**Decision 2024: Voting in the Divided States of America**

*The U.S. 2024 presidential election has been coined “an election about everything,” as nearly every political issue today is presented as a battle about our national identity and moral values. Middle ground has grown increasingly hard to find on issues ranging from traditional culture wars to broader policy concerns, such as immigration, the economy, and foreign relations.  Dialogue is being replaced with distrust and a growing “us vs. them” mentality. How can critical issues be addressed when differing viewpoints are exaggerated and demonized? How can we understand the actual impact of policies on Americans’ lives, health, and wellbeing when they are framed as strictly partisan issues, leaving people with no appetite to consider the “other side” or even to examine the actual policy issues at stake? How can we be the United States of America when we are increasingly more divided?*

*During this StraightTalk series, we will explore the impact of our national division on the 2024 elections. We will examine how our media landscape – rife with structural disinformation and artificial intelligence campaigns – shapes partisan public opinion on key voter issues, often restricting our understanding of actual policies and their impact on people. We’ll unpack how issues are framed to divide us, fueling our demand for misinformation, and repressing our interest in discovering the truth. Attendees will gain strategies for seeking a more holistic understanding on the facts, myths, nuances, and outcomes regarding key issues that matter to us and to our communities in the 2024 elections.*