LONGHOUSE · THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER 2026

Research standards & our infrastructure

Thursday 29 October 2026 · 6:00 PM–6:30 PM Phoenix · online. How LongHouse checks a figure against its source, how to read a chart, and the systems that hold the record.

New here? LongHouse builds civic infrastructure for people who take self-governance seriously.

Source: the event record and the meeting page, longhouse.institute/meetings/longhouse-oct-29-2026/

BEFORE WE START

Housekeeping

RECORDED

Tonight is recorded

Say “leave me out” in the chat or to Brady and you're left out of anything we publish.

ZOOM

Muted unless speaking

Raise a hand to speak. Names and where you're joining from in the chat.

THIRTY MINUTES

Short and online

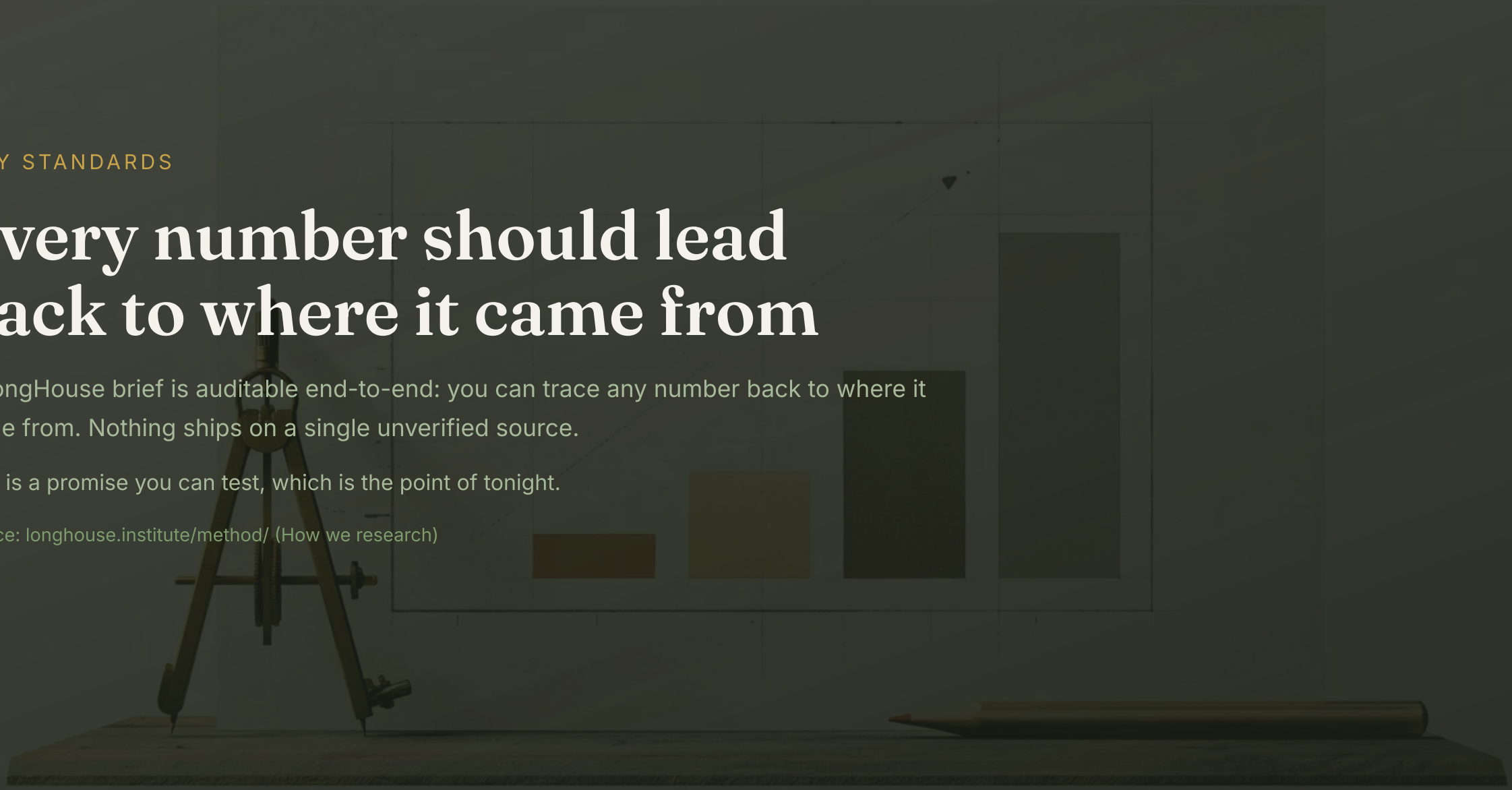
Questions at the end.

GROUND RULES

Argue with ideas

Open discussion, no personal attacks.

Source: LongHouse decision, 22 October 2026; the meeting page, longhouse.institute/meetings/longhouse-oct-29-2026/



WHY STANDARDS

Every number should lead back to where it came from

A LongHouse brief is auditable end-to-end: you can trace any number back to where it came from. Nothing ships on a single unverified source.

