



Democracy in Action: A Field Guide to Civic Voice

Please find detailed organizing instructions at ConstitutionalDefense.us

Why Now?

Congress is the world's most powerful representative body, but it often fails to check presidential overreach. Citizens don't need to wait—**we can lead**. By collecting and sharing **impact testimony**, communities create a public record that strengthens accountability and informs future lawmaking.

Step 1: Gather Impact Testimony

Invite local public witnesses to answer:

1. **Your Role:** What was your job as a public servant? Which presidential action cost you your livelihood?
2. **Community Impact:** What gaps in service will your community face without your knowledge and contribution?
3. **Future Vision:** If we could reimagine public service, how should it be designed differently?

Step 2: Build a Civic Record

- Collect testimony in writing, also video, or audio to share more broadly.
- Make information **independently verifiable** and accessible.
- Store locally and share nationally by submitting the testimony to the [Impact Project](#) to create a **living archive of civic voice**

Step 3: Convene a Civil Society Field Hearing



Civil Society refers to the networks of groups, communities, and associations between individuals and government—clubs, non-profit organizations, task forces, and membership organizations. It exists nationwide. This guide shows how Civil Society can take the lead in holding elected representatives accountable and demonstrates how Congress can effectively check executive power. Modeled on Congress’s official field hearings, these **community-led gatherings**:

- Document the real-world impact of presidential actions.
 - Harness shared intelligence for democratic oversight.
 - Demonstrate that civic voice is essential to checks and balances.
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Why It Matters

- **After the Loper Bright (2023) Supreme Court ruling**, Congress must write clearer laws; citizen-generated records will guide statutory interpretation.
 - **Revitalizing Democracy**: The U.S. House was designed to connect people to federal power—Civil Society Field Hearings update this vision.
 - **Movement Building**: These hearings serve as both a **pro-democracy strategy** and a **tool of accountability** in times of crisis.
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Takeaway

Civil Society Field Hearings show that democracy works best when **citizens are creators of the public record, not just spectators**.

Let’s make civic voice a cornerstone of American democracy—today and for the future.