STATEMENT: Q4 2020

PROTECT THE VOTE AND PREPARE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION

BUSINESS FORWARD
A record number of Americans cast their votes in this election, and for our democracy to work, all eligible voters must have their voices heard. It’s okay for citizens of good faith to disagree strongly, but we must reject those trying to divide us - and we must commit ourselves to helping the most vulnerable among us exercise their right to vote.

Before the election began, Business Forward joined America’s most respected CEOs in the Civic Alliance, a non-partisan group of businesses committed to protecting the democratic process, recognizing state and local election officials as trusted sources, and ensuring that every vote counts.

The work is not quite over, but more votes have been cast for Joe Biden than any candidate in the history of our democracy: the people have spoken, and their choice is president-elect Joe Biden.

Most Republican officials have called for all legal votes to be counted, but some continue attempts to shut down the process through the courts. It is fundamental to our democracy that every American's timely vote counts - and there is no basis for legal arguments that claim otherwise.

This report concludes a series of resources by Business Forward, featuring key facts, recommendations, and best practices for you and your employees throughout the election process. In the months leading up to November 3rd, nearly 500,000 business leaders joined Business Forward for one or more of our trainings.
KEY POINTS

THE VOTERS DECIDED, IN RECORD NUMBERS

More than 153 MILLION VOTES have been counted, a record high for U.S. presidential elections.¹

BIDEN WON DECISIVELY

ELECTORAL COLLEGE²

306
232

POPULAR VOTE³

51%
47.2%

79,804,027
73,776,924

CALLED BY EVERY MEDIA OUTLET⁴

DISRUPTING TRANSITION PLANNING WASTES TAXPAYER DOLLARS, PROLONGS THE PANDEMIC, AND THREATENS OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

More than 100 chief executives urge the transfer of power:

“Every day that an orderly presidential transition process is delayed, our democracy grows weaker in the eyes of our own citizens and the nation’s stature on the global stage is diminished...

Withholding resources and vital information from an incoming administration puts the public and economic health and security of America at risk.”⁵
THE TIMES CALLED OFFICIALS IN EVERY STATE: NO EVIDENCE OF VOTER FRAUD

NICK CORASANITI, REID J. EPSTEIN & JIM RUTENBERG
NOVEMBER 17, 2020

“...The November 3rd election was the most secure in American history... There is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost votes, changed votes, or was in any way compromised...

While we know there are many unfounded claims and opportunities for misinformation about the process of our elections, we can assure you we have the utmost confidence in the security and integrity of our elections, and you should too.”

REPUDIATING TRUMP, OFFICIALS SAY ELECTION ‘MOST SECURE’

“...The statement’s authors include the presidents of the National Association of State Election Directors and the National Association of Secretaries of State — who run elections at the state level — and the executive committee of the government-industry coordinating council that includes all the major voting equipment vendors.”

ERIC TUCKER & FRANK BAJAK
NOVEMBER 13, 2020

THE TIMES CALLED OFFICIALS IN EVERY STATE: NO EVIDENCE OF VOTER FRAUD

NICK CORASANITI, REID J. EPSTEIN & JIM RUTENBERG
NOVEMBER 17, 2020

The New York Times

THE CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

In 2018, President Trump signed the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act. The established Agency issued a statement on the 2020 election:

“The November 3rd election was the most secure in American history...

There is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost votes, changed votes, or was in any way compromised...

While we know there are many unfounded claims and opportunities for misinformation about the process of our elections, we can assure you we have the utmost confidence in the security and integrity of our elections, and you should too.”
THE OUTCOME WAS DECISIVE

GOP OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE RESULTS

GEORGE W. BUSH: “I just talked to the President-elect of the United States, Joe Biden. I extended my warm congratulations and thanked him for the patriotic message he delivered last night. I also called Kamala Harris to congratulate her on her historic election to the vice presidency. Though we have political differences, I know Joe Biden to be a good man, who has won his opportunity to lead and unify our country.”

