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## Romney Readiness Project General Instructions: First 200 Days

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The Readiness Project is tasked to plan the implementation of Governor Romney's campaign commitments and priorities. The following are general instructions for department or agency review teams, task forces and work groups as they plan implementation of the commitments Governor Romney has made during his campaign. Recommendations should contemplate the initiation of action during the first 200 days of the administration.

### REVITALIZE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

**Reform and simplify the federal tax code to encourage economic growth and job creation.** Insofar as tax reform will require legislative action, recommend measures that could form part of a legislative strategy to accomplish reform that:

- a. Is revenue neutral;
- b. Maintains the progressivity of the current tax code;
- c. Reduces current personal income rates by 20 percent across the board;
- d. Eliminates the taxation of dividends for those earning less than \$200,000;
- e. Reduces the corporate rate to 25 percent with revenue neutral base-broadening; and
- f. Transitions to a territorial tax system.

**Facilitate regulatory reform and ensure that economic growth remains a priority throughout department or agency rule-making processes. Specifically:**

- a. Identify growth-inhibiting Obama-era regulations and path to repeal;
- b. Establish process for regulatory budgeting to establish zero-dollar cap on new costs;
- c. Draft environmental reforms to ensure laws accurately account for costs;

**Open markets for American goods and services while confronting nations that do not play by the rules.**

Specifically:

- a. Renew Trade Promotion Authority;
- b. Develop strategy for rapid completion of Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations;
- c. Identify additional opportunities for FTA negotiations;
- d. Determine pathway for designating China a currency manipulator and increasing pressure;
- e. Develop options to apply pressure on trading partners like China who restrict market access or apply unfair subsidies;
- f. Build stronger economic ties in Latin American;
- g. Create a Reagan Economic Zone to strengthen free enterprise around the world;

**Encourage hiring by reversing Obama actions and reforming labor law.** Specifically:

- a. Draft executive order to eliminate the use of project labor agreements in federal contracting;
- b. Prepare for replacement of recess-appointed NLRB members;
- c. Determine best statutory or regulatory approach to implementing broader labor reforms;

**Promote energy independence.** Specifically:

- a. Increase access to domestic energy resources;
- b. Streamline permitting for exploration and development;
- c. Eliminate regulations destroying the coal industry; and
- d. d. Approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

**Empower American workers to compete in the current and future global economy by consolidating overlapping federal job training programs into an accessible and accountable resource.** Specifically:

- a. Determine which existing federal programs should be retained as independent programs; and
- b. Design process for consolidating other funding and block granting to states.

**Ensure that young Americans have opportunities to acquire a high quality K-12 education by encouraging education innovation and emphasizing skill attainment.** Specifically:

- a. Prepare for implementation of WMR's proposed Title I reforms;
- b. Review federal teacher quality programs and determine how to return them to states;
- c. Identify opportunities to increase support for charter schools and digital learning;

**Improve higher education by expanding access to a greater diversity of options that will give students an opportunity to succeed in their careers.** Specifically:

- a. Develop options for reversing nationalization of the student loan market;
- b. Identify regulatory barriers to competition and choice in higher education;
- c. Encourage development and expansion of innovative delivery models that reduce the cost of quality higher education; and
- d. Review all federal funding for tuition and identify opportunities to preserve support for students while preventing unnecessary inflation in the cost of education.

**Attract and retain the best and the brightest.** Specifically:

- a. Review H1-B and other high-skill visa programs and determine best way to raise caps and meet demand;
- b. Design program to give green card to graduates with advanced degrees; and
- c. Identify opportunities to streamline the visa and legal immigration processes, with a focus on speeding the process for immediate family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents.

**Develop options for winding down Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.**

REDUCE THE DEFICIT

**Place government spending on a more sustainable trajectory.** Specifically:

- a. Write a rescissions bill to effect an immediate five percent reduction in non-security discretionary spending;
- b. Develop policy directive/executive order to establish attrition policy to reduce agency workforces by 10 percent;
- c. Determine legal options for presidential action to reduce/eliminate any COLA ordered for 2013;
- d. Conduct study to determine nature of excess compensation disaggregated by job profile, education levels, etc.; and
- e. Present budget to Congress that achieves fiscal goals (e.g. 20% of GDP by 2016)

REPEAL AND REPLACE THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

**Minimize the negative impact of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and prepare to implement real health care reform.** Specifically:

- a. Identify all opportunities to prevent implementation of the law or waive its requirements;
- b. Determine if and how reconciliation should be used for full repeal;
- c. Prepare proposals for implementation of WMR's health care policies via legislation and agency rule-making; and
- d. Establish process for block granting Medicaid to the states.

