

Welcome!
Statewide Safety Council
July 23, 2026, Meeting

Executive Order

On December 16, 2025, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 2025-13 establishing the Governor's Statewide Safety Council. This initiative responds to a series of tragic events in Minnesota in recent years and reflects a commitment to convene leaders from state government, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations to develop actionable recommendations that will inform policy and strengthen the existing legal framework to enhance public safety statewide.

Preliminary report due: April 6, 2026

Final report due: January 6, 2027

Council objectives



The Safety Council's objectives are to:

- a. Develop an immediate **action plan** to prevent mass violence, targeted attacks, and domestic terrorism;
- b. **Recommend strategies** to combat radicalization, domestic terrorism, politically motivated violence, and extremist ideologies;
- c. Address **the intersection** of mental health and gun violence;
- d. **Promote and support** Threat Assessment and Threat Management Teams across Minnesota;
- e. **Coordinate with federal, state, and local partners** to align efforts and share best practices;
- f. Make **policy and funding recommendations** to the Governor;
- g. Meet monthly or at the call of the chair;
- h. Submit a preliminary report to the Governor **within 90 days**; and
- i. Submit a final report to the Governor **within 365 days**

Operating Agreements

- **Speak your own truth.** Share your perspective without generalizing or speaking for others.
- **Assume best intent.** Give each other the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification when you aren't sure of intent. Offer "do-over" opportunities if a comment lands differently than intended and take responsibility for your impact.
- **Center trauma experience.** Acknowledge the impact of those experiences on how you or others might engage in your conversations.
- **Build connections.** Actively work to build relationships with members you don't know well.
- **Share the air.** Balance listening and speaking. Make space for others to contribute. Allow people to finish their thought.
- **When here, focus here.** Avoid multitasking and minimize distractions to stay fully engaged during meetings. If you must step out for an unexpected demand for your attention, do so quickly and flag the facilitators if you want us to follow up with you after the meeting to get caught up.
- **Be responsible.** Take ownership of meeting preparation, accessing necessary information, completing special assignments, and staying connected with your constituents.
- **Safe conversations for meetings.** Voting Council members should not engage in discussions about pending decisions with other members outside official meetings. Engaging in these conversations outside of meetings can lead to Open Meeting Law violations.
- **Honor the critical and urgent nature of this work for which we are all responsible.** Attend or send your alternate. Lean in on the between meeting tasks asked of you.

Message to observing public



Refrain from *any* behavior that disrupts the orderly conduct of the Council's work.



Public comment periods will not be part of these meeting procedures. If you wish to engage members in conversations before or after meetings or during meeting breaks, first ask if they have the time. Their conversations with other members must always take precedence.



If you have any logistical concerns such as access to meeting materials or ability to hear, connect with the meeting planners/facilitators (Kris, Stacy, or Julie) during a break.

Meeting topic cadence

March:	Mental health, illness, and suicide
April:	Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM)
May:	Social media, radicalization, and child protection online
June:	School violence
July:	Political and religious extremism and violence
August:	Victim, survivors, trauma, and aftercare
Sept:	Firearms

Oct – Dec: plan development and alignment

Today's agenda and objectives

Rational objective:

- Further explore political and religious extremism and violence in Minnesota to better inform members as they start to develop recommendations that could improve safety.

Experiential objective:

- Members feel confident they can weigh in on draft recommendations related to political and religious extremism and violence in Minnesota and suggest enhancements unique to their agency/organization.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Tap in question
- **Political and Religious Violence Presentation**
- **State Patrol Political Threat Investigations**
- **Office of Collaboration and dispute Resolution**
- Small and large group discussion
- Tap out question
- Resource Inventory Discussion
- Adjourn @ 11:00

Two-hour meeting – no break!

A simple act of free-form sharing to help draw your focus to this work and away from other demands on your time and attention. As a full group, members “tap in” by sharing their answer to this question:

What stands out to you about Minnesota’s Political and Religious extremism after reviewing the various resources?



Political and Religious Violence

The Violence Prevention Project Research Center



**Vance Bolter has
pleaded guilty in
federal court**



Minnesota Context

Violence at Islamic Center and Mosque



POLL

American Jews change their behavior as antisemitism surges

A new American Jewish Committee (AJC) poll shows that fear of antisemitism is reshaping daily life for millions of American Jews - and the numbers suggest a troubling new normal.



THE FP

America's Growing Political Violence Problem

Death threats, assassination attempts, and political intimidation are now so frequent they barely make headlines. Another danger is how quickly we've grown used to it.



