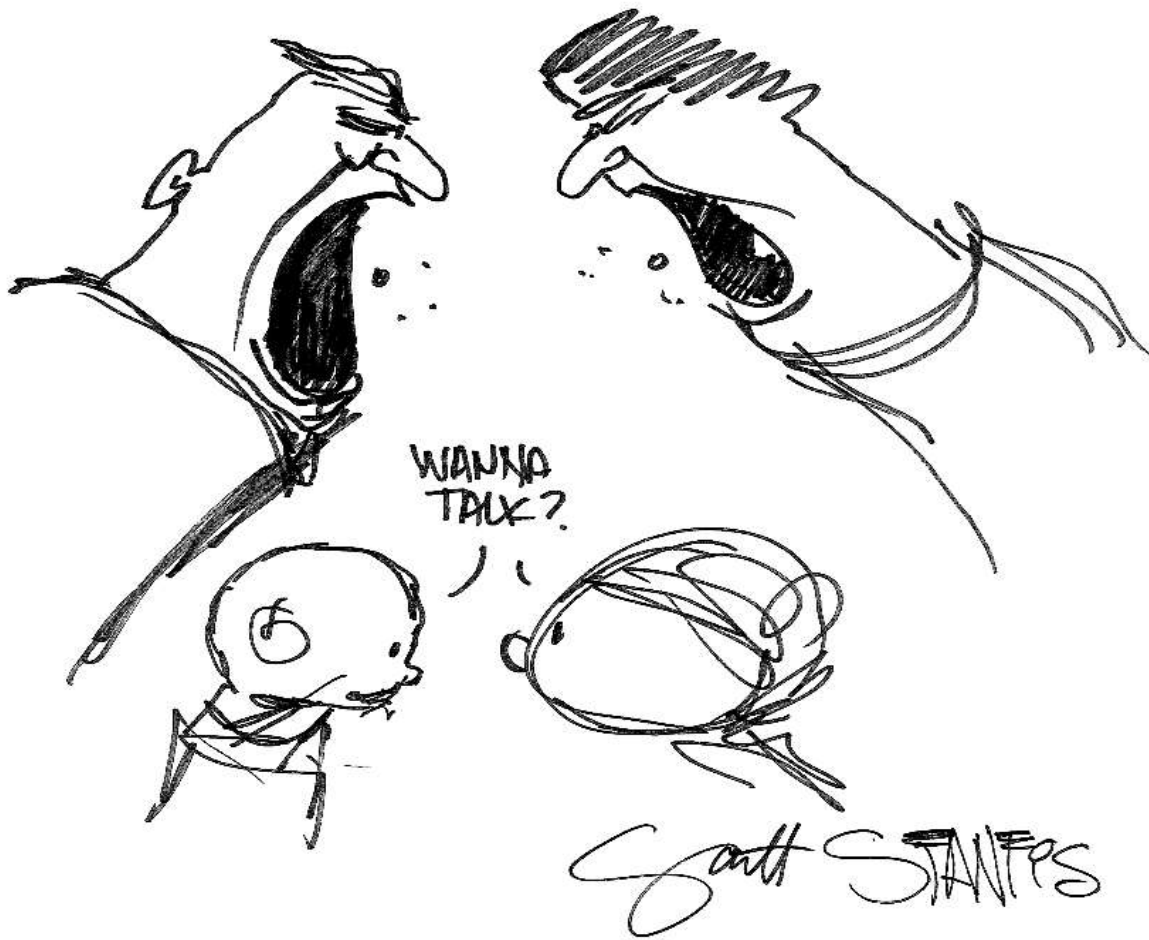
**Dr. Carolyn J. Lukenmeyer
Executive Director**

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.



**National
Institute for
Civil Discourse**







Democracy is a conversation.

The quality of that conversation matters.

Weber Shandwick Poll

Released March 1, 2018

The public is all but unanimous in citing the importance of civility to democracy, with 96 percent of Democrats and 95 percent of Republicans agreeing.