SENATOR LAMAR ALEXANDER: “If there is any chance whatsoever that Joe Biden will be the next president, and it looks like he has a very good chance, the Trump Administration should provide the Biden team with all transition materials, resources, and meetings necessary to ensure a smooth transition so that both sides are ready on day one... The prompt and orderly transfer or reaffirmation of immense power after a presidential election is the most enduring symbol of our democracy.”

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS: “First, I would offer my congratulations to President-elect Biden on his apparent victory — he loves this country, and I wish him every success. Presidential transitions are important, and the President-elect and the Vice-President-elect should be given every opportunity to ensure that they are ready to govern on January 20th... The process has not failed our country in more than 200 years, and it is not going to fail our country this year.”

SENATOR LISA MURKOWSKI: “I congratulate President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris and will be ready to work with their administration when it takes office... it appears we will soon turn to the peaceful transition of power, which is fundamental to our system of democracy and ultimately honors the American people. Honoring their choice in who leads has always defined us and is the source of our exceptionalism.”

SENATOR PAT TOOMEY: “We’re on a path it looks likely Joe Biden is going to be the next president of the United States... It’s not 100% certain but it is quite likely, so I think a transition process ought to begin.”

CONGRESSMAN WILL HURD: “It’s time to come together. America has spoken and we must respect the decision. More unites us than divides us; we can find common ground. I hope the President-elect can embody this. I wish him good luck and I wish the President a successful final few weeks.”

- SENATOR MITT ROMNEY

Having failed to make even a plausible case of widespread fraud or conspiracy before any court of law, the President has now resorted to overt pressure on state and local officials to subvert the will of the people and overturn the election.

It is difficult to imagine a worse, more undemocratic action by a sitting American President.

- SENATOR MITT ROMNEY
In Pennsylvania...

Republicans tried to stop Philadelphia officials from counting absentee ballots because they were not allowed to have observers in the rooms where votes were counted.

But that wasn’t true - the Trump campaign ended up admitting to having “a nonzero number” of observers in the room - upon hearing this, U.S. District Judge Paul S. Diamond said:

“I’m sorry, then what’s your problem?”

In Michigan...

Republicans claimed they had “information and belief” that ballots with errors were fixed without any Republican officials there to observe.

The judge said evidence of misconduct was “mere speculation,” adding:

“The city of Detroit should not be harmed when there is no evidence to support accusations of voter fraud.”

In Wisconsin...

Once again, Republicans had no evidence of fraud, but that didn’t stop them from trying.

“Republicans searching for problems with Wisconsin election”

Courts are dismissing Trump campaign lawsuits because the Trump campaign cannot find evidence to support their claims.

As lawsuits fail, Republicans drop cases

“Republicans drop election suits in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin”

“The New York Times”

“Why election lawsuits by the Trump campaign have failed”

“Trump campaign abandons Arizona lawsuit”

“Meet Michigan’s ‘dead’ voters. They’re quite alive, despite false fraud claims”

“NOV 10, 2020”
ELECTION REFORMS COULD HELP US AVOID THESE PROBLEMS NEXT TIME

As we move forward from this election, we must prioritize reforms to help protect and strengthen our democracy. The For The People Act of 2019 (H.R. 1) is a strong place to start.17

Potential reforms include:

1. Modernizing voter registration through automatic voter registration, same-day and online registration, and protecting against flawed purges;

2. Restoring the Voting Rights Act;

3. Restoring voting rights to people with prior convictions;

4. Instituting nationwide early voting; and

5. Protecting against deceptive practices
BUSINESS LEADERS TO CONGRESS: WE MUST ENSURE AN EFFICIENT TRANSFER OF POWER

THE LETTER:

Officials across the Federal government should be working with President-elect Biden’s incoming Administration to ensure an efficient transition of power. Instead, President Trump has ordered these officials to ignore their duty and withhold information, office space, help with background checks, and funding. It wastes our tax dollars, and it could delay needed relief for businesses like ours.