By The Editors

THE
NATIONAL
NEWS DESK

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

IS AMERICA ON EDGE?

National Context

Definitions

Separate, but related problems



MOTIVE

Political violence

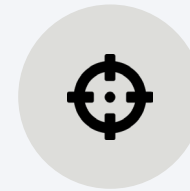
Force or threat used to advance a political aim or punish a political enemy.



MOTIVE

Hate violence

Force aimed at someone for who they are, or who the attacker thinks they are.



METHOD

Targeted violence

A planned, predatory attack on a chosen person, group, or place.

The point: Politics and hate are motives. Targeted violence is the method.

The scope of the problem

Most people already reject political violence

~1%

support partisan killing

Polarization Research Lab, 2025

89%

call political violence
always unjustified

Marquette Law School Poll, 2025

up to
442%

how far people
overestimate the other
side's support

Mernyk et al., 2022

up to 44%

drop in support after
seeing the real numbers

Mernyk et al., 2022

So what: rejection of violence is close to consensus across parties, and correcting the false belief about the other side is itself an intervention. Social media feeds reward outrage, so the loudest voices are the least representative.

History

Not new, but the rhetoric is

American political violence runs through every era:



The shift to watch is at the top. Today's levels may not be unprecedented, but elite rhetoric that casts opponents as people who must never hold power again is the signal that, globally, has preceded real violence.

WHO CROSSES THE LINE

There is no one profile

No predictive profile exists.

Common threads, not a type: people who are action-oriented, want to change their world, and feel moral outrage at an injustice done to them or to a group they identify with.

WHAT MOVES SOMEONE



Grievance and injustice



Trait victimhood (a real predictor)



Alienation and the need to belong



Mental health vulnerability raises risk; it is not the cause



Firearm access (the lethality multiplier)

DEADLY ATTACKS

Political Assassinations

The past five years of assassinations and attempts on the lives of politicians is the highest on record since the 1960s

Offenders

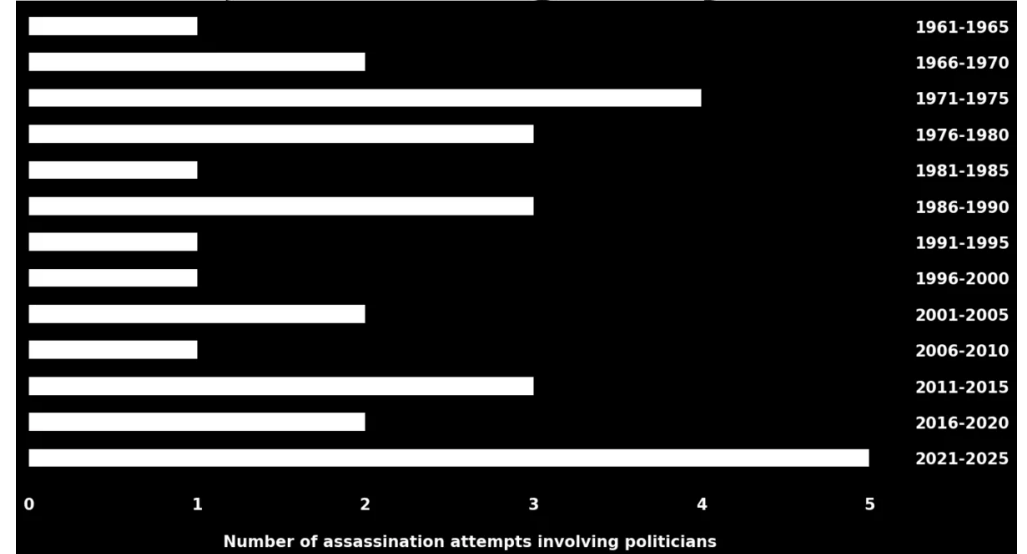
Age: 20 to 72 years old (M=37)

Gender: 90% men

Race: 79% white

83% of perpetrators under age 30 had a documented mental health history and were in crisis at the time of the attack

US Political Violence Surges to Record, Bloomberg Analysis Shows



Source: The Violence Project, Bloomberg Economics. Note: the assassination of Charlie Kirk is not included in the data because he was not a politician.



Perpetrator Histories

•Military service	32%
•Criminal history	55%
•Prior violence	45%
•Trauma history	45%
•Mental health	58%
•Suicidal	29%
•Leakage	39%
•Crisis signs	48%
•Warning signs	77%
•Recent stressors	58%

Among assassins under age 30, **83%** had a documented **mental health history** and were in crisis at the time of the homicide.

