



## Introducing Braver Politics Offerings for Elected Officials, Their Staff, and Their Constituents

Braver Politics **is** the newest initiative of Braver Angels. **Braver Politics** fosters opportunities for elected officials, their staff, and constituents – at the national, state, county, and community levels – to develop the skills and commitment to work together in goodwill across political differences. Our vision for Braver Politics:

American political institutions operate in the spirit of citizenship and common purpose, where elections are viewed as valid by voters in both parties and trust is restored between voters and the officials they elect.

**We offer the following facilitated experiences *at no charge*.**

### Managing Difficult Conversations with Constituents and Colleagues

This workshop presents listening and speaking skills for elected officials at all levels, within the framework of how to deal with disagreeing constituents and colleagues. It is nonpartisan, making it especially useful for nonpartisan local officials.

Participants: no limit on size

Duration: 2 hours

### Red/Blue Workshop for Elected Officials

This workshop includes discussion of life experiences which have influenced personal values and beliefs about public policy and community well-being, offers insight into and understanding of the thought processes of those across the aisle (fishbowl exercise), and forges stronger inter-party relationships.

Participants: Republican/Democratic balance; 5-6 from each side.

Duration: 3 or 6 hours

### Handling Difficult Phone Calls: A Workshop for Staff

This workshop prepares staff of elected officials to manage phone conversations with constituents in this polarized era. The scenarios reflect the real world experience of staff, including dealing with The Talker, The Attacker, the Arguer, and The Intruder. Participants learn strategies and skills for being respectful and learning about constituent concerns while also protecting their time and personal boundaries.

Participants: Staff at any level of government who take constituent phone calls. Duration: 2 hours

### Red/Blue Workshop for Staff of Elected Officials

This workshop includes discussion of life experiences which have influenced personal values and beliefs about public policy and community well-being, a fishbowl exercise that centers around specific issues of importance to each side, and forges stronger inter-party relationships.

Participants: Any staff member of an elected official.

Duration: 3 or 6 hours

### Constituent Conversations: A Workshop with Elected Officials

This is a moderated discussion between the elected official and a small group of politically diverse constituents who share their views on two issues which are chosen in advance. The focus is on how participants' life experiences play into their concern about the issue, and the elected official also shares perspectives.

Participants: Any elected official and their constituents.

Duration: 2 1/2 hours

### Braver Politics Town Halls

The Braver Angels Town Hall focuses on an issue chosen in advance. Hour 1: citizens in small, mixed groups discussing the issue and finding common ground. Hour 2: moderated conversation among the citizens and one or two elected officials.

Participants: Any constituent or member of the public.

Duration: 2 hours

