Government Impact Index (GII)

Operational Whitepaper and Publication Standard

Data, Scoring, and Governance Specification

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Data, scoring, publication, governance, and implementation standard

The v1.1 revision line preserves the v1.0.0 foundation and adds the initial PEPI source-adapter standard and formal contribution credits. It does not publish or imply production GII scores for any administration, party, branch, court, agency, law, regulation, or policy.

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Version 1.1.1 • PEPI integration baseline

Executive Brief

The Government Impact Index is a public-data-first measurement system for tracing consequential United States federal government decisions to their implementation and observable effects. It is designed to answer six practical questions:

1. What did government decide?
2. Which institution or sequence of institutions produced the operative result?
3. Who or what was exposed to the decision?
4. What changed after implementation, relative to a defensible counterfactual?
5. How were benefits and burdens distributed?
6. How confident should a reader be in the attribution?

GII is not a popularity poll, ideology score, partisan rating, constitutional-legitimacy judgment, or estimate of government size. It does not label a branch "good" or "bad." Its primary score, **GII-M**, reports attributable impact magnitude on a 0–100 scale. Direction, confidence, distribution, coverage, and evidence maturity remain separate so that one number cannot conceal conflicting effects or weak evidence.

Every scoreable action becomes a versioned **Decision Impact Record**. Related statutes, appropriations, rules, executive actions, implementation events, court decisions, and later revisions are connected in a **Policy Lineage Graph**. This graph distinguishes legal authorship from empirical contribution and prevents the same impact from being credited repeatedly to every institution in the chain.

The initial national framework covers Congress; the President and Executive Office; executive departments and agencies; independent regulators; the federal courts; the Supreme Court as a separately reportable judicial subindex; and the Federal Reserve. Impacts are measured across people and households, the U.S. economy, public entities, nonprofits and civil society, international trade, and private enterprise.

The publication rule is deliberately demanding: no observed headline score without an authoritative decision record, verified implementation, measurable exposure, a documented counterfactual, adequate coverage, and reviewable evidence. Forecasts are labeled and never blended with observed results. Source revisions and later court or policy actions create new vintages rather than silently rewriting history.

Version 1.1.0 change note

Version 1.1.0 is a backward-compatible minor revision. It carries forward without change the institutional and event scope, Decision Impact Record, policy-lineage model, scorecard formulas, causal-evidence standard, six stakeholder domains, publication controls, and pilot plan established in v1.0.0. It adds:

- the Presidential Economic Pressure Index (PEPI) as the first defined external source adapter;
- a PEPI-to-GII field and lifecycle crosswalk;

- a strict boundary that prevents PEPI's composite and confidence measures from being misused as GII magnitude or causal confidence;
- API credential, freshness, versioning, provenance, and change-detection controls; and
- formal concept and contributing-ideation credits.

The v1.0.0 research paper and whitepaper remain preserved as immutable prior publications. No current PEPI reading is reproduced as a GII result in this revision.

Version 1.1.1 change note

Version 1.1.1 is a patch revision under the GII semantic-versioning policy: clarifications and nonbreaking corrections only. It corrects the distributional-concentration share convention so both suite documents state the fractional-share (total variation) form; defines the oriented-indicator set for directional balance; designates the operational A–F evidence ladder as the suite's normative scale; harmonizes scorecard symbols, figure numbering, reference entries, and the Government Decision Event term across the suite; names the preregistration mechanism, inter-rater reliability statistics, licensing terms, and persistent-identifier policy; adds first-party source and contributor-relationship disclosures; removes upstream identifier formats from the PEPI crosswalk in favor of neutral source referencing; and restates authorship in a research context. No construct, formula weight, threshold, taxonomy, or lifecycle definition changes.

Concept and Contributions

- **Author and methodology lead — Kurt Sather.** GII research design, product architecture, causal framework, scoring methodology, data specification, and publication standard.
- **Index concept credit — Randall Hall, CEO, BookedByFriday.** Credited for the index concept that prompted development of the Government Impact Index.
- **Contributing ideation — Shivani D. Patel, CTO, API Automations.** Contributed early marketplace-oriented ideas that sharpened the framework's intended benefit across private, public, and consumer marketplaces.

These acknowledgments identify the nature of each contribution and do not imply co-authorship, review endorsement, or responsibility for methodological claims unless separately documented. Credited contributors may hold separate commercial or organizational relationships with the author; credits reflect intellectual contribution only.

The next step is a 24–36-lineage historical pilot spanning 2015–2025. The pilot should test identification, scoring behavior, source durability, reviewer agreement, and public interpretability before any national headline series is released.

1. Product Definition

1.1 Mission

GII's mission is to make government impact traceable. The product converts fragmented public records into an auditable chain:

decision → implementation → exposure → outputs → outcomes → stakeholder impacts → revisions

The chain is more important than the score. A score is publishable only when a reader can move backward from an aggregate value to the estimates, groups, outcomes, data vintages, sources, models, and government actions that produced it.

1.2 Intended users

The system is designed for:

- citizens seeking an evidence-based account of how federal decisions affect daily life;
- public officials and staff comparing intended and realized consequences;
- researchers requiring linked decision, implementation, and outcome records;
- journalists seeking authoritative provenance and explicit uncertainty;
- nonprofits and public entities assessing sector-specific effects;
- companies analyzing policy exposure without relying on headline sentiment; and
- developers using a stable API for longitudinal and event-level analysis.

The same data should support a plain-language decision dossier and a research-grade machine-readable record. Public communication must not remove caveats that remain material to interpretation.

1.3 What GII measures

GII measures the attributable material reach and severity of a decision's consequences. "Material" can include money, time, access, rights, health, safety, environmental conditions, institutional capacity, legal obligations, market structure, trade exposure, and other outcomes supported by a defensible theory of change.

The unit is not news volume, political salience, number of pages, number of votes, size of an agency, number of cases, or the ideological direction of an institution. A low-salience administrative change can have a large impact; a high-profile announcement can have none if it never changes implementation or exposure.

1.4 What GII does not measure

GII does not directly score:

- whether a decision is constitutional, moral, popular, partisan, or politically successful;

- the intentions, rhetoric, or character of individual officeholders;
- proposed actions that have not taken effect, except in a separately labeled forecast registry;
- mere correlation after a policy date;
- market reaction as a substitute for total social impact;
- a trade surplus, budget deficit, import, export, inflation, or transfer as intrinsically beneficial or harmful; or
- unobserved outcomes as zero.

Legal validity and policy impact can inform one another but are separate concepts. A court may invalidate a rule without producing an immediate measurable socioeconomic change; conversely, a technically administrative decision may materially change access or costs.

1.5 Design principles

1. **Traceability before ranking.** Every score decomposes to evidence.
2. **Institutional neutrality.** The same inclusion and scoring rules apply across parties, administrations, courts, and agencies.
3. **Causal restraint.** Timing alone does not establish attribution.
4. **Forecast/observation separation.** Anticipated and realized effects remain distinct products.
5. **Distribution alongside totals.** Aggregate impact never substitutes for who benefits or bears burdens.
6. **Multiple dimensions, not one hidden judgment.** Magnitude, direction, confidence, concentration, coverage, and maturity remain visible.
7. **Rights and nonmarket effects remain visible.** Lack of monetization does not mean lack of impact.
8. **Versioned truth.** Corrections, source revisions, and model changes produce explicit vintages.
9. **Public sources by default.** Commercial data may supplement but should not be required to audit a headline claim.
10. **Human accountability.** Automation accelerates collection and screening; accountable reviewers approve legal scope, causal claims, and orientation.

2. Scope and Classification

2.1 Initial jurisdictional boundary

Version 1.1.1 covers decisions of the U.S. federal government. It measures effects on federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial public entities; on citizens, residents, and households; on nonprofits; on firms and markets; and on international trade. State and local actions enter as implementation events,

exposure variation, mediators, or comparison units when connected to a federal lineage. Independent state and local decision indices may be defined in a later version.

The phrase “American citizens” is preserved as a central public purpose. Many authoritative datasets, however, measure residents, workers, taxpayers, patients, households, establishments, or beneficiaries without a citizenship denominator. GII therefore publishes the exact population definition used for each outcome rather than incorrectly relabeling every statistic as citizen-only.

