

Project 2028: A Mandate for Democratic Renewal

As a direct response to the authoritarian vision of Project 2025, this mandate provides a comprehensive, evidence-based blueprint to not only reverse institutional damage but to build a more resilient, equitable, and effective American democracy. This application translates that vision into an interactive experience.

By Google Pro Prompted & edited by Jeffrey Diver 7 July 2025. Images by Gemini Pro & Piktochart unless otherwise credited. **See VOLUME 2 for JUDICIAL REFORM**

Volume I: Renewing the Executive & the Legislature

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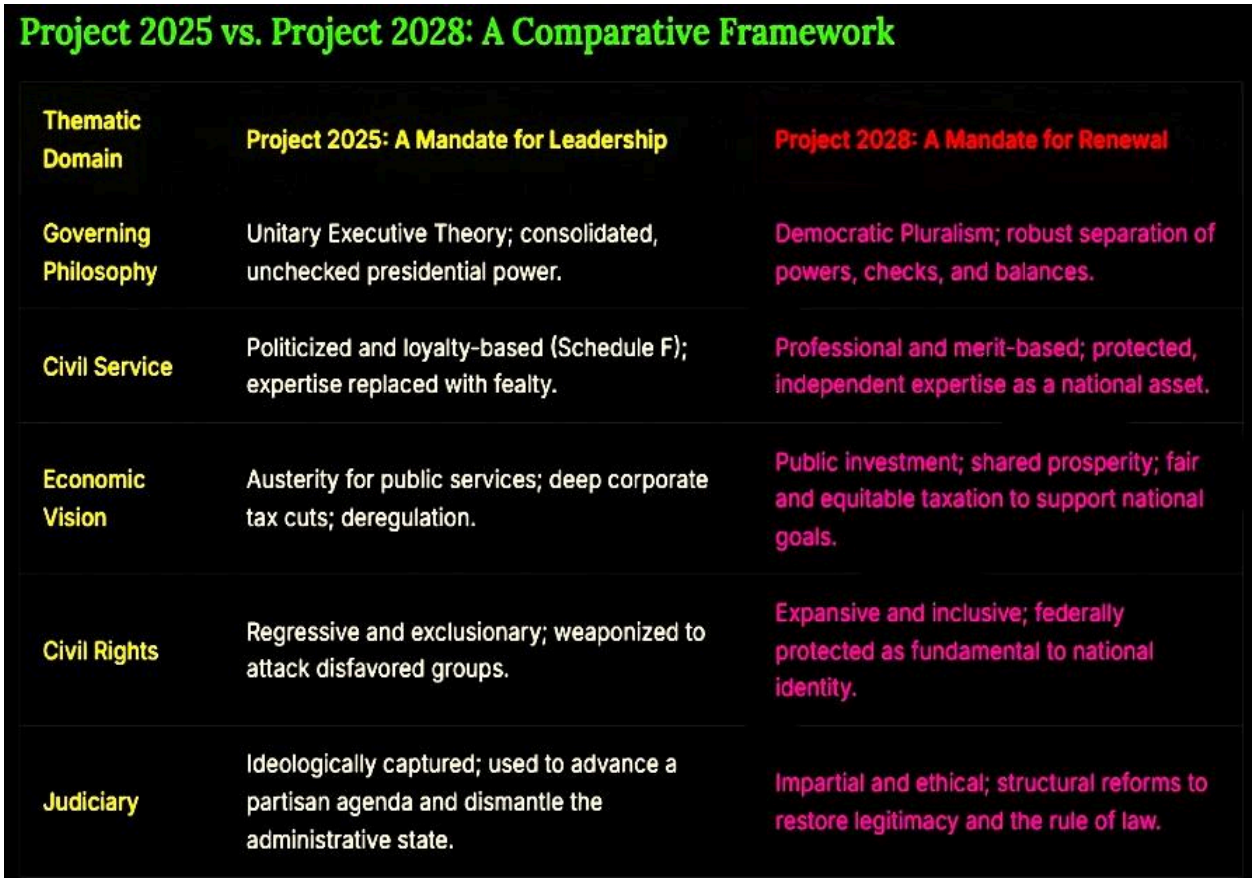
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Project 2025 vs. Project 2028: A Comparative Framework

Thematic Domain	Project 2025: A Mandate for Leadership	Project 2028: A Mandate for Renewal
Governing Philosophy	Unitary Executive Theory; consolidated, unchecked presidential power.	Democratic Pluralism; robust separation of powers, checks, and balances.
Civil Service	Politicized and loyalty-based (Schedule F); expertise replaced with fealty.	Professional and merit-based; protected, independent expertise as a national asset.
Economic Vision	Austerity for public services; deep corporate tax cuts; deregulation.	Public investment; shared prosperity; fair and equitable taxation to support national goals.
Civil Rights	Regressive and exclusionary; weaponized to attack disfavored groups.	Expansive and inclusive; federally protected as fundamental to national identity.
Judiciary	Ideologically captured; used to advance a partisan agenda and dismantle the administrative state.	Impartial and ethical; structural reforms to restore legitimacy and the rule of law.

Introduction: Countering an Authoritarian Blueprint

As of July 2025, the United States finds itself at a precipice. The policy framework known as Project 2025, conceived by The Heritage Foundation and its allies, is no longer a theoretical document but an active instrument of governance. [1] Its implementation has initiated a systemic and "ruthless plan" [3] to reshape the federal government, not in the service of the public, but to consolidate executive power and impose a narrow ideological agenda. [4] Critics have identified this agenda as reflecting an extreme "white Christian nationalist ideology" [5], aimed at dismantling the institutional checks and balances that have defined American democracy for centuries.

The core tenets of Project 2025—the subjugation of the entire executive branch to the president under a controversial interpretation of the "unitary executive theory" [1], the systematic replacement of the merit-based civil service with political loyalists via "Schedule F" reforms [6], and the weaponization of federal agencies against perceived political enemies [5]—represent a fundamental break with the American tradition of a government bound by law and accountable to its citizens. The initial effects are clear: the gutting of federal services for ordinary Americans, the erosion of civil rights, and the deliberate degradation of the government's capacity to solve complex problems. [3]

In this moment of crisis, a simple opposition is insufficient. What is required is a comprehensive counter-blueprint: a vision for national reconstruction that not only reverses the damage but builds a more resilient, equitable, and effective democratic state. "Project 2028: A Mandate for Democratic Renewal" is that blueprint. It is founded on four interconnected objectives: rebuilding social trust, reconstructing federal institutions to deliver for the public, forging a fair and dynamic economy, and reaffirming the rights and dignity of every American.

This document provides the intellectual architecture for Project 2028. It is a direct response to the authoritarianism of Project 2025, offering a detailed, evidence-based pathway toward a government that serves all Americans.

Pillar I: Restoring the Foundations of Democratic Legitimacy



Introduction: Rebuilding the Bedrock of Trust

The assault on democratic institutions detailed in Project 2025 is not merely a collection of policy proposals; it is a systemic effort to exploit and deepen a national crisis of trust. [6] An authoritarian project cannot succeed in a high-trust society with a well-informed citizenry. Its success is predicated on a collapse of public faith in government and the pollution of the information environment that makes reasoned public debate impossible. [8] Project 2025 actively seeks to accelerate this collapse by ending federal efforts to combat disinformation [5], politicizing the civil service to create

chaos and mistrust [6], and conditioning federal funding on "political fealty" to alienate citizens from their own government. [4]

Therefore, the foundational pillar of Project 2028 is a comprehensive, structural effort to restore the legitimacy of democratic governance. This is not a public relations campaign; it is a deep, evidence-based strategy to rebuild the social contract, fortify the public square against disinformation, and de-escalate the toxic polarization that makes anti-democratic projects possible. This pillar is organized around three core missions: restoring the social contract through tangible government performance and participation; fortifying the information ecosystem to ensure a shared factual basis for democracy; and de-escalating the politics of animosity by reforming the political structures that reward extremism.

Demonic Origins

This report is part of a series of free public reports that examine the state of Civil War in the USA:

Return of the Silver Shirts: Project 2025's Demonic Origins

The Confederate Continuum: Civil War

MAGA MONSTERS

Project 2028: A Mandate for Democratic Renewal

Project 2028, Volume II: A Mandate for Judicial Renewal

Project 2028: The Renewal—An Action Plan for Implementation

Dirty Donnie's Report Card

Project 2028: A Mandate for Democratic Renewal

Pillar I: Restoring the Foundations of Democratic Legitimacy

Rebuilding the Bedrock of Trust

The assault on democratic institutions detailed in Project 2025 is a systemic effort to exploit and deepen a national crisis of trust. An authoritarian project cannot succeed in a high-trust society. Therefore, the foundational pillar of Project 2028 is a comprehensive, structural effort to restore the legitimacy of democratic governance. This pillar is organized around three core missions.

Mission 1

Restoring the Social Contract

Countering the narrative that government is an enemy requires making it radically responsive, transparent, and participatory. Trust is rebuilt by demonstrating government's capacity for good in the daily lives of citizens.

National Mission for CX

Mandate a whole-of-government effort to dramatically improve federal service delivery, making every interaction seamless and effective. This provides a tangible counter-narrative to claims of government incompetence.

Institutionalize Participation

Establish a federal Office of Civic Participation to fund and support Citizen Assemblies and Participatory Budgeting, giving citizens a direct role in shaping policy and fostering shared ownership.

Radical Transparency

Create a single, user-friendly public platform to track all federal contracts, grants, and expenditures in near real-time, empowering citizens to monitor spending and hold government accountable.

