



## WHERE WE STAND – CULTURE WARS AND DIVISIVENESS

Attacks on individuals based on their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnicity are on the rise as white nationalism gains traction in American culture. Hate speech and violent attacks are increasing as extremists among us take matters into their own hands, acting on fear and hatred. Add assault weapons into this already volatile environment, and the potential for political violence has grown exponentially.

Much of this divisiveness stems from reckless MAGA Republican rhetoric. Calls for a return to an era of white supremacy, accusations that immigrants are stealing our jobs, allegations that LGBTQ Americans are preying on our children, and other groundless claims set Americans against each other. The resultant “culture wars” keep us in a state of perpetual dread. According to these MAGA politicians, the threats are everywhere: “woke” corporations embracing diversity, Hollywood producing objectionable content, and even local school boards allowing the teaching of actual American history.



While we might dismiss MAGA hate speech, “lone wolves” hear these words as a call to action. Emboldened by President Trump to “take our country back”, they carry out violent acts against immigrants, people of color, women, and LGBTQ folks, and even attack our critical infrastructure in hopes of inciting a race war. Calls for MAGA politicians to tone down their inflammatory rhetoric go unheeded.

Legislators who took an oath to protect America should not leverage their positions to target any constituency. We face daunting national and global challenges, and we need to draw upon the best and brightest among us to find and implement solutions. We cannot allow MAGA Republicans to distract us from this critical mission. If they continue to fan the flames of hate, we should replace them with Democrats willing to lead and govern. We have the power, and there’s never been a better time to use it.

***Flip this over to learn how YOU can get involved!***

### ***Here's what DEMOCRATS are doing to PUSH BACK against divisiveness and hate:***

- On his first day in office, President Biden signed a historic [executive order](#) directing the federal government to use every tool available to advance equity and racial justice.
- President Biden signed [legislation](#) addressing hate crimes during the COVID pandemic, including an emphasis on violence against Asian Americans. With perpetrators emboldened by racist and inflammatory rhetoric, hate crimes had escalated by nearly 20% during the Trump presidency ([FBI](#)).
- The President took historic steps to advance full equality for LGBTQI+ Americans, including [reversing the discriminatory ban](#) on transgender service members in the military, strengthening non-discrimination protections in healthcare, housing, education, and employment, and ensuring that transgender Americans can access government support and services.
- North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper established the [DRIVE Task Force](#) to improve diversity and inclusion in the education field.
- NC General Assembly Democrats introduced the [Hate Crimes Prevention Act](#) to increase punishment severity, establish a hate crime stats database, and expand law enforcement and prosecutor training.

### ***Here's what MAGA REPUBLICANS are doing to FUEL divisiveness and hate:***

- NC's Sen. Ted Budd and Rep. David Rouzer were among congressional Republicans who voted *against* a proposed [legislative amendment](#) directing the FBI, DHS, and DoD to “combat White supremacist and neo-Nazi activity in the uniformed services and federal law enforcement agencies.”
- NC House Republicans passed a [bill](#) to force sheriffs to cooperate with ICE and detain suspects whose immigration status is in question. Previous similar bills were vetoed by Gov. Cooper.
- NC GOP legislators overrode Gov. Cooper's vetoes to pass a series of [anti-LGBTQ bills](#). These include a ban on [gender-affirming healthcare](#), bans on trans girls/women [playing in school sports](#), and a so-called Parents' Bill of Rights limiting how sexuality and gender can be [discussed in public schools](#).



## **TAKE ACTION!**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:** [brunswickdem.org](http://brunswickdem.org)

### **CONTACT YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS (North Carolina General Assembly):**

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- ✓ **Representative Charles Miller** (R), District 19  
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- ✓ **Senator Bill Rabon** (R), District 8 (Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover)  
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### **CONTACT YOUR U.S. CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS**

- ✓ **Congressman David Rouzer** (R), District 7  
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- ✓ **Senator Thom Tillis** (R)  
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- ✓ **Senator Ted Budd** (R)  
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