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GLOBAL INNOVATIONS IN DEMOCRACY: PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGE


APRIL 15-17, 2024

WELCOME LETTER

We are honored to have you joining the second annual Global Innovations in Democracy parliamentary exchange on April 15-17, 2024, in Washington, DC. The Global Innovations in Democracy: Parliamentary Exchange (GID) is a partnership of the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability (IDEA) at The Ohio State University, the Center for Democracy Innovation (now part of the National Civic League), and the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University was established in 2022 to provide a global forum for legislators to discuss the most innovative methods and tools for gathering input, overcoming divisions, building trust, and gaining public support for public policy. In a time of rising threats to democracy, this kind of learning exchange is increasingly critical.

This year's GID exchange will bring together national legislators from nearly a dozen delegations, representing Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Chile, France, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United States and others, to learn from one another and jointly explore new trends, tools, and innovations in this work. While you do not need to have prepared remarks, we hope that in every session, we will have a robust and candid exchange of ideas amongst all participants, not just panelists. After one day of workshops and panels to be held at the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University, we will then move to the U.S. Capitol for a more formal parliamentary exchange between parliamentarians from around the world and U.S. Members of Congress, with all other participants observing.

We thank you for making the trip and are so happy to welcome you to Washington DC!



Matt Leighninger
Director
Center for Democracy Innovations
National Civic League



Michael Neblo
Director
Institute for Democratic Engagement
& Accountability (IDEA)
The Ohio State University

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THEMATIC AGENDA

AI: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

AI promises immense advances in efficiency, innovation, and learning. However, such gains could also come with enormous changes in society, especially labor markets. Moreover, the technology poses enormous hurdles to transparency in how algorithms work, and thus a lack of accountability for the creators and owners. As with previous technological revolutions, such innovation is likely to have unforeseen consequences for democratic politics. How should policymakers think about governance as AI is integrated, not only in government and the private sector, but civic life as well? Beyond AI, what online infrastructure can be created to bring more citizens into civic problem-solving?

ADAPTING DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS TO DIFFERENT POLITICAL NEEDS

All the democratic innovations featured in this exchange have unique features and levels of adaptability that determine their suitability for a particular situation, but they can also be used together and iteratively to make more systemic change. Parliamentarians and other officials must consider how and when to use representative samples vs open participation and how to integrate direct, participatory, or deliberative methods. They must also consider meaningful inclusion, the biggest challenges such innovations must overcome, and how to accelerate and institutionalize adoption of these practices.

LAWS AND MANDATES

As democratic innovations increasingly move from ad hoc platforms to institutionalized structures embedded within government bodies, we are witnessing the adoption of laws that provide legislative authority, create frameworks and guidelines that operationalize the workings of such democratic institutions. This theme will examine and try to assess some of these laws in countries such as France, Australia, Belgium and Italy.

BUILDING DEMOCRATIC RESILIENCE THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND EMBEDDED PARTICIPATION AT MULTILATERAL, FEDERAL, AND GLOBAL LEVELS

As democracies around the world at all stages of development face backsliding and/or challenges to their legitimacy, democratic innovations offer policymakers the chance to rebuild trust in institutions. Trust-building can occur through addressing misinformation, reducing polarization, and crafting policies that will address wicked problems without sparking backlash. Cases from around the world include a variety of different methods that have been used on problems ranging from climate to migration to constitutional changes, producing not only actionable insights for policymakers but also increased trust, collaboration and other components of democratic resilience.

INNOVATING PARLIAMENTS

Parliaments are a cornerstone of representative democracy. As legislative bodies, Parliaments have the power to make and scrutinize laws, determine where public dollars are invested, and set levels of taxation. While governments and elected officials derive their legitimacy from the public, and act on behalf of electors, they also have a responsibility to engage the public in parliamentary activity. A 21st century parliament takes a wider view of public engagement and seeks to innovate different opportunities for the public to experience, learn and provide input into legislative affairs. We can find multiple examples of parliaments using AR, digital tools, storytelling, parallel deliberative forums to committee work, delegation to citizen bodies, and so on.

PROGRAM AGENDA

Our theory of change: "When legislators and constituents interact in more participatory, deliberative, and inclusive ways, their policies are smarter, more effective, and more popular, and their democracies are more equitable, trusting, and resilient."

Monday, April 15, 2024

International Delegations Arrive

5:30pm - 8:00 pm Welcoming Reception

Welcome: Walter Goetz, Head of European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC
(Confirmed)

Dr. Michael Neblo, Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability (IDEA),
Ohio State University, US (Confirmed)

Introduction: Sanna Lepola, Director-General, Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships,
European Parliament (Confirmed)

Speakers:

- Jovita Neliupšienė, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States,
- Rep. Dina Titus, Ranking Member, House Democracy Partnership, US House
- Karen Melchior, MEP, Denmark
- Neema Lugangira, MP, Tanzania

Hosted by the European Parliament Liaison Office

Location: 2175 K Street NW

Tuesday, April 17, 2024

Workshop Day: *Discussion among international delegations: legislators, practitioners, and scholars*

Location: Constitution Hall at American University, 3501 Nebraska Avenue

9:00 - 9:45 am Welcome and the View From America

Presenters:

Dr. David Barker, Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, American University,
United States

Dr. Michael Neblo, Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability (IDEA), Ohio State
University

PROGRAM AGENDA

9:45 - 10:45 am Panel 1: What Does Democracy Innovation Look Like in 2024?

Panelists:

- Bonny Ibhawoh, Director, Participedia, Canada
- Eunice Gichangi, Clerk of the Senate, Kenya
- Kenza Occansey, Vice President, Economic Social and Environmental Council, France

Moderator: Matt Leighninger, Director, Center for Democracy Innovation, National Civic League, United States

10:45 - 11:00 am Break

11:00 am - 12:00 pm Panel 2: How Is AI Changing the Picture?

Panelists:

- Jessica Smith, Detailee, Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Committee on House Administration
- Steven Feldstein, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment's Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program

Moderator: Marci Harris, CEO & Co-Founder of Popvox, United States

12:00 - 12:30 pm Plenary Discussion: Making Sense of What We're Hearing

Facilitated plenary discussion of: What are the implications of the previous two panels? What are the greatest threats and opportunities we face?

