

# **UNDERSTANDING THE LATEST WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS**

February 27, 2025

Stand by, we will begin momentarily.



## Membership Organizations

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences  
 African Studies Association  
 American Anthropological Association  
 American Association of Geographers  
 American Council of Learned Societies  
 American Evaluation Association  
 American Historical Association  
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management  
 Association of Academic Survey Research Organizations  
 Association of American Law Schools  
 Association of Research Libraries  
 Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences  
 Division for Research of the Council for Exceptional Children  
 Economic History Association  
 Linguistic Society of America  
 Midwest Sociological Society  
 National Council on Family Relations  
 Social Science History Association  
 Society for Prevention Research  
 Society for Social Work and Research  
 Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues  
 Southern Political Science Association  
 Southwestern Social Science Association

## Colleges & Universities

Boston University  
 Brown University  
 California State University, San Bernardino  
 College of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
 Carnegie Mellon University  
 Columbia University  
 Cornell University  
 Duke University  
 George Mason University  
 Georgetown University  
 Harvard University  
 Indiana University  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
 Michigan State University  
 North Carolina State University  
 Northwestern University  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Princeton University  
 Stanford University  
 University of Arizona  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 University of California, Irvine  
 University of California, Los Angeles  
 University of California, Riverside  
 University of California, Santa Barbara  
 University of Colorado, Boulder  
 University of Georgia  
 University of Illinois  
 University of Maryland  
 University of Michigan  
 University of Nebraska, Lincoln

University of North Carolina, Chapel  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of Texas, Austin  
 University of Virginia  
 University of Wisconsin, Madison  
 Virginia Tech  
 Yale University

## Research Centers & Institutes

American Academy of Political and Social Science  
 Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences  
 Child Trends  
 Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan  
 Institute for Social Science Research, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
 NORC at the University of Chicago  
 RTI International  
 Social Science Research Council

## Affiliates

SAGE Publishing



# TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- Since we last met – Trump actions
- All about budgets
- How you can get involved

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# LAST WE MET...

- President's First 10 Days:
  - Executive Orders
  - OMB memos and guidance to federal agencies
  - Hiring and travel freezes
  - Communication freezes
  - Federal worker buyouts
  - DOGE

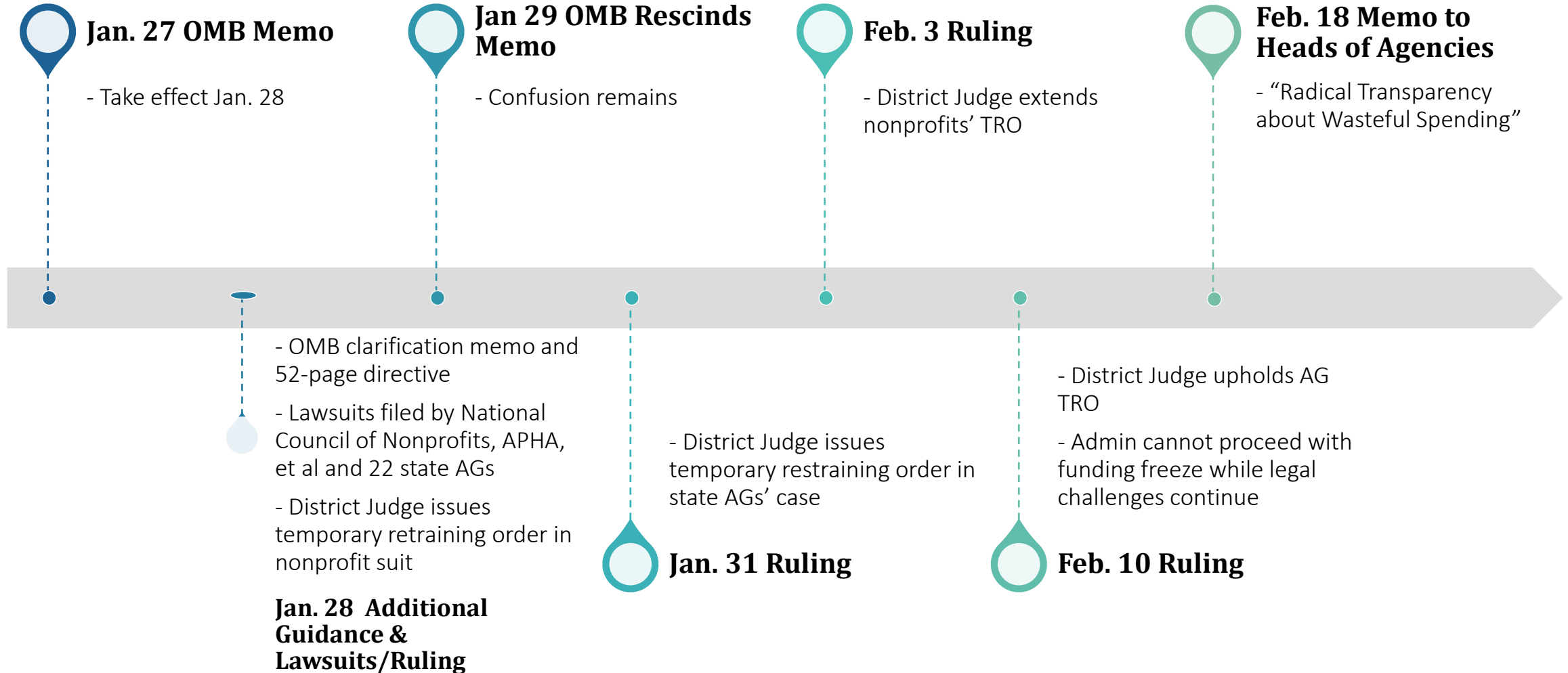
# TODAY...