- 75% of us now believe that incivility in America is a crisis
- 83% of the public say incivility leads to intolerance of free speech
- 79% of all respondents said incivility is leading to less political engagement



Weber Shandwick Poll

Released March 1, 2018

- ❖ **93% of the public believes it is important for the President of the United States**
 - 86% of Democrats said it's "very" important for a president to civil; 9% said it is "somewhat" important
 - 68% of Republicans said it is "very" important; 26% said "somewhat"

- ❖ **73% said a more civil President Trump would be a more effective president**
 - 40% of Republicans said he would be a "lot" more effective; 31% said a "little" more effective
 - 50% of Democrats said a "lot"; 30% said a "little"

STRESS IN AMERICA™

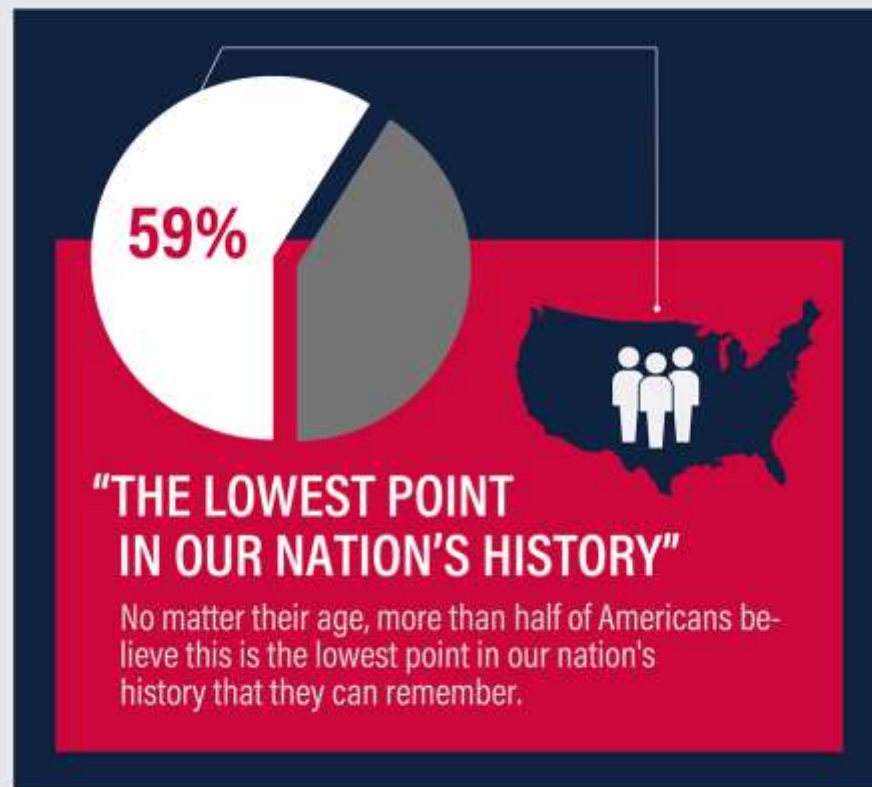
MOST COMMON SOURCES OF STRESS



Note: Sources of stress reflect two separate questions; the sources of stress listed above were not shown within one list.

