

April 2026 Formal Report

Democracy Redline Index: 9.0 / 10

April marked the first explicit Red Zone entry in the public model. The score moved from 8.9 to 9.0 as multiple safeguards converged under abnormal stress.



Bottom line: April did not mean every democratic institution had failed. It meant the public record had crossed into an extreme-risk band where several safeguards were strained at the same time.

Report month April 2026	Direction Worsening	Core interpretation Threshold crossing	Biggest move Red Zone entry
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What changed this month

The warning moved from severe to explicit.

April's central meaning was not that every democratic safeguard had failed. It was that remaining safeguards were being forced to absorb too much pressure at once. Court resistance, press scrutiny, civil society, and institutional oversight still mattered, but the overall direction of travel justified a Red Zone designation.

The public threshold was crossed April became the first month preserved as an explicit Red Zone entry in the public model.	Checks still existed Courts, journalism, civil society, and other safeguards still constrained some pressure.	May needed April as context The May 9.1 report makes the most sense when April is understood as the threshold month.
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Why 9.0 mattered The score did not mean every institution had failed. It meant the public record had crossed into an extreme-risk band where several safeguards were stressed at once.	What April changed April became the baseline for the Red Zone period. May would later test whether the warning was temporary or persistent.
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Top score drivers

Five risk signals most affected the April score.

Driver	Score / Move	Interpretation
Rule of Law & Court Compliance remained near the top of the scale	9.4	Judicial authority and court-compliance stress were treated as core warning signs, not ordinary litigation noise.
Habeas Corpus & Due Process stayed in acute distress	9.3	Detention power, access to counsel, and meaningful review remained central to the constitutional-stress calculation.
Political Targeting / Weaponized Justice remained structurally dangerous	9.4	Selective enforcement and accountability-shielding concerns remained among the strongest April drivers.
Press Freedom & Information Control stayed above 9	9.2	Pressure on press access, information systems, and independent reporting carried standalone warning value.
Institutional Checks & Anti-Corruption continued to weaken	9.1	Formal oversight still existed, but appeared increasingly slow or weak in practical effect.