- First 30 Days:
  - Questionable/unlawful implementation of early executive orders
  - Firing of thousands of federal employees
  - Removal and subsequent reinstatement of some federal agency data sources and websites
  - NIH Indirect Cost cap controversy
  - Agencies scrubbing DEI-related programs
  - Countless lawsuits and several orders issued to pause implementation of Administration actions

# UPDATE ON EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

1. Federal funding freeze
2. Communication and travel freezes
3. Government data and website removal
4. NIH indirect cost cap
5. Purging the federal workforce

# 1. Federal Funding Freeze





## 2. HHS Communication & Travel Freeze

### Jan. 21 HHS Communication Freeze

- No Federal Register submissions, release of regulations, guidance, notice, grant announcements until approved by Presidential appointee.
- No public speaking engagements until approved by Presidential appointee.

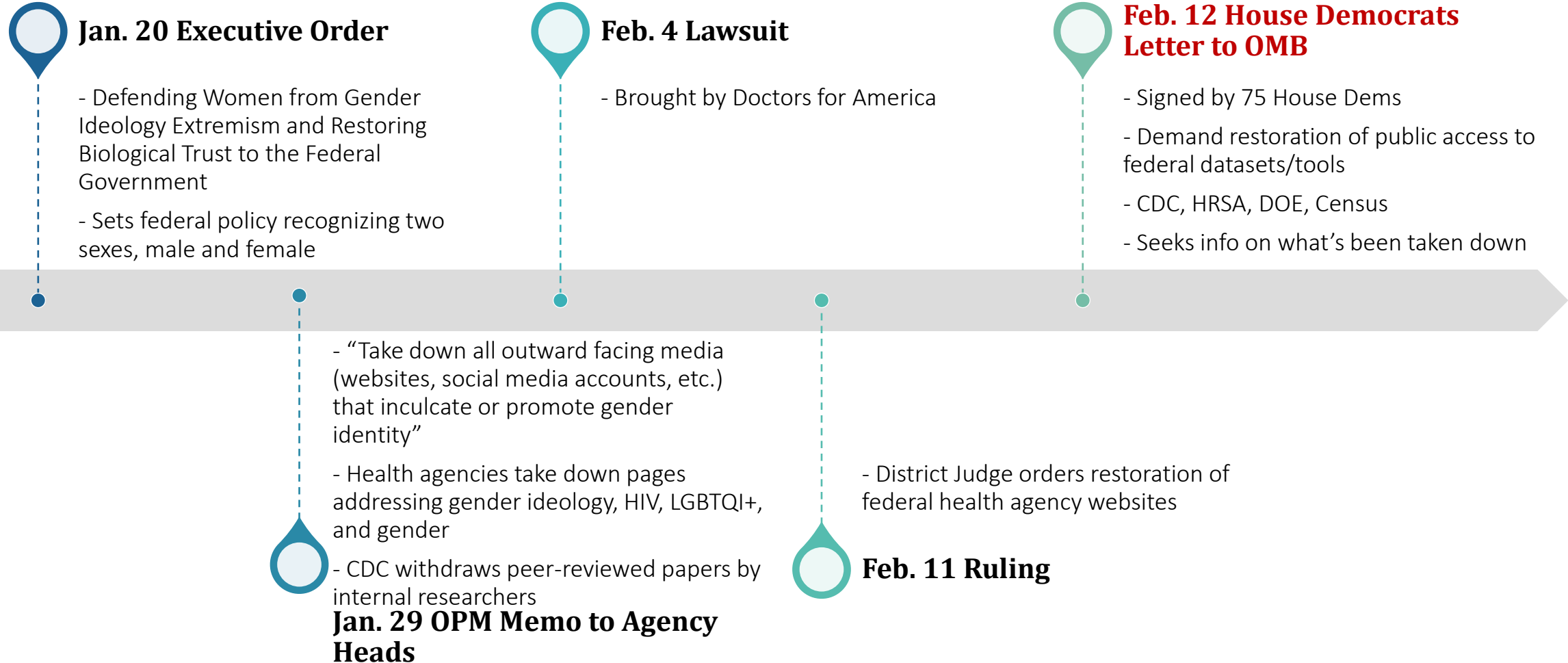
### Since Jan. 21

- Research grant panels/study sections cancelled
- No new awards
- Advisory committee and other meetings postponed or cancelled

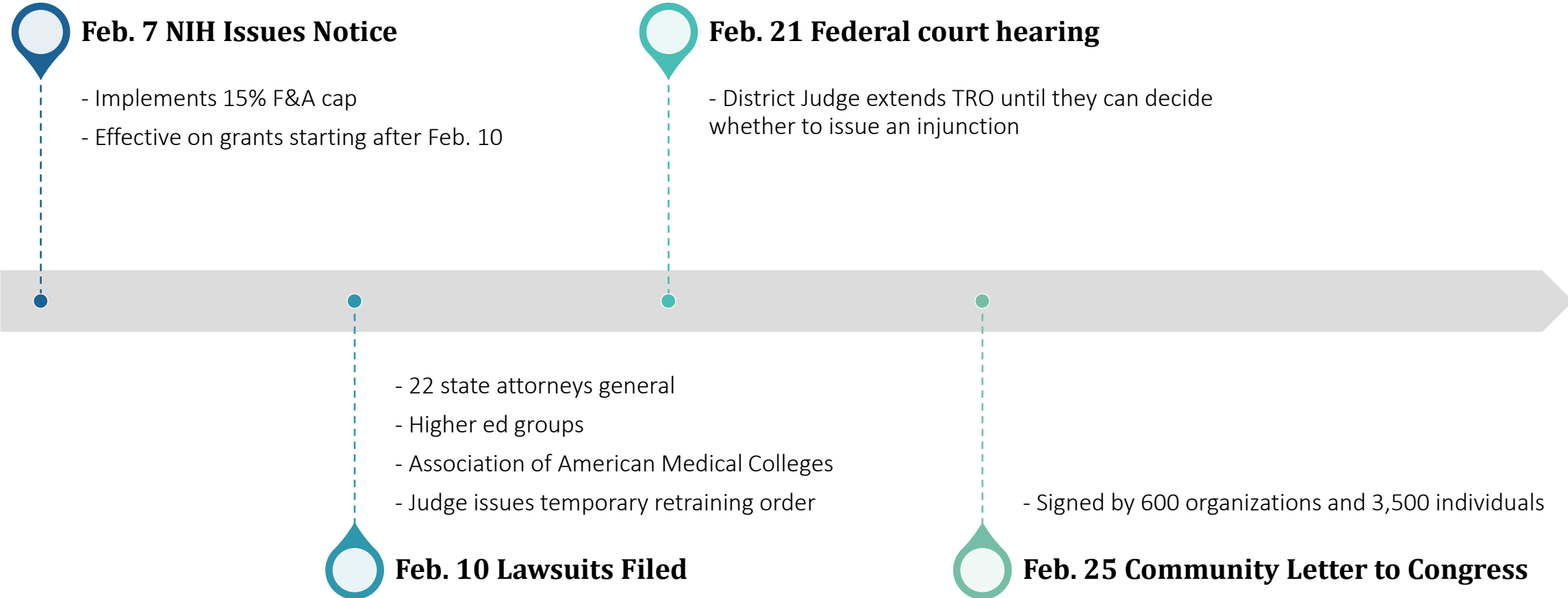
- “Immediately and indefinitely” suspend travel

