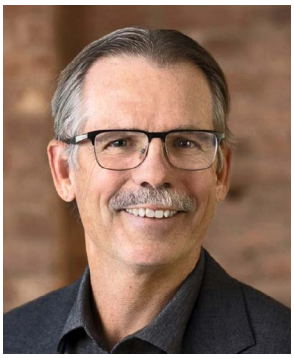


Co-Chairs' Letter



Suzanne Nora Johnson
Co-Chair of the Board



Glenn H. Hutchins
Co-Chair of the Board

This was a year in which fundamental questions of American governance moved from the seminar room to the front page. In that environment, the country needed what Brookings provides: independent, rigorous analysis that helps decisionmakers see facts clearly and weigh trade-offs honestly.

Last year, we committed to a demanding standard: champion solutions that work and are grounded in data, tested by reason, and focused on measurable public benefit. We also pledged to put new tools, including artificial intelligence, to work in service of our mission. This year, we delivered on that commitment.

Under President Rouse's leadership, Brookings scholars treated research not as an end product, but as an input to better policy. They built tools that helped policymakers track change in real time, briefed lawmakers of both parties, and stayed engaged on consequential issues.

The year tested American institutions. Debates over trade authority, central bank independence, the balance of power among the branches of government, and a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape underscored the importance of sound policy analysis.

On each of these questions, Brookings scholars explained the stakes, tracked outcomes, and offered workable options.

We do not measure success by whether our conclusions are universally welcomed, but by whether they are grounded in evidence. No issue will shape the coming decade more than AI. Through our Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technology Initiative and our own use of AI to strengthen research and impact, Brookings is helping ensure that innovation advances opportunity, security, and effective governance.

Looking ahead, we will continue to engage decisionmakers across the political spectrum, focus on practical solutions, and lead on the issues that will define the next generation. None of this is possible without our scholars, staff, trustees, and donors. We thank you for your support and partnership.

We authored this letter using an AI tool for drafting and editing. The ideas are ours, and we oversaw the process in partnership with the Brookings editorial team.