



[Addressing America's Polarization Problem](#) | Deseret News

In a special double issue, Deseret Magazine assembled preeminent thinkers actively seeking to address America's polarization problem. The takeaway: "There is a path out of the perpetual game of chicken. It won't be easy, but it starts with each American. It starts with more constructive dialogue, better disagreeing, more listening and understanding, and individual decisions to treat our political opponents with greater dignity and trust, or, in the words of Wood, like they're family."

[University of Denver Students Learn to Disagree Better](#) | University of Denver

Conflict offers the potential for growth when people can put their partisan identities aside and try to learn from one another. "We need more of this in our country," says Utah Governor Spencer Cox, who attended the debate with a group of representatives from the National Governors Association (NGA), including Colorado Governor Jared Polis

[Utah Governor: let's disagree better at our Thanksgiving tables](#) | The Dallas Morning News

Gov. Spencer Cox of Utah and Chair of the National Governors Association writes the polarization is an emergency in our public discourse.

[Governors on a crusade to get Americans to 'disagree better'](#) | The Denver Gazette

The governors don't want to dampen debate, which they see as crucial to a functional political system. Instead they are trying to model debate with less demonizing, less hostility, and less anger. And they believe that right now an "exhausted majority" of people want that more than anything.

[Interview: Jared Polis joins Utah's governor to talk civility in politics, even with contentious state issues](#) | Colorado Public Radio

Polis and Cox spoke with CPR's public affairs editor Megan Verlee after an event at Colorado State University about the program, political discourse, and thorny state issues — including this month's special session to address property taxes.

[Opinion: As governors of Colorado and Utah, we want to tackle toxic polarization](#) | Colorado Sun

As Democratic and Republican leaders, we know we won't always agree. But Americans — politicians and voters alike — need to be reminded there is a healthy way to debate.

[Disagree better? Yes, Colorado's Jared Polis and Utah's Spencer Cox insist](#) | Denver Gazette

"Utah Gov. Spencer Cox and Colorado Gov. Jared Polis will hold a "Disagree Better" conversation to be moderated by CSU President Amy Parsons on Nov. 15 at CSU Fort Collins. The event is sponsored by CSU, the National Governors Association, and Colorado Politics."



[Governors buck partisanship to focus on Western agenda at meeting in Jackson](#) | Casper Star Tribune

"The Western Governors Association, a political affiliate of state executives working to advance a Western agenda in Washington, met in Jackson Hole's Teton Village this week for their annual winter meeting, where governors discussed regional priorities around topics like fossil energy, agriculture, public lands and national parks."

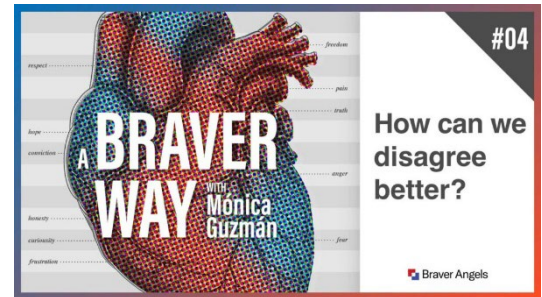
[Opinion: The first step toward handling Utah's relentless growth](#) | Deseret News

"We need to learn how to get along with each other. Period. That is step No. 1, and it's a big one. It's why Utah

Gov. Spencer Cox has devoted his year as head of the National Governors Association to urging people to “disagree better.”

[How can we disagree better?](#) | A Braver Way Podcast

“Spencer Cox, the Republican governor of Utah, and Troy Williams, the activist at the head of Utah’s most active LGBTQ rights organization, don’t buy the notion that a good way to stand for the ideas on your side is to attack the people on the other. Reflecting on their sometimes contentious relationship, the two talk with *Mónica* about how they’ve both been able to advance their sides through honest dialogue and good-faith engagement, resulting in some surprising win-win policy outcomes for the people in their state.”



[Gov. Cox warns America is heading in a dangerous direction](#) | Deseret News

“We can’t solve any of the biggest problems in our country if we hate each other,” Cox said — reiterating a centerpiece of his new Disagree Better initiative with the National Governors Association.”

[Campuses feel like political battlegrounds. Can a new initiative change that?](#) | MSN

“In anticipation of the Oct. 30 event where Gov. Spencer Cox and Utah state Senate President Stuart Adams will speak, the governor underscored in a statement to the Deseret News that “political polarization is one of the most challenging issues facing our nation today” — which helps explain why the governor recently launched the “Disagree Better” initiative as chair of the National Governors Association.”

[Disagree Better: A conversation between Governors Spencer Cox and Jared Polis](#) | Colorado State University

“Republican Gov. Spencer Cox of Utah and Democratic Gov. Jared Polis of Colorado hope to render politics more palatable and effective by urging everyone to “disagree better.”