That is a promise you can test, which is the point of tonight.

Source: longhouse.institute/method/ (How we research)

HOW WE RESEARCH · THE SOURCE TIERS

Four tiers of source

T1 · PRIMARY

Statute, county record, filing, dataset, first-party interview

Load-bearing: the foundation of a claim.

T2 · AUTHORITATIVE

Government, academic, named-expert secondary

Load-bearing alongside T1.

T3 · GENERAL

Press, explainers

Context. Never the sole basis for a claim.

T4 · UNVERIFIED

Social, anonymous

A lead to verify. Never cited as fact.

Source: longhouse.institute/method/ (How we research)

HOW WE RESEARCH · THE STEPS

Five steps before anything is published

1

Scope

One decision the research must serve.

2

Triangulate

Two independent sources, one of them T1 or T2.

3

Grade certainty

High, Moderate, Low or Very Low, on GRADE: a standard scale for how sure the evidence lets us be.

4

Trace provenance

Every figure carries its source and as-of date.

5

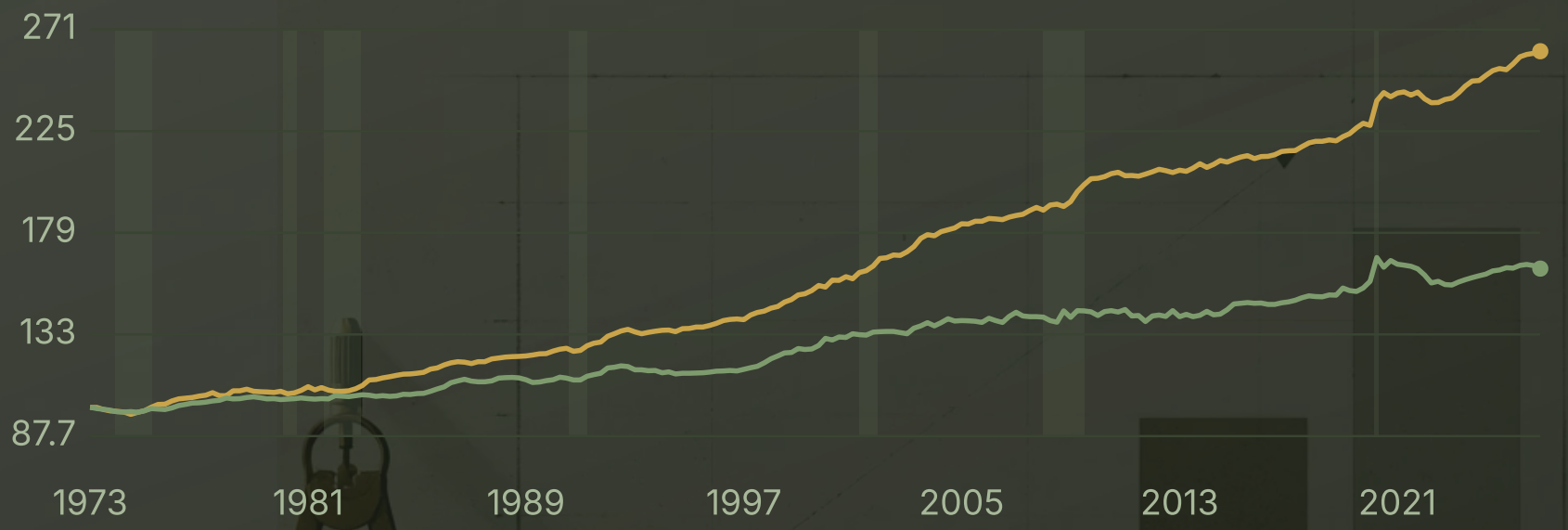
Stress-test

The strongest case against us goes in the brief.

Source: longhouse.institute/method/ (How we research)

READING A CHART · A WORKED EXAMPLE

Four questions for any chart



Output per hour: 261 (Apr 2026) Real hourly compensation (pay + benefits): 163 (Apr 2026)

Source: BLS productivity and costs (OPHNFB, COMPRNFB), nonfarm business sector, via FRED. Latest observation April 2026. Shaded: NBER recessions.

What this doesn't show: health, wealth, or differences between places and jobs. Another reading: compensation is adjusted by consumer prices and output by producer prices; put both on the same price index and the gap shrinks a lot. That choice is part of the debate.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, via FRED; our 1973 = 100 rebasing

YOUR TURN · ANSWER THESE FOR THE CHART YOU JUST SAW

Ask these of any chart

WHO

Who issued it?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics: T2, a government statistical agency.

WHEN

As of when?

The latest point is April 2026; the caption says so.

BASE

Measured from what?

Both lines start at 100 in 1973, so they show growth, not levels.

MISSING

What doesn't it show?

Every chart leaves something out. Ours says what, on the slide.

Source: the provenance step on longhouse.institute/method/; the chart on the previous slide

CORRECTING THE RECORD

When we get it wrong, we say so where the claim was made

WHAT WAS SAID

22 October

On the recording, the home-price chart “may be from around 1980, but I have to double-check”.

