



Astro Politics & Funding at a Time of Transitions

Joel R. Parriott
American Astronomical Society

Outline

- Macro issues dominate the debate
- Pending transitions
 - Senate
 - White House
- Our little corner of the policy world
- Community advocacy

It's the Debt, Stupid: 2011+

Federal Debt Held by the Public

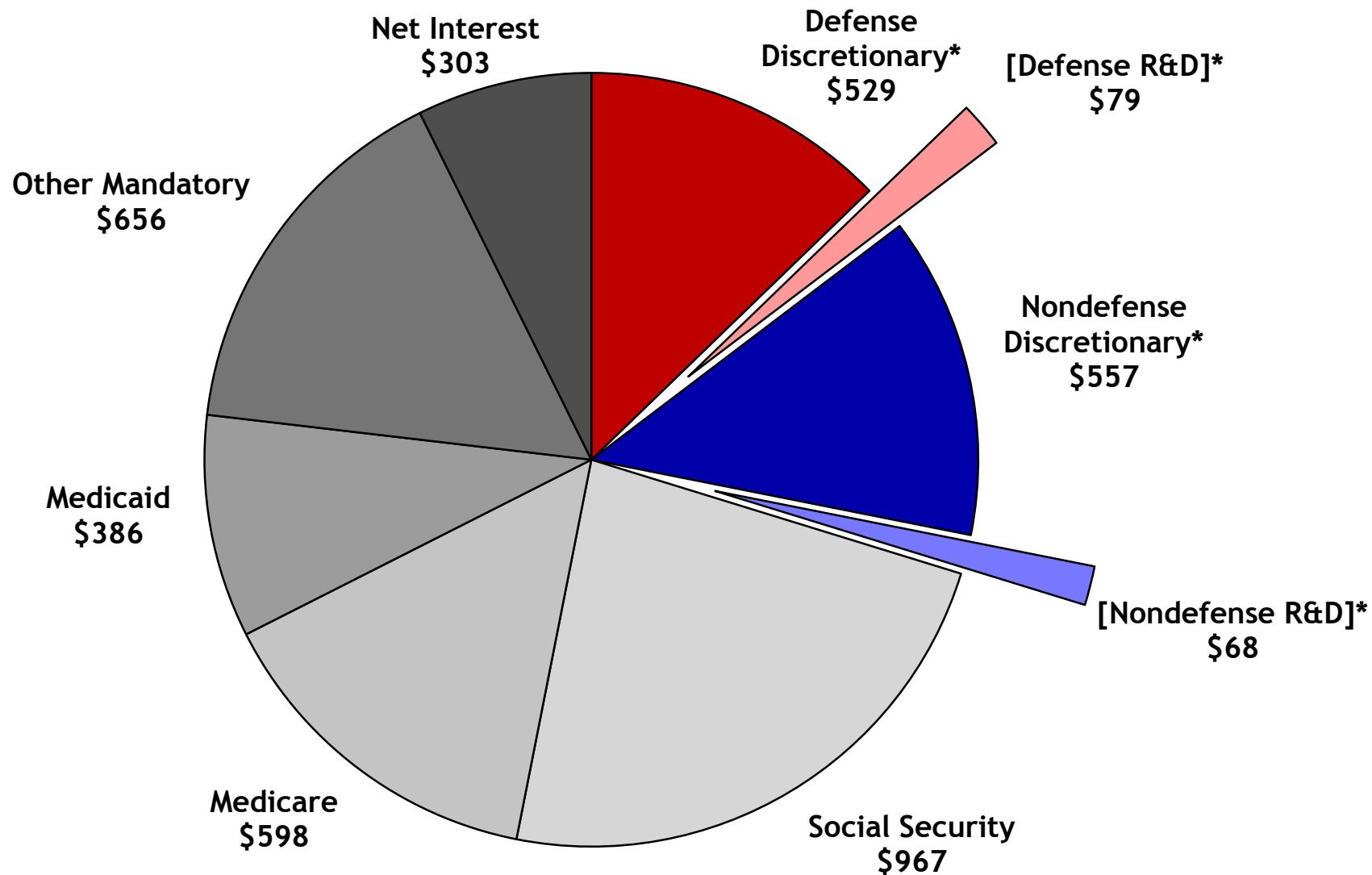
Percentage of GDP



Composition of the Proposed FY 2017 Budget