Moderator: Amy Lee, Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability (IDEA), US

12:30 - 2:00 pm On-Site Lunch and Informal Discussion with Peers

PROGRAM AGENDA

2:00 - 3:00 pm **Panel 3: Meeting Challenges and Seizing Opportunities**

Panelists:

- Nicole Curato, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, Australia
- Obinna Osisiogu, Advisor to Deputy Speaker Benjamin Kalu, National Assembly, Nigeria
- Kimberly McArthur, President, Apolitical Foundation, Germany

Moderator: Maya Kornberg, Research Fellow at the Brennan Center for Justice, United States

3:00 - 4:00 pm **Panel 4: Adapting Democratic Innovations to Different Political Needs**

Panelists:

- Jonathan Moskovic, Francophone Parliament of Brussels, Belgium
- Sarah Yaffe, Mass LBP, Canada
- Thamy Pogrebinschi, Research Fellow, Center for Civil Society Research WZB, Germany
- Iain Walker, Executive Director, newDemocracy Foundation, Australia

Moderator: Nick Vlahos, Deputy Director, Center for Democracy Innovation, National Civic League, United States

4:00 - 4:30 pm **Open Time**

4:30 - 5:00 pm **Travel to Tabard Inn for Reception and Dinner**

5:15 - 6:00 pm **Reception**

Welcome: Kimberly McArthur, President, Apolitical Foundation, Germany

Speaker: Tamara Coffman Wittes, President, National Democratic Institute

7:00- 8:30 pm **Dinner**

Location: The Tabard Inn, 1739 N St NW

PROGRAM AGENDA

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Parliamentary Exchange: Chatham House Rules Member-to-Member Dialogue, between parliamentarians from Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Chile, EU, France, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, UK, US

Location: US Capitol (H-122)

9:30 am - 11:00 am: Session 1: Why Do We Need to Innovate and Expand Our Definitions of Constituent Engagement?

This session will examine the need to modernize how legislators around the world engage with citizens and the benefits of doing so. In conversation with national parliamentarians and Members of Congress, we will try to identify some of the shared challenges and limitations of traditional constituent outreach and participation. Are there global systemic trends that we can learn from?

Welcome & Introductions: Dr. Michael Neblo, Director, Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability (IDEA), Ohio State University, US

Discussant: Sanna Lepola, Director-General, Parliamentary Democracy Partnerships, European Parliament

Moderator: Alisha Todd, Director General, ParlAmericas

11:00 - 11:30 am: On-site Coffee Break

11:30 am - 1:00 pm: Session 2: Who Is Experimenting and Is It Working?

This session will build upon the first and move from the problem to examples of innovations used in various countries to connect with constituents in new ways. What have elected officials learned and what benefits are they and their institutions gaining from these experiments?

Discussants:

Art O'Leary, CEO, Electoral Commission, Ireland

Matt Leighninger, Center for Democracy Innovation, National Civic League, US

Moderator: Marjan Ehsassi, Executive Director of the Federation for Innovation in Democracy - North America

Adjourn

1:30 pm: Shuttles to airport depart

PROGRAM AGENDA

Optional Post-Exchange Activities:

1:00 - 2:00 pm: Lunch (catered, H-122)

2:00 - 3:00 pm: Guided Tour of U.S. Capitol

BACKGROUND & FRAMING

Leaders or Latecomers: Exploring the Role of Politicians in Democratic Innovation

An excerpt from the Apolitical Foundation, Omezzine Khelifa and Jon Alexander

It's time for a democracy update. We have 18th-century politics, 19th-century institutions, and 20th-century technology at a time of 21st-century challenges and opportunities. With trust in politicians and institutions in decline all over the world, new ways of doing democracy are clearly needed.

Demagogues are on the rise. Demagogues and populist politicians are exploiting declining trust. A major part of their approach is to lump all politicians (except themselves) together, decry them as disconnected elites, and point to them as the problem. At Apolitical Foundation, our work has shown us that this is far from the case: all politicians are not the same, and the idea that they are the problem is simplistic.

Innovations are being adopted—but slowly. Democratic innovations have been adopted in incremental and piecemeal fashion and are becoming increasingly popular, widespread, and valuable to the work of elected officials. However, they have not yet been systematically adapted across the whole of any national government, and relatively few politicians actively adopt and champion them.

There is a risk of a divide between practitioners and politicians. Frustrated by what is perceived as politicians' failure to embrace the solutions on offer, democratic innovation practitioners sometimes risk playing into populist and authoritarian anti-politician narratives, thereby driving politicians further away from promising tools and processes.

We believe politicians need this work, and this work needs politicians. The purpose of this research is to seek starting points for a new way forward, rooted in three principles: that politicians have an essential role to play in protecting and reviving democracy, that democratic innovation is essential, and that these two principles must be brought together.

Defining Our Terms: What Is Democratic Innovation?

We have chosen
to define
democratic
innovation as:

“Any process that empowers citizens to meaningfully shape societies, surpassing the conventional acts of voting in elections and referenda, and responding to consultations.”

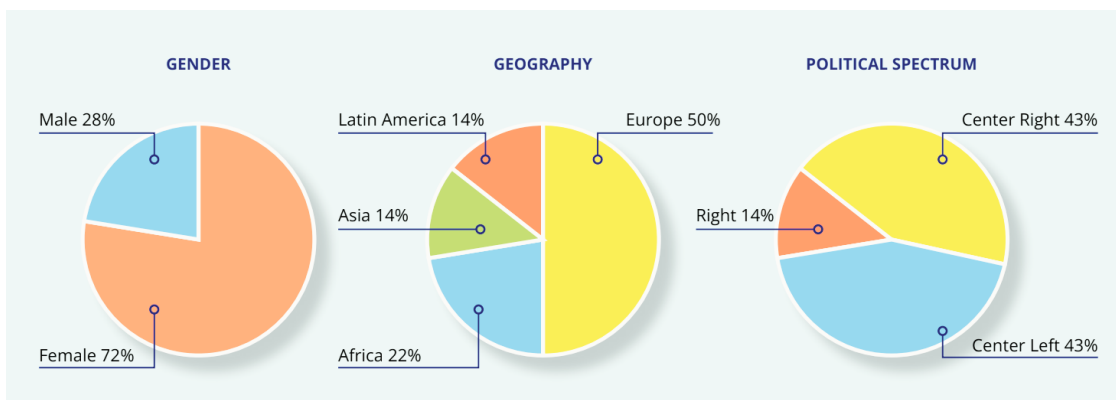
“Democratic innovation” is used in various ways. This variance exists partly because the same is true of “democracy” itself: some appeal to the meaning of the word as “people power,” while others are very much focused on free and fair elections. Very different regimes around the world lay claim to the concept of democracy with very different justifications.

Our starting point in this research is a desire to preserve accessible, transparent, trustworthy and secure elections while advancing practices that give more people a meaningful voice in shaping their lives. Our democratic innovation focus is therefore on forms of citizen participation across the world outside of elections. These forms provide individuals with a platform to express concerns, establish priorities, address complex issues, collaborate, and actively contribute to decisions that impact their lives.

Top Insights

Politicians across the world and political spectrum acknowledge the need to do things differently (especially women).

Our research indicates that there are politicians willing to spend some of their severely constrained time discussing democratic innovation. These politicians exist everywhere, and represent parties from across the political spectrum. Our 14 interviewees came from 11 different countries, with roughly equal representation from the global south and global north, and left and right political parties (as self-identified by the politicians). A higher proportion of women than men accepted our invitation, suggesting that female politicians might be a promising focus for further work.



The barriers to adopting democratic innovation can be overcome.

Much time was spent in interviews exploring various barriers to adoption, including the practical challenge of finding time and resources to engage with new methods and structural issues from political systems, laws, and party dynamics. We used images to stimulate these discussions. Despite recognizing these obstacles, all interviewed politicians felt they had agency and didn't view any barrier as insurmountable. Accustomed to navigating political challenges within parties or broader systems, the interviewed politicians believe in their ability to overcome obstacles with motivation, support, and clear objectives.