Luigi Mangione

Grievance
Crisis
Script
Access
Final Act

Societal reaction
Social contagion
Political environment

Luigi Mangione's Reviews > Industrial Society and Its Future



Want to Read

Rate this book
★★★★★

Industrial Society and Its Future

by Theodore John Kaczynski



Luigi Mangione's review



bookshelves: [21st-century-reading-list](#)

Jan 23, 2024

Clearly written by a mathematics prodigy. Reads like a series of lemmas on the question of 21st century quality of life.

It's easy to quickly and thoughtless write this off as the manifesto of a lunatic, in order to avoid facing some of the uncomfortable problems it identifies. But it's simply impossible to ignore how prescient many of his predictions about modern society turned out.



Kirk - Shell Casings

- Used to mock participants in online role-play communities. Reference to a furry-related meme popular in 2015
- Joke in the Helldivers community that you can shut down any argument you disagree with by entering ^ > **v v v** and blowing the whole thing up
- Italian folk song “Bella Ciao.” Popularized as an antifascist anthem in Italy after World War II, resurfaced in the Netflix series “Money Heist” and in video games

Fired cartridge:	NoTices Bulge OWO What's This?
Second cartridge:	Hey Facist! Catch! [arrow symbols]
Third cartridge:	O Bella ciao, Bella ciao Bella ciao Ciao, ciao!
Fourth cartridge:	If you Read This, You Are GAY Lmao

Performative – for us to decipher

House of Worship Violence



399 homicide incidents occurred at or near houses of worship from 2000 to 2025.



512 people were killed and 213 injured across all incidents.



27 homicide incidents (7%) were active shooter incidents.



44% of active shooter incidents involved ideological motivation.

- Active shooter incidents accounted for 103 killed (20% of deaths) and 127 injured (60% of injuries).
- The average number of fatalities per active shooter incident was 3.8 (vs. 1.3 across all incidents).
- 37% of active shooter perpetrators had some prior connection to the congregation (e.g., a member, employee, volunteer), 37% were strangers, and 26% had unknown affiliation.
- Active shooter incidents in the dataset occurred at congregations primarily serving Christian (22), Jewish (4), and Sikh (1) communities.

Source: Jillian Peterson and James Densley, House of Worship Homicides, Violence Prevention Project, 2026, <https://www.theviolenceproject.org/databases/house-of-worship>.

