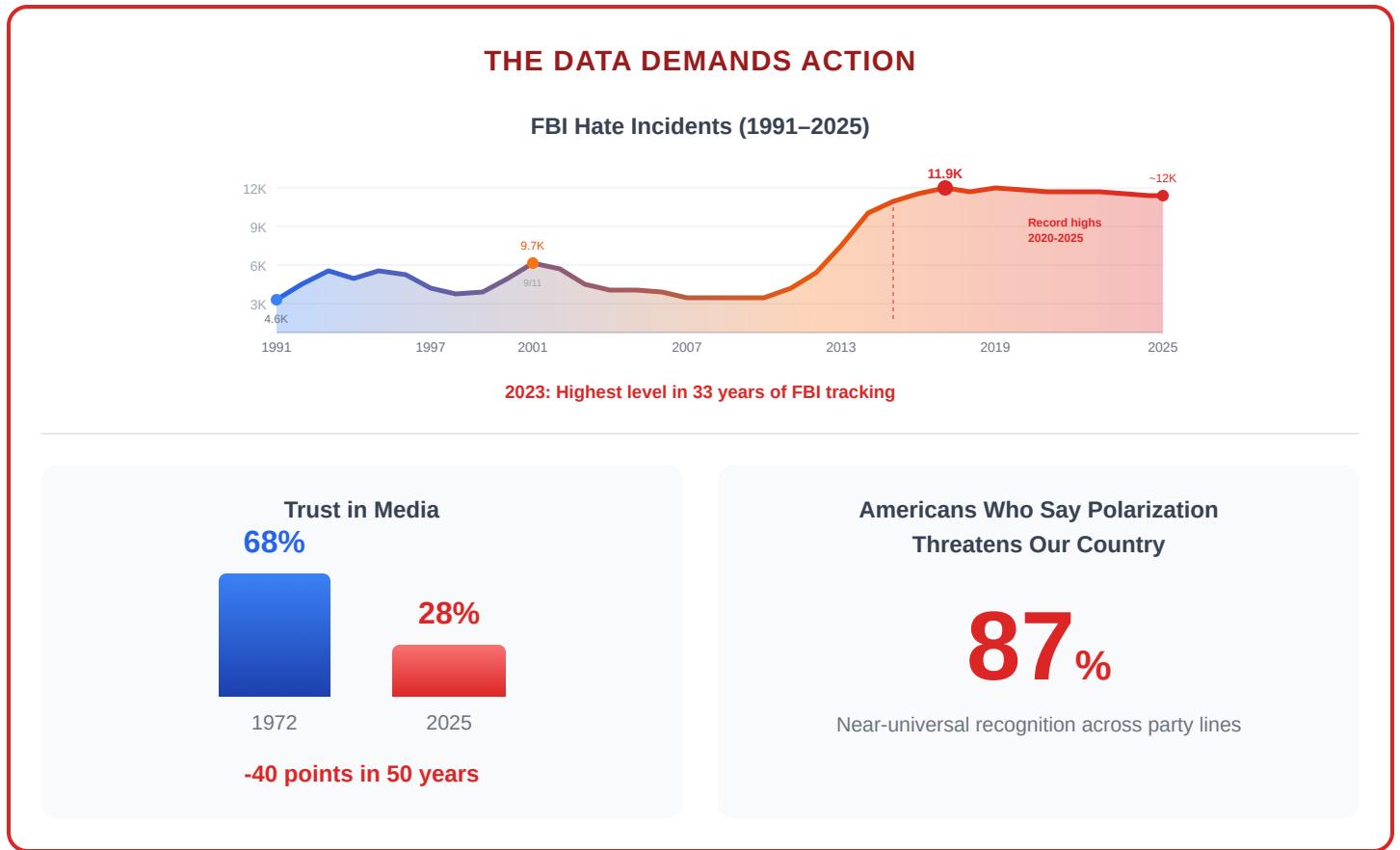


ReasonBridge

Tools for Rational Discourse

The Problem

In the first half of 2025, the United States experienced 150 politically-motivated attacks—nearly twice as many as the year before. Threats against lawmakers have surged to 14,000 annually. Hate incidents reached the second-highest level since the FBI began tracking them in 1991.



