S6 File: Summary of Validated Results by Secondary AI Tool, M365 Copilot

1. Study Overview

This appendix summarizes validated results from the main article and five supplementary files (S1–S5) for the study titled *Media Coverage Differentials and Democratic Decline*. The study investigates whether systematic differences in domestic vs. international media coverage of democracy-relevant events can serve as early indicators of democratic backsliding, using Trump's second term (2025) as a case study.

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2. Methodological Integrity

- **Outlet Categorization**: 45 outlets grouped into five categories (Tier 1 Domestic, Conservative, Liberal, Local/Regional, International).
- **Classification System**: Four categories (Constitutional, Authoritarian, Corruption, Rhetoric) applied with high inter-rater reliability ($\kappa = 0.847$).
- **Weighting System**: Composite weights (0.3–2.0) based on reach, credibility, citations, and cross-partisan recognition.
- **AI Assistance**: Used for code generation and drafting; all outputs manually verified.

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3. Coverage Frequency and Differentials

- **2025 Coverage Frequency (headlines/week)**:
  - International: 26.8
  - Tier 1 Domestic: 18.7
  - Liberal: 28.4
  - Conservative: 9.9
  - Local/Regional: 11.7
- **Coverage Differentials**:
  - International vs Domestic: +43%
  - Liberal vs Conservative: +186.9%
- **Statistical Significance**: ANOVA $F(4,165) = 187.3$, $p < 0.001$, $\eta^2 = 0.82$

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4. Category Emphasis

- **International and Liberal outlets** emphasized constitutional violations.
- **Conservative outlets** emphasized anti-democratic rhetoric.
- **Local outlets** emphasized policy over institutional concerns.

5. Democracy Index Correlations

- **2025 Decline Rates**:
    - V-Dem: –0.04/year
    - Freedom House: –2.75/year
    - EIU: –0.24/year
- **Acceleration**: 60–100% faster than first term.
- **Correlations**:
    - International: $r = –0.48$ to $–0.51$
    - Liberal: $r = –0.52$
    - Combined Weighted: $r = –0.51$
- **Lag Analysis**: Peak correlation at 1–2 week lag.

6. Baseline Comparison (2017–2021)

- **First Term Averages (headlines/week)**:
    - Tier 1 Domestic: 15.1
    - International: 19.8
    - Liberal: 20.1
    - Conservative: 8.2
    - Local: 9.1
- **Coverage Increase in 2025**: +20.7% to +41.3%
- **Cohen's d**: 0.42 to 1.04 (Medium to Large effects)
- **Democracy Index Projections**: Crossover advanced by 2–4 years

7. Robustness and Sensitivity Tests

- **Classification Boundaries**: Results preserved under stricter criteria
- **Weighting Schemes**: All alternatives yield large effect sizes
- **Outlier Removal**: Slight reduction in effect size, significance maintained
- **Missing Data**: 1.7% missing; multiple imputation confirms robustness
- **Non-Parametric Tests**: Kruskal-Wallis, Mann-Whitney, permutation tests confirm findings
- **Bootstrap**: 10,000 iterations confirm confidence intervals and effect sizes
- **Cross-Validation**: Leave-one-month-out and k-fold CV show strong predictive accuracy ($R^2 = 0.68–0.85$)

8. Temporal and Structural Analysis

- **No significant changepoints** detected (CUSUM, Bayesian)

- **Stable elevated baseline** confirmed
- **Markov Switching Models**: Single regime behavior across all categories
- **VAR Models**: Headlines explain 23% of V-Dem variance at 4-week horizon

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9. Conclusion

The study demonstrates that coverage differentials are statistically significant, consistent, and robust across methods. Media patterns correlate with democracy decline, offering early detection capability. The second term shows accelerated institutional stress, with elevated baseline coverage and stronger correlations. Methodology is validated across multiple robustness tests, historical comparisons, and statistical models.