Causes and Processes

Hopelessness, anger, marginality

Economic and social stress

Language, misinformation, radicalization

Contagion and normalization

Opportunity



Minnesota State Patrol Political Threat Investigations



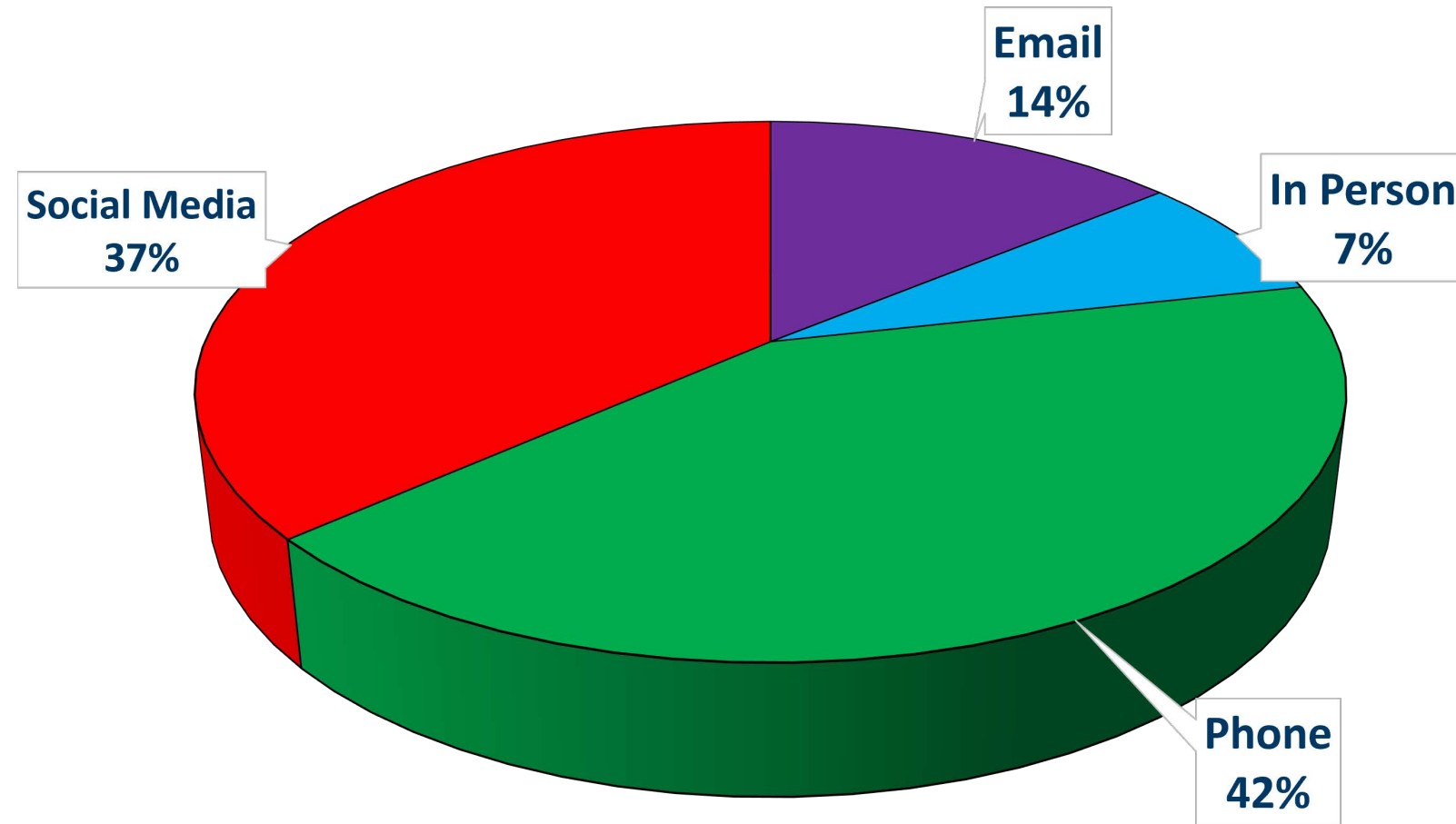
RESPECT • INTEGRITY • COURAGE • HONOR • EXCELLENCE

What Constitutes a Threat ?

Minnesota Statute 609.713:

- Whoever threatens, directly or indirectly, to commit any crime of violence with purpose to terrorize another or to cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly, vehicle or facility of public transportation or otherwise to cause serious public inconvenience
- In Minnesota crimes of violence are defined by Minn. Stat. [609.1095](#), [subdivision 1](#), paragraph (d): (Murder, Assault, Robbery, Kidnapping)
- Nonthreatening inflammatory statements are protected speech under the first amendment.

How Threats are Received



****2025 Data**

 Email

 In Person

 Phone

 Social Media

Online Threats



The screenshot shows a social media interface. The top post is from a user with a blacked-out profile picture and name. The text of the post is: "I'm so grateful to all the first responders who answered the call at Annunciation this morning. My heart is with all those caring for our community. The strength of our police, emergency healthcare workers, and clergy, show us the path through this unthinkable tragedy." Below the text are icons for replies (36), retweets (5), likes (19), and views (1.7K). Below this post is a reply from a user with a grey profile picture and a blacked-out name. The reply text is: "children's blood is on your hands and soon it will be coming out of your mouth and fucking throat as we beat you". Below the reply are icons for replies, retweets, and likes.

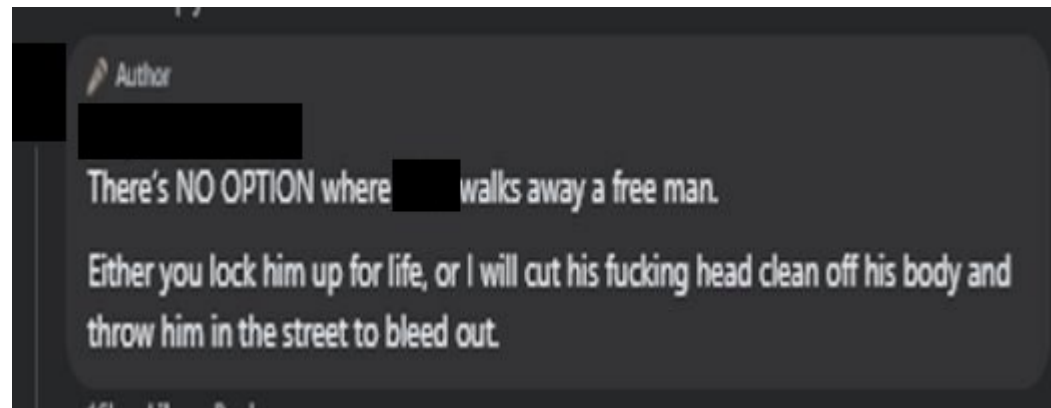
I'm so grateful to all the first responders who answered the call at Annunciation this morning. My heart is with all those caring for our community.

