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New National Report Reveals How Americans Understand Political Violence — and What They Believe Can Prevent It

Findings from a first-of-its-kind national deliberative dialogue event hosted by AllSides highlight shared concerns, areas of disagreement, and pathways forward

DENVER, COLORADO — Today AllSides released a new national research report examining how Americans across the political spectrum understand political violence, what they see as its primary drivers, and which strategies they believe can help prevent it. The report draws on findings from the **National Roundtable on Political Violence**, a large-scale online deliberative dialogue convened in November 2025.

Discussions were conducted using AllSides Roundtables, a purpose-built online dialogue system designed to support balanced, self-moderated conversations at scale.

The AllSides Roundtables Report, *How Americans Understand Political Violence: Definitions, Drivers, & Strategies for Prevention*, synthesizes insights from 637 participants who took part in small, politically diverse discussion groups, as well as pre- and post-event surveys measuring attitudes related to pluralism and personal agency. Unlike traditional polling or focus groups, AllSides Roundtables uses structured, facilitated dialogue to surface nuanced perspectives and areas of disagreement and common ground.

VIEW THE REPORT: [Report PDF]

Key findings from the report include:

- **Americans define political violence as a spectrum**, ranging from dehumanizing rhetoric and intimidation to assassinations, mass shootings, and war.

- **Participants rejected the idea of a single root cause**, instead pointing to fear, demonization, institutional distrust, social disconnection, and a fragmented information environment as contributing factors.

- **Across ideological differences, participants identified prevention strategies** such as media literacy, education, local engagement, dialogue across divides, and rebuilding human connection.

- **Deliberative dialogue increased participants' sense of agency and pluralist norms**, suggesting that structured conversations can strengthen democratic habits even amid deep disagreement.

"This research shows that Americans are capable of grappling seriously with difficult questions about political violence without reducing them to partisan talking points," said John Gable, CEO and Co-Founder of AllSides. "When people are given space to listen, speak, and reflect across differences, they surface insights that are rarely captured through surveys or social media."

The National Roundtable was presented by AllSides and Newsweek, with partners including Living Room Conversations, Braver Angels, the University of Arizona's National Institute for Civil Discourse, and the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation.

The report also details AllSides' **human-led, transparent use of AI** to analyze hundreds of hours of dialogue while protecting participant privacy and ensuring minority viewpoints were not lost or overshadowed. AI tools were used only after the conversations concluded, and all findings were grounded in verifiable participant statements.

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