

# ENSURING A SMOOTH AND SAFE TRANSFER OF POWER



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

CENTER *for* PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

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**On average,  
nearly a third  
of top political  
appointments  
were vacant  
during the first  
year of the  
Clinton, Bush,  
and Obama  
administrations.**

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**While presidential transitions are a hallmark of American democracy, the truth is that they are a period of great vulnerability for our nation.**

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For more than 200 years, the process of transferring presidential power has relied primarily on oral history, with each administration reinventing what needs to be done rather than building on what was done before. The result has been that every administration starts slowly and behind, which diminishes the capacity of our government and threatens economic and national security.

Together we can change this narrative so that future administrations are ready to govern our nation from day one.

Our goal is to fundamentally improve the presidential transition process so that our federal government has the right leadership in place and prepared for the job of serving and protecting our country. There has never before been a single place to store the body of knowledge relating to the presidential transition, forcing each incoming administration to essentially start from scratch. The Partnership for Public Service's Center for Presidential Transition fills this void, serving as the permanent source of information and resources for transition teams in 2016 and beyond.

Through the Center, we take a nonpartisan approach to convening major candidates and their staffs and to supporting their transition efforts throughout the election cycle. We continue to enact the pillars of Ready to Govern<sup>®</sup>, hosting numerous roundtables on management issues that will inform a series of papers and a capstone Management Roadmap for the incoming administration, advocating for needed process reforms and helping to prepare hundreds of political appointees to succeed in the federal sector.

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## **ASSIST PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES WITH PLANNING**

We are helping candidates prepare to lead by compiling all the best practices and advice of prior transition teams into the Presidential Transition Guide, creating an archive of past transition documents, and conducting a series of nonpartisan conferences for candidates and their transition teams prior to the general election.

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## **ENGAGE CONGRESS IN TRANSITION REFORMS**

Congress exercises important responsibility for the presidential transition through legislation and oversight, and through Senate confirmation of presidential nominees for senior positions. The Partnership works to educate Congress on opportunities to improve the transfer of knowledge during presidential transitions and to streamline the appointments process so that key positions are filled quickly, and with the right talent.

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## **IDENTIFY SOUND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND CREATE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT**

The Partnership and its partners are convening experts from across sectors to develop a nonpartisan Management Roadmap that candidates and the next administration can consult to address critical federal management challenges and make our government more citizen focused and results oriented. Our series of roundtables and research reports will reinforce the necessity to modernize the management of our government.

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## **PREPARE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES TO SUCCEED**

We are preparing new and seasoned political appointees to govern effectively. Using a dynamic mix of seminars, roundtables, networking events and other activities, our programs accelerate the ability of appointees to lead and make an impact by deepening their understanding of today's federal government and the unique aspects of managing within it. This helps them build enduring, high-performing relationships, and successfully execute on mission priorities.

## **CENTER FOR PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Josh Bolten**

Former Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush

### **Clay Johnson**

Former Executive Director, Bush-Cheney Presidential Transition

### **Ted Kaufman**

Former Senator

Advisor, Obama-Biden Transition Project

### **Michael Leavitt**

Former Governor of Utah

Former Chairman, Romney Readiness Project

### **Thomas “Mack” McLarty**

Former Chief of Staff to President Bill Clinton

### **Donna Shalala**

Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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For more information about the Center for Presidential Transition and how you or your company can become involved, please contact:

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**ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE**

The federal government is our tool for collective action. It is through the federal government that we, as a nation, confront our most pressing problems, from national security to food safety to global competitiveness. We need our government to be effective, efficient and responsive to the evolving needs of the American people.

The Partnership for Public Service is a unique nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to achieving a more effective and innovative government for our country. Not bigger or smaller government, just smarter. And we do so by focusing our efforts on improving the leadership capacity of our federal agencies and the systems that support them.

The Partnership teams with federal agencies and other stakeholders to make our government more effective and efficient. We pursue this goal by:

- Providing assistance to federal agencies to improve their management and operations, and to strengthen their leadership capacity;
- Promoting accountability by generating research on, and effective responses to, the workforce challenges facing our federal government;
- Advocating for needed legislative and regulatory reforms to strengthen and make government more effective;
- Identifying and celebrating government’s successes so they can be replicated across government; and
- Conducting outreach to college campuses and job seekers to promote public service.



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