



Honey W. Nashman Center  
for Civic Engagement  
and Public Service



Bridge 

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 6:30 PM ET

# FINDING COMMON GROUND ON **GUNS**

*Senator (D-CT)*

**CHRIS MURPHY**



*Former Congressman (R-TX)*

**WILL HURD**



*Moderated by Former CBS News  
Correspondent / Author*

**JACQUELINE ADAMS**



## ABOUT COMMON GROUND COMMITTEE

Tonight's event is being produced by Common Ground Committee, a non-partisan, citizen-led organization that inspires action on polarizing issues by bringing prominent leaders with opposing views together in public forums to find common ground. A group of concerned citizens free of political agendas and financial influence, has a singular focus on bringing light, not heat, to public discourse.

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### COMMON GROUNDER DEFINITION

A Common Grounder seeks points of agreement on social and political issues through listening and productive conversation.

### THE TEN ATTRIBUTES OF COMMON GROUNDERS

They:

1. Commit to seeking agreement, progress and solutions.
2. Listen first to understand other perspectives and experiences.
3. Seek to understand a person's motives or intentions rather than assume them.
4. Seek outcomes that will address the concerns of all parties, but without the need to compromise fundamental principles.
5. Use and accept facts and objective information even when it does not fit their own views.
6. Identify and set aside personal biases.
7. Acknowledge that good people can have different views about the same issue.
8. Maintain a respectful tone and manner; do not give in to anger or retaliation.
9. De-escalate hostile situations.
10. Resist demonizing.

Common Grounders set the example for productive discourse and behaviors and thereby create other common grounders.

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— *Let's Find* —

**COMMON  
GROUND**

EXPLORING PATHS TO MORE PROGRESS, AND LESS DIVISION

With polarization dominating public discourse, can we find a path back to the common good? Tune in as journalists Richard Davies and Ashley Milne-Tyte explore diverse solutions to today's most urgent issues with top thought leaders, journalists and others committed to bipartisan action



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SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 6:30 PM ET

# FINDING COMMON GROUND ON GUNS



Friends,

Thank you for joining us tonight for this important event. At Common Ground Committee, our purpose is to bring healing to the political incivility and polarization that deeply challenges our nation. Underlying our motto, “Bringing Light, Not Heat to Public Discourse,” we believe that regardless of what one might read and see in the news, people with different viewpoints can work together on issues in a positive, productive way and make progress - even on tough problems - without compromising their fundamental principles. Common Ground Committee forums, which feature high-profile panelists, are designed to fully demonstrate that fact.

Despite their different perspectives and political experiences, you can look forward to a robust but civil conversation between these two leaders, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) and former Congressman Will Hurd (R-TX), as they provide insight and find common ground on guns and gun policy. Prepare to be inspired!

With appreciation,

Bruce Bond,  
*Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer*  
*Common Ground Committee*

Erik Olsen,  
*Co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer*

For more information, go to: [www.commongroundcommittee.org](http://www.commongroundcommittee.org)

## **BRIDGE GW**

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BridgeGW is a chapter of BridgeUSA, a youth-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that creates spaces on high school and college campuses for open discussion between students about political issues. Its work emphasizes the importance of empathy and understanding, ideological diversity and solution-oriented politics. By engaging America’s youth in constructive discussions, Bridge USA is equipping the next generation of leaders with the skills necessary for navigating conflict, finding solutions across differences and building bridges in their communities.

## **NASHMAN CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

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The mission of the Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service is to integrate civic engagement into George Washington University’s educational work. It promotes equity and active citizenship in a diverse democracy, focuses GW’s resources to address community needs through reciprocal partnerships beyond the campus, and enhances teaching, learning, and scholarship at GW. Learn more.

## Will Hurd

### Former Congressman (R-TX)

Will Hurd is currently a managing director at Allen & Company and former member of Congress, cybersecurity executive, and undercover officer in the CIA. For almost two decades he's been involved in the most pressing national security issues challenging the country, whether it was in the back-alleys of dangerous places, boardrooms of top international businesses or halls of Congress.

After stopping terrorists, preventing Russian spies from stealing our secrets, and putting nuclear weapons proliferators out of business, Will helped build a cybersecurity company that prepared businesses for the next domain of conflict – cyberspace.

While in Congress, Texas Monthly and Politico Magazine called Will “The Future of the GOP,” because he put good policy over good politics at a time when America was often consumed with what divides us rather than what unites us. He was able to get more legislation signed into law in three terms than most congressmen do in three decades – substantive legislation like a national strategy for Artificial Intelligence.

