

# Rule of Law Candidate Scorecard

The following questions can be used to score political candidates on their adherence to general rule of law principles. Such principles include the acceptance of institutional checks and balances, the electoral process, and democratic rules; the promotion of civil liberties and fundamental rights; legal and ethical conduct; and condemnation of political violence.

Check the box (✓) next to one statement on each row (1-10) that best applies to the candidate you are evaluating. Then add up each column and compare.

The candidate upholds the rule of law if she/he:		The candidate weakens the rule of law if she/he:	
1.	Shows a strong commitment to upholding the Constitution.	Rejects the Constitution or shows a willingness to violate it.	
2.	Supports and promotes the integrity of the election system and accepts the legitimacy of election results.	Undermines the integrity of the election system, tries to manipulate the election process, or questions the legitimacy of election results.	
3.	Upholds the independence of courts and government oversight agencies.	Attacks the independence of courts or other government oversight agencies.	
4.	Shows respect for political opponents and engages in fair discourse.	Does not show respect for political opponents or threatens to take legal action against them.	
5.	Opposes and condemns political violence and promotes peaceful resolutions.	Encourages or fails to condemn political violence.	
6.	Advocates for civil liberties and supports a free and independent media.	Threatens to take legal or disciplinary action against civil society or the media, or supports laws or policies that limit freedoms.	
7.	Promotes inclusivity and unity among diverse groups in society.	Attacks minorities or blames certain groups in society for the country's problems.	
8.	Has a clean record and maintains high ethical standards and transparency in his/her actions.	Faces credible accusations of illegal or unethical behavior, including corruption, or is under investigation.	
9.	Relies on facts and evidence to inform public opinion and policy.	Denies facts or spreads misinformation to influence public opinion.	
10.	Ensures that all political activities are conducted legally and ethically.	Allows illegal activities by certain groups to gain political support.	
<b>Upholds the rule of law TOTAL:</b>		<b>Weakens the rule of law TOTAL:</b>	