Total Outlays = \$4.1 trillion

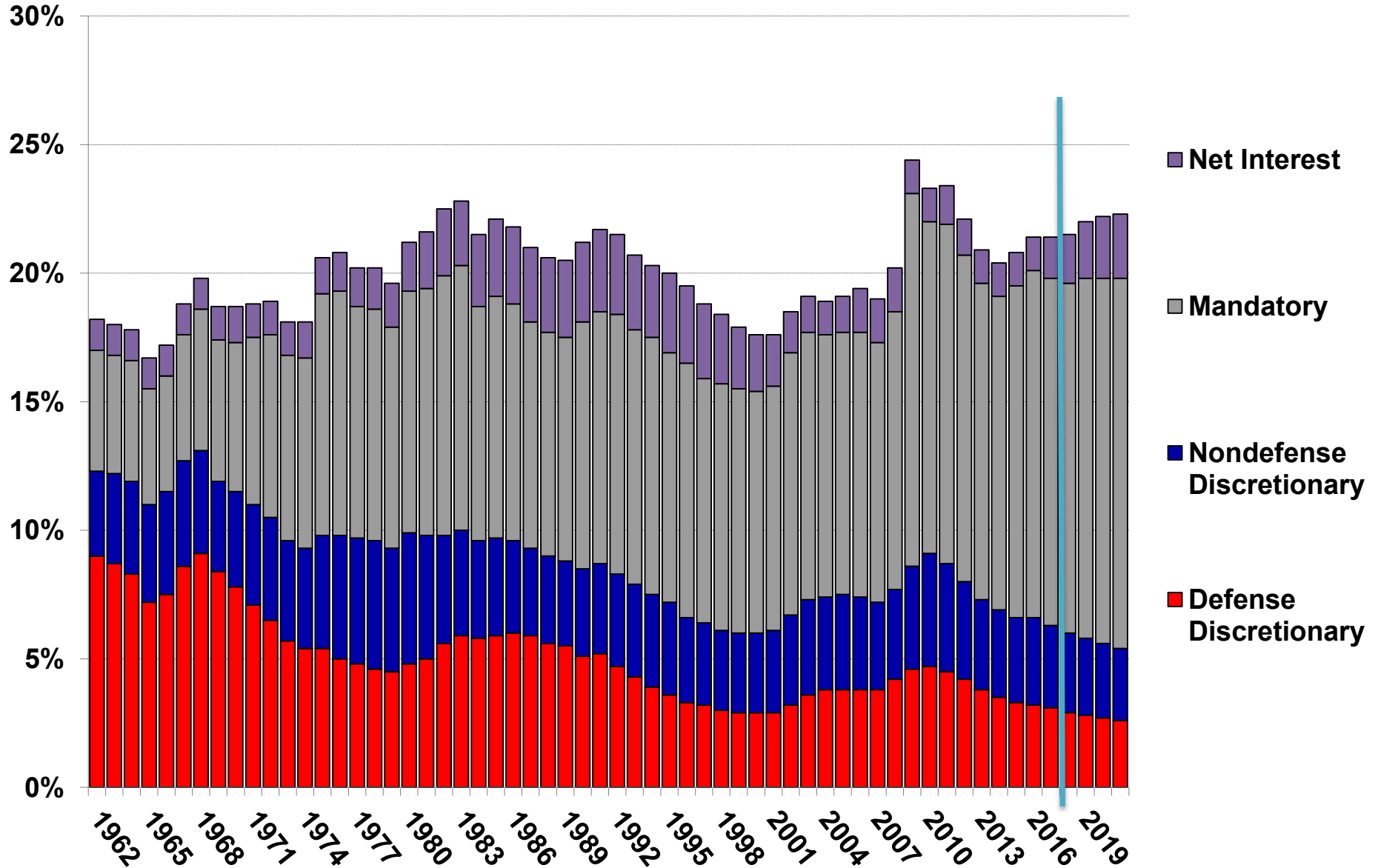
outlays in billions of dollars



*Approximately \$4 billion for R&D is classified as mandatory spending. Figures are estimates.

Source: *Budget of the United States Government FY 2017*. Projected deficit is \$503 billion. © AAAS | Feb. 2016

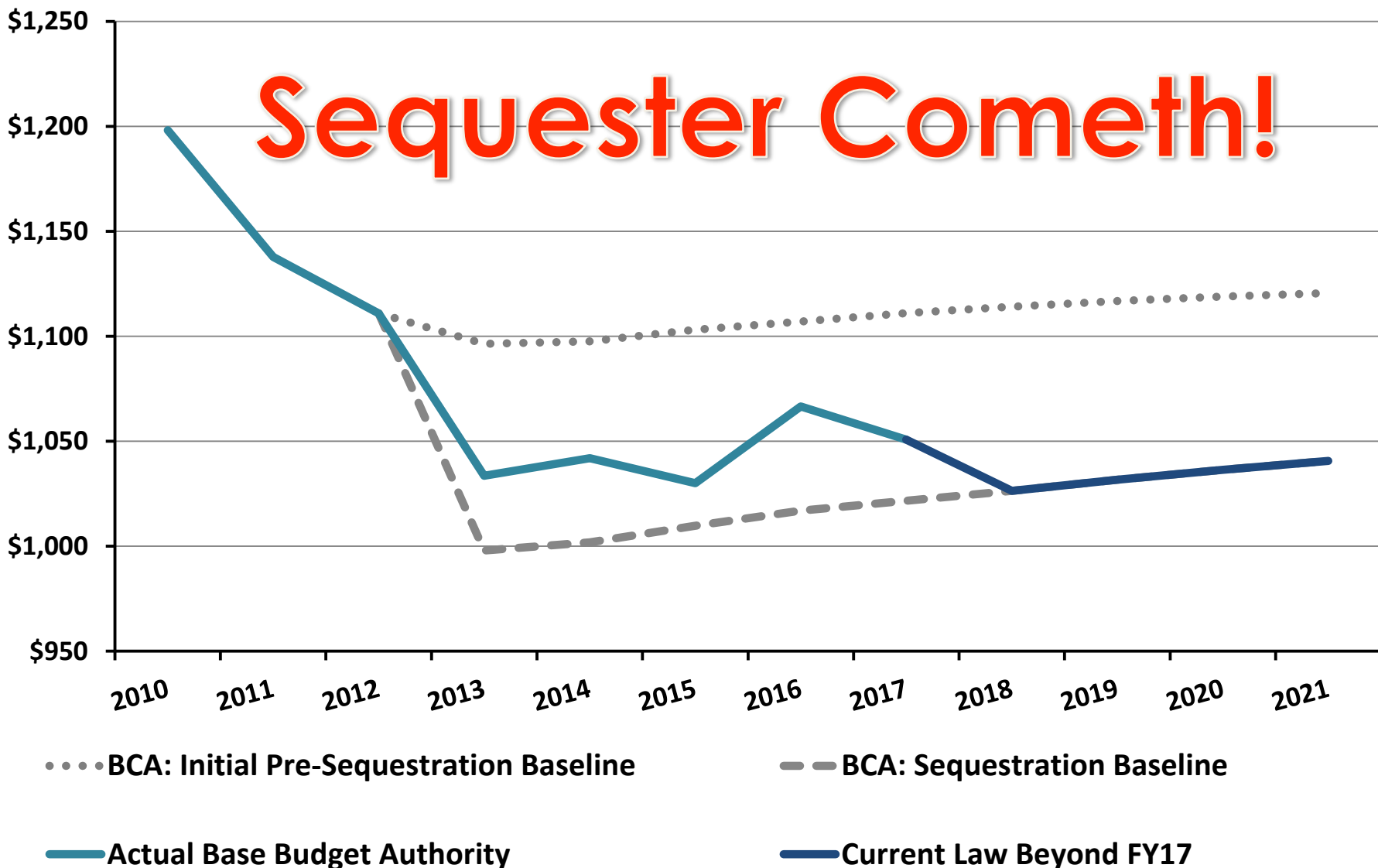
Federal Spending as a Percent of GDP, 1962 - 2021



