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LIVING, 5B

PUBLIC OPINION

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CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Chambersburg nominations are open

Janis Reeser
Reporter assisted by AI

Chambersburg is seeking nominations for the Chambersburg Mike Waters Citizen of the Year Award. The award honors individuals or organizations that have made significant voluntary contributions to the community, according to a community announcement. The service provided must be voluntary and not part of a paid position. Nominees do not need to be residents of

Chambersburg, but their efforts should have benefited the borough in a meaningful way. The service should have been accomplished within the last 12 months or represent a lifetime of service. There is no limit to the number of nominations an individual or organization can submit. Additional pages can be added to the nomination form to detail the nominee's accomplishments. Nomination forms can be sent by mail or email to Jamia Wright, Borough Secretary, at 100 S. Second St., Chambersburg,

PA 17201, or jwright@chambersburg-pa.gov. Nominations should explain why the nominee deserves the award. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 17. The award will be announced at the Town Council meeting on Nov. 17. For more information, contact Community and Economic Development Specialist Guy Shaul at 717-251-2446 or gshaul@chambersburgpa.gov. The Chambersburg Mike Waters Citizen of the Year Award is an annual recognition that celebrates those who exemplify the spirit of service that Mike Wa-

ters provided to the community during his lifetime. Community members are encouraged to participate in the nomination process to help recognize deserving individuals and organizations. *This story was created by Janis Reeser, jreeser@gannett.com, with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Journalists were involved in every step of the information gathering, review, editing and publishing process. Learn more at <https://cm.usatoday.com/ethical-conduct/>.*

ANALYSIS



Conservative activist Charlie Kirk's murder has renewed discussions about how to address political divisiveness in America. ELIZABETH FRANTZ/REUTERS

Kirk's murder stirs political divides

Strategies for productive dialogue around politics

Lee Bebout
Arizona State University
THE CONVERSATION

Shortly following the fatal shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, many politicians and pundits were quick to highlight the importance of civil discourse. Utah Gov. Spencer Cox called for an "off-ramp" to political hostilities, while California Gov. Gavin Newsom released a statement condemning political violence. He lauded Kirk's "commitment to debate," adding, "The best way to honor Charlie's memory is to continue his work: engage with each other, across ideology, through spirited discourse." Since 2016, the organization Kirk co-founded, Turning Point USA, has hosted the Professor Watchlist. The online

database generated harassment campaigns against professors, leading to calls for firings, hate mail and death threats. Kirk was also known for going to college campuses and speaking to students, affably challenging audiences to "change my mind" on issues. To me, the impulse to shut down the other side, combined with the "change my mind approach" to debate, has only exacerbated political polarization and entrenchment. Instead, I propose a few different ways of thinking about conversations with people whose views differ from your own. **The fantasy of swiftly changing minds** Deliberative democracy is the idea that decision-making and governance are arrived at through thoughtful, reasoned and respectful dialogue. This may take the shape of debates in Con-

gress or robust questioning in town halls. But deliberative democracy also shapes the way all neighbors or citizens treat each other, whether on the street or at the dinner table. I contend that a big stumbling block that prevents the United States from tackling its biggest problems is how Americans conceptualize deliberative democracy: There's a fantasy that people's minds can be easily changed, if only they're given certain information or hear certain arguments. In the 1990s, this was epitomized through former President Bill Clinton's Initiative on Race, a program that he framed as a vehicle for social and political transformation. Clinton believed that an advisory board of experts could foster a meaningful national dialogue and produce necessary healing. In response, conservative political figures objected both to the need for a

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Essential holiday mailing deadlines

Keith Demko
Salisbury Daily Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Want to make sure that Christmas presents you're mailing to friends and family indeed arrive before the big holiday? The U.S. Postal Service has announced the recommended mailing and shipping dates for mail and packages to arrive with expected delivery by Dec. 25. Here's what to know, including where to go online to find out more on sending mail and packages overseas and to military members on active duty around the globe.

When to ship Christmas packages and mail for arrival by Dec. 25 in US

For expected delivery before Dec. 25, the Postal Service recommends the following send-by dates:

2025 holiday shipping dates for contiguous U.S. (Lower 48 states)

- **USPS Ground Advantage service:** Dec. 17
- **First-Class Mail:** Dec. 17
- **Priority Mail:** Dec. 18
- **Priority Mail Express:** Dec. 20

2025 holiday shipping dates for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and U.S. territories

- **USPS Ground Advantage service:** Dec. 16
- **First-Class Mail:** Dec. 17
- **Priority Mail:** Dec. 18
- **Priority Mail Express:** Dec. 20

Advice on sending Christmas packages overseas, to military members

For a complete list of suggested dates for customers sending packages to military or international addresses, the Postal Service recommends visiting the USPS *holiday shipping* page. For tips on mailing and shipping preparation, ordering free shipping supplies, packaging guidelines (including restricted and prohibited item

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