

IBM Center for
The Business of Government

National Transitions: What Are the Key Elements?

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Overview

- The Last Months of an Administration
- Key Elements of the Transition
 - Governmentwide Dynamics
 - Agency-Level Activities
 - Roles of GAO and Offices of Inspector General
- IBM Center Resource Materials



The Last Months of an Administration



- *Embedding Legacy Initiatives vs. Suspended Animation*
- *Increasing Vacancies and Acting Leaders*
- *Laying Groundwork for Whomever Comes Next*
- *Understanding Operating Context the Next Leader Will Have to Confront*

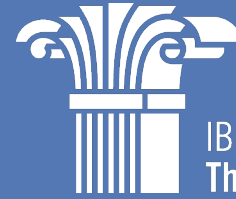
New Presidential Transition Legislation

- **GSA designates a Federal Transition Coordinator (career SES)**
 - Coordinates planning across agencies

- **Creates a White House Transition Council 6 months before Election**
 - Political appointees, representatives of presidential candidates
 - Provides guidance; facilitates contacts with presidential candidates
 - Conducts emergency preparedness exercises

- **Creates Agencies Transition Directors Council (career SES)**

- **Agencies designate career executives as interim leaders**
 - for transition period (by 9/15)



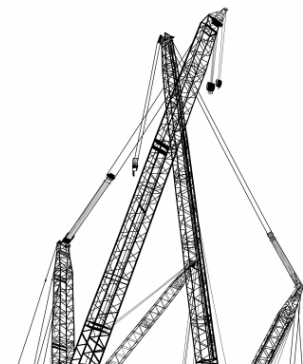
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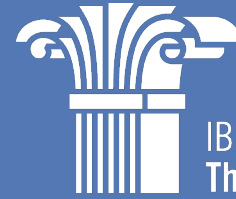
Presidential Transition: Governmentwide Dynamics



Agencies Laying the Groundwork in Advance

- New governmentwide requirements take effect with new Administration
 - Implementation of DATA Act
 - Agency Strategic Plans on 4-year cycle
 - Agency Annual Performance Plans tied to Strategic Plan
 - Agency-Level & Cross-Agency Priority Goals
- Handling Transition of Old-to-New Plans & Goals during 2017
- Advance Prep for Development of New Strategic Plans
 - Strategic foresight: scenario-planning and options
 - Risk management options





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Presidential Transition: Agency-Level Activities

Presidential Transition Process Dynamics

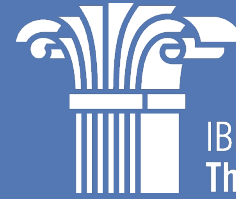
- **Outgoing Team**
 - Designated points of contact
 - “Midnight” regulatory actions
 - The GSA Transition Directory

- **Incoming Teams (yes, there will be 2 of them)**
 - During Post-Election period
 - During Post-Inauguration period

- **Briefing Books**
 - Statutory Requirements, Organization, Budget, People

- **Their 30-, 90-, 180-day Agendas**





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Presidential Transition: Roles of GAO and the Offices of Inspector General

Opportunities for Insight and Action

- GAO Transition reports and High-Risk List
- Develop thematic summaries of open recommendations
- Offer strategic insights regarding risk portfolios facing new leader
- Establish a good working relationship, joint expectations

Selected Resources

- **IBM Center:** Management Roadmap for the Next Administration”
 - www.businessofgovernment.org
- **General Services Administration:** Presidential Transition Website
 - <https://presidentialtransition.usa.gov/>
- **Partnership for Public Service:** “Center for Presidential Transition”
 - <http://presidentialtransition.org/>
- **National Academy of Public Administration:** Transition 2016 Initiative
 - www.napat16.org
- **Transitions in Governance Project** (Performance Institute)
 - <http://www.transitions2016.org/>