Circular Power Politics

An Excerpt from the Apolitical Foundation, Omezzine Khelifa and Jon Alexander

All over the world, we see a new way of doing politics taking shape—one that is working.

Examples include:

- The Taiwanese government inviting its whole population to participate in what was one of the world’s most successful COVID responses.
- Nigerian politicians collaborating with entrepreneurs to develop a new start up law, creating widespread opportunities for young people.
- Irish politicians from across the political spectrum working together to establish a citizens’ assembly as an ongoing element of national governance, solving big political challenges and building trust along the way.
-

We call this “Circular Power Politics” because it sees politicians channeling citizens’ power in their democracies by creating ongoing and reciprocal cycles of communication and collaboration with them—sometimes in small groups, sometimes much larger groups—between election cycles.

Politicians in this approach do not only seek citizens’ votes, but their ideas, energy and resources. The role of the politician becomes not only about getting elected and then doing democracy FOR constituents, but about doing it WITH them, including in between elections. This represents a different way of thinking about representative democracy.

This guide introduces some of the most important processes and tools you can use to structure these interactions—from citizens’ assemblies and other kinds of “mini publics” to digital crowdsourcing tools and platforms.

Our research has uncovered potentially great rewards:



You can deliver better on what your constituents want (which will also help you get elected and re-elected).



You can share the burden and opportunity of decision-making in an increasingly complex and challenging environment.



And you can help strengthen democracy in the process.

Addressing 10 Common Concerns

Before we go any further, we want to acknowledge some common concerns—many rooted in misunderstanding—that came up during our research. We respond to these doubts below to help you in discussions with your colleagues.

The Concern	The Reality Show
<p>“People elect politicians to do politics for them. They don’t want to be involved.”</p>	<p>These processes and tools are about finding more of the people whose voices most need to be heard on a given issue and meeting them where they are—not involving everyone in everything all the time.</p>
<p>“Whenever politicians invite participation, all you get are the usual suspects.”</p>	<p>The processes and tools in this guide are explicitly designed to move beyond this, with a clear focus on including those who too often go unheard. They allow criteria to be set for who is “in the room” and so ensure representation.</p>
<p>“Why ask people questions they don’t have the expertise to answer?”</p>	<p>This is not about replacing experts. It is about two things: first, inviting more input from more diverse people, making the most of all the expertise of your citizens; and second, bringing citizens closer to the work so the decisions made are more legitimate.</p>
<p>“Asking people will only ever produce bland solutions.”</p>	<p>The processes in this guide enable you to gather input and ideas from more and more diverse sources. This results in recommendations that are more varied and more creative.</p>

The Concern	The Reality Show
<p>“Won’t this cost money and take time I already don’t have?”</p>	<p>Many of the best tools are free and easy to use, but some of the more advanced in-depth processes do require time and money.</p>
<p>“Isn’t this undermining the role of elected politicians?”</p>	<p>Elected politicians are still the final decision-makers. The shift in role is from carrying all the burden of coming up with all the answers, to holding the questions and the process.</p>
<p>“Is this just another Global North project?”</p>	<p>Many of the processes in this guide originate in the Global South, like participatory budgeting in Brazil. The examples come from all over the world.</p>
<p>“Isn’t this a tool of the Left?”</p>	<p>No, for example the Democratic Innovators in our Hall of Fame come from across the political spectrum—as did the interviewees who participated in the research for this guide.</p>
<p>“Being a politician is more dangerous than ever. Is this safe?”</p>	<p>There is growing evidence (including in many of the case studies in this guide) that taking a more participatory approach can help rebuild trust in democracy and mend relationships between politicians and citizens.</p>
<p>“What if citizens propose ideas that can’t be acted upon?”</p>	<p>This is a very serious challenge—not because the ideas are bad, as such ideas usually get dismissed by citizens themselves, but because sometimes they do not fit with how systems work. Agreeing on a clear contract with citizens, setting expectations and communicating throughout are all essential to making sure you don’t promise something you then cannot deliver.</p>

Riding the Waves of Democracy Innovation

An Excerpt from the National Civic League, Matt Leighninger

“The terms “democracy” and “citizenship” aren’t usually associated with innovation. People tend to think of them as historic ideas that don’t change over time. In fact, democracy and citizenship are dynamic: many innovations have emerged in the last thirty years, all over the world, at all levels of governance.

The terms “democracy” and “citizenship” aren’t usually associated with innovation. People tend to think of them as historic ideas that don’t change over time. In fact, democracy and citizenship are dynamic: many innovations have emerged in the last thirty years, all over the world, at all levels of governance.

These adaptations and reforms are spurred by various crises and pressures, they are aimed at many different public problems, and they are intended to uphold many different public values, from racial justice to social cohesion to economic vitality to public health. Most of these innovations embody a broader definition of “democracy” - it is not just about voting, but about other ways of encouraging citizens to help make public decisions and solve problems. Most of them also take a broader view of “citizenship” - it includes everyone, not just people who are citizens in a narrow legal sense.

For the most part, these innovations have not been connected. Though there are some common influences, and some of the same basic practices have been shown to work in different contexts, these are very decentralized developments. Scientific innovations often occur because researchers compare notes, see each other at conferences, and critique each other's papers and patents. Unfortunately, many of today’s democracy innovators think they are alone.

“Waves of innovation in democracy have carried citizens, communities, and institutions to our current position: a point where we can make some significant decisions about how we want to govern our communities and country. We should face them now, before the next wave of technological changes – powered by the increasing sophistication and influence of Artificial Intelligence – makes our political reality even more complicated and hard to control.”

Wave	When/Where Did It Start	Why?	Key Figures	Some Representative Innovations
Civic journalism, public journalism, citizen journalism	Early 1990s in Wichita, Kansas, Seattle, Washington, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and other places	Rebuild trust and interaction between journalists and citizens	Darryl Holliday, W. Davis "Buzz" Merritt, Maria Ressa, Jay Rosen, Robert Rosenthal, Maria Ressa, Jan Schaffer	Interactive candidate forums, nonprofit media and investigative reporting organizations, community "documenters"
Deliberative Forums	Early 1980s	Gather informed input on public decisions, galvanize people to help solve public problems	Betty Knighton, Carolyn Lukensmeyer, David Mathews, Daniel Yankelovich	21st Century Town Meeting, National Issues Forums, study circles
Dialogue and problem-solving to strengthen race relations and racial justice	Mid-1990s, first in Los Angeles, California and Lima, Ohio, then in many other places	Address root causes of civil disturbances, address structural inequities in Los Angeles, other cities	David Campt, Rob Corcoran, Lani Guinier, Glenn Harris, Martha McCoy, Pedro Noguera, John Powell, Lori Villarosa, Iris Marion Young	Dialogue-to-Change programs, study circles, action forums
Digital direct democracy	Early 2000s	Use Internet to reveal and galvanize large-scale public support for policy positions	Marci Harris, Eli Pariser	e-petitions, live polling, open law portals
Digital Deliberation	Early 2010s	Use Internet to gather informed input on public decisions	Amy Lee, Michael Neblo, John Richardson, Audrey Tang	Pol.is, Ethelo, Deliberative Townhalls
Digital ideation and crowdfunding	Late 2000s	Use Internet to collect, rank, and refine ideas, and raise money and volunteer commitments, from large numbers of people	Erin Barnes, Clay Shirky	AllOurIdeas, ioby, Kickstarter
Digital data-gathering and feedback on public problems and services	Early 2010s	Use Internet to engage large numbers of people to detect public problems (as small as potholes and graffiti) or give reactions to public services or initiatives	Heidi Grunwald, Nigel Jacob, Chris Osgood, Tom Steinberg	FixMyStreet, SeeClickFix, online survey panels
Digital tools for grassroots relational organizing	Mid-2000s	Use Internet to complement older face-to-face methods for grassroots organizing and collective action	Marshall Ganz, Hahrie Han, Rinku Sen, Makani Themba	Outreach Circle, student voice organizations, protest mapping