[Opinion: Can Gov. Cox’s ‘Disagree Better’ initiative work?](#) | Deseret News

“In light of the chaos and backbiting in Washington, including the ouster of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, Gov. Spencer Cox’s “Disagree Better” initiative with the National Governors Association appears timely and is receiving more attention. Is this initiative just feel-good, fuzzy-headed wishful thinking, or is it a substantive, needed objective in today’s political climate?”

[Can an exhausted majority find hope in a campaign for dignity?](#) | Baptist News Global

“Utah Gov. Spencer Cox is continuing his campaign to try to convince Americans to “disagree better” with a recent series of bipartisan events in New Hampshire.”

[Is Utah a model for disagreeing respectfully?](#) | KSL.com

“Cox, as the newly installed chairman of the National Governors Association, has launched an initiative intended to help address the nation’s toxic polarization.”

[Upbeat, ‘token conservative,’ Utah Gov. Spencer Cox takes center stage at Atlantic Festival in Washington, D.C.](#) | Deseret News

“Cox suggested most Republicans and Democrats aren’t as far apart philosophically as they think they are, saying, ‘It’s called the perception gap’”

[Utah governor warns Biden against 'weaponizing' democracy and political discourse](#) | Washington Examiner
“Cox, chairman of the National Governors Association and spearheading its “Disagree Better” initiative, called on Biden not to weaponize the importance of civility in political discourse.”

[U.S. a ‘declining democracy,’ Utah governor says, and it’s time for a ‘wake up call’](#) | Deseret News
“Cox then delved into a topic that’s been top of mind for him in his new role as chairman of the National Governors Association with his “Disagree Better” campaign, in which he’s been urging Utahns and Americans to come to together to combat what he calls “an existential issue and crisis” in the country: Americans’ inability to disagree without hating each other.”

[Utah Governor Spencer Cox and HKS faculty member Julia Minson agree: We have to disagree better](#) | Harvard Kennedy School
“In today’s highly charged political climate, Utah Governor Spencer Cox wants us to disagree better. He has made it his chief initiative as the new chair of the National Governors Association (NGA). And as Harvard Kennedy School Associate Professor of Public Policy Julia Minson knows from years of research, there is science behind productive disagreement.”

[Gov. Cox, other governors plan to tackle immigration as part of ‘Disagree Better’ campaign](#) | Deseret News
“Can we ‘disagree better’ on immigration? Cox wants to walk the talk, too. As chair of the National Governors Association, he had to choose an issue that governors could work on together, and he picked a tricky one: immigration.”



[Utah Gov. Spencer Cox continues ‘Disagree Better’ campaign at New Hampshire event](#) | ABC 4 Utah
“The event pushed Cox’s initiative through panel discussions featuring several northeastern governors and national experts. The panel established three rules for conversation with others including: taking seriously the things others hold dear, not trying to convince each other they are wrong, and being curious.”

[Gov. Scott to take part in ‘Disagree Better’ initiative](#) | WCAX
“Vermont Gov. Phil Scott will join fellow governors from Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey Rhode Island, and Utah at a conference Tuesday in New Hampshire focusing on improving bipartisan communication.”

[Spencer Cox and other U.S. governors gather to brainstorm ‘Disagree Better’ initiative](#) | Cache Valley Daily
“There’s an ‘exhausted majority’ of Americans out there who are discouraged by the ugliness of politics today,” Cox explained to the assembled governors. “The divisiveness undermines our success as a nation and hurts our relationships with friends and family.”

[Why Tribalism Took Over Our Politics](#) | The Wall Street Journal
“Cox last month began a one-year term as chairman of the National Governors Association and said he would devote much of the year to promoting civility in politics through a “Disagree Better” program that draws on the Stanford research.”

[Gov. Spencer Cox: 'We're tired of the toxic partisanship that's infected our country'](#) | MSNBC “Morning Joe”
“Utah Governor Spencer Cox champions the 'disagree better' initiative to combat toxic partisanship plaguing the nation. Gov. Cox joins Morning Joe to emphasize the need to shift the political discourse towards respectful disagreement and attacking ideas rather than individuals.”

[In an age of political discord, look to our governors](#) | The Hill
“The new chair, Gov. Spencer Cox of Utah, lauded his predecessor’s bipartisanship and noted the national malaise. Stating then that governors are often seen as “the last adults left in the room in politics,” he invited his colleagues to lead by example in demonstrating “healthy disagreement.”

[Can Utah’s political figures ‘disagree better’ on social media?](#) | Deseret News
“Enter Gov. Spencer Cox’s recently released “Disagree Better” initiative, which seeks to look at the problems of polarization and how Americans can work together to find solutions to the country’s toughest problems. Cox is promoting the initiative as chairman of the National Governors Association.”

