



Politics 2009: *New Administration, New Congress*

February 9-10, 2009
The Brookings Institution
Washington, DC

Program Overview:

In January 2009, when the dust has settled, the new president has taken his oath of office, and the 111th Congress has been sworn in, *change* will be the buzz-word in Washington.

In this two-day seminar, you will explore the post-election dynamics in the nation's capital by engaging in lively and off-the-record conversations with current and future policy-makers. Benefit from briefings on the legislative priorities of the new Congress, the new administration's policy agenda, who the key players are, and more.

Benefits:

- Up-to-date awareness of changed political priorities
- Tips on how to reshape your legislative strategy
- An exclusive opportunity to learn from the best political analysts

Competencies:

- Strategic thinking
- External awareness
- Political savvy

Draft Agenda

Monday, February 9, 2009

8:00 a.m. Registration

The Brookings Institution

8:30 a.m. **Welcome and Program Overview**

- *Mary Ellen Joyce, Brookings Center for Executive Education*

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. **Keynote: Politics 2009**

- *Strobe Talbott, president of the Brookings Institution; former deputy secretary of state (invited)*

- 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Organizing the White House**
 During his first 100 days in office, the new president will have the weighty task of selecting key aides and assembling a policy-making apparatus to serve him throughout his presidency. This session will provide a framework for White House staffing in the new administration.
- *former White House chiefs of staff*
- 11:00 a.m. –
 12:00 noon **Key Members of the White House Staff: The Lineup**
 Those who inhabit the *West Wing* of the White House wield significant power in the policy-making process. A run-down on the new power-brokers will be provided in this session.
- 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. **The Vice President and the Cabinet**
 This session will provide an overview of the role and responsibilities of the new vice president and an early assessment of key departmental picks.
- 2:45 – 4:45 p.m. **It's the Economy—*Again***
 Regardless of which candidate wins in November, the number one priority for a new administration will be to stimulate a sluggish economy. Policy advisers to either McCain or Obama will discuss issues related to the housing and banking crisis, the future of Social Security, the federal budget, and trade policy.
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. **Reception with Key Hill Staffers**
 The evening gives participants an opportunity to network—and a unique chance to discuss policy issues with senior Capitol Hill aides.

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

- 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **American Foreign and Security Policy *after Iraq***
 When the troops withdraw from Iraq—currently scheduled for the end of 2011—the new president will be presented with an opportunity to establish a new direction for foreign and security policy. Leading policy advisers to the new president will outline basic components of the administration's international agenda in this session.
- 10:15 – 11:45 a.m. **Energy Policy Options and Climate Change**
 The next administration faces major challenges on the energy and environmental front: weaning the public off its gas fix and aggressively eliminating CO₂ emissions. Neither will be easy and the new president will have to expend valuable political capital to meet these urgent demands. Presidential campaign advisers and Washington insiders will outline the options and debates that will unfold in 2009.
- 12:00 – 1:45 p.m. Lunch and Discussion:
The Congressional Agenda
- *Member of congressional leadership*

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Health Care Reform

Another issue that will be on the front-burner regardless of who wins the election is health care. In this session, key advisors and policy-makers will discuss the various options facing the administration and Congress.

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

Government Reform and Management Issues?

Clinton and Gore had NPR; George W. Bush instituted the PMA. Public management experts anticipate a new management agenda will be announced by the White House within the first six months of taking office. This session will highlight anticipated elements of a government reform and management agenda.

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Reception and Book Signing

The Presidential Appointees Handbook

In a new book published by Brookings Press, management expert Ed DeSeve explains the key competencies needed for success at the highest levels of government. The book is written for appointees, military leaders, and members of the Senior Executive Service.