Digital tools for voter information and education	Early 2010s	Use Internet to help people understand how to vote and give them information they want on candidates	Seth Flaxman, Sara Gifford	TurboVote, Ballotpedia, ActiVote
Election reform ideas (see also digital tools for voters, below)	Many of the electoral changes being debated today first emerged in late 19th and early 20th Centuries	Deal with increased gerrymandering, fewer competitive elections, increased influence of money in politics, decreasing trust in elections, and other challenges related to elections	(Innumerable innovators, architects, and advocates)	Electronic voting, independent redistricting commissions, ranked-choice voting
Food-centered community-building initiatives	Early 2010s in Chicago, Illinois, Detroit, Michigan, towns in West Virginia	Strengthen social networks and build relationships among large, diverse numbers of people	Cheryl Hughes, Sean Mann	Detroit Soup, "Meet and Eat" (West Virginia), "On the Table" (Chicago and other cities)
Hyperlocal online networks	Early 2000s in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, Vermont, and many other places	Use Internet to facilitate information-sharing, problem-solving, and community-building among people who live in the same neighborhood or town	Steve Clift, Nirav Tolia, Michael Wood-Lewis	e-democracy.org, NextDoor
Impact volunteering	Early 1990s in Seattle and other cities	Inspire volunteerism and help Americans (young people in particular) learn from their service experiences	Jim Diers, Myung Lee, Peter Levine, Scott Warren	Love Your Block, action civics, microgrant programs
Mini-publics (deliberative processes with citizens selected randomly)	Late 1990s for consensus conference (Denmark) and deliberative polling (Texas), mid-2000s for citizens assembly (British Columbia) and Citizens' Initiative Review (Oregon)	Overcome legislative gridlock by gathering informed input from a microcosm of the population, to submit recommendations either to officials (on a policy decision) or to voters (on a ballot initiative)	Ned Crosby, Jim Fishkin, Janette Hartz-Karp, Lars Klüver, Art O'Leary, Jane Suiter	Citizens' assembly, citizen jury, Citizens' Initiative Review, consensus conference, deliberative polling
Participatory budgeting	1989 in several Brazilian cities; early 2000s in Chicago, then New York City and others	Give citizens a meaningful say in how public funds are spent, and in the process to reduce poverty and strengthen community connections	Shari Davis, Olivio Dutra, Brad Lander, Josh Lerner, Joe Moore, Tarson Núñez	Participatory budgeting (PB), digital PB, school-based PB, district-based vs. city-wide vs. national PB
Participatory planning	Early 1990s but based on many earlier ideas	Give people meaningful roles in designing, planning, and managing the built environment and how land is used,	Peter Dienel, Jane Jacobs, Fred Kent, Elinor Ostrom	Planning charrettes, placemaking, community land trusts

Putting the Public Back in Public Policy

An excerpt from Noema Magazine, Marjan Ehsassi and Dawn Nakagawa

Etienne Barou is a volunteer firefighter from Soleymieux, in the Loire region of France. Nathalie Berriau is a 56-year-old documentarian from Villeurbanne in the Rhône Valley. Twenty-seven-year-old Martial Breton is a climate activist and union representative from Paris. Bintou M. is a 44-year-old technology consultant who lives in Bailly-Romainvilliers, in the region of Seine-et-Marne.

Apart from all living in France, these four individuals had very little in common until they received an invitation in the fall of 2022. Mandated by President Emmanuel Macron, the Citizens' Convention on the End of Life (CCFV) convened 184 residents from every region of France, including French-administered territories, at the Palais d'Iéna starting in December of 2022. They were charged with reconsidering the Claeys-Leonetti law, which introduced the right to deep and continuous sedation in 2016 and is the current framework governing end-of-life policy in France.

Over 27 days stretching to March 2023, this broadly representative collective of residents listened, learned, deliberated and developed recommendations. They presented their proposals to the French public over livestream and were received at the Élysée Palace by Macron on April 3. In the end, 76% of CCFV participants were in favor of changing the law to allow for assisted suicide or euthanasia within a well-defined framework with strict guardrails, and 92% approved the final report and policy recommendations. Macron subsequently tasked the Assemblée Nationale, the lower house of the bicameral parliament, to build on the work of the CCFV and introduce a legislative framework by the end of the summer.

After those weeks inside the assembly, Etienne felt changed. He became better at formulating his opinions on the end of life but also began carrying himself with more confidence. "I wasn't sure I had anything to contribute, but now I feel I belong," he told us. The government sought his input and seemed to be working for him. In this, he is not dissimilar from other participants of citizens' assemblies in other countries around the world.

The Cure For Our Democratic Malaise

In a time of rapid social, environmental and economic change, fear and uncertainty feed distrust of opaque democratic institutions that have not adapted to demands for access, choice and voice. Low levels of confidence and high levels of frustration have given rise to populist movements fueled by extremist rhetoric from Sweden to Brazil and many countries in between. In response, some governments have launched deliberative experiments and even, in a few places like Paris and Brussels, institutionalized them as permanent mechanisms for developing policy on complicated and controversial political issues.

But an underappreciated consequence of such processes is the transformative impact they have on participants. Citizens' assemblies bring together diverse groups of people who are broadly representative of the breadth of backgrounds and perspectives of a community: teachers and firefighters, stay-at-home parents, engineers and many more. Some are politically disengaged and would never have sought involvement in a such a process. Yet the experience of learning, seeking to understand the perspectives of others and building community together is transformative.

Learning, deliberating, developing a sense of voice and working for common causes across differences can inspire apathetic and cynical people to engage, to become informed and socially connected, to enthusiastically participate in politics, and to have a sense of meaningful input in the governance of issues that are consequential to them.

Scaling these deliberative processes can catalyze the renewal many democracies desperately need. Institutionalizing sortition-based bodies and instilling the practice of deliberation will not only restore the legitimacy of our system, but by transforming disengaged people into active participants capable of collective problem-solving, can cure the deep polarization, populism and pessimism that currently plagues our societies.

“SCALING THESE DELIBERATIVE PROCESSES CAN CATALYZE THE RENEWAL MANY DEMOCRACIES DESPERATELY NEED.”

