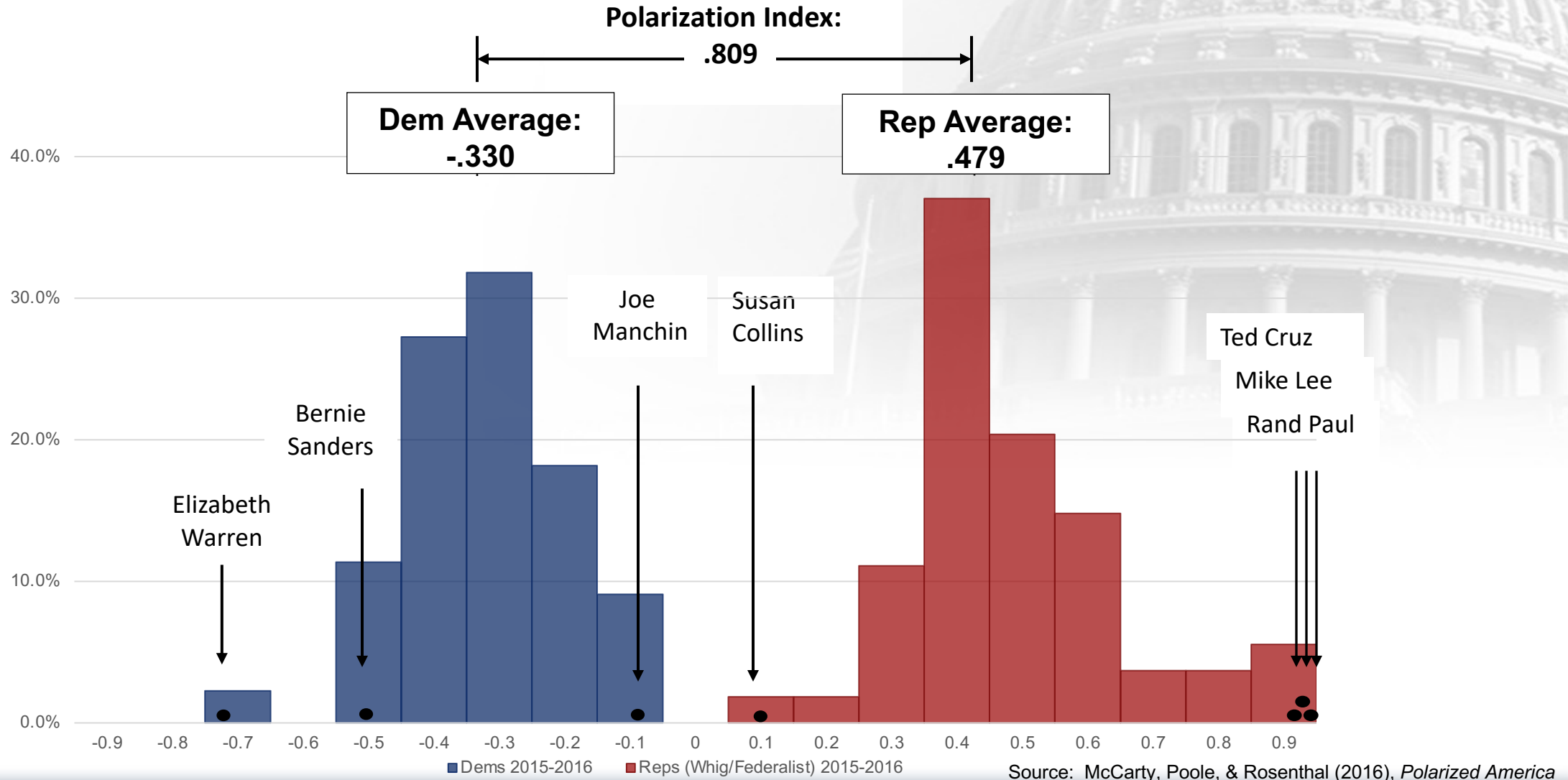


# Addressing Polarization through Civil Discourse

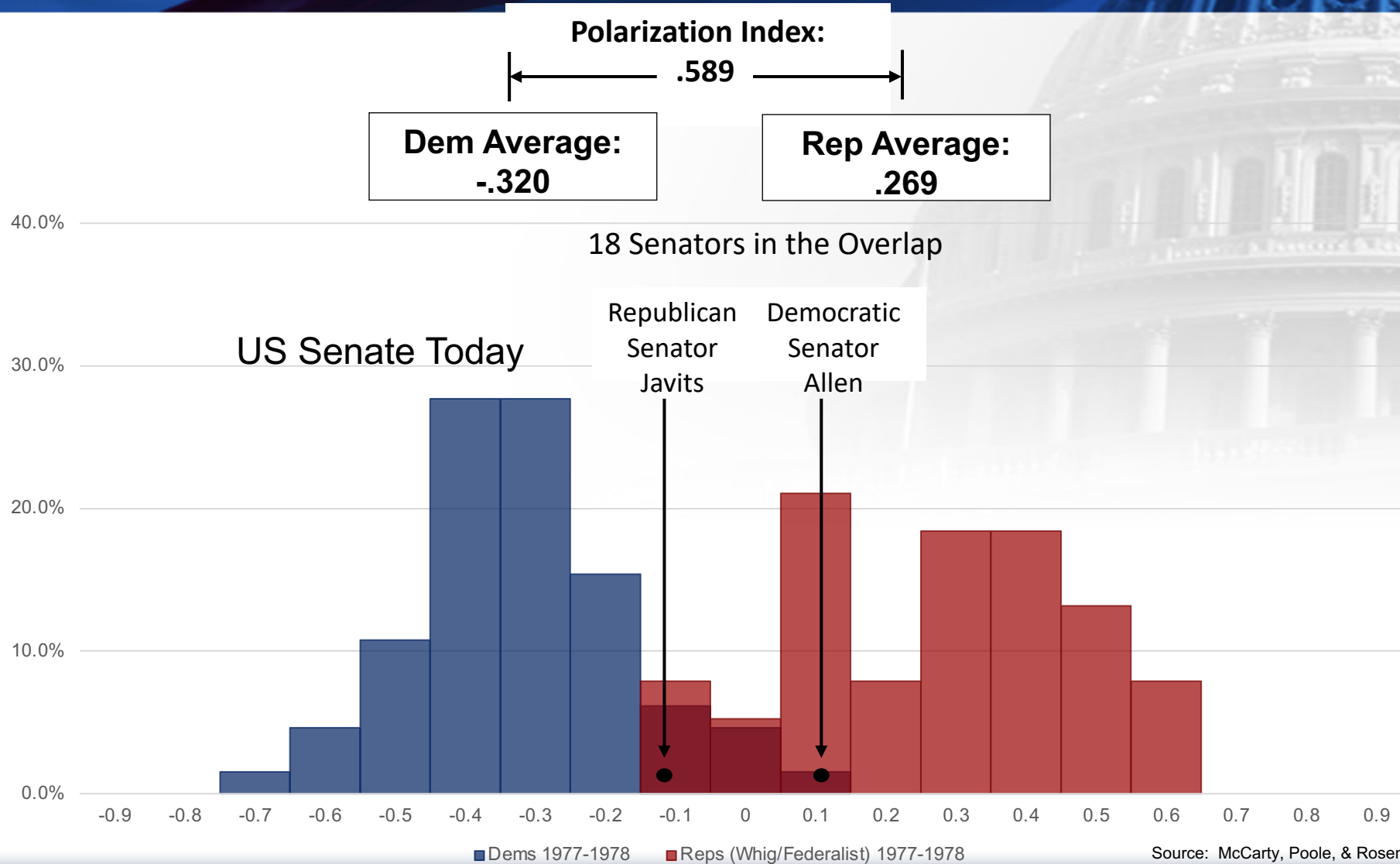
Keith Allred



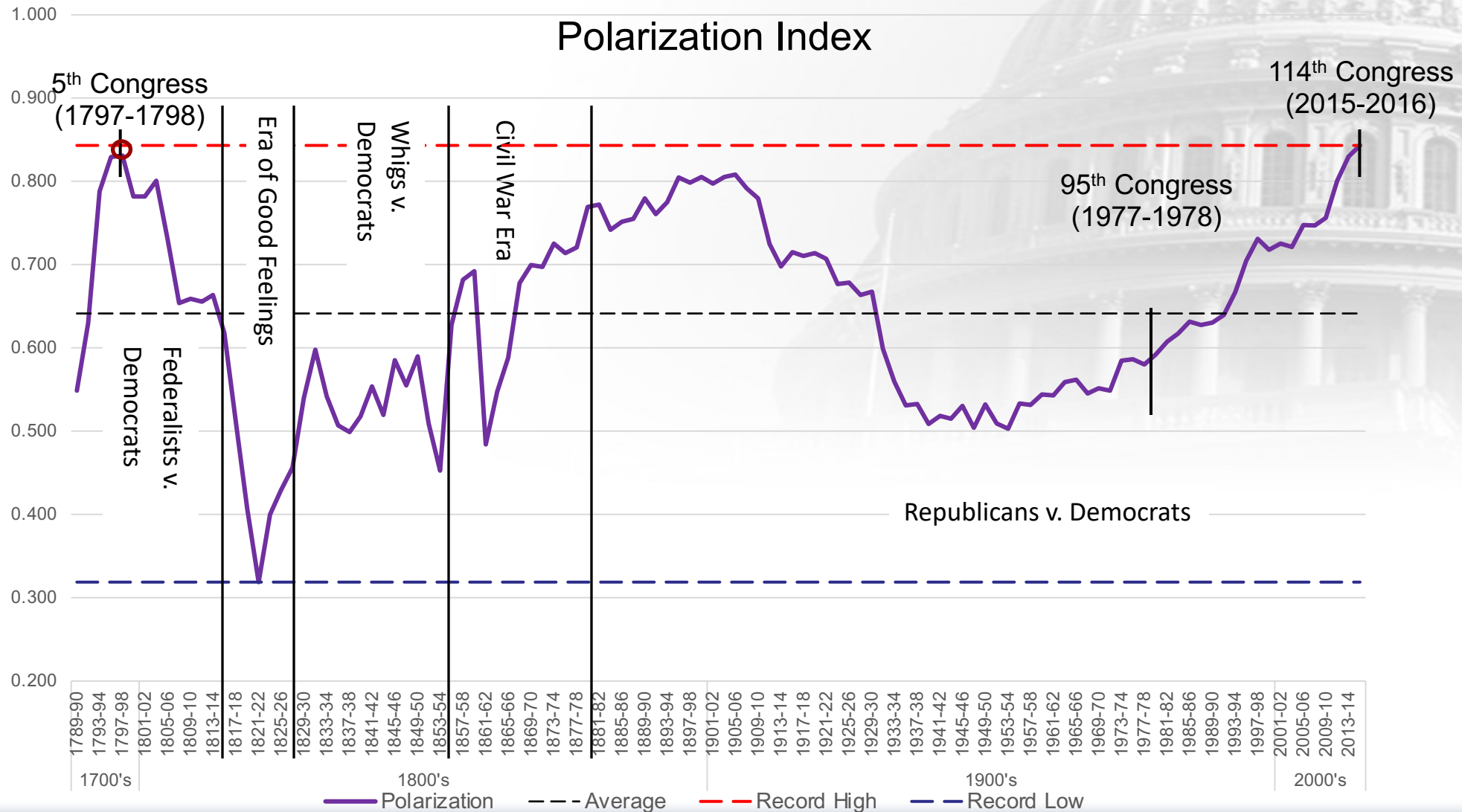
# US Senate Today



# US Senate 1977-1978



# Record Congressional Polarization



Source: McCarty, Poole, & Rosenthal (2016), *Polarized America*

# Breaking the Polarization Crisis Down

| TYPE OF POLARIZATION   | POLITICAL LEADERS                | CITIZENS                         |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  |                                  | POLITICALLY ACTIVE               | EVERYDAY AMERICANS               |
| <b>Issues Polarization:</b><br>Distance between Republicans and Democrats on policy issues | Highest ever recorded and rising | Highest ever recorded and rising | <b>Low and slowly rising</b>     |