Will is a native of San Antonio and earned a Computer Science degree from Texas A&M University. Additionally, he is growing the US transatlantic partnership with Europe as a trustee of the German Marshall Fund, an OpenAI board member, and most recently served as a fellow at the University of Chicago Institute of Politics. He is also the author of *American Reboot: An Idealist's Guide to Getting Big Things Done*.







## Chris Murphy

US Senator (D-CT)

Chris Murphy is a United States Senator from Connecticut. He serves on the Foreign Relations Committee, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, and the Appropriations Committee. Prior to the Senate, Murphy served for three terms in the U.S. House representing the state's fifth congressional district. In Congress, Murphy is acknowledged as a leading voice for stronger anti-gun violence measures, a smarter foreign policy, and reform of our nation's mental health system.

Before being elected to Congress, Murphy served for eight years in the Connecticut state legislature. Murphy graduated with honors from Williams College in Massachusetts, and received his law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law. He is married to Catherine Holahan, an attorney, and they have two sons, Owen and Rider.



# FINDING COMMON GROUND ON GUNS

When you hear the panelists find common ground, write it in here in the Common Ground column

## ASSAULT-STYLE WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES

83% of Democrats believe assault-style weapons should be banned and 83% believe high-capacity magazines should be banned (Pew Research/2021).

Common Ground:

37% of Republicans believe assault-style weapons should be banned and 41% believe high-capacity magazines should be banned (Pew Research/2021).

## CONCEALED CARRY

20% of Democrats support allowing concealed carry in more places (Pew Research/2021).

Common Ground:

72% of Republicans support allowing concealed carry in more places (Pew Research/2021).

## GUNS IN SCHOOLS

90% of Democrats support preventing people with mental illnesses from buying guns (Pew Research/2021) and 80% support funding the study of the connection between mental health and gun violence (YouGov/2022).

Common Ground:

66% of Republicans support allowing teachers and officials in K-12 schools to carry guns (Pew Research/2021).

## NRA (NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION)

24% of Democrats have a very or mostly favorable view of the NRA (Gallup/2018).

Common Ground:

88% of Republicans have a very or mostly favorable view of the NRA (Gallup/2018).

## SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

92% of Democrats view controlling gun violence as more important than protecting gun rights (Marist/2022).

Common Ground:

70% of Republicans view protecting gun rights as more important than controlling gun violence (Marist/2022).

Sources:  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/09/13/key-facts-about-americans-and-guns/>  
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/236315/record-partisan-divide-views-nra.aspx>  
<https://www.npr.org/2022/06/09/1103661684/gun-control-npr-pbs-marist-survey-uvalde-buffalo-biden>  
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[https://reason.com/2022/09/09/the-largest-ever-survey-of-american-gun-owners-finds-that-defensive-use-of-firearms-is-common/?utm\\_medium=email](https://reason.com/2022/09/09/the-largest-ever-survey-of-american-gun-owners-finds-that-defensive-use-of-firearms-is-common/?utm_medium=email)  
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# FINDING COMMON GROUND ON GUNS



When you hear the panelists find common ground, write it in here in the Common Ground column

## RAISING MINIMUM AGE TO BUY GUNS

91% of Democrats support raising the minimum age to purchase any gun to 21 years old (Quinnipiac University/2022).

Common Ground:

59% of Republicans support raising the minimum age to purchase any gun to 21 years old (Quinnipiac University/2022).

## BACKGROUND CHECKS

89% of Democrats in urban areas and 90% of Democrats in rural areas believe private gun sales and sales at gun shows should be subject to background checks (Pew Research/2021).

Common Ground:

77% of Republicans in urban areas and 62% of Republicans in rural areas believe private gun sales and sales at gun shows should be subject to background checks (Pew Research/2021).

## MENTAL HEALTH

90% of Democrats support preventing people with mental illnesses from buying guns (Pew Research/2021) and 80% support funding the study of the connection between mental health and gun violence (YouGov/2022).

Common Ground:

85% of Republicans support preventing people with mental illnesses from buying guns (Pew Research/2021) and 68% support funding the study of the connection between mental health and gun violence (YouGov/2022).

## RED FLAG LAWS

85% of Democrats support the creation of red flag laws that allow a court to temporarily remove guns from people that are believed to pose a danger to themselves or others (YouGov/2022).

Common Ground:

55% of Republicans support the creation of red flag laws that allow a court to temporarily remove guns from people that are believed to pose a danger to themselves or others (YouGov/2022).

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Democrats (18%), non-White Americans (18%), women (19%) and Eastern residents (21%) are the least likely to report personal gun ownership (Gallup/2020).

Common Ground:

Republicans (50%), rural residents (48%), men (45%), and Southerners (40%) are the most likely subgroups to say they personally own a gun (Gallup/2020).

