

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

“Now we’re in a tremendous time of polarization, which makes the work of BPC so very, very important.”

— Republican Political Strategist
Brett O’Donnell

Political polarization is all too real, as an increasing number of Americans prefer to associate only with their ideological allies. In a recent BPC/*USA TODAY* poll, 65 percent of Americans say their spouses or significant others are of the same political party, and 48 percent say their friends are primarily of the same party.

But every week, BPC fosters civil conversations among individuals with widely diverging viewpoints. Through more than 70 public dialogues a year as well as private meetings and social events, BPC gathers principled partisans and encourages them to constructively debate their differences, explore solutions to contentious issues, and find common ground.



BPC Vice President of Operations Denise Devenny and BPC Senior Vice Presidents Bill Hoagland and Julie Anderson at the Fourth Annual Political Summit in New Orleans



BPC President Jason Grumet, Governors’ Council Member Jim Douglas, and Senior Fellow Dan Glickman discuss “The Case for Bipartisanship”



1. BPC’S Annual Political Summit in New Orleans
2. Our Health Care Future: What’s Next After The Supreme Court Decision?
3. A Century of Service
4. Understanding the New Energy Landscape: Technological Change and Global Market Integration
5. Lots to Lose: How America’s Health and Obesity Crisis Threatens our Economic Future
6. Accelerating Electronic Health Information Sharing to Improve Quality and Reduce Costs in Health Care
7. The Tax Piece of the Debt Puzzle
8. Housing in America—San Antonio Public Forum
9. Housing in America—St. Louis Public Forum
10. The Future of Red And Blue: How Changing Party Demographics Will Impact the 2012 Election and Beyond



Representative Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) addresses key issues in the election



Foreign Policy Project Co-chair Charles Robb, Democracy Project Director John Fortier, and Senior Fellow Trent Lott get ready to discuss Ira Shapiro’s book *The Last Great Senate*



Annual Political Summit

Far beyond the Beltway, BPC's summit brings together Washington's top political strategists and BPC thought leaders to examine where the two parties may find common ground going forward to address the nation's key policy issues. In 2012, they convened the summit just one week after Election Day to reflect on the campaign season and to explore the shift from campaigning to governing.

In front of a record-setting crowd at Tulane University, summit participants included BPC Senior Fellows former Agriculture Secretary **Dan Glickman**, former Senate Majority Leader **Trent Lott**; and former Senator **Bob Bennett**; former Governor **Ted Strickland**; *The Washington Post's* **Jonathan Capehart**; CNBC's **John Harwood**; Facebook's **Katie Harbath**; Harvard University Institute of Politics Director **Trey Grayson**; Twitter's **Adam Sharp**; political strategists **Brendan Daly**, **Kiki McLean**, and **Brett O'Donnell**; and CNN contributors **John Avlon**, **Maria Cardona**, and **Margaret Hoover**. Hosted by the electrifying duo of **Mary Matalin** and **James Carville**, the summit looked back at the recent election, including the role of social media in the campaign, the lessons learned from post-election polling, and the overall political impact of the election results.



BPC Vice President of Communications Eileen McMenamin leads a conversation with campaign photographers

“If you’re coming to divide, go away. If you’re coming to bring us solutions, let’s figure it out.”

— **Mary Matalin**

Annual Political Summit Co-hosts James Carville and Mary Matalin



Kiki McLean, Loyola University student Dwayne Fontenette, and James Carville score a victory in the “Entergy Lightning Round”



BPC President Jason Grumet, *The Washington Post's* Jonathan Capehart, and BPC Board Member Mark Heising



New York magazine's John Heilemann, CNN contributor Margaret Hoover, and Twitter's Adam Sharp recap the role of social media in the election

Century of Service

From their distinguished military service to their storied careers in elected office, the combined public service of former Senate Majority Leaders **Howard Baker** and **Bob Dole** totals more than a century. Both men—co-founders of BPC—exemplify the qualities of political leadership the nation needs most, especially now in the hyper-partisan environment in Washington. Both Baker and Dole continue to serve the country today by fighting for the causes they believe in with their trademark wit, style, and consensus-building ability. BPC honored them and their service at an event at Washington’s Mellon Auditorium.

“I don’t believe there’s any problem that cannot be solved if you have willing men and women come together,” declared Dole. Baker concurred: “You need to take in the other party’s point of view in order to translate it into policy.”

The evening featured a veritable who’s who of political leadership from both sides of the aisle, including remarks from current and former Senate majority leaders. BPC Co-founder **Tom Daschle**, BPC Senior Fellows **Bill Frist** and **Trent Lott**, and Senate Majority Leader **Harry Reid** (D-NV) joined former President **Bill Clinton**, Vice President **Joe Biden**, Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell** (R-KY), and Senators **Lamar Alexander** (R-TN) and **Pat Roberts** (R-KS) in honoring Baker and Dole. Roberts serenaded the crowd to the tune of “Sweet Caroline,” with the refrain “Sweet Robert Dole — Bob, Bob, Bob — Good times never seemed so good — So good, so good, so good.”

“It was a great honor and a genuine privilege to serve with each of you, to learn from each of you.”

— Vice President Joe Biden



Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) leads a tribute to fellow Kansan Bob Dole



Former Senate Majority Leader and BPC Co-founder Tom Daschle, Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta



Former Senate Majority Leader and BPC Senior Fellow Bill Frist, former Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

“When expectations of a bipartisan Congress seem like a bygone tradition, two men who embodied leadership often beyond party politics were honored in Washington for their combined century of service.”

— CNN

“Finding common ground without losing sacred ground is what Dole and Baker accomplished, and what politics should be all about.”

— Capitol File Magazine



Former Senate Majority Leaders and BPC Co-founders Howard Baker and Bob Dole



Former Senate Majority Leaders Bill Frist and Trent Lott, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (back row), and former Senate Majority Leaders Howard Baker and Bob Dole