



COMMON GROUND COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022

**MORE PROGRESS.
LESS DIVISION.**

LEADERSHIP / BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CGC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) citizen-led organization dedicated to bringing healing to the national challenges of polarization and incivility. Free of political agenda and financial influence, CGC has a singular focus on bringing light, not heat, to public discourse.

BRUCE BOND *Co-Founder & CEO, Board Chair*

ERIK OLSEN *Co-founder, CFO, Board Member*

DON HOLTZ *Board Member*

CHIP HORNER *Board Member*

INEZ MAUBANE JONES *Board Member*

GINA LINDQUIST-BAILEY *Board Member*

URSULA MUELLER *Board Member*

BARRY PERSKY *Board Member*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Dear Friends,

We live in times of great division and great disillusion with many of our country's institutions. The country is facing difficult issues and yet many citizens and elected officials are far more focused on what divides us while missing the many things on which we have close agreement. It's no secret that the public is disillusioned with government's ability to come together and address tough problems. And based on the news headlines, it's no wonder.



But though so many are discouraged, we're not – thanks to folks like you.

Your dedication to seeking common ground solutions gives us hope for real change. As we reflect on a year of remarkable growth, your support has been invaluable and encouraging, and we have felt it.

Last year, we worked hard to **shed light on common ground examples and opportunities within timely topics** like climate change, race, and more. Our events, which have expanded to include online presentation, brought together luminaries like Donna Brazile and Michael Steele and reached tens of thousands of people. And our podcast *Let's Find Common Ground*, which shares insights from top thought leaders, has surpassed **200K downloads** and has **over 100k subscribers**.

We made inroads to **hold our leaders accountable** by improving our Common Ground Scorecard, the first tool that allows voters to research how elected officials rank on bipartisanship; met with highly-ranked legislators to elevate the discussion; brought national attention to the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus and testified in front of the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

And, critically, we **gave hope** to the exhausted majority of Americans by sharing inspiring stories of how people and legislators with different political views are finding common ground. We've seen green shoots develop and are working to make those stories more visible and valued.

As we look to the coming months of an important election year, we are striving to build on this positive momentum. This is pioneering work bolstered by a growing wave of support, and you are part of it. Together, let's take action to heal divisions, and bring about real progress.

With gratitude,

Handwritten signatures of Bruce Bond and El Ohr in black ink.

TESTIMONIALS

What Donors and Supporters Are Saying About Common Ground Committee...

“

Our country is built on a balance of individualism and community, two good ideas, but right now we are out of balance. A focus and a reminder that democracy is built on compromise and respect versus winning at all costs is so important if we are going to realize the potential of our country. Common Ground Committee is building the consciousness and the structure to remind us that we are all in this together and that we can work together for the good of our country and our citizens.

”

AMANDA WEITMAN

“

Our two-party system is caught in an endless loop to win voters, but not build up our ability to find common ground. That is, we are in an unending loop where each side regards the other as an inherently hostile opponent who is unfit to govern the country, or even to be considered American.

The Common Ground Committee stands almost alone in the public forum to emphasize the values this nation is founded upon: equality, the rule of law, equal opportunity, a government of, by, and for the People.

We must change the focus of the public mind from dwelling on hostile, exclusionary divisions to focusing on the common values and virtues that unite us. I don't know of any work underway for the future of this country that is more important than that of the Common Ground Committee.

”

DONNA BRAZILE
ABC NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

“

What I most appreciate about the Common Ground Committee is the principle they bring to their work, and the professionalism with which they do it. It is rare to find a group so genuinely committed to doing good with practical expertise in driving change. They are a wonderful lesson in how to get good done.

”

MARK SAPPENFIELD
EDITOR, THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

“

These events are so important because they demonstrate that it is possible for people who feel strongly about an important issue to work together in a way that brings out how we might make progress on that issue. Common Ground Committee has inspired me by showing me what's possible, and to think differently about how to approach those I disagree with in political conversations.

”

ED GLASSMEYER

HOW DIVIDED ARE AMERICANS?

On average, Democrats and Republicans are farther apart ideologically today than at any time in the past 50 years (Pew Research Center analysis of Voteview, March 2022).

