

CONNECT MINNESOTA

1:1 CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Rural and metro communities are moving farther apart economically, culturally, and politically. Their needs and priorities seem more at odds, and their commonalities harder to recognize. Stereotypes and misunderstandings threaten to replace mutual understanding and a sense of joint purpose as Americans.

A Tool to Address the Problem

To help bridge this divide, Braver Angels, a nonprofit dedicated to “depolarizing America,” has designed a way for Minnesota legislators from rural and urban communities to build relationships and find common ground on issues and policies that are important to them.

It takes the form of a 1:1 conversation between legislators who self-identify as living in a rural area or an urban/metro area. Using online technology and a structured process, the two participants have two 1-hour conversations at a time of their choosing and then “report out” about their experience and their ideas for bridging the divide.

Why Now?

We are in a time of social distancing that is exacerbating other divides. What better time to build bridges?