

# About Braver Angels

We're Depolarizing America - Online and Off — Braver Angels brings together Red and Blue Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America. We welcome people with strong convictions and principles. We believe the best way to achieve a more perfect Union is by being forthright and transparent about our political leanings. In that spirit, we say to our fellow Americans, “Come with your convictions, your willingness to listen, and your readiness to talk with others who disagree with you.”

We also recognize that political beliefs are often complex. A person can belong to a party and not agree with that party's positions on all issues or candidates. Similarly, one can belong to no party and yet have an overall leaning to the left or right. For instance, research shows that over a third of American voters are registered Independents. However, the vast majority of Independents say they still lean one way or the other: only 7 percent of American voters say they have no leaning either way (Pew 2019 report).

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DEMONSTRATION ONLY



## Braver Angels (BRVR)

### Description:

Braver Angels is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Roughly half of our budget goes to our paid staff. The other half goes to support our various programs, including Red/Blue workshops, skills training, Braver Angels debates and our Braver Angels media.

### Stakeholder(s):

#### Braver Angels Groups :

*Braver Angels uses the terms “Red” and “Blue” to signify that a person may be inclined Red or Blue but not agree completely with that party’s candidates or positions on all issues. We also recognize that some Americans don’t identify as leaning Red or Blue. We welcome those Others to join us in our mission of bringing together Red and Blue Americans to depolarize America. In brief, here is the way we understand the terms Red, Blue, and Other.*

#### Red Groups :

*Voters who lean conservative philosophically on most issues (or on some issues critical to them), or who tend to vote for Republicans*

- *A Red may or may not support Republicans, some Republican candidates, or all of the Republican party’s platform.*
- *A Red may lean liberal or moderate on some issues or candidates.*
- *A Red may belong to a third party such as the Libertarians, or no party.*

#### Blue Groups :

*Voters who lean liberal or progressive philosophically on most issues (or on some issues critical to them), or who tend to vote for Democrats*

- *A Blue may or may not support Democrats, some Democratic candidates, or the Democratic Party’s platform.*
- *A Blue may lean conservative or moderate on some issues or candidates.*
- *A Blue may belong to a third party such as the Greens, or no party.*

#### Others Groups :

*Voters who do not lean either Red or Blue*

- *An Other may be registered as a member of any political party or have no party affiliation.*
- *An Other may lean conservative on some issues or candidates and lean liberal on others.*
- *An Other can participate in all Braver Angels events (except the Red/Blue workshop where they are welcome as Observers).*

- *An Other can assume volunteer leadership positions within Braver Angels.*
- *An Other can become a moderator, organizer, debate chair, and Alliance member.*
- *An Other may assume a Red or Blue “color for a day,” or assume the Red or Blue color that matches their position on a Skills or Issue workshop, in order to participate that day.*

### Braver Angels Leaders

#### Mark Beckwith :

*PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR — Mark Beckwith is the retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark (NJ), and now serves as the Bishop Liaison for Bishops United Against Gun Violence, a network of 100 bishops. He is co-host of A Matter of Faith on NJ Public Television, and is also a spiritual director and a life coach.*

#### David Blankenhorn :

*CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT — David Blankenhorn is president and co-founder of Braver Angels. He co-founded the National Fatherhood Initiative in 1995, founded the Institute for American Values in 1988, and has authored or co-edited 14 books. He grew up in Mississippi and now lives with his family in New York City.*

#### Julie Boler :

*PARTNERSHIPS SPECIALIST — Julie Boler’s expertise is in nonprofit work addressing sociopolitical problems, comprising decades of experience in training and curriculum development, staff supervision, research, writing, and quality assurance. She began volunteering with Braver Angels in 2018 and joined the national leadership team in January of 2020.*

#### Barb Brown :

*STATE COORDINATOR CALL COORDINATOR — After her life as a homemaker changed, Barbara Boldt Brown spent six years selling cars before buying and operating several child development schools. She then worked with a school district doing parenting and prenatal training along with home visits. Now she is a middle school substitute and is pursuing an M.A.*

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## Stakeholders (continued)

**Bill Doherty :**

**CO-FOUNDER** — Bill Doherty is a co-founder of Braver Angels and the creator of the Braver Angels workshop approach. Bill is a Professor and Director of the Minnesota Couples on the Brink Project in the Department of Family Social Science at the University of Minnesota. Bill combines a background in family therapy and community engagement.

