

# Convergence:

*Solving Problems, Sparking Hope*

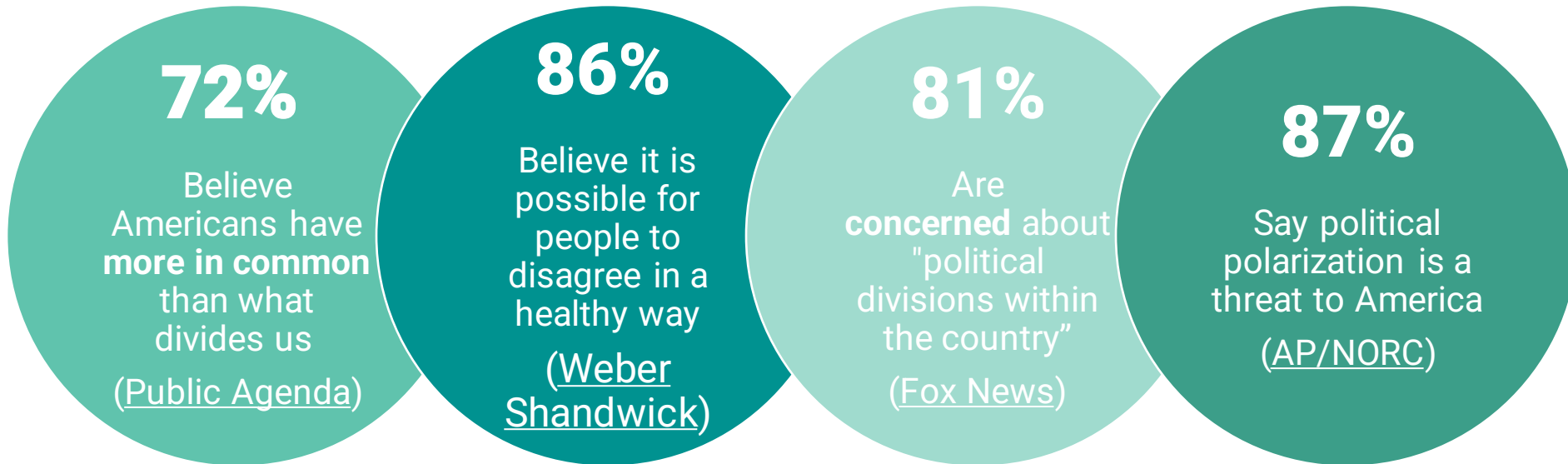
*April 2024*

CONVERGENCE



# The Problem

Polarization has severely limited our ability to make progress on critical issues that impact millions of lives, and future generations.



The need for collaborative problem-solving across differences is at an all-time high.

**Convergence is leading the way.**

# Convergence: Who We Are

## Mission

We build trust and bridge divides to solve critical issues and strengthen our democracy and society.

## Vision

We envision a vibrant society built on broad collaboration and inclusion.

## What Differentiates Us

- Our rigorous problem-solving methodology and expert facilitation
- Our neutrality
- Focus on contentious, "stuck" issues
- Frame issues in a way that brings a truly diverse group to the table
- Development of higher ground solutions that go beyond compromise
- Design projects to lead to action and impact

# Convergence: What We Do

## Convergence Collaboratives

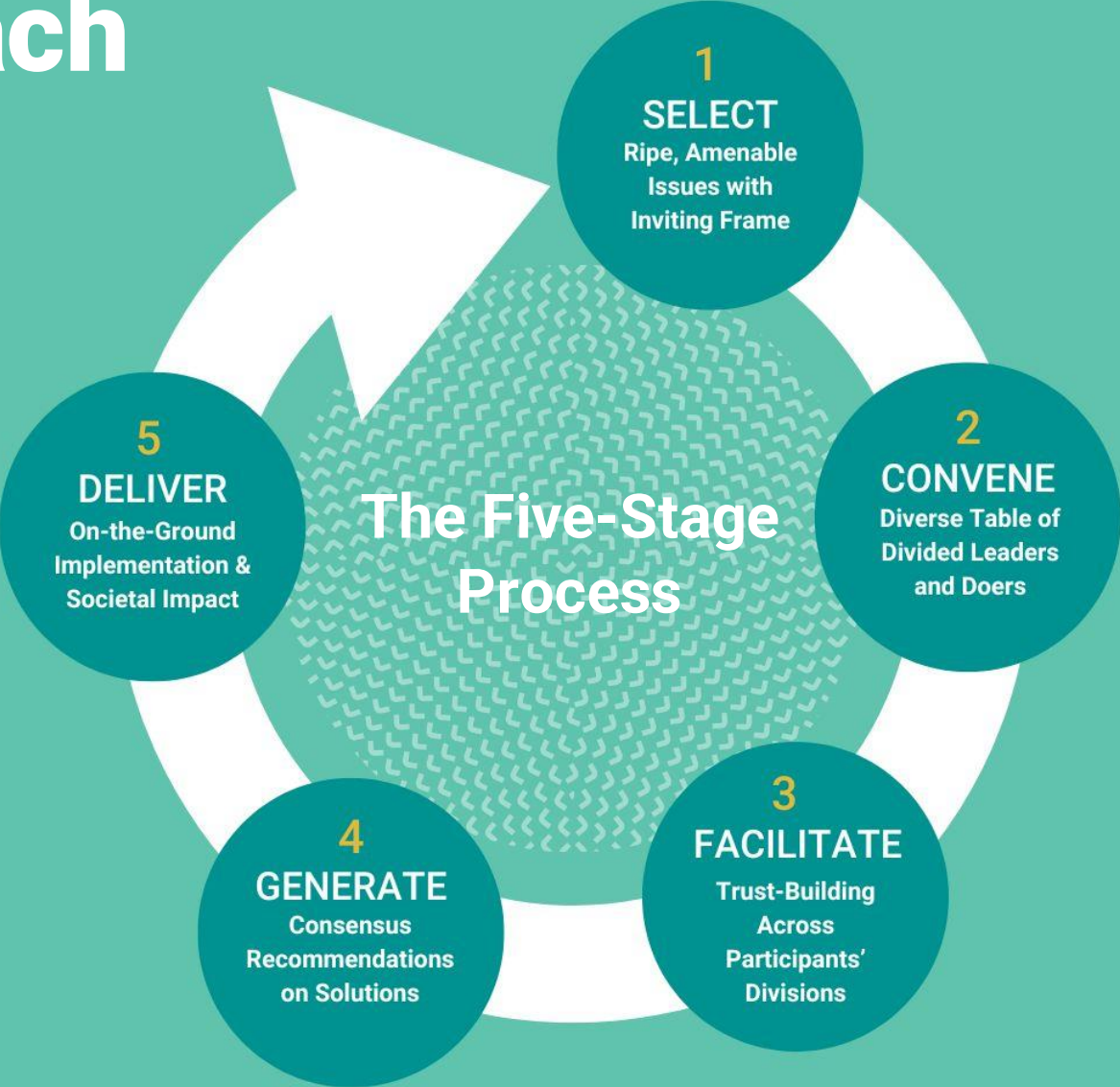
- Intensive year-long collaborative problem-solving process
- Brings together leaders on all sides of contentious issues
- Builds trust, develops innovative consensus solutions, and creates unlikely alliances for action
- **Impact Areas:** Economic Opportunity, Health & Wellbeing and Democracy & Civic Engagement