Pew Research also indicates that congressional Democrats and Republicans are further apart ideologically than at any point during the past five decades.

But these factors alone do not tell the whole story.

Research also indicates that on a wide range of issues and policies, Americans from both parties can find agreement (Common Ground of the American People Research Project).

Further, two-thirds of Americans say they are more likely to vote for a candidate willing to compromise with others in order to get results, over a candidate who constantly fights for the values without getting results (The Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service's Battleground Poll).

There is a deep yearning in the country to move beyond our current culture wars and address the deep issues we are facing. These studies show that the root of our divisions is attitudinal. And attitudes can change with greater understanding. Our supporters want CGC to help in specific ways.

The primary desire of our supporters and funders – people like you – is to restore hope in the future of the country. To regain a sense of what is possible, and that progress can be made. You want a clear view of the issues and to understand a path forward that enables progress. Equally important, you want to hold leaders accountable for taking action and solving problems. Our own proprietary research indicates these desires.

CGC has had a significant impact on these concerns

EMPOWERING VOTERS

to support legislators who will seek common ground

- ★ The Common Ground Scorecard
- ★ Congressional members who affirm commitments to seek common ground
- ★ Our ongoing support of Congress's Problem Solvers Caucus

AND IS POISED TO DO MORE

BUILDING UNDERSTANDING

on the issues and a path forward

- ★ Online portals that do a deep dive on climate change, bridging racial divides and polarization
- ★ Blog posts that inform and educate
- ★ Insights from event and podcast experts

INSPIRING HOPE

by demonstrating what good looks like

- ★ Events
- ★ Podcasts
- ★ Growth in attendance and viewership

Despite disruptions in society, the reach and effect of CGC has been profound. Our mostly digital events connected audiences with thought and political leaders from the left and right who expressed countless points of common ground on a variety of issues.

LAST 4 CGC EVENTS



2,000+
registrations



30,000+
digital views

The grid displays the following event details:

- GUNS**: September 27, 2022, 6:30 PM ET. Hosted by Senator Chris Murphy and former Congressman Will Hurd. Moderated by Jacqueline Adams.
- STAR(S) AND STRIFE**: October 19, 2020. Sponsored by Common Ground Committee & Bridge Alliance. Moderated by David Brooks. Guests include David Smick, Hawk Newsome, Leon Panetta, and Katherine Gehl.
- FACTS, FAKE NEWS & THE MEDIA**: February 25, 2020 @ 5:00 PM. Hosted by Chris Wallace and Maggie Haberman. Brought to you by Columbia Journalism School.
- A FRANK CONVERSATION**: Hosted by the Nantucket Project and Common Ground Committee.
- AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD**: Hosted by John Kerry and Jacqueline Adams.
- THE NEW COLD WAR**: Hosted by Donna Brazile, Michael Steele, and Jacqueline Adams.
- ELECTION REFORM**: Hosted by Donna Brazile, Michael Steele, and Jacqueline Adams.
- THE NEW ECONOMY**: Hosted by John Kasich, HUD Sec. Julian Castro, and Michael Steele. Moderated by Kelley Evans.
- RETHINKING TAXES**: A Public Forum hosted by the Common Ground Committee.
- MEDIA POLITICS AND POLARIZATION**: Zoom Webinar, April 24, 2022, 8:00PM - 9:00PM ET. Hosted by Chris Wallace, Jacqueline Adams, and Jonathan Karl.
- TURNING RACISM & EXTREMISM TO HOPE and HEALING**: Hosted by Davey Davis, Wendy C. Thomas, and Ryan Lohr. MLK50 and Bridge Project.
- FINDING COMMON GROUND Then & Now**: Hosted by the Common Ground Committee.