The strength of our police, emergency healthcare workers, and clergy, show us the path through this unthinkable tragedy.

36 5 19 1.7K

children's blood is on your hands and soon it will be coming out of your mouth and fucking throat as we beat you

2



The screenshot shows a dark-themed chat or direct message interface. At the top, it says "Author" next to a blacked-out profile picture. The text of the message is: "There's NO OPTION where [redacted] walks away a free man. Either you lock him up for life, or I will cut his fucking head clean off his body and throw him in the street to bleed out." Below the text are icons for replies, retweets, and likes.

Author

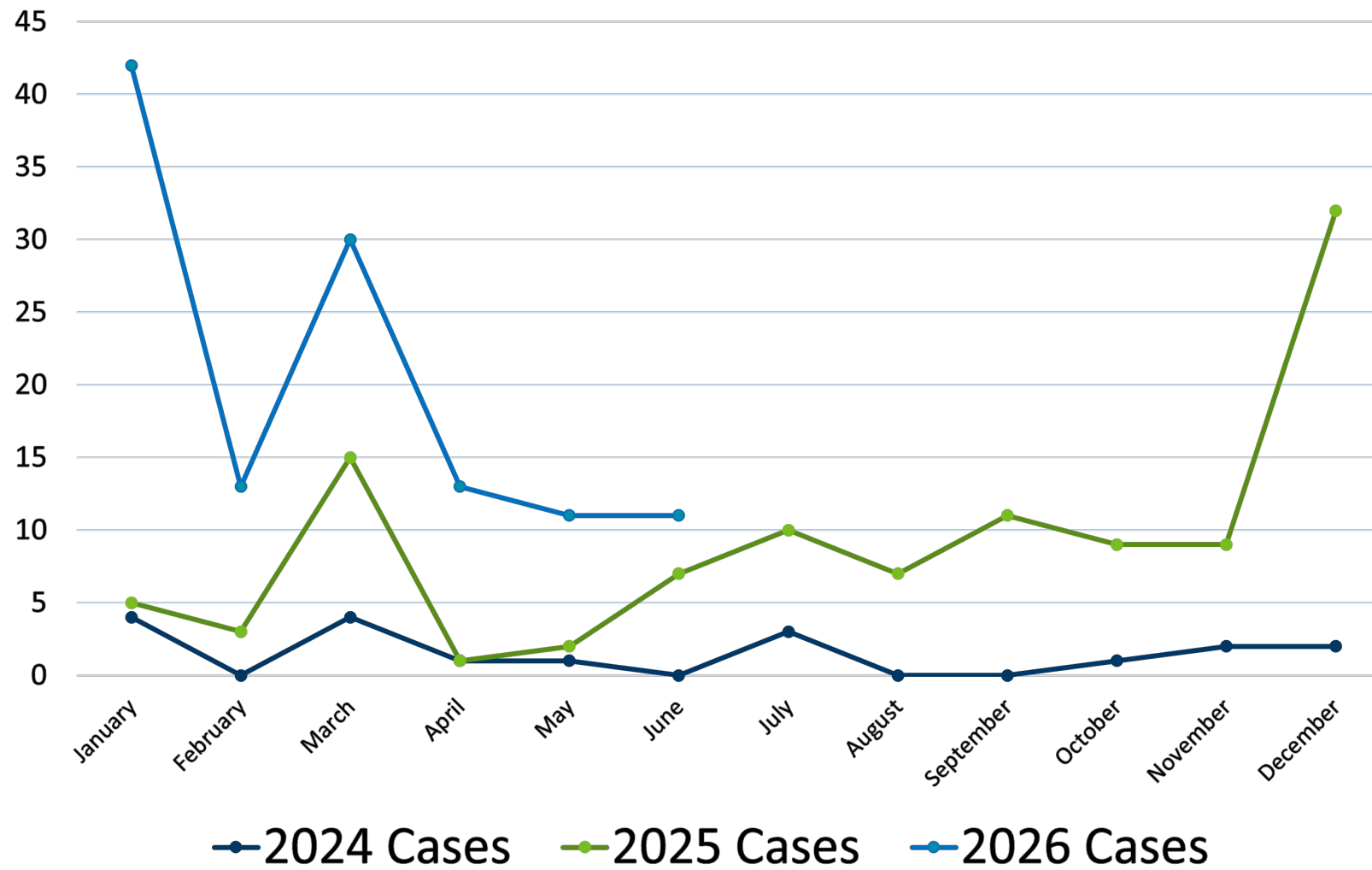
There's NO OPTION where [redacted] walks away a free man.