The Transformation

Participants arrived at the CCFV with varying degrees of skepticism. It wasn't a small commitment: multiple weekends spent studying, listening, learning and deliberating together. Many were timid, unsure of why they were there, what was expected of them and even why they had received an invitation.

Years of being ignored and shut out of policy had left many feeling somewhat cynical about their government. "It's rare for [the] government to ask for our opinion," a 54-year-old participant named Pascale told us. "We are usually treated like sheep." Pascale had not voted in years.

During the first session, people were visibly uncomfortable — strangers to each other. Conversations were tense. Their levels of understanding about the issues at hand varied, and so did their opinions about what to do. Some participants refused to sit near those with differing views.

With each passing weekend, they became more informed about the issues, more familiar with each other and more trusting of the process. Tensions gave way to enthusiasm and confidence. Body language and mannerisms began to change.

Soon, the learning process became a shared journey where people gave space to different perspectives and values. Etienne was in favor of allowing assisted suicide but had reservations about euthanasia. He was open to changing his position based on new information and the conversations he was having with other participants. Bintou, a Muslim, acknowledged that her position was deeply informed by her faith. However, hearing other perspectives shifted her position and she became increasingly influenced by arguments that presented a humanistic rationale.

As the convention progressed and participants came together again and again, they began to appreciate both the process and capabilities of the group. One participant named Blaise, a 34-year-old engineer and start-up founder, marveled at the quality of the interactions among the group: "When you expose people to information beyond what is on television, they are capable of formulating remarkable insights." Another, Jacques, valued the diversity of the group, which was far greater than any elected body in France: "We are the make-up of this population, and unlike those elected, we do not have a political agenda."

The success of citizens' assemblies is often judged by outsiders on whether and what kind of policy outcome results. But this isn't the full picture. Amandine Roggeman, a participant in an earlier French citizens' assembly focused on climate change (the Citizens' Convention for Climate, or CCC), argued that "it is more about the process and the ability to grow as citizens than the policy change." Roggeman told us she experienced measurable personal political growth; her sense of duty was awakened. She is now more aware of and engaged in political issues.

Lise Deshautel, an advisor to the co-chair of that assembly, agreed wholeheartedly. She stressed that, contrary to the narrative that people are politically uninterested and apathetic, citizens' assemblies demonstrate that when asked to provide meaningful input, people care deeply and want to participate in political life. When governments trust citizens' abilities to make good decisions, citizens become more politically engaged, creating a virtuous cycle of engagement.

Indeed, some participants in the CCC felt a need to raise awareness within their communities outside of the convention itself.

Another CCC participant, Hubert Hacquard, was elected to political office in his home city of Bièvres. He described the state of Western democracy as a degradation of institutions. "People have become distant because they don't understand the process," he explained. "Power and choice have been taken away and they do not see the government working on their behalf. It is important to return this power by allowing citizens to have a meaningful voice."

For Sylvain Burquier, another CCC participant, the survival of our democracy depends on the ability of average citizens to provide genuine input in government decision-making. "Participation is a transformative experience that changes you and your perception of your place in a democracy for the rest of your life," he said.

Similar experiences have been reported as a result of participation in deliberative experiments across the world. Participants often note new confidence and a rejuvenated sense of civic duty. Many feel more connected to their communities and more invested in political issues they all face. The process they went through gave them hope that democracy can work — that it can foster faith in collective problem-solving. At scale, these individual transformations could reinvent democracy.

Trust Is An Outdated Measure Of Democracy

The health of a democracy is often measured by levels of public trust in government and political leaders. That trust has been falling steadily for decades; in the U.S., Pew [reported](#) last year, only 20% of citizens trust the government.

Could this be because elections are inadequate tools for political engagement? High levels of voter apathy or frustration and low levels of trust indicate a fundamental disconnect between governments and people. Democratic governments need to find new ways to invite citizens into the political process in meaningful and consistent ways.

In an era of more voice and choice in virtually every area of our lives, exclusive, hierarchical and opaque systems that rely on public trust to remain legitimate are no longer socially or politically tolerable. Blind trust in the government can no longer be expected and indeed no longer seems like the most accurate way to measure the health of a government.

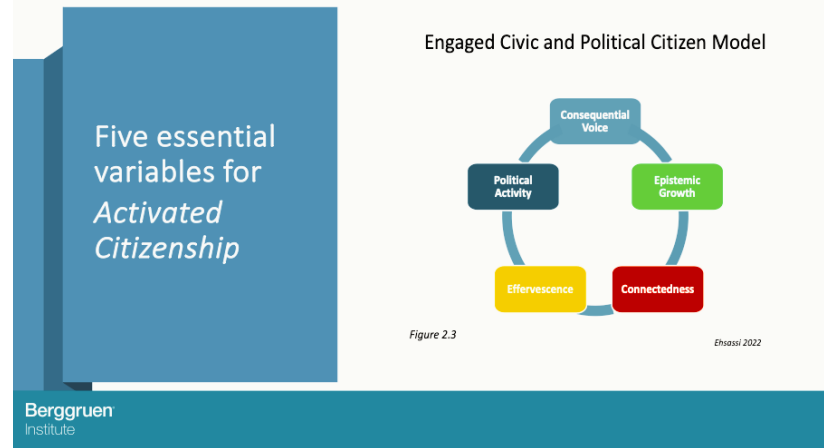
Instead of confidence and trust in government, the stories of CCC and CCFV participants suggest that the focus should be on awakening citizens' desire to contribute to political life by providing them with opportunities to reassume their place and role in democracy. Citizens' assemblies can be journeys of self-discovery and social bond-building that awaken civic sensibility and political imagination. The experience of being called to serve and having one's voice acknowledged and valued renews a sense of civic duty and changes a person's perspective on how they can contribute to society. Experiencing politics as constructive, informed, civil dialogues that bring people together, as opposed to polarizing rhetoric that politicizes issues and frays the social fabric, provides a glimpse of how to build healthier democracies.

As Thomas Jefferson once said, "I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society, but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education." At a moment when institutions are faltering, we must use the mechanism of sortition-based deliberative processes to put the public back into policy, enhance knowledge and capacity and harness collective intelligence. Peter MacLeod, the founder of MASS LBP, an organization helping strengthen citizen engagement in democracies, cautions that "we keep sinking deeper and deeper into the habit of treating the public like a risk that needs to be managed rather than a resource to be tapped and engaged." It is inaccurate to suggest that people are not interested in politics. Instead, as MacLeod insists, "It's the practice of politics that has become fundamentally disinterested in people. Experiencing politics as constructive, informed, civil dialogues that bring people together, as opposed to polarizing rhetoric that politicizes issues and frays the social fabric, provides a glimpse of how to build healthier democracies."

The Making Of Citizens

During the CCFV closing ceremony, Berriau remarked that "democracy should not be left to experts. All citizens, if given the means, information and time, can have a word." Citizens' assemblies around the world have encouraged participants to become ambassadors in their own communities and beyond. Their worlds expand and their zones of influence multiply, as does their sense of legitimacy and their place in their democratic ecosystem.