| <b>Social Polarization:</b><br>How much animosity each side feels towards the other        | Highest ever recorded and rising | Highest ever recorded and rising | Highest ever recorded and rising |

# The Clash between Ideological Parties & the Constitution

## Old Two-Party System

- For most of our history, both parties have been a mix of conservatives, moderates, and liberals
- An issue or leader had to attract broad support
- Worked within a Constitution that requires broadly supported solutions

## New Two-Party System

- Polarized parties intent on imposing the will of a fervent minority on everyone else
- Incapable of delivering the broadly supported solutions the Constitution demands
- Once sorted, parties are not likely to become ideologically diverse again

# Engaging with NICD to get to a Better Place

Go to **NICD.Arizona.edu** to be part of the solution

**NEXT**  
generation

Find programs for state & local elected officials wanting to engage differences constructively



COMMONSENSE  
AMERICAN

Join with more than 47,000 Americans in championing solutions wise enough to attract bipartisan support

# NICD Programs

Go to **NICD.Arizona.edu** to be part of the solution



ENGAGING DIFFERENCES  
*EngagingDifferences.org*

Find principles, practices, videos for engaging differences constructively

**GOLDEN RULE**  
**2020**  
A CALL FOR DIGNITY AND RESPECT IN POLITICS

Find resources for churches who wish to help build dignity and respect in politics