



## **OVERVIEW: TRANSITION ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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To help improve future presidential transitions, the Partnership for Public Service will document the experiences of 2008 transition planners, outline proposed legislative revisions to the Presidential Transition Act, and survey incoming appointees and career executives about the effectiveness of the transition into a new administration. These components, consolidated into a comprehensive assessment of the 2008-2009 presidential transition, will offer a basic framework for future presidential transitions and serve as an operational manual for transition coordinators. This report will be published in January 2010, to mark completion of the first year of the Obama administration.

### ***Interviews from the 2008-2009 Transition***

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Preparing for a presidential transition before Election Day can be a difficult proposition. To enhance this process in the future, the Partnership will conduct interviews with officials from the two major presidential campaigns, the outgoing and incoming administrations, and federal agencies to learn about their experiences and gather advice for their successors. Interview topics include:

- Timeline of transition activities
- Overview of the staff dedicated to transition planning
- Description of briefings that the candidates received from the White House and key agencies
- Vetting of potential nominees before the election
- What went well; what could be improved
- Recommendations for future campaigns regarding transition planning

### ***Legislative Recommendations***

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Based on background research, analysis of the incoming administration's transition efforts and interviews with transition coordinators, the Partnership will propose a set of legislative recommendations to facilitate future campaigns' transition planning efforts. While Congressional action cannot guarantee a smooth presidential transition, certain elements could improve the process. Areas for consideration include:

- Formalizing the White House Transition Coordinating Council and Agency Transition Directors Council
- Improvements to the vetting and confirmation process
- Resource allocation and management

### ***Survey of Presidential Appointees and Career Executives***

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Through an online survey of presidential appointees, senior career executives, and agency transition directors (to be administered in fall 2009), the Partnership will collect information on the following elements:

- Insights about the onboarding and preparation of new appointees
- Experiences establishing critical relationships in a new administration, including between political appointees and their career executive counterparts
- Recommendations regarding how agencies and transition teams can work together to ensure an effective and efficient presidential transition