



Legislators' Forum on Innovations in Democracy

November 15-16, 2022
Washington, DC

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Democracy
Innovation

CENTER for CONGRESSIONAL
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SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

IDEA

Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability

Legislators' Forum on Innovations in Democracy

November 15-16, 2022
Washington, DC

Dear Parliamentarians and Colleagues:

We are excited to welcome you to the Legislators' Forum on Innovations in Democracy next week. We will have participants from nine countries: Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Twelve Members of the U.S. Congress and four Members of the European Parliament have committed to participating in all or part of the Congressional Exchange on Wednesday, joining national legislators from Argentina, Brazil, and Germany.

In what has become a gloomy picture for democracy worldwide, we will explore the shining glimmers of hope: situations where parliaments and legislatures are finding new ways to interact productively with their constituents and the wider public.

These examples offer lessons and methods for gathering input, overcoming divisions, building trust, and gaining public support for public policy. They represent opportunities for not just "saving" democracy, but actively improving it.

The Bertelsmann Foundation will host us for a welcome dinner on the evening of the 14th. The following day will be our workshop at American University, and then the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability will host us for dinner in downtown DC. The Congressional Exchange will be the highlight of the final day. The full agenda is attached.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are looking forward to seeing you next week!

Sincerely,

Michael Neblo and Amy Lee
Institute for Democratic Engagement
and Accountability
The Ohio State University

David Barker
Center for Congressional
and Presidential Studies
American University

Matt Leighninger
Democracy Innovation
National Conference on
Citizenship

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Why Do We Need Innovations in Democracy?

A Framing Document for the Legislators' Forum on Innovations in Democracy

This framing paper was adapted and abridged from three longer documents: Public Engagement in the Work of Parliament: The Global Parliamentary Report 2022 (Dr. Maya Kornberg, Brennan Center for Justice, for the Inter-Parliamentary Union and United Nations Development Programme); Government-led Deliberative Mini-Publics: Transformative or Transient? (Dr. Marjan H. Ehsassi, Berggruen Institute); and "IDEA Memo on International Democratic Innovations" (Dr. Michael Neblo, Ohio State University).

It is time for a major reset – a paradigm shift in democracy. Around the world, citizen disengagement from political institutions is pervasive and palpable. While voter turnout is higher in some cases, declining party loyalty and citizen distrust in elected representatives is at an all-time high, and polarization continues to threaten the fabric of our civil society.

Many countries around the globe have begun experimenting with innovations in democracy: new ways to augment traditional institutions of representation.

Strengthening the relationship between legislators and citizens has many benefits

There are many reasons why innovations in democracy can be mutually beneficial for legislatures, legislators, and citizens. Above all, they can give legislators access to the breadth and depth of information and ideas that are needed for representation, law-making, public policy formulation and oversight that meet people's expectations and aspirations. They can show citizens that they are being heard, countering rising public distrust and negativity.

Public engagement has many dimensions: information, education, communication, consultation and participation. Experience from parliaments and legislatures around the world shows that taking action in each of these areas will help to build better and deeper engagement with the community. Through comprehensive, creative, and collaborative approaches to democracy, legislatures have the opportunity to boost public interest and participation in their work.



Graphic from Public Engagement in the Work of Parliament: The Global Parliamentary Report 2022

Being strategic helps deliver results

Developing an overall plan for engaging the public is an important part of shifting to more strategic thinking, as it maps out the specific things that need to be accomplished in order to meet the objectives that have been identified and agreed to. The plan should include a diverse mix of processes, platforms, and tools that use a variety of channels and approaches to communicate with and consult the community

To gauge their progress, legislators and legislative staff need measurement tools to understand citizen attitudes and demonstrate the impacts of the work. Robust evaluation processes will help legislatures ensure that their investment is well placed and is contributing to the desired outcomes.

Genuine dialogue builds trust

By offering genuine opportunities for dialogue between people and their elected representatives, parliament and legislatures can help to build trust and reinforce their relevance. There should be an emphasis on interacting with and listening to the community, and not just on informing.