Limits on Discretionary Spending Since FY 2010

billions of constant 2016 dollars

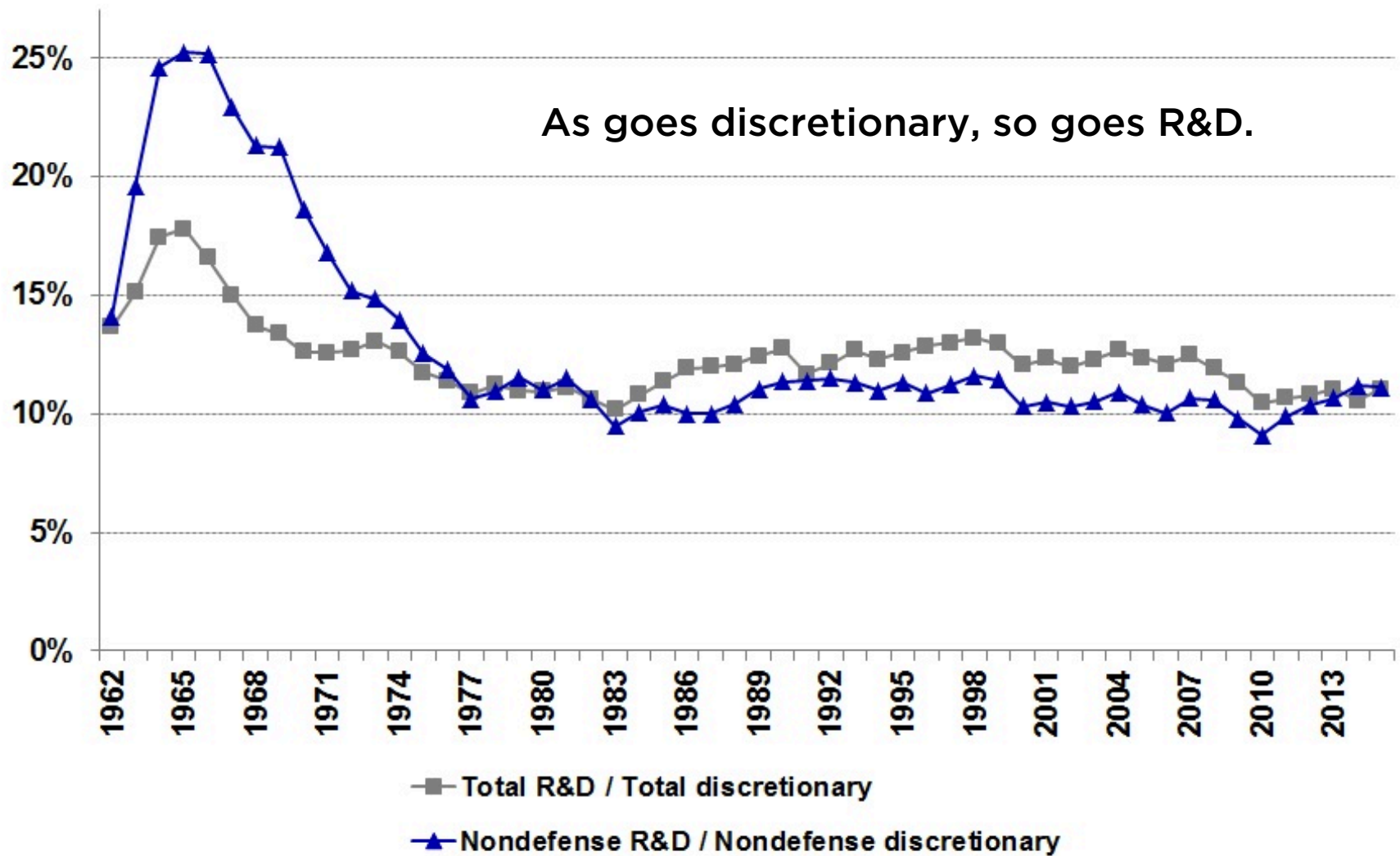
Sequester Cometh!