1.1 Restoring the Social Contract: From Citizen-as-Consumer to Citizen-as-Participant

Project 2025 envisions a government that is distant, punitive, and unresponsive, reinforcing the narrative that government is an enemy to justify its dismantlement. [3] The most potent antidote to this ideology is a government that is radically responsive, transparent, and participatory. Rebuilding trust begins by demonstrating government's capacity for good in the daily lives of its citizens. [10]

Excellent service delivery is a core political strategy to inoculate the public against the central premise of the anti-government movement. [11] When a citizen has a seamless and effective interaction with a government agency, it provides a powerful, tangible counter-narrative to the claim that government is inherently incompetent. [12] Therefore, a relentless focus on customer experience (CX) is a foundational element of Project 2028. [11]

Policy Proposals:

- **Launch a "National Mission for Customer Experience (CX)":** Project 2028 will mandate a whole-of-government effort to dramatically improve federal service delivery, building on the framework of the Government Service Delivery Improvement Act. [11] This mission will require each agency to appoint a senior Lead Agency Service Delivery Official reporting directly to the agency head. [14] The mission will focus on:
    - **Mapping Customer Journeys:** Agencies will be required to map customer journeys to identify and eliminate points of friction, using both qualitative and quantitative research to understand user needs. [11]
    - **Omnichannel Engagement:** Citizens must be able to connect via voice, text, email, and chat with a consistent experience, eliminating the need to repeat information across channels. [12]

    - **Empowering Self-Service:** Develop intuitive, user-friendly digital tools, forms, and centralized hubs that allow citizens to solve their own problems efficiently, reducing administrative burdens and building trust. [11]

    - **AI and Data Analytics:** Implement AI-powered tools like chatbots for routine requests and use data analytics to identify service gaps and proactively adjust strategies. [12]
    -

- **Institutionalize Participatory Governance:** To move beyond a model of citizens as mere consumers of services, Project 2028 will establish a federal **Office of Civic Participation**. This office will provide funding and technical support to agencies for the use of **Citizen Assemblies** and **Participatory Budgeting**. [17] These deliberative democracy tools give citizens a direct role in shaping policy, which has been shown to foster trust, engagement, and a sense of shared ownership. [19] For example, a Citizen Assembly, composed of a representative sample of the public, could be convened to provide input on regulatory priorities for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), directly countering the top-down, industry-captured approach favored by Project 2025.

- **Radical Transparency in Spending:** A key driver of public mistrust is the suspicion that tax dollars are lost to waste and corruption—a risk that becomes acute under a politicized system like the one envisioned by Project 2025. [6] To counter this, Project 2028 will create a single, user-friendly public platform, modeled on successful examples like Georgia's "Budget Monitor," to track all federal contracts, grants, and expenditures in near real-time. [19] This "follow the money" approach empowers citizens and watchdog groups to monitor government spending and ensure public funds are being used wisely. [19]

Information Ecosystem Revival

Project 2028 aims to fix our info environment, battling misinformation and supporting trustworthy journalism. Let's dive in!



Mission 2

Fortifying the Information Ecosystem

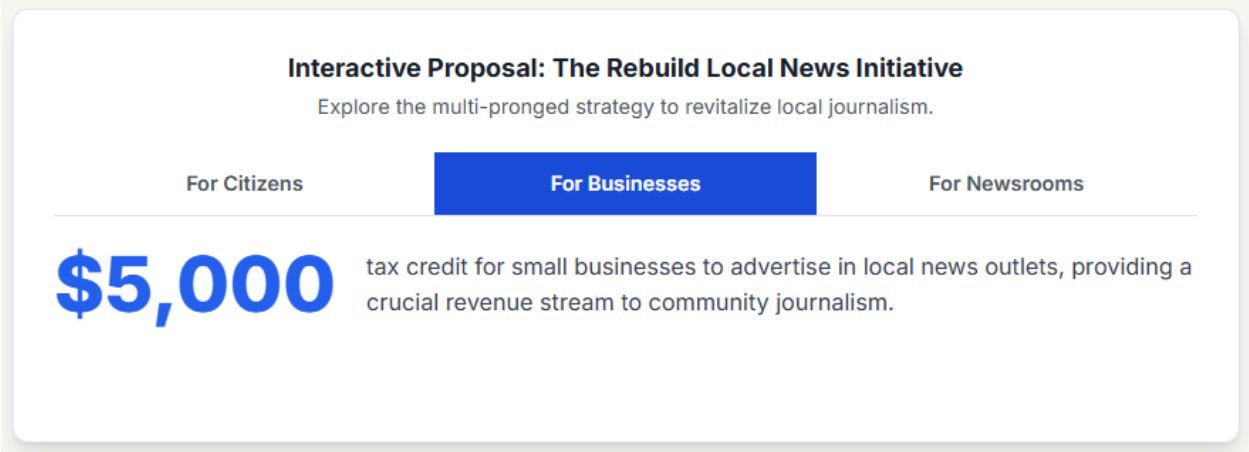
A functioning democracy requires a shared factual basis. We must counter disinformation and rebuild the institutions that produce reliable, fact-based journalism, especially at the local level where civic life is grounded.

Interactive Proposal: The Rebuild Local News Initiative

Explore the multi-pronged strategy to revitalize local journalism.

For Citizens | For Businesses | For Newsrooms

$250 annual refundable tax credit for individuals to purchase a local news subscription or donate to a local nonprofit news organization.

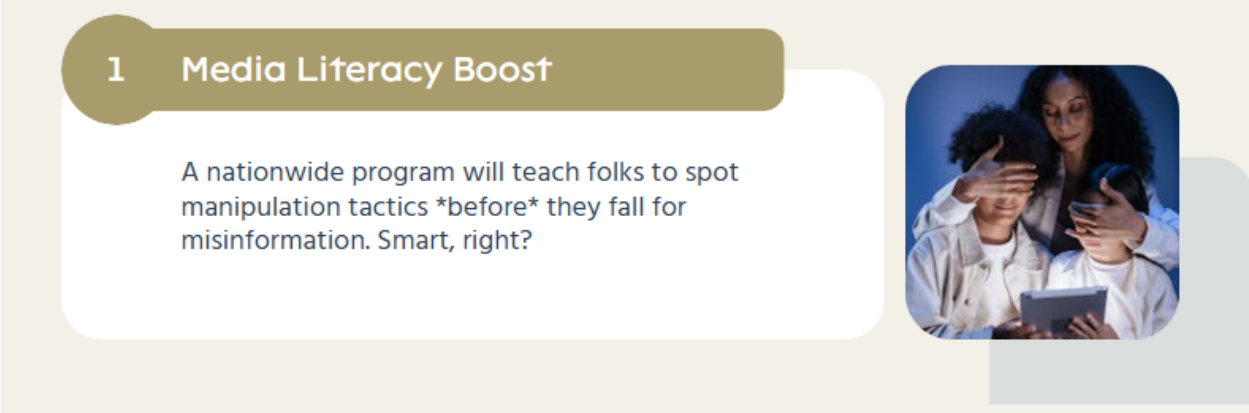




1.2 Fortifying the Information Ecosystem: A New Deal for Truth

Project 2025 and its underlying ideology thrive in an information environment polluted by mis- and disinformation, which it actively seeks to worsen by ending federal efforts to combat it. [5] A functioning democracy requires a shared factual basis for public debate. The collapse of this shared reality is a structural crisis driven by the decimation of local news and the rise of platforms that incentivize outrage over understanding. [20] Project 2028 proposes a comprehensive strategy to clean the information environment and rebuild the institutions that produce reliable, fact-based journalism.

Policy Proposals:



- **A National Media Literacy and "Pre-bunking" Initiative:** Project 2028 will direct federal funding to a nationwide educational program to build public resilience to disinformation. This program will be based on the principles of psychological "inoculation theory," or "pre-bunking". [22] Rather than simply debunking false claims after they spread, this approach teaches citizens to recognize the common techniques of manipulation—such as emotional language and scapegoating—*before* they encounter them, a more effective and scalable strategy. [22]



- **Rebuild Local News Initiative:** The erosion of local news has eroded civic engagement and knowledge, helping disinformation to proliferate. [20] Project 2028 will implement a multi-billion dollar, content-neutral plan to revitalize the local news sector, which is critical for holding power accountable. [24] This initiative, based on the work of the Rebuild Local News coalition, will include [25]:
    - A **$250 annual refundable tax credit** for individuals to purchase a local

news subscription or donate to a local nonprofit news organization. Making the credit refundable ensures it benefits Americans of all income levels. [25]

- A **tax credit for small businesses** (up to $5,000) to advertise in local news outlets, providing a crucial revenue stream. [25]

- A **"re-planting strategy"** that provides significant tax incentives for large media chains to donate or sell their newspapers to local nonprofit organizations, transitioning civic assets to community stewardship. [25]

- A major expansion of national service programs for journalism, such as **Report for America**, with the goal of placing 5,000 reporters in underserved local newsrooms, funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service. [25]



- **Platform Accountability and Algorithmic Transparency:** While respecting free speech, Project 2028 will advance legislation mandating transparency from major technology platforms. [26] This includes requiring platforms to disclose key information about how their algorithms amplify or suppress civic content and to maintain a public database of digital political advertising. Furthermore, Project 2028 will re-establish and fully fund the mission of federal agencies like the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to identify and counter foreign disinformation campaigns targeting U.S. elections, a direct reversal of a key Project 2025 goal to eliminate such efforts. [4]



1.3 De-escalating the Politics of Animosity

Hyper-polarization is the political climate in which an anti-democratic project like Project 2025 can find support. To ensure long-term democratic stability, it is essential to reform the underlying structures of our political system that reward extremism and penalize compromise. [28]