2.2 Decision origins

Code	Origin	Included examples	Aggregation treatment
LEG-CONG	Congress	Enacted statutes, appropriations, tax provisions, overrides	Legislative subindex
EXE-PRES	President and Executive Office	Executive orders, proclamations, memoranda, directives, vetoes	Presidential-action subindex
EXE-AGY	Executive departments and agencies	Final rules, waivers, material guidance, grants, procurement, enforcement, program administration	Executive-agency subindex
IND-REG	Independent regulators	Rules, orders, adjudications, enforcement, market actions	Independent-regulatory subindex
JUD-SCOTUS	Supreme Court	Merits opinions and material orders with operative effect	Standalone view, counted once within Judiciary
JUD-COA	Courts of appeals	Precedential decisions, stays, injunctions, mandate-changing orders	Appellate subindex
JUD-DIST	District and specialty courts	Material judgments, vacatur, injunctions, high-reach relief	Lower-court subindex
FED-MON	Federal Reserve System	FOMC target decisions, balance-sheet actions, material regulatory decisions	Monetary/central-bank subindex
INTG-IMPL	Intergovernmental implementation actor	State, tribal, territorial, or local execution of federal policy	Implementer tag, not constitutional branch

The Supreme Court is nested within the federal judiciary for totals but separately reportable for analysis. It must never be added once as “Supreme Court” and again in “Judiciary.” Independent regulators and the Federal Reserve retain their legal provenance and are separately visible because their decision processes and transmission mechanisms differ from cabinet departments.

2.3 Scoreable event types

An event may enter the observed pipeline when it has all of the following:

- an authoritative and retrievable decision record;

- a legally or operationally meaningful status;
- a plausible, documented pathway to material effects;
- an identified implementation and exposure period; and
- at least one outcome that can be measured or systematically assessed.

Included instruments may be statutes and provisions, appropriations, tax changes, final rules and rescissions, presidential actions, material administrative guidance, waivers, grants, procurement decisions, enforcement shifts, administrative orders, federal judicial holdings and orders, trade measures, sanctions, export controls, tariffs, and Federal Reserve decisions.

Introduced bills, proposed rules, pending litigation, political promises, speeches, press speculation, and unenforced announcements may be stored in a watch or forecast registry. They receive no observed-impact score.

2.4 Materiality screen

Every candidate event receives a documented screen before research begins. A decision advances when at least one criterion is met and a viable evidence path exists:

- large population or entity reach;
- high per-unit consequence;
- durable or irreversible effect;
- nationwide or multijurisdictional legal reach;
- substantial fiscal, compliance, health, safety, environmental, rights, or institutional consequence;
- concentrated impact on a vulnerable or strategically important group;
- systemic spillover through markets, supply chains, public services, or precedent; or
- high learning value for the pilot methodology.

Materiality selection is not itself an impact score. The registry should retain screened-out candidates and reasons to permit selection-bias audits.

2.5 Policy topics and impact destinations

Every event receives one or more policy-topic codes and one or more impact-domain codes. Policy topic describes the subject of the decision. Impact domain describes where consequences occur. GII may map Congressional policy areas, Federal Register subjects, agency program codes, and the Comparative Agendas Project taxonomy to a common topic layer. Those topics do not replace the six impact domains.

Impact domain	Representative measures
People and households	Income, employment, prices, access, rights coverage, health, safety, time and administrative burden

Impact domain	Representative measures
U.S. economy	Output, employment, wages, inflation, productivity, investment, fiscal and financial conditions
Public entities	Revenue, mandates, staffing, service capacity, infrastructure, legal exposure, administrative cost
Nonprofits and civil society	Grants, donations, demand, workforce, program capacity, compliance and mission access
International trade	Imports, exports, prices, tariff incidence, customs revenue, FDI, retaliation, supply chains
Private enterprise	Revenue, cost, labor, compliance, capital access, competition, innovation, entry, exit, investment

2.6 Distributional overlays

Benefits and burdens may differ by income, wealth, age, race and ethnicity, sex, disability, family status, geography, rurality, tribal or territorial status, citizenship or immigration status where lawful and supported, industry, firm size, public-entity type, and nonprofit mission area. GII stores the denominator, group definition, data limitations, and privacy treatment for every distributional estimate. It does not infer protected characteristics for identifiable people.

3. The Decision Impact Record

3.1 Stable identifier

Each scoreable event — the Government Decision Event (GDE) — receives a persistent identifier:

GII-US-[YEAR]-[ORIGIN]-[TYPE]-[SERIAL]-[VERSION]

Example: **GII-US-2027-EXE-AGY-RULE-0042-v1**. The identifier is illustrative; it is not a real decision score. A materially revised analytic record increments its version while retaining the root event identity. Distinct implementing events receive distinct IDs linked to the same lineage.

3.2 Minimum data contract

Field group	Required contents
Identity	GII ID, authoritative title, public short title, decision origin, institution, instrument type
Authority	Statutory or constitutional authority, citations, originating and implementing actors
Status	Proposed/watch, final, effective, implemented, stayed, vacated, superseded, expired, withdrawn
Dates	Decision, publication, legal effect, implementation, exposure start/end, observation cutoff

Field group	Required contents
Scope	Geography, jurisdiction, population, entity class, exclusions, legal reach
Lineage	Parent, child, implements, modifies, litigates, stays, supersedes, depends on, overlaps with
Theory of change	Mechanism, assumptions, mediators, expected timing, spillovers, failure conditions
Outcomes	Domain, measure, unit, population, orientation rule, source, data vintage, time horizon
Estimation	Counterfactual, design, sample, model, treatment definition, estimate, uncertainty, diagnostics
Scorecard	Magnitude, direction, confidence, concentration, coverage, maturity, withhold flags
Distribution	Benefit and burden groups, shares, incidence, denominator, privacy and suppression rules
Provenance	Retrieval URI, publisher, license/terms, checksum, schema, transformation, code/model version
Review	Legal, methods, data, domain, editorial reviewers; conflicts; decisions; timestamps
Publication	Release, revision, correction, deprecation, citation, API and download location

Required fields may be null only when a controlled missingness reason is supplied. A blank value, zero, not applicable, legally unavailable, not yet observed, and not estimable are different states.

3.3 Multiple clocks

Government impact does not run on one date. The data model retains at least five clocks:

1. **decision clock** — when the institution acted;
2. **legal clock** — when authority or obligations changed;
3. **implementation clock** — when systems, funding, enforcement, or processes changed;
4. **exposure clock** — when affected groups experienced the change; and
5. **measurement clock** — when outcomes became observable and data were released.

A sixth **revision clock** tracks corrections, benchmark revisions, later judicial treatment, statutory amendments, and model updates. National time-series attribution uses exposure and outcome timing, not the publication date alone.

3.4 Status and maturity states

State	Meaning	Headline use
Watch	Discussed, introduced, proposed, pending, or announced without operative exposure	No observed score
Forecast	Prospective estimate with documented assumptions	Forecast product only
Nowcast	Early estimate using partial or high-frequency evidence	Clearly labeled; not mature
Provisional observed	Operative exposure and initial observed outcomes	Eligible with evidence and coverage caveats
Mature observed	Sufficient outcome horizon and stable evidence	Eligible
Revised	Source data, model, scope, or legal status changed	New version; prior version retained
Withdrawn/deprecated	Analytic record invalidated or replaced	Not current; explanation retained

Forecast and observed values are never averaged together. A realized value may be compared with its forecast, but the two remain separate records.

4. Policy Lineage and Attribution

4.1 Why lineages are necessary

A real policy effect commonly results from several institutional actions. Congress may authorize a program, appropriate funds later, an agency may issue regulations and guidance, states may administer it, courts may alter coverage, and a later Congress may extend or repeal it. Crediting the full outcome to every document would multiply impact. Crediting only the latest document would erase authority and implementation.

The policy-lineage graph preserves both facts: who did what legally and which actions contributed empirically.

4.2 Relationship types

Relation	Meaning
authorizes	Supplies legal authority for another event
funds	Provides or removes resources needed for implementation
implements	Converts authority into operational rules, systems, or delivery
interprets	Defines legal or administrative meaning without necessarily changing implementation

Relation	Meaning
modifies	Alters scope, obligations, timing, eligibility, or mechanism
stays/blocks	Temporarily prevents operation or enforcement
vacates/invalidates	Removes legal effect in a specified scope
affirms	Sustains a challenged decision or legal interpretation
supersedes	Replaces an earlier decision prospectively or retrospectively
depends on	Cannot produce the measured pathway without another event
mediates	Transmits some effect between decision and outcome
overlaps with	Shares outcome, population, time, or mechanism and requires non-duplication analysis

Edges are typed, dated, sourced, and reviewable. The graph distinguishes a legal relationship from an empirical causal relationship.

4.3 Legal provenance versus causal contribution

Legal provenance answers: which institutions supplied authority, implementation, interpretation, relief, or amendment? Causal contribution answers: which changes in exposure or mechanism produced the observed outcome, and by how much?

GII publishes the entire institutional lineage but allocates quantitative contribution only where evidence supports it. If a statute is necessary but an agency's implementation choice explains the measurable variation, the record may describe both roles and allocate modeled contribution accordingly. If separate contributions cannot be identified, the impact remains at the lineage level rather than being arbitrarily divided.

