

## HOW TO HAVE BETTER (POLITICAL) CONVERSATIONS

Chaos or Community?

It's possible to make our political conversations [more civil](#).



## THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE

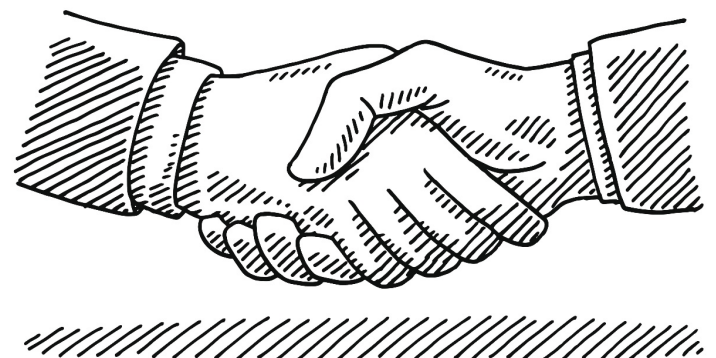
Don't let politics ruin them.

Here are four resources to help you navigate political discussions this [holiday season](#).

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Bipartisan Legislation

Can Congress ever agree? They have before. [Test your knowledge](#) about the greatest hits of bipartisanship!



# 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.*

- **Health Care:** Even though 2018 is the final year of the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate, more health plans are signing up to sell coverage -- and some premiums have dropped -- via [Vox](#).
- **Education:** California is the fifth-largest economy in the world, but the lack of access to a quality education in high-poverty areas limits opportunities for children -- via [The Los Angeles Times](#).
- **Education:** Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos calls the student loan system a "looming crisis" -- via [The Washington Post](#).
- **Environment:** Released on November 22, the U.S. National Climate Assessment describes the growing impact of wildfires, hurricanes, heat waves, and other climate-driven events on the nation. A University of Michigan climate scientist explains how climate change is amplifying wildfires -- and how innovative forest management plus carbon emissions cuts could blunt that trend -- via [The Conversation](#).
- **Foreign Policy:** U.S. automakers and parts suppliers warn that steel and aluminum tariffs, along with threatened tariffs on cars, will undermine the benefits of the new deal to modernize NAFTA, cause widespread job losses, and paralyze investment decisions -- via [Reuters](#).
- **Immigration:** A San Francisco judge halted new federal rules seeking to limit the ability of migrants to request asylum -- via [USA Today](#).
- **Immigration:** Even after the administration reversed its "zero-tolerance" policy, some family members, including small children, are still being separated at the border -- via [USA Today](#).
- **Freedom of Religion:** The Religious Freedom Restoration Act turned 25 this month. Forbes looks at the history of the Act, including its biggest successes and how it's faring today -- via [Forbes](#).

- **Gun Safety:** In the midterm election cycle, gun control violence prevention groups outspent the National Rifle Association -- via [The New York Times](#).
- **Gun Safety:** Pension funds and other investors want gun makers to support technologies to make guns safer, and to embrace best practices to prevent illegal sales and promote firearm safety -- via [CNCB](#).
- **Making Government Work:** Maryland's Governor is convening an emergency commission to redraw a gerrymandered congressional district -- in opposition to the state Attorney General -- via [The Baltimore Sun](#).
- **Making Government Work:** The Oxford English Dictionaries named "post-truth" its word of the year in 2016. The point of a lie is to convince someone that a falsehood is true. The goals of post-truth are different, and possibly much more damaging -- via [The Conversation](#).



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