

LONDON FUTURISTS  
Explore  
Question  
Imagine  
Debate  
Design  
Our Future

LONDON FUTURISTS  
Serious analysis  
of radical  
scenarios for  
the disruptions  
ahead

# Citizens' Assembly for the Age of AI?

- People's voices at the centre
- AI to inform, not to replace
- Democratic choices, shared future



# Call a Citizens' Assembly to consider Stewardship Democracy for the age of AI

Can democracy evolve fast enough for the disruptions ahead?

# *Can democracy evolve fast enough for the disruptions ahead?*

## **Huge societal questions need answers**

- Risks of unintended nuclear war
- Risks of engineered deadly pandemics
- Environmental tipping points
- Alienation, migration, disintegration
- Abundance, but not shared
- Not abundance but ruination
- AI beyond anyone's control
- **Q: Limits on individual freedoms?**
- **Q: Limits on corporate freedoms?**
- **Q: Regulations ("the sticks")?**
- **Q: Incentives ("the carrots")?**
- **Q: Partnerships? (Palantir? Huawei?)**

## **Today's democracy is struggling to cope**

- Best ideas often lack sufficient attention
- Service of opaque financial interests
- Prioritising short-term over medium-term
- Focus on shallow metrics (GDP...)
- Party politics encourages tribalism
- Yah-Boo confrontations
- Politicians with poor understanding
- **Voters are frequently misled**
- **A culture that tolerates deception**
- **A culture that admires deception**
- **Voters cannot vote as they truly prefer**
- **Voters abandon hope in democracy**

# Can democracy evolve fast enough for the disruptions ahead?

## Huge societal questions need answers

- Risks of unintended nuclear war
- Risks of engineered pandemics
- Environmental tipping points
- Alienation, migration
- Abundance of resources shared
- Not abundance but ruinous
- AI beyond any control
- Q: Limits on individual freedoms?
- Q: Limits on corporate freedoms?
- Q: Regulations ("the sticks")?
- Q: Incentives ("the carrots")?
- Q: Partnerships (China! Huawei?)

## Today's democracy struggling to cope

- Lack sufficient attention
- Service of opaque financial interests
- Focus on shallow metrics (GDP...)
- Party tribalism
- Confrontations
- Politicians with poor understanding
- Frequently misled
- A culture that tolerates deception
- Deception
- Voters cannot vote as they truly prefer
- Voters abandon hope in democracy

Electoral system reform: PR and/or AV?

Reform the upper chamber – the House of Lords?

Control of financial influence over politics?

Written constitution?

Open primaries -> less extreme candidates?

# Can democracy evolve fast enough for the disruptions ahead?

## Huge societal questions need answers

- Risks of unintended nuclear war
- Risks of engineering hubris
- Environmental tipping points
- Alienation, migration, disintegration
- AI beyond any control

## Today's democracy is struggling to cope

- Political attention
- Influence of opaque financial interests
- Prioritising short-term gains (GDP...)
- Party politics encourages tribalism
- Voters are frequently misled

>> More of the same is not going to be sufficient <<

Alternative processes and institutions deserve a national conversation

- AI brings opportunities for significant improvement in politics
- Q: AI brings opportunities for significant improvement in politics
- Q: Limits on corporate freedoms?
- Q: Regulation (but AI also brings risks for significantly worse politics)
- Q: Incentives ("the carrots")?
- Q: Partnerships? (Palantir? Huawei?)

- Politicians with poor understanding
- Voters are frequently misled
- A culture that admires deception
- Voters cannot vote as they truly prefer
- Voters abandon hope in democracy

# Possible impacts of AI on politics

## Extra stresses and strains caused by AI

- A cascading disruption of employment due to increased automation
- Misrepresentation and manipulation of information (the “outrage industrial complex”)
- Emotional distress and polarisation via the spread of misleading AI-generated narratives
- Excess resources being diverted in support of new AI capabilities
- Adverse impacts on the environment
- Risks of AI-induced failures in our financial, media, or military infrastructures

## New opportunities brought by AI

- Real-time fact-checking, source-checking, logic-checking, and tracking of reputations
- Help citizens and policymakers understand complex issues, summarise evidence, model possible futures, and identify unintended consequences
- Suggest and explore innovative compromises between competing priorities
- Easier smarter voting and continuous participation systems (beyond “first past the post”)

# The petition

As submitted to <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/772128/>

## **Call a Citizens' Assembly to consider Stewardship Democracy for the age of AI**

77/80  
characters

Call a Citizens' Assembly to examine whether our current democratic system should be complemented or replaced by participatory democracy such as Stewardship Democracy, in order to minimise risks arising from advanced AI whose capabilities may soon profoundly affect democratic decision-making.

293/300  
characters

To help prevent unprecedented social disarray,  
our system of governance should be urgently reviewed.

This is especially important as public trust in politics declines  
and political polarisation increases.

We therefore ask Parliament to convene a Citizens' Assembly to examine the introduction of models of participatory democracy such as **Stewardship Democracy**, to strengthen democratic legitimacy while minimising disruption to existing constitutional and judicial institutions.

478/500  
characters

# What is “Stewardship Democracy”?

From FAQs in <https://petition.londonfuturists.com>

Stewardship Democracy is a proposed model of democratic governance that seeks to reduce the influence of political parties by electing independent representatives (“Stewards”) who are accountable directly to citizens.

It is one of several democratic reforms that a Citizens’ Assembly might examine.

Stewardship Democracy seeks to combine democratic legitimacy with responsible governance. Citizens would continue to choose their representatives.

The difference is that voters would be encouraged to evaluate candidates on competence, integrity, and stewardship, rather than relying primarily on party affiliation, party loyalty, or campaign marketing.