4.4 Judicial decisions

Judicial records require specific controls:

- code the operative holding, relief, scope, precedential status, jurisdiction, mandate, and later treatment;
- distinguish opinion date, mandate date, stay, remand, and actual implementation;
- do not infer welfare direction from which party won or from an ideological database code;
- measure outcomes under preregistered domain rules;
- represent circuit splits, limited injunctions, and temporal stays explicitly; and
- place Supreme Court decisions in the standalone Supreme Court view and once within Judiciary.

An opinion's national prominence is not equivalent to national exposure. Material orders can have impact even without a full merits opinion, but they require the same scope and status analysis.

4.5 Transfers and shared effects

Fiscal transfers, fees, taxes, grants, and price changes can benefit one group while burdening another. The payer and recipient sides are reconciled before aggregation. A government payment is not simultaneously counted as full household benefit, full business revenue, full public expenditure impact, and full macroeconomic impact unless the measures represent distinct mechanisms and nonoverlapping welfare concepts.

Market-event responses may identify information effects but are not added again to later operating outcomes without an overlap adjustment. National output, firm revenue, wage income, and household consumption may be linked; they are not automatically independent impact families.

5. GII Scorecard

5.1 Required published dimensions

Every eligible event, domain, branch, and national view publishes the following dimensions:

Dimension	Symbol	Scale	Meaning
Impact magnitude	GII-M	0–100	Attributable reach and severity, independent of benefit/burden direction
Directional balance	GII-D	−100 to +100	Balance of measured benefits and burdens under explicit orientation rules
Attribution confidence	GII-C	0–100	Strength of causal identification, data, mechanism, robustness, and transparency
Distributional concentration	GII-K	0–100	Degree to which impact incidence diverges from the reference population/entity distribution
Coverage	GII-V	0–100%	Share of preregistered applicable outcome weight supported by usable evidence
Evidence maturity	GII-S	categorical	Watch, forecast, nowcast, provisional, mature, revised, or withdrawn

GII-M is the primary GII headline. It is intentionally direction-neutral. A large burden and a large benefit can both be high-impact decisions. GII-D gives direction without concealing magnitude; GII-C prevents weak evidence from appearing certain; GII-K exposes concentration; coverage and maturity prevent false completeness.

5.2 Indicator-level magnitude

For outcome indicator *i*, reviewers score four normalized components on a preregistered 0–100 rubric:

- E_i — **effect severity:** consequence per affected unit or relative to a meaningful benchmark;
- R_i — **reach:** share, count, economic value, geography, or institutional coverage exposed;
- P_i — **persistence:** expected or observed duration and reversibility; and
- S_i — **systemic spillover:** propagation through markets, public services, precedent, supply chains, or institutional systems.

The provisional potential-magnitude formula is:

$$M_i,potential = 0.40E_i + 0.25R_i + 0.20P_i + 0.15S_i$$

Actual implementation and exposure are represented by u_i, ranging from 0 to 1:

$$M_i,realized = u_i \times M_i,potential$$

The weights are starting hypotheses, not revealed truths. The pilot must compare equal weights and plausible alternatives, report sensitivity intervals, and test reviewer agreement on every rubric. Threshold descriptions and anchoring examples must be published before production scoring.

Severity is not assigned solely by a dollar amount. When monetization is defensible, values should be inflation-adjusted, time-bounded, and scaled to relevant denominators. Rights, access, mortality, health, safety, ecological effects, or institutional capacity can use domain-specific anchors and retain their native measures.

5.3 Directional balance

Each indicator receives an orientation value o_i:

- +1 for a preregistered beneficial movement;
- −1 for a preregistered burden or adverse movement;
- 0 for magnitude-only, genuinely ambiguous, or non-oriented measures; or
- a continuous value between −1 and +1 where a target-band or graded rule is validated.

The directional balance is:

$$GII\text{-}D = 100 \times [\Sigma_i \in O (w_i \times o_i \times M_i) / \Sigma_i \in O (w_i \times M_i)]$$

Both sums run over the oriented-indicator set O: indicators with a preregistered, non-null orientation rule. Indicators scored $o_i = 0$ under a validated ambiguity rule remain in O; magnitude-only indicators are excluded. Directional coverage — the share of total event magnitude carried by indicators in O — is published alongside GII-D whenever it falls below 100 percent, including when some high-magnitude indicators are orientation-neutral. A score near zero may mean balanced benefits and burdens, primarily ambiguous effects, or weak directional coverage; the dossier must state which explanation applies.

Examples requiring target or contextual rules include inflation, interest rates, trade balances, public deficits, imports, exports, market concentration, enforcement volume, and service utilization. A reduction in utilization is not automatically beneficial if it reflects loss of access; an increase is not automatically beneficial if it reflects worsening need.

5.4 Attribution confidence

Confidence combines five 0–100 components:

- **I — identification:** credibility of the counterfactual and treatment definition;
- **Q — data quality:** accuracy, completeness, representativeness, timeliness, revision risk;
- **F — fidelity:** verified implementation, exposure, and mechanism consistency;
- **B — robustness:** diagnostics, alternative specifications, placebo tests, triangulation;
- **T — transparency:** provenance, code, assumptions, documentation, and reproducibility.

$$\text{GII-C} = 0.30I + 0.20Q + 0.20F + 0.15B + 0.15T$$

Provisional interpretation bands are:

GII-C	Label	Publication interpretation
80–100	High	Strong counterfactual and evidence; remaining uncertainty is bounded and visible
65–79	Substantial	Credible evidence with material but manageable limitations
45–64	Moderate	Useful estimate requiring prominent limitations and sensitivity results
25–44	Limited	Exploratory attribution; avoid definitive causal language
0–24	Exploratory	Descriptive or hypothesis-generating; no observed headline attribution

Confidence is not multiplied into the event magnitude for the public event score because doing so would make a weakly measured large event appear small. Magnitude and confidence remain side by side. Confidence may weight contributions in a national active-event pressure series, where uncertainty must affect aggregation.

5.5 Distributional concentration

For mutually exclusive groups g, let $\mathbf{p_{(g)}}$ be the share of total measured impact received or borne and $\mathbf{q_{(g)}}$ the group's share of the relevant reference population or entity base. Using fractional shares:

$$\text{GII-K} = 50 \times \Sigma \left| p_{(g)} - q_{(g)} \right|$$

The result ranges from 0 to 100; it is total variation distance scaled to 0–100 (equivalently, GII-K = 100 × ½ × Σ|$p_i(g)$ − $q_i(g)$|). Benefits and burdens are calculated separately before any combined summary. A high value indicates concentration, not injustice. The reference distribution, group boundaries, unclassified share, and uncertainty are mandatory disclosures. Classified shares are renormalized before computation; the unclassified impact share is published alongside GII-K and flags the score when it exceeds a provisional 20 percent threshold, to be calibrated in the pilot.

5.6 Coverage and missingness

Coverage is the supported share of a preregistered applicable outcome map. It is not the share of whatever data happened to be found. Outcome families and weights are defined before results are examined.

Missing weight is not silently redistributed. If a domain has no supported indicators, it remains missing rather than neutral. A headline observed GII-M is withheld when:

- overall weighted coverage is below 70 percent;
- no direct stakeholder outcome is observed;
- implementation or exposure cannot be verified;
- only outputs or forecasts are available;
- a counterfactual is absent or fatally compromised; or
- a critical legal or data status is unresolved.

The 70-percent threshold is provisional and must be calibrated in the pilot. Lower-coverage research notes may be released when clearly labeled and useful.

5.7 Domain and event aggregation

Indicators are first grouped into outcome families to reduce duplication among correlated measures. Family scores aggregate to applicable domains; domains aggregate to the event. The default starting rule is equal weight across applicable domains and equal weight across preregistered families within a domain. No weight is assigned to a domain that is demonstrably inapplicable.

Alternative specifications should include at least:

- equal indicator weights;
- equal domain weights;
- empirical redundancy adjustments;
- exposure- or stakeholder-weighted variants; and
- policy-specific expert weights declared before estimation.

The public dossier reports the primary specification, plausible range, contribution breakdown, and any rank or category instability.

5.8 National and institutional time series

For event *e* at time *t*, a provisional active-event contribution is:

$$P_{e,t} = a_{e,t} \times M_e \times (C_e / 100) \times n_e$$

where $a_{e,t}$ is the estimated exposure or distributed-lag profile and n_e is a nonoverlap factor from 0 to 1. Contributions sum into a raw impact-pressure measure. Confidence enters aggregation only at this cross-event level, where unweighted summation would allow weakly identified events to move the national series as much as well-identified ones; event-level magnitude and confidence remain unmultiplied. The linear $C_e/100$ weighting is itself a provisional design choice: the pilot must test alternatives, including threshold inclusion (for example, $C_e \geq 45$) and concave weightings, and report series sensitivity to that choice. After the historical pilot, the raw measure may be mapped to a 0–100 scale using an empirically fixed reference distribution and reference window. The window, transformation, and future rebasing policy must be published.