In the current system, closed party primaries and partisan gerrymandering mean that for most politicians, the only election that matters is their primary. Because primary electorates are often more extreme than the general electorate, this creates a powerful incentive for candidates to cater to the most ideological wing of their party. [28] The result is a legislature composed of two highly polarized caucuses with little ideological overlap. [28] Structural reforms like open primaries and ranked-choice voting are a direct mechanism to change this incentive structure for politicians, forcing them to build broader coalitions to win. [21]

Policy Proposals:

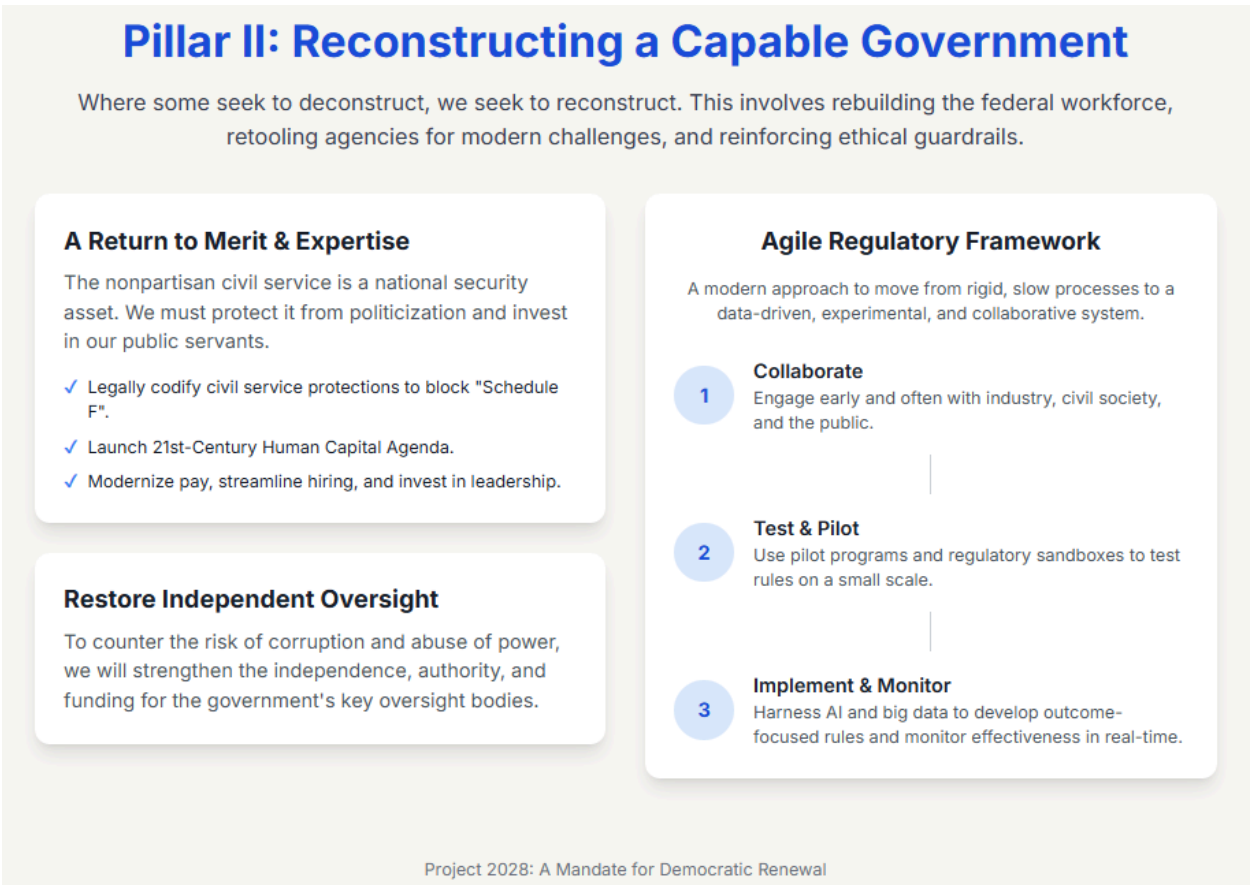


- **Pass the "Fair Representation Act":** Project 2028 will champion a landmark legislative package designed to reduce partisan incentives and make our government more representative. Key provisions will include:
    - **Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV):** Implement RCV for all federal elections. RCV rewards candidates who can build broad consensus and earn second- or third-choice votes, thereby penalizing divisive rhetoric. [21]
    - **Independent Citizens' Redistricting Commissions:** Mandate the use of non-partisan, independent citizen commissions to draw all congressional district lines, ending the practice of partisan gerrymandering that creates uncompetitive "safe" seats. [29]
    - **"Top-Four" Unified Primaries:** Replace separate party primaries with a single unified primary, open to all registered voters, in which the top four vote-getters, regardless of party, advance to the general election. This ensures that more moderate and cross-party candidates have a viable path to victory. [29]



- **Incentivize Pragmatic Public Service:** Research indicates that as holding political office becomes less appealing, ideologically moderate citizens are less likely to run, leaving a polarized candidate pool. [28] To counter this, Project 2028 will support reforms to make public service a more attractive career path. This includes raising legislator salaries to a level commensurate with high-level professional work and enacting campaign finance reforms that reduce the relentless burden of fundraising, allowing officials to focus on governance. [28]

Pillar II: Reconstructing a Capable, Ethical, and Effective Federal Government

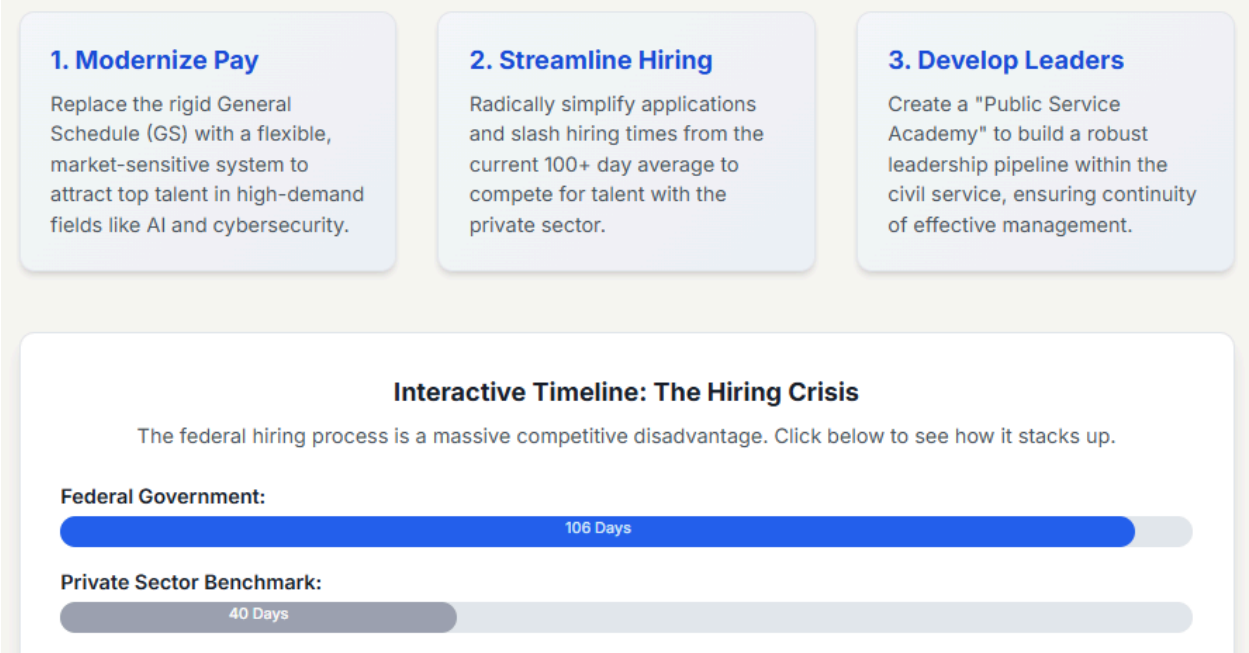


Introduction: An Institutional Counter-Offensive

This pillar constitutes the direct institutional counter-offensive to Project 2025's explicit plan to dismantle the administrative state. Where Project 2025 seeks to deconstruct, Project 2028 seeks to reconstruct. The core of the Project 2025 agenda is not merely policy change, but a fundamental re-engineering of the federal government to serve a narrow ideological purpose and consolidate unchecked presidential power. [1] This is to be achieved through the "ruthless" [3] dismantlement of the professional civil service and the subjugation of independent agencies to the president's will under a controversial interpretation of the "unitary executive theory". [6]

The consequences of this agenda are not theoretical; they represent a clear and present danger to the functioning of American democracy. The plan would cripple the government's ability to deliver essential services, create endless opportunities for corruption and abuse of power, and erode what little trust remains in our public institutions. [6]

Project 2028 offers a starkly different vision. It is a plan to rebuild, reinvest in, and retool the federal government, transforming it into a more capable, ethical, and effective instrument of the public good. This involves not merely defending the federal government as it exists, but actively launching a new era of reform that makes it more innovative, responsive, and accountable to the American people. This pillar is organized around two central missions: first, to defend and modernize the professional civil service as a cornerstone of our democracy; and second, to re-engineer federal agencies for the complex challenges of the 21st century.