© 2017 American Psychological Association

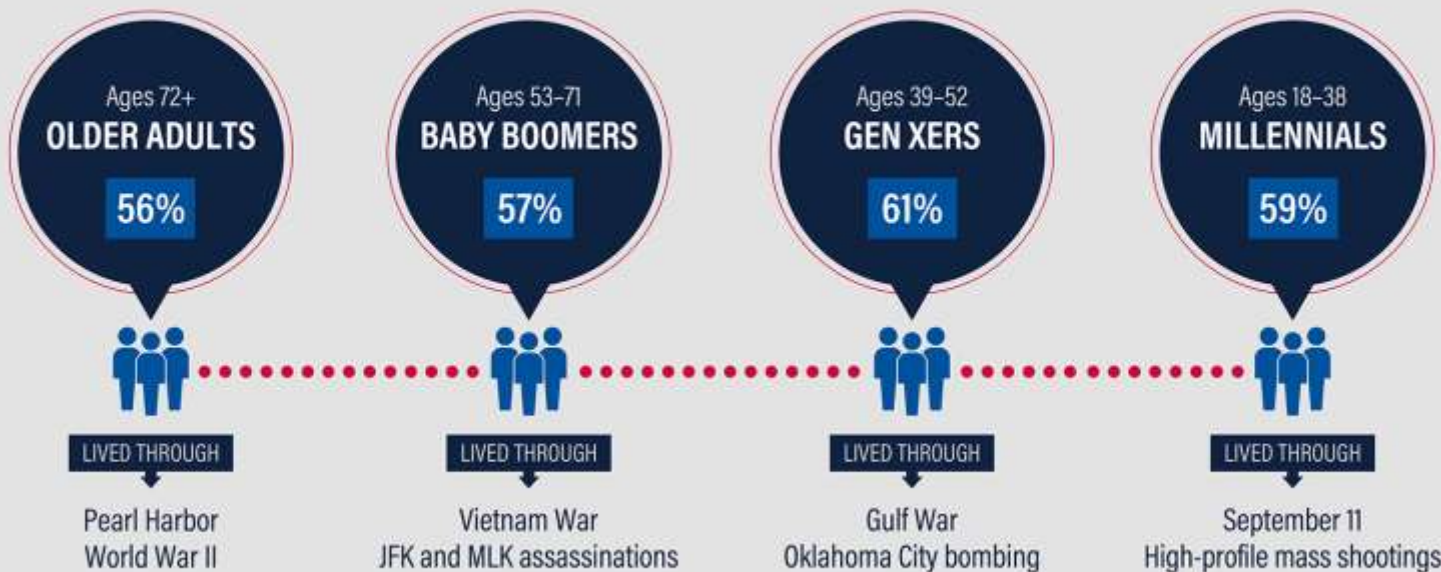
STRESS IN AMERICA™



STRESS IN AMERICA™

A SHARED VIEW ACROSS GENERATIONS

No matter their age, more than half of Americans believe this is the lowest point in our nation's history that they can remember.





How We Got Here:

- **Money in Politics**
- **Gerrymandering**
- **Election Rules**
- **24/7 News Cycle**
- **Social Media**



People are Social Beings...

They respond to:

- **Context**
- **Structure**
- **Signals**

Richmond, VA



Charlottesville, VA







Incivility will not fix this crisis

BY CAROLYN LUKENSMAYER, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR — 06/27/18 04:00 PM EDT
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

87 COMMENTS

31 SHARES

f SHARE

🐦 TWEET

G+ PLUS ONE



Just In...

Bianca Jagger visits DC to spotlight 'brutal assault' on 'people of Nicaragua'

IN THE KNOW — 1M 55 AGO

Senate Democrats: Kavanaugh's classmate must testify

SENATE — 4M 14S AGO

Watch live: Trump hosts joint press conference with Polish president

ADMINISTRATION — 5M 13S AGO



© Greg Nash

After years of spiraling decline, civil discourse is once again front and center in our national conversation. It has been forced into the discussion over the administration's inhumane decision to separate

The New 2018 Camry

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CIVILITY/ PROTEST

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA®



National
Institute for
Civil Discourse

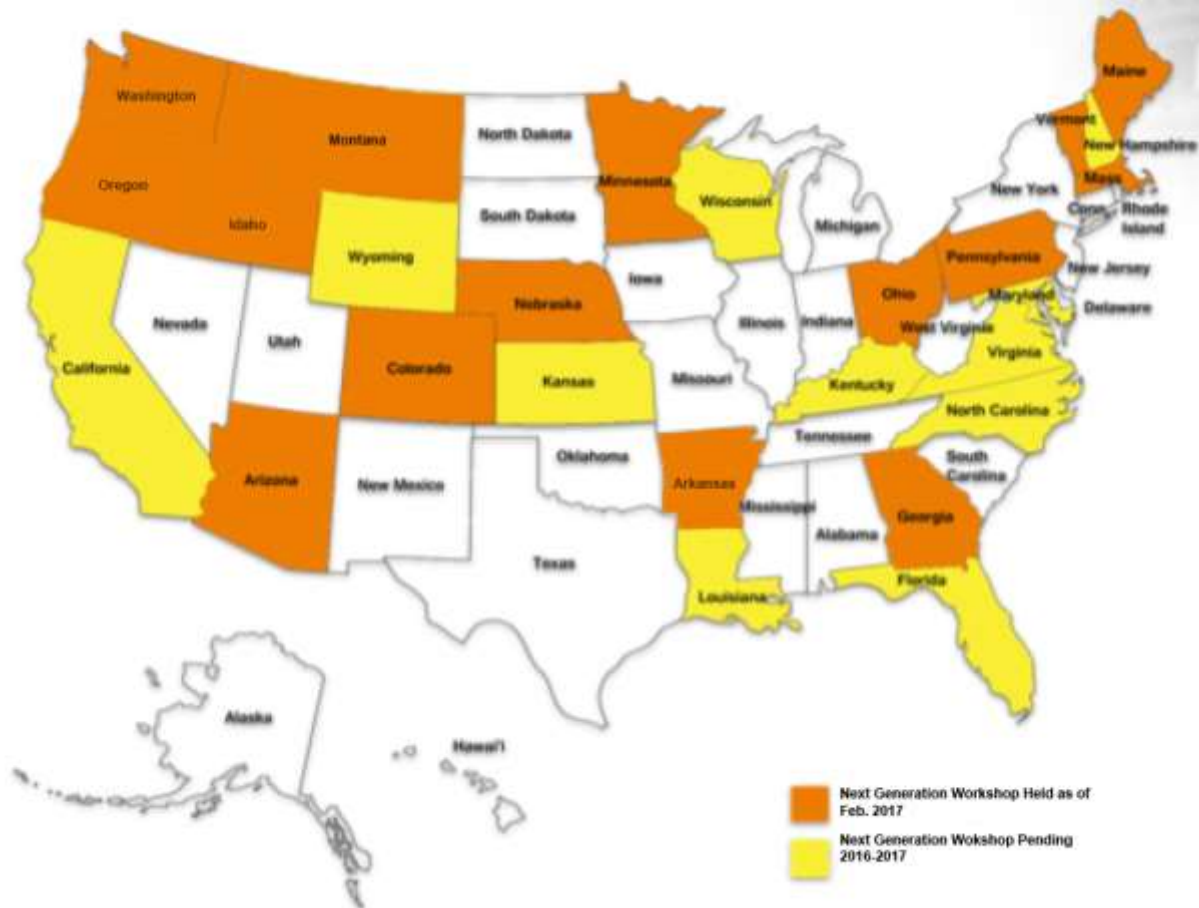
The National Institute for Civil Discourse brings people together for civil conversations to find common ground on divisive issues.