National GII-M is not an arithmetic average of every government event ever recorded. It reflects active, attributable impacts in the observation period. Institutional and domain series use the same event records and non-duplication rules. Direction aggregates with magnitude and applicable orientation weight; confidence and coverage are reported as contribution-weighted diagnostics rather than treated as outcomes.

5.9 Uncertainty and sensitivity

Every quantitative estimate includes appropriate standard errors, confidence or credible intervals, forecast intervals, or structured qualitative uncertainty. Composite uncertainty should propagate estimate error, model choice, weights, normalization, data revisions, and overlap assumptions where feasible.

The publication package includes:

- alternative counterfactual and sample specifications;
- pretrend, placebo, falsification, and leave-one-out diagnostics where applicable;
- alternate weights and normalization rules;
- source-vintage sensitivity;
- event-window and lag sensitivity;
- reviewer-scoring dispersion; and
- an explanation of which conclusions survive the full specification set.

6. Causal Evidence Standard

6.1 Required causal statement

Before data analysis, each observed-impact record must state:

- the treated unit, group, jurisdiction, market, or time period;
- the operative treatment and exposure definition;
- the outcome and measurement period;
- the counterfactual question;
- the expected mechanism and lag;
- concurrent decisions and external shocks;
- spillovers, anticipation, attrition, substitution, and interference risks; and
- the conditions under which the attribution would be weakened or rejected.

The core estimand should be written in plain language as well as technical notation. For example: “the change in eligible small-firm compliance hours during the first two effective years relative to the hours expected under the prior rule.” Estimand statements follow the target-quantity discipline described by Lundberg, Johnson, and Stewart (2021).

6.2 Evidence ladder

The evidence ladder guides confidence but does not mechanically determine it. This A–F ladder is the normative evidence scale for all GII publications; the research paper’s conceptual tiers map to it explicitly.

Level	Evidence type	Typical role
A	Randomized or quasi-random implementation with strong fidelity	High-confidence causal estimation
B	Strong natural experiment, modern difference-in-differences, synthetic control, regression discontinuity, or valid instrumental design	Causal estimation with design-specific diagnostics
C	Well-specified interrupted time series, comparative panel, event study, microsimulation calibrated to observed behavior, or structural model	Conditional causal or contribution estimate
D	Triangulated observational model, validated administrative comparison, audited forecasting model	Moderate or limited attribution
E	Descriptive before/after, stakeholder report, expert judgment, qualitative contribution analysis	Mechanism or context; rarely headline causal attribution
F	Announcement, advocacy claim, media report, unverified model output	Discovery only

The ladder is not a hierarchy of prestige. A poorly implemented design at Level B may deserve less confidence than a transparent, well-validated Level C analysis. Direct measurement of the implementation mechanism can materially strengthen any design.

6.3 Method assignment

Policy pattern	Preferred candidate designs	Required cautions
Staggered adoption across jurisdictions	Group-time difference-in-differences, event study	Heterogeneous effects, treatment timing, pretrends, spillovers
One treated jurisdiction or national intervention	Synthetic control, comparative time series	Donor contamination, fit, concurrent shocks, inference
Eligibility or funding threshold	Regression discontinuity	Manipulation, bandwidth, local estimand, compliance
Clearly timed population intervention	Interrupted time series	Serial correlation, seasonality, concurrent events, anticipation
Short-window market information shock	Financial event study	Leakage, event confounds, expected-policy component, welfare interpretation
Tax, transfer, or benefit rule	Microsimulation plus observed validation	Behavioral response, take-up, incidence, baseline assumptions
Monetary-policy decision	High-frequency identification, local projections, structural time series	Endogeneity, information effects, distributed lags
Judicial change with geographic or temporal variation	Difference-in-differences, event study, legal epidemiology	Legal reach, enforcement, later treatment, spillovers
Nationwide rule without clean comparison	Structural/contribution model, multiple controls, negative controls, triangulation	Strong assumptions; confidence ceiling may apply

Modern staggered-treatment estimators are required when treatment timing or effects vary. A default two-way fixed-effects coefficient is not sufficient. Event studies must distinguish anticipatory behavior from post-treatment change. Synthetic controls must disclose donor composition and pre-period fit. Threshold designs must test manipulation and show bandwidth sensitivity. Time-series models must address autocorrelation and structural breaks.

6.4 Forecasting and scoring forecasts

Prospective regulatory analyses, CBO cost estimates, agency forecasts, and structural simulations may populate the forecast registry. A forecast record must preserve the baseline, price year, discount rate, horizon, behavioral assumptions, scenarios, uncertainty, sponsor, and publication vintage.

Forecast quality is evaluated later with calibration, interval coverage, bias, and scale-appropriate forecast-error metrics. A forecast does not become observed evidence merely because its horizon has elapsed. Actual implementation and outcome data must replace or validate assumptions.

6.5 Rights and qualitative effects

Some effects are legally and socially material but cannot be represented credibly in dollars or standard administrative counts. A structured qualitative module may assess:

- population and legal interests affected;
- scope and durability of the change;

- access, enforceability, and implementation;
- documented burdens and benefits;
- precedent and institutional spillover;
- reversibility; and
- evidence strength and contestability.

Qualitative magnitude anchors must be defined before scoring and reviewed independently. A narrative effect does not automatically receive direction. The record should distinguish a change in formal legal coverage from actual access and outcome realization.

6.6 Attribution language

Publication language follows confidence and design:

- **caused / attributable to** — reserved for strong designs and high or substantial confidence;
- **likely contributed to** — used where evidence supports a causal contribution but cannot isolate the full effect;
- **associated with** — used for adjusted observational relationships without a sufficient causal design;
- **occurred after / coincided with** — descriptive timing only; and
- **projected / forecast** — prospective model output.

Editorial wording may not strengthen a claim beyond the underlying evidence grade.

7. Source Architecture

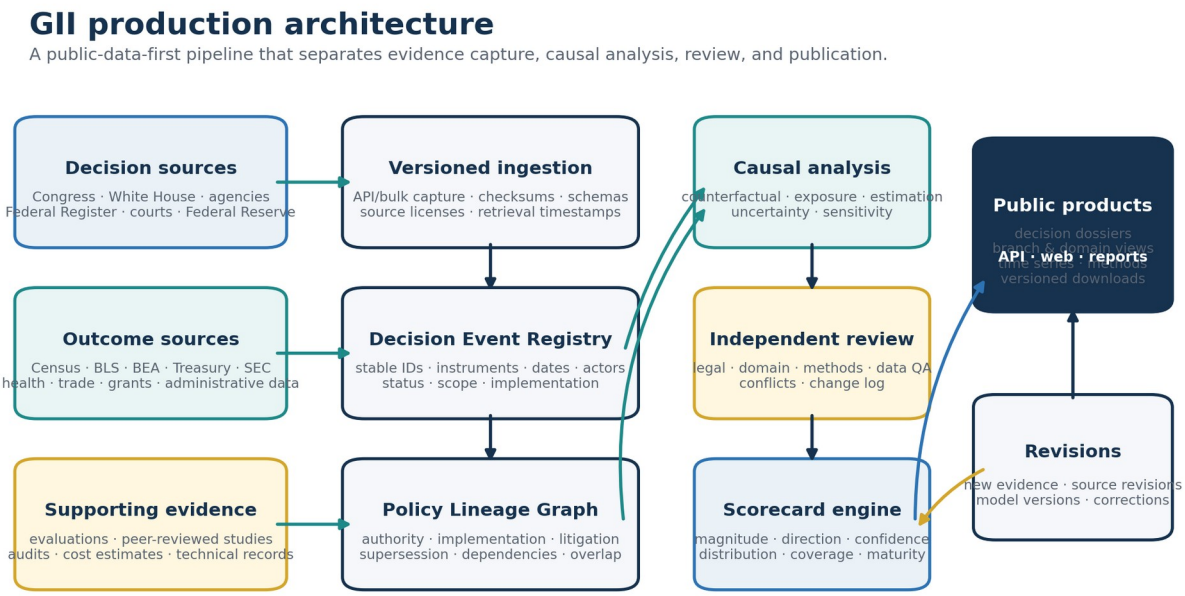


Figure 1. GII production architecture

7.1 Source hierarchy

1. authoritative government decision records;
2. official statistics and administrative data;
3. reproducible peer-reviewed or independent evaluations;
4. audited third-party and sector data;
5. optional commercial datasets with disclosed restrictions; and
6. journalism, stakeholder statements, and advocacy materials for discovery, context, or claims requiring verification.

