



TJIC Alert

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U.S. Politics – Presidential Transition

1. **Barack Obama: 44th President of the United States**
eJournal USA January 2009 10 pp.
Full Text: <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/books/obamaen.pdf>

Barack Obama, elected the 44th President of the United States, has lived a truly American life, and has opened a new chapter in American politics. This publication tells the story of Obama's life, describes how he captured the presidency, and portrays his vision for the future. It also introduces readers to the Obama family and to the new Vice President, Joseph Biden.

2. **Achieving the Potential: The Future of E-Rulemaking**
Committee on the Status and Future of Federal e-Rulemaking 2008 71 pp.
Full Text: <http://ceri.law.cornell.edu/documents/report-web-version.pdf>

The report provides suggestions for federal e-rulemaking. It contends that if a government-wide electronic docket and rulemaking support system were being designed in today's technological environment; the preferred architecture would not be a single and exclusive centralized system. If the current system can be enhanced, and situated within a new open and more flexible technical architecture, it can function as the primary rulemaking system for agencies with modest rulemaking activities, and as the core from which other agencies can build out more robust and innovative e-rulemaking capabilities.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

3. **Achieving Real Improvement in Federal Policy and Program Outcomes: The Next Frontier**
Kathryn Newcomer and F. Stevens Redburn
National Academy of Public Administration and the George Washington University
October 2008 11 pp.
Full Text: http://www.napawash.org/achieving_real_improvements_10_08.pdf

A new Administration eager to successfully implement its policy goals has the challenge of quickly identifying what is worth retaining and what is not of the performance management procedures established by the previous Administration. A new Administration also has an opportunity to redeploy the assets it inherits and draw lessons from recent experience about what will be most effective in achieving Presidential priorities. The guidance is based on review of the experience of the last decade with efforts to bring performance information

to bear in improving how programs are managed, and in improving decisions on policy design and use of resources.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

4. **Communicating with Congress: Recommendations for Improving the Democratic Dialogue**
Congressional Management Foundation December 15, 2008 84 pp.
Full Text: http://www.cmfweb.org/storage/cmfweb/documents/CMF_Pubs/cwc_recommendationsreport.pdf

After nearly 10 years of research, outreach, and study of the communications between citizens and Congress, Congressional Management Foundation shows recommendations for all stakeholders and suggests improvements to the structure and processes for managing congressional communications.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

5. **Getting It Done: A Guide for Government Executive**
Mark A. Abramson et al
IBM Center for Government October 11, 2008 150 pp.
Full Text: <http://www.businessofgovernment.org/pdfs/GettingItDone.pdf>

The report is written for those who have answered the call to public service. It focuses on the environment in which they will work.

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6. **Memo to the President: Redefine America's Global Development Cooperation**
Colin Bradford and Noam Unger
Brookings December 10, 2008 3 pp.
Full Text: http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/1210_global_development_memo/1210_global_development_memo.pdf

Bradford claims that the U.S.'s biggest security threat has become the United States itself. The challenge now is to reverse these trends and redefine America's role in the world. To effectively address global expectations, U.S. must launch a fresh start to U.S. relations with the non-Western, developing world, recommends the study.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

7. **Opening the "Window to a Larger World" Libraries' Role in Changing America: Report to President-elect Obama and Vice-President-elect Biden Transition Team**
American Library Association December 17, 2008 8 pp.
Full Text: <http://www.wo.ala.org/districtdispatch/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/ala-report-to-transition-team1.pdf>

The American Library Association states that as President-elect Obama has stated, libraries are "sanctuaries of learning" that represent "a window to a larger world." During this time of transition for our nation, libraries of all types, public, school, academic, federal and research, are resources the American public and new Administration can use to help people find jobs, support education and lifelong learning, provide access to information and telecommunications services, empower families, and enable civic engagement as well as promote literacy and connect communities.