## Convergence Learning Lab

- Inspire and equip leaders to learn and utilize the proven approaches from our Collaboratives
- Provide consulting and training on collaborative problem-solving approaches
- Audiences include public sector, business, higher education and others

# Our Proven Approach

How We Get it Done



# Convergence Collaboratives Drive Impact

Serve as catalysts for change by unsticking "stuck" problems and creating unlikely alliances and ongoing collaboration

Our track record includes spurring consensus and collective action on issues including:

- K-12 Education
- Healthcare
- Economic mobility
- Prison reentry
- Long-term care financing
- Nutrition and wellness
- Federal budget process

## Current Projects

- Social Determinants of Health
- Supports for Working Families

## Project Pipeline

- Economic integration of immigrants
- Housing affordability
- Climate

# Convergence Collaboratives Drive Real Change

We maximize impact through:



Changes in national, state, and local policy



Improvements in national conversation



Create unlikely alliances to move proposals to action



Changes in business practices



Catalyze funding for higher-ground solutions



Equip participants to champion collaborative approaches



Pilots & tests of public/private solutions



Ongoing changes in participant behavior

# Highlighted Examples of Convergence's Impact



Walmart and McDonald's implemented practices to support upward mobility for their workforces, including greater access to higher education, career pathways initiatives, and predictable scheduling as a result of the *Working Up Collaborative* in 2018.



The *Education Reimagined Collaborative* spun off into an independent organization in 2019 and plays a catalytic role in the learner-centered education movement.



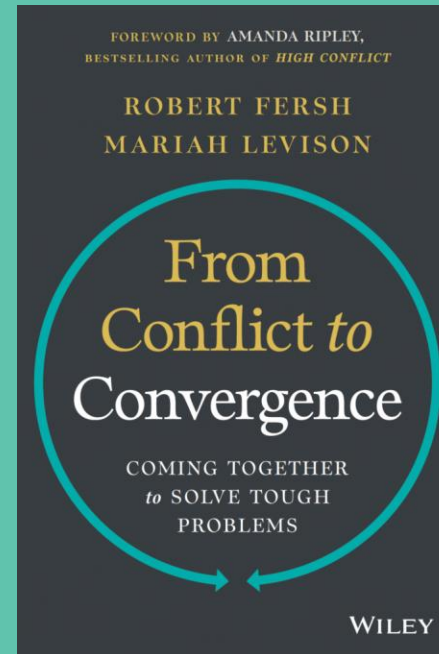
On June 30, 2022, California's Governor Newsom signed legislation establishing the Office of Healthcare Affordability, which mirrored the recommendation issued by *Convergence's California Health Reform Dialogue* in March 2020.

# Convergence Learning Lab

Expanding and scaling our impact by teaching and implementing our collaborative problem-solving methodology

## Content & Skills Overview

- Psychological dimensions of human conflict
- Key steps to bridging divides
- Fundamental conflict resolution skills
- Collaborative problem-solving mindsets
- Collaborative problem-solving process
- Advanced facilitation skills



- Hands-on guide to de-escalating conflict and constructively engaging with those you disagree with to find better solutions to problems, co-authored by Convergence Founder **Rob Fersh** & CEO **Mariah Levison**
- Coming July 30, 2024

# Convergence:

Restoring **hope**, bringing Americans **together** across our differences, and building **trust** as we forge **solutions** to common challenges.

There is **strength** in **collaboration**.

# Thank You.

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