Citizens' assemblies are not partisan. They are inclusive of all political beliefs. They complement existing representative structures, enhance knowledge, build social cohesion and provide citizens with a meaningful and consequential voice. They create greater buy-in and legitimacy for tackling challenging societal issues and generate stronger policy outcomes. Léo Cohen, a former advisor to the French minister of ecological transition, called this "a miracle of citizenship." So what are we waiting for?



Congress Must Keep Pace With AI

An Excerpt from Brennan Center for Justice, Maya Kornberg, Marci Harris, and Aubrey Wilson

“This essay assesses recent steps by Congress to establish policies governing the use of generative AI and to encourage the legislative branch’s responsible experimentation with these new technologies. It emphasizes the importance of a proactive approach in the context of the “spacing problem” – a term coined by legal scholar Gary Marchant to describe the ever-expanding gap between technological advancement (which is often exponential) and the ability of governing institutions to keep up with these changes (at their default linear pace). It also explores the advantages of using AI in the legislative process, including its potential to strengthen institutional knowledge, policy research, oversight, and public engagement. It then reviews some of the known risks associated with recent innovations in AI technology and presents recommendations that address these risks while capitalizing on the benefits. These recommendations apply to Congress and to other legislative bodies seeking to develop their own AI strategies.”

Recommendations for Congress’s Continued AI Adoption

- Update guidance for congressional offices to give them broader options for using existing tools – with appropriate security and privacy guidelines, including:
 - Providing explicit guidance to staff on appropriate use of AI tools that includes rules on safeguarding sensitive or confidential data. Once such safeguards are implemented, consider whether it is appropriate to remove the requirement that commercial tools be used with “no chat history” enabled, allowing users to access plug-ins and additional functionality.
 - Providing explicit guidance for congressional offices or committees that want to create their own no-code GPTs in the OpenAI GPT store.
 - Evaluating new generative AI tools as they emerge, always with a mind to necessary guardrails.
 - Emphasizing that congressional offices can use traditional AI tools (such as natural language processing and machine learning APIs) for a variety of tasks with appropriate safeguards.
 - Installing necessary safety and verification measures (such as CAPTCHA systems, where appropriate) if AI tools are used to gather public input.
 - Institutionalizing monitoring and evaluation processes to assess the utility and security of new tools as they are introduced and adapting those processes as AI technology evolves.
- Encourage staff-focused professional development programs, such as the House’s CAO Staff Academy and the Senate’s Office of Education and Training, to create courses and trainings regarding the safe use of generative AI in congressional offices, including updated cybersecurity training.

Recommendations for Legislative Bodies Newly Incorporating Generative AI

- Start now – further delay will exacerbate the spacing problem. Allowing staff to experiment with existing tools (with adequate safeguards to protect private or sensitive information) will increase familiarity with new technologies for lawmakers and staff alike and will foster better and more responsive guidance.
- Create initial use policies and guidance and update them regularly.
- Designate one staffer or group of staffers to coordinate chamber-wide policies and provide a single point of contact.
- Hold regular public meetings to encourage staff members to share their own uses, concerns, and questions. Consider hosting speakers and outside experts.
- Establish a communications channel for related updates (such as the Committee on House Administration’s monthly AI flash reports).

Integrating Participatory Budgeting and Institutionalized Citizens' Assemblies: A Community Driven Perspective

An Excerpt from the National Civic Review, Nick Vlahos

	Participatory Budgeting	Citizens' Assembly
Purpose and Scope	Aims to involve citizens in decisions related to the allocation of public funds. It allows citizens to propose, discuss, and vote on how a portion of the municipal budget should be spent.	Involve policy versatility, often convened to address a wide range of social, environmental, and governance issues, and are used to discuss and make recommendations on these complex topics.
Decision-Making Process	Citizens/residents directly vote on specific budget allocation proposals. In the idea generation phase, community members brainstorm and propose project ideas that are then developed into technical proposals, aligning with the available budget. Community members vote on the project proposals. The decision-making process is often binding, with the winning proposals being included in the final budget, however there are also formats where final decisions are left with a local government or directly elected mayor.	Participants engage in phases of a deliberative process, including learning about a subject from experts, discussing, debating, and weighing different possibilities and options, followed by making recommendations on the given issue. These recommendations are mostly non-binding and are meant to inform policymakers' decisions, though there are examples of institutionalized processes with more authority).
Composition	Participatory budgeting typically involves a broader and more open process, allowing potentially sizeable numbers of residents to participate through community meetings, online platforms, and other methods. Community involvement often begins with information and awareness campaigns. This may involve public meetings, online platforms, and communication through various channels. Community meetings are a central element.	Often smaller (ranging from a few dozen to under two hundred people, sometimes more if hosted digitally) more selective participation, involving stratification and random selection to ensure diversity and representativeness (an example is the British Columbia Citizens' Assembly on electoral reform was the first legislative body in Canadian history to have gender parity by design).
Facilitation and Support	Requires close work with local governments and community organizations. For the budgeting of capital designs, this requires working closely with procurement staff, urban planners, and architects.	Involves professional facilitation often by an external agency in close collaboration with issue experts and bureaucratic or elected officials.
Timeline	If embedded and politically supported, these are recurring, operating on an annual budget cycle, with specific timelines for proposal submission, deliberation, and voting.	Varied depending on the type of assembly model chosen, but range anywhere from one weekend to several consecutive weeks, or multiple months and not rigidly connected to budget cycles. These tend to be one-off occurrences, but a couple of recent examples indicate longevity through formalization.
Transparency and Accountability	Citizens tend to see the implementation of projects they have directly voted on. Though delays due to issues of procurement are notable.	Tends to be more about participant accountability of the internal process (aspects of an agenda or how recommendations are made and presented), but decisions and outcomes are less visible to the public. Nonetheless, there is a heavy emphasis on if decision-makers implement recommendations.

Reversing the Democratic Gaze

An Excerpt from Carnegie Europe and the European Partnership for Democracy, Kalypso Nicolaidis and Richard Youngs

“For several years, it has been clear that traditional Western (including European) models of external democracy support need to change. Europeans ought to embrace an approach based more on mutual learning across the divide between Western and non-Western powers and between traditional donors and recipients. Democratic backsliding in the West underscores that the EU and other Western powers can no longer focus only on projecting democratic values outward: they need to consider how outside experiences and influences from beyond the West might help redress their own democratic malaise. Established Western democracies need to be more willing to be on the receiving end of influence over democratic best practices and not only seek to exert it.

There are plenty of fascinating lessons on democracy from around the world, lessons that call for self-reflexivity, mutual engagement, and decentering on the part of Western actors. For example, consider the case of “transformative constitutionalism.” This concept, which emerged from the South African experience, describes a holistic, long-term approach to improving the democratic character of a society’s political and social institutions through the enactment, interpretation, and enforcement of its constitution. In past decades, Indian democracy has often offered valuable lessons through its management of Hindu-Muslim tensions, even if this spirit has partly been squandered under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

From Brazil to Lebanon, activists and communities have developed participatory initiatives to press their governments harder on issues of corruption and poor local services. Across Africa and Asia, new ways of fashioning inclusive political settlements have sometimes given minority groups a share of power. Democracies in developing countries have often explored ways of combining economic, social, and political rights into single reform agendas. They have also sometimes found ways of bringing together professional democracy-focused NGOs and more traditional forms of community organizing.”