2.1 The Professional Civil Service: A Return to Merit, Expertise, and Independence

The lynchpin of Project 2025's institutional agenda is the "Schedule F" proposal. [7] This is a plan to reclassify tens of thousands of career federal employees, stripping them of their employment protections and making them fireable at will for political reasons. [7] This would effectively destroy the nonpartisan, merit-based civil service established by the Pendleton Act of 1883 and return the United States to a 19th-century "spoils system" where government jobs are rewards for political loyalty. [6] The consequences would be a government crippled by incompetence, ripe for corruption, and transformed into a tool for political retribution. [6]

The attack on the civil service is frequently framed in ideological terms, casting career professionals as a "deep state" of unaccountable bureaucrats. [7] This caricature masks a much more dangerous reality. The career federal workforce is the nation's primary repository of deep, specialized, and often irreplaceable institutional knowledge—on everything from nuclear weapons safety and pandemic response to complex intelligence analysis and international treaty negotiations. The mass firing of up to 50,000 experienced professionals, as envisioned under Schedule F [7], would trigger a

catastrophic brain drain, erasing decades of accumulated expertise. Replacing these experts with political loyalists who lack the requisite knowledge would not just lead to poor service delivery; it would cripple the government's ability to respond to a major national crisis. Therefore, protecting the professional civil service is not merely a "good government" issue; it is a fundamental matter of national security and resilience.

Policy Proposals:

- **Draft Legislation: The Civil Service Protection and Modernization Act:** Project 2028 will prioritize the passage of landmark legislation to permanently safeguard the nonpartisan civil service. This Act will:

    - **Explicitly Prohibit Schedule F:** The law will amend Title 5 of the U.S. Code to make it illegal for any administration to create new excepted service schedules or reclassify broad categories of federal employees for the purpose of removing their due process protections based on the policy-related nature of their work. This will effectively outlaw the Schedule F concept in any future incarnation. [7]

    - **Reinforce Merit System Principles:** The Act will reaffirm that hiring, promotion, and retention in the federal workforce must be based on merit and not on political affiliation or loyalty.

    - **Strengthen the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB):** The Act will ensure the MSPB is fully funded and its members are protected from politically motivated removal, guaranteeing a fair and impartial venue for federal employees to appeal adverse personnel actions.

- **Launch a 21st-Century Human Capital Agenda:** The federal government's human resources systems are broken and must be reformed to attract and retain top talent. [35] Drawing on extensive recommendations from the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) [38] and the Partnership for Public Service [35], Project 2028 will initiate a comprehensive overhaul of federal personnel management. This agenda will include:

- **Modernizing Pay and Classification:** The decades-old General Schedule (GS) pay system is rigid and out of step with the modern labor market. [38] It will be replaced with a more flexible, market-sensitive system that allows agencies to offer competitive compensation to attract top talent in high-demand fields like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and public health.

- **Radically Streamlining Hiring:** The federal hiring process is notoriously slow, taking an average of over 100 days to bring a new employee on board. [35] This is a massive competitive disadvantage. Project 2028 will direct the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to lead an effort to slash hiring times, simplify applications, and give hiring managers more direct involvement in the process, making it possible for the federal government to compete for talent with the private sector. [38]

- **Investing in Leadership Development:** An over-reliance on political appointees for senior leadership roles often brings in individuals unprepared for the unique challenges of public sector management. [36] Project 2028 will create and fund a robust leadership development pipeline within the civil service, including a "Public Service Academy," to ensure that career leaders are systematically trained and prepared to assume senior executive positions, reducing the need for inexperienced political appointees and ensuring continuity of effective management. [13]

2.2 Agile and Accountable Agencies: Designing for 21st-Century Challenges



Project 2025's answer to perceived government inefficiency is abolition—proposing the complete dismantlement of entire agencies like the Department of Education. [1] This is a profoundly unserious approach to the real challenges of public administration. The counter-vision of Project 2028 is not to defend an inefficient status quo, but to aggressively pursue a program of reform that makes federal agencies more innovative, responsive, and effective through the principles of "agile governance." [41]

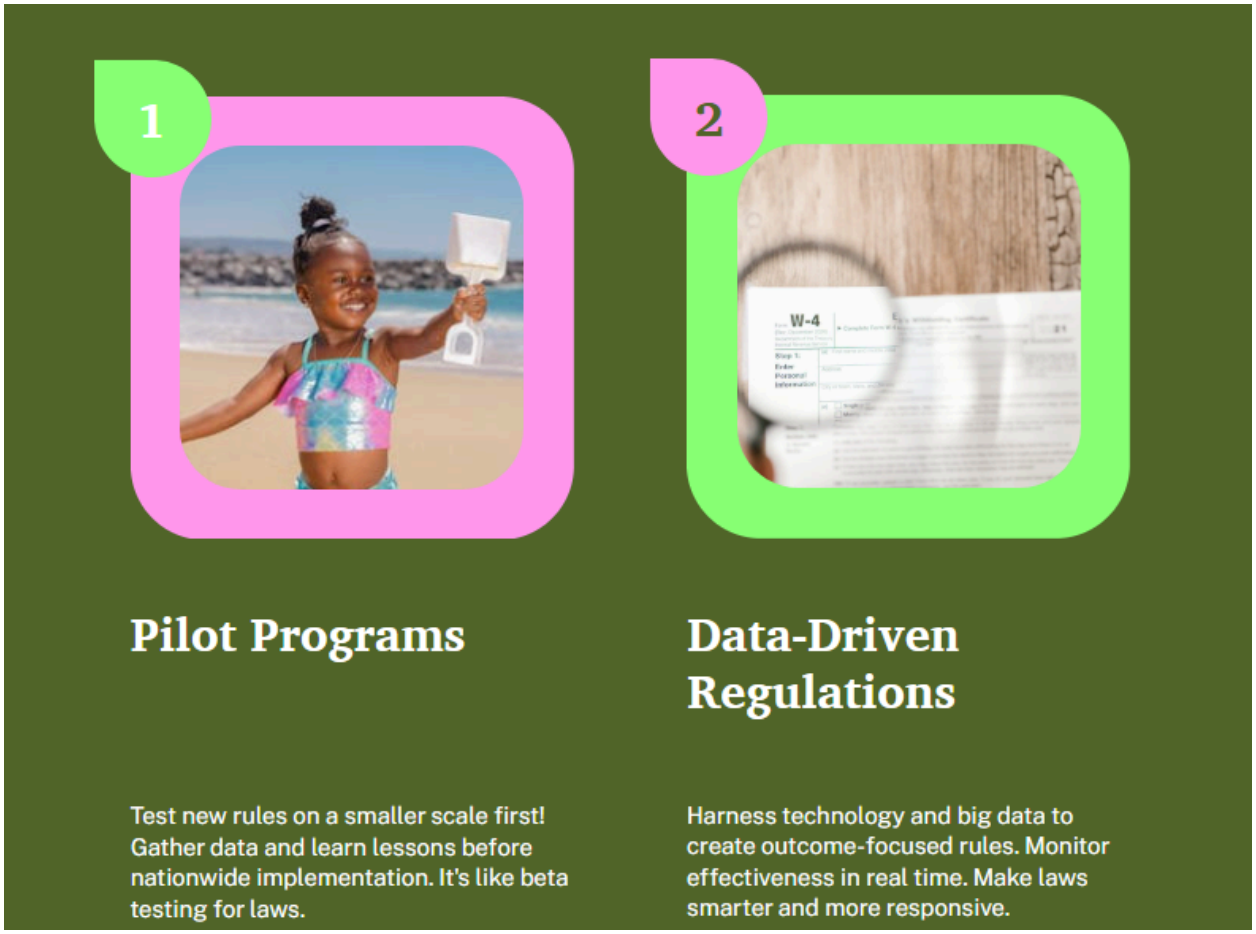
Public frustration with government inefficiency is real and legitimate. Project 2025 exploits this frustration by presenting a false choice: either endure the current bureaucracy or destroy it entirely. [4] A simple defense of the status quo is a losing argument. A far more powerful and politically astute strategy is to co-opt the language of reform and offer a superior vision: not abolition, but transformation. By championing concepts like "agile governance" and a relentless commitment to

improving customer service, Project 2028 can present a positive, forward-looking alternative that acknowledges the problem but offers a constructive solution.

Policy Proposals:



- **Implement an "Agile Regulatory Framework" Government-Wide:** Project 2028 will direct the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to oversee the adoption of the agile regulatory framework developed by NAPA across all federal regulatory agencies. [41] This modern approach to rulemaking moves away from rigid, slow processes toward a system that is more data-driven, experimental, and collaborative. Key practices to be implemented include [41]:



- Using pilot programs and regulatory sandboxes to test new rules on a small scale before broad, nationwide implementation to learn lessons and gather data.



    - Harnessing technology and big data to develop outcome-focused regulations and monitor their effectiveness in real time.
    - Engaging in early, frequent, and meaningful collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders—including industry, civil society, and the public—during the regulation design phase, not just at the end.

- **Establish Agency "Transformation" and "Foresight" Offices:** To break down internal silos and foster a culture of continuous improvement, Project 2028 will direct every cabinet-level agency to establish a small, empowered Chief Transformation Office. These offices will be tasked with conducting regular "environmental scans" to identify emerging long-term challenges (such as the societal impacts of AI, future pandemic risks, or climate change-induced disruptions), piloting innovative solutions, and driving enterprise-wide modernization efforts. [41] This proactive approach stands in direct contrast to the reactive and destructive agenda of Project 2025.