Three Target Groups



A nationwide program facilitated by state legislators *for* state legislators.

Next Generation Workshops



course



National Network of State Legislators



The Network serves as a forum for legislators around the country to exchange ideas and information with other legislators, coordinate actions and receive support.

Signs of Hope: Elected Officials

46 Bipartisan Freshman Members of Congress Pledge to Civility, January 2018

@RepMikeJohnson
@RepAnthonyBrown
@RepBarragan
@RepJimBanks
@RepDonBacon
@RepArrington
@RepRaskin
@RepTedBudd
@RepCarbajal
@RepLizCheney
@KYComer
@RepValDemings
@RepCharlieCrist
@RepJohnFaso
@DrNealDunnFL2
@RepBrianFitz
@RepDrewFerguson
@Rep_Matt_Gaetz
@Rep_Tom_Garrett
@RepJoshG
@repdavidkustoff
@RepJayapal
@RepRoKhanna
@RepBrianMast
@CongressmanRaja
@RepBRochester
@RepAllLawsonJr
@RepJimmyPanetta
@RepMarshall
@RepJackyRosen
@RepSmucker
@RepTomSuozzi
@RepOHalleran
@ClaudiaForNY22
@RepDarrenSoto
@RepRooney
@ScottTaylorva
@RepRutherfordFL

COMMITMENT TO CIVILITY

Incoming Members of the 115th United States Congress

As new Members of the United States House of Representatives and as individual citizens we recognize the gravity of the responsibility we have been given and the significance of this moment in the history of our extraordinary country.

America remains the most free, most powerful and most prosperous nation in all the world, and yet we face significant challenges. Among these challenges has been an increasing division in and coarsening of our culture fueled too often by the vitriol in our politics and public discourse. One result has been a loss of trust in our institutions and elected officials.

We believe there is a better alternative.

Although we represent both political parties and a wide range of individual views across the political spectrum, our common and sincere aims are to serve the needs and interests of the American people, to work with one another and the leaders of our respective parties to encourage greater confidence in our institutions, and to set an example of statesmanship for the younger generations of Americans that will follow.

To this end, we are dedicated to showing proper respect to one another and all others, encouraging productive dialogue, and modeling civility in our public and private actions. While we may vehemently disagree on matters of law and policy, we will strive at all times to maintain collegiality and the honor of our office.

We believe that a leader can be cooperative and conciliatory without compromising his or her core principles, and we will remember that our political rivals in Congress are not our enemies—but rather our colleagues and fellow Americans. We also believe that maintaining a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation will help make government work more efficiently and effectively, help build consensus and restore the public trust, and, ultimately, serve as a positive influence on society at large.

For all of these reasons, we hereby pledge our names to this Commitment to Civility on this 10th day of January, 2017, in Washington, D.C.



