

# 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)