

BRENNAN
CENTER
FOR JUSTICE

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MISSION STATEMENT

The National Task Force on the Rule of Law & Democracy is a nonpartisan group of former government officials and policy experts. We have worked at the highest levels in federal and state government, as prosecutors, members of the military, senior advisors in the White House, Members of Congress, heads of federal agencies, and state executives. We come from across the country and reflect varying political views. We care deeply about our nation and its democratic values. And we are concerned about the erosion of critical norms and practices that are vital for a self-governing democracy.

A strong democracy requires a commitment to the rule of law, and a respect for norms and unwritten rules. In our country, these practices – built up over time -- have long been followed by members of both parties in all levels of government. They are essential for ordered liberty. They ensure that power does not go unchecked. They aim to guarantee that public officials do not use the powers of government to further their personal interest or for improper partisan political aims. They assure that officials do not interfere with the evenhanded and unbiased enforcement of the law. They recognize the vital role played by the distribution and accessibility of government research and data. They make possible the system of checks and balances created by the Founders.

In recent years, these systems have come under increasing pressure. We have come together to support the nation's commitment to those basic governing principles and practices, and to identify some of the ways they need repair and revitalization. We intend to propose reforms, including legislative changes, to bolster these principles and practices to strengthen the future of our democracy.