

DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION

Through community action

QUESTIONS FOR WITNESSES

Questions for Witnesses: Civil Society Field Hearing

It is essential to impart information about basic civics while discussing executive overreach and local implications. Witnesses can respond to one or more of these questions in their written testimony. Moderators can also use these questions for the Civil Society Field Hearing discussion portion.

Here are questions for a legal expert to address contemporary constitutional issues on the separation of powers, congressional oversight, and transparency

- Could you briefly describe the three branches of the US government and Congress's place in this system?
- What is a constitutional crisis? Are we in one?
- What are the lines between executive overreach and a constitutional crisis? Are there gray areas?
- What is a conflict of interest regarding government decision-making and public service more broadly?
- To what extent does private actors' involvement in White House decision-making challenge or reinforce traditional boundaries between private industry and government?
- A related concern: Do you have constitutional concerns about government reliance on private entities for policy implementation or public communications?
- Can you help us understand the Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United decision and its impact on American politics?

Here are general questions you can consider for federal employees who have lost their employment/witnesses who can speak with knowledge of the federal agencies:

- What happened that ended up with you losing your job?
- If you resigned, what prompted your resignation?
- What is the agency's name? What service did you provide for the American people? What will go missing now that you are gone?
- How have recent presidential actions impacted you and your family?
- How have they impacted your community or your business?
- Could you describe the Department of Government Efficiency? What is your understanding of its mission? How does it compare to other reform efforts?
- What is civil service? Why is it a tradition in American democracy?
- What is the government for?
- Why should states outside of Washington, DC, care about what is happening in national politics?

- What kind of government reform do we need?
- What are the implications of this volatile time for checks and balances between the three branches of government?
- How do recent presidential decisions that abolish entire layers of expert knowledge impact our security and stability?