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Contact: Betsy Holahan bholahan@greatpointstrategies.com

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National Academy of Public Administration
Unveils Complete Series of "Election 2020 Project" Action Plans
Papers Offer Next Administration a Roadmap to Address Nation's Grand Challenges

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Academy of Public Administration today unveiled its complete series of Election 2020 Project action plans, which offer expertise and immediate practical steps from nearly 100 Academy Fellows on how the next Presidential administration can address the Grand Challenges in Public Administration, a list of the 12 thorniest issues facing the nation in the decade ahead.

"Our nation is currently experiencing tremendous upheaval on many fronts, and next year will be a crucial year as we attempt to control the coronavirus pandemic and address its social, political, and economic impacts," said Terry Gerton, President and CEO of the Academy. "It is absolutely critical that our government take steps to tackle these challenges, starting immediately, and the Election 2020 Project papers offer a roadmap for meaningful progress. Authored by nearly 100 of our Fellows with in-depth expertise in governance and policy, these papers offer practical, nonpartisan recommendations that the next administration, regardless of political party, can use."

After a year of gathering and analyzing input on the major issues facing the United States, the Academy in November 2019 unveiled its final list of 12 Grand Challenges in Public Administration, which fall within four major focus areas: Protecting and Advancing Democracy; Strengthening Social and Economic Development; Ensuring Environmental Sustainability; and Managing Technological Changes.

The Academy in 2020 formed a series of Working Group of its Fellows to address these 12 Grand Challenges. The Working Groups were charged with producing papers to advise the Administration in 2021, whether re-elected or newly elected, on the key near-time actions that should be taken to begin addressing the Grand Challenges. The Election 2020 Project papers, listed below, reflect the 12 Grand Challenges:

- Election 2020: Protect electoral integrity and enhance voter participation
- Election 2020: Modernize and reinvigorate the public workforce
- Election 2020: Develop new approaches to public governance and engagement
- Election 2020: Advance national interests in a changing global context

- Election 2020: [Foster social equity](#)
- Election 2020: [Connect individuals to meaningful work](#)
- Election 2020: [Build resilient communities](#)
- Election 2020: [Advance the nation's long-term fiscal health](#)
- Election 2020: [Steward natural resources and address climate change](#)
- Election 2020: [Create modern water systems for safe and sustainable use](#)
- Election 2020: [Ensure data security and privacy rights of individuals](#)
- Election 2020: [Make government AI ready](#)

Although each paper's specific recommendations are tailored to the needs of that particular Grand Challenge, several cross-cutting issues and themes arose, including the importance of:

- Using the early months of 2021 to develop strategies and organize for success;
- Ensuring that social equity is considered across all policy domains and administrative operations;
- Leveraging larger policy and program changes, such as national pandemic response spending or any new national infrastructure investment program;
- Using existing processes such as the Cross-Agency Priority Goals and the President's Management Agenda;
- Strengthening interagency, intergovernmental, and intersectoral coordination and collaboration; and
- Working with Congress on needed longer-term legislative changes.

The Grand Challenges and the Election 2020 Project papers will be discussed in detail at the Academy's upcoming Fall Meeting, which will be held virtually November 5-10. The full itinerary of speakers and panels, as well as registration details, can be found [here](#).

About the National Academy of Public Administration
Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at www.napawash.org

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