A Variety of Our Past Events

LET'S FIND COMMON GROUND PODCAST

Exploring paths to more progress, and less division

EPISODE 21 Featuring Peter Baker & Susan Glasser



EPISODE 25 Depolarizing America



EPISODE 28 Climate Series



EPISODE 31 Climate Series



EPISODE 37 Partner Series



EPISODE 43 Featuring Zachary Karabell & Emma Vavaloucas



EPISODE 47 Partner Series



EPISODE 50 Race Series



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



EPISODE 22

Depolarizing America



Featuring
Tania Israel

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 23 Partner Series



Featuring
Kelly Johnston & Rob Fersh

CONVERGENCE

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 24 Race Series



Featuring
Hawk Newsome



Featuring
Dr. Peter T. Coleman

EPISODE 26 Depolarizing America



Featuring
Jessica Carpenter & Manu Meel

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 27 Depolarizing America



Featuring
Dr. Peter T. Coleman

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 29 Depolarizing America



Featuring
David Jolly

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 30 Climate Series



Featuring
Stephanie Hanes & Mark Trumbull

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 35 Partner Series



Featuring
Howard Gleckman, Stuart Butler & Paul Van de Water

CONVERGENCE

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 36 Partner Series



Featuring
Becky Pringle & Gisela Huff

CONVERGENCE

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 41 Bridge Builders in Congress



Featuring
Jay Baruch, MD

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 42 Climate Series



Featuring
Katharine Hayhoe

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

HOLIDAY SPECIAL EPISODE

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 44 Featuring Select Podcast Guests

EPISODE 53

Bridge Builders in Congress



Featuring
Rep. Derek Kilmer &
Rep. William Timmons

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 46 Partner Series



Featuring
David Scott

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 49 Bridge Builders in Congress



Featuring
Rep. Don Bacon &
Rep. Kurt Schrader

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 52 Partner Series



Featuring
Marc Howard &
Daren Stoenow

CONVERGENCE

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 5 Race Series



Featuring
Daryl Davis

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 15 Bridge Builders in Congress



Featuring
Rep. Bryan Fitzpatrick & Rep. Abigail Spanberger

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 54 Depolarizing America



Featuring
Mónica Guzmán

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 55 Featuring Ryan Busse



Featuring
Ryan Busse

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 56 Partner Series



Featuring
Jessica Mendoza & Jingnan Peng

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

EPISODE 15 Bridge Builders in Congress



Featuring
Rep. Abigail Spanberger

Let's Find
COMMON GROUND

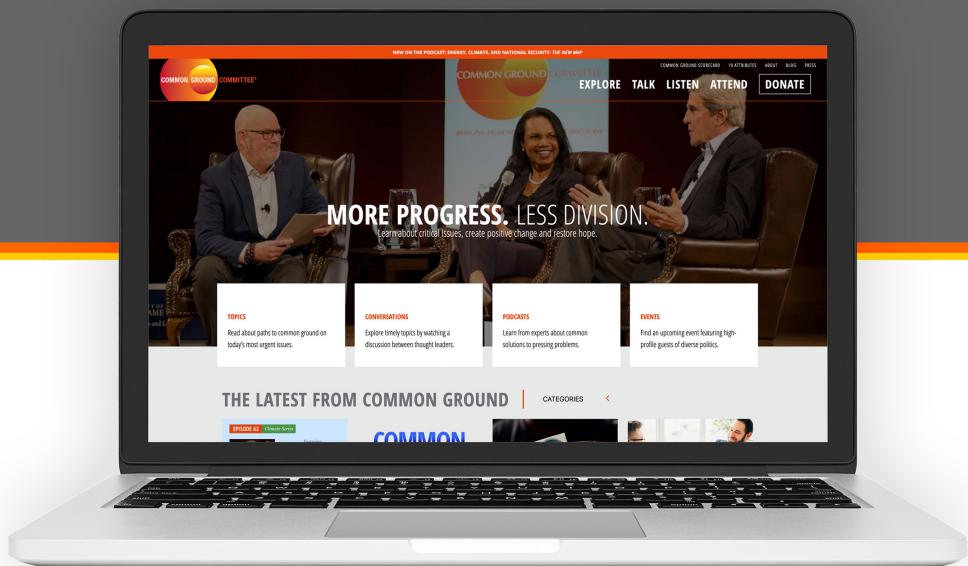
Now at over 200K downloads

REACHING 200K IN 2022

The CGC website is a hub OF DIGITAL CONTENT

50,000+

visits to the
CGC website
from 1/21 to 6/22

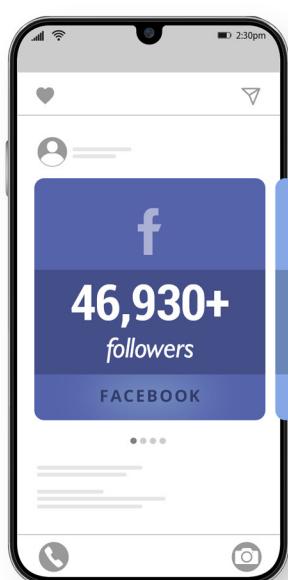


The site features portals that dive deep on the country's issues including climate change, elections, racial divides and polarization. Visitors can watch CGC events, listen to podcasts and read relevant blog posts.