**Dee Endelman :**

**MODERATOR ORIENTATION CALL COORDINATOR** — Dee Endelman lives in Seattle, WA and has a Masters Degree in Organizational Development from Antioch University. Before retiring, she worked on the people side of business for 40 years, first as a Human Resources executive, and then as a group facilitator, trainer and leadership coach.

**Bruce France :**

**ORGANIZER CALL COORDINATOR** — After graduating Springfield College, Bruce France spent 40 years in business. Positions included sales, operations, management and a five-year stint running his own retail store. He is now in a second career as Executive Director for the Capital Area Council of Churches in Albany, NY.

**Randy Freeman :**

**MODERATOR CALL COORDINATOR** — Randy Freeman is a practicing Psychotherapist. She had been the Braver Angels state coordinator in NJ and recently became one of the NY coordinators. A member since 2016, she has moderated many red/blue workshops and skills workshops and co-hosts monthly moderator calls.

**Mónica Guzmán :**

**SENIOR MEDIA ADVISER** — Mónica Guzmán is a Seattle-based journalist who lives for good conversation sparked by challenging questions. She's cofounder of *The Evergrey*, a former columnist at *The Seattle Times*, a recent fellow at Harvard's Nieman Foundation for Journalism and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, an immigrant and dual U.S.-Mexico citizen, and the mom of two bilingual kiddos.

**Lynn Heady :**

**CO-DIRECTOR (BLUE) - NATIONAL FIELD OPERATIONS** — Lynn Heady, from Nashville, TN, currently serves as Braver Angels Co-Director of Field Operations. Now retired, Lynn is a life-long educator whose successful career has included Curriculum and Instruction Director in two public school districts and collaborator in the design and direction of a world-class preschool and day school. Lynn has also taught graduate level curriculum courses online and on-land.

**Ron Heady :**

**ORGANIZER CALL COORDINATOR** — Ron Heady taught in public schools for many years, primarily high school English and Latin. Since leaving the face-to-face classroom, Ron has continued teaching in various online environments and volunteers with a social justice advocacy group in Nashville, TN, in addition to his work with Braver Angels.

**Paul Kuhne :**

**EVALUATION AND DATA ANALYTICS COORDINATOR** — Paul Kuhne works as the Roundtables Programs Manager at the Center for Open Data Enterprise, convening different stakeholders to identify best practices to improve open data use.

He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Temple University and an M.A. in Global Policy Studies at the LBJ School of Public Affairs.

**David Lapp :**

**CO-FOUNDER** — David Lapp is a co-founder of Braver Angels who currently serves as At-Large Organizer. Based on over one-hundred interviews with young adults, David and his wife, Amber, are writing a book, tentatively titled *Love Like Crazy: Looking for Marriage in Middle America*.

**April Lawson :**

**DIRECTOR OF DEBATES** — April Lawson leads Braver Angels' Debate and Public Discourse Program. She grew up in Kansas, studied anthropology at Yale, and now lives in Washington, D.C. with her dog June. She worked for David Brooks at *The New York Times* for 4 years and previously cofounded and served as Associate Director of *Weave: The Social Fabric Project* at the Aspen Institute.

**Randy Lioz :**

**DIRECTOR OF ONLINE EXPERIENCE** — Randy Lioz studied economics at Duke and earned a business degree at Michigan. While he leads Braver Angels' development of online programs, he has several other roles, including state coordinator, moderator, and writer. He worked in the auto industry for over 15 years before joining the organization.

**Hillary Luehring-Jones :**

**DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION** — Hillary Luehring-Jones is a graduate of Connecticut College, where she studied film and digital media. Before joining Braver Angels, Hillary was an event planner working specifically with nonprofit organizations, and later wrote for a popular news website.

**Donna Adler :**

**DIRECTOR OF GRANTS** — Donna Adler spent more than 20 years working in higher education before joining Braver Angels. With a comprehensive institutional advancement background, she has extensive grant fundraising experience. A published writer, she holds a bachelor's degree in English. She resides in Ohio with her husband and cat Oscar.

**Donna Murphy :**

**LEAD ORGANIZER** — Donna Nielsen Murphy develops nationwide initiatives, and is currently working on Online 1:1 Conversations. She has been an economist in both the public and private sector, most recently at the U.S. State Department, and is the author of three books.