Based on past budget resolutions, the Budget Control Act, and subsequent legislation. Adjusted for inflation using deflators from the FY17 budget request. Excludes war funding proposals. © AAAS 2016

R&D as Percent of Discretionary Spending

percentage of outlays, 1962 - 2015



Next Tuesday

Chance of winning



Hillary Clinton

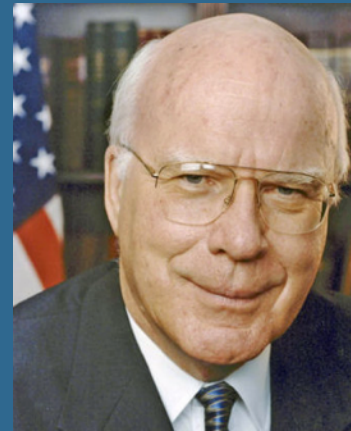
64.5%

Donald Trump

35.5%



Key Hill Players



11/5/16

irs

Seismic Transition: We Need to Make New Friends

Barbara A. Mikulski

UNITED STATES SENATOR *for* MARYLAND

ABOUT BARBARA

LEGISLATION

NEWSROOM

SE

LATEST

PRESS RELEASES

VIDEO AND AUDIO



MIKULSKI COMMEMORATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

Senator recounts her central role in the launch on April 24, 1990 and subsequent servicing missions that have cemented Hubble's legacy for space science and discovery

📅 Wednesday, April 22, 2015

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator [Barbara A. Mikulski](#) (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Transportation Subcommittee, this week marked the 25th anniversary of the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope. Senator Mikulski

Van Hollen Vows To Continue Mikulski's Passion for Space

SpacePolicyOnline.com - Aug 24, 2016

Rep. Chris **Van Hollen** (D-MD) vowed to continue the strong support for **NASA** and **NOAA** **Barbara Mikulski** if he is elected ...





Factsheets

Hillary Clinton's Initiative on Technology & Innovation

Today's dynamic and competitive global economy demands an ambitious national commitment to technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. America led the world in the internet revolution, and, today, technology and the internet are transforming nearly every sector of our

Obama Priorities ≈ Clinton Priorities ?

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 2016

IMPACT REPORT: 100 Examples of President Obama's Leadership in Science, Technology, and Innovation

"We'll restore science to its rightful place."

President Obama's Inaugural Address, 2009

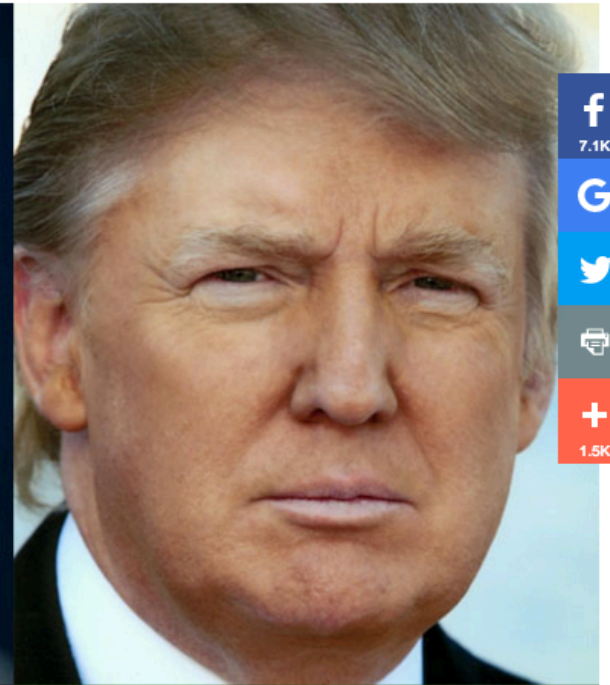
Trump Priorities

- Make America Great Again
 - It'll be the best
 - It'll be huge
-
- Actually not terrible for us, but we'd probably be pretty far down the list