Citizens of good faith can disagree on the issues, but President-elect Biden’s victory has been reviewed and confirmed by election officials across the battleground states. It’s time for Congress to call on President Trump to do his job and allow Federal officials to do theirs.

MORE THAN 550 BUSINESS LEADERS SIGNED ONTO THIS LETTER, INCLUDING:

Abdul Wahab, Everett, MA
Aeline Ostolaza, Alexandria, VA
Agapi Kouroppoulos, San Leandro, CA
Agaytha Corbin, Dayton, OH
Aimee Can Dyne, Lenox, MA
Aimee Vandyne, Lenox, MA
Alan Baum, West Bloomfield, MI
Alexander Fuentes, Midlothian, TX
Alexnader Koukoulas, Savannah, GA
Alfred Carter, Farmington, MI
Alwen Bauer, Palos Verdes Estates, CA
Amelia Duroska, Bethesda, MD
Amelia Jones, Santa Monica, CA
Andrea Ewart, Washington, DC
Andrew Gresko, Highland Mills, NY
Andrew Kung, Vancouver, WA
Andrew Sutton, Kingwood, TX
Angelo Madrigale, Brooklyn, NY
Angie Heide, Portland, OR
Ann Jones, Columbus, IN
Ann Rennacker, Fort Bragg, CA
Ann Sprayregen, New York, NY

Anne Johnson, Rochester, NY
Annick Richardson, Dayton, OH
Annie Stone, Boone, NC
Anthony Miller, Buffalo, NY
Anthony Tartaro, Syracuse, NY
Ariane Laxo, Saint Paul, MN
Arlene Burkhardt, Bloomingdale, IL
Arshad Ameen, Memphis, TN
Arthelia Agerston, Odenville, AL
Ashley Stelfox, Menlo Park, CA
Audrey O’Hagan, Watertown, MA
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Barbara Carrothers, Lawrenceville, GA
Barbara Hanson, Tucson, AZ
Barbara L Olson, Monroe, OH
Barbara MacCarone, Haverhill, MA
Barranca Wren, Vallecito, CA
Barry Greenhill, Reston, VA
Barry White, Boston, MA
Beatriz Ramirez, Peoria, IL
Becca Clark, Miami, FL
Ben Haney, Bullhead City, AZ
As an architecture firm, we work with government agencies and corporations that cannot proceed with their projects in uncertain climates. We need our democracy to operate smoothly in order for our businesses to thrive.

- ARIANE LAXO
SAINT PAUL, MN

As a small business, certainty for the future is critical for business and the sooner we achieve certainty, the likelihood of achieving success is high.

- BRYAN YEH
WALNUT CREEK, CA

Ensuring an efficient transition is important to my business because it helps to understand how regulations may change.

- CAROL BRATHWAITE
GREENSBORO, NC

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WALNUT CREEK, CA

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- CAROL BRATHWAITE
GREENSBORO, NC
During an economic crisis, it’s especially important that we ensure an efficient transition from one administration to another so we can be ready to fix the economy in the new Congress.

- CORNELIA MOORE
NEW YORK, NY

As a business owner, the uncertainty surrounding the presidential transition makes it difficult to plan for the future. National volatility and chaos affect all business but particularly small-business. These factors have a domino effect on those that rely upon and look to business owners to generate opportunities.

- EULONDA LEA
SACRAMENTO, CA

A smooth transition to the new administration isn’t an option--it’s urgently needed now.

- GREGORY HAUTH
EVERETT, WA
For the nation and business to get on the right track, we must first conquer the coronavirus. Biden needs to be able to put his plans in place as soon as possible without further delays. In addition, a smooth transition will ensure that international and domestic supply chains continue to function without disruption.

- JUDY SIGUAW
WINTERVILLE, NC

As a small business, continuity to operations are imperative. The same is true for our nation and safety.

- KEESHA CROSBY
FAIRFAX, VA

An efficient transition is important because the actions of the president should not be determined out of personal prejudice.

