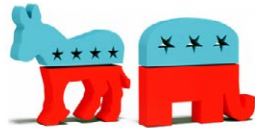


## POLARIZATION



# Shift Power Back to the Local Level

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The only way to fix American politics is to massively shift power from our dysfunctional federal government to our pragmatic cities, suburbs and local communities.

While top-down national governance tends to impose one set of choices on all of us, localism respects our differences and allows people to choose the kinds of communities that reflect their values. It may even enable the red and blue Americas to stop bashing each and find a way to coexist. While trust and confidence in Congress and the president are at record lows, roughly three-quarters of Americans express great trust and confidence in their local governments. Study after study shows that decentralized local government is more effective and democratic than centralized control. Indeed, while the Trump administration blunders on everything from immigration to trade, the American economy is kept afloat by the remarkable resilience of its local economies.

This means making the best use of the incredible tool of federalism our founders gave us. During the 20th century, we dialed up the power of the federal government, ending up with the heavy hand of the modern administrative state and imperial presidency. It is now time to shift power back.