Category scorecard

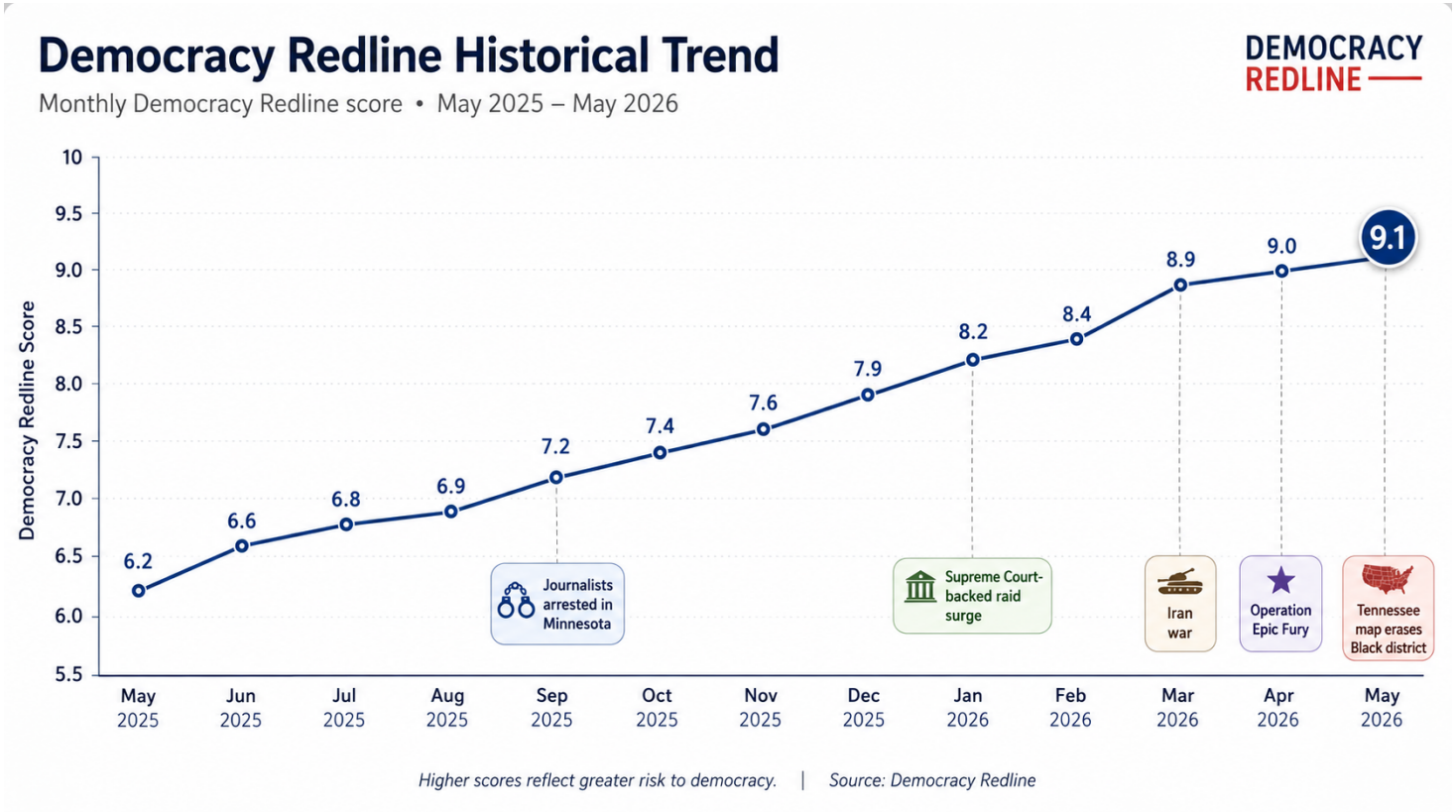
Category	Prior	April	Movement	Interpretation
Rule of Law & Court Compliance	9.3	9.4	High	Judicial authority remained under sustained pressure.
Habeas Corpus & Due Process	9.2	9.3	High	Detention and review concerns stayed acute.
Coercive State Power & Policing Norms	8.8	8.9	Near Red Zone	Enforcement culture and accountability structures were already dangerous.
Political Targeting / Weaponization of Justice	9.3	9.4	High	Selective enforcement concerns remained structurally dangerous.
Election Integrity & Peaceful Transfer	8.6	8.7	Near Red Zone	Just below explicit Red Zone, setting up May's later increase.
Press Freedom & Information Control	9.1	9.2	High	Press and information-system pressure remained severe.
Civil Society & Associational Freedom	8.4	8.5	Elevated	High stress persisted, but below the most acute categories.
Institutional Checks & Anti-Corruption	9.0	9.1	High	Formal checks existed, but appeared slower and weaker in practice.
Military / Intelligence Neutrality	8.2	8.3	Elevated	Elevated in April and positioned to become May's largest upward mover.

How to read page 2

The scorecard is not a vote count of events. It is a weighted interpretation of how documented developments affected democratic function across nine categories. Category moves matter most when several high-risk areas deteriorate at the same time.

Historical trajectory context

April was the threshold crossing.



How to read the trajectory

The index moved from elevated risk to explicit Red Zone conditions. April should be read as the first month when the public model treated the accumulated record as having crossed the redline threshold.

Slow build	Threshold crossed	May confirmation
The index rose from elevated conditions in mid-2025 into critical conditions by early 2026.	April 2026 marked the move into Red Zone conditions at 9.0.	May later confirmed that April was not a one-month spike.

Chart note: Higher scores reflect greater risk to democratic norms and institutional safeguards. The trend shows direction and accumulation over time, not a single predicted endpoint.

How this score is grounded

The April score records the threshold crossing.

The 9.0 score is a weighted judgment based on the April archive analysis and the category pattern preserved in the formal report. April is treated as the first explicit Red Zone entry because several high-risk categories converged at the same time.

<p>Fact</p> <p>The report preserves April's category scores, threshold movement, and public Red Zone designation.</p>	<p>Interpretation</p> <p>The analysis asks whether courts, due process, press freedom, oversight, and enforcement norms were absorbing abnormal pressure at once.</p>	<p>Score impact</p> <p>The score moved from 8.9 to 9.0, changing the public interpretation from severe warning to explicit Red Zone status.</p>
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Evidence and source credibility

April is presented as a preserved threshold assessment.

