



MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER

On Culture



Friends and partners,

Journalists, politicians, and commentators are raising the alarm that we're facing a constitutional crisis. There's no doubt that the administration is attacking fundamental rights. Executive overreach has led to a breakdown in the separation of powers and the rule of law. And while the evidence of unconstitutional actions continues to mount, **the phrase “constitutional crisis” isn't self-explanatory—we need more effective ways to frame this moment so that everyone can see what's at stake.**

This month, I'm sharing key takeaways from our May 22 *Navigating Public Thinking about Democracy* briefing, in which we discussed framing the Constitution in this moment amidst a background of

mounting threats to our democracy.

TAKE ME TO THE TAKEAWAYS

In the takeaways brief, we walk through findings from our deep-dive mindset interviews, ongoing culture tracking research, and a new survey fielded this month on how people are thinking about our unfolding “constitutional crisis.” We share how people’s assumptions about the Constitution and democracy shape how people are making sense of this moment—and offer strategies for helping people see what’s at stake.

For example, we know that people tend to have only vague understandings of concepts like checks and balances. That’s why it’s crucial for us to not simply gesture to a “constitutional crisis,” but to **name specific actions as unconstitutional and explain why.**

And if we want our communications to resonate, we can **link appeals to the Constitution to animating principles like individual rights and popular self-government.**

These next few weeks are critical moments in the contestation over foundational constitutional principles and the fight to uphold them. As the courts render decisions and the administration reacts, it’s critical that in our responses we’re framing intentionally and strategically so that people understand what’s at stake and are motivated to engage. We hope these insights can help.

In solidarity,



Clara Blustein Lindholm

RSVP NOW FOR SUMMER BRIEFINGS!

This summer, we’ll be continuing our monthly briefing series on *Navigating Public Thinking about Democracy*. On the third Wednesday of each month, we’ll share insights from real-time research on how Americans are—or aren’t—thinking about things like democracy, authoritarianism, the rule of

law, executive overreach, and more. We'll also share emerging strategies for framing our conversations in ways that help us counter authoritarian threats and strengthen our democracy. We'd love for you to join us on any or all of the following dates:

- **Wednesday, June 18 from 1–2pm ET**
- **Wednesday, July 16 from 1–2pm ET**
- **Wednesday, August 20 from 1–2pm ET**

SIGN ME UP

NEW FROM FRAMEWORKS

NEW TOOLS FOR NARRATIVE CHANGE

We know that changing narratives is possible, but it can be difficult to know where to start. These new resources include insights for those working to move mindsets and change narratives about any social issue. From a visual glossary of key concepts to practical tools and checklists to help with planning, these resources can help support your efforts to secure lasting cultural and narrative change. Take a look at the full report, guide, and case study to learn more.

SHOW ME THE RESOURCES

HOW TO BRING DEMOCRACY HOME

In this new Contrarian article, FrameWorks CEO Nat Kendall-Taylor explores how Americans are thinking about the state of our democracy in the current political moment. He breaks down key communication obstacles and shares insights for building public understanding of and resistance to democratic backsliding amid feelings of uncertainty and powerlessness. Check out the article to learn more.

UP NEXT!

NEW VIDEO SERIES: MINDSETS AND MOVEMENTS | JULY 2025!

In the next installment of *Fast Frames*, we're exploring three of the most dominant mindsets in American culture: *Individualism*, *Otherism*, and *Fatalism*. These mindsets often block efforts to build demand for more just and inclusive systems. In each episode, we'll take a look at what the mindset is, how it works, and how we can use our communications to open up more productive and expansive ways of thinking about solving social problems.

FRAMING THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF AI | COMING SOON

Despite the increasing prominence of artificial intelligence in public life and discourse, there remains a lack of understanding about how AI works and what it might mean for our lives. By examining the implicit assumptions that shape thinking about AI, we will identify and share strategies for deepening understanding of AI technologies, the social implications of their use, and how they can be used on behalf of the public interest.

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURE CHANGERS

STAND UP TO SCRUTINY: RESILIENT COMMUNICATIONS IN A CHAOTIC WORLD | FORTHRIGHT ADVISING

In light of so much uncertainty, it's crucial for organizations to communicate with confidence and resilience. Don't miss this upcoming webinar from the team at Forthright Advising for guidance on building solid messaging that holds up even when faced with challenges like funding cuts, finding messengers who can help share your story, and sticking to your values when things get shaky.

PROSPERITY SUMMIT 2025 | PROSPERITY NOW

In October, Prosperity Now is hosting a 3-day summit to bring together professionals, community leaders, and passionate changemakers to share insights, build connections, and drive progress. This year's theme, "Together We Thrive," celebrates the power of unity and meaningful

collective action—whether it be expanding homeownership, bridging opportunity gaps, or another initiative dedicated to advancing shared prosperity. Register now!



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