[National Governor's Association and 'Disagree Better' with Gov. Spencer Cox](#) | First Lady and Friends Podcast
“In this week's episode, Utah's First Lady Abby Cox is joined by Gov. Spencer Cox to talk about some life updates, their recent trip to Atlantic City, NJ for the National Governor's Association where the governor was elected chair of the NGA, and the importance of building bipartisan relationships with other governors throughout the country.”

RECENTLY ON
FIRST LADY AND FRIENDS
PODCAST



UTAH'S FIRST LADY ABBY COX IS JOINED BY GOV. SPENCER COX TO TALK ABOUT SOME LIFE UPDATES, THEIR RECENT TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY, NJ FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING BIPARTISAN RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER GOVERNORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

[To disagree in good faith](#) | Deseret News
“A constitutional scholar reminds us to consider other points of view.”

[‘We Need to Do Better’: Democrat Cuts Ad For Republican Governor’s Initiative to Fight ‘Toxic’ Partisanship In The U.S](#) | Mediate
“Democratic Governor of Colorado Jared Polis dropped an ad this week in support of Republican Utah Gov. Spencer Cox’s “disagree better” campaign aimed at breaking the cycle of rampant polarization in the U.S.”

[Former County GOP party chair says political rhetoric still needs to improve](#) | Cache Valley Daily
“Utah Governor Spencer Cox, who is chair of the National Governor’s Association for the next year, recently launched an initiative called ‘Disagree Better’, trying to increase the use of more civility in political discourse.”

[Utah Gov. Spencer Cox's statesmanship should be an example to Republicans](#) | Washington Examiner
“Cox shows us what it looks like when our leaders' political courage outweighs their fear. Let us hope that more elected officials follow his example.”

[Inside with Jen Psaki - August 13th, 2023](#) | MSNBC “Inside with Jen Psaki”
“Jen Psaki is joined by Colorado Governor Jared Polis to discuss his new bipartisan initiative to promote healthier dialogue around politics and his push to get Americans to “disagree better.”

[Robert Gehrke: Rare compromises between Dems, GOP can still lead to good policy — and selfies](#) | The Salt Lake Tribune

"The PACT Act shows it's still possible for a broken government to get it right when partisan differences are set aside."

[‘Disagree better’ on display as President Joe Biden visits Utah](#) | KSL News

"Disagree Better" is the slogan for Cox's National Governor's Association initiative for the year, where he's asking Governors to model better civil discourse."

[Commentary: Finding a path to healthy conflict](#) | Central Maine

"Spencer Cox, the new chairman of the National Governors Association, is promoting the idea of "healthy conflict." The Utah governor has become concerned about the growing problem of toxic arguments in society. As the Washington Post reports, Cox wants people to learn how to "disagree better."



[Utah's Republican governor set to join Biden in promoting veterans health care](#) | NBC News

"Cox, 48, now serves as chair of the National Governors Association. Last month, he launched "Disagree Better," an NGA initiative meant to promote a more civil political discourse to solve some of the nation's most pressing challenges."

[Danya Rumore: To disagree better, we need to increase our conflict competence](#) | The Salt Lake Tribune

"I was thrilled to see Utah Gov. Spencer Cox's recent announcement of the National Governors Association "Disagree Better" Initiative, which aims to help Americans move past polarization and engage in conflict in a more healthy way. I am grateful that someone in high-level political office is trying to make progress on this important issue, and I am excited to see Utah's governor taking the lead in this effort."

[Finding a Path to Healthy Conflict](#) | DC Journal

"Spencer Cox, the new chairman of the National Governors Association, is promoting the idea of "healthy conflict." The Utah governor has become concerned about the growing problem of toxic arguments in society. As the Washington Post reports, Cox wants people to learn how to "disagree better."

[National Governors Association Launches "Disagree Better" Initiative](#) | Associations Now

"The initiative will look at the problems of polarization, elevate the solutions that groups around the country are already implementing, and feature governors modeling what disagreeing better looks like."

[Bipartisan governors challenge Americans to disagree 'better' over politics](#) | CNN

"Republican Gov. Spencer Cox of Utah and Democratic Gov. Jared Polis of Colorado on Sunday challenged Americans to approach political disagreements with respect in their mission to elevate "civic dialogue across the country."

[Bipartisan governors want Americans to 'disagree better' over politics](#) | CNN "State of the Union"

"Republican Gov. Spencer Cox of Utah and Democratic Gov. Jared Polis of Colorado tell CNN's Dana Bash that Americans need to "have authentic conversations with those that we disagree with."