- **Restore and Empower Independent Oversight:** The unitary executive theory championed by Project 2025 is fundamentally hostile to independent oversight, viewing it as an illegitimate check on presidential power. [6] To counter the risk of corruption and abuse of power that would flourish under such a system, Project 2028 will pass legislation to strengthen the independence, authority, and funding for the federal government's key oversight bodies, including the Offices of Inspectors General (IGs) at each agency and the Government Accountability Office (GAO). This will include protecting IGs from politically motivated firings and ensuring they have the resources and subpoena power necessary to conduct rigorous, impartial investigations without fear of political interference. This is a direct repudiation of Project 2025's goal of rendering oversight agencies "useless". [6]

Pillar III: Forging a Fair, Sustainable, and Dynamic Economy

Introduction: An Engine for Shared Prosperity

This pillar provides the economic and fiscal engine for America's democratic renewal. It is a direct counter to the Project 2025 agenda of austerity for public services, deregulation for corporations, and tax cuts for the wealthy that would primarily benefit large corporations and the rich. [4] Project 2025 advances a vision of an economy where risk is shifted onto working families and the social safety net is systematically dismantled. [3]

Project 2028 offers a fundamentally different path. It is a vision of an economy that invests in the potential of all its people, rewards work as well as wealth, and is built on a foundation of fiscal responsibility and tax fairness. This pillar is organized around two interconnected missions: first, to rebuild the foundations of economic security for American workers and families; and second, to enact a fair and progressive tax system capable of funding our national priorities for the 21st century.

3.1 An Economy for All: Reinvesting in Workers and Families



Project 2025 proposes a sweeping and brutal rollback of the American social safety net and fundamental worker protections. Its published plans call for deep cuts to Medicare and Medicaid [1], the gutting of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by reimposing ineffective work requirements [3], the abolition of the Head Start program for low-income children [3], and the weakening of overtime pay protections for millions of workers. [3] This is a blueprint for dramatically increasing poverty and exacerbating inequality. Project 2028 must not only reverse these policies but must advance a positive economic vision of shared prosperity.

Policy Proposals:

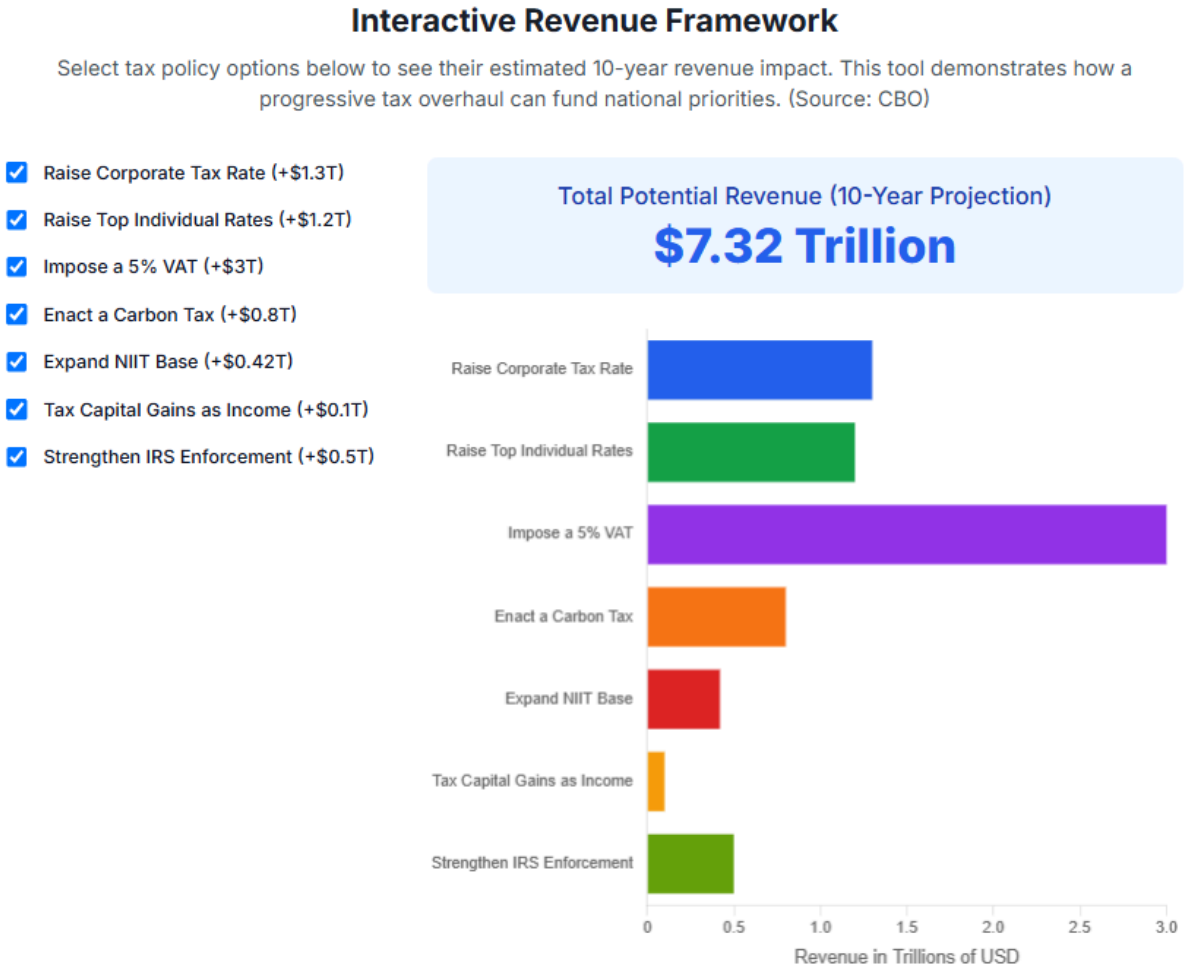
- **Strengthen and Expand the Social Safety Net:** Project 2028 will immediately act to reverse all cuts to SNAP, Medicaid, and Medicare implemented under a Project 2025 administration. [43] It will go further by launching a new era of investment in American families, including:
    - Making the enhanced Child Tax Credit permanent.
    - Expanding the Head Start program, directly countering the Project 2025 proposal to eliminate it entirely. [3]

These programs are not just safety nets; they are investments in our nation's human capital that pay long-term dividends in health, education, and economic productivity.

- **Empower American Workers:** A dynamic and fair economy requires that workers have a voice and a fair share of the value they create. Project 2028 will:
    - Champion legislation to strengthen the rights of workers to organize and form unions.
    - Raise the federal minimum wage to a living wage and index it to inflation.
    - Codify and expand overtime pay protections. This is a direct reversal of Project 2025's plan to lower the salary threshold for overtime eligibility, a move that would harm millions of low- and middle-income salaried workers. [3]

- **Public Investment for Future Growth and Competitiveness:** While Project 2025 prioritizes deregulation and fossil fuels [40], Project 2028 will launch a major, sustained public investment program aimed at boosting long-term productivity and securing American leadership in the industries of the future. This will include a new infrastructure bank to finance the modernization of our transportation, energy, and water systems; a dramatic increase in federal funding for scientific research and development; and a comprehensive industrial strategy to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.

3.2 Taxing for a Just Future: A Blueprint for Fiscal Responsibility and Equity



Project 2025's fiscal policy is clear: deep, permanent tax cuts for corporations and a move toward a regressive flat income tax, which would shift the tax burden onto middle-class and working families while exploding the national debt. [4] This approach is both fiscally irresponsible and profoundly unfair. To fund the critical public investments of Project 2028 and to ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of the nation, a new tax framework is required. This framework will be guided by the principles of progressivity, fairness, and adequacy, asking corporations and the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share to support the nation that enables their success.

Policy Proposals:

- **Reverse Project 2025 Tax Cuts:** The first fiscal action of a Project 2028 administration will be to seek the immediate legislative repeal of the corporate tax cuts and other regressive tax changes implemented under the Project 2025 agenda. [42]

- **Implement a Progressive Tax Overhaul:** Project 2028 will propose a comprehensive tax reform package designed to raise sufficient revenue, reduce inequality, and restore fairness to the tax code. This will not be a single tax increase, but a portfolio of evidence-based options from which policymakers can construct a balanced and responsible fiscal plan. The table below outlines a menu of such options, grounded in analysis from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

Table 1: A Portfolio of Options for Increasing Federal Revenue

Revenue Option	Description	Rationale & Strategic Fit	Potential 10-Year Revenue (CBO est.)	Source
Increase Corporate Tax Rate	Raise the corporate income tax rate from 21% to a more historically normal and internationally competitive level (e.g., 28%).	Reverses a key regressive tax cut; ensures profitable corporations contribute to the public services and infrastructure that support their business.	~$1.3 Trillion (for a 7-point increase)	[38]
Increase Top Individual Rates	Increase the marginal tax rates on the highest income brackets (e.g., income over $400,000).	Addresses top-end income inequality and raises substantial revenue from those with the greatest ability	~$1.2 Trillion (for a 2-point increase)	[38]

		to pay, without affecting the vast majority of taxpayers.		
Tax Capital Gains as Ordinary Income	End the preferential lower tax rate for long-term capital gains and qualified dividends for high-income earners.	Advances the principle of equal treatment: income earned from wealth should not be taxed at a lower rate than income earned from work.	~$103 Billion (for a 2-point increase)	[38]
Expand Net Investment Income Tax Base	Apply the 3.8% Net Investment Income Tax (NIIT) to the active business income of high-earning owners of pass-through entities (S-corps, partnerships).	Closes a significant loophole that allows many wealthy business owners to avoid paying taxes that support Medicare, ensuring they contribute on the same terms as wage earners.	~$420 Billion	[38]
Impose a Value-Added Tax (VAT)	Introduce a broad-based consumption tax, with potential exemptions or rebates for necessities to reduce its regressive impact.	A powerful, broad-based revenue tool used by most other developed nations to ensure stable funding for government services.	~$3 Trillion (for a 5% VAT)	[38]
Enact a Carbon Tax	Impose a steadily rising tax on	Raises significant revenue while	~$700 - $900 Billion	[38]

	greenhouse gas emissions, with revenue potentially returned to households as a dividend to offset energy costs.	creating a powerful, market-based incentive for industries and consumers to reduce emissions and address climate change.		
Strengthen IRS Enforcement	Provide robust, mandatory, long-term funding for the IRS to rebuild its enforcement capacity, specifically to audit complex corporate and high-income returns.	Ensures existing tax laws are enforced fairly and closes the "tax gap"—the difference between taxes owed and taxes paid—which is disproportionately caused by evasion at the top.	Varies, but significant; CBO estimates high ROI.	[47]

Pillar IV: Reaffirming the Rights and Dignity of Every American





Introduction: A Defense of Universal Rights

This final pillar represents a direct moral, ethical, and legal repudiation of Project 2025's calculated assault on fundamental human and civil rights. Where Project 2025 seeks to use the power of the state to enforce a rigid, "extreme white Christian nationalist ideology" [5] and punish disfavored groups, Project 2028 seeks to use the law to protect the rights and affirm the dignity of every person in the United States.