News coverage never establishes the controlling legal text or the causal estimate. Stakeholder data can be valuable for mechanisms or otherwise unobserved populations, but the publisher, incentives, methods, sample, and limitations remain visible.

7.2 Decision and authority sources

Area	Primary systems	GII use
Legislation	Congress.gov API; GovInfo API and bulk data; Statutes at Large; Congressional Record	Bills, laws, provisions, actions, votes, reports, official text and identifiers
Presidential action	White House presidential actions; Federal Register API	Orders, proclamations, memoranda, notices, publication status
Regulation	Federal Register API; Regulations.gov API; eCFR API; RegInfo.gov; Unified Agenda	Proposed/final rules, dockets, comments, regulatory text, review and agenda status
Budgets and mandates	CBO cost estimates; OMB materials; GAO reports	Forecast fiscal effects, mandates, analytic baselines, oversight and evaluation
Supreme Court	Supreme Court opinions and orders; United States Reports on GovInfo	Slip and final opinions, orders, authoritative citations and later editions
Lower federal courts	GovInfo U.S. Courts Opinions; CourtListener; Federal Judicial Center Integrated Database; U.S. Courts statistics	Opinions, dockets and citations where available, case metadata, caseload context
Federal Reserve	FOMC statements, minutes, implementation notes, statistical releases, rulemaking records	Monetary and regulatory decision events, timing and implementation

Commercial legal databases can improve citator coverage but should not be required for the public to validate a GII decision record. Where no official structured API exists, ingestion should preserve the authoritative file and citation, plus a reproducible extraction log.

7.3 Outcome sources by domain

Domain	Representative public sources	Typical data
People and households	Census Bureau APIs, BLS, CDC data, CMS data, IRS Statistics of Income, agency administrative systems	Demographics, income, employment, prices, health, coverage, service access
U.S. economy	BEA API, BLS API, Federal Reserve data, Treasury Fiscal Data, CBO	GDP, income, employment, productivity, prices, rates, fiscal conditions
Public entities	USAspending API, Treasury, Census of Governments, agency grants data, FEMA OpenFEMA	Awards, revenues, expenditures, staffing, disaster programs, implementation capacity
Nonprofits	IRS Form 990 data, USAspending, agency grant systems, Census and BLS where classifiable	Revenue, grants, employment, services, demand and compliance
International trade	Census international trade data, USITC DataWeb, BEA international accounts, agency trade and sanctions records	Imports, exports, tariffs, services, investment, supply-chain exposure
Private enterprise	Census business data, BLS establishment data, BEA, SEC EDGAR APIs, regulators, SBA	Firms, employment, revenue, costs, entry/exit, filings, capital, sector exposure

Cross-cutting environmental, energy, agricultural, emergency-management, and place-based effects can draw on EPA Envirofacts, EIA Open Data, USDA NASS, OpenFEMA, and other program-specific systems.

7.4 Retrieval preference

The ingestion order is:

1. documented API;
2. official bulk download;
3. RSS, sitemap, or other structured official feed;
4. stable structured HTML or document extraction; and
5. scraping as a last resort, with terms, robots, rate limits, change monitoring, and legal review.

For every source, GII stores retrieval time, original URI, publisher, content type, checksum, schema or extraction version, license or terms, transformation history, and last successful validation. Source files are retained when permitted.

7.5 Data quality

Each dataset receives a source profile covering:

- authority and ownership;
- unit of observation and population;
- collection process and known error;
- revisions and benchmark schedule;
- missingness, suppression, and disclosure rules;
- geographic, temporal, and demographic coverage;
- identifier stability;
- access and licensing restrictions;
- known breaks in series; and
- fitness for the intended causal estimate.

Official does not mean error-free. BEA, BLS, Census, and other statistical products may be revised. GII retains first-release and latest-vintage values where revision sensitivity matters and cites the actual vintage used.

7.6 Provenance standard

The provenance model should align with W3C PROV-O concepts of entities, activities, and agents and with DCAT metadata for datasets and distributions. A minimum estimate-level trace includes:

published score → aggregation run → estimate → analytic dataset → transformations → source distributions → authoritative decision and implementation records

Every transformation must be reproducible from versioned code or a documented manual procedure. Automated extraction outputs retain the model or parser version and reviewer disposition.

7.7 Initial external source adapter: PEPI

The Presidential Economic Pressure Index (PEPI), published by API Automations at pepi.apiautomations.com, is the first defined external adapter for GII. PEPI is a strong starting point because its public structure combines stable event identifiers, event lifecycles, source provenance, implementation and resolution fields, economic and trade observations, source-status monitoring, and explicit methodology and schema versions. The baseline reviewed for this publication was PEPI methodology v1.2.13 and schema v1.3.6 (API Automations, 2026a–e). The adapter must discover and record the versions available at each retrieval instead of hard-coding those baseline values as permanently current.

7.7.1 Construct boundary

PEPI is an upstream decision and evidence source, not a GII subindex. PEPI evaluates presidential economic-policy follow-through, including implementation, delay, dilution, reframing, reversal, and abandonment. GII evaluates attributable consequences across multiple institutions and six stakeholder impact domains. Their numerical measures are not interchangeable.

The following prohibitions are release-blocking controls:

- do not copy a PEPI composite, event score, reversal magnitude, or outcome-type value into **GII-M** or **GII-D**;
- do not map PEPI `confidence` to **GII-C**; store it as `source_classification_confidence`;
- do not treat a PEPI status, deadline, announcement, or resolution as proof of legal effect, exposure, causal attribution, or beneficial/burdensome direction;
- do not convert `pending` or `indeterminate` to zero; and
- do not double count PEPI market, price, trade, or sector observations when the same underlying source already enters a GII estimate.

PEPI may supply candidate events, external IDs, discovery sources, implementation milestones, Federal Register links, statutory-authority leads, sector exposure, and candidate economic or trade observations. Each remains subject to GII's authoritative-record, source-quality, lineage, counterfactual, coverage, and human-review requirements.

7.7.2 PEPI-to-GII crosswalk

PEPI field or object	GII staging destination	Required treatment
event_id (PEPI-native identifier)	external_source_id	Preserve exactly; assign an independent GII ID after entity resolution

PEPI field or object	GII staging destination	Required treatment
domain	source topic / candidate policy_topic	Never map directly to a GII stakeholder impact domain
status	candidate lifecycle	Detected/confirmed feed watch or forecast review; monitoring feeds provisional monitoring; resolved triggers resolution review; rejected records the screening disposition
threat_date, threat_source, text and summary	announcement record and source provenance	Preserve source wording; distinguish announcement date from decision, legal-effect, implementation and exposure dates
statutory_authority	authority candidate	Verify against authoritative legal text and record the verified citation separately
stated_deadline	expected implementation milestone	Retain as expected timing, not proof that implementation occurred
outcome_date, outcome_type	implementation or resolution evidence	Preserve PEPI classification, verify the operative action, and map through a versioned lifecycle crosswalk
confidence	source_classification_confidence	Keep source-specific; prohibit use as causal confidence
composite_score, reversal_magnitude	contextual follow-through fields	Exclude from all GII score computations
announced/applied rates and rate gap	candidate trade-treatment fields	Verify source, unit, target, product coverage, effective period and exemptions
CPI contribution, retail passthrough, consumer burden	candidate outcome fields	Reconcile vintage, baseline, model, geography, incidence and uncertainty before estimation
sector-impact and market-impact records	exposure or short-window evidence	Use only within a preregistered design; market response is not total social impact
Federal Register documents, court and research links	decision, lineage and provenance edges	Preserve authoritative URI, retrieval time, checksum, relationship and reviewer disposition

PEPI may collapse near-duplicate records according to its own event rules. GII must independently test whether a record is a new decision, an implementation node, a modification, a superseding action, or another source view of the same policy lineage. External identifiers and field names are stored verbatim only within the adapter layer, as source data; they are not surfaced in GII records, and their form carries no GII classification, endorsement, or directional meaning.

7.7.3 API access profile

The adapter base URL is `https://api.pepi.apiautomations.com`. Authenticated requests send the credential in the `X-API-Key` header. The premium credential must be injected at runtime from a secret manager or a `PEPI_API_KEY` environment variable and redacted from logs, errors, traces, notebooks,

screenshots, support tickets, and published data packages. The key should not be committed to a repository or pasted into a conversational transcript.