### Jan. 22 NIH Travel Ban

# 3. Government Data & Website Removal



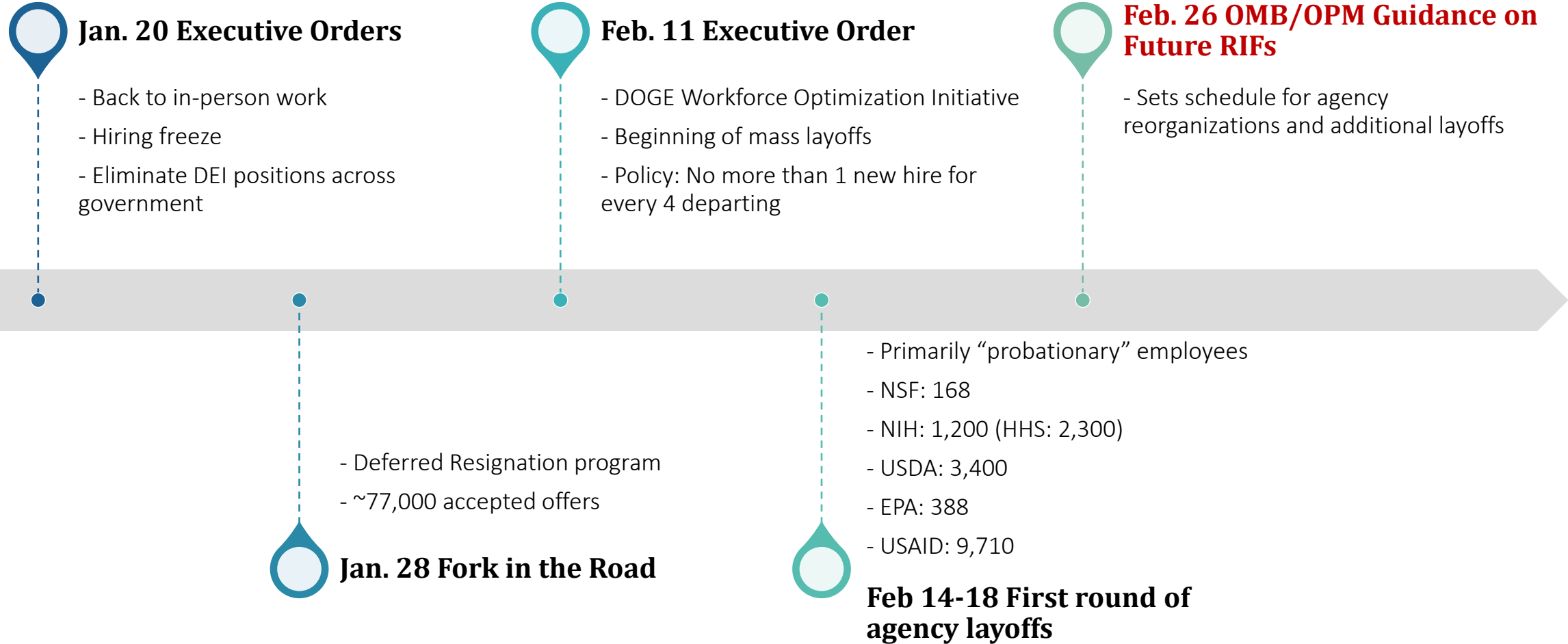
# 4. NIH Indirect Cost Cap



# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

- Action alerts
- Databases
- Research!America survey: Impact of NIH Indirect Costs Cap
  - Deadline to submit responses: Mar 3rd at 5 pm ET

# 5. Purging the Federal Workforce



# FORK IN THE ROAD

- Email received by more than 2 million federal employees
- Introduced new “deferred resignation” program, which offered an opportunity to submit future resignation effective Sept. 30, 2025.
  - Promised full pay and benefits until Sept. 30.
  - Employees opting in may be placed on administrative leave or have workload reduced.

