



February 16, 2021

Building Better Government: Priorities and Challenges for the New Administration

Contact Info:

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Related Content:

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Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Now that the U.S. has a new president and Democratic control of Congress, governmental reform will be high on the agenda in Washington, D.C. What should be on that agenda? How can reform ideas be adopted and implemented in a partisan political atmosphere? And how can reform be used to strengthen public trust in government?

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This panel conversation will feature leading experts on government reform and innovation: Philip Howard and Peter Schuck, coauthors of a [recent op-ed](#) calling for the creation of an independent commission focused on reform, and Elaine Kamarck, head of the “reinventing government initiative” during the Clinton Administration. Professor Cary Coglianese, Edward B. Shils Professor of Law and Professor of Political Science, and Director of Penn Program on Regulation, will moderate.

Speakers:

Philip K. Howard, Senior Counsel at Covington & Burling, LLP, is one of America’s leading authorities on simplifying government, streamlining regulations, and instituting legal reform, and works closely with public officials, corporate executives, academics, and judges across the country. He is the author of the influential best-seller, *The Death of Common Sense: How Law Is Suffocating America* (1995, re-released in 2010 with new afterword). His latest book is *Try Common Sense: Replacing the Failed Ideologies of Right and Left* (2019). He also writes periodically for the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and other publications. Howard’s 2015 report, “Two Years, Not Ten Years,” delineated the economic and environmental costs of delayed infrastructure approvals, and was endorsed by leaders of both major political parties. He was a member of President Donald Trump’s CEO Council, advising on infrastructure, and regularly testifies before Congress. In 2002, Howard formed Common Good, a nonpartisan national coalition dedicated to implementing a new governing vision for America—one that focuses on replacing red tape with individual accountability.

Elaine C. Kamarck is a Senior Fellow in the Governance Studies program and the Director of the Center for Effective Public Management at the Brookings Institution. She is an expert on American electoral politics and government innovation and reform in the United States, OECD nations, and developing countries. She has been a member of the Democratic National Committee and the

DNC's Rules Committee since 1997. She has participated actively in four presidential campaigns and in ten nominating conventions—including two Republican conventions—and has served as a superdelegate to five Democratic conventions. In the 1980s, she was one of the founders of the New Democrat movement that helped elect Bill Clinton president. She served in the White House from 1993 to 1997, where she created and managed the Clinton Administration's National Performance Review, also known as the Administration's "reinventing government initiative." Kamarck is also a Lecturer in Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government—a role she has held since leaving the White House. She is the author of *Why Presidents Fail and How They Can Succeed Again* (2016), and *How Change Happens—or Doesn't: The Politics of US Public Policy* (2013).

Peter H. Schuck is the Simeon E. Baldwin Professor of Law Emeritus at Yale Law School, where he also served as Deputy Dean. He currently is a scholar in residence at New York University. His major fields of teaching and research were tort law; immigration, citizenship, and refugee law; groups, diversity, and law; and administrative law. Among his books are *One Nation Undecided: Clear Thinking about Five Hard Issues That Divide Us* (2017); *Why Government Fails So Often, and How It Can Do Better* (2014); *Understanding America: The Anatomy of an Exceptional Nation* (co-edited with James Q. Wilson, 2008); and *The Limits of Law: Essays on Democratic Governance* (2000). Before becoming a professor, he practiced private and public interest law and was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for policy planning at DHEW in Washington. He has published more than 200 articles on a wide variety of subjects in scholarly, professional, and popular journals. He has served as an arbitrator, expert witness, and consultant in a variety of disputes, and has testified in dozens of congressional hearings. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2015. Earlier, he was awarded a Harvard Graduate Prize Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a residency at the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center, and a Fulbright Senior Fellowship to lecture in India.