

Government's Greatest Endeavors of the Present

Endeavor	Description
Advance Human Rights and Provide Humanitarian Relief	Action to improve social conditions abroad by protecting human rights and providing relief aid, e.g., United Nations charter 1945, Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act 1986, Kosovo intervention 1999.
Balance Federal Budget	Action to reduce deficits and maintain a balanced federal budget, e.g., Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (Gramm-Rudman-Hollings) 1985, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act 1990, Omnibus Budget Reconciliation 1993, Balanced Budget Act 1997.
Control Immigration	Action to set and enforce standards on immigration, temporary admission, naturalization and the removal of aliens, e.g., Immigration and Nationality Act (McCarran-Walter) 1952, Immigration and Nationality Act amendments 1965, Immigration Reform and Control Act 1986, Immigration Act 1990.
Develop and Renew Impoverished Communities	Action to improve the quality of life in poor rural and urban areas, e.g., Appalachian Regional Development Act 1965, Demonstration Cities Act 1966, Community Renewal and New Markets Act 2000.
Devolve Responsibility to the States	Action to shift power from the federal government to the states, e.g., State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act (general revenue sharing) 1972, Unfunded Mandate Reform Act 1995, Education Flexibility Partnership Act, 1999.
Enhance Consumer Protection	Action to create safety standards and raise awareness of potential hazards, e.g., Amendments to Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act 1962; Fair Packaging and Labeling Act 1966; Consumer Product Safety Act 1972.
Enhance the Nation's Health Care Infrastructure	Action to build medical treatment and research facilities, e.g., Hospital Survey and Construction Act 1946; Mental Retardation Facilities Construction Act 1963; Heart Disease, Cancer and Stroke amendments 1965.
Enhance Workplace Safety	Action to reduce workplace hazards, e.g., Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act 1969, Occupational Safety and Health Act 1970.
Ensure an Adequate Energy Supply	Action to facilitate the development of domestic energy sources and promote conservation, e.g., Atomic Energy Act 1954, trans-Alaskan pipeline 1973, Energy Policy and Conservation Act 1975, Natural Gas Wellhead Decontrol Act 1989.
Ensure Equal Access to Public Accommodation	Action to desegregate public facilities and require handicapped accessibility, e.g., Civil Rights Act 1964, Open Housing Act 1968, Americans with Disabilities Act 1990.
Ensure Safe Food and Drinking Water	Action to establish and enforce food and water quality standards, e.g., Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act 1947; Wholesome Meat Act 1967; Safe Drinking Water Act 1974.
Expand and Protect the Right to Vote	Action to guarantee the right to vote for all Americans over 18, e.g., Civil Rights Act 1964, 24th Amendment 1964, Voting Rights Act 1965, 26th Amendment 1971.
Expand Foreign Markets for U.S. Goods	Action to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, e.g., Bretton-Woods Agreement Act 1945, North American Free Trade Agreement 1993, Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China 2000.

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Expand Home Ownership	Action to promote ownership through home loans and mortgages, e.g., Housing Act 1950, 1959; Tax Reform Act 1986.
Expand Job Training and Placement	Action to create jobs and provide vocational training, e.g., Employment Act 1946, Small Business Act 1953, Economic Opportunity Act 1964, Comprehensive Employment and Training Act 1973, Job Training Partnership Act 1982.
Help Victims of Disasters	Action to assist in disaster relief, prevention, and risk sharing, e.g., Disaster Relief Act 1950, National Flood Insurance Act 1968. Action to develop improved urban mass transportation and railway systems, e.g., Urban Mass Transportation Act 1964, Rail Passenger Service Act 1970.
Improve Air Quality	Action to control air pollution and raise air quality standards, e.g., Clean Air Act 1963, Motor Vehicle Pollution Control Act 1965.
Improve Elementary and Secondary Education	Action to enhance education from preschool through high school, e.g., National Defense Education Act 1958, Elementary and Secondary Education Act 1965, Head Start 1967.
Improve Government Performance	Action to enhance government efficiency, e.g., Civil Service Reform Act 1978, Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act 1982, Chief Financial Officers Act 1990, Government Performance and Results Acts 1993, Federal Acquisitions Streamlining Act 1994.
Improve Mass Transportation	Action to develop improved urban mass transportation and railway systems, e.g., Urban Mass Transportation Act 1964, Rail Passenger Service Act 1970.
Improve Water Quality	Action to control water pollution and raise water quality standards, e.g., Water Pollution Control Act 1948, 1972; Water Quality Act 1965, 1987.
Increase Access to Post-Secondary Education	Action to provide assistance for higher education through loans, grants, and fellowships and to build and improve facilities, e.g., Higher Education Facilities Act 1963, Higher Education Act 1965.
Increase Arms Control and Disarmament	Action to limit nuclear weapon development and use. e.g., Nuclear Test Ban Treaty 1963, Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty 1969, SALT/ABM Treaty 1972, Intermediate Range Nuclear Force Treaty 1988.
Increase International Economic Development	Action to provide aid for development, e.g., Establishment of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development under the Bretton-Woods Agreement Act 1945, Act for International Development 1950, Peace Corps 1961.
Increase Health Care Access for Low-Income Families	Action to provide health insurance to poor Americans, e.g., Medicaid 1965, Children's Health Insurance Program 1997.
Increase Market Competition	Action to deregulate industries including airlines, banks, utilities and telecommunications, e.g., Airline Deregulation Act 1978, Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (financial services overhaul) 1999.
Increase Health Care Access for Older Americans	Action to provide health insurance to older Americans, e.g., Medicare 1965, Catastrophic Health Insurance for the Aged 1988.