Either you lock him up for life, or I will cut his fucking head clean off his body and throw him in the street to bleed out.

Minnesota State Patrol Cases

2024 Threat Investigations		2025 Threat Investigations		2026 (YTD) Threat Investigations	
Month	Cases	Month	Cases	Month	Cases
January	4	January	1	January	37
February	0	February	3	February	10
March	4	March	11	March	15
April	1	April	0	April	12
May	1	May	1	May	9
June	0	June	7	June	4
July	3	July	7	Total	91
August	0	August	7		
September	0	September	11		
October	1	October	8		
November	2	November	7		
December	2	December	30		
Total	18	Total	93		

Trends



Threat Subjects

2024 Threat Subjects

Branch	Cases
Executive Branch	7
Legislative Branch	4
Judicial Branch	1
Other	6
Total	18

2025 Threat Subjects

Branch	Cases
Executive Branch	49
Legislative Branch	30
Judicial Branch	0
Other	14
Total	93

2026 (YTD) Threat Subjects

Branch	Cases
Executive Branch	27
Legislative Branch	42
Judicial Branch	3
Other	19
Total	91

Threats are typically received when:

- The subject of the threat makes a politically controversial statement, vote, or claim
- Increased media coverage related to politically controversial topics
- Politically controversial topics are discussed during the legislative session
- Campaigning on politically controversial topics occurs
- Holidays

Questions?

Office of Collaboration and Dispute Resolution

Jessica Shryack, Assistant Director

Example conflict

- OCDR was recently contacted by a city staff member, who said their public meetings were getting heated. They were a number of new projects coming up that might provoke more community ire. While law enforcement attends city council meetings, they don't attend all the public meetings the city holds. The staff member is worried that future meetings may become unmanageable.

In-scope:

- Collaborative problem-solving cases
- Conflict resolution training
- Grants for community mediation centers
- Conflict coaching/tech assistance
- *Supporting a growing bridge-building network*

Out-of-scope (but related):

- Public safety approaches
- Intervening in community-level disruptions
- Restorative justice and restorative practices
- Democracy and pluralism
- Extremism

Bridging definitions

- “Bridging is a particular form of social capital which describes connections that link people across a cleavage that typically divides society (such as race, or class, or religion).” – [Othering & Belonging Institute](#)
- “Bridging is the intentional bringing together of people or perspectives that are currently disconnected or divided.” – Karissa Raskin, [Listen First Project](#)
- “[Bridging] initiatives...bring groups of individuals together with goals of rehumanizing the other, building trust, and showing possible paths forward for collective action.” – Mathews and Ross (2025), [Mapping the US Bridgebuilding Field: Situating Organizations in the Ecosystem of Social Change](#)

More in Common's polarization statistics summary

- **Political partisans believe that the *average voter* on the other side holds extreme or fringe positions.** *Yudkin, D., Hawkins, S. & Dixon, T., (2019). "The Perception Gap," More in Common.*
- **Many Americans now believe that people who don't share their political beliefs are immoral, dishonest and a threat to the country's well-being.** *Pew Research Center (2022). "As Partisan Hostility Grows, Signs of Frustration With the Two-Party System."*
- **Even though policy positions may not be far apart, the dislike for the "other side" has risen sharply.** *Iyengar, S. et al., (2019). "The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States," Annual Review of Political Science.*
- **Most people are not partisans** *(Krupnikov, Y. & Ryan, J. B., "The Other Divide: Polarization and Disengagement in American Politics," Cambridge University Press (2022) and most people are tired of division and are politically disengaged.* *Hawkins, S. et al. (2018). "Hidden Tribes: A Study of America's Polarized Landscape," More in Common.*

Findings from the 2026 “Dignity in America” report

- 94% believe that “all people deserve to be treated with dignity” but only 31% say we treat each other with dignity when we disagree.
- Immediate family, volunteer organizations, K-12 schools and faith-based institutions are viewed as having higher levels of dignity; in contrast, politics/campaigns and social media are perceived to have the highest levels of contempt
- At the same time, 50% of adults surveyed say they believe it is “definitely possible” to “ease or heal the divisions in our country”
- People viewed the “impact on kids” as the most important reason for treating others with more dignity

How do we increase positive
intergroup empathy, understanding,
and interactions?