“[Y]ou may wish to depart the federal government on terms that provide you with sufficient time and economic security to plan for your future—and have a nice vacation.”

--OPM FAQ

# FEB. 26 RIF GUIDANCE

- Implementation guidance for Feb. 11 Executive Order that led to the first round of firings.
- Initiate large-scale reductions in force (RIF).
- Directs all agencies to develop “Agency RIF and Reorganizations Plans” (ARRPs).
  1. Provide better service for the American people.
  2. Increase productivity.
  3. Significantly reduce FTEs by “eliminating positions that are not required.”
  4. Reduce federal gov’t’s real property footprint.
  5. Reduce agency budget toplines.

“Agencies should focus on the maximum elimination of functions that are not statutorily mandated...  
Statutes should be interpreted to cover only functions they explicitly require.”

# RIF TIMELINE

- March 13 – Phase 1 ARRP
  - Identify agency components and employees performing functions not mandated by statute or regulation.
  - Identify any agency or subcomponent that should be eliminated or consolidated.
- April 14 – Phase 2 – to be implemented by September 30, 2025
  - Future org chart
  - Any proposed relocation of agencies outside of DC metro area.
  - Areas for large-scale RIFs
  - Provide monthly progress reports to OMB/OPM.



# CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "democrats-science.house.gov". A blue banner at the top contains a white exclamation mark icon and the text "Fired by President Trump? We want to hear from you." Below the banner is a white navigation bar with social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram), a search icon, a hamburger menu icon, and a "REPORT A CONCERN" button. The main content area features a background image of a microscope and a circuit board, with three blue hexagonal icons (a dome, a network, and a circuit) on the left. The text "U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY" is overlaid on the right side of the image. Two red arrows point to the banner and the right edge of the browser window.

democrats-science.house.gov

**Fired by President Trump? We want to hear from you.**

REPORT A CONCERN

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON  
**SCIENCE, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY**

# CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE – FEDERAL WORKFORCE

- House Science Committee Democrats
  - Created a secure web form where feds can share the details of their termination – confidentially
  - Created a form for federal whistleblowers to report issues of concern
- Members of Congress (i.e., Democrats) calling for end of firings and explanations
  - Especially members from the DC metro area (DC, MD, VA)
    - Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) letter to NSF Director

# AVENUES FOR INFLUENCE

- Congressional Republicans are caught between:
  - Fears of being “primaried” in their next elections AND
  - Risk of losing the President’s support if they don’t vote his way.
- Local, grassroots action is EVERYTHING right now.
  - Share your stories – local impacts, jobs, economy, communities affected, etc.
  - Write, call your elected officials at all levels.
  - Attend townhall meetings.

# WHAT DOES A “WIN” LOOK LIKE?

“Every cent of hard-earned taxpayer money should be spent efficiently, judiciously, and accountably — without exception. While the administration works to achieve this goal at NIH, a smart, targeted approach is needed in order to not hinder life-saving, groundbreaking research at high-achieving institutions like those in Alabama.”

-- Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL)

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# FEDERAL BUDGET

- FY 2025 (began Oct. 1)
  - Best we can expect is a year-long CR at FY 2024 levels.
  - Gov't shutdown: 50/50
- FY 2026 – Where the real battles begin
  - Budget Reconciliation Process/2017 tax break extensions
  - FY 2026 Appropriations Process
  - Trump actions



# BUDGET RECONCILIATION



## 1. BUDGET RESOLUTION

- House and Senate must adopt identical budget resolutions setting overall spending and revenue levels for a specific period (usually 10 years)
- Includes reconciliation instructions to committees with specific targets



## 2. COMMITTEE WORK

- Identified committees draft legislation based on reconciliation instructions
- House and Senate Budget Committees package their chambers' respective bills into an omnibus



## 3. FLOOR CONSIDERATION

- Each chamber considers its respective omnibus package
- A simple majority is needed to pass through the chamber



## 4. RESOLVE DIFFERENCES

- A conference committee works to reconcile differences between the two bills
- If agreement is reached, each chamber votes on the final package



## 5. SIGNED INTO LAW OR VETOED

- Once the House and Senate each pass an identical bill, it goes to the President for signature or veto.