2016 Science debate



20 Answers

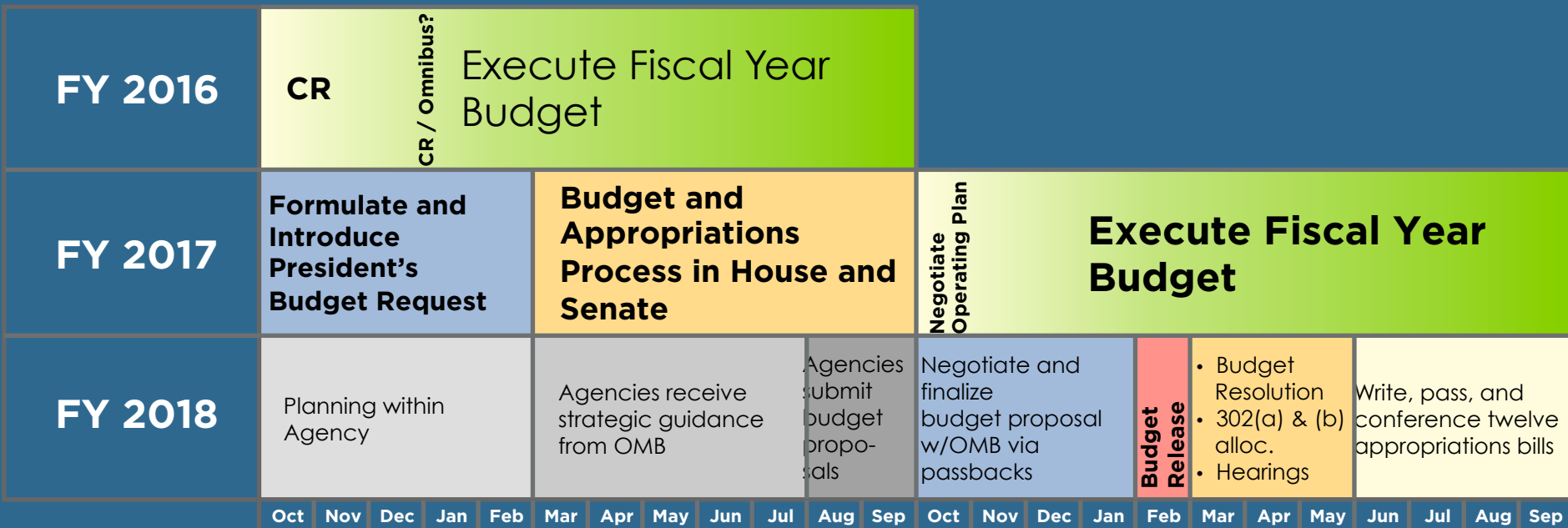


Presidential Transitions

- First phase: Before Election
 - Before convention
 - After convention
- Second phase: Between Election and Inauguration
- Third phase: “First 100 Days,” etc.
 - Top Promises
 - Top Appointments/Confirmations

The Budget Process

it's complicated...



We are here.

New POTUS shortens process



2016

Clinton's transition team hits the gas pedal

The secretive team tasked with preparing for a Clinton presidency is hiring staff, culling through resumes and reaching out to key Democrats.

By ANDREW RESTUCCIA, SARAH WHEATON and NANCY COOK | 10/21/16 02:01 PM EDT

45: The Transition

As Trump and Clinton war, their transition teams are practically working together