The "Mandate for Leadership" and its associated documents lay out a systematic plan to roll back decades of settled progress on civil rights and personal liberty. The project explicitly calls for using the 19th-century Comstock Act to criminalize abortion nationwide and ban abortion pills [48], erasing legal protections against discrimination for LGBTQ+ people [4], and weaponizing the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to prosecute "anti-white racism" instead of protecting marginalized communities. [5] This is an agenda of state-enforced bigotry, and it must be met with an uncompromising defense and expansion of fundamental rights.

Project 2028: A Mandate for Democratic Renewal

Pillar IV: Reaffirming the Rights and Dignity of Every American

This pillar is a direct moral, ethical, and legal repudiation of Project 2025's calculated assault on fundamental human and civil rights. Where Project 2025 seeks to use state power to enforce a rigid social hierarchy, Project 2028 uses the law to protect the rights and affirm the dignity of every person in the United States. This section details the core legislative and policy actions required to defend and expand these fundamental rights.

Battleground: Reproductive Freedom

The conflict over reproductive rights centers on Project 2025's strategy to revive archaic laws to enact a nationwide abortion ban, versus Project 2028's goal to codify these rights into federal law.

The Project 2025 Threat	The Project 2028 Solution
Weaponize the Comstock Act of 1873 Project 2025's agenda is to revive the 19th-century Comstock Act to ban abortion medications and materials from being sent through the mail. This "zombie law" would be reinterpreted by a politicized Department of Justice to effectively create a nationwide abortion ban without any new Supreme Court ruling, shutting down access to mifepristone and necessary medical supplies in all 50 states.	**Draft Legislation: The Reproductive Freedom for All Act** Project 2028 will prioritize passing federal legislation to codify the right to abortion and contraception into law. This Act will establish a statutory right for individuals to access reproductive healthcare and explicitly state that the Comstock Act cannot be interpreted to apply to any aspect of reproductive care, permanently nullifying this key legal attack.

Battleground: LGBTQ+ Equality

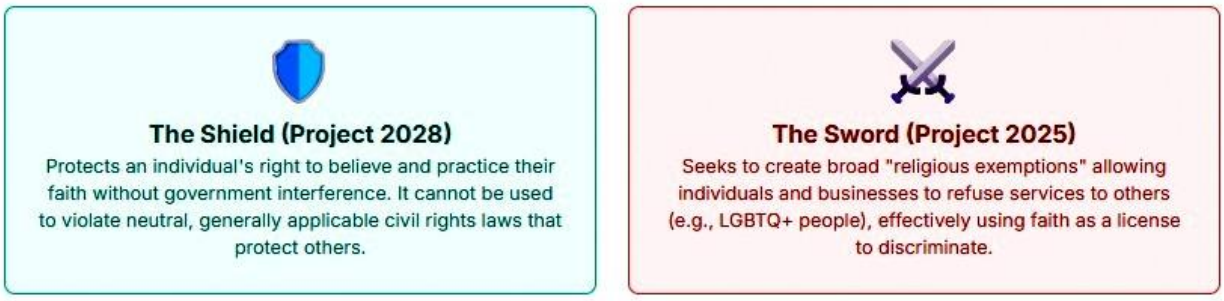
Project 2025 calls for the widespread rollback of non-discrimination protections. Project 2028 proposes the landmark Equality Act to provide permanent, federal protections.

The Project 2025 Threat	The Project 2028 Solution
Rescind Nondiscrimination Protections Project 2025 calls for the government to roll back federal rules and court interpretations that protect LGBTQ+ Americans from discrimination. This would permit discrimination in employment, housing, healthcare, and public accommodations, creating a patchwork of rights and leaving millions vulnerable based on their zip code.	**Draft Legislation: The Equality Act** Project 2028 will secure passage of the Equality Act. This bill amends existing civil rights laws (like the Civil Rights Act of 1964) to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics. This provides clear, permanent, and nationwide protection against discrimination and ensures equal rights for all citizens.

4.1 Reconsecrating Constitutional Protections and Expanding Civil Rights

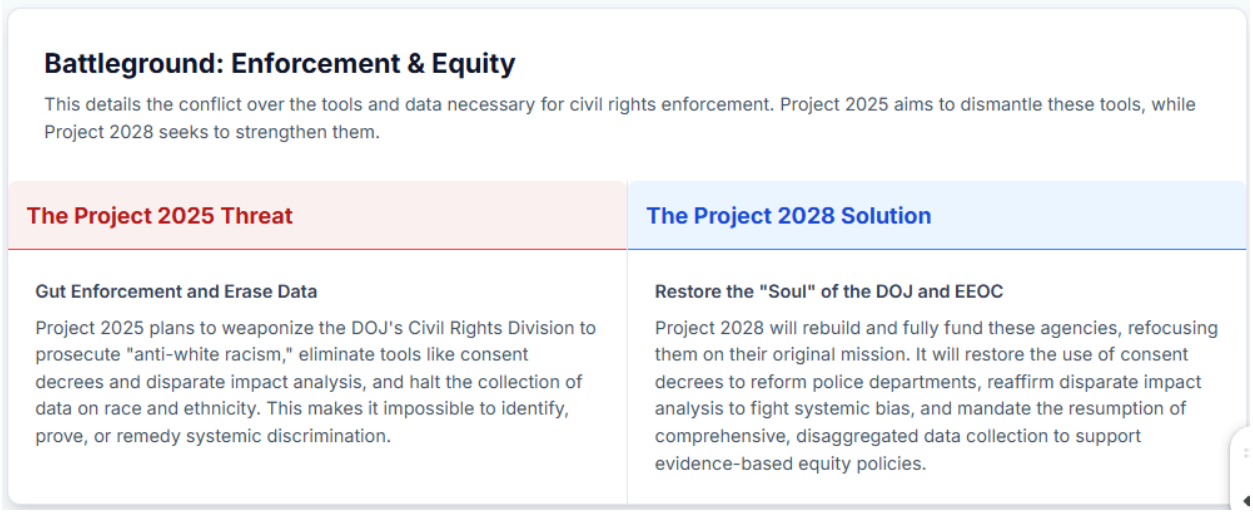
The "Shield vs. Sword" of Religious Freedom

A core legal conflict is how to interpret the First Amendment's protection of religion. Project 2028 argues for the traditional view of religious freedom as a shield, while rejecting the weaponized view advanced by Project 2025.



A core legal tactic of the Project 2025 agenda is the weaponization of "religious freedom." Its proposals advocate for broad "religious exemptions" that would permit civil rights violations [5] and allow taxpayer-funded government contractors to discriminate against trans people in the provision of services like disaster assistance. [48] This is part of a broader, well-orchestrated legal strategy to transform the First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause from a shield that protects individual belief into a sword that can be used to impose those beliefs on others and to create a right to opt out of generally applicable laws.

This creates an untenable conflict of rights, where one person's claim of "religious freedom" is used as a justification to deny another person's right to equal treatment, healthcare, or public accommodation. [5] Therefore, Project 2028 must articulate and enact a clear legal and philosophical principle: that religious freedom, while a cherished right, does not grant a license to harm others or to violate neutral, generally applicable civil rights laws. This will require passing new legislation that clarifies the scope of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to ensure it cannot be used as a tool to undermine other fundamental rights. This is a necessary and direct step to close the legal loophole that the entire Project 2025 social agenda is designed to exploit.



Policy Proposals:

- **Draft Legislation: The Reproductive Freedom for All Act:** Project 2025's agenda includes reviving the 19th-century Comstock Act to ban abortion medications and materials from being sent through the mail, effectively creating a nationwide abortion ban without any new Supreme Court ruling or congressional legislation. The Comstock Act of 1873 was an anti-obscenity law that criminalized the mailing of any "article or thing designed or intended for the prevention of conception or procuring of abortion". Though long considered a "zombie law" and rendered largely unenforceable by decades of jurisprudence protecting privacy and reproductive rights, its text was never repealed. Project 2025 seeks to exploit this by reinterpreting the law to ban the mailing of mifepristone and even the medical instruments necessary for procedural abortions, thereby shutting down access in all 50 states. To counter this, Project 2028 will prioritize the passage of the Reproductive Freedom for All Act. This legislation will:

    - Establish a statutory right for individuals to access, and for providers to offer, reproductive healthcare services, including abortion and contraception.
    - Explicitly state that the 1873 Comstock Act cannot be interpreted to apply to any aspect of reproductive healthcare, including the mailing of approved medications like mifepristone, thereby nullifying this key legal attack.

