

## **C-Dem 2026 Module Competition**

### **Call for Proposals**

#### **About C-Dem**

Funded by a SSHRC Partnership Grant, C-Dem is reimagining election research in Canada by developing a pioneering consortium model for researchers, electoral management boards, policy makers, and civil society organizations to build upon mutual interests and pool resources and knowledge to investigate the health of electoral democracy across the country and over time. C-Dem has administered the Canadian Election Study (CES) since 2019 and will oversee the CES as well as provincial election studies and yearly surveys of Canadian attitudes (Democracy Checkups) until 2026.

As part of this initiative, we are inviting proposals for question modules to be included in the 2026 Democracy Checkup, currently scheduled to be collected in multiple waves throughout the year (timing will depend on the next federal election).

The Democracy Checkup is a rich survey that includes questions about attitudes toward key political issues (such as the management of diversity, social spending and democratic values), political actors (such as parties, party leaders, and the government), and social concerns (such as women's place in the home, immigrants, and gays and lesbians), as well as political preferences and engagement. Answers to these questions provide an unparalleled snapshot and record of Canadian society and political life. The 2026 Democracy Checkup is led by Allison Harell (UQAM), Laura Stephenson (Western), and Daniel Rubenson (University of Toronto).

#### **The Competition**

We are accepting proposals for question modules to be included in the 2026 Democracy Checkup. The deadline for submitting proposals is **February 23, 2026**. Proposals should be sent to [admin@c-dem.ca](mailto:admin@c-dem.ca).

There are two module competition streams – one for PhD students for thesis-related research and one for faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and other researchers. Both will be peer-reviewed by an

adjudication committee who will select at least one module from each stream. Proposed modules should take no more than two minutes of survey time (approximately 6-8 questions).

The researcher(s) must clearly indicate the scientific merit of their proposed module in their proposal.

Proposals must be submitted in a single PDF file in either English or French and include the following:

Section 1: Cover Sheet (1 page)

- Full name, affiliation, and position of researcher(s) included in the proposal
- The competition stream that applies (PhD Student or Faculty/Other)
- If PhD Student Stream, please include a short paragraph about how the module relates to your thesis research

Section 2: Module Proposal (3 pages maximum)

- A clear explanation of the scientific rationale for why the module will facilitate new research
- The specific question(s) to be asked in the proposed survey module and any other programming information relevant for evaluating the items (experimental manipulation, subsample characteristics, etc.).
- A list of other variables (controls) necessary for conducting the research (the 2024 Democracy Checkup codebook is available [HERE](#))
- Other potential uses of the question(s) by the larger research community
- References

Section 3: CV

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria: scientific quality and innovation, feasibility, and the capacity of the researcher to carry out the study. In the case of equally ranked proposals, the committee will consider the potential for secondary uses by the research community. Researchers will be notified in mid-February of the competition results and will be expected to provide a certificate of ethics approval before the data can be collected.

Researchers are expected to pre-register their study with OSF (<https://osf.io/prereg>). Researchers are responsible for translating their questions and must provide the final version no later than March 6, 2026. C-Dem will be responsible for programming and collecting the data. All data collected will be publicly available after a 6-month embargo. Competition winners will be invited to present the results of their research at a C-Dem sponsored activity in the 12 months following data collection.

Winners must appropriately cite the data set in all research resulting from the data collection and provide C-Dem with a full citation of any published research outputs.