



Congress seems to be at a perpetual standstill, but a bipartisan group of members has finally stepped up to do something about it. The Problem Solvers Caucus, a group of 23 Democrats and 23 Republicans in the House, has introduced a set of proposals called "Break the Gridlock," intended to change the House rules and encourage members to work across the aisle. In this edition of Wide Angle, we'll dive into some common sense changes that could make the House function again. We'll also introduce you to a handy tool for anyone who wants to take on gerrymandering in their home state, and we will highlight a few news and opinion pieces that we think are worth reading.

Lastly, with back-to-school time coming up, take this week's quiz to test your knowledge of the Common Core!

## COME TOGETHER

### Break the Gridlock

Why is it so hard for Congress to get anything done? A bipartisan group of lawmakers says the rules of the House are rigged, and is **working hard to change them.**



## WELL GROUNDED

### Pushing Back Against Gerrymandering

Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly agree that voters, not lawmakers, should choose their elected officials. A new toolkit has everything you need to **push for fair redistricting** in your state.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

### The Common Core

It's almost back-to-school time! Common Core standards adopted in many states set knowledge and learning goals for students. How much do you know about the Common Core? **Take the quiz** and find out.



## WORTH READING

### News and Opinion Pieces We Found Interesting

*Our disclaimer: We don't endorse every idea and opinion in the articles below, but that's the point. Finding common ground begins with listening to other points of view.*

**FORBES:** New research on teachers' experience with the Common Core suggests that some parts are not working as intended, but that the standards might be spurring positive changes.

**WASHINGTON POST:** A columnist argues for a different yardstick in the debate over income and inequality.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR:** The first article in a series on challenges to democracy looks at ways in which population changes have affected voting and representation, and the impact of unwritten rules on the stability of democratic governments.

**NEW YORK TIMES:** More candidates for Congress are swearing off PAC money. They're seeking small donations and tying frustration on kitchen table issues to campaign finance.

**BROOKINGS:** A new initiative focuses on the declining prospects of the middle class, from stagnant incomes to downward mobility.



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