PEPI resource class	Illustrative resources	GII use
Public discovery and monitoring	/health, /api/v1/index, /api/v1/stats, /api/v1/snapshot, /api/v1/sources/status	Connectivity, release metadata, source health, high-level discovery; never sufficient alone for a GII score
Standard event access	index history and domain views; event list and event detail; Federal Register, timeline, sector-impact, indicator, research-source and court resources	Incremental candidate ingestion, provenance enrichment, lifecycle reconciliation and pilot selection
Premium analytical access	tariff, price-impact, economic-impact, market-impact and trade resource families	Candidate exposures or outcomes requiring independent GII validation and causal review

At the v1.1.0 publication date, PEPI documentation described a premium allowance of 10,000 requests per day (retrieved July 2026). The connector must treat current API documentation and returned rate-limit headers as authoritative because access tiers and quotas can change. It should paginate incrementally, apply bounded retries with jitter, cache immutable payloads, and avoid repeatedly retrieving unchanged event detail.

7.7.4 Retrieval and provenance contract

Each PEPI retrieval produces an immutable raw payload and an audit record containing:

- request timestamp and completion timestamp in UTC;
- endpoint, nonsecret parameters, pagination cursor or page, and HTTP status;
- payload checksum, media type, byte size, and storage URI;
- response `generated_at` or equivalent source timestamp when present;
- API path version, disclosed PEPI methodology version, schema version, and implementation version when available;
- credential class used, but never the credential value;
- parser, crosswalk, and transformation versions;
- last successful source-freshness validation; and
- exception, quarantine, retry, and reviewer disposition fields.

The connector must compare `generated_at`, source-specific `last_changed` values, and expected update cadence before promoting data from raw storage. A successful HTTP response is not proof that the contents are current. Schema drift, stale source status, missing pages, impossible date order, duplicate external IDs, unexpected enumerations, or absent provenance must quarantine the affected records rather than silently coerce them.

Reprocessing a historical PEPI payload with a changed crosswalk or parser creates a new GII data vintage. The release log must identify whether a diff came from a PEPI source revision, a new PEPI methodology or schema, a GII adapter change, a corrected entity match, or new downstream evidence.

8. Production Pipeline

8.1 Pipeline stages

Stage	Core action	Exit requirement
1. Discover	Monitor authoritative sources and candidate events	Candidate with source and materiality rationale
2. Register	Create stable ID and core decision metadata	Valid identity, status, institution, dates and citations
3. Link	Build or extend the policy lineage	Typed, sourced relationships and overlap flags
4. Scope	Define theory of change, populations, domains and outcomes	Preregistered outcome and exposure map
5. Acquire	Collect decision, implementation and outcome data	Versioned sources and data-quality profiles
6. Estimate	Execute causal or contribution analysis	Diagnostics, uncertainty, limitations and reproducible run
7. Score	Apply magnitude, direction, confidence, distribution and coverage rules	Complete scorecard or explicit withhold decision
8. Review	Legal, methods, data, domain and editorial review	Resolved blocking findings and signed review state
9. Publish	Release dossier, data, methods, code and API record	Citation, version, changelog and public provenance
10. Monitor	Track source revisions, appeals, stays, amendments and new outcomes	Revision trigger, no-change log, or maturity update

Stage gates prevent premature scoring. Preregistration is mechanical, not rhetorical: outcome maps, orientation rules, and analysis plans are registered before outcome inspection through a public third-party registry (for example, OSF) and, in parallel, through GII's own publication registry using cryptographic content hashes and timestamps included in each release package. The same person may perform more than one role in an early pilot, but the record must identify role overlap and require independent approval for high-impact or contested releases.

8.2 Automated collection and extraction

Automation may:

- monitor APIs and official feeds;
- normalize identifiers, dates, citations, agencies, and geography;

- detect duplicate or superseding records;
- extract candidate lineage relationships;
- classify topics and likely impact domains;
- flag status changes and data revisions;
- run schema, range, and consistency checks;
- create reproducible data packages; and
- generate draft tables and provenance records.

Automation may not finally determine controlling legal effect, welfare direction, causal identification, institutional responsibility, or publication eligibility without accountable review. Model-assisted extraction is labeled as such internally, validated against a human-coded set, and monitored for drift.

8.3 Registry architecture

The recommended logical stores are:

- **raw evidence store** for immutable retrieved files and API payloads;
- **normalized source layer** for parsed, typed, and quality-checked records;
- **Decision Event Registry** for stable government-action objects;
- **Policy Lineage Graph** for typed relationships and temporal status;
- **Outcome Registry** for definitions, orientation rules, sources, denominators, and revisions;
- **Analysis Registry** for designs, estimands, models, code, diagnostics, and results;
- **Score Registry** for versioned scorecards and decomposition; and
- **Publication Registry** for releases, citations, corrections, and deprecations.

Raw evidence is append-only. Corrections occur in derived layers, retaining links to the originally ingested object. Personally identifiable or confidential data should not enter the public pipeline; restricted analyses require separate controls and publish only disclosure-reviewed aggregates.

8.4 Identifier reconciliation

Cross-government identifiers are inconsistent. GII should preserve, not overwrite, source identifiers such as Congress numbers, bill and public-law numbers, Federal Register document numbers, Regulation Identifier Numbers, docket IDs, CFR citations, executive-order numbers, court docket and reporter citations, agency award IDs, and statistical series IDs.

Entity reconciliation uses a crosswalk with source, validity period, match method, and confidence. An agency rename, reorganization, court remand, reissued rule, or corrected opinion must not create accidental duplicates.

8.5 Quality controls

Automated tests should cover:

- schema validity and required fields;
- referential integrity and lineage cycles;
- date ordering and status consistency;
- duplicate decisions and sources;
- unit and currency consistency;
- population denominator alignment;
- impossible score ranges;
- missing and silently redistributed weights;
- Supreme Court/Judiciary duplication;
- payer-recipient transfer reconciliation;
- source checksum and schema changes;
- reproducibility of published aggregation; and
- consistency between dossier narrative, tables, API, and downloadable data.

Statistical checks include sample balance, pretrends, residual diagnostics, sensitivity results, outlier influence, and comparison with independent estimates. Passing an automated test does not substitute for substantive review.

8.6 Reproducible release package

Each release should include, subject to lawful data restrictions:

- Decision Impact Record in JSON;
- human-readable dossier;
- lineage edge list or graph extract;
- outcome map and orientation rules;
- source manifest with checksums and retrieval dates;
- analytic code and environment specification;
- model outputs and diagnostics;
- score decomposition and sensitivity table;
- reviewer record and conflicts disclosure;
- changelog and machine-readable version metadata; and
- a persistent citation.

8.7 PEPI adapter operating sequence and acceptance tests

The PEPI connector is the first end-to-end test of the external-source boundary. Its operating sequence is:

1. call a public health or metadata resource and confirm connectivity, version metadata, clock validity, and expected content type;
2. retrieve source-status metadata and evaluate freshness without assuming that a successful response is current;
3. ingest the event list incrementally and persist every raw page before parsing;
4. compare external IDs, event update times, payload checksums, and prior versions to identify new, changed, unchanged, missing, and restored records;
5. retrieve changed event detail and related provenance resources within the available tier and documented rate limits;
6. validate against a pinned PEPI response contract and quarantine unknown fields or enumerations for review;
7. transform the source record into a PEPI staging object while retaining the complete original payload;
8. reconcile the staging object to an existing GII decision or lineage, or create a human-review candidate;
9. independently verify authoritative decision, legal-effect, implementation, and outcome sources before promotion; and
10. publish adapter health, coverage, last successful run, quarantines, and version compatibility without exposing secrets.

The connector is acceptable for pilot use only when it passes fixture and live-contract tests for pagination, idempotency, duplicate handling, status transitions, missing values, pending and indeterminate outcomes, date ordering, schema drift, source staleness, checksum change, timeout and rate-limit recovery, and log redaction. Test fixtures should include at least one event in every PEPI lifecycle state and one historical payload from each supported schema version.

Promotion from PEPI staging to the GII candidate registry requires a reviewer decision. Promotion to a scoreable Decision Impact Record requires the full GII stage gates. This separation allows PEPI to accelerate discovery and monitoring while keeping GII's legal and causal claims independently accountable.

9. Review, Governance, and Publication

9.1 Review roles

Review	Primary responsibility	Blocking examples
Legal	Instrument, authority, status, holding, scope, later treatment	Wrong operative text, stay ignored, jurisdiction misstated
Data	Source fitness, definitions, revisions, linkage, missingness	Denominator mismatch, unstable series, untracked revision
Methods	Counterfactual, estimand, model, diagnostics, uncertainty	Invalid comparison, confounding, incorrect estimator
Domain	Mechanism, outcome map, orientation, stakeholder context	Wrong benefit/burden rule, omitted material pathway
Editorial	Claims, readability, caveats, cross-output consistency	Causal overstatement, misleading headline, inconsistent values
Release	Versioning, files, API, provenance, correction plan	Nonreproducible build, missing source manifest

High-impact releases and changes to scoring methodology should receive at least one independent methods review and one independent substantive review. Reviewer disagreements, resolutions, and residual minority views can be summarized publicly when material.