## STEWARDSHIP DEMOCRACY

Representatives chosen by citizens.  
Accountable to citizens.



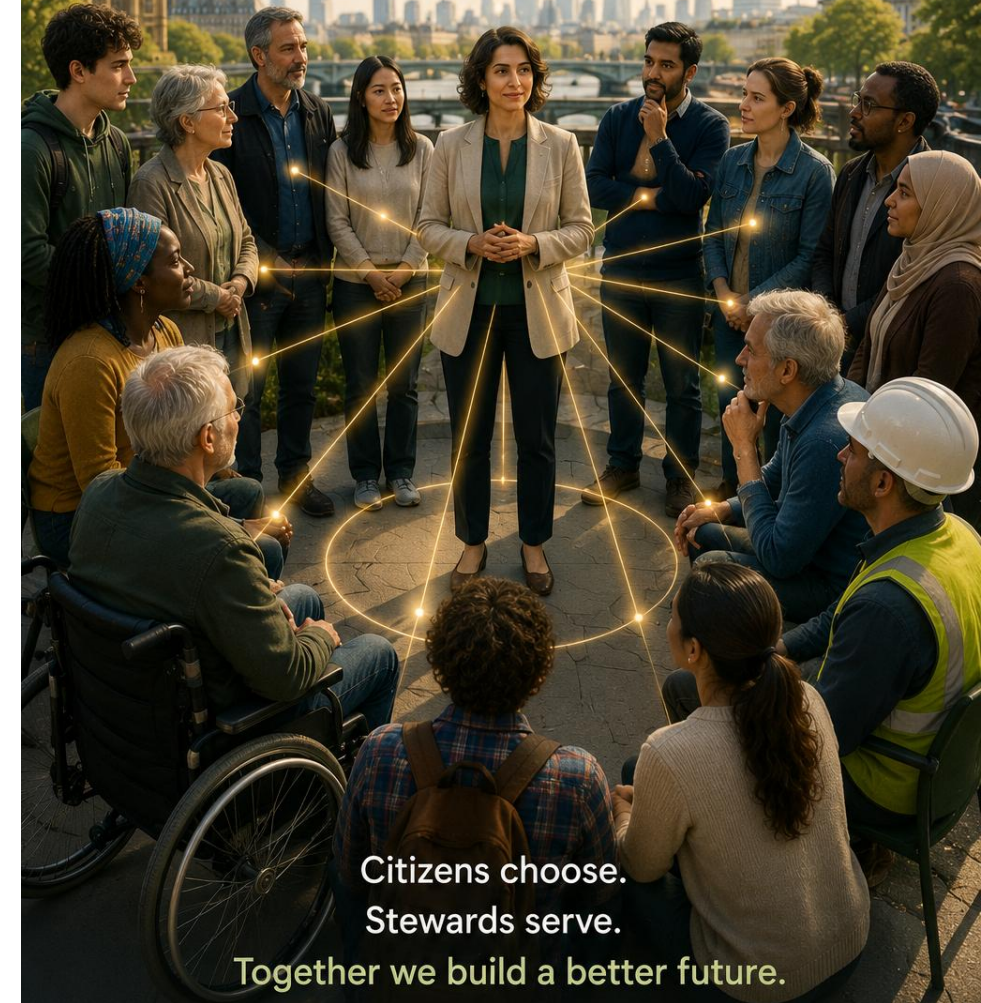
**COMPETENCE**  
Knowledge and  
decision-making



**INTEGRITY**  
Honesty, fairness  
and trust



**STEWARDSHIP**  
Long-term thinking  
and common good



Citizens choose.  
Stewards serve.

Together we build a better future.

# THE STEWARD

Independent. Accountable. Chosen by Citizens.

Stewardship Democracy puts power back in the hands of citizens by electing independent representatives who serve the common good.

EVALUATED ON WHAT MATTERS



**COMPETENCE**

Knowledge, experience  
and good judgement



**INTEGRITY**

Honesty, fairness  
and trust



**STEWARDSHIP**

Long-term thinking  
and responsibility

ACCOUNTABLE DIRECTLY TO CITIZENS



You choose.



They serve.



We all benefit.

A DEMOCRACY THAT LOOKS BEYOND PARTY POLITICS TO WHAT TRULY MATTERS.

# How do Citizens' Assemblies operate?

Citizens' Assemblies are temporary democratic bodies made up of ordinary citizens selected to broadly reflect the population, usually by age, gender, region, education, ethnicity, and political outlook. Their purpose is to examine a difficult public issue in a fair, informed and non-party-political way.

They normally operate in four stages:

- 1. Selection:** Members are chosen by sortition, which means a form of civic lottery. This prevents domination by political parties, lobby groups or wealthy interests.
- 2. Learning:** Assembly members hear balanced evidence from experts, stakeholders, public bodies and people directly affected by the issue.
- 3. Deliberation:** Members discuss the evidence in small groups and plenary sessions, helped by independent facilitators. The aim is not to win an argument, but to understand trade-offs and reach considered judgement.
- 4. Recommendations:** The Assembly votes on proposals and produces recommendations for Parliament, Government, or another public authority.

# Next steps

## Deepen understanding

- Check our understanding of the underlying issues
- Check the plausibility of the solutions we are suggesting

## Build support infrastructure

- Mechanisms to continue and expand the conversation
- Create and extend briefing materials
- Find individuals who recognise the issue's importance
- Contact organisations with broadly shared vision
- Connect with media and PR channels
- Develop a list of experts for the Citizens' Assembly
- Develop a list of questions for the Citizens' Assembly

## Establish commitments

- Volunteers / Leadership / Action!