- JAMES LOTT
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA

SIGNATORIES

Gregory Hauth, Everett, WA
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Jody Gibson, Des Moines, IA
Joe Meyer, Amery, WI
Joe Reddix, Hanover, MD
John Burg, Grenville, SD
John Cavanaugh, Columbus, OH
John Duffy, Hatboro, PA
John Dwyer, Huntley, IL
John Long, Buffalo, NY
John Pagnani, Colchester, CT
John Robinson, New York, NY
John Sechrest, Renton, WA
Jonathan Gigear, Columbia, SC
The country is already going through a financial crisis. This delay in transition will cost more to the country and ultimately will come out of taxpayers pocket.

- KOMAL GOYAL
DENVER, CO

The Trump administration’s slow-moving response to the transfer of power process adds on another unnecessary layer of uncertainty and barrier for business owners that already have to navigate turbulent, unfair circumstances.

- KRISTI TALLY
RALEIGH, NC

The pandemic, poorly managed by this Administration, is creating tremendous uncertainty and risks to our health and prosperity.

- MATTHEW DICKSON
LAS VEGAS, NV
Ensuring an efficient transition is important to our nation security, the national response to COVID-19 and to the passing of another bill to help small businesses, the unemployed, and those working less because of the rapid spread of the coronavirus.

- LAUREN LUNDE
  MIMS, FL

Our organization depends on the national government operating consistently in order to function effectively.

- PAUL GERHARDT
  ALEXANDRIA, VA

National security is important to all businesses. We need to get past this partisanship and get down to business.

- PEGGY L VAN SICKLE
  BRIGHTON, MI
SIGNATORIES

Patricia MacDonald, Avoca, NY
Patricia McGowan, Richmond, VA
Patricia Quinn, Salt Lake City, UT
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Patti Blevins, Phillips, ME
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Paul Gerhardt, Alexandria, VA
Paul Ioannidis, Mount Airy, MD
Paul Madzik, Bethel, CT
Peggy Detmers, Rapid City, SD
Peggy Garner, Plattsburgh, NY
Peggy Hueter, Huntsville, AL
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Phil Foster, Easton, MD
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Rachel Thibodeaux, Pearland, TX
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Rayna Handelman, Dallas, TX
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Richard Camp, San Bernardino, CA
Richard H. Bowie, Edmonds, WA
Richard Han, Ann Arbor, MI
Richard N Huff, Fort Wayne, IN
Rick Hoffman, Farley, IA
Rickey Morris Jr, Houston, TX
Rob Freda, Princeton, NJ
Robert Fingerman, Monteagle, TN
Robert Fitzgerald, Pittsburgh, PA
Robert Glovsky, Delray Beach, FL
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Samuel Isaiah Ragland, Austin, TX
Sandra Klueger, Lomira, WI
Sandra Wills, Atlanta, GA
Sandy Barnard, Westbrook, ME
Sandy Cromer, Abbottstown, PA
Sandy Rhein, Metairie, LA
Sanja Futterman, Seattle, WA

The health of our economy and the services needed by our unemployed citizens and businesses depend upon a smooth, robust handover of agency responsibilities.

- JEFF KAPLAN
ARLINGTON, VA

Solving the COVID crisis, providing needed economic relief to Americans, rebuilding our economy, and protecting our national security are all dependent on a smooth transition of administrations.

- STEPHEN HAMS
LOS ALTOS, CA

Delays are hurting the general economy, by creating discord and uncertainty.

- KEVIN JONES
MONROEVILLE, PA
The various departments of the federal government need to begin working with the President-elect and his transition team to maintain our country’s security and a smooth transition to the new administration. This is how a peaceful transition has always been achieved in our democracy.

- JANICE DUSEK
  NAPERVILLE, IL

Businesses rely on stability in order to plan on future events like expanding into new markets and hiring personnel or purchasing new equipment. Without said stability, businesses will fail and damage the economy because they will be forced to issue layoffs and/or furlough personnel.

- JOSHUA LEWIS
  SAINT LOUIS, MO
REFERENCES

2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.