

PARALLEL OFFICE

PHASE I CHARTER

(Pre-Adoption · Non-Operational · Time-Limited)

1. Purpose

The Parallel Office is a Phase I, pre-adoption research project convened to generate evidence about a narrow governance question:

Whether it is possible to design, document, and observe a credible process for identifying a potential civic decision-maker selected for restraint, competence, and independence from power—under conditions where no authority is granted.

Phase I exists to **test methods**, not to exercise governance.

2. Relationship to the Executive Civic Service (ECS)

Phase I of the Parallel Office is analytically tied to a proposed constitutional framework known as the **Executive Civic Service** (ECS).

Phase I does not advocate for ECS, seek its adoption, or exercise authority under it. ECS is referenced solely as a **normative and architectural baseline** against which Phase I methods are examined.

3. Legal and Institutional Status

Phase I operates as an **unincorporated, voluntary, non-operational research project**.

It:

- does not constitute a legal entity or public authority,
- does not exercise governmental or executive power,
- does not represent any public institution,
- does not accept funds, donations, or grants,
- and does not enter into contracts or obligations.

Participation is voluntary and uncompensated.

4. Scope of Phase I Activities

Phase I activities are limited to:

- design and documentation of selection and evaluation methods,
- publication of analytical briefs and scenario-based artifacts,
- execution of non-operational tabletop exercises for methodological demonstration,
- maintenance of governance, ethics, and correction processes,
- and public transparency regarding methods and limits.

Phase I does not:

- select or seat an officeholder,
 - make or recommend policy,
 - simulate operational authority,
 - issue directives,
 - or represent future phases.
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5. Governance Structure (Phase I Only)

5.1 Independent Governing Board

Phase I is overseen by a time-limited Independent Governing Board, appointed solely to enforce scope, integrity, and sunset.

The Board:

- provides oversight only,
- does not participate in selection or evaluation,
- does not direct activities,
- and dissolves automatically at the conclusion of Phase I.

5.2 Audit & Ethics Function

An Audit & Ethics function, appointed by the Board, ensures:

- conflict disclosure and recusal,
- adherence to stated limits,
- correction and revision discipline.

6. Methods and Transparency

All Phase I outputs are based on:

- publicly available information,
- clearly documented assumptions,
- explicit methodological limits,
- and non-binding analysis.

Corrections, clarifications, and revisions are handled under a published Corrections & Revisions Policy.

7. Funding and Compensation

Phase I has **no funding**.

No participant, board member, or contributor is compensated.

No funds are solicited or accepted.

8. Sunset

Phase I concludes automatically upon completion of its published work program or at a fixed sunset date, whichever occurs first.

No continuation, expansion, or transition is implied.

Any subsequent phase would require explicit reauthorization and public documentation.

9. Interpretation

Nothing in this Charter:

- creates authority,
- confers legitimacy,
- or obligates future action.

This Charter is a statement of limits as much as of purpose.