## JACQUELINE ADAMS - MODERATOR

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Jacqueline Adams is a natural “connector.” She has the unique ability to hear clients’ strategic concerns and find creative solutions, drawing upon her wealth of contacts and experiences in media, business, academic and civic circles. Through her boutique consulting firm, J Adams: Strategic Communications, LLC, she counsels corporate and non-profit clients.

During her two decades as an Emmy Award winning CBS News Correspondent, Ms. Adams covered the groundbreaking campaigns of Jesse Jackson for President and Geraldine Ferraro for Vice President before spending five years as a White House correspondent. She was a prolific contributor to the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather and CBS News Sunday Morning.

She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Advisory Committee of the United States Institute of Peace, and the Advisory Council of the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream. She serves on the boards of the Harvard Business School Club of New York and the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. A patron of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, she has spent seven years studying classical composers at the Juilliard School of Music’s Extension Division.

## PAST EVENTS/SPEAKERS

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### FINDING COMMON GROUND ON ELECTION REFORM

Donna Brazile | Michael Steele  
*Moderator – Jacqueline Adams*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND ON MEDIA, POLITICS, AND POLARIZATION

Chris Wallace | Jonathan Karl,  
*Moderator – Jacqueline Adams*

### TURNING RACISM & EXTREMISM INTO HOPE AND HEALING

Daryl Davis | Ryan Lo’Ree  
*Moderator – Wendi C. Thomas*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND ON THE NEW ECONOMY

Former Governor John Kasich  
Former HUD Secretary  
Julian Castro  
*Moderator – Kelly Evans*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND ON FACTS, FAKE NEWS, & THE MEDIA

Chris Wallace  
Maggie Haberman  
*Moderator – Linda Feldmann*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND ON THE NEW COLD WAR

General David Petraeus  
Ambassador Susan Rice  
*Moderator – Craig Melvin*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND AMERICA’S ROLE IN THE WORLD

Secretary of State John Kerry  
Secretary of State  
Condoleezza Rice  
*Moderator – Howard LaFranchi*

### IT’S TIME FOR A

#### FRANK CONVERSATION (TNP)\*

Hon. Barney Frank  
Hon. Chris Shays  
*Moderator – Bruce Bond*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN THE TRUMP ERA

Hon. Barney Frank  
Gov. John Sununu  
*Moderator – Gail Russell Chaddock*

### WHAT IS THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE NATION’S ECONOMY?

Stephen Moore | Mark M. Zandi  
Hon. Chris Shays  
*Moderator – John Yemma*  
*Facilitator – Dr. Kraft Bell*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND ON INCOME INEQUALITY

Larry Kudlow  
Jared Bernstein  
*Moderator – John Yemma*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND ON GOVERNMENT’S ROLE IN BRIDGING RACIAL DIVIDES

Donna Brazile  
Michael Steele  
*Moderator – Wendi C. Thomas*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND THEN & NOW

David Gergen  
Chris Matthews  
*Moderator – John Yemma*

### RETHINKING TAXES

Jared Bernstein  
Gail Russell Chaddock  
Art Laffer  
*Moderator – John Yemma*  
*Facilitator – Dr. Kraft Bell*

### A DOCTOR’S DILEMMA: RACE, VIOLENCE AND MEDICINE (TNP)\*

Dr. Brian Williams  
*Moderator – Bruce Bond*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND ON TAXES

Hon. Barney Frank  
Larry Kudlow  
*Moderator – Gail Russell Chaddock*

### CHINA: THREAT OR OPPORTUNITY?

Henry Tang  
Dr. John Rutledge  
Alan Tonelson  
Peter Ford  
*Moderator – John Yemma*  
*Facilitator – Dr. Kraft Bell*

### TALKING WITHOUT SHOUTING (TNP)\*

State Rep. Gail Lavielle  
Linda Feldmann  
Narda Alcorn  
Mary Fetchet  
*Moderator – Alexander Heffner*

### FINDING COMMON GROUND ON ENTITLEMENT REFORM

Sen. Judd Gregg  
Gov. Ed Rendell  
*Moderator – John Yemma*  
*Facilitator – Dr. Kraft Bell*

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\* (TNP) Denotes event done in collaboration with The Nantucket Project.





Finding Common Ground on Media, Politics and Polarization



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### **Honey W. Nashman Center for Civic Engagement and Public Service**

Amy Cohen and Amy-Leah Joaquim

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### **George Washington University Event Team**

Ebony Smith and Drew Thomas

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### **Bridge GW**

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### **Team Common Ground**

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Executive Producer: Donna Vislocky | Director: Freddie Dorn | Photography: Herman Farrer

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Visit our website, sign up for our newsletter, subscribe to our podcast and learn how well your elected officials seek common ground in our Common Ground Scorecard.



CGC Scorecard



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