

For audio, select

Join Audio Conference by Computer

or

Call: 1-470-869-2200 (U.S. toll)
Meeting ID: 148 1962246

Having Trouble?

Email Ben at bgoodrich@coffa.org

Welcome to



The webinar will begin momentarily.
Your line has been muted.

CSSA HEADLINES

A monthly look at what's new and noteworthy in social science policy

February 11, 2021

- ❑ This Month's HEADLINES
- ❑ This Month's DEEP DIVE:
President Biden's First Weeks
- ❑ This Month's HOMEWORK



Wendy Naus



Julia Milton



Ben Goodrich

This Month's Headlines



CONGRESS

- House Appropriations Leadership Finalized
 - More: <https://www.cossa.org/2021/02/02/house-appropriations-leadership-finalized/>

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- Early Days of Biden Administration Marked by Slew of Executive Actions
 - More: <https://www.cossa.org/2021/02/02/early-days-of-biden-administration-marked-by-slew-of-executive-actions/>
- Biden's Science Team Announced; Alondra Nelson Tapped for New "Science and Society" Role
 - More: <https://buildbackbetter.gov/press-releases/president-elect-biden-announces-key-members-of-his-white-house-science-team/>
- NIH Launches New COVID-19 Research Website
 - More: <https://covid19.nih.gov/>
- NSF Solicitation on "Future of Work" Encourages Social Science Proposals
 - More: <https://www.cossa.org/2021/01/19/nsf-solicitation-on-future-of-work-encourages-social-science-proposals/>



COMMUNITY

- CNSTAT Seeking Experts on Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation for NIH
 - More: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6175611/Measuring-Sex-Gender-Identity-and-Sexual-Orientation-for-the-National-Institutes-of-Health>
- AERA and Spencer Foundation Release Report on COVID-19 Impacts on Doctoral Students and Early Career Scholars
 - More: https://www.aera.net/Portals/38/VoicesFromTheField_WEB_final.pdf
- American Statistical Association Launches New Monthly Podcast
 - More: <https://magazine.amstat.org/podcast-2/>

COSSA

- Save the Date for Social Science Advocacy Day 2021
 - More: <https://www.cossa.org/event/2021-advocacy-day/>
- "Why Social Science?" Focuses on COVID-19 Vaccination
 - More: www.whysocialscience.com



WASHINGTON UPDATE

Subscribe for more news: www.cossa.org/washington-update

Deep Dive

President Biden's First Weeks



Presidential Documents

Title 3—

The President

Memorandum of January 27, 2021

Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

It is the policy of my Administration to make evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data. Scientific and technological information, data, and evidence are central to the development and iterative improvement of sound policies, and to the delivery of equitable programs, across every area of government. Scientific findings should never be distorted or influenced by political considerations. When scientific or technological information is considered in policy decisions, it should be subjected to well-established scientific processes, including peer review where feasible and appropriate, with appropriate protections for privacy. Improper political interference in the work of Federal scientists or other scientists who support the work of the Federal Government and in the communication of scientific facts undermines the welfare of the Nation, contributes to systemic inequities and injustices, and violates the trust that the public places in government to best serve its collective interests.

This memorandum reaffirms and builds on the Presidential Memorandum of March 9, 2009 (Scientific Integrity), and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy's Memorandum of December 17, 2010 (Scientific Integrity).

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I direct as follows:

Section 1. *Role of the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.* The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (Director) shall ensure the highest level of integrity in all aspects of executive branch involvement with scientific and technological processes. This responsibility shall include ensuring that executive departments and agencies (agencies) establish and enforce scientific-integrity policies that ban improper political interference in the conduct of scientific research and in the collection of scientific or technological data, and that prevent the suppression or distortion of scientific or technological findings, data, information, conclusions, or technical results. In implementing this memorandum, the Director shall, as appropriate, convene and confer with the heads of agencies and with personnel within the offices of the Executive Office of the President, including the Office of Management and Budget.