By Elise Viebeck October 13 



45: The Transition

White House meets with Clinton, Trump transition teams as election approaches

11/5/ By Elise Viebeck October 28 



rs

Transition Infrastructure



Presidential Transition Directory

**FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE**

**HIRING / BEING A
FEDERAL EMPLOYEE**

**RECORDS
MANAGEMENT
GUIDELINES**

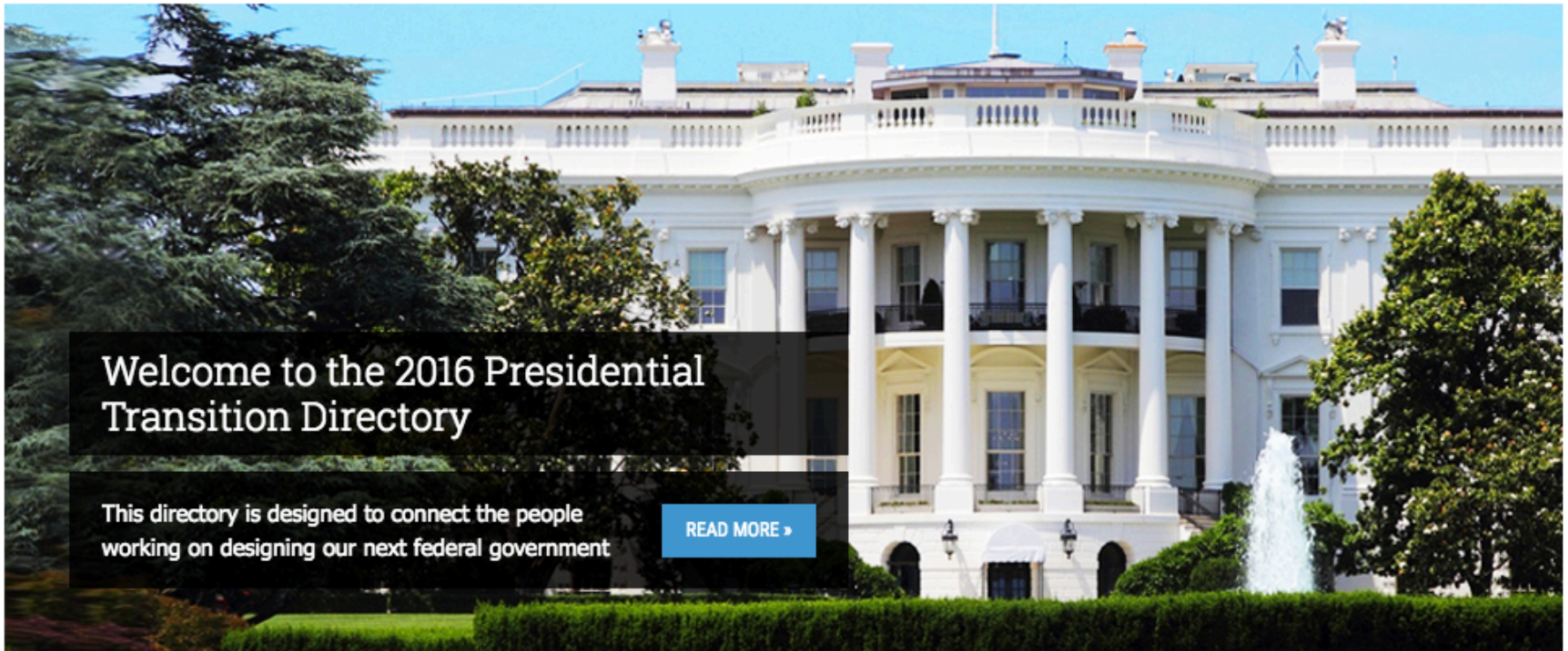
ETHICS GUIDELINES

**EXTERNAL
TRANSITION
RESOURCES**

Welcome to the 2016 Presidential
Transition Directory

This directory is designed to connect the people
working on designing our next federal government

[READ MORE »](#)



Transition Infrastructure



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Overview of the Transition

The Presidential Transition Project is the enormous effort of hundreds of people coming together to lay out the agenda and priorities for the Obama Administration. Led by President-Elect Barack Obama, Vice-President Elect Joe Biden, a transition advisory board, and respected leaders from both the public and private sector, the transition is responsible for ensuring that the transfer of power from the current administration to the Obama Administration is smooth and that the continuity of leadership is preserved.

The Transition Project is also tasked with reviewing hundreds of agencies and programs in the federal government and selecting new personnel to manage these important offices. Among the personnel that will be selected will be new Cabinet members, national security and federal law enforcement officials, non-career appointments, and other heads of agencies across the Executive Branch.

We will keep this transition process transparent, so that you will know which officials are being selected to serve in this administration and lead the country for the next four years. All staff appointments chosen for this administration will be committed to fulfilling Obama's campaign promises, to rebuilding our government, and to serving the American people again.

KEY STAFF

John Podesta

Valerie Jarrett

Pete Rouse

[Board & Staff](#)

[Agency Review Teams](#)

[Policy Working Groups](#)



THE INAUGURATION

JANUARY 20, 2009 *in* WASHINGTON, DC

THE AGENDA

Revitalizing the Economy

Ending the War in Iraq

Providing Health Care for All

Protecting America

Renewing American Global Leadership

[MORE AGENDA TOPICS](#)

YOUR ADMINISTRATION



NSF Pushing Transition Themes

NSF Ideas for Future Investment

RESEARCH IDEAS

- Harnessing Data for 21st Century Science and Engineering
- Shaping the New Human – Technology Frontier
- Understanding the Rules of Life: Predicting Phenotype
- The Quantum Leap: Leading the Next Quantum Revolution
- Navigating the New Arctic
- Windows on the Universe: The Era of Multi-messenger Astrophysics

PROCESS IDEAS

- Growing Convergent Research at NSF
- Mid-scale Research Infrastructure
- NSF 2050



<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/05/nsf-director-unveils-big-ideas-eye-next-president-and-congress>

Lori Garver on 2008 Transition for NASA

SPACENEWS

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YOU SHOULD SPEND LESS
ON ENERGY



WE CAN
HELP


GET YOUR STRATEGY

Op-Ed | Transition Fever

by Lori Garver — April 26, 2016



Lori Garver and Mike Griffin's tête-à-tête at a Dec. 8, 2008 book reception at NASA Headquarters served as fodder for an Orlando Sentinel story on tensions between Griffin and the Obama transition team. Credit: Steven Dick

This piece originally appeared as a First Person column in the April 11 issue of **SpaceNews Magazine**.

<http://spacenews.com/op-ed-transition-fever/>

Post-Election Business

Policy

Lobbyists Turn to Lame Duck, Next Congress for Business

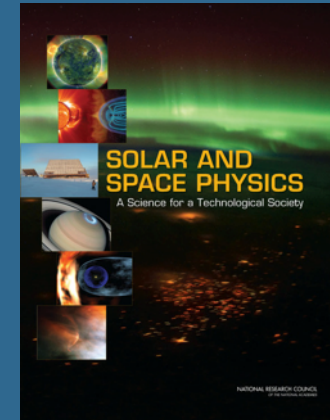
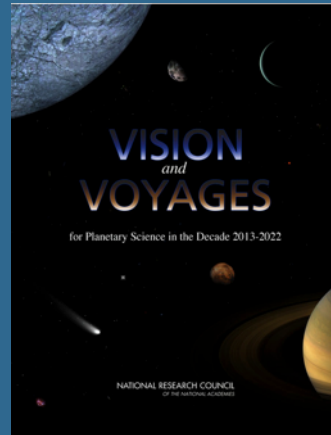
Some major interest groups dialed back on spending in third quarter

