

Welcome to the beginning of our ***We Have More In Common Than You Think*** series. We recognize that in these polarizing times our differences seem to take center stage but it is our belief that we actually have more in common with each other. We are your neighbors, your family, your friends, and your co-workers. Here are some important issues on which research suggests we have more in common.

Majorities of both Democrats and Republicans share common ground on several foundational values and specific policy areas, despite the high levels of partisan division.

Foundational Values

Government Accountability: Both parties believe the government should be accountable to the people, transparent, and maintain checks and balances.

Rule of Law: There is broad consensus that laws should be applied fairly and equally to everyone, regardless of wealth or political status.

Democratic Institutions: Large majorities in both coalitions—roughly 80%—say they respect the country's democratic institutions and traditions.

Common Policy Issues

A 2022 **YouGov study** identified 100 policies supported by majorities in both parties, including:

Education: Strong bipartisan support exists for providing **free lunch to low-income students (83% of Republicans, 90% of Democrats)**.

Public Safety & Crime: Both sides generally favor training police to de-escalate conflicts, mandating body cameras, and banning chokeholds.

Gun Safety: Broad majorities agree on criminal and mental health background checks for all gun sales (71% of Republicans, 84% of Democrats).

Reproductive Health: Most members of both parties believe abortion should be legal when a woman's health is endangered or in cases of rape and incest.

Government Reform: Common ground exists on setting a maximum age for elected officials and establishing term limits for Supreme Court Justices.

Shared Frustrations

Corruption: Voters in both parties frequently express that their respective parties focus too little on corruption.

Political Gridlock: Many Americans on both sides feel the government is a poorly functioning democracy and are dissatisfied with the lack of progress on shared priorities.

Recent data from **Pew Research Center** and recent legislative actions show broad bipartisan agreement on several critical topics:

Economic Policy & Fiscal Responsibility

The Economy as a Top Priority: Roughly 60% of all voters agree that the economy should be the government's highest priority.

National Debt: A massive 80% supermajority (72% of Democrats and 87% of Republicans) believe lawmakers must spend more time addressing the mounting national debt, which is seen as a critical threat to the country's economic future.

Eliminating Junk Fees: Broad support exists for increasing fines on spam robocallers (84% R, 78% D) and improving pricing transparency for prescription drugs.

Government Reform & Ethics

Stock Trading Bans: Bipartisan legislation like the Restoring Faith in Government Act seeks to prohibit Members of Congress and their spouses from trading individual stocks to prevent conflicts of interest.

Transparency: Both sides agree on requiring all voting districts to be drawn in a transparent manner and using nonpartisan commissions for redistricting.

Education & Social Services

Homelessness & Mental Health: Both parties strongly favor funding counseling and rehabilitation programs for mental illness and addiction as primary solutions to homelessness.

Financial Literacy: There is near-unanimous agreement (82%-83%) on requiring high school students to take financial literacy courses.

Public Safety & Justice

Cracking Down on Abuse: Huge majorities (80% in both parties) support requiring hospitals and police to submit rape kits to labs within a strict timeframe.

Human Trafficking: Recent 2025 legislation focuses on vacating convictions and expunging arrests for victims of human trafficking.

Infrastructure & Environment

Energy Incentives: Both sides favor tax incentives for clean energy and weatherization to lower home utility costs.

Clean Water: Replacing lead pipes to ensure safe drinking water is supported by 70% of Republicans and 92% of Democrats.

Conservation: Over 70% of voters in both parties support planting "a trillion trees" to absorb carbon emissions.

In future ads, we will focus on **specific subjects** where we have some common interests and explore that issue. Below you will find a sample focused on **gun control**. While partisan rhetoric is often polarized, recent data from the **Pew Research Center** and **Johns Hopkins** reveals significant "quiet consensus" on several ***gun safety measures***.

Areas of High Bipartisan Support

Mental Health Restrictions: Preventing individuals with mental illnesses from purchasing firearms is the most unified policy, supported by 88% of Republicans and 89% of Democrats.

Age Requirements: Raising the minimum age to buy a gun to 21 has broad backing, favored by 69% of Republicans and 90% of Democrats.

Background Checks: There is shared support for expanding background checks to cover private sales and transactions at gun shows (roughly 79% of Republicans and 88% of Democrats).

"Red Flag" Laws: Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), which allow for the temporary removal of firearms from individuals in crisis, are supported by 70% of Republicans and 87% of Democrats.

Reporting & Storage: Roughly 83% of both parties support requiring owners to report lost or stolen firearms. Additionally, 77% of Trump voters and 80% of all voters support safe storage requirements in homes with children.

The "Why" Behind the Agreement

Common ground often emerges when policies focus on responsible ownership rather than outright bans:

Suicide Prevention: Both sides overwhelmingly support programs to prevent veteran suicide and help service members in crisis (83%-84% support).

Public Education: Many Republicans identify public education on safe gun use and storage as a primary area for passable legislation.

Where the Divide Persists

Despite consensus on the items above, the parties remain sharply split on:

Banning specific weapons: Only 42%-45% of Republicans support banning assault-style weapons, compared to 85% of Democrats.

Concealed Carry: Most Republicans (71%) favor allowing concealed guns in more places, a policy supported by only 19% of Democrats.

Armed Personnel: 74% of Republicans favor arming teachers in K-12 schools, while 71% of Democrats oppose it.

Conclusion

We trust you may begin to see that we, as your neighbors, have much in common with you. That we can all engage in civil discourse and learn how to handle our differences as adults.

Please come back again as we will be presenting others issues that are near and dear to all of our hearts.

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