NICD supports and champions these legislators in this commitment to civility.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CIVILITY CAUCUS

Political opposites Beatty and Stivers form 'civility caucus' in Congress



MOST POPULAR

- 1 Grove City hit by possible tornado as severe storms move through area
Apr 4 at 8:39 AM
- 2 Police dive team calls off search for man who jumped off Broad Street



https://youtu.be/42pzd2L6_hA

2018 Revive Civility Initiative

- Deep dive in 4 states: ME, OH, IA, AZ
- National state & local partners:



PROCLAMATION



CITY OF TUCSON • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

WHEREAS, civility reduces rudeness, ridicule, and lack of respect for the open exchange of ideas; and

WHEREAS, civility improves our well-being, restores trust, and encourages Americans to participate in building a brighter future for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, civility assists in the process of working together to create lasting solutions to our most pressing challenges, while fostering respect among opposing groups; and

WHEREAS, community members should feel comfortable and respected while exploring worldviews outside their own; and

WHEREAS, The University of Arizona's National Institute for Civil Discourse headquartered in Tucson and Washington, D.C., was created for the purpose of reviving and restoring civility to achieve a higher quality of public discourse;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor of the City of Tucson, Arizona do hereby proclaim May 2017 to be

REVIVE CIVILITY MONTH

in this community, and encourage all our citizens to exercise civility and respect toward each other.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Tucson, Arizona to be affixed this 1st day of January, 2017.



ATTEST:


Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor


Roger Randolph, City Clerk

Working with Citizens Initiative to Revive Civility



Unlikely Friendships

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dMMCVfKP9s>



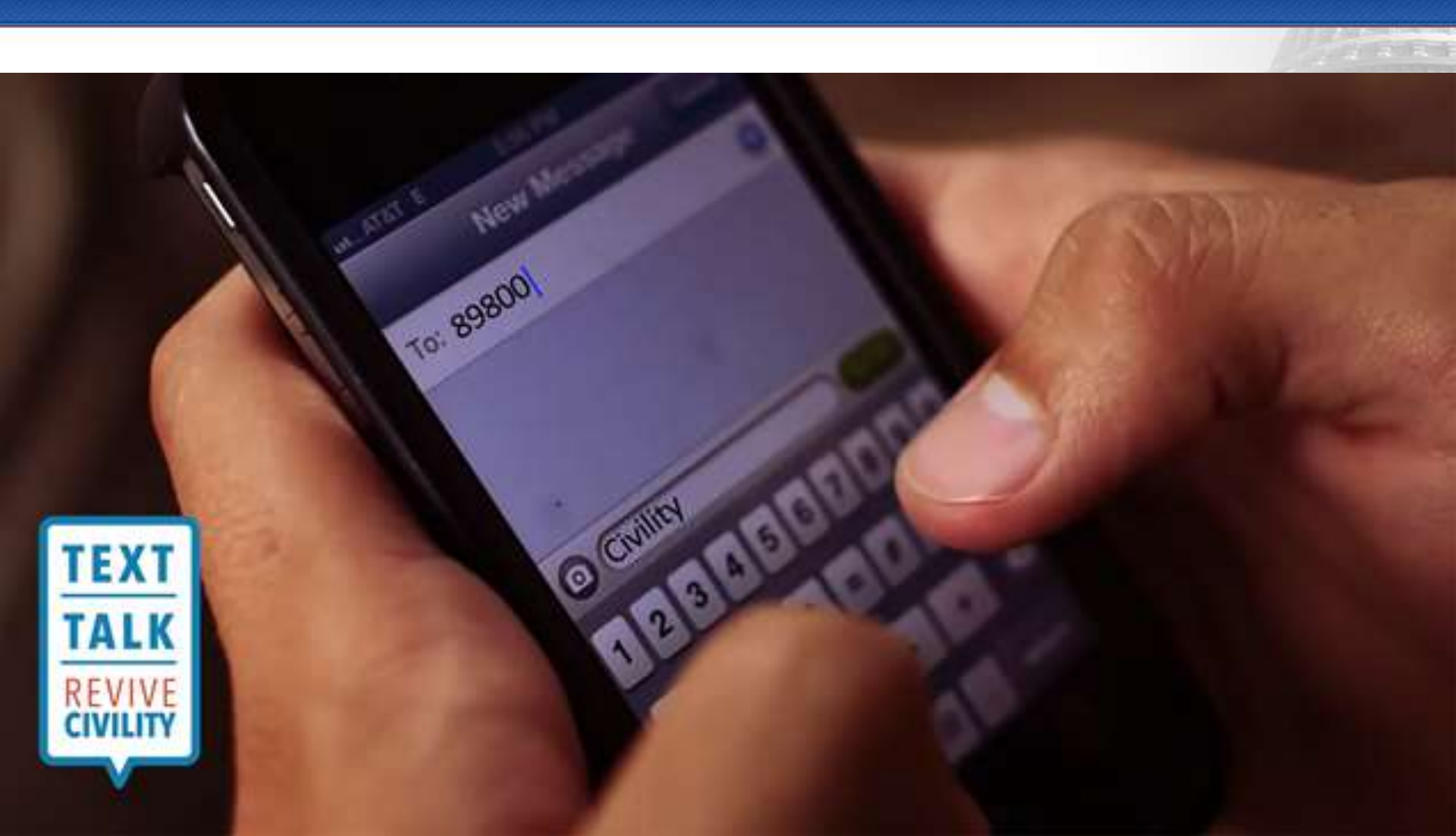
Step One:

- Set up the conditions for people to listen for understanding
- What in this person's life experience has led them to this choice or this belief

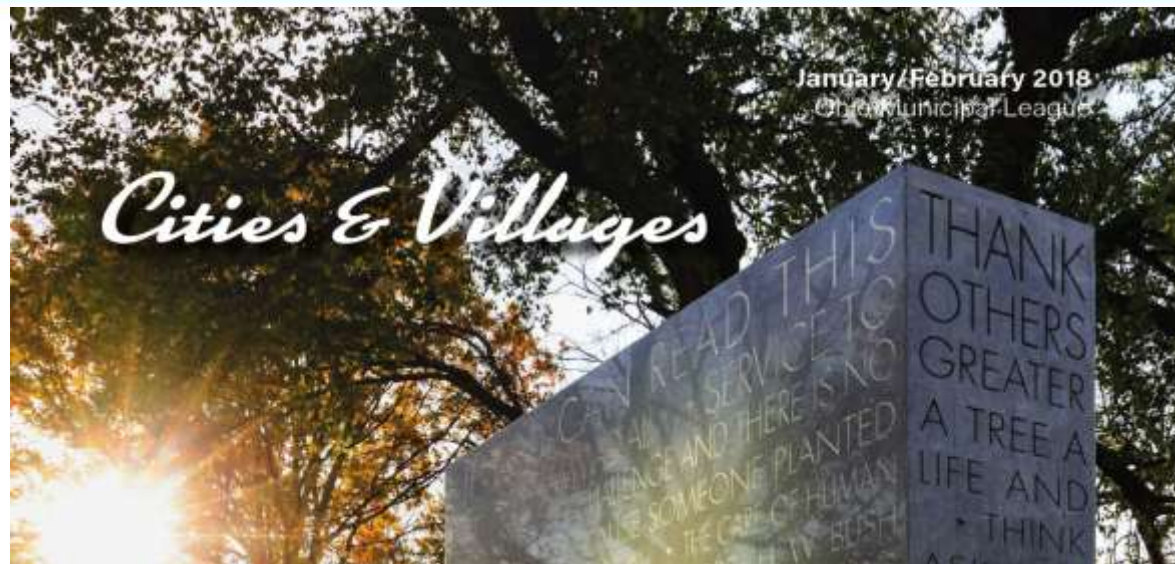


Core to Being Able to Do this Work:

- We have a fundamental obligation to see our common humanity across our differences.



Text, Talk, Revive Civility



From the Executive Director

Municipalities Are Positioned to Take Leadership Setting the Tone for Respect & Civil Discourse in 2018

In 2018, Ohio's municipalities have the unique opportunity to lead the way in which our communities dialogue and disagree with respect and civility.

Maine Town & City

The magazine of the Maine Municipal Association

MAY 2018

Revive Civility, a national project to do as its name suggests

Maine is among four states to take part in the 'intensive, year-long' effort. Two high-profile community leaders are spearheading the project.

By Pam Plumb and Ryan D. Pelletier

Democracy at its core is our ability as citizens to talk with each other, to work out our differences and to solve problems for our communities. Our long history of town meetings is a testament to that concept. Democracy isn't a winner take all sport. That is called a dictatorship. Democracy is designed to bring together people with various points of view, life experiences, belief systems and get them to hammer out an agreement that will blend those needs and develop a compromise that will be acceptable to a large percentage of the people. All of you who are working in the cities and towns of Maine are at the cutting edge of that democracy.

The practice of democracy at every level of government has always been a messy process with passionate feelings on every side. But have you noticed a steady shift in recent years to more anger, blame, accusations in our public



Pam Plumb



Ryan D. Pelletier

disagreement and name calling that it is easier to just stay away? How can we bring back civility, more ability to discuss our differences with more openness and understanding?

That dilemma has led to the creation of a project in Maine to help us find our way back to lively debates about our different points of view that are built on truly listening to one another, on understanding each other's point of view and searching for common ground and reasonable compromises. Maine Revives Civility is a project of the National Institute of Civil Discourse (NICD). Its website is: www.nicd.arizona.edu. It is a grassroots initiative committed to helping foster an open exchange of ideas

and expression of values that can lead to solutions. You can learn more at the Revive Civility website: www.revivecivility.org, where all of the tools and resources can be found. NICD has partnered with the Maine Development Foundation and Maine League of Women Voters in this effort.