Across the world, people are conducting a variety of advocacy campaigns and initiatives. By giving people a voice in setting the agenda and providing regular feedback on the outcomes of their input, legislatures can help to ensure they remain relevant to the community.

Inclusive engagement leads to broader participation

Without a special effort to reach all communities, structural barriers are likely to reduce opportunities for some groups to engage. By working in collaboration with disadvantaged or underrepresented people, legislatures can address impediments to participation.

Engagement opportunities that meet people “where they are,” in their communities and online, can remove some of the barriers to participation they experience. Measuring engagement using an inclusion checklist will help ensure accessibility, and prioritizing gender-sensitive engagement supports progress towards equal participation across identities.

Legislatures need to be future-focused

In a rapidly changing world, parliaments and legislatures need to be responsive; adapting and revitalizing their practices and processes to meet the challenges of the present and the future. In particular, legislatures can:

- *Take youth seriously*
Young people are a growing proportion of the world’s population. In order to remain relevant to this expanding demographic, legislatures need to connect and interact meaningfully with them.
- *Leave no one behind*
Legislatures have a special responsibility to ensure that underrepresented, disadvantaged, or newly-migrated groups can participate in democratic processes.

- *Transform through technology*
New methods of communication, learning, and work are transforming society. In order to keep up with the rapid pace of technological change, parliaments and legislatures need to prioritize their own digital transformation, particularly in their approaches to public engagement.
- *Encourage innovation*
Effective engagement relies on legislatures being open to the public and welcoming their participation. Openness also drives innovation by allowing for new ways of thinking, planning and working. It demonstrates a willingness to collaborate with civil society.
- *Work together*
Worldwide challenges, transient populations, and digital technologies that cross national borders all point to a future in which the global community will be increasingly interconnected. This presents opportunities for legislatures to cooperate and draw on each other's experiences, methods, and solutions.

A thriving democratic culture

To confront challenges like mistrust, polarization, and authoritarianism, we must formulate a vision for a democratic culture that complements our representative systems. In the process, we should explore innovations that recognize economic and political grievances and meaningfully engage with citizens in between elections.

At its core, a citizen-centric democracy is inclusive, responsive, and represents the preferences of the people. The fundamental principles of citizen engagement require that we:

1. Think beyond elections and provide consistent voice to citizens in between electoral cycles;
2. Align policies with citizen preferences and allow meaningful citizen input in government decision-making and reform; and,
3. Introduce innovative and non-traditional platforms (beyond town-halls and petitions) for impactful citizen participation in social, political, and economic issues.

Agenda

Monday, Nov. 14, 2022

Welcome Dinner, hosted by the Bertelsmann Foundation

6:00 pm at the Bertelsmann Foundation, 1108 16th Street NW

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Workshop (Discussion among legislators, practitioners, staff)

Location: Constitution Hall at American University, 3501 Nebraska Avenue

9:00 - 9:15 am: Welcome and the view from America

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

9:15 - 9:45 am: “We need the best ideas, wherever we can get them” Current opportunities for strengthening democracy

Discussants:

Lisa Peterson, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, U.S. State Department

Matt Leighninger, National Conference on Citizenship

9:45 - 10:30 am: Plenary 1: What’s going on here? Global Trends in Democratic Innovation

What core challenges face our democracies? What are legislatures around the world doing to address these challenges? What lessons and best practices can be applied here in the US? Dr. Michael Neblo, Director of IDEA, will speak about deliberative democracy in comparative context. Dr. Maya Kornberg, lead researcher and author of the *Parliaments and Public Engagement* report of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and United Nations Development Program, a study of how 80 legislatures around the world engage with their public, will highlight key findings from the report. Dr. Marjan Ehsassi, Non-Resident Fellow at the Berggruen Institute, will discuss the impact of democracy innovations such as Deliberative Mini-Publics on participant behavior and attitudes.

10:30 – 10:45 am: Speedy Introductions: The Experiences and Questions We Bring To the Table

Forum participants introduce themselves to one another and share one or two of the top experiences and questions they are bringing to the Forum.