**Ciaran O'Connor :**

**CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER** — Ciaran O'Connor leads marketing, digital, and communications strategy for Braver Angels. Before joining Braver Angels in June 2017, Ciaran served as a staffer on the 2012 Obama campaign and the 2016 Clinton campaign, and worked as a political consultant at Precision Strategies. A native New Yorker, Ciaran holds a BA in public policy from Duke University.

**Luke Phillips :**

**MEDIA EDITOR** — Luke Nathan Phillips is a writer and editor living in the Washington D.C. area, whose life's quest is to better understand America, and help Americans to understand

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*Stakeholders (continued)*

*America a little better. He's done odd jobs in journalism, restaurants, band gigs, campaigns, tourism, conservation, and museums.*

**Steve Saltwick :**

*CO-DIRECTOR (RED) - NATIONAL FIELD OPERATIONS — Steve Saltwick partners with Lynn Heady to catalyze the growth and impact of our field organization (local Alliances and the 50 States). He is a bio-psychologist whose career took a path through high-tech on six continents. He researches the guiding principles of the mammalian brain. He has published in SCI-ENCE but prefers to dote on his first grandchild and two border collies.*

**Tom Smerling :**

*MODERATOR CALL COORDINATOR — Tom Smerling has worked for over 30 years on foreign and domestic policy, including positions with Minneapolis Mayor Donald Fraser and various Washington think tanks. He was founding director of an NGO to support active U.S. mediation of Arab-Israeli negotiations, and served in NOAA's Ocean Service.*

**Sage Snider :**

*DIRECTOR OF ARTS & CULTURE — Sage Snider is a performer, songwriter, and music historian based in Nashville, TN— where she performs with artists across the political spectrum. She began bringing arts and politics together by designing a “Music and Democracy in Ancient Greece” program for the Yale University Art Gallery. She later ran a Civil War music program for the Smithsonian of American History.*

**Glenn Stanton :**

*PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR — Glenn T. Stanton is the director of global family formation studies at Focus on the Family and the author of nine books, senior contributor to the Federalist blog and staff writer for The Daily Citizen. He debates and lectures extensively on the issues of gender, sexuality, marriage and parenting at universities and churches around the world.*

**Richard Stoff :**

*SENIOR ADVISOR — Richard Stoff is founder and retired president of the Ohio Business Roundtable, having served five governors and hundreds of corporate CEOs over 25 years to foster innovation, improve competitiveness and Ohio's quality of life. Previously, he was a Partner in the worldwide management consulting practice of Ernst & Young.*

**Rachel Weinstein :**

*CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER — With training in computer science, Rachel Weinstein has had extensive professional experience in fundraising, technology, and organizational growth. She's held senior positions at several non-profits and founded three companies. As CDO, she directs Braver Angels' fundraising activities.*

**John Wood, Jr. :**

*NATIONAL AMBASSADOR — John Wood, Jr. is a national leader for Braver Angels, a former nominee for Congress, former Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party of Los Angeles County, and a noted writer and speaker on issues of political and racial reconciliation.*

**Braver Angels Board of Directors****Hunter Baker :**

*Associate Professor of Political Science, Union University*

**David Blankenhorn :**

*President, Braver Angels*

**Raina Sacks Blankenhorn :**

*Writer*

**Mark Boyd :**

*Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia*

**Francis Fukuyama :**

*Olivier Nomellini Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University*

**Jonathan Haidt :**

*NYU Stern School of Business and Author of “The Righteous Mind”*

**JoAnn Luehring :**

*Roberts and Holland, LLP*

**Kouhyar Mostashfi :**

*Senior Software Engineer, CSRA*

**Glenn T. Stanton :**

*Director, Family Formation Studies and Strategic Development, Focus on the Family*

