

Summary of Madison Initiative Outcomes Framework

Overall goal: *Support U.S. democracy in a time of polarization.*

Longer run objectives and outcomes:

A. Revitalize Key Democratic Values

- Political elites in both parties support and uphold key democratic values, i.e., pluralism, political toleration, institutional forbearance, negotiation and compromise as well as the essential role played by Congress in realizing these values in our system of government.

B. Strengthen Congress as an Institution

- Congress has a culture of bipartisan deliberation, negotiation, and compromise. A critical mass of members reflect this culture in how they work, and the institution in which they serve has established norms, practices, and rules that support this behavior.
- Congress has a functional budget process that results in regular adoption of a federal budget and appropriations legislation and reduces the use of tools such as sequesters, caps, continuing resolutions and the resort to fiscal brinksmanship.
- Congress conducts effective oversight in a bipartisan fashion using the full suite of tools at its disposal to regularly monitor federal programs and agencies; support the checks and balances of our constitutional system; investigate abuses in the private sector to protect the public interest; and solicit the information it needs to draft and pass legislation.
- Congress provides itself with the quantity and quality of staff and expertise it needs to carry out its constitutional responsibilities and represent the American people effectively.

C. Improve campaigns and elections

- Members of Congress are less beholden to wealthy donors and intense policy demanders advancing polarizing and / or self-interested agendas, and they are more responsive to the diversity of perspectives and interests among their constituents.
- Electoral reforms reduce polarization, give voters more choices, ensure those elected are backed by a majority, and better represent the diversity of opinion in the electorate.

D. Combat digital disinformation

- Digital media platforms are less prone to being manipulated in polarizing ways via large-scale dissemination of inflammatory, inaccurate, and / or highly partisan disinformation.