Government's Greatest Endeavors of the Present

Endeavor	Description
Increase the Stability of Financial Institutions and Markets	Action to increase access to financial market information, assist ailing institutions and avert potential problems, e.g., Securities and Exchange Act 1975; Insider Trading and Securities Fraud Enforcement Act 1988; Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act 1989.
Increase the Supply of Low-Income Housing	Action to develop new public housing and subsidize rents in private units, e.g., Housing Act 1949; Housing and Community Development Act 1965, 1974.
Make Government More Transparent to the Public	Action to increase public access to government activity and reduce administrative abuse, e.g., Administrative Procedures Act 1946; Freedom of Information Act 1966, 1974; Government in the Sunshine Act 1976; Ethics in Government Act 1978; Inspector General Act 1978.
Promote and Protect Democracy	Action to impede communism, e.g., Aid to Greece and Turkey 1947, North Atlantic Treaty 1949, Korean and Vietnam Wars.
Promote Financial Security in Retirement	Action to raise Social Security benefits, expand the number of recipients, ensure the program's solvency, protect private pensions and encourage individual savings for retirement, e.g., Social Security expansions, Supplemental Security Income program 1972, Employment Retirement Income Security Act 1974.
Promote Scientific and Technological Research	Action to support basic research and to develop new technologies, such as the Internet, e.g., National Science Foundation Act 1950, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency 1958, Communications Satellite Act 1962.
Promote Space Exploration	Action to develop the technology for a lunar landing and further space exploration, e.g., National Aeronautics and Space Administration Act 1958, Apollo mission funding 1962, funds for a manned space station 1984.
Protect Endangered Species	Action to prevent loss of threatened species, e.g., Marine Mammal Protection Act 1972, Endangered Species Act 1973.
Protect the Wilderness	Action to safeguard land from commercial and recreational development, e.g., Wilderness Act 1964, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act 1968, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act 1980.
Provide Assistance for the Working Poor	Action to raise the income of the working poor through tax credits, assistance with expenses and a guaranteed minimum wage, e.g., Earned Income Tax Credit 1975, Family Support Act 1988, increases to the minimum wage.
Reduce Crime	Action to increase law enforcement officers, strengthen penalties, control guns and support prevention programs, e.g., Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act 1968, 1994; Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act 1993.
Reduce Dependency Among Welfare Recipients	Action to increase self-sufficiency among welfare recipients, e.g., Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act 1981, Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act 1996.
Reduce Disease	Action to prevent and treat disease through research, direct assistance and regulation, e.g., Polio Vaccine Act 1955, National Cancer Act 1971.
Reduce Exposure to Hazardous Waste	Action to restore the environment and manage hazardous waste, e.g., Resource Conservation and Recovery Act 1976; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund) 1980.

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Reduce Hunger and Improve Nutrition	Action to provide food assistance to children and adults. e.g., National School Lunch Act 1946; Food Stamp Act 1964; Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) 1972.
Reduce Illegal Drug Use	Action to rehabilitate addicts and strengthen penalties for using and dealing drugs, e.g., Narcotic Control Act 1970, Anti-Drug Abuse Amendments 1988.
Reduce Workplace Discrimination	Action to prohibit employers from discriminating based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age or disability. e.g., Equal Pay Act 1963, Civil Rights Act 1964, Age Discrimination Act 1967, Americans with Disabilities Act 1990.
Reform Taxes	Action to lower tax rates. e.g., Revenue Act 1964, Economic Recovery Tax Act 1981, Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act 2001.
Stabilize Agricultural Prices	Action to support crop prices, distribute surpluses and control production. e.g., Agriculture Act 1948, 1961; Agriculture Trade Development and Assistance Act 1954; Food Security Act 1985.
Strengthen the National Defense	Action to build and modernize the national defense. e.g., authorization of tactical and strategic weapons systems, Department of Defense Reorganization Act 1958, Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act 1986.
Strengthen the Nation's Airways System	Action to create and maintain the air traffic control system and promote the safety and development of the air industry. e.g., Federal Airport Act 1946, Airport and Airways Development Act 1970.
Strengthen the Nation's Highway System	Action to build, improve and maintain the interstate highway system. e.g., Federal Aid to Highway Act 1956, Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act 1991.
Support Veterans Readjustment and Training	Action to assist veterans with their transition back to civilian life. e.g., Serviceman's Readjustment Act 1944, New GI Bill Continuation Act (Montgomery GI Bill) 1987.

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