

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051

MINORITY (202) 225-5074

<https://oversight.house.gov>

MEMORANDUM

December 07, 2020

To: Members of the Subcommittee on Government Operations

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Hearing on “The Elements of Presidential Transitions”

On **Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.**, the Subcommittee on Government Operations will hold a hearing to examine the ongoing presidential transition, its challenges, and lessons learned that can improve future transitions. The hearing will convene remotely using WebEx.

There have been 36 presidential transitions following presidential elections in U.S. history. The transition to President-elect Biden will be the 25th transition between outgoing and incoming presidents of opposing parties. A peaceful transfer of power is critical to the success of American democracy. To promote that, Congress passed the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (PTA).¹ The hearing will review the norms and legal requirements of presidential transitions. The hearing will also explore the scholarship and research on the difficulties and opportunities of a presidential transition and discuss possible amendments to improve the PTA.

I. WITNESSES

Martha Joynt Kumar

Professor Emerita, Department of Political Science
Towson University

Robert C. MacKichan Jr.

Partner
Holland & Knight LLP

¹ *The GSA Delayed Biden’s Transition. Future Presidents-Elect Could Sue to Speed Things Up*, Lawfare (Nov. 30, 2020) (online at www.lawfareblog.com/gsa-delayed-bidens-transition-future-presidents-elect-could-sue-speed-things).

Max Stier

President and Chief Executive Officer
Partnership for Public Service

Lisa Brown

Vice President & General Counsel
Georgetown University

Staff contacts: Wendy Ginsberg, Cassie Winters, Angela Kendera, or Garrett Martin at (202) 225-5051.