**Thomas K. Sylvester :**

*Chairman*

**Braver Angels State Coordinators****Louie Cannaday :**

*Alabama*

**Betsy Baker :**

*Alaska*

**Linnea Ward :**

*Alaska*

**Nirvair Khalsa :**

*Arizona*

**Joy Lubeck :**

*Arizona*

**Glen White :**

*Arkansas*

**Paul Norris :**

*California*

**Randy Lioz :**

*California*

**Steve Taddei :**

*California*

**Denice Davis :**

*Colorado*

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*Stakeholders (continued)*

**Lisa Forbes :**  
*Colorado*

**Helen Brickfield :**  
*Connecticut*

**Bart McMann :**  
*Connecticut*

**Katherine Cauley :**  
*Delaware*

**Blake Phillips :**  
*District of Columbia*

**Luke Phillips :**  
*District of Columbia*

**Paul Witte :**  
*Florida*

**Barbara Brown :**  
*Georgia*

**Dave Blanchard :**  
*Georgia*

**Denice Davis :**  
*Hawaii*

**Rob Hanson :**  
*Idaho*

**Chuck Stone :**  
*Illinois*

**Don Byrd :**  
*Indiana*

**Chris Peters :**  
*Iowa*

**Michael Norton :**  
*Kansas*

**Donna Murphy :**  
*Kentucky*

**Itara Sumeros :**  
*Louisiana*

**Douglass Teschner :**  
*Maine*

**Tom Smerling :**  
*Maryland*

**David S. Ball :**  
*Massachusetts*

**Sarah Brabbs :**  
*Michigan*

**Brian Golden :**  
*Michigan*

**Ruth Lunde :**  
*Minnesota*

**David Lapp :**  
*Mississippi*

**Rachelle Smith :**  
*Missouri*

**Christian Sarabia :**  
*Missouri*

**Janet Sedgley :**  
*Montana*

**Robert Mach :**  
*Nebraska*

**Kate Quinn :**  
*Nevada*

**Douglass Teschner :**  
*New Hampshire*

**Karen Reiner :**  
*New Jersey*

**Ellen Laird :**  
*New Jersey*

**Scott Lopez :**  
*New Mexico*

**Randy Freeman :**  
*New York*

**Michelle Brody :**  
*New York*

**Steve Warshaw :**  
*North Carolina*

**Krishana Polite :**  
*North Carolina*

**Denice Davis :**  
*North Dakota*

**Bev Horstman :**  
*Ohio*

**David Lapp :**  
*Oklahoma*

**Nancy Matela :**  
*Oregon*

**Karen Cotter :**  
*Pennsylvania*

**Karen Ward :**  
*Pennsylvania*

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*Stakeholders (continued)*

**Rosemary Mede :**  
*Rhode Island*

**Paula Appling :**  
*South Carolina*

**Denice Davis :**  
*South Dakota*

**Lynn Heady :**  
*Tennessee*

**Eric Buchanan :**  
*Tennessee*

**George Bouhasin :**  
*Texas — North, Panhandle and West (includes Dallas, El Paso and Amarillo)*

**Steve Saltwick :**  
*Texas — Central and South (includes Austin and San Antonio)*

**Steve Saltwick :**  
*Texas — Upper Gulf Coast and East (includes Houston and Beaumont)*

**Erika Munson :**  
*Utah*

**Douglass Teschner :**  
*Vermont*

**Jamie McReynolds :**  
*Virginia*

**Will Clemmer :**  
*Washington*

**Amy Funkhouser :**  
*Washington (Deputy)*

**Donna Murphy :**  
*West Virginia*

**Cameron Swallow :**  
*Wisconsin*

**Susan Vergeront :**  
*Wisconsin*

**Kris Korfanta :**  
*Wyoming*

**Tom Brantley :**  
*Wyoming*

**Braver Angels Funders :**

*Our primary source of funds comes from membership fees from individual Americans who believe in the mission of Braver Angels and who want to make a difference. Sources of Funding — Our Red/Blue rule applies to our funding sources as well as our leadership. In other words, we strive for roughly equal funding from foundations that are considered to be more liberal or progressive, and those foundations that are more closely associated with conservative causes. Why Funding is Needed — We strive to reflect the demographic composition of the United States, both politically and economically. We keep our dues very low so that anyone can afford to join Braver Angels, enjoy the benefits of membership and make a difference.*

**Foundations :**

*Braver Angels also draws funding from foundations across the political spectrum. Our 990 Forms — the annual IRS-required “Returns of Organizations Exempt from Income Tax” — filed as Institute for American Values, are the most detailed reports of our yearly expenditures and sources of income.*

## Vision

Citizens of different political beliefs and different backgrounds get to know each other as individuals and begin to heal the divisions that are endangering our country

## Mission

To unite red and blue Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America.

## Values

**Courage:** At this time of crisis, we need more than civility, empathy, and good will. We need courage.

**Civility**

**Empathy**  
**Good Will**

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## 1. Understanding

*Understand the other side's point of view*

We try to understand the other side's point of view, even if we don't agree with it.

