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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 08, 2008 | 73 DAYS UNTIL INAUGURATION

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AGENDA

PLAN TO CHANGE WASHINGTON

"I am in this race to tell the corporate lobbyists that their days of setting the agenda in Washington are over. I have done more than any other candidate in this race to take on lobbyists — and won. They have not funded my campaign, they will not run my White House, and they will not drown out the voices of the American people when I am president."

— Barack Obama, Speech in Des Moines, IA, November

10, 2007

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There is no more important resource for changing the direction of this country and defining the ideas that will transform America than the American people.

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The Problem

**Lobbyists Write National Policies:** For example, Vice President Dick Cheney's Energy Task Force of oil and gas lobbyists met secretly to develop national energy policy.

**Secrecy Dominates Government Actions:** The Bush administration has ignored public disclosure rules and has invoked a legal tool known as the "state secrets" privilege more than any other previous administration to get cases thrown out of civil court.

**Wasteful Spending is Out of Control:** The current administration has abused its power by handing out contracts without competition to its politically connected friends and supporters. These abuses cost taxpayers billions of dollars each year.

Barack Obama and Joe Biden's Plan

Shine the Light on Washington Lobbying

- **Centralize Ethics and Lobbying Information for Voters:** Obama and Biden will create a centralized Internet database of lobbying reports, ethics records, and campaign finance filings in a searchable, sortable and downloadable format.
- **Require Independent Monitoring of Lobbying Laws and Ethics Rules:** Obama and Biden will use the power of the presidency to fight for an independent watchdog agency to oversee the investigation of congressional ethics violations so that the public can be assured that ethics complaints will be investigated.

Shine the Light on Federal Contracts, Tax Breaks and Earmarks

- **Create a Public "Contracts and Influence" Database:** As president, Obama will create a "contracts and influence" database that will disclose how much federal contractors spend on lobbying, and what contracts they are getting and how well they complete them.
- **Expose Special Interest Tax Breaks to Public Scrutiny:** Barack Obama and Joe Biden will ensure that any tax breaks for corporate recipients — or tax earmarks — are also publicly available on the Internet in an easily searchable format.
- **End Abuse of No-Bid Contracts:** Barack Obama and Joe Biden will end abuse of no-bid contracts by requiring that nearly all contract orders over \$25,000 be competitively awarded.
- **Sunlight Before Signing:** Too often bills are rushed through Congress and to the president before the public has the opportunity to review them. As president, Obama will not sign any non-emergency bill without giving the American public an opportunity to review and comment on the White House website for five days.
- **Shine Light on Earmarks and Pork Barrel Spending:** Obama's Transparency and Integrity in Earmarks Act will shed light on all earmarks by disclosing the name of the legislator who asked for each earmark, along with a written justification, 72 hours before they can be approved by the full Senate.

Bring Americans Back into their Government

- **Hold 21st Century Fireside Chats:** Obama will bring democracy and policy directly to the people by requiring his Cabinet officials to have periodic national broadband townhall meetings to discuss issues before their agencies.
- **Make White House Communications Public:** Obama will amend executive orders to ensure that communications about regulatory policymaking between persons outside government and all White House staff are disclosed to the public.
- **Conduct Regulatory Agency Business in Public:** Obama will require his appointees who lead the executive branch departments and rulemaking agencies to conduct the significant business of the agency in public, so that any citizen can see in person or watch on the Internet these debates.
- **Release Presidential Records:** Obama and Biden will nullify the Bush attempts to make the timely release of presidential records more difficult.

Free the Executive Branch from Special Interest Influence

- **Close the Revolving Door on Former and Future Employers:** No political appointees in an Obama-Biden administration will be permitted to work on regulations or contracts directly and substantially related to their prior employer for two years. And no political appointee will be able to lobby the executive branch after leaving government service during the remainder of the administration.
- **Free Career Officials from the Influence of Politics:** Obama will issue an executive order asking all new hires at the agencies to sign a form affirming that no political appointee offered them the job solely on the basis of political affiliation or contribution.
- **Reform the Political Appointee Process:** FEMA Director Michael Brown was not qualified to head the agency, and the result was a disaster for the people of the Gulf Coast. But in an Obama-Biden administration, every official will have to rise to the standard of proven excellence in the agency's mission.

UPCOMING EVENTS



THE AGENDA

- Revitalizing the Economy
- Ending the War in Iraq
- Providing Health Care for All
- Protecting America
- Renewing American Global Leadership

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YOUR ADMINISTRATION

President-Elect  
Barack Obama

Vice President-Elect  
Joe Biden

TRANSITION DIRECTORY

**GSA Transition Directory**  
The Transition Directory was developed to introduce Presidential nominees, appointees, and members of the President-elect's Transition Team to the operation of the Federal government and to the resources available to help them begin their service in the new Administration.



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