

COMMON GROUND COMMITTEE PUBLIC FORUM

Finding Common Ground For Economic Opportunity In the Trump Era

PERSPECTIVES ON	Left	COMMON GROUND	Right
Jobs & Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in infrastructure projects • Raise the minimum wage • Encourage higher labor standards globally • Promote legislation to bolster the middle class 	<p>Trade deals are good, but they all hurt the same set of low skilled workers. They need to include help for those who the deal hurts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower tax rates to encourage business and employment growth (“free market capitalism”) • Maintain federal minimum wage; let states determine their levels • Stimulate small-business job growth by reducing barriers to start and build businesses • Privatize infrastructure
Economic Opportunity and the Social Safety Net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shore-up Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid • Improve ACA • Move toward single-payer • Invest in education / retraining; reduce or eliminate college tuition and debt • Legislate equal pay 	<p>People need not only financial income but “psychic income”.</p> <p>Good policy needs to compensate those who lose because of it.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase minimum Social Security eligibility age • Replace ACA with system of healthcare tax vouchers • Reduce funding for public education; offer school vouchers; encourage enrollment in charter schools • Let free markets work

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Taxes and Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the tax code more progressive to reduce income inequality • Enforce existing banking regulations • Institute regulations that protect against climate change. 	<p>President Obama’s rule restricting “corporate inversions” – the practice of incorporating otherwise American companies overseas in low-tax havens to avoid taxes – was helpful</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower taxes for individuals and businesses to stimulate growth • Rollback regulations that constrain business growth. • Environmental regulations should consider risk / reward.
Immigration in an Era of Globalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make DACA law • Trade agreements that support US workers 	<p>We don’t want people living in this country who have no intention or means to become citizens</p> <p>Passing DACA is a matter of fairness, not economics. Dreamers have very little impact on the economy in total</p> <p>DACA is a good opportunity for Congress to find common ground to get other things done</p> <p>NATO allies need to pay more of their fair share for their defense</p> <p>UN dues need to be better spent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure the borders • Trade agreements that boost US companies

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PERSPECTIVES ON	COMMON GROUND
<p>Citizen Participation in Political Discourse and Action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governing in American democracy is designed to be hard. It's not "gridlock." • We need civil disagreements to refine the best laws and find where the common ground is • With government, results come slowly • The problem with media in the 21st Century is the Internet. Since anybody can get access to a mass audience and because there are no more filters and limited fact checking, one must seek three sources and other means in order to ensure information accuracy • The media doesn't cover the good things that the government does • Everyone in politics wishes they didn't have to raise money • The argument that people should be protected from opposing opinions is a problem • The problem with internet media isn't new; politicians (e.g. FDR and his "fireside chats" have always used new media to go directly to voters and circumvent editors. • Protests are fine, but useless if they don't lead to political action • Voters are those who vote in final elections but not primaries are making a mistake. More mainstream voters need to take part in primaries. Otherwise people at the extremes of the political spectrum will get elected. This is an issue with both parties. • Voters need to vote out obstructionists

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COMMON GROUND COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

*TO PURSUE INITIATIVES THAT WILL REVEAL COMMON GROUND
FOR FINDING TRUTH, CLARITY, UNDERSTANDING, AND PROGRESS
ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE IN A CIVIL MANNER THAT DOES NOT
REQUIRE COMPROMISE OF FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES.*