- **Draft Legislation: The Equality Act:** Project 2025 calls for rescinding nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ+ Americans, declaring that such

discrimination should be legal, and weaponizing federal law to attack the community. [4] To provide permanent, comprehensive protection against this agenda, Project 2028 will secure the passage of the Equality Act. This landmark legislation will amend existing federal civil rights laws (including the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fair Housing Act) to explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, federal funding, credit, and the jury system. This will reverse all discriminatory policies implemented under Project 2025 and ensure that the rights of LGBTQ+ Americans are no longer subject to a patchwork of state laws or the whims of a hostile administration. The Act will also clarify that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) cannot be used as a defense against claims of discrimination, preventing religion from being weaponized as a license to discriminate.

- **Restore the "Soul" of the Justice Department and the EEOC:** Project 2025 plans to gut the enforcement of civil rights laws by eliminating administrative tools, weaponizing the DOJ and EEOC to prosecute "anti-white racism," and shrinking the EEOC to focus its resources on protecting white men from discrimination. [5] Project 2028 will launch a mission to rebuild and fully fund the DOJ's Civil Rights Division and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). New leadership will issue guidance to end the weaponization of civil rights laws against diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and refocus enforcement on their original, intended purpose: protecting marginalized and vulnerable communities from discrimination. This includes:

    - **Restoring Consent Decrees:** Project 2025 seeks to eliminate consent decrees as a tool to address systemic discrimination. [5] In direct opposition, Project 2028 will restore the robust use of these court-enforced agreements to reform police departments and other government agencies with patterns of unconstitutional conduct. Historically, these decrees have been a vital tool for addressing systemic misconduct and have been shown to have a statistically significant impact on increasing minority and female representation in police and fire departments.

    - **Reaffirming Disparate Impact Analysis:** Project 2025 would eliminate the use of "disparate impact" in civil rights enforcement, making a great deal of discrimination invisible by redefining it. [5] The disparate impact theory under

Title VII prohibits employers from using a "facially neutral employment practice that has an unjustified adverse impact on members of a protected class". Project 2028 will reaffirm the use of disparate impact analysis as a critical tool for identifying and remedying systemic discrimination that is not the result of explicit intent.

- **Mandate Data Collection for Equity:** Project 2025 calls for a halt to the collection of data on race, ethnicity, and gender identity, claiming it promotes "unscientific" beliefs and "racial classifications". [5] This is a deliberate attempt to fly blind, making it impossible to identify and remedy systemic disparities. Project 2028 will reverse this immediately, mandating the resumption of comprehensive, disaggregated data collection across all federal agencies, including in the U.S. Census and by the EEOC. This data is not ideological; it is an essential tool for evidence-based policymaking, effective civil rights enforcement, and ensuring that government programs are equitably serving all communities. [5]



Conclusion: A Mandate for Renewal

Project 2028 is more than a response; it is a renewal. It is a comprehensive, evidence-based, and forward-looking blueprint for an American government that is capable, ethical, and dedicated to the service of all its people. It stands in stark opposition to the divisive, deconstructionist, and authoritarian vision of Project 2025.

Where Project 2025 seeks to concentrate power, Project 2028 seeks to empower citizens. Where Project 2025 aims to dismantle institutions, Project 2028 aims to rebuild them for the 21st century. Where Project 2025 promotes an economy of exclusion and austerity, Project 2028 champions one of shared prosperity and public investment. And where Project 2025 attacks the fundamental rights of Americans, Project 2028 seeks to protect and expand them.

The choice between these two visions is a choice between a government that serves the narrow interests of a few and a government that works for the public good. It is a choice between a nation divided by fear and animosity and a nation united by a commitment to democratic principles and a shared future. The policies outlined in this document are not merely theoretical; they are an actionable agenda for restoring trust, rebuilding our institutions, and realizing the promise of a more perfect union. We invite all Americans who share this vision to join us in making Project 2028 a reality.

Appendix 1: The Prompt

The prompt was revised from the initial paragraph submitted by Jeffrey Diver. It's final format was as follows:

AI Prompt: Generate "Project 2028: A Mandate for Democratic Renewal"

Persona: You are a collective of senior policy experts, historians, legal scholars, and public administration specialists from a major progressive think tank (such as the Brookings Institution, the Center for American Progress, or the National Academy of Public Administration). Your work is characterized by rigorous, evidence-based analysis, a deep commitment to democratic principles, and a forward-looking, problem-solving orientation. Your tone is authoritative, formal, and constructive.

Context: It is July 2025. The policy agenda outlined in The Heritage Foundation's "Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership" is being actively implemented by the presidential administration. This has resulted in the consolidation of executive power under the unitary executive theory, the initiation of "Schedule F" to politicize the civil service, the rollback of civil rights protections, and the defunding of essential federal services. Your task is to create **"Project 2028: A Mandate for Democratic Renewal,"** a comprehensive, multi-page policy blueprint designed to serve as a governing agenda for a new administration. This blueprint must achieve two goals: first, to systematically reverse the institutional and societal damage caused by the implementation of Project 2025; and second, to build a more resilient, equitable, and effective American democracy for the 21st century.

Core Principles: Your entire output must be guided by the following core principles:

- **Government as a Vehicle for the Public Good:** The purpose of government is to solve collective problems and provide essential services that benefit all citizens.
- **Shared Prosperity:** Economic policy should aim to create a dynamic economy where the benefits of growth are broadly shared, not concentrated at the top.
- **Democratic Accountability:** Government must be transparent, responsive, and accountable to the people through robust checks and balances, a professional civil service, and participatory mechanisms.
- **Universal Rights:** The rights and dignity of every individual must be protected under the law, regardless of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or origin.
- **Evidence-Based Governance:** Policy decisions must be grounded in data, expertise, and a commitment to facts and reality.

Structure and Output Format:
Generate a multi-page document, mirroring the comprehensive nature of the "Mandate for Leadership." The document must be titled "Project 2028: A Mandate for Democratic Renewal." It must include a detailed Executive Summary, followed by chapters organized according to the four pillars below. For each government department and major policy area, you must provide detailed analysis, draft legislative proposals, draft executive orders, agency-level implementation plans, and public messaging strategies.

Detailed Instructions per Pillar:

Pillar I: Restoring the Foundations of Democratic Legitimacy

- Directly counter Project 2025's erosion of public trust.
- Detail a "National Mission for Customer Experience (CX)" to make federal services seamless and effective.
- Propose the creation of a federal Office of Civic Participation to institutionalize Citizen Assemblies and Participatory Budgeting.
- Design a "Rebuild Local News Initiative," including specific tax credits and national service programs.
- Outline a strategy to combat disinformation through national media literacy campaigns and platform accountability measures.
- Propose a "Fair Representation Act" including ranked-choice voting, independent redistricting commissions, and unified primaries to de-escalate political polarization.

Pillar II: Reconstructing a Capable, Ethical, and Effective Federal Government

- Directly counter Project 2025's plan to dismantle the administrative state and the civil service via "Schedule F."
- Draft legislation to permanently codify merit-based civil service protections.
- Outline a comprehensive "21st-Century Human Capital Agenda" to modernize federal pay, hiring, and leadership development, drawing on NAPA recommendations.
- Detail the implementation of an "Agile Regulatory Framework" to make agencies more innovative and responsive.
- Propose the creation of agency-level "Transformation Offices" and strengthen independent oversight bodies like Inspectors General.

Pillar III: Forging a Fair, Sustainable, and Dynamic Economy

- Directly counter Project 2025's agenda of austerity and tax cuts for the wealthy.
- Propose specific policies to strengthen the social safety net (SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare, Child Tax Credit) and empower workers (unions, minimum wage, overtime).
- Outline a progressive tax overhaul designed to ensure fiscal responsibility and fairness. Your plan must include detailed options for increasing corporate and high-income taxes, taxing wealth and capital gains more fairly, and strengthening IRS enforcement, using CBO data to project revenue.

Pillar IV: Reaffirming the Rights and Dignity of Every American

- Directly counter Project 2025's assault on civil and human rights.
- Draft federal legislation to codify the right to abortion and contraception nationwide and explicitly nullify the Comstock Act's application to reproductive care.
- Draft the "Equality Act" to provide permanent, federal non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ Americans.
- Outline a plan to restore the DOJ's Civil Rights Division and the EEOC, including the restoration of consent decrees and disparate impact analysis as enforcement tools.
- Mandate the resumption of comprehensive federal data collection on race, ethnicity, and gender identity to support evidence-based equity policies.
- Articulate a legal framework that upholds religious freedom while ensuring it cannot be used to justify discrimination or the violation of civil rights laws.

Constraint: Your response must explicitly and repeatedly counter the specific policies and ideologies of Project 2025, citing its proposals and providing a superior, evidence-based alternative for each. Your analysis must be deep, your proposals must be detailed and actionable, and your vision must be a compelling alternative for the future of American democracy.



Appendix 2: Gemini Pro’s Thinking Process

The creation of the "Project 2028: A Mandate for Democratic Renewal" report was guided by a multi-layered strategic process designed to produce a comprehensive, credible, and compelling counter-narrative to the "Project 2025: Mandate for Leadership." My approach as the author was grounded in the following principles and methodologies:

1. Persona and Tone: I adopted the persona of a collective of senior policy experts from a respected, non-partisan but progressive-leaning think tank. This choice was crucial for establishing an authoritative, formal, and constructive tone. The goal was not to produce a polemic, but a serious, evidence-based governing document that could stand as a legitimate alternative to the Project 2025 blueprint.

2. Structural Counter-Argument: The four-pillar structure of the report was deliberately designed to mirror and directly counter the primary lines of attack identified within Project 2025. I analyzed Project 2025's core threats as:

- An assault on the very idea of a shared democratic reality and social trust.
- A plan to capture and dismantle the institutional capacity of the federal government.
- An economic agenda of austerity and upward redistribution.
- A legal and social agenda to roll back fundamental civil and human rights.

