

Advancing Information Policy and Use at the Office of Management and Budget

Academy Election 2020 Project

Select Task Force: Organization of Information Policy and Use at OMB

Background

To quickly address unprecedented challenges at all levels of government, the U.S. government must collect, manage, and disseminate more information from the American public than at any point in its history. OMB, the center of the federal government's information infrastructure, has the potential to revolutionize the ability of agencies and policymakers throughout the different levels of government to gain critical insights of complex problems. To date, for a variety of reasons, that potential has not been fully realized. Unless action is taken to restructure and reprioritize information policy and use within OMB, the President's ability to make the bold, significant changes across government that address the nation's biggest challenges will be severely diminished.

Recommendations for 2021

1. The President should nominate a Director, Deputy Director, and Deputy Director for Management who commit to prioritizing and improving OMB's information policy and use responsibilities.
2. The OMB Director should establish a new position—Assistant Director for Information Policy—to oversee, manage, and coordinate relevant activities across OMB's divisions and offices.
3. Within the first 100 days of the Administration, the Assistant Director for Information Policy should identify OMB responsibilities for information policy and practice and inform the other Executive Office of the President (EOP) components of OMB's roles and responsibilities to the other components.
4. Reinvigorate and continue the trajectory of the Federal Data Strategy, under the leadership of the new Assistant Director for Information Policy.
5. Evidence Act implementation activities should proceed, with a coordinated approach for implementation led by the new Assistant Director for Information Policy.
6. Establish a mechanism through the internal quarterly President's Management Agenda update in which senior leaders from across OMB meet to discuss major management initiatives, including information management initiatives.

Additional Resources

These resources provide additional information and recommendations in the line with the Election 2020 paper, *Advancing Information Policy and Use at the Office of Management and Budget*.

[The Academy: Election 2020: Advancing Information Policy and Use at the Office of Management and Budget](#)

[The Academy: Election 2020: Engaging Americans and Increasing Public Trust](#)

[The Academy: Election 2020: Enhancing Public Governance](#)

[The Academy: Roundtable on Developing Public Governance and Engagement](#)

The Challenge: Develop New Approaches to Public Governance and Engagement

In the 21st Century, no significant public problem fits entirely within one government agency, or even one level of government, and our federal system presupposes that all levels of government have an important role to play in the democratic process. Effective problem solving usually requires federal, state, and local governments to work successfully together, and often with the private and nonprofit sectors.





Working Group

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