

UNEXPECTED & POWERFUL · COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Talking to Family About Policy

Conversation starters for the people who know you best and may disagree most

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Some of the most important policy conversations happen at kitchen tables, not in Capitol hearing rooms. This worksheet gives you tools for those conversations — the ones with people who love you and might still disagree.

BEFORE THE CONVERSATION

What is the policy issue I want to discuss?

What do I know about where my family member stands on this issue?

What do we have in common on this issue — even if we approach it differently?

CONVERSATION STARTERS

- "Can I tell you about something I've been learning about that I think affects our family?"
- "I know we might see this differently, but I want to understand your perspective first."
- "Have you ever had an experience with [this issue]? I'd love to hear about it."
- "What would have to be true for you to feel differently about this?"
- "What do you think would actually help [the people affected]?"

WHEN THINGS GET TENSE

Disagreement about policy is almost always disagreement about values and priorities — not facts. Instead of presenting more data, try asking about values: "What matters most to you about this? What are you worried about?"

What I am not willing to compromise on in this conversation

What I am genuinely open to hearing from them

What I hope this conversation accomplishes — even if we don't agree

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