



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

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An Open Letter from the Partnership for Public Service's Center for Presidential Transition® Advisory Board

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One year from now brings an important moment for our country, one in which either President Donald Trump will start his second term or a new president will take the oath of office. Given the weight of issues facing our country, both President Trump and the remaining Democratic candidates will not only have to campaign vigorously, they will have to begin preparing to govern for the next four years.

Some may view early preparation during the campaign as unnecessary or presumptuous, but the global security environment, the wide range of domestic concerns and the best interest of the nation demand that planning begin as early as this spring.

This need for effective planning is particularly acute for the Democratic challengers. If successful, a new president in short order will have to recruit 4,000 political appointees, including 1,200 who require Senate confirmation; prepare a \$4.7 trillion budget; roll out and pursue a vigorous policy agenda; and learn how to manage a workforce of 2 million civilian employees and 2 million active duty and reserve troops.

But planning for a second term is also critical. Every second term administration benefits from fresh eyes and fresh legs. Every second term president experiences significant turnover and an important policy window after the election. Therefore, effective planning is essential given the inevitable turnover, a Senate confirmation process which unfortunately is taking longer, and the fact that the fifth year of a president's tenure typically provides a window for bipartisan policy development.

Data from the nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service, for example, shows that from about Election Day through the first six months of the second terms of Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama, 43% of their Cabinet secretaries, deputy secretaries and undersecretaries left their jobs. These departures included six of President Clinton's Cabinet secretaries, six for President Bush and seven for President Obama. In addition, data demonstrates that the confirmation process for presidential appointees is slower than ever – it takes the average appointee twice as long to secure Senate confirmation today as it did during the Reagan administration.

Failure to plan in advance can not only result in delays filling key jobs but literally may put the country's national and economic security at risk.

This is why we – Democrats and Republicans – strongly support the Partnership for Public Service's Center for Presidential Transition, an ambitious and comprehensive initiative designed to provide critical assistance and information to the current administration, the various Democratic candidates and their teams, and career government officials responsible for transition activities.

The Center brings unparalleled capabilities to this effort – a Presidential Transition Guide and Agency Transition Guide; detailed checklists for new agency officials; coordination with the talented and dedicated career federal officials tasked with preparing for a new president or second term under the Presidential Transition Act; and helping the tens of thousands of Americans interested in serving in the administration get ready for the detailed vetting, clearance and ethics processes associated with presidential appointments.

Those seeking the highest office in the land have an obligation and a duty to prepare to govern, both in their own effectiveness and, more importantly, for the good of the nation.

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