If the EU institutions, the union’s member states, and European civil society organizations are to develop a genuinely two-way democracy policy, they will need to establish a new set of initiatives designed specifically to bridge this internal-external divide. Reversing the democratic gaze must be about more than a general attitude; such an undertaking needs to be made concrete through practical democracy-support initiatives and a fundamental reordering of European democracy policies.”

OTHER PROJECTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

Kimberly McArthur, Apolitical Foundation

Leaders or Latecomers: Exploring the role of politicians in democratic innovation: (Excerpted above)

The current political landscape is characterized by declining trust in politicians and institutions, necessitating new approaches to democracy. Politicians can play a significant role in protecting and reviving democracy through embracing democratic innovation – a powerful tool to engage citizens in the political processes and address the challenges of the 21st-century.

Circular Power Politics: (Excerpted above) A politician's guide to five opportunities to lead with and for the people: In an age marked by growing authoritarianism and political challenges, this guide provides actionable insights and strategies to strengthen democracies and rebuild trust between politicians and citizens. It draws on successful global examples for fostering citizen-politician engagements such as citizens' assemblies, participatory budgeting, and digital crowdsourcing.

Mere Mortals: The state of politicians' mental wellbeing and why it matters: Politicians carry the world on their shoulders, but they're mere mortals subject to the same human weaknesses as the rest of us. Solving the biggest issues of our time, like the climate crisis, war and inequality, will require excellent representative leaders who can work at the peak of their abilities. The Apolitical Foundation interviewed and surveyed more than 150 politicians, academics, political leadership entrepreneurs and parties to find out the state of politicians' mental wellbeing and how it can be supported.

Jonathan Moskovic, Francophone Parliament of Brussels

Deliberative Committees - A new approach to deliberation between citizens and politicians in Brussels:

In recent years, Citizens Assemblies have spread rapidly throughout Europe. A group of randomly selected citizens deliberatively develops concrete political recommendations. This basic concept of a Citizens Assembly was innovated in Brussels. In 2019, the Brussels Regional and Community Parliaments were the first parliaments to integrate Citizens Assemblies into the heart of their functioning. On a permanent basis, three times a year, 45 citizens and 15 parliamentarians work together on a specific topic. They meet on five weekends or more, debate together, and formulate common recommendations, which are then followed up by both the parliamentarians and the Brussels government. Including citizens that usually do not participate in political debates is fundamental in this process.

The Deliberative Committee is the name given to this new deliberative model whose strengths include:

- **Quality:** Political decisions improve greatly when citizens are directly involved in finding common solutions.
- **Inclusivity:** Randomly selected citizens have their direct say in the decision-making process. Different measures to foster equality between participants are implemented.
- **Permanence:** The Deliberative Committees are an integral part of parliamentary regulations that allow the process to be constantly evaluated and adjusted.
- **Obligation to follow-up:** The commitment to follow-up on the agreed recommendations is given.

OTHER PROJECTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

Sarah Yaffe, Mass LBP

Canadian Citizens' Assembly on Democratic Expression (CADE): Between 2020 and 2023, more than 120 randomly selected Canadians served on one of three national Citizens' Assemblies on Democratic Expression examining the impact of digital technologies on Canadian society. Each Assembly issued a detailed report to the Canadian Commission on Democratic Expression, to the federal government, and to the Canadian public. This initiative helped to propel an important conversation about the future of digital technologies and the public policies required to ensure these technologies support a vibrant democracy.

Youth Assembly on Digital Rights and Safety: In June 2023, 35 young people from all across Canada came together to discuss how to improve online safety for themselves and future generations. This Youth Assembly on Digital Rights allowed them to connect with each other, as well as academic experts and policymakers on how to promote the safety, well-being and flourishing of Canadian youth online.

Together, they represent Canada's diverse regions and cultures. Despite their unique experiences, Assembly members share one unifying factor: they all grew up using – if not saturated with – online technologies. They've experienced the advantages of finding online communities, accessing a wealth of information, and connecting with the world. However, they've also faced the challenges of online bullying, negative effects on mental health, and exploitation.

The recommendations in this report are ambitious and comprehensive. They aim to fundamentally empower youth to have more control over their online experiences. They call for greater transparency from online platforms and stricter regulations to hold them accountable. They also suggest default privacy settings for minors and the enforcement of age verification measures. Importantly, they emphasize the need for young people to have a say in the decisions that shape internet policies.

OurCare: a national conversation about the future of primary care: Over 16 months, between September 2022 and December 2023, OurCare engaged nearly 10,000 people about their experiences with primary care and their values, ideas, and hopes for the future and improvement of that care. The conversation placed special emphasis on engaging people who have the greatest needs of care, face the greatest barriers to accessing care, and are most likely to be excluded from policy-making decisions about primary care.

Nicole Curato, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance

The Deliberative Integrity Project: The Deliberative Integrity Project aims to foster a critical, reflective, and scholarly dialogue on how deliberative democracy's community of practice can design, implement, evaluate, and research processes of citizen deliberation with the highest standards of integrity.

The Global Citizens' Assembly Network: The Global Citizens' Assembly Network (GloCAN) is a research collective that generates actionable insights to inform policymakers, funders, process designers, advocates and the wider community of practice designing, implementing, and evaluating global citizens' assemblies. The Network was founded in 2023, after the launch of the evaluation report of the world's first Global Assembly on the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

OTHER PROJECTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

Steven Feldstein, Carnegie Endowment's Democracy, Conflict, and Governance Program

AI in war: Can advanced military technologies be tamed before it's too late?: Nations both large and small are racing ahead to acquire advanced drones, incorporate algorithmic targeting analysis, and develop an array of autonomous land and sea-based weapons, all with little oversight or restriction. As such, there is an urgency for countries to agree on common rules about the development, deployment, and use of these tools in war.

The Consequences of Generative AI for Democracy, Governance and War: The potential impact of generative AI across politics, governance and war is enormous, and is the subject of considerable speculation informed by few hard facts. They include threats to democracies by privately controlled models that gain tremendous power to shape discourse and affect democratic deliberation; enhanced surveillance and propaganda dissemination by authoritarian regimes; new capacities for criminal and terrorist actors to carry out cyber attacks and related disruptions; and transformed war planning and military operations reflecting the accelerated dehumanisation of lethal force.

Thamy Pogrebinschi, Center for Civil Society Research WZB

LATINNO: LATINNO is the first comprehensive and systematic source of data on new institutions for citizen participation evolving in Latin America – the so-called democratic innovations. LATINNO looks at the thousands of new institutional designs which have been created in the previous years with the aim not only to include citizens in the political process, but also – through citizen participation – to make governments more responsive and institutions more accountable, in addition to strengthening the rule of law, and promoting social equality and political inclusion.

LATINNO collects data on democratic innovations evolving in 18 Latin American countries from 1990 to 2020. The data is coded for 43 variables which reflect the context, institutional design, and impact of each innovation. Along with the quantitative data, qualitative information on each case has also been gathered and assessed. This prolifically rich content is now being analyzed in policy briefs, academic papers and op-ed pieces. LATINNO is not just a dataset. It is a research project that produces new, comparative knowledge on democratic innovations, democracy, and citizen participation in Latin America.

