

U.S. Transition – Forming the Next Government





On November 4, 2008:

- The longest presidential campaign in U.S. history ended.
- A record 130 million Americans cast ballots.
- Barack Obama was elected 44th president of the United States.



Learn more about the transition from the Bush administration to the Obama administration.





Many Challenges Await the Next President



- Turmoil in the international financial system

- A national economic recession

- Ongoing military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan

- Growing world attention on the potential threats of climate change

- Continued growth in global energy demands





“Ensuring that this transition is seamless is a top priority for the rest of my time in office.”

-- President Bush, November 8

Assistance from the Bush Administration

- The peaceful transfer of power from one president to the next is a hallmark of American democracy.
- Outgoing administration officials work to ensure continuity with the incoming administration.
- Current government officials brief the president-elect's team on significant pending policy issues.



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Obama's Transition Team

- Reviews potential Cabinet members
- Meets with current administration officials
- Determines policy priorities for the new administration
- Advises the president-elect on key issues



Learn more about the transition team at www.change.gov.



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A Smooth Military Transition

- Barack Obama will become commander in chief of U.S. forces in the first wartime presidential transition in 40 years.
- Since the election, military and intelligence officials have provided President-elect Obama the same briefings they provide President Bush.



- The president-elect chooses a national security adviser and secretary of defense to help him address security issues.
- The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest-ranking military adviser to the president, stays in place through the transition to ensure continuity.



The Cabinet

- The president-elect spends much of his time during the transition choosing a Cabinet.
- Cabinet officials serve as presidential advisers and directors of various government agencies, such as the State Department, the Department of Defense and the Treasury.
- Most Cabinet officials carry the title “secretary.”
- The U.S. Senate must review and confirm Cabinet nominations following the inauguration.



The Federal Government

The president appoints thousands of political officials to federal agencies to help implement the policies of the new administration.

However, more than 2.6 million employees of the federal government continue in the jobs they now hold, ensuring continuity of government operations.



The Future First Family



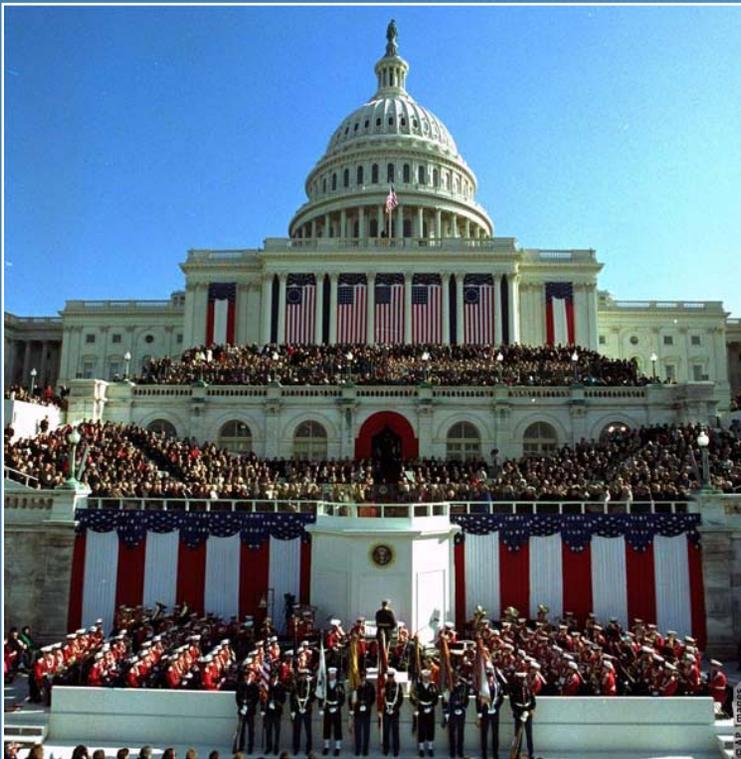
Future first lady Michelle Obama says her first priority will be to help her daughters adjust to their new home and school.

Malia Obama (10) and Sasha Obama (7) are the youngest children to live in the White House since Amy Carter arrived in 1977.



Inauguration Day

The 20th amendment to the U.S. Constitution specifies that the term of each elected president of the United States begins at noon on January 20 of the year following the election. Each president must take the oath of office before assuming the duties of the position.



"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

- The Presidential Oath of Office



The Obama Inauguration, January 20, 2009

- The city of Washington expects 4 million spectators.
- President-elect Obama and President Bush will travel together from the White House to the U.S. Capitol, where Obama takes the oath of office on the Capitol steps at noon.
- The newly inaugurated president gives his first speech to the nation, known as the Inaugural address.
- A day of festivities in Washington – an Inauguration Day Parade and Inaugural balls – keep the new president busy.
- George W. Bush and Laura Bush leave the city as private citizens.





A New Presidency

On January 20, 2009, the real work begins for the Obama presidency:

- Formally nominating Cabinet members;
- Rescinding, modifying or issuing new executive orders;
- Working with Congress to enact legislation; and
- Engaging the world to confront global challenges.



For more on the Obama presidency, visit:
www.America.gov



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