**Enhance Medicare's sustainability and value.** Specifically:

- a. Identify the key program design challenges and regulatory decisions that must be addressed to implement WMR Medicare reform plan;

- b. Recommend options that will meet the sustainability goal while improving the value of care; and
- c. Identify functions that can be properly and more efficiently administered at the state or local level.

RESTORE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP AROUND THE WORLD AND  
PRESERVE U.S. INTERESTS AND IDEALS

**Develop calendar of international conferences and events to inform travel planning.**

**Begin restoration of the military, minimize the negative impact of sequestration on the defense budget, and prepare for reversal of Obama-era defense cuts to the FY2011 baseline spending level set by Secretary Gates in 2010.** Specifically:

- a. Identify regulatory and legislative strategies to reverse sequestration and/or mitigate effects of sequestration that would compromise development of needed weapons systems and vital sectors of the defense industrial base.
- b. Identify ways to increase naval shipbuilding from 9 per year to 15 per year.
- c. Identify other needed force structure improvements in other services besides the Navy.
- d. Identify ways to effectively add 100,000 active duty troops.
- e. Evaluate multi-layered national missile defense program and identify how to effectively use increased funding for the program.

**Establish an interagency process responsible for coordinating military and foreign aid efforts in Afghanistan.**

Specifically:

- a. Review troop rotation schedules to preserve President's flexibility to change course
- b. Launch 30-day interagency review of Afghanistan war goals and strategies
- c. Identify a strategy to achieve sustained support from the governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan to rid the border region of the Taliban and other insurgent groups;
- d. Coordinate the training of Afghan forces and transfer security responsibility to them; and
- e. Collaborate with Afghan forces to fight the narcotics trade that finances the insurgency.

**Increase pressure on the Iranian regime to engage in good faith negotiations with the international community.**

Specifically:

- a. Identify methods to enhance the credibility of the military option, including but not limited to establishing the regular presence of carrier groups in the eastern Mediterranean and Persian Gulf region, increasing military assistance to Israel, and increasing military coordination with Arab partners;
- b. Identify process to plan for all contingencies related to either an Israeli-led or a U.S.-led military strike to degrade Iran's nuclear weapons program;
- c. Identify ways to enhance the enforcement and effectiveness of current and potential economic sanctions;
- d. Identify methods to increase support to responsible Iranian dissidents and increase internal pressure on the Iranian regime; and
- e. Identify parameters for an acceptable and results-oriented negotiation process.

**Develop a Syria strategy that increases pressure on Bashar al-Assad and provides greater assistance to responsible elements of the opposition.** Specifically:

- a. Identify ways to levy new multilateral sanctions and increase enforcement of existing sanctions to undermine support for Assad and encourage high-level defections;
- b. Identify opportunities to work with partners to facilitate the delivery of arms provided by partners to responsible elements of the opposition;
- c. Identify strategies to mitigate the risk that Syrian WMDs will fall into the hands of bad actors; and
- d. Establish a mechanism to coordinate with key international partners as we jointly prepare for a post-Assad Syria, stabilize the country, and influence the makeup of a new Syrian government that will sever ties with Iran, respect the territorial integrity of its neighbors, and represent the interests of all of Syria's minorities and religions.

**Map out sequence of initiatives to reevaluate the U.S. relationship with Russia.** Specifically:

- a. Establish review of implementation of the New START treaty and overall nuclear weapons reduction and missile defense cooperation with Russia to ensure that frameworks serve U.S. interests;
- b. Establish coordinated diplomatic and legislative strategy to place greater pressure on Russia with regards to its obstructionism on Iran and Syria sanctions, its support to Assad in Syria, its growing relations with Venezuela, its suppression of the personal and political rights of the Russian people, and its aggressive actions in Georgia and assertive posture toward Eastern European and Central Asian states.

**Create a national strategy to counter militarized cyber-attacks, cyber-terrorism, cyber-espionage, and private sector intellectual property theft.** Specifically:

- a. Encourage collaboration between departments and agencies confronting similar threats and ensure participation of intelligence and defense agencies;
- b. Promote sharing of technical information to prevent similar attacks against different departments and agencies; and
- c. Create a mechanism for federal agencies and private firms to learn from and benefit one another.



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