10:45 - 11:00 am: Break

11:00 - 11:55 am: A Thousand Flowers Grew, and Some Bloomed: Democracy Innovations in Action, Part 1

Topic 1 – Not Just the Loudest Voices in the Room: Making Town Halls Deliberative in the US and UK - Room A

Discussants: Chris Shaw, Clerk of the House of Commons (United Kingdom), Amy Lee (US)

Topic 2 – Here Comes Everybody: How e-Cidadania Has Productively Engaged 40 Million Brazilians - Room B

Discussants: Senator Rogério Carvalho (Brazil), Senator Nelsinho Trad (Brazil), Alisson Bruno Dias de Queiroz (Brazil)

12:00 - 12:50pm: A Thousand Flowers Grew, and Some Bloomed: Democracy Innovations in Action, Part 2

Topic 3 – Opening Up to a Wider Range of Views: The Open Laws Portal in Argentina - Room A

Discussants: Member of Congress Jimena López (Argentina), Member of Congress Dolores Martínez (Argentina), Juan de Dios Cincunegui (Argentina)

Topic 4 – Significant Decisions, Significant Deliberation: The Conference on the Future of Europe - Room B

Discussants: Member of European Parliament Gabriele Bischoff (Germany), Jacob Birkenhäger (Germany)

12:50 - 2:00 pm Lunch

2:00 - 2:45 pm: Reflections on the Innovations

What does this model suggest about the role of the legislator?

How did this model involve people whose voices are not typically heard?

2:45 - 4:00 pm: Frontiers of Democracy

Using Artificial Intelligence to Understand and Engage with Constituents

Discussants:

Dr. Fotis Fitsilis, Head of Department for the Scientific Service
of the Hellenic Parliament (Greece)

Lorelei Kelly, Congressional Modernization Lead, Georgetown University (US)

Institutionalizing Citizen Assemblies in National Policymaking

Discussants: Member of Parliament Helge Lindh (Germany),
Deputy Secretary General at the Bundestag Dr. Silke Albin (Germany)

**Dinner, hosted by the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability
(IDEA, Ohio State University)**

6:30pm at Teddy and the Bully Bar, 1200 19th St NW

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Parliamentary Exchange (Discussion among legislators)

Location: Room H139 at the U.S. Capitol

10:00 – 11:30 am: Session 1: Why Don't They Trust Us and What Can We Do About It?

Why is there a crisis of trust? Why are people inside and outside of the government frustrated with one another? What are elected officials and researchers learning about how to re-establish trust and productive, responsive relationships? Dr. Marjan Ehsassi (Berggruen Institute) will moderate the session, inviting contributions from all the legislators.

Discussants:

Sharon Davies, President of the Kettering Foundation

Dr. Michael Neblo, Ohio State University

Chris Shaw, Clerk of the House of Commons (UK)

11:45 - 12:30 pm: Break and Optional tour of the Capitol

12:30 - 2:00 pm: Buffet Lunch H-139

2:00 - 3:20 pm: Session 2: Groundbreaking: Innovations in Democracy from Around the World

It often seems like people on different sides of an issue are completely incapable of communicating, let alone finding common ground. How did some innovative projects from around the world break through on this challenge? Under what conditions are citizens able to learn, deliberate, and make decisions together, and with their officials? Dr. Marjan Ehsassi (Berggruen Institute) will moderate the session, inviting contributions from all the legislators.

3:20 - 3:30 pm: Closing Remarks

Matt Leighninger, National Conference on Citizenship

Dr. Michael Neblo, Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability

Speaker Bios

Argentina

Juan de Dios Cincunegui

Mr. Cincunegui has served as Chief of Staff for Senator Lucila Crexell since 2019 in the Juntos por el Cambio party. He is the author of *Corruption and Power Factors* and *Parliaments in the Global Governance System*.

Congresswoman Jimena López

Ms. López is a member of the Frente de Todos party and was elected in 2019. She serves as 1st Vice President on the Transportation Commission and Secretary of the Women and Diversity Commission. She also serves on the Social Action and Public Health; Municipal Affairs; and Culture, Population, and Human Development.