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- 8. The Plum Book (U.S. Policy and Supporting Positions)**
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
November 12, 2008 217 pp.
Full Text: http://www.gpoaccess.gov/plumbook/2008/2008_plum_book.pdf

Every four years, just after the Presidential election, the U.S. Government Policy and Supporting Positions, commonly known as the Plum Book, is published, alternately, by the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs and the House Committee on Government Reform. The Plum Book is used to identify president appointed positions within the Federal Government.

- 9. Presidential Transitions: Issues Involving Outgoing and Incoming Administrations**
L. Elaine Halchin
Congressional Research Services November 1, 2008 38 pp.
Full Text: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL34722.pdf>

The smooth and orderly transfer of power can be a notable feature of presidential transitions, and a testament to the legitimacy and durability of the electoral and democratic processes. Yet, at the same time, a variety of events, decisions, and activities contribute to what some may characterize as the unfolding drama of a presidential transition. Inter party transitions in particular might be contentious. Using the various powers available, a sitting President might use the transition period to attempt to secure his legacy or effect policy changes. Some observers have suggested that, if the incumbent has lost the election, he might try to enact policies in the waning months of his presidency that would "tie his successor's hands." On the other hand, a President-elect, eager to establish his policy agenda and populate his Administration with his appointees, will be involved in a host of decisions and activities, some of which might modify or overturn the previous Administration's actions or decisions.

- 10. Reforming U.S. Public Diplomacy for the 21st Century**
Tony Blankley, Helle C. Dale and Oliver Horn
The Heritage Foundation November 20, 2008 16 pp.
Full Text: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/PublicDiplomacy/bg2211.cfm>

Margaret Thatcher once said that America is the only nation in the world "built upon an idea." While there is no easy fix, the next President and Congress need to reform the strategy, doctrine, and structure of strategic communications to engage in the war of ideas seriously and effectively. This requires a new institutional framework based on a U.S. Agency for Strategic Communications, substantial reforms of the Department of State, and greater utilization of the Pentagon's combatant commands.

- 11. Roadmap to Reform: A Management Framework for the Next Administration**
Partnership for Public Service October 2008 25 pp.
Full Text: http://www.ourpublicservice.org/OPS/programs/documents/PMI_RoadmaptoReform.pdf

Effective government requires effective management. The transition from one presidential administration to the next offers an important opportunity for effective management. To help shape the next president's management framework, a number of leading government reform experts forged a consensus about critical federal workforce management issues and actions our next president should take to improve government operations.

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

- 12. Serving People in Need, Safeguarding Religious Freedom: Recommendations for the New Administration on Partnerships with Faith-Based Organizations**
Brookings Institution December 2008 58 pp.
Full Text:
http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/12_religion_dionne/12_religion_dionne.pdf

One of President-elect Barack Obama's distinctive contributions to the nation's political debate is his call for a more productive, inclusive and open discussion of issues at the intersection of faith and public life.

The paper suggests that there is much common ground. Heavy stress is laid on the history of cooperation between religious institutions and government.
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13. Transitioning Defense Organizational Initiatives: An Assessment of Key 2001-2008 Defense Reforms

Center for Strategic and International Studies

December 2008

84 pp.

Full Text:

http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/081209_hicks_transdeforg_web.pdf

The CSIS U.S. Defense and National Security Group and Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group examined eight years of defense reforms during the administration of George W. Bush and identified for the incoming administration (1) successful reforms to maintain, (2) partially successful reforms to improve, (3) and failed experiments to halt. Presidential transitions often bring the promise of new opportunities. With this in mind, the CSIS U.S. Defense and National Security Group and the Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group conducted a study aimed at informing the next Secretary of Defense's transition decisions. The CSIS study team focused on the Defense Department's internal operations in the categories of strategic direction, force development, force employment, force management, and corporate support.

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14. US Presidential Transitions

eJournal USA

January 2009

48 pp.

Full Text: <http://www.america.gov/media/pdf/ejs/0109.pdf#popup>

An important characteristic of democracy in the United States is the regularly recurring peaceful transfer of power from one president to the next. Americans know when the next presidential election will take place – the Tuesday after the first Monday in November every four years. And power will be transferred to the newly elected (or re-elected) president on January 20 of the following year.

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