### 1.1. Conversations

*Join conservatives and liberals for conversations*

Red/Blue Workshops — Red/Blue Workshops join conservatives and liberals for conversations that move beyond stereotypes, restoring our bonds as Americans... What is a Red/Blue Workshop? 5-8 Republican-leaning citizens (“Reds”) and 5-8 Democratic-leaning citizens (“Blues”) gather together for a half-day or full-day of structured conversations. Independents are also welcome to attend. We only ask that for the purposes of the workshop they identify as leaning either Red or Blue, or attend as observers. There are two types of Red/Blue workshops: 3-hour workshops that cover two exercises, and 6-hour plus lunch workshops that cover all four exercises. We recommend that people attend the 6-hour version if possible. Two moderators, trained by Braver Angels, lead the workshop, ensuring that ground rules are followed and that everyone is treated respectfully.

#### Stakeholder(s):

##### Conservatives

##### Liberals

##### Abraham Lincoln :

*Why? In Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address in 1861, with the nation on the brink of Civil War, he appealed to the “braver angels of our nature.” In our*

*dangerously divided nation, we all need to be touched by something better within us and within the country we share. We hold Red/Blue workshops so that citizens of different political beliefs and different backgrounds can get to know each other as individuals and begin to heal the divisions that are endangering our country.*

#### 1.1.1. Experiences & Beliefs

*Better understand the experiences and beliefs of those on the other side of the political divide.*

#### 1.1.2. Commonalities

*See if there are areas of commonality in addition to differences.*

#### 1.1.3. Learning

*Learn something that might be helpful to others in our community and the nation.*

The Process — After a brief introduction and discussion of ground rules, attendees of Red/Blue workshops participate in four exercises:

##### 1.1.3.1. Stereotypes

*Generate, discuss, and report back on the most common false stereotypes or misconceptions*

Stereotypes Exercise – Separate red and blue groups generate, discuss, and report back on the most common false stereotypes or misconceptions of their side, why these stereotypes are wrong, what is true instead, and whether there is a kernel of truth in the stereotype.

### 1.1.3.2. Fishbowls

*Listen and learn from those on the other side*

Fishbowl Exercise – In the Fishbowl exercise, one group sits in chairs in the middle and the other group sits around them to listen and learn. Then the two groups switch positions. There is no interaction between the groups during the fishbowl exercise. Afterwards, people are invited to share what they learned about how the other side sees themselves and if they see anything in common.

### 1.1.3.3. Questions

*Ask questions to the other side to gain genuine understanding of their views and experiences*

Questions Exercise – In the Questions exercise, separate groups of reds and blues meet to generate questions of understanding (as opposed to “gotcha” questions). They then merge into mixed groups of half reds and half blues, and ask the questions to the other side to gain genuine understanding of the views and experiences of people on the other side.

### 1.1.3.4. Contributions

*Determine what can be done promote better understanding of differences and search for common ground*

How Can We Contribute Exercise – Everyone fills out an action grid handout and then pairs up with someone of the other color to share one action step with the whole group. The question: What can each of us do individually, what can our side do, and what might both sides do together to promote better understanding of differences and search for common ground?

## 1.2. Training

*Teach Americans the powerful practice of empathetic conversation*

Online Skills Training — Our Skills workshops teach Americans the powerful practice of empathetic conversation, clarifying differences while preserving the relationships between us... What is a Skills for Bridging the Divide Workshop? In our current polarized political environment, many people avoid or dread political conversations with friends or family members whose politics differ from their own. They worry, rightly so, that any attempts at political discussions will devolve into arguments and acrimony, and result in hurt feelings or anger. Braver Angels Skills for Bridging the Divide Workshops teach skills for having respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of the relationship. They also give participants a safe environment to practice those skills. In addition to the standard skills workshop, Braver Angels also holds special skills workshops: one designed especially for Reds, and the other designed for Blues. Skills for Bridging the Divide workshops are approximately 2 ½ hours long.

