The Futures of Congress

Scenarios for the US2050 Project

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Next 30 years will test Congress like never before

- Looming fiscal imbalances
- Demographic transformations
- Automation
- Climate change
- Accelerating change in media and communications technologies
- Increasingly “diffuse, diverse, and disruptive” global conflicts
Key Uncertainties for Congress in 2050

Madisonian

Hamiltonian

Polarized

Pluralized
Scenarios for Congress in 2050

- **Muddling Through 2.0**
- **Delegated Democracy**
- **Perpetual Hardball**
- **Crossing the Rubicon**
Two ways to a better future

1. Depolarizing politics?
   • Electoral and campaign reforms
   • Reforming politics through politics

2. Strengthening Congress?
   • Rebuilding capacity
   • Reclaiming powers – and exercising them responsibly