Congresswoman Dolores Martínez

Ms. Martínez is a member of the Juntos por el Cambio party and was elected in December of 2019. She serves as the secretary of the Petitions, Powers, and Regulations Commission, and as a member of several others including National Defense, Maritime, Fishing, and Port Interests, Mining, and Foreign Relations, and Worship.

Brazil

Senator Rogério Carvalho

Mr. Carvalho represents the state of Sergipe, Brazil. He graduated as a Doctor of Medicine from the Federal University of Sergipe. He specialized in hospital management and has a doctorate in collective health. He was appointed Secretary of Health of Aracaju in 2001, holding the position until he was elected state deputy in 2006. After his election, he was designated Secretary of Sergipe's Health Department. He also served as a Congressman before being elected to the Brazilian Senate in 2018. He serves on the Constitution, Justice, and Citizenship Committee; the Economic Affairs Committee; and the Social Affairs Committee.

Senator Nelsinho Trad

Mr. Trad was elected Senator for the state of Mato Grosso do Sul for the term beginning in 2019. He graduated as a Doctor of Medicine specializing in General Surgery, Urology, Occupational Medicine, and Public Health from the University of Gama Filho. He previously served as councilor for Campo Grande from 1992-2001 before eventually being elected Mayor of the capital. He also served as Secretary of State for Articulation, Regional Development, and Municipalities.

Senator Humberto Costa

Mr. Costa is a Senator in Brazil serving his second term until 2027. His political career began as a student leader. He is one of the founders of the Workers' Party in Pernambuco, founded over 39 years ago and the largest left-wing party in Latin America. He was the first Minister of Health in Lula da Silva's government in 2003, when he implemented health programs like SAMU and Farmácia Popular. He was Councilor, State Deputy and Congressman, Leader of the Government Dilma Rousseff, and Leader of the Worker's Party in the Senate for 5 consecutive terms. Costa is Chairman of the Human Rights Commission in the Senate and a member of the Transition Committee on health in Lula da Silva's third government, which begins in January 2023.

Alisson Bruno Dias de Queiroz

Mr. Queiroz has coordinated the e-Citizenship Program of the Federal Senate Brazil since 2015 and is studying for a master's degree in Legislative Power. Previously, he worked with social media management at the Superior Court of Justice, a work that received the National Communication and Justice Award. He has been a civil servant for 18 years.

EU Parliament

Gabriele Bischoff (Germany)

Ms. Bischoff has been serving as vice-chair of the Socialists & Democrats (S&D) Group since 2021 and was elected as a member of the European Parliament in 2019 for the SPD in Berlin. She is a member of the Working Group on the Conference of the Future of Europe and is also serving on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs. Prior to entering the European Parliament, she was a member of the European Economic and Social Committee where she served as president of the employees' group from 2015. Gaby Bischoff was a member of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Sylvie Brunet (France)

Ms. Brunet was elected Member of the European Parliament in 2019 on the 'Mouvement Démocrate' list, and is Vice-Coordinator of the Renew Europe Group in the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) as well as Substitute member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM). She chaired the "Labour and Employment" section of the European Economic and Social committee (EESC) from 2015 to June 2019.

Laurence Farreng (France)

Ms. Farreng has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2019, where she was elected on the Renew Europe list. In 2021, she became a councilor for the New Aquitaine region of France. In the year prior to this, she became local councilor for the city of Pau. As of 2022, she is the Vice-President of the Mouvement Démocrate. In the European Parliament, she is the coordinator for the Renew Europe group in the Culture, Education and Youth Committee, and she is also the rapporteur for the ERASMUS+ 2021-2027 programme.

Sandro Gozi (Italy)

Mr. Gozi was elected Member of the European Parliament for Italy in 2019 and is a member of the Renew Europe Group. He is a member of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. He is also President of the Union of European Federalists (UEF), Secretary General of the European Democratic Party (EDP), and President of the EU-India Association.