9.2 Publication eligibility

An observed decision dossier is eligible when:

- the authoritative event and operative status are verified;
- implementation and exposure are demonstrated;
- a theory of change and preregistered outcome map exist;
- at least one direct stakeholder outcome is observed;
- the counterfactual and estimator meet the evidence standard;
- required coverage is met;
- overlap and transfer checks are resolved;
- uncertainty and limitations are disclosed;
- review gates are passed; and
- the release is reproducible from its package.

If any condition fails, GII may publish a registry entry, forecast, descriptive research note, or withhold notice without an observed headline score.

9.3 Corrections and revisions

Revision triggers include:

- corrected or benchmark-revised official data;
- new outcome periods or exposure evidence;
- court stays, mandates, appeals, or later treatment;
- statutory or regulatory amendment, expiration, or rescission;
- discovered source, code, classification, or aggregation error;
- improved causal design or materially different model;
- revised outcome-orientation or weighting standard; and
- newly identified overlap with another lineage.

Minor presentation corrections may retain the analytic version with an errata timestamp. Any change to estimates, scores, causal claims, scope, or operative status creates a new analytic version. Prior releases remain retrievable and visibly superseded.

9.4 Methodology versioning

GII uses semantic versioning:

- **major version** — a change that breaks comparability, such as a new primary construct or fundamentally different aggregation;
- **minor version** — a backward-compatible addition, such as a new domain module or published robustness view; and
- **patch version** — clarification, nonbreaking correction, or implementation repair.

Historical series should be rebuilt under a new major methodology when feasible. If not, a bridge analysis must quantify the discontinuity.

9.5 Independence and conflicts

Funding, sponsorship, data access, reviewer relationships, consulting interests, and institutional affiliations that could affect an analysis are disclosed. A sponsor may identify questions but may not suppress an eligible result or privately alter a published rule. The scoring codebook, release criteria, and correction protocol should be public before politically salient production scoring begins.

First-party source disclosure. The Presidential Economic Pressure Index is developed by the author and published by API Automations, which supplies the live index platform for this research program. The relationship is disclosed as a potential conflict of interest and is mitigated structurally: PEPI values are excluded from all GII score computations, PEPI-derived candidates pass the same authoritative-record, causal, coverage, and review gates as any other external source, and adapter promotion decisions are

recorded with reviewer identity. External methods review of the PEPI boundary controls is a Phase 2 requirement.

9.6 Appeals and public challenges

A structured challenge must identify the record, disputed claim, evidence, requested change, and submitter interest. Challenges receive a tracking ID and disposition: accepted, partially accepted, rejected with reason, pending evidence, or outside scope. The process corrects evidence and methodology; it is not a vote on whether a policy should be liked.

9.7 Privacy, ethics, and responsible reporting

GII uses aggregate or disclosure-protected data whenever possible. Restricted microdata require lawful access, secure processing, documented disclosure review, and public methods sufficient to evaluate the claim without revealing protected records. Small-cell suppression, differencing risk, linkage risk, and reidentification risk are assessed. GII analysis of public and disclosure-protected aggregate data constitutes secondary analysis without human-subjects intervention; any future restricted-microdata analysis will document the applicable institutional-review or data-steward determination in the release package.

The project should avoid naming individuals as “responsible” for aggregate outcomes when the unit of analysis is an institutional decision. Affected communities should be represented accurately, not treated solely as data subjects, and should be consulted when outcome definitions could cause material misinterpretation.

10. Public Products and API Standard

10.1 Decision dossier

Every public dossier should present, in this order:

1. plain-language decision summary;
2. current legal and implementation status;
3. institutional lineage;
4. affected populations and entities;
5. GII scorecard with uncertainty and maturity;
6. benefits and burdens by domain and group;
7. causal method and counterfactual;
8. evidence and source vintages;
9. limitations and competing explanations;
10. forecast-versus-observed comparison, when available;

11. revision history; and
12. downloads, API endpoint, methods, and citation.

The score should never appear without confidence, coverage, and maturity in the same visual field.

10.2 Institutional and domain views

Users should be able to filter by branch or origin, institution, instrument, policy topic, domain, group, geography, status, evidence maturity, confidence, and time. Supreme Court results appear as their own view and as one nonduplicated component of Judiciary. An event with multiple institutional contributions remains one lineage and can appear in multiple provenance filters without being multiplied in totals.

10.3 Minimum API resource model

Resource	Purpose
/decisions	Searchable Decision Impact Records and status
/lineages	Policy-lineage metadata and graph edges
/outcomes	Outcome definitions, orientation rules, units and sources
/estimates	Causal estimates, uncertainty, methods and diagnostics metadata
/scores	Versioned scorecards and decompositions
/series	National, institutional, domain and group time series
/sources	Source manifests, data vintages and retrieval metadata
/source-adapters	Versioned external mappings, compatibility state, coverage, health and quarantine summaries
/releases	Publication packages, citations, changelogs and deprecations
/methodology	Versioned codebooks, thresholds, weights and schemas

Every response includes the methodology version, analytic version, data cutoff, retrieval timestamp, and stable identifiers. Pagination, filters, errors, rate limits, deprecation windows, and machine-readable schemas must be documented. Bulk downloads should be available for research reproducibility.

10.4 Explainability requirements

The API and public interface must support decomposition from a national value to institutional contribution, lineage, domain, outcome family, indicator, affected group, estimate, and source. A user should be able to identify why a score changed between versions: new evidence, a revised source, later exposure, a model change, or a corrected classification.

10.5 Naming and discoverability

"Government Impact Index" accurately describes the concept. The acronym **GII** is already widely used by unrelated international measures, including the Global Innovation Index and Gender Inequality Index. The public brand may remain Government Impact Index, while URLs, packages, schemas, and search metadata should use a distinct identifier such as **GII-US**.

This is a discoverability recommendation, not a trademark clearance. A formal name and mark review should precede broad commercialization or registration.

11. Pilot and Development Roadmap

11.1 Historical pilot design

The pilot should include 24–36 policy lineages from 2015–2025, stratified across:

- Congress, presidential action, executive agencies, independent regulators, lower courts, Supreme Court, and Federal Reserve;
- all six impact domains;
- fiscal, regulatory, judicial, administrative, trade, and monetary instruments;
- national and geographically staggered exposure;
- benefits, burdens, mixed direction, and direction-neutral effects;
- high- and low-data environments; and
- multiple administrations and partisan configurations.

Cases should be selected from a preregistered candidate frame using materiality and methodological-learning criteria. The frame should include screened-out events so the pilot can assess whether available data systematically favor certain institutions, groups, or policy areas.

11.2 Pilot work packages

Work package A — Registry and taxonomy

Build stable identifiers, institution and instrument crosswalks, status logic, policy topics, impact domains, and the first policy-lineage graph. Implement PEPI as the first external-source walking skeleton, including raw-payload preservation, version discovery, field mapping, entity resolution, freshness checks, quarantine, and human promotion.

Work package B — Outcome codebook

Define outcome families, units, orientation rules, normalization anchors, group overlays, domain applicability, and missingness reasons. Convene domain review before looking at event results.

Work package C — Causal case studies

Estimate a diverse set of lineages using staggered adoption, thresholds, synthetic controls, time series, event studies, microsimulation, and structured contribution analysis. Record design failures as pilot results.

Work package D — Scoring calibration

Conduct blinded reviewer scoring, inter-rater analysis, weight sensitivity, scale anchoring, overlap checks, confidence calibration, and public-comprehension testing.

Work package E — Reproducible publication

Release a limited beta with Decision Impact Records, dossiers, source manifests, code, APIs, and revision tracking. Invite technical and stakeholder challenges before a national series is declared production-ready.

11.3 Pilot success criteria

The methodology advances beyond beta only if it demonstrates:

- acceptable reviewer agreement on magnitude components and orientation;
- reproducible estimates and score builds;
- stable lineage and non-duplication rules;
- sensitivity ranges that do not routinely overturn central interpretations;
- documented handling of forecasts, revisions, stays, and supersession;
- coverage across institutions and domains without systematic silent exclusion;
- understandable public presentation of magnitude versus direction; and
- a viable correction and governance process.

Reviewer agreement is assessed with named statistics rather than an undefined standard: Krippendorff's alpha (interval) for the E, R, P, and S magnitude components and the I, Q, F, B, and T confidence components; weighted kappa or ordinal alpha for evidence-level and maturity assignment; and ICC(2,k) for composite magnitude. Provisional acceptance thresholds are $\alpha \geq 0.67$ for pilot learning and $\alpha \geq 0.80$ for production scoring, calibrated in the pilot. No target score distribution should be imposed. If evidence shows that certain cases cannot be scored credibly, withholding is a successful control rather than a pilot failure.

