

Children of Liberty Smaller Government Plan

The National Government is Too Big

- With over 15 departments and 200 independent agencies it cannot be managed by the president or fully grasped by the people or the media, effectively hiding the functions and spending of government.
- Similar functions are spread across multiple departments and agencies creating unnecessary overhead and cost.
- Federal agencies (as opposed to executive departments) should be eliminated if possible. They violate the principles of separation of powers and checks and balances. No government institution should hold concurrently legislative, executive, and judicial powers.
- Regulation should be reduced and controlled by Congress. Congress must take responsibility for the scope of its legislation.¹

What Must Change?

- Government must be reduced into seven executive departments and handful of independent government-sponsored groups.
- The structure of the bureaucracy must be streamlined reducing the number of individuals who report to the president or any mid-level bureaucrat.
- Common bureaucratic functions should be centralized whenever possible. For example, all executive legal services moved to justice.
- Truly independent, government-sponsored authorities (like the Federal Reserve Bank) should be minimized, virtually autonomous; and self-funding, if possible, or limited to a set appropriation or percentage maximum of fifty percent of total revenue.
- The following government functions should be conducted by groups outside of the executive departments that they serve or monitor as a safeguard against executive authority: Legal Counsel, Inspectors General, Freedom of Information Act requests, equal protection under the law oversight, and management and financial requirements and guidelines.

Benefits

- Reduced cost by eliminating inefficient and unneeded overhead.
- Consistent structure would create natural, efficient collaboration and provide clear functional, line, and staff authority.
- Separating audit, oversight, and FOIA requests from the departments that provide the service would improve accountability.
- Consistent group names, titles, and honorifics would correctly convey individual authority and hierarchy of organization.
- The people and media will more easily see the cost and functions of government.

¹ The Administrative Procedure Act of 1946 must be repealed. It allowed legislative and judicial powers to be incorporated into federal agencies.

Executive Departments Retained

- State
- Treasury
- Defense
- Justice
- Interior
- Welfare (new)
- Audit (new)

Executive Departments Eliminated²

- Agriculture
- Commerce
- Labor
- Health and Human Services
- Housing and Urban Development
- Transportation
- Energy
- Education
- Veterans Affairs
- Homeland Security

Examples of “Independent Groups” Moved To Executive Departments

- Federal Trade Commission
- Securities and Exchange Commission
- Social Security Administration
- NASA
- Tennessee Valley Authority
- Peace Corps
- Commission on Civil Rights

Examples of Retained “Independent Groups”

- Federal Reserve System
- Banking and Credit Groups
- US Olympic Committee
- National Parks Foundation

New Legislative Regulatory Group

- Congressional Regulatory Writers

New Judicial Courts

- The Regulatory Courts

A New Bureaucratic Hierarchy

1. President
2. Executive Department
3. Department
4. Division
5. Agency
6. Bureau
7. Office
8. Center

New Features

- The Presidential Service (between the Civil Service and political appointees)
- A new “regulatory” law-making process
- Federal Regulatory Courts
- Simplified, common naming-system
- A common management structure across all departments
- Enhanced role for the Vice-President
- A complete reorganization of bureaucratic management³
- Reduce the number of federal non-defense department policing authorizes from 42 to 3

² Eliminating executive departments or independent authorities does NOT mean eliminating all the functions of a department or authority.

³ See *The COL Smaller Government Organization Charts* for details.