WHAT IS TRUE

The chart starts in 1987

The deck's own chart and its caption: Case-Shiller national index from 1987, deflated by CPI-U.

WHAT WE DO

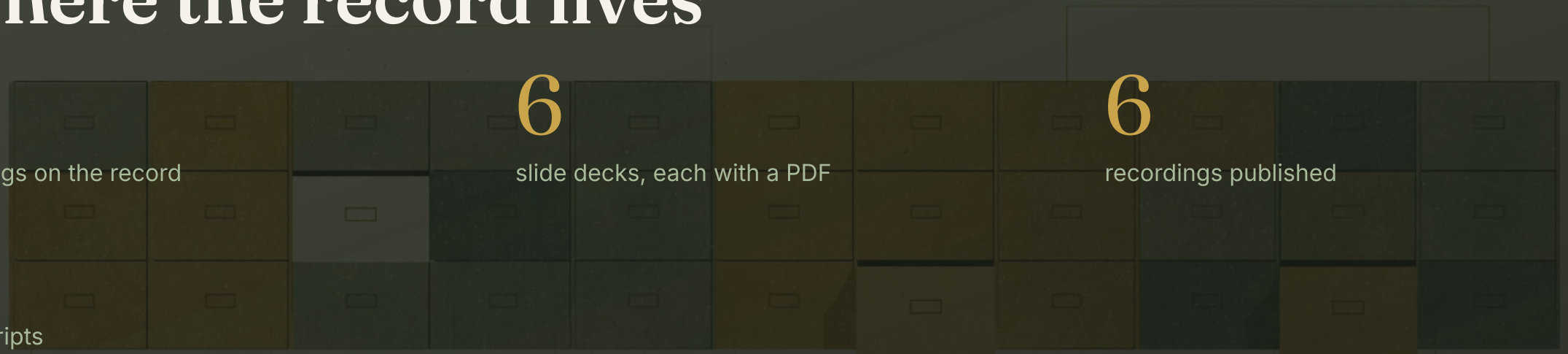
A dated correction

Added to that meeting's record, beside the recording, so anyone who watches it finds the correction too.

Sources: the 22 October recording and transcript; the 22 October deck's chart caption

OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

Where the record lives



6
meetings on the record

6
slide decks, each with a PDF

6
recordings published

6
transcripts

CIVIC LIBRARY

longhouse.institute/civic-library/

Primary sources and independent institutes.

DASHBOARDS

Charts read live

Every chart is redrawn from the issuer's data when the page is built, with its as-of date.

THE ARCHIVE

/meetings/ and /talks/

Slides, PDFs, records, and recordings once reviewed.

Source: the LongHouse meeting archive, counted when this page was built

LONGHOUSE UPDATES

What's changed, and what's next

- Online meetings now run 30 minutes, 6:00 to 6:30 PM, until we meet in person.
- New civic briefs in progress: Measuring America, then and now; and where we are on the land cycle. Each becomes a future talk.
- In person: we'll meet in a room once a venue is set. Registrants hear first.
- Civic library review: we're choosing readings sized for different groups, from a 3–5 person study circle to the full meeting.

COMING UP

- **Thu 19 Nov** · 6:00 PM–6:30 PM Phoenix · Communications & Our Major Subjects
- **Wed 25 Nov** · 6:00 PM–6:30 PM Phoenix · Internal Systems for Civic Support

Sources: RC 2026 Events (dates and times, read when this page was built); Brady, 22 October 2026

THREE THINGS TO TAKE AWAY

If you remember one slide, make it this one

1

Issuer and date

Every number names who issued it and when.

2

Two sources

Two independent sources, one of them T1 or T2.

3

Correct in place

When we're wrong, the correction goes where the claim was made.

Source: longhouse.institute/method/ (How we research); the 22 October correction, slide 8

YOUR TURN

Bring a source to test

A source you'd want tested against the tiers: a statute, a dataset, an article or a post.

Say it in the chat, and we'll place it in a tier together.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 19.

Register to join the next meeting; the join link comes to you by email.

Source: the event record (What to Bring) and the meeting page, longhouse.institute/meetings/longhouse-oct-29-2026/

END OF THE MAIN ARC

For anyone reading afterwards

How LongHouse governs, and every source behind tonight's slides.

Source: longhouse.institute/method/

HOW WE GOVERN · IN BRIEF

Consent and daylight

CONSENT

Not majority

A proposal passes when no reasoned, paramount objection is left standing.

$500

Two signatures

Any expense or binding contract over $500 needs a second signer.

SEVEN DAYS

Daylight

Material policy changes get a seven-day public comment window and a dated changelog.

Source: longhouse.institute/method/ (How we govern) and longhouse.institute/governance/

SOURCES

Sources

- LongHouse method: How we research, How we govern
- LongHouse governance policy
- GRADE Working Group (certainty of evidence)
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — Productivity and Costs (OPHNFB, COMPRNFB), via FRED
- NBER recession dates (USREC), via FRED
- The 22 October meeting and its record
- This meeting

Source: the citations above, each read when this page was built