Germany

Dr. Silke Albin

Dr. Albin has been Director-General for Research and External Relations at the Bundestag since 2020. Prior to that, she was State Secretary at the Ministry for Migration, Justice and Consumer Protection in Thuringia and, from 2017, Vice-President of the Federal Office for the Safety of Nuclear Waste Management. Previously to that, she worked from 2002 onwards for the Federal Ministry of Economics and the Federal Ministry of Finance. The planned citizens assemblies to advise The German Bundestag will be under her supervision.

Jacob Birkenhäger

Mr. Birkenhäger is head of deliberation, open government, and democracy at the German-based, international consultancy for dialogue and change, IFOK. IFOK is part of the international, US-based Cadmus Group. Birkenhäger co-developed and facilitated the German national citizen assemblies on democracy, Germany's role in the world and climate as well as the European Citizen Panels in the Conference on the Future of Europe. He is a recognised practitioner of citizen participation and deliberation in Germany and on the EU level.

Daniel Freund

Mr. Freund has been a member of the European Parliament for the Greens since 2019. He is a member of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Committee on Constitutional Affairs. He first became active in politics in 2013 when he was a part of the Alliance 90/The Greens working group on European affairs. Before entering the European Parliament, Freund led the European work of Transparency International. Daniel Freund was a member of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

Helge Lindh

Mr. Lindh has represented the Wuppertal I district in the German Bundestag since 2017. He is a member of the Committee for Cultural Affairs and Media and the Committee for Internal Affairs. Lindh has been a member of the Social Democrats (SPD) since 1999 and was working as a research assistant in the state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia prior to entering the Bundestag. He is the chairman of his party's working group on democracy in the Bundestag.

Greece

Dr. Fotis Fitsilis

Dr. Fotis Fitsilis has an academic background in Law, Economics and Engineering. After a career as a research engineer in Germany, he worked as Special Advisor for Business and Industry in the Greek Ministry of Development. Since 2007, he has been working in the Hellenic Parliament; initially as Scientific Advisor to the Speaker of the Parliament and later as Head of the Department for Scientific Documentation and Supervision in the Scientific Service.

United Kingdom

Chris Shaw

Chris Shaw is a Clerk in the House of Commons and is currently Clerk of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He has been heavily involved with international parliamentary assemblies in his capacity as UK Delegation Secretary to the Council of Europe, Western European Union, OSCE, and NATO parliamentary assemblies and as Presidential Adviser to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He is currently the lead official in the House for the Climate Assembly UK. He has also served as the Parliamentary Advisor to the Government (2012-15).

United States

Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-Ohio)

Joyce Beatty is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2013 to represent Ohio's 3rd congressional district, Congresswoman Beatty currently serves on the Joint Economic Committee and the Committee on Financial Services.

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-Missouri)

Emanuel Cleaver is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2005 as the representative for Missouri's 5th congressional district, Congressman Cleaver currently serves on the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Select Committee for the Modernization of Congress.

Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tennessee)

Steve Cohen is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2007 to represent Tennessee's 9th congressional district, Congressman Cohen currently serves on the Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Natural Resources.

Rep. Jim Costa (D-California)

Jim Costa is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2013 to represent California's 16th congressional district, Congressman Costa currently serves on the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-New York)

Adriano Espaillat is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2016 to represent New York's 13th congressional district, Congressman Espaillat currently serves on the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Education and Labor.

Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-Michigan)

Brenda Lawrence is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2015 to represent Michigan's 14th congressional district, Congresswoman Lawrence currently serves on the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas)

Sheila Jackson Lee is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 1995 to represent the 18th congressional district in Texas, Congresswoman Lee currently serves on the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on the Budget.

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minnesota)

Betty McCollum is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2001 as the representative for Minnesota's 4th congressional district, Congresswoman McCollum currently serves on the Committee on Appropriations.

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-California)

Jimmy Panetta is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2017 to represent California's 20th congressional district, Congressman Panetta currently serves on the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Agriculture, and the Committee on Armed Services.

Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-Colorado)

Ed Perlmutter is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2007 to represent Colorado's 7th congressional district, Congressman Perlmutter currently serves on the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Rules, and the Select Committee for the Modernization of Congress.