CGC HAS A VIBRANT FOLLOWING ON...

Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and YouTube.

61,000+
total social following



f
46,930+
followers
FACEBOOK

10,100+
followers
TWITTER

Instagram
2,850+
followers

in
970+
followers
LINKEDIN

YOUTUBE
500+
followers



COMMON GROUND Scorecard

A unique digital tool for voters launched in 2020, assesses the ability and propensity for a candidate to work across the aisle to find common ground that breaks gridlock.

Candidates are reacting to the Scorecard by affirming the commitment to be a Common Grounder. Local media's response has been enthusiastic with dozens of articles written to date.

CGC launched an improved version of the tool in July 2022 and anticipates an even greater response for this year's election season.

OVER
18,000
VISITS since
launching
in 2020



2/3 OF AMERICANS SAY... *they are more likely to vote for*

a candidate
willing to compromise
with others

IN ORDER TO GET RESULTS

O
V
E
R

a candidate
who constantly fights
for the values
W/O GETTING RESULTS

See what officials are saying...

Abigail Spanberger CONGRESSWOMAN

"Virginians expect me to find common ground on a wide range of issues — because that's how long-lasting progress is achieved and effective policies are delivered. With the release of the 2022 Scorecard, I'm proud to be recognized for my efforts to build consensus and actually get things done for the people I serve. I want to thank the Common Ground Committee for expecting more from America's elected officials and for encouraging good-faith cooperation between both parties in Congress. As I've said before, we achieve progress by governing — not grandstanding."

Don Bacon CONGRESSMAN

"Being bipartisan does not mean we compromise our values or the promises we made to our constituents. This scorecard has allowed us to share with our constituents that we are here to serve each of them, regardless of political ideology. Whether it is a passport issue, problems with the IRS, or understanding veterans' benefits, this scorecard gives our constituents the ease of mind knowing we are here to try and help resolve their issues with federal agencies."

COMMON GROUND COMMITTEE

IN THE NEWS

2021 - 2022

FIRST EDITION



ABC's Jonathan Karl at CGC event: The media 'unfortunately' played right into claims it was the 'opposition party' to Trump

AUGUST 27, 2022

The Washington Post

CGC featured in story on panelist Chris Wallace & shuttering of CNN+

APRIL 25, 2022



USA
TODAY

TOXIC POLARIZATION IS POISONING AMERICA.
HERE'S HOW TO STOP IT.

USA Today published a joint op-ed written by CGC's CEO and co-founder, Bruce Bond, along with other members of the bridging movement.

APRIL 2, 2022



Authority Magazine

PUTTING THE "UNITED" BACK INTO THE UNITED STATES: BRUCE BOND AND ERIK OLSEN OF CGC ON THE 5 THINGS THAT EACH OF US CAN DO TO HELP UNITE OUR POLARIZED SOCIETY

An Interview With Tyler Gallagher

APRIL 23, 2022

FINANCIAL TIMES

CGC FEATURED IN PIECE ON CORPORATE RESPONSE TO DEMOCRATIC INSTABILITY

The article by Andrew Edgecliffe-Johnson explores how US business leaders mobilized to defend democracy following January 6th, but have since grown complacent before the public attacks on voting rights.

DECEMBER 22, 2021

Newsweek

Chris Wallace says at CGC event he's in 'good shape' after leaving Fox for doomed CNN+

APRIL 27, 2022

THE HILL

LAWS SHOULD UNITE, NOT DIVIDE

by Bruce Bond and Erik Olsen

OCTOBER 15, 2021



This Org Uses Data To Find Which Politicians Are the Best at Finding Common Ground

AUGUST 11, 2022