In order to achieve our goals, Maine Revives Civility is organized around three core strategies – Pledge, Engage and Organize. We ask people to make a personal commitment to improve civility and respect in their own lives, engage elected officials and community leaders to do the same, and organize one of four conversation types in their communities. This three-pronged approach is designed to help people and communities overcome the degradation of our public dialog.

Four states selected

NICD has selected Maine as one of four states for an intensive year-long effort to:

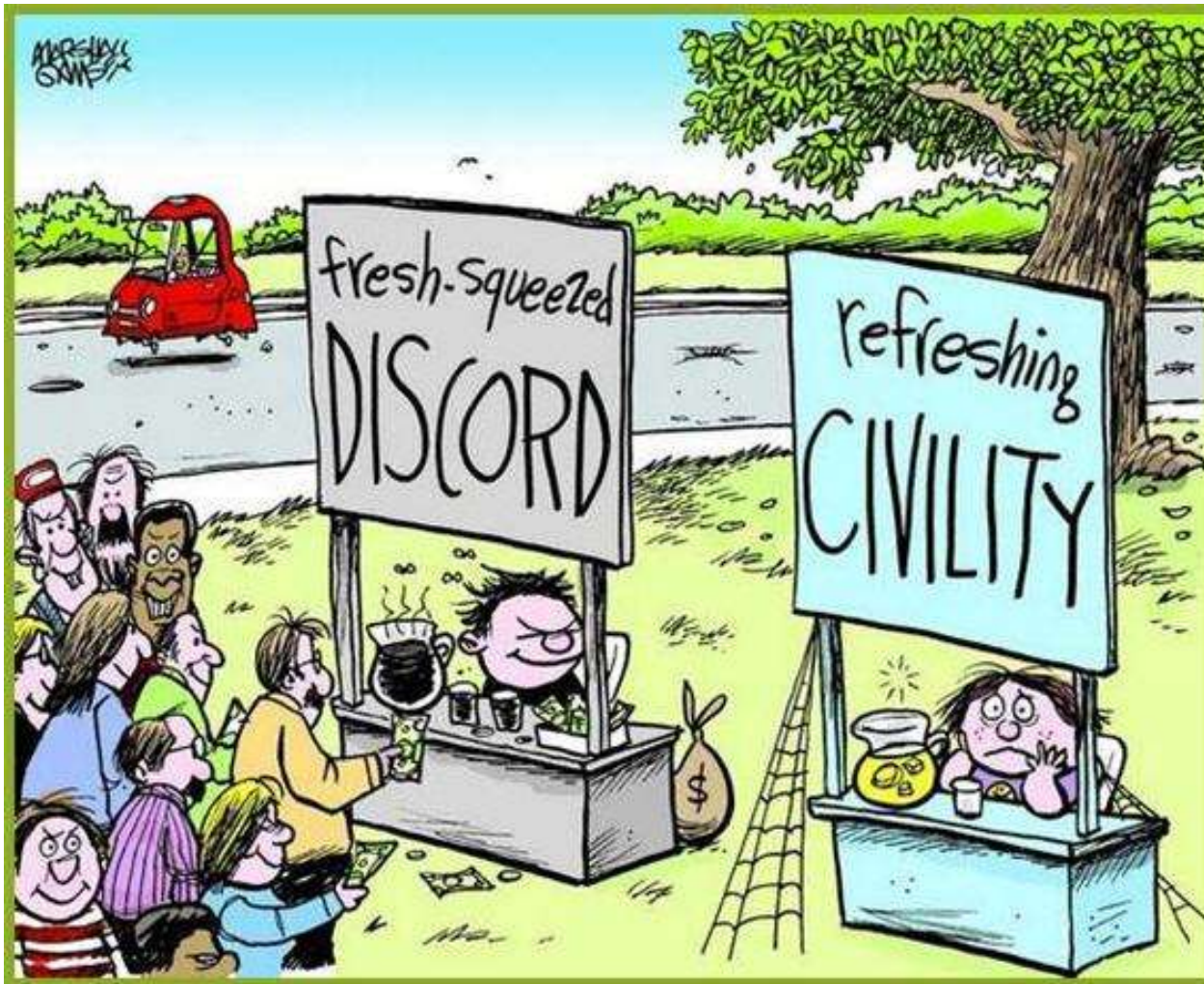
- Support people to shift the way they talk to and listen to each other.
- Understand why people have come to those conclusions.
- Know each other better.
- Show mutual respect for each other's perspective and opinions.
- Be able to "disagree without being disagreeable."

