

# Optimistic Foresight

(Beyond the next 4-8 years...)



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**Vs.**

“A pessimist is one who makes **DIFFICULTIES** of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes **OPPORTUNITIES** of his difficulties.”  
-Harry S. Truman



**Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.**

COLIN POWELL



AZ QUOTES

# Disclaimer

“Any commissioned officer who uses contemptuous words against the President, the Vice President, Congress, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of a military department, the Secretary of Transportation, or the Governor or legislature of any State, Territory, Commonwealth, or possession in which he is on duty or present shall be punished as a court-martial may direct.”

- UCMJ Article 88: Contempt Towards Officials

As a commissioned officer in the U.S. Coast Guard, this presentation is entirely apolitical. It is designed to unpack the risks and opportunities presented to the foresight community in light of a new and very different administration. The content contained herein should stimulate intelligent dialogue within the foresight community. If you would like my opinion about politics, please ask me on 2 August 2018, at which point I will no longer be a commissioned officer.

# “Contract with the American Voter”

In order to clean up Washington, Trump plans to address six key points:

1. Propose a Constitutional Amendment to **impose term limits on all members of Congress**.
2. A **hiring freeze** on all federal employees to reduce federal workforce through attrition (exempting military, public safety, and public health).
3. A requirement that for every new federal regulation, two existing regulations must be **eliminated**.
4. A **5-year ban** on White House and Congressional officials becoming **lobbyists** after they leave government service.
5. A **lifetime ban** on **White House officials lobbying** on behalf of a **foreign government**.
6. A **complete ban** on **foreign lobbyists** raising money for American elections.

Trump proposes seven actions that his administration would undertake in order to protect American workers:

1. I will announce my intention to **renegotiate NAFTA or withdraw** from the deal under Article 2205.
2. I will announce our **withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership**.
3. I will direct my Secretary of the Treasury to **label China a currency manipulator**.
4. I will direct the Secretary of Commerce and U.S. Trade Representative to **identify** all foreign trading abuses that unfairly impact American workers and direct them to use every tool under American and international law to **end those abuses immediately**.
5. I will **lift the restrictions on the production** of \$50 trillion worth of job-producing American energy reserves, including shale, oil, natural gas and clean coal.
6. I will lift the Obama-Clinton roadblocks and allow vital energy infrastructure projects, like the **Keystone Pipeline**, to move forward.
7. I will **cancel billions in payments to U.N. climate change programs** and use the money to fix America's water and environmental infrastructure.

# “Contract with the American Voter”

The final part of Trump's plan, designed to restore national security, includes five steps that he himself would take:

1. **Cancel every unconstitutional executive action, memorandum and order issued by President Obama.**
2. Begin the process of selecting a **replacement for Justice Scalia** from one of the 20 judges on my list, who will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.
3. **Cancel all federal funding** to Sanctuary Cities.
4. **Begin removing the more than 2 million criminal illegal immigrants** from the country and cancel visas to foreign countries that won't take them back.
5. **Suspend immigration from terror-prone regions** where vetting cannot safely occur. All vetting of people coming into our country will be considered extreme vetting.

Trump also listed several pieces of legislation he planned to pursue in conjunction with Congress at the beginning of his presidency. Some of the issues he plans to address through that legislation are as follows:

1. His **tax** plan
2. **Tariffs** to prevent jobs from going overseas
3. A **revenue neutral** energy plan
4. A **school choice** plan that ends Common Core
5. A plan that **repeals Obamacare** and replaces it with health savings accounts
6. A plan for **affordable child and dependent care**
7. **The wall**

## Risks

1. Dogmatic ideology shuts down new ideas
2. Foresight community is lumped in with “government” as a whole
3. Foresight goes “down the drain” with the rest of the “swamp”
4. Lack of vision focuses solely on immediate problems and neglects the future
5. Government self-preservation; no room for additional funding

## Opportunities

1. New ideas are welcome as a departure from “business as usual”
2. Smaller, organic organizations are welcomed as not part of the “government bureaucracy”
3. Foresight is an island in the midst of the “swamp”
4. New administration values vision and long-term planning as a way to help solve immediate problems
5. Targeted funding to those entities that can demonstrate real value

# Way Forward (not an exhaustive list)



1. Look for opportunities to promote foresight within your department, agency, component, office, etc.

2. Be ready with an “elevator speech” that showcases the success of foresight and how it has helped shape strategy and policy



3. Study the administration narrative – look for ways that foresight can contribute (efficiency, reducing waste, risk management, etc.)



4. Stay connected with the foresight community and look for ways to partner. Don't go it alone!



5. Measure, measure, measure!



# Questions & Dialogue

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