<p>Category scores</p> <p>The formal report anchors April in its published category pattern rather than treating the Red Zone designation as a standalone label.</p>	<p>Archive analysis</p> <p>The standalone April archive page preserves the longer narrative context for the threshold crossing.</p>
<p>Comparative month logic</p> <p>April is interpreted alongside March as the pre-threshold baseline and May as the follow-on confirmation month.</p>	<p>Methodology consistency</p> <p>The same nine-category structure and weighted public-warning logic apply to April and May.</p>

Methodology note

What the index is, and is not.

The Democracy Redline Index is a directional civic-risk assessment. A 9.0 score does not mean every democratic institution has failed. It means the observed public record placed the system inside an extreme-risk band where multiple safeguards were already under abnormal simultaneous pressure.

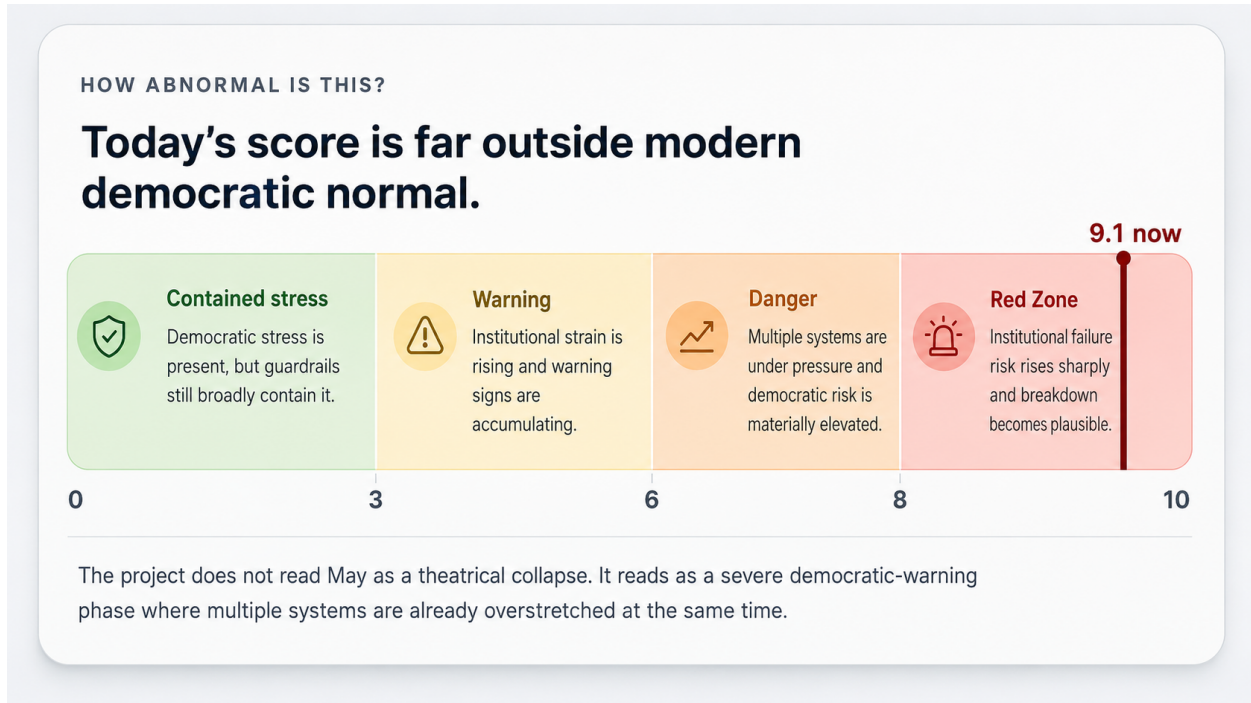
<p>What the score is</p> <p>A structured index of democratic stress signals across nine categories.</p>	<p>What the score is not</p> <p>It is not a claim that every institution has failed, nor a prediction of one discrete future event.</p>	<p>Best use</p> <p>Use the PDF as a durable monthly report and the website as the live public record.</p>
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What to watch next

April set up the May confirmation test.

<p>Whether the Red Zone would reverse</p> <p>The next month needed to show whether April was a peak or a new baseline.</p>	<p>Whether due process pressure would intensify</p> <p>Detention and review remained a core constitutional stress test.</p>	<p>Whether oversight could regain force</p> <p>The key question was whether institutional checks would act fast enough to matter in practice.</p>
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Companion visual



This public-facing graphic is a companion explainer for why high institutional-stress scores are abnormal and should not be treated as ordinary political volatility.