#### **Stakeholder(s):**

#### **Bridging the Divide Groups :**

*Who Can Attend? Anyone interested in having better conversations with people on the other side of the political aisle. Unlike a Red/Blue workshop, Skills for Bridging the Divide does not require even numbers of Reds and Blues. These workshops can also be larger, up to 50 or so people. Skills for Bridging the Divide is ideal for organizations like communities of worship, social clubs or educational institutions who want to*

*reduce or avoid the divisiveness of political polarization.*

**Communities of Worship**

**Social Clubs**

**Educational Institutions**

### 1.2.1. Perspectives, Feelings & Experiences

*Learn about the perspectives, feelings, and experiences of someone you care about who differs from you politically*

### 1.2.2. Satisfaction

*Gain a sense of satisfaction about how you conveyed your own perspective, feelings, and experiences*

### 1.2.3. Common Ground

*Discover some common ground, if it's there*

The Process — After a brief introduction and a discussion about what can go wrong in political discussions, participants in a skills workshop can expect to learn the following:

#### 1.2.3.1. Tone

*Learn tone setting skills*

#### 1.2.3.2. Listening

*Learn listening skills*

#### 1.2.3.3. Speaking

*Learn speaking skills*

#### 1.2.3.4. Difficult Moments

*Learn how to handle difficult moments*

#### 1.2.3.5. Practice

*Practice these skills*

### 1.3. Debates

*Challenge each other on the issues while uplifting humility*

Weekly Online Debates — B.A. Debates are unique affairs. People from all walks challenge each other on the issues while uplifting humility. Bring your passion. Pursue the truth. Unite our communities. Online Debates — Welcome to a new kind of online debate, where Americans across the political spectrum debate our nation's most divisive issues in a constructive way. Braver Angels debates are not your traditional debate where you seek

to “beat” your opponent; they are a collective search for truth that brings forth vigor, passion, and greater understanding. Braver Angels Online Debates take place via Zoom conference call, moderated by a Trained Debate Chair. You must register in advance. Please note that Braver Angels may use footage from online debates in videos and/or marketing materials. Could you take a role in an upcoming event? We are seeking volunteers as speakers (for our flagship debates) or panelists (for our coliseum debates). Find the added button on some events below to express your interest. (We regret that we cannot reply to all applicants).

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## 2. Common Ground

*Look for common ground and ways to work together.*

We engage those we disagree with, looking for common ground and ways to work together.

### 2.1. Alliances

*Build movements for change*

Braver Angels Alliances — Are you ready to build a movement for change in your city or town? B.A. Alliances bring together citizens left, right and center to teach, advocate and organize.

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### 3. Principles

*Support principles that bring us together rather than divide us.*

**Stakeholder(s)**

**Braver Angels Alliances :**

*What is a Braver Angels Alliance? Braver Angels Alliances are local groups of people who have participated in a Braver Angels workshop, have become dues-paying members, and want to keep the conversation going and find*

*common ground. Alliances have at least one red co-chair and one blue co-chair. They prioritize having no more than a 60/40 split in red and blue membership. There can also be members who see themselves as true independents who do not lean red or blue.*

We support principles that bring us together rather than divide us.

#### 3.1. Depolarization

*Take appropriate action to depolarize America in ways that are right for each community*

What Do Braver Angels Alliances Do? The short answer is that Braver Angels Alliances do whatever they want that is consistent with the Braver Angels mission of depolarizing America and that is right for their community. There are four main streams of activity:

**Stakeholder(s):**

**Americans**

**Communities**

##### 3.1.1. Events

*Sponsor Braver Angels events in local communities*

Alliances sponsor Braver Angels events in the local community. These include Braver Angels Red/Blue Workshops, Skills workshops where participants learn effective ways to communicate with others who differ from them politically and Braver Angels Debates.

**Stakeholder(s):**

**Local Communities**

##### 3.1.2. Issues

*Delve deeper into specific issues*

Alliances delve deeper into specific issues, with the goal of seeking better understanding of how citizens on the other side are thinking about the issue.

##### 3.1.3. Public Policies

*Discuss public policy issues*

Alliances discuss public policy issues that the group democratically agrees to work on. The proposed criteria for choosing policy issues are: The issue directly addresses sources of polarization, OR the issue has wide red/blue support but is blocked by inertia or legislative polarization, A local group could make a difference when reds and blues go public together, The issue has at least one red and blue champion: that is, someone who is willing to spend time and energy to help lead and do work on the issue. To be adopted, it requires at least 75 percent support on both red and blue sides.

### 3.1.4. Other Activities

*Engage in other activities that local Alliances develop*

Alliances engage in other activities that local Alliances develop. These have included writing letter to the editor, town halls (without the rancor and the partisanship), and inviting local politicians and media members in to discuss how their institutions can help advance the cause of depolarization.

#### Administrative Information

**Start Date:**

**End Date:**

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