This violence doesn't emerge from nowhere. It follows a predictable path: misinformation spreads, trust collapses, polarization deepens, and people begin to see their fellow citizens as enemies. Today, only 28% of Americans trust the media—down from 68% in 1972. Nearly three-quarters of partisans view the other side as "immoral." And 87% of Americans say polarization itself is a threat to our country.

The platforms where most public discourse now happens weren't designed to help us understand each other. They were designed to maximize engagement—and outrage, conflict, and division are engaging. The result: 68% of Americans say social media has impacted their relationships. Friendships have ended. Families have fractured. And increasingly, words have turned to violence.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

The same technology that amplifies division can be designed to foster understanding. The same data that powers outrage algorithms can surface common ground. The problem isn't human nature—it's platform design.

The Solution

Unlike social media platforms designed for engagement, **ReasonBridge** is designed for understanding.

ReasonBridge is a platform for rational discourse that uses AI-powered analysis to help people engage productively across differences. Instead of rewarding the loudest or most provocative voices, ReasonBridge rewards good-faith dialogue—helping users identify bias, evaluate evidence, find common ground, and move from conflict toward shared understanding.

Grounded in Research

Kahneman (dual-process theory)

Prompts reflective thinking over reactive responses

Haidt (Moral Foundations Theory)

Surfaces shared values beneath disagreements

Gross (emotion regulation)

De-escalates conflict through cognitive reappraisal

Fogg (behavior design)

Makes constructive communication easier

How It Works

- **AI-assisted analysis** surfaces bias, identifies logical fallacies, and highlights agreement
- **Structured discussion** organizes claims so conversations build toward clarity
- **Good-faith incentives** reward constructive engagement over inflammatory rhetoric
- **Common ground discovery** helps people find shared values amid disagreement

In an era of division and misinformation, ReasonBridge provides tools for rational discourse. Through AI-powered analysis and incentives for good-faith dialogue, we help people turn diverse perspectives into collective wisdom—and better outcomes for everyone.

Support ReasonBridge

ReasonBridge is a functional product ready for public launch. We're establishing as a 501(c)(3) non-profit because we believe rational discourse is a public good—not a product to monetize.

We're seeking seed funding to launch publicly, refine our AI tools based on real-world feedback, and build the foundation for long-term sustainability.

**Your support helps rebuild the infrastructure of democratic discourse—
before more relationships fracture and more words turn to violence.**

Contact: tony@steinonline.net | **Web:** reasonbridge.org

Sources & Citations

Statistics & Data

150 political attacks in first half of 2025 (nearly 2x prior year)

University of Maryland via Pew Research Center, 2025

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/10/23/americans-say-politically-motivated-violence-is-increasing-and-they-see-many-reasons-why/>

14,000 threats against lawmakers annually

U.S. Capitol Police via Pew Research Center, 2025

<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/10/23/americans-say-politically-motivated-violence-is-increasing-and-they-see-many-reasons-why/>

FBI Hate Crime Statistics (1991-2025)

FBI Uniform Crime Reports / Crime Data Explorer; 2024 data via Arab American Institute

<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime>

28% of Americans trust media (down from 68% in 1972)

Gallup, September 2025

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/695762/trust-media-new-low.aspx>

72% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats view opposing party as "immoral"

Pew Research Center

<https://www.pewresearch.org/topic/politics-policy/political-parties-polarization/>

87% say polarization is a threat to America

Listen First Project

<https://www.listenfirstproject.org/toxic-polarization-data>

68% say social media has impacted their relationships

EBSCO Research

<https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/communication-and-mass-media/social-media-and-relationships>

Research Foundations

Dual-Process Theory (System 1 / System 2)

Kahneman, D. (2003). "A perspective on judgment and choice." *American Psychologist*, 58, 697-720.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12212647/>

Moral Foundations Theory

Graham, J., Haidt, J., & Nosek, B. A. (2009). "Liberals and conservatives rely on different sets of moral foundations." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 96(5), 1029-1046.

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Fogg Behavior Model (B=MAT)

Fogg, B. J. (2009). "A Behavior Model for Persuasive Design." Stanford Behavior Design Lab.

<https://behaviordesign.stanford.edu/resources/fogg-behavior-model>