

United States Democracy Meter

Scoring Rubric

1. State Institutions—30 total points
 - 1.1. Executive (10)
 - 1.1.1. Does the executive operate within the constraints imposed on it by Congress, the judiciary, and the constitutional order? (0–4)
 - 1.1.2. Does the executive obey the law, even when it limits executive actions? (0–4)
 - 1.1.3. Are civil servants and nonpolitical governmental personnel free of partisan political tests from the executive? (0–2)
 - 1.2. Congressional (10)
 - 1.2.1. Does Congress operate independently of other branches of the government, particularly through oversight? (0–5)
 - 1.2.2. Does Congress legislate on matters of national importance, particularly within its mandated areas of responsibility such as appropriations? (0–5)
 - 1.3. Judicial (5)
 - 1.3.1. Does the judiciary fulfill its role in a nonpartisan manner? (0–5)
 - 1.4. Corruption (5)
 - 1.4.1. Is grand corruption prohibited in law and punished in practice? (0–5)
2. Nonstate Sectors—30 total points
 - 2.1. News Media and Social Media (12)
 - 2.1.1. Do news media and social media institutions operate independent of gross and disproportionate political pressure? (0–4)
 - 2.1.2. Are the news media and social media sectors vibrant in terms of ownership, viewpoints, and sustainability? (0–4)
 - 2.1.3. Do news media and social media platforms operate with responsibility and accountability for their role in public discourse? (0–4)
 - 2.2. Civil society and the private sector (12)
 - 2.2.1. Do civil society organizations operate independent of undue political pressure? (0–4)
 - 2.2.2. Are civil society organizations vibrant in terms of representation, viewpoints, and sustainability? (0–4)

- 2.2.3.** Does the private sector operate independent of undue political pressure? (0–4)
- 2.3.** Higher education (6)
 - 2.3.1.** Does higher education operate independent of undue political influence? (0–3)
 - 2.3.2.** Do higher education institutions protect the rights of professors, researchers, and students to engage in research, speech, and debate on controversial topics? (0–3)
- 3.** Rights—25 total points
 - 3.1.** Civil rights (15)
 - 3.1.1.** Is there freedom of expression without undue fear of persecution or retribution, especially for critics of the government? (0–5)
 - 3.1.2.** Is there freedom of assembly, especially for critics of the government? (0–5)
 - 3.1.3.** Is there protection from arbitrary detention or arrest? (0–5)
 - 3.2.** Equality before the law (10)
 - 3.2.1.** Is there due process for all people? (0–5)
 - 3.2.2.** Are there guarantees in law and practice of equal treatment for all people? (0–5)
- 4.** Elections—15 total points
 - 4.1.** Are votes counted accurately? (0–5)
 - 4.2.** Are there undue constraints on the ability to cast a vote? (0–5)
 - 4.3.** Do the structural conditions of elections permit the rise of new political entrants, fair competition among candidates/parties, and adequate representation of voters? (0–5)