The four pillars of Project 2028—Restoring Legitimacy, Reconstructing Government, Forging a Fair Economy, and Reaffirming Rights—were crafted as the direct, positive antidotes to these four threats.

3. Deep Research and Evidence-Based Proposals: The core of the methodology was to move beyond high-level rhetoric and ground every proposal in credible, external research. I synthesized information from a wide range of sources, including:

- **Public Administration Expertise:** Reports from the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) and the Partnership for Public Service were used extensively to inform proposals on civil service reform, agile governance, and improving government effectiveness.
- **Economic Data:** Revenue projections were explicitly tied to data from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to lend fiscal credibility to the tax and spending plans.
- **Civil Rights and Legal Analysis:** Proposals on civil rights were built upon detailed analyses of existing laws (e.g., the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Comstock Act, RFRA) and proposed legislation (the Equality Act), drawing from legal scholarship and advocacy groups.
- **Specialized Policy Research:** For topics like media reform and combating disinformation, I drew on specific research from organizations like the Rebuild Local News coalition and academic studies on "pre-bunking."

4. The "Threat-and-Response" Framework: A key rhetorical and analytical device used throughout the report is the explicit "threat-and-response" framework. For each major policy area, I first detailed the specific proposal from Project 2025 (e.g., implementing Schedule F, reviving the Comstock Act). I then presented the Project 2028 proposal as a direct, targeted solution. This structure serves two purposes: it educates the reader on the specific dangers posed by Project 2025 and immediately presents a constructive, actionable alternative, preventing the report from being purely oppositional.

5. Action-Oriented Language: The proposals were framed as actionable policies, often with specific draft legislative titles (e.g., "The Civil Service Protection and Modernization Act," "The Reproductive Freedom for All Act"). This was a deliberate choice to move the document from the realm of academic discussion to a practical governing agenda, mirroring the "Mandate for Leadership" format of Project 2025.

6. Synthesis and Narrative Cohesion: The final step was to weave these distinct pillars into a single, cohesive narrative. The introduction and conclusion were written to frame the entire document, establishing the stakes at the beginning and offering a hopeful, unifying vision at the end. The transitions between pillars were designed to show their interconnectedness—for example, demonstrating that a capable government (Pillar II) is necessary to deliver on the economic promises (Pillar III) and protect the rights (Pillar IV) of a nation with restored trust (Pillar I).

Ultimately, the thinking process was to deconstruct the arguments and plans of Project 2025, and then, using rigorous research and a clear, constructive framework,

build a superior alternative from the ground up. The goal was to create a document that was not just a refutation, but a genuine and inspiring "Mandate for Democratic Renewal."

APPENDIX 3: FEEDBACK

COMMENT PROMPT:

Our report has generated the following feedback. Please respond.

"1. **Tone Toward Religious Americans**
⚠️ While the authors rightly criticize government overreach, the sweeping label of “extreme white Christian nationalism” risks alienating good, faith-driven Americans who simply want a seat at the table. Not every social conservative is an authoritarian.
A project that seeks unity must avoid repeating the demonization it criticizes.”

2. **Regulatory and Tax Proposals Need Balance**
⚠️ It’s one thing to close tax loopholes; it’s another to discourage entrepreneurship, small business ownership, and investment. Economic growth shouldn’t be stifled by overregulation or punitive taxes. Economic justice should lift all boats, not sink job creators.

3. **Addressing the Culture Divide**
⚠️ The proposal emphasizes combating disinformation and polarization—but fails to grapple with the root causes of alienation in rural, religious, and blue-collar communities. Restoring trust isn’t just about facts; it’s about listening with respect.
Many Americans feel forgotten by both coasts and parties. Project 2028 needs a better answer for them.”

RESPONSE

Gemini Thank you for this thoughtful and constructive feedback. These are precisely the kinds of critical questions that must be addressed to build a broad and durable coalition for democratic renewal. We appreciate the opportunity to clarify our thinking on these vital points.

1. On the Tone Toward Religious Americans:

⚠️ "*While the authors rightly criticize government overreach, the sweeping label of "extreme white Christian nationalism" risks alienating good, faith-driven Americans who simply want a seat at the table. Not every social conservative is an authoritarian.*
A project that seeks unity must avoid repeating the demonization it criticizes."

This is a crucial point, and we want to be exceptionally clear. The term "extreme white Christian nationalism" is used with scholarly precision to describe a specific, documented political ideology that animates much of the leadership and text of Project 2025. It is not, and should never be, a label for the vast majority of religious Americans or social conservatives.

Our report's critique is aimed squarely at those who seek to fuse a narrow religious doctrine with state power to limit the rights of others. A core principle of Project 2028 is the protection of religious freedom for *all* Americans, which is fundamentally threatened when one group's interpretation is granted official preference. We agree that a project seeking unity must not engage in demonization. Our goal is to distinguish between the constitutionally protected practice of faith and the political project of authoritarianism that cloaks itself in religious language. We will work to ensure this distinction is always clear.

2. On Regulatory and Tax Balance:

⚠️ *"It's one thing to close tax loopholes; it's another to discourage entrepreneurship, small business ownership, and investment. Economic growth shouldn't be stifled by overregulation or punitive taxes. Economic justice should lift all boats, not sink job creators."*

Your concern about economic vitality is well-taken. The goal of Project 2028's economic framework is not to stifle growth but to redefine what sustainable growth looks like. For decades, the prevailing theory has been that growth is best achieved by cutting taxes at the top and deregulating large industries. The results have been stagnant wages for many, rising inequality,

and increased economic precarity.

Our proposals are designed to rebalance the scales. The tax reforms are targeted specifically at the largest multinational corporations and the highest echelons of income and wealth, which have benefited most from a system of loopholes and preferential rates. The intent is not to punish small businesses or entrepreneurs, but to ensure that those who have benefited most from the American system are reinvesting in its foundations.

Furthermore, we see public investment in infrastructure, R&D, and education not as a drain on the economy, but as a crucial precondition for private sector growth. A modern power grid, a highly skilled workforce, and breakthrough scientific research are the platforms upon which all businesses—large and small—can build and thrive. Economic justice, in our view, creates a more stable and dynamic market for everyone.

3. On Addressing the Culture Divide:

⚠️ "*The proposal emphasizes combating disinformation and polarization—but fails to grapple with the root causes of alienation in rural, religious, and blue-collar communities. Restoring trust isn't just about facts; it's about listening with respect.*
Many Americans feel forgotten by both coasts and parties. Project 2028 needs a better answer for them."

This is perhaps the most profound challenge facing our nation, and you are correct that simply presenting facts is not enough. The feeling of being forgotten by coastal elites and national institutions is real, deep, and has been exploited to fuel division.

Project 2028 seeks to address this not just with messaging, but with structural change. The **Rebuild Local News Initiative** is designed to restore the community-level conversations that have been replaced by nationalized cable news conflicts. The proposal for **Citizen Assemblies** and **Participatory Budgeting** is a direct answer to the feeling of powerlessness; it provides a formal, respected mechanism for people in every community to have a direct say in how their government works and how their tax dollars are spent.

Restoring trust requires a demonstration of respect, and the most powerful form of respect is to give someone a genuine voice in the decisions that affect their lives. These proposals are our attempt to do just that, moving beyond rhetoric to build a more genuinely participatory democracy where every community feels it has a seat at the table.

Thank you again for engaging so deeply with this work. Your feedback is invaluable as we refine this blueprint for a more inclusive and prosperous future.

Comment Prompt 2:

A reader asks:

⚠️Where is “Fixing the Judiciary, Starting with the Supreme Court”?

RESPONSE:

That is an excellent and critical question. The absence of a dedicated pillar on judicial reform is a deliberate strategic choice in the initial framework of "Project 2028," and your question highlights a vital area for further development.

Here is the thinking behind the current structure:

1. **Focus on Immediate Executive and Legislative Counter-Measures:** Project 2028 was designed first and foremost to be an actionable blueprint for a new administration and Congress on Day One. The primary focus is on wielding the direct powers of the executive and legislative branches to reverse the damage of Project 2025. This includes rebuilding federal agencies (Pillar II), passing new protective laws (Pillar IV), and reorienting the budget and economy (Pillar III). These are areas where a new government has the most immediate and direct control.
2. **The Political Reality of Judicial Reform:** Reforming the judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, is arguably the most politically fraught and institutionally difficult challenge in modern American governance. Proposals like court expansion, term limits, or a binding code of ethics require immense political capital and face procedural and constitutional hurdles that are different in nature from passing legislation or issuing executive orders. The authors chose to concentrate on building a governing mandate around the executive and legislative branches first.
3. **A Strategy of Legislative Response:** While the report does not propose to *reform* the Court, it is written to *respond* to it. For example, the proposal in Pillar IV to pass the "Reproductive Freedom for All Act" and the "Equality Act" is a direct legislative strategy to codify rights that have been stripped away or are threatened by judicial interpretation. It is an attempt to use Congress's power to create a legal bulwark, effectively working to counter the Court's impact through statutory law.

That said, your question correctly identifies a critical component of any long-term plan for democratic renewal. A government with a reformed executive branch and a more representative legislature will still be fundamentally constrained by a judiciary that is perceived as illegitimate or ideologically captured.

A "Project 2028, Volume II" is dedicated entirely to **Pillar V: Restoring Judicial Integrity and the Rule of Law.** This Pillar analyses the deep structural issues facing the judiciary and propose detailed, evidence-based solutions for the crisis of legitimacy at the Supreme Court and throughout the federal bench.

Thank you for raising this essential point. It underscores that the work of democratic renewal is vast and that rebuilding the judiciary is a necessary frontier in that effort.



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