11.4 Phased roadmap

Phase	Output	Exit condition
1. Foundation	Research paper, whitepaper, PEPI adapter baseline, schemas, source inventory, codebook	Expert review of definitions and risks

Phase	Output	Exit condition
2. Historical pilot	24–36 lineages, calibration analyses, source connectors	Pilot success criteria substantially met
3. Beta	Public dossiers, limited API, review and challenge portal	Reproducible releases and stable correction process
4. Production	National, institutional and domain series; scheduled updates	Coverage and confidence thresholds sustained
5. Expansion	State/local modules, international comparators, additional sector modules	Separate validated methodologies and governance

11.5 Immediate build backlog

1. Ratify v1.1.1 definitions, contribution record, PEPI construct boundary, and naming convention.
2. Convert the Decision Impact Record into JSON Schema and relational/graph mappings.
3. Produce outcome-orientation and magnitude-anchor codebooks.
4. Provision the PEPI premium key through a managed PEPI_API_KEY secret and implement public, standard, and premium connector contract tests.
5. Build source profiles and connectors for Congress.gov, GovInfo, Federal Register, eCFR, Regulations.gov, core courts, BLS, BEA, Census, USAspending, Treasury, and trade data.
6. Create a candidate-event frame and pilot-selection protocol, using PEPI to nominate—but not automatically approve—relevant presidential economic-policy cases.
7. Complete three end-to-end “walking skeleton” lineages before scaling ingestion.
8. Run reviewer calibration and revise scoring anchors.
9. Publish a beta release template, challenge process, and correction policy.

12. Illustrative Decision Impact Record

The following example is fictional. It demonstrates data structure and publication logic only; it is not a score or analysis of an actual government decision.

12.1 Fictional event

Public short title: Hypothetical National Reporting Rule
GII ID: GII-US-2027-EXE-AGY-RULE-0042-v1
Origin: EXE-AGY
Status: Forecast
Legal lineage: Fictional enabling statute → fictional final rule → fictional state implementation programs
Affected groups: Covered private firms, state reporting offices, workers represented in reports, software and compliance vendors

Applicable domains: People and households; public entities; private enterprise
Not yet applicable: Observed national magnitude, observed direction, mature confidence

12.2 Fictional theory of change

The rule requires covered firms to submit standardized reports. Agencies fund state integration systems and publish aggregate data. Firms incur setup and recurring reporting time; public entities incur implementation cost; standardized data may improve enforcement targeting and information access. Actual exposure depends on firm-size thresholds, exemptions, system readiness, and enforcement.

12.3 Preregistered outcome map

Domain	Outcome family	Measure	Orientation rule	Forecast/observed
Private enterprise	Compliance resources	Hours and external cost per covered firm	Burden, adjusted for firm size	Forecast initially
Public entities	Administrative capacity	Implementation cost, staffing and processing time	Magnitude; direction evaluated against service targets	Forecast initially
People and households	Information and access	Coverage and timeliness of usable public information	Benefit if validated access and quality improve	Observed after launch
Private enterprise	Market response	Entry, exit, investment and vendor demand	Context-specific; no default sign	Observed after exposure

12.4 Publication decision

At the forecast stage, the event could publish expected costs and benefits, source assumptions, uncertainty, affected populations, and planned evaluation. It could not publish an observed GII-M because no realized exposure or stakeholder outcome exists. After implementation, verified take-up and administrative data would replace forecast assumptions. A staggered rollout might permit a modern difference-in-differences analysis; a nationwide simultaneous rollout might require interrupted time series, matched controls from exempt firms, and triangulation.

12.5 Illustrative calculation worksheet

Item	Required entry	Example status
Severity anchor	Native measure, benchmark and 0–100 mapping	Pending codebook
Reach	Covered firms and affected workforce denominator	Forecast estimate
Persistence	One-time and recurring effect horizon	Forecast estimate
Spillover	Public systems, vendors, enforcement and information channels	Qualitative forecast

Item	Required entry	Example status
Implementation factor	Verified operational and exposure share	Not observed
Direction	Preregistered indicator orientations	Partially specified
Confidence	I, Q, F, B, T components	Forecast confidence only
Distribution	Incidence by firm size, state, workforce and entity type	Planned
Coverage	Supported share of preregistered outcome weights	Not eligible
Headline status	Observed score or withhold	Withhold

This example demonstrates a central rule: a consequential government decision may be important enough to register and study while still being too early or too weakly identified to score as an observed impact.

13. Interpretation Guide

13.1 Reading an event scorecard

A hypothetical event with high GII-M, near-zero GII-D, high GII-C, and high GII-K would mean: the decision produced large attributable effects; measured benefits and burdens were roughly balanced or directionally mixed; the evidence was strong; and incidence was concentrated. It would not mean that the event was neutral, fair, constitutional, or socially optimal.

A high GII-M with low GII-C indicates a potentially large event with weak attribution, not a small event. A low GII-M with high GII-C indicates a confidently small measured impact within the covered outcomes. Low coverage means the result is incomplete regardless of confidence on the measured portion.

13.2 Comparing institutions

Institutional comparisons must use the same observation window, maturity filter, active-exposure logic, and outcome coverage. Institutions make different kinds of decisions and have different data availability. Raw event counts, mean scores, and totals answer different questions. A branch with fewer but more consequential decisions should not be interpreted through event count alone.

Results should be decomposed by instrument and domain, and adjusted analyses should test whether apparent institutional differences reflect event composition, data maturity, or selection into the scoreable sample.

13.3 Comparing versions

Users should compare the methodology version, decision-record version, data cutoff, legal status, source vintages, and model version. A changed score is not necessarily a changed real-world impact; it may reflect improved evidence or revised official data. The interface must state the reason.

13.4 Common interpretation errors

- treating magnitude as approval;
- treating direction as partisan ideology;
- comparing forecasts with mature observed scores;
- reading low confidence as no impact;
- treating missing data as zero;
- adding Supreme Court and Judiciary totals;
- assigning all lineage impact to the most visible institution;
- double counting payer and recipient values;
- assuming national totals describe every group; and
- using a revised value without its historical vintage.

14. Known Limitations and Guardrails

GII cannot eliminate the fundamental counterfactual problem. Nationwide actions may have no clean untreated comparison. Policies respond to conditions, interact with one another, and generate anticipation, spillovers, adaptation, and delayed effects. Court decisions can change doctrine before measurable behavior; some institutional or rights effects remain difficult to quantify.

Public data are uneven. Federal expenditures and macroeconomic measures are more structured than nonprofit capacity, administrative burden, service quality, rights access, or small-group incidence. This can create a measurable-outcome bias. The outcome codebook, coverage score, qualitative module, and withhold rule reduce but do not remove it.

Composite scoring introduces value-laden choices even when direction is separated. Severity anchors, persistence, reach, spillover, outcome families, weights, normalization, and reference windows all require judgment. GII manages this through preregistration, reviewer calibration, decomposition, sensitivity analysis, public challenge, and semantic versioning.

Institutional attribution can be misunderstood as credit or blame. The policy lineage must therefore accompany institutional views, and contributions should remain at the lineage level when separate attribution is not identified. Political balance is pursued through consistent rules and transparent evidence, not by forcing symmetrical results.

The strongest guardrail is the ability to say **not yet measurable**, **not directionally classifiable**, or **not attributable with sufficient confidence**. Withholding a score protects the index from becoming a narrative engine disguised as measurement.

15. Conclusion

The Government Impact Index can provide a missing layer of public infrastructure: a durable, versioned connection between government decisions and their observable consequences. Its credibility will not come from the elegance of a headline score. It will come from the lineage beneath it, the counterfactual behind it, the people and entities visible within it, and the willingness to revise or withhold it when evidence is insufficient.

Version 1.1.0 preserves the operational contract established in v1.0.0. It separates magnitude from judgment, legal provenance from causal contribution, forecasts from observations, aggregates from distribution, and current estimates from their history. It gives Congress, presidential action, executive agencies, independent regulators, courts, the Supreme Court, and the Federal Reserve distinct but interoperable treatment. It also adds the PEPI adapter as the first controlled path from the Presidential Economic Pressure Index into the GII candidate-event and evidence pipeline, without treating the two indices as equivalent.

The next credible milestone is not a national ranking. It is a transparent historical pilot that proves the Decision Impact Record, Policy Lineage Graph, evidence standard, scorecard, and revision system can survive diverse real cases. From that foundation, GII can grow into a serious longitudinal research index and public API for understanding how government decisions travel through American life.

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