Putting Social and Behavioral Science to Work for America

10 Recommendations to the Biden Administration


CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS
www.COSSA.org • www.WhySocialScience.com

DECEMBER 2020


CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS

2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA Putting Social and Behavioral Science to Work for America

From COVID-19 to racial inequity, climate change to a struggling economy, a disrupted educational system to record-breaking unemployment, the country finds itself in urgent need of immediate policy solutions—solutions that are based on unbiased, sound, and reliable science. Fortunately, there is virtually no aspect of human life that cannot be informed by research in the social and behavioral sciences.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that “business as usual” policies and practices, even when it comes to science, are not enough. Congress can strengthen the U.S. scientific enterprise by making it more sustainable, diverse, and responsive to emerging needs. By investing in and utilizing social and behavioral science insights, we can put people back at the center of policymaking.

Learn more at: <https://www.cossa.org/policy/2021-transition/>

I Restore Trust in Science and Government Data

Over the last four years, executive orders and other actions have hindered the ability of the federal government to receive unbiased, politically neutral scientific advice. Scientific advisory committees and task forces have been stacked with appointees having little to no relevant science background, while other advisory bodies have been effectively terminated altogether. In addition, the independence and autonomy of statistical agencies has been eroded by abuses and bureaucratic red tape at the hands of the previous administration.

The American public deserves a government that uses science as a tool for progress, rather than an instrument for advancing political agendas. Congress can advance this goal by strengthening the integrity and independence of the nation’s scientific and data enterprise and ensuring that the government has access to scientific advice that is independent, credible, and free from politics.

COSSA calls on the 117th Congress to:

- ▶ Recommit to the use of well-qualified, independent, unbiased scientific advice in effective policymaking.
- ▶ Reconstitute lapsed and eliminated advisory committees for science and statistical agencies.
- ▶ Protect the integrity, stature and independence of the federal statistical system to preserve trust in federal data.
- ▶ Ensure statistical agencies have the authority to operate independently within their respective departments and agencies.



II Champion Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Science

We know from social and behavioral science research that our country is governed by social systems that were designed to bestow advantages and disadvantages unequally. The social and behavioral sciences have helped to

CONSORTIUM of SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS
1430K Street NW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20008
www.cossa.org


40 YEARS OF ADVOCACY & ACTION

Key Appointments

- Science team announced prior to inauguration:
 - Eric Lander – OSTP Director/President’s Science Advisor
 - ✓  • Elevated to cabinet position
 - Alondra Nelson (SSRC) – Deputy Director for Science and Society
 - ✓  • New/expanded position
 - Francis Collins – Stay on as NIH Director (third Presidential Administration)

Executive Order on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology



- Reestablish PCAST – 26 member
- Chairs:
 - Eric Lander – OSTP Director-designate/Science Advisor
 - Frances Arnold, Caltech chemical engineer
 - Maria Zuber, MIT astronomer

Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking



- States the Administration’s policy to “**make evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data**” and affirms that “**scientific findings should never be distorted or influenced by political considerations.**”
- Builds on and updates Obama EO requiring federal agencies develop scientific integrity policies.
- **Task Force on Scientific Integrity** – review existing scientific integrity policies and recommend improvements.
 - More detailed requirements for **what should be included** in agency scientific integrity policies and outlines how these policies should complement agencies’ **evidence-building plans** required by the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act
 - Requires agencies that fund, conduct, or oversee scientific research designate **Chief Science Officers** and **Scientific Integrity Officials**.



Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government



- **Reverses Trump’s “Race and Sex Stereotyping” EO** and related actions prohibiting trainings and other activities that touch on white privilege, structural inequality, implicit bias, etc.
- Outlines a systematic approach for assessing whether policies create or exacerbate barriers to full and equal participation



- **Interagency Working Group on Equitable Data**
 - Facilitate **collection of detailed demographic data** to measure and advance equity
 - Co-chaired by Chief Statistician and Chief Technology Officer

Executive Order on Ensuring a Data-Driven Response to COVID-19 and Future High-Consequence Public Health Threats

- COVID-19 response to be “**guided by the best available science and data**, including by building back a better public health infrastructure”
- Facilitate **sharing of COVID data** among federal, state, local, and Tribal governments
- Ensure de-identified COVID **data is open to the public**
- HHS secretary to ensure interconnectivity/interoperability of public health data systems, review state and local collection of morbidity and mortality data
- OSTP/NSTC to develop plan for advancing innovation in public health data and analytics

Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis

- Review and reverse Trump Administration actions “harmful to public health, damaging to the environment, unsupported by the best available science, or otherwise not in the national interest”
- Revisions to Social Cost of Carbon, Methane, and Nitrous Oxide measurements of emissions to better quantify impacts on social systems
- Center “climate considerations” in U.S. foreign policy and national security; rejoins international climate efforts
- Establishes White House **Office of Domestic Climate Policy** and interagency **National Climate Task Force**

Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

Executive Order on Ensuring a Lawful and Accurate Enumeration and Apportionment Pursuant to the Decennial Census



- Population counts from the 2020 Census will reflect the total number of residents, regardless of citizenship or immigration status
- Census Bureau announced indefinite **suspension of work to develop citizenship estimates** and include them in redistricting or reapportionment counts
- Census will take additional time to produce **redistricting and reapportionment data**



Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce



- Revokes creation of “**Schedule F**” employee classification
- Schedule F: new class of employee defined as those in “positions of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character that are not normally subject to change as a result of a Presidential transition”

Proclamation on Ending Discriminatory Bans on Entry to The United States



- Ends **travel ban** on individuals from certain majority-Muslim countries
- Eases **tight visa restrictions** and intrusive screening of individuals' social media accounts
- Potential shift in research security policy away from immigration restriction and towards **National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM)-33**

What's Left

- Other important nominations/appointments (e.g. Census Director, OJP/NIJ/BJIS)
- Lapsed and eliminated federal advisory committees
- Improvements to federal statistical agencies
- Government plan for addressing systemic racism and barriers to STEM careers
- Directing agencies to develop DEI policies related to grant-making
- Policies on sexual harassment in science
- More SBS expertise serving in Executive Branch
- Increase funding support for SBS research and all science relative to GDP

Homework Assignment



- Encourage colleagues to sign up for COSSA Washington Update (email jmilton@coffa.org)
- Mark your calendar for **Social Science Advocacy Day** – April 27, 2021





- Tune in** each month – 2nd Thursday
- Tell your colleagues to **sign up for COSSA Member Messages and Alerts—MEMBERS ONLY** (*email Julia at jmilton@cossa.org*)
- Encourage other organizations and universities to **Join COSSA** (*email Wendy at wnaus@cossa.org*)
- Send us your ideas** for DEEP DIVES (*email Ben at bgoodrich@cossa.org*)

Recordings of Past Headlines Available @

www.cossa.org/resources/headlines



PAST DEEP DIVE TOPICS:

- January 2021: COVID-19 Vaccination Communication
- December 2020: 2021 Policy Landscape
- November 2020: 2020 Election
- October 2020: Election Polling
- September 2020: Tracking School Reopening Plans
- August 2020: The Psychology of COVID-19
- July 2020: The Societal Experts Action Network (SEAN)
- June 2020: A Conversation on Police Violence
- May 2020: A Conversation with an Epidemiologist
- April 2020: Communication Strategies in an Emerging Public Health Crisis
- March 2020: White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Updates
- Feb 2020: The Trump Administration's FY 2021 Budget Request



Wendy Naus

Executive Director

Email: wnaus@coffa.org

Visit Us:

www.coffa.org

www.whysocialscience.com



@COSSADC ★ #WhySocialScience



@SocialScienceAssociations



www.linkedin.com/company/coffadc