Astro Policy

- Tough times for discovery research, though APD (& HEP) in better shape than AST
- Obama S&T policy focused on use-inspired basic research & market interventions
- Astro does well when the whole agency does well...sort of
 - Flow of money quite different
 - NASA: fix problems; firewall?
 - NSF: science by the pound + MREFC

Astro Policy (con't)

- Decadal survey expectations

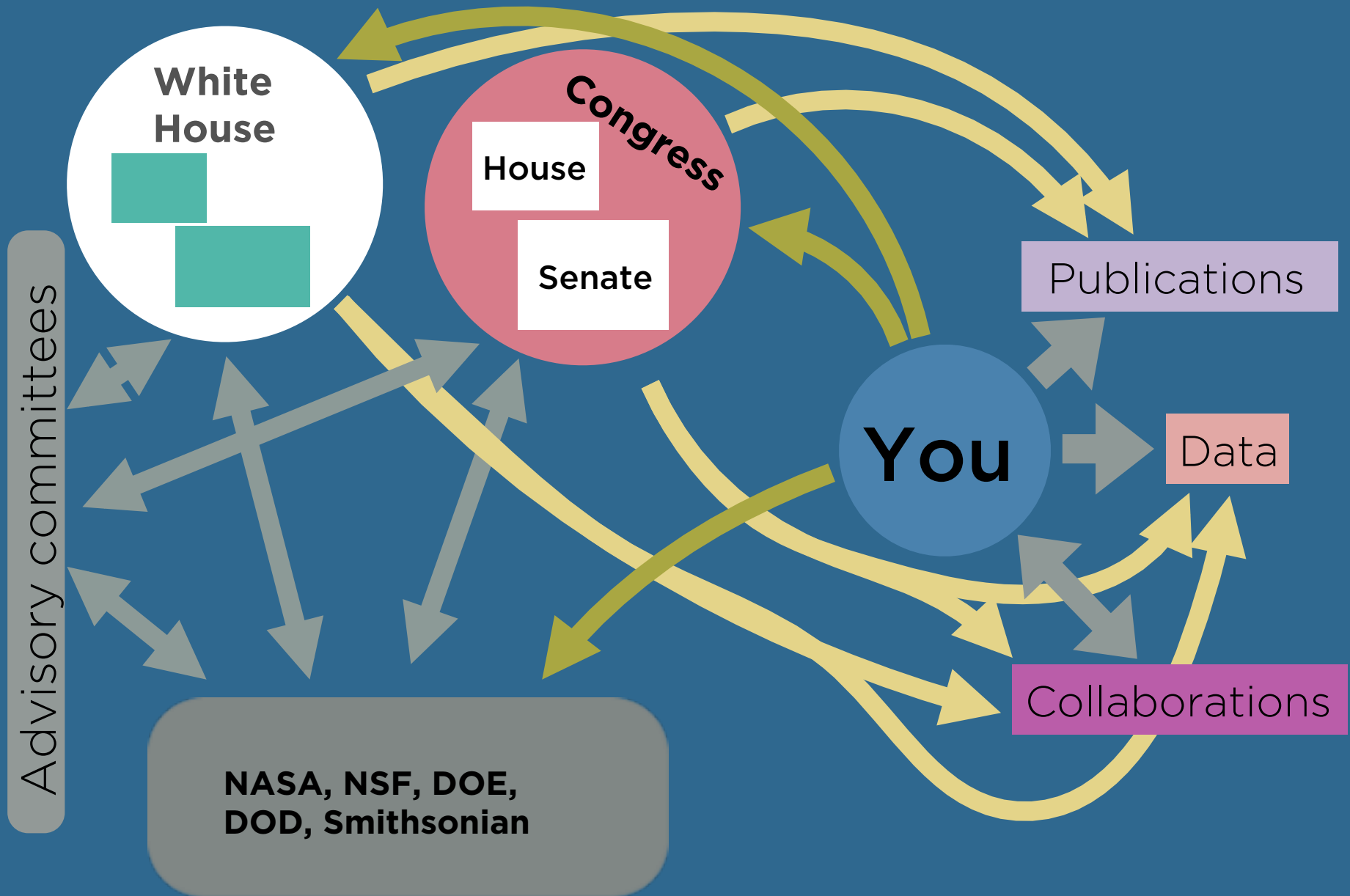


- Community unity post-mid-decadal:
Exoplanets vs Gravitational Waves?

Astro Policy (con't)

- **Center/facility politics usually consumes all the lobbying oxygen**
 - AAS & many universities spend extra effort advocating for research & competed mission/facility lines
- **“Balance” isn’t an easy sell**
- **Who cares about our issues?**
 - NASA & NSF are independent agencies, which is good and bad
 - DOE has bigger fish to fry
- **MREFC changes afoot?**





“The future of science funding will depend on many things beyond your control — the macroeconomic situation, the nature of competing needs, etc. But it will also depend on how actively you can make people like me understand why what you’re about is important to our nation.”