Greater Good Science Center research-based recommendations related to intergroup contact



Using personal stories



Focusing on shared identities



Engaging in shared action



Repeated and sustained intergroup contact

“When people from different groups are segregated from one another, stereotypes and prejudices about each other can take hold. Bringing together members of these groups, helping them get to know one other better— that’s a fundamental way of reducing misperceptions and biases, and creating warmer feelings between them.”

- Greater Good Science Center’s *Bridging Differences Playbook*

Aligned Bridging Efforts



Connect change
making organizations
and doers



Hub for connection
and innovation



Partnering, aligning on
initiatives



Collective
Impact

Decrease:
Polarization
Animosity
Disengagement
Hate
Violence
Dehumanization

Increase:
Understanding
Civility
Safety
Belonging
Joint problem-
solving
Engagement



Moving the
needle

What is OCDR's role?

- Have held 9 MN Bridge-Building Network convenings, including an in-person summit in May 2026
- Grown from ~30 individuals and organizations to 200+ over three years
- Dozens of personal connections made, resulting in new partnerships between organizations



Who is doing this work in MN?

- **MN Council of Churches Respectful Conversations program** – topic-specific dialogues
- **Civic Bridgers** – bridging leadership training, urban-rural exchanges
- **MN-based Braver Angels chapters** – Red-Blue dialogues, civil debates, training
- **A Peace of My Mind** – art installations and workshops
- **Marnita's Table** – meals and conversation between diverse groups
- **PeaceMaker MN** – school-based conflict resolution training
- **With Love** – space for bridging activities and conversations
- **Common Ground USA in MN** – providing data and communication recommendations to reduce likelihood of political violence

Ideas for the future

- An ongoing Advisory Council on Community Collaboration, Stability, and Preparedness
- A Minnesota Common Ground Task Force
- Increasing capacity for the State Court Administrators Office to fund community mediation and alternative dispute resolution
- Create a civic health dashboard – e.g., affective polarization, sense of belonging, perceptions of dignity
- Fund a statewide needs assessment to assess community conflict risk and map the needs to bridging and conflict resolution resources
- Increasing capacity for dispute resolution work in OCDR
- Promote bridge-building and alternative dispute resolution organizations and connect with them when community conflicts arise

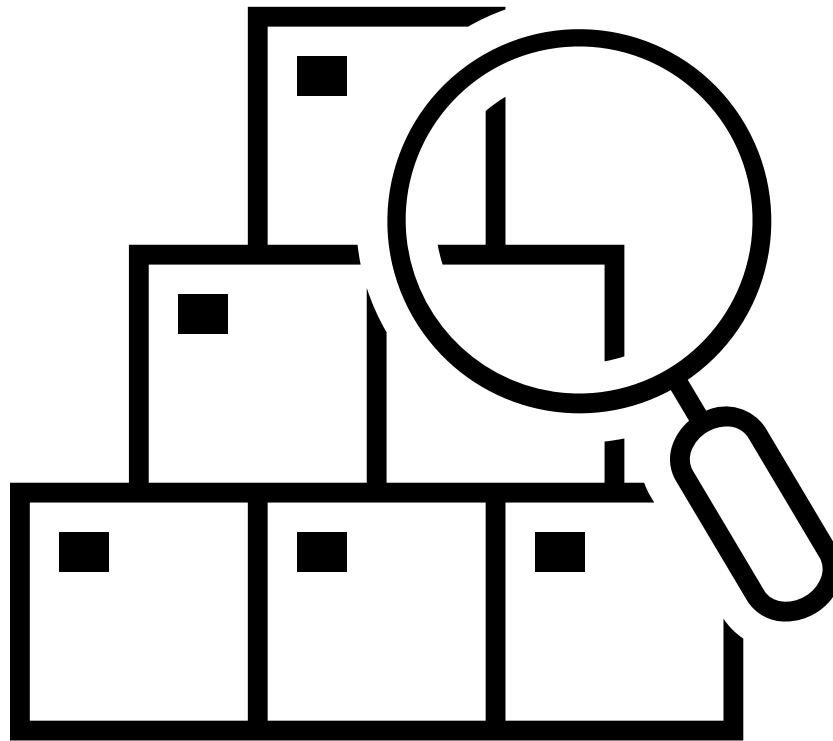
Small and whole group discussion

1. Organize into trios
2. Worksheet – identify scribe
3. Consider these questions (15 min):
 - How do the differences (as mentioned by Drs. Peterson and Densley) inform recommendation development?
 - What needs to be addressed when considering:
 - Prevention
 - Intervention/response
 - Recovery
4. Whole group debrief (10 min)

If 'othering' and over-emphasizing differences are root causes in schools, politics, religious settings, etc., what is within the state's control to influence society toward a culture of civility?