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine)

Chellie Pingree is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2009 as the representative for the 1st congressional district in Maine, Congresswoman Pingree currently serves on the Committee on Appropriations as well as the Committee on Agriculture.

Rep. Mark Takano (D-California)

Mark Takano is an elected official in the US House of Representatives. Elected in 2013 to represent the 41st congressional district in California, Congressman Takano currently chairs the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and also serves on the Committee on Education and Labor.

Rep. Dina Titus (D-Nevada)

Dina Titus is an elected official in the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in 2013 to represent the 1st congressional district in Nevada, Congresswoman Titus currently serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Homeland Security.

Amb. Lisa Peterson

Ms. Peterson is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the U.S. Department of State. She served as the Senior Official for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights (J) from January 20-July 14, 2021, and as Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland) from 2016 to 2020.

Other Speakers

Dr. David Barker

Dr. Barker is Professor of Government, Director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, and Co-Founder of the Program on Legislative Negotiation at American University. He is also Co-Principal Investigator of the inter-university New Perspectives in Studies of American Governance project and the California State University system's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (in STEM) program.

Sharon Davies

Ms. Davies is the president and CEO of the Kettering Foundation. From 2017-2021, Davies was provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Spelman College. She joined Spelman from The Ohio State University, where she was vice provost for diversity and inclusion and chief diversity officer. Davies was also a member of OSU's Moritz College of Law faculty for 22 years, serving as the Gregory H. Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. In addition, Davies directed the university's Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnicity, an interdisciplinary engaged research institute known nationally for its work in social justice, equity, and inclusion. She also held an appointment to the Ohio Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

Dr. Marjan H. Ehsassi

Ms. Ehsassi is a Future of Democracy Fellow (non-resident) at the Berggruen Institute. She has worked to enhance space for civil society in some of the most complex environments including Cuba, Iran, and North Korea and recently completed a Doctorate in International Affairs (DIA) at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) with a

concentration in democratic innovations, deliberation, comparative government-led citizens' assemblies and design integrity.

Lorelei Kelly

Ms. Kelly is a Fellow at the Beeck Center at Georgetown University. She previously led the Smart Congress initiative with the Open Technology Institute at New America. She was also at the Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation. A civil-military expert, she has spent a decade leading "Security for a New Century"; a bipartisan study group in the House and Senate. Lorelei has worked with hundreds of women candidates, creating and communicating national security platforms that reflect the needs of a rapidly changing world.

Dr. Maya Kornberg

Dr. Maya Kornberg is a political scientist at the NYU Brennan Center for Justice, where she leads research for the elections and government program. She previously held positions at NYU Govlab, Public Agenda, the UNDP, the Interparliamentary Union and Georgetown University. She is lead author and researcher of the 2022 Global Parliamentary Report, a joint project of the United Nations Development Program and the Inter-Parliamentary Union examining civic engagement in the work of more than eighty parliaments. She is also the author of the forthcoming book *Inside Congressional Committees: Function and Dysfunction in the Legislative Process* (Columbia University Press, 2023.)

Amy Lee

Ms. 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 also more deliberative. Previously, she was a program officer for eight years with the Kettering Foundation, where she led the development of the foundation's platform for online deliberative forums, Common Ground for Action.

Matt Leighninger

Mr. Leighninger leads the Democracy Innovation project at the National Conference on Citizenship. Democracy Innovation focuses on strengthening civic infrastructure, organizing large-scale engagement efforts, and measuring the quality of democracy and engagement. Matt's first book, *The Next Form of Democracy*, is a firsthand account of the 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 comprehensive look at participation theory, history, and practice.

Dr. Michael Neblo

Dr. Neblo is a Professor of Political Science and Director for the Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability (IDEA) at Ohio State University. Professor Neblo's research focuses on deliberative democracy and political psychology. His most recent book, *Politics with the People: Building a Directly Representative Democracy*, develops and tests a new model of

politics connecting citizens and elected officials to improve representative government. He was invited to testify before Congress about these findings.