[Bipartisan governors want Americans to 'disagree better' over politics](#) | The Hill

"A bipartisan pair of governors is pushing for Americans to "disagree better" when it comes to politics."

[OUR VIEW: We won't always agree — and that's OK — but we can disagree better](#) | Magic Valley

"In addition to the videos used to launch the campaign this month, the NGA plans a series of public-facing efforts including service projects, op-ed submissions with a member of "the other party on a topic of common ground," and civic education ads and debates on college and university campuses to model healthy conflict."

[Utah Gov. Spencer Cox wants Americans to learn to 'disagree better'](#) | The Washington Post

"As chair of the National Governors Association, Cox wants to end the toxic partisanship that impedes real results."

[Gov. Spencer Cox of Utah wants Americans to learn how to disagree](#) | NPR

"When Utah Governor Spencer Cox took the chairmanship at the National Governors Association this week, he announced his chair's initiative called Disagree Better. It's a program to encourage governors to try to set an example in how to disagree but still seek bipartisan solutions and, dare I say, be civil as they disagree."

[Better disagreement makes American democracy better](#) | The Bush Center

"Spencer Cox, the Republican Governor of Utah launched the Disagree Better Initiative last week after taking over as the Chair of the National Governors Association (NGA). He is supported in this effort by NGA Vice Chair Jared Polis, the Democratic Governor of Colorado."

[Tonic for Colorado's Political Tension](#) | The Gazette

"Kudos to Colorado's Democratic Gov. Jared Polis and his Republican counterpart in neighboring Utah, Gov. Spencer Cox. They're not only modeling civility in politics, they're promoting it. And they have a message for the nation's fractured electorate: Our differences don't have to divide us."

[Utah governor: Moderates 'exhausted' by extremism](#) | News Nation

"Utah Governor joins Dan Abrams Live to discuss NGA Chair's Initiative."

[New NGA chair Utah Gov. Spencer Cox wants Americans to "Disagree Better"](#) | Axios

"The one-year initiative, launching this month, will use open debates, service projects, public service announcements and other strategies to promote civil discourse over hotly contested issues facing Americans."

[As head of National Governors Association, Cox seeks to turn down the political heat](#) | The Salt Lake Tribune

"With his new role leading the [National Governors Association] made up of the nation's governors, Gov. Cox is also launching a new initiative that seeks to turn down the political heat."



[Why this governor is promoting 'healthy conflict'](#) | The Washington Post

"The conservative governor emphasizes that this isn't just another warm and fuzzy civility initiative. He's working with experts at universities such as Stanford and Dartmouth to understand the science behind toxic animosity. He said research shows that leaders of different political tribes talking to each other respectfully in public works to lower animosity."

[Can we disagree better? Utah's governor wants to give it a shot and it starts today](#) | Deseret News

"As Americans, can we learn to disagree better? Utah Gov. Spencer Cox thinks so, and on Friday he kicked off his yearlong tenure as chairman of the National Governors Association with a mission he says is "an existential issue and crisis for our country": Americans' inability to disagree without hating each other."

[Colorado, Utah governors team up to fight political polarization in 'Disagree Better' campaign](#) | Colorado Politics

"Colorado Gov. Jared Polis and Utah Gov. Spencer Cox want to "save your family dinners." That's the message of their new "Disagree Better" campaign launched on Friday. The year-long initiative seeks to reduce political polarization nationwide — from the debate stage to the dining room table — with Polis, a Democrat, and Cox, a Republican, leading the way."

['Permission to care for each other': Gov. Cox urges healthy disagreement, less contempt](#) | KSL News

"Utah Gov. Spencer Cox is taking his message of civility in politics to a national audience, encouraging his fellow governors to set the example of what healthy disagreement looks like."

[Utah Gov. Spencer Cox takes aim at toxic disagreement as National Governor Association Chair](#) | ABC 4

"Governors will be working together on the Disagree Better initiative through public debates, service projects, public service announcements and a "variety of other tools," according to Cox's office."

[Opinion: Why Gov. Cox wants us to stop hating each other](#) | Deseret News

"This is an awful big issue for any governor to try to impact, especially at a time when Washington politics seems to dwarf state issues in the court of public opinion. But we agree with Cox's reasoning, and we applaud his decision to make this a public campaign. Governors can help stem the tide of hatred and division by modeling it for the citizenry. And as Cox reasons, you can't attack any problem if you can't learn how to manage differences."

[Transcript: Utah Gov. Spencer Cox on "Face the Nation," July 9, 2023](#) | CBS "Face The Nation"

"I do [that most Americans are tired of the toxic disagreement]... I believe there's nothing more un-American [than hating our fellow Americans]. I think we need to get back to- to that. And I'm hoping to do that as chair of the National Governors Association."