Program resources



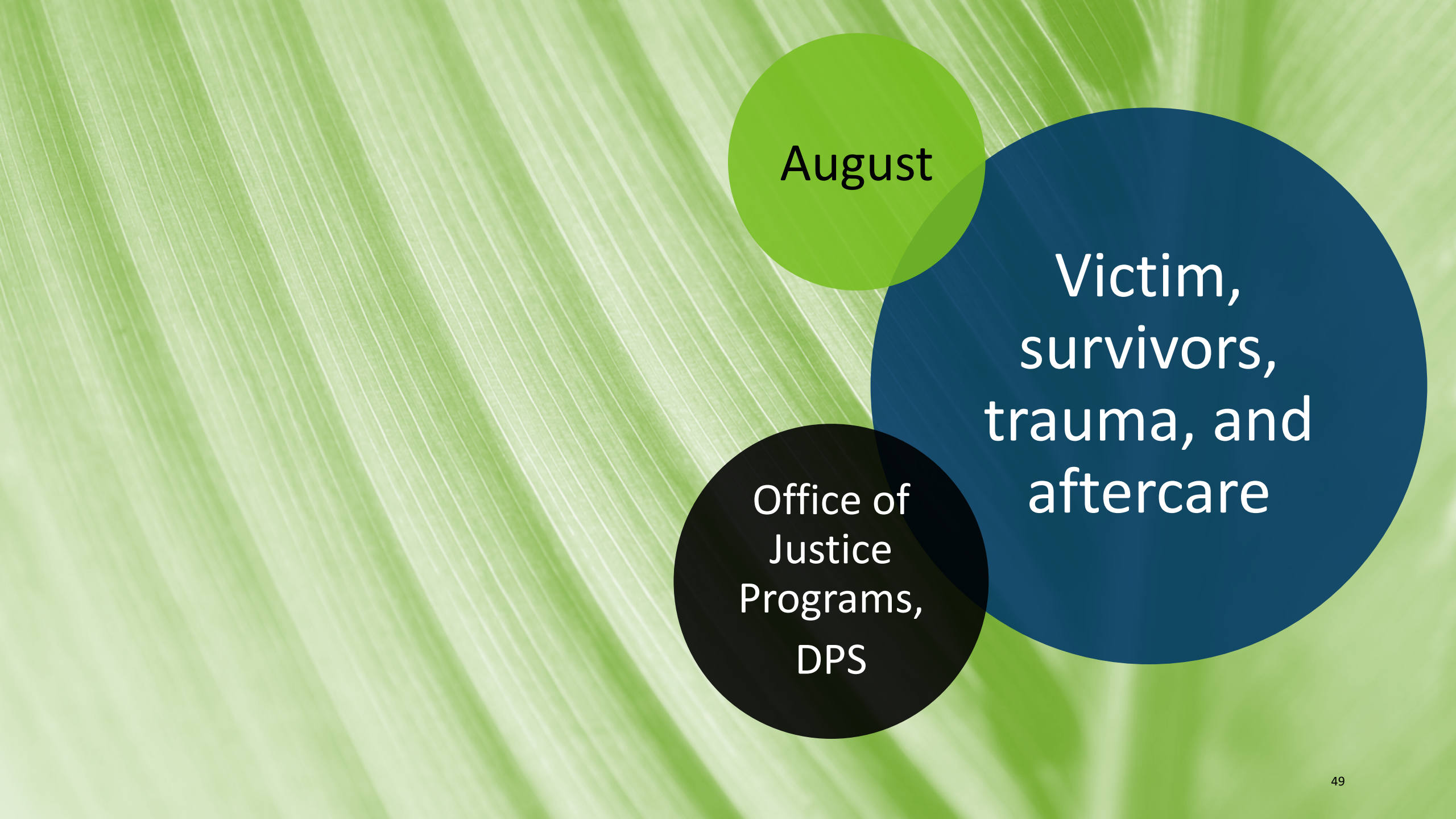
Assignment

You will receive draft **Political and religious extremism and violence** recommendations by next Wednesday (7/29). Please provide your gradients feedback by EOD Wednesday (8/5).

August 26 meeting

- Victim, survivors, trauma, and aftercare
- Back here at **Veterans Service Building!**





August

Victim,
survivors,
trauma, and
aftercare

Office of
Justice
Programs,
DPS