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4.6 Ideas for the Office of Management and Budget



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President Joe Biden is in the midst of his first 100-day policy sprint.

In honor of the 46th President, we have come up with a “Four Point Six” memo. This is our set of 4.6 recommendations the Biden Administration should follow in governance to promote policies to restore fiscal balance, increase transparency and accountability, and reduce the deficit. These recommendations span government agencies from Defense to Agriculture, Interior to the Office of Management and Budget. You can read the full memo [here](#).

Why 4.6? We could have done 46 but we decided to begin with our top priorities, and we consider the “Point Six” recommendation to be the simplest place to start.

Read on.

Office of Management and Budget

- 1. Congressional Power of the Purse:** Publicly pledge to observe Congressional primacy in the appropriations process. Publicly post all [Antideficiency Act](#), [Impoundment Control Act](#), and [Purpose Statute action](#) on the websites of both the Office of Management and Budget and the Government Accountability Office websites.
- 2. Better Access:** Consolidate all the agency budget justification documents and make them available on one central website.
- 3. Budget at Glance:** Develop an understandable and relatively simple [Citizens Budget](#) as done by other countries and as recommended by the [International Budget Partnership](#). This is a non-technical, objective document released with the overall budget proposal. It would consist of simple and effective infographics, charts, and tables, such as a “Budget at a Glance” table showing revenue, spending, the budget balance, public debt

and other important information for the proposed budget and recent years. The existing summary tables are buried and not useful to the average citizen, and the budget narrative is little more than a press release by agency about what that particular president is trying to achieve. Budgets need to be more accessible. In addition, an actual evaluation of previous budget performance would be extremely useful.

4. Review and Update Legacy Instructions to Agencies: The current instruction to the Pentagon on how to determine whether to

request funding under base budget or the Overseas Contingency Operations slush fund is roughly a decade old and has been overcome by world events. No doubt there are other examples of outdated instructions to the agencies. Commit to a review and update of those instructions.

4.6. Fix the OMB Website. It's not obvious where to find the budget, and the flow is less intuitive than in **previous administrations**. In general, the site seems to be more about hiding information than providing it.



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This is an excerpt. Read the full Four Point Six memo at <https://www.taxpayer.net/budget-appropriations-tax/four-point-six/>