Sherwood Boehlert, in 2004

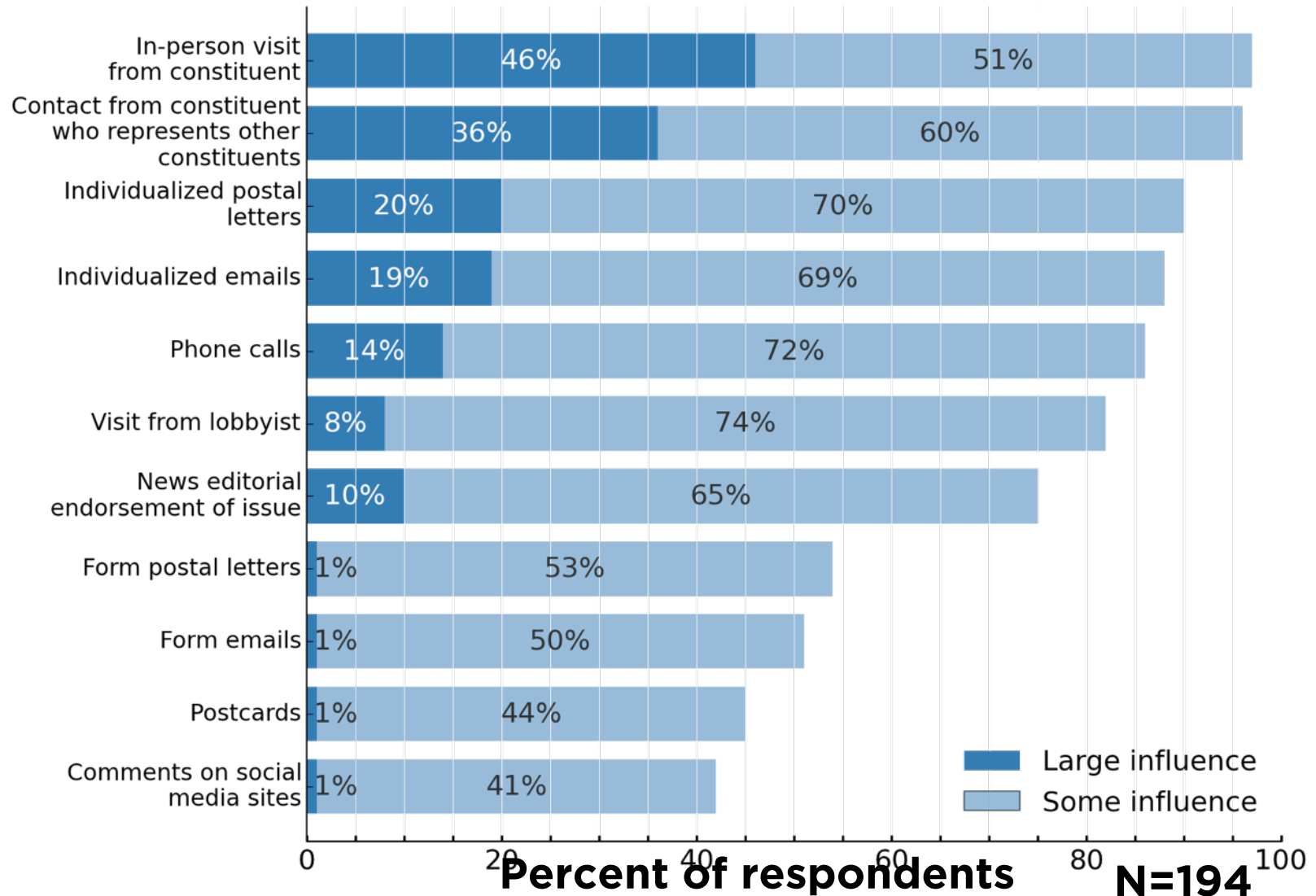
Former Chair of House Science Committee

“Congress is not besieged by groups asking for money that they describe as necessary to help their own narrow interests in the short run. The argument that science funding is a long-term national investment does nothing to set scientists apart. All that sets you apart is that scientists are the only group that thinks they’re making a unique argument.”

Sherwood Boehlert (earlier in the same speech)

<http://www.aip.org/fyi/2004/required-reading-science-committee-chairman-boehlert-science-funding>

Constituent contact is the **most influential** form of advocacy for undecided Members of Congress



Politicians Love Anecdotes -- Tell Them Your Story --

- Meet with them back home
- Invite them to visit campus and/or a facility to tour and to meet students



- What's your story?
- Why is what you do important?
- How does it relate to their values?

Organizing a Local Visit with My House Representative

Thursday, August 21, 2014 - 09:50

This guest post comes from [Sara Barber](#), currently in her final year of graduate school at the University of Oklahoma, where she has been a student participant in the



Write an Op-Ed

The New York Times

The Opinion Pages

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OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Not Ready for a 'Solar Sandy'

By YOUSAF BUTT
Published: November 2, 2012

HORRENDOUS and damaging as it was, Hurricane Sandy would be considered only an opening act compared with a powerful “once-in-a-century” solar storm.

Related in Opinion

Editorial: Hurricane Tracking in Peril (November 2, 2012)

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These storms of charged particles and magnetic fields are unleashed periodically by the Sun and — if headed toward Earth — can cause havoc with satellites and the electricity grid.

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Questions?

joel.parriott@aas.org

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- AAS policy staff are available to visit campus for departmental colloquia, and we'll split costs with you (public.policy@aas.org)
- Policy-interested students
 - Annual Congressional Visits Day (look for announcement in January)
 - John Bahcall Public Policy Fellowship (look for announcement in Jan/Feb)