The purpose of Maine Revives Civility is not to get everyone to agree

What Can You Do?

- Sign the Civility Pledge at www.ReviveCivility.org
- Encourage your Representative to join the civility caucus
- Host civility conversations with friends, family and within organizations/clubs
- Kick off and lead a civility initiative in your community/county
- Build a cadre of facilitators to support civility within your community/county.





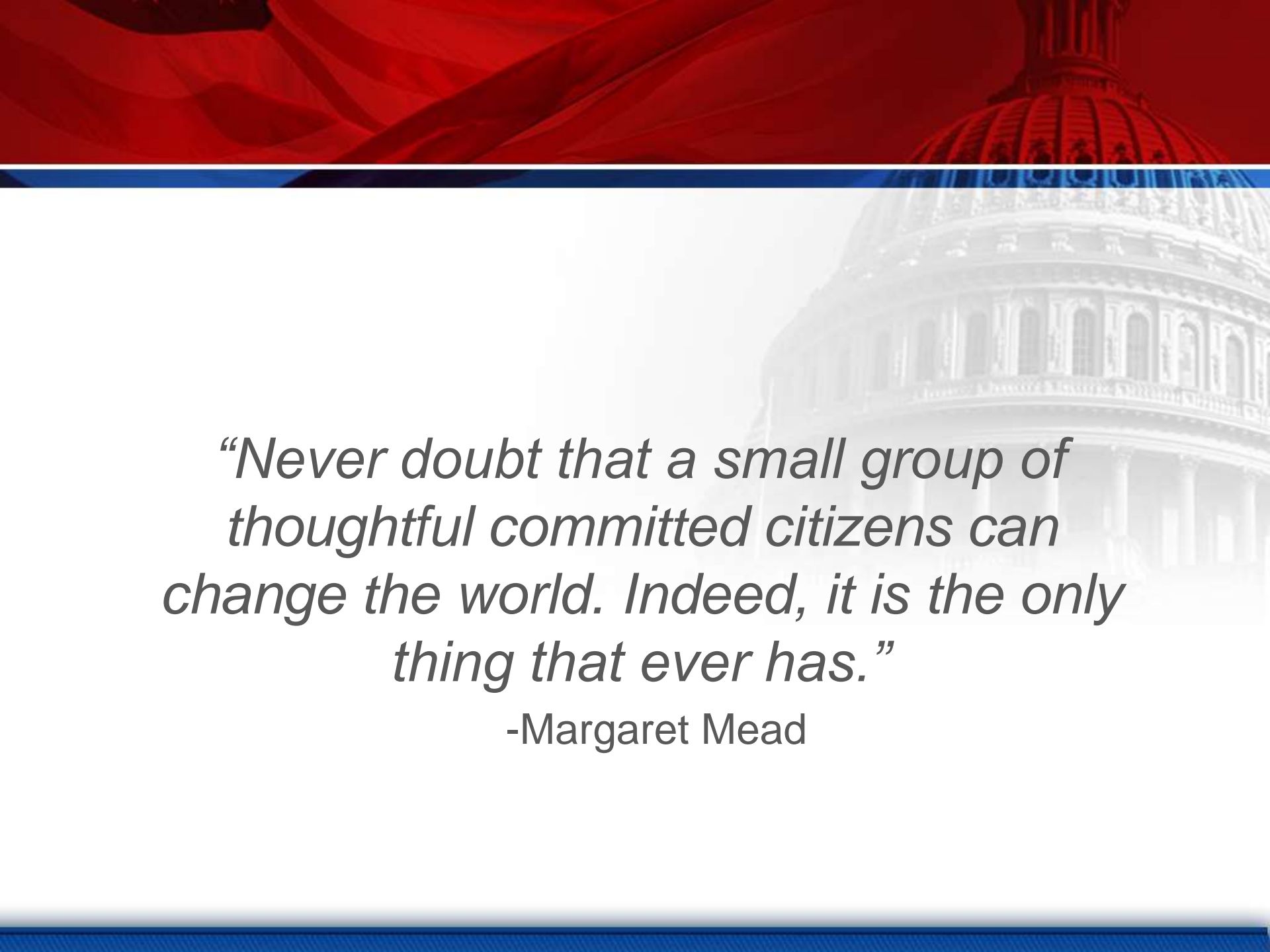


#ReviveCivility



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of identity. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live the narrow, provincial “outside agitator” idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds.”

Martin Luther King
Letter from Birmingham Jail
1963



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

Thank You!

Questions?



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