

Common Ground Press Release

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Bridging the Political Divide: Join Us for an Evening of Unity and Dialogue

APPLETON, WI — In an era marked by political polarization, the need for connection and understanding across party lines has never been greater. On October 1st, 2024, Common Ground and the Wisconsin Alliance for Civic Trust (WisACT) invite the community to an evening dedicated to fostering meaningful dialogue and mutual respect at the "Finding Common Ground | Across the Political Divide" event.

"As we navigate the complexities of today's political landscape, it is more important than ever to find ways to connect and understand one another. 'Finding Common Ground | Across the Political Divide' offers a platform for meaningful dialogue and mutual understanding. By engaging in these discussions, we can uncover common ground and work towards a more united community," said former Governor Doyle, emphasizing the event's importance.

The event will take place at Poplar Hall, offering attendees the opportunity to engage in discussions designed to bridge political divides and build stronger, more collaborative communities. The evening's agenda includes networking, a panel discussion featuring prominent political figures, and facilitated dialogue sessions where participants can share their perspectives and explore common ground.

Event Details:

- **Date:** October 1st, 2024
- **Location:** Poplar Hall, Appleton, WI
- **Time:**
 - 5:30 PM – Networking and Appetizers
 - 6:15 PM – Welcome
 - 6:45 PM – Panel Discussion Featuring Reid Ribble (Republican) and Barbara Lawton (Democrat)
 - 7:30 PM – Discussion / Dialogue Session
 - 8:30 PM – Networking

Meet the Panelists:

- **Moderator: Dr. Katherine Wilson**
Dr. Katherine Wilson is a respected academic and community leader with extensive experience in moderating discussions on complex and contentious issues. Her work focuses on fostering understanding and collaboration among diverse groups.
- **Republican Panelist: Reid Ribble**
Reid Ribble, a former U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's 8th congressional district, brings a wealth of experience in bipartisan collaboration. Known for his pragmatic approach to governance, Ribble has been a strong advocate for common-sense solutions to political challenges.

- **Democratic Panelist: Barbara Lawton**
Barbara Lawton served as Wisconsin's 43rd Lieutenant Governor and has been a leading voice in promoting civic engagement and bipartisan cooperation. Her commitment to fostering inclusive dialogue and finding shared solutions has earned her widespread respect across the political spectrum.

Panel Discussion Topics:

- **Vision for the Future:** Imagining a unified community 30 years from now.
- **Bipartisan Successes:** Sharing experiences of successful bipartisan efforts.
- **Key Community Issues:** Identifying issues with potential for bipartisan solutions.
- **Cross-Partisan Respect:** Expressing admiration for differing viewpoints.
- **Reducing Tension:** Offering advice for decreasing political tension and building community.

Dialogue Session:

Following the panel, attendees will participate in facilitated discussions, sharing personal experiences and exploring political perspectives. The session aims to identify common ground and foster a spirit of collaboration among participants.

Register Now:

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of an impactful evening dedicated to unity and collaboration. **Register now** to secure your spot and join us in building a stronger, more connected community. Visit the following link to register and secure your spot now:

<https://tinyurl.com/politicaldivide24>

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Sponsorship opportunities are available for those who wish to show their support for this important event. Sponsors will receive recognition and benefits aligned with the event, providing a unique opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to fostering unity and understanding in our community.

For more information about the event or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sam Kobussen at s.kobussen@a-mazingevents.com

About Common Ground:

Common Ground originated from the 2001 discussions of the Community Health Action Team (CHAT) sponsored by ThedaCare. Our mission is to connect faith and secular community leaders to improve the health and well-being of the Fox Cities. By facilitating collaboration among these leaders, we strive to serve those in need and uphold the values found in the "Golden Rule" common to all faith traditions.

About WisACT:

WisACT is a cross-partisan network promoting truth in politics, peaceful engagement, and

support for electoral democracy. Supported by The Carter Center, WisACT represents a broad cross-section of Wisconsin residents and prioritizes values over politics. Our mission includes promoting trust and honesty in politics, peaceful engagement, fair and secure elections, civic education, and cross-partisan collaboration.

This press release is ready for distribution to media outlets, community bulletins, and other relevant channels.