



# The Ferguson Group LLC



## **THE FEDERAL TRANSITION AND YOU AN OVERVIEW OF THE TRANSITION TO A NEW PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS**

**HOW YOUR COMMUNITY SHOULD  
PREPARE, ENGAGE, AND BENEFIT**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2008**



# Introduction

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- Welcome
- **You should now be able to hear the presentation. If you can not, turn up your volume on your computer. If that fails, call into the backup line:**
  - **1-800-377-8846 and enter Passcode: 2690 1245#**
- Overview of Presidential and Congressional Transition Processes
- Observations on the Transition of Power and the Risks and Opportunities for Local Governments
- Hot Issues for 2009
- Preparing Your Community for the Transition

# Today's Presenters

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Joe Raeder, partner, specializes in water resources and environmental issues, including legislation and policies affecting the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Prior to joining the Ferguson Group in 1994, Joe served on Capitol Hill for more than 10 years.



Ken Brown, partner, advises clients on federal funding, regulatory solutions, and other tools to facilitate local climate and energy projects, brownfields renewal, & economic development. He directs the Climate Communities coalition of local governments .

Ken previously served on Capitol Hill and also served as executive director of the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals.



Bill Hanka, partner, represents city and county governments and joint power authorities to advance their federal appropriations, authorization, and regulatory agendas.

Bill joined TFG in 2000, bringing ten years of experience working in Congress and at the White House.

# Background on The Ferguson Group

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- Founded in 1982 by William Ferguson, Jr.
- Bipartisan government relations consulting firm
- Among the top 15 non-law lobbying firms in DC
- Represent 150 client in 27 states
- Largest federal representative of local governments in Washington, DC



# Obama Administration Transition: The Process

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- **Appoint White House senior staff**
- **Nominate Cabinet secretaries**
- **Recruit other personnel**
  - Sub-Cabinet
  - Other White House staff
- **Conduct thorough review of key departments, agencies and commissions**
  - Agency Review Teams



# Obama Administration Transition: Key Players

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- **Transition team**

- John Podesta, Valerie Jarrett, Pete Rouse

- **White House Appointments to Date**

- Ron Klain - Chief of Staff to the Vice President
- Rahm Emanuel - Chief of Staff
- Pete Rouse – Deputy Chief of Staff
- Mona Sutphen - Deputy Chief of Staff
- Valerie Jarrett - Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Relations and Public Liaison
- David Axelrod - Senior Advisor
- Phil Schiliro - Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
- Gregory Craig - White House Counsel

# Obama Administration Transition: Key Players

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## **Cabinet Nominees to Date**

- Attorney General: Eric Holder
- Health & Human Services: Tom Daschle
- Secretary of State: Hillary Clinton?

# Obama Administration Transition: Observations

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- **Appointing people with Washington experience**
  - Congressional experience, knowledge and relationships
  - Former Clinton Administration personnel
- **Change + experience = Hit the ground running**
- **Focus on local governments**
  - First President from large city in ages
  - Establishing a White House Office of Urban Policy
  - Tapping think tanks with urban experience
- **Energy and Economy will be big**
  - May be National Energy Council in White House

# Congressional Transition: The Process

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- Selection of committee chairs and membership
- Selection of House and Senate leadership
- Confirmation of Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet nominees
- Selection of issue priorities



# Congressional Transition: Key Changes

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- House: 255 Democrats, 175 Republicans, 5 seats undecided (19-24 Dem pick-up)
- Senate: 58 Democrats (includes 2 Independents who caucus with the Democrats), 39 Republicans, 2 seats undecided (7-9 Dem pick-up)
- House and Senate Democratic leadership will be essentially the same
- House Republican leadership changing
- Senate committee leadership changing

# Congressional Transition: Observations

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- If united, House Democrats will control agenda
- House Blue Dog Democrats will be key
- Senate Democrats + moderate Republicans = 60+ votes
- Moderate Democrats and Republicans will have substantial power in House and Senate

# Q&A

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- **Type questions your questions in the text box on right of your screen**

# Issue Agenda

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- Economic Recovery
- FY 2009 Appropriations
- FY 2010 Budget
- Energy
- Climate
- Transportation
- Infrastructure
- Health Care
- Iraq, Afghanistan / National Security

# How Your Community Can Get Involved?

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***Establish your community's federal priorities and connect to emerging national program and funding opportunities:***

- Job creation and economic development
- Infrastructure (transportation, water, sewer, etc.)
- Clean energy & energy efficiency
- Environmental clean-up and restoration

# How Your Community Can Get Involved?

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## ***Join local government efforts to influence national policies***

- U.S. Conference of Mayors' "Main Street Stimulus"
- City coalition to protect auto manufacturing communities
- Climate Communities/ICLEI local climate action campaign
- NACo's "American County Platform"
- National Association of Towns & Townships federal action agenda

# How Your Community Can Get Involved?

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## ***Contact your House and Senate Members***

- Educate them about your federal priorities
- Help them understand how success on these issues will further their own objectives and priorities
- Build relationships with the new administration
- Tee up your priorities for stimulus legislation
- Have FY2010 project appropriations requests ready to go by January!

# More Federal Transition & Policy Guidance for Localities

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- **Upcoming events**
  - **Transportation Reauthorization, Policies & Funding**  
(December 3, 3 PM Eastern)
  - **Public Safety, Homeland Security, and Emergency Preparedness & Response** (December 17, 3 PM Eastern)
  - **Energy, Environment, Water & Climate Change**  
(January 7, 3 PM Eastern)
  - TFG Transition Papers – more to come
  - Key federal funding deadlines for localities: January – March 2009

# Q&A



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**Thank you for participating**

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