Innovating Democracy? The Means and Ends of Citizen Participation in Latin America (Cambridge University Press, 2023): Pogrebinschi's new book presents the first large-N cross-country study of democratic innovations to date and introduces a comprehensive typology of democratic innovations. Her research has been published in four languages in numerous book chapters and journal articles, including Comparative Politics, European Journal of Political Research, and Critical Policy Studies

OTHER PROJECTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

Jessica Smith, Detailee, Artificial Intelligence Strategy, Committee on House Administration

AI Strategy & Implementation Flash Reports: In 2023 generative AI disrupted multiple industries, including government operations, and triggered a global conversation around the social implications of this powerful technology.

AI presents rank-and-file congressional staff with opportunities for dramatically increased efficiency across a wide variety of legislative and operational use cases. At the same time, AI presents the House with unique governance challenges due to the complex legislative data ecosystem and the House's unique legislative, security, and oversight responsibilities. The use of AI raises important questions around institutional guardrails, ethics, and bias.

While innovations continue to be adopted at a rapid pace, transparency is essential to ensuring Congress maintains a detailed understanding of the use of AI in service to the institution and American people. CHA originally requested monthly updates between August and November 2023 from several congressional support entities. Those assisted in coordination with congressional oversight, and formed the basis of an oversight agenda for 2024.

UK Parliament

Select Committees in the UK House of Commons have experimented widely with deliberative constituent engagement/participatory democracy over the past several years. Clerk of the Foreign Affairs Committee Chris Shaw evaluated some of the different methods tried in this [article](#) for the International Parliament Engagement Network.

Iain Walker, newDemocracy Foundation

Select Committees in the UK House of Commons have experimented widely with deliberative constituent engagement/participatory democracy over the past several years. Clerk of the Foreign Affairs Committee Chris Shaw evaluated some of the different methods tried in this [article](#) for the International Parliament Engagement Network.

ORGANIZING TEAM

Maia Comeau

Maia is a Senior Fellow with IDEA as well as the Founder of Comeau & Company a Government and Public Affairs Consulting firm in Washington DC. Previously, she was the Founder and Director of Legislative Affairs for the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Adam Duffy

Adam Duffy is a Program Manager with the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability. Previously, he was a Policy Assistant for the House Rules Committee and Representative Jim McGovern.

Marjan Ehsassi

Dr. Marjan Ehsassi is the Executive Director of the Federation for Innovation in Democracy North America (FIDE NA), a Future of Democracy Fellow, Berggruen Institute, and Senior Innovations Fellow, Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability (IDEA at OSU). She is an expert in democratic innovations and deliberation, citizens' assemblies, voice and process integrity. Marjan has researched six citizens' assemblies across Europe and North America. She teaches a graduate seminar on Working With the Public and is currently a Guarantor of the French Citizens' Assembly on the End of Life and on the Oversight Committee of the G1000 We Need to Talk Initiative. Marjan's book, Activated Citizenship, Igniting transformative change through citizens' assemblies will be published this Summer.

Maya Kornberg

Dr. Maya Kornberg is a research fellow on the Elections and Government Program at the NYU Brennan Center for Justice, where she leads work related to information and disinformation in politics, Congress, and money in politics. She has worked on democratic governance issues at nonprofits, international organizations, think tanks, and academic institutions. She previously held positions at the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), NYU Govlab, and Public Agenda. Most recently, she led research for a UNDP and IPU project examining civic engagement in the work of over 80 parliaments around the world. She is lead author of the resulting Global Parliamentary Report. Maya has taught undergraduate and graduate political science courses at NYU, Georgetown, and American University. She is also the author of the recent book Inside Congressional Committees: Function and Dysfunction in Lawmaking (Columbia University Press, 2023.)

Amy Lee

Amy Lee is the Associate Director of the Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability. Her focus is developing and testing practical innovations to make democracy both more participatory and deliberative. Previously, she was a program officer for with the Kettering Foundation, where she led the development of the foundation's platform for online deliberative forums, Common Ground for Action and a 2018 Marshall Memorial Fellow, participating in the German Marshall Fund's immersive program for emerging leaders focused on transatlantic engagement and collaboration.

Matt Leigninger

Matt Leigninger is the Director of the Center for Democracy Innovation at the National Civic League. The Center works to: sustain democracy by inviting people to help redesign the “civic infrastructure” of their communities; scale democracy through strategies for engaging people in state and federal decisions; and measure the quality of democracy and engagement. Matt's first book, *The Next Form of Democracy*, is a firsthand account of that wave of democratic innovation that emerged in the 1990s and 2000s. His second, *Public Participation for 21st Century Democracy*, co-authored with Tina Nabatchi, is a guide and textbook that surveys the role and potential of engagement in K-12 education, health, land use planning, and the work of state and federal governments.

Michael Neblo

Michael Neblo is the Founder and Director of the Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability (IDEA) at the Ohio State University. He is one of the creators of Deliberative Town Halls, which have been done in collaboration with more than 30 Members of the U.S. Congress, as well as MPs in the Australian and the U.K. Parliaments. His most recent book is *Politics with the People: Building a Directly Representative Democracy*, publication of which led to the launching of IDEA's Connecting to Congress initiative. Michael is also part of the EUComMeet Project consortium, and was a 2020-2022 Carnegie Fellow.

Nick Vlahos

Nick Vlahos is the Deputy Director of the Center for Democracy Innovation at the National Civic League. Nick is the author of *The Political Economy of Devolution in Britain from the Postwar Era to Brexit*. Previously, Nick worked at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra, the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, and the Civic Innovation Office at the City of Toronto.

GID PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

The Global Innovations in Democracy: Parliamentary Exchange is a collaboration between the Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability (IDEA) at the Ohio State University and the Center for Democracy Innovation at the National Civic League, but the event would not be possible without the generous support of the partners and supporters listed below.

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The **Apolitical Foundation** helps build 21st-century governments that work for people and the planet. Apolitical was founded by mission-driven entrepreneurs and backed by impact investors in Europe, North America, Asia, Africa, and Australasia and supported by an EU Horizon 2020 grant.

The **Open Society Foundations** champion the search for bold, democratic solutions to our urgent, common challenges that advance justice, equity, and human dignity. They do this by supporting a wide array of independent voices and organizations around the world that provide a creative and dynamic link between the governing and the governed.

The **Berggruen Institute** is an independent think and action tank with the autonomy to step outside the usual lanes, reaching beyond academic disciplines to bridge social divides, partisan dispositions, and cultural boundaries. This cross-fertilization, joined with a unique capacity to connect and convene a diverse global network of relationships, gives the Institute the ability to spread actionable ideas and influence events.

The **Brennan Center for Justice** is an independent, nonpartisan law and policy organization that works to reform, revitalize, and when necessary, defend our country's systems of democracy and justice.

The **US Agency for International Aid (USAID)** leads international development and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance and help people progress beyond assistance.