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# WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Stay informed – Learn what is real

# WAYS TO STAY INFORMED

- Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov>
- Presidential Actions website: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions>
- Biden Administrative Actions Arched: <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov>

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

- TRY to stay calm and learn what is real.
- Support your professional associations/scientific societies.

# ASSOCIATION RESOURCES

- State data:
  - About of federal funding to states
  - Impact of NIH Indirect Cost change to states/institutions
- Action alerts
- Repositories for sharing stories

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

- TRY to stay calm and learn what is real.
- Support your professional associations/scientific societies.
- Take Action!

## Write to Congress TODAY about the Need to Protect Government Data

As part of the Trump Administration's efforts to make quick progress on the President's policy priorities, the

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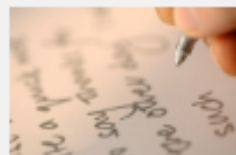
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subjected to political interference.

### Compose Your Own Message



Write to your Members of Congress TODAY to express your concern about the recent removal of important federal data sources from government websites and call on lawmakers to do what they can to restore them.

**Feel free to tailor the text below to offer additional examples or concerns.**

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Stay Informed

Constituent Toolkit

Social Science  
Advocacy Day

participating in elections. So how do those elected to represent us know what we care about? Even more, how do we know they are making *informed* decisions?

**That's where YOU come in.**

Envision a world where elected officials are not only receptive to hearing about the best available science

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

- TRY to stay calm and learn what is real.
- Support your professional associations/scientific societies.
- Take Action!
- Subscribe to COSSA emails.
- Encourage others to subscribe and join COSSA.
- Join us in Washington on March 24-25!





# COMING UP ON COSSA HEADLINES

- SAVE THE DATE!
- March 31 at 1:00 pm ET:
  - FY 2025 Budget outcome
  - FY 2026 Budget request
  - Latest Trump and Congressional actions
  - Other news




# KEEP UP WITH COSSA

- **COSSA Washington Update:** [cossa.org/washington-update](https://cossa.org/washington-update)
- **Members-only Messages:** [cossa.org/members/mm-subscribe](https://cossa.org/members/mm-subscribe)

 Twitter/X: <https://twitter.com/COSSADC>

 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cossa1981/>

 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SocialScienceAssociations>

 LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cossadc/>

 Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/cossa.bsky.social>

Linktr.ee: <https://linktr.ee/cossadc>

Email: [wnaus@cossa.org](mailto:wnaus@cossa.org)

[www.cossa.org](https://www.cossa.org)

[Whysocialscience.com](https://Whysocialscience.com)

# QUESTION?



**Email:** [wnaus@coffa.org](mailto:wnaus@coffa.org)

**More Advocacy Day Info:** [coffa.org/advocacy-day](http://coffa.org/advocacy-day)

**Membership:** [coffa.org/members](http://coffa.org/members)

**Join COSSA:** [coffa.org/join](http://coffa.org/join)

[www.coffa.org](http://www.coffa.org)

[www.whysocialscience.com](http://www.whysocialscience.com)





## Fork in the Road

Below is the email that was sent to federal employees on January 28, 2025 presenting a deferred resignation offer. If you did not respond to that email and wish to accept the deferred resignation offer, you may do so by following these steps.

- 1) Send an email to [hr@opm.gov](mailto:hr@opm.gov) from your government account. Only an email from your .gov or .mil account will be accepted.
- 2) Type the word "**Resign**" into the "Subject" line of the email. Hit "Send".

### Deferred Resignation Email to Federal Employees

January 28, 2025

During the first week of his administration, President Trump issued a number of directives concerning the federal workforce. Among those directives, the President required that employees return to in-person work, restored accountability for employees who have policy-making authority, restored accountability for senior career executives, and reformed the federal hiring process to focus on merit. As a result of the above orders, the reform of the federal workforce will be significant.

## A Fork in the Road



Going forward, to build a breakthrough Twitter 2.0 and succeed in an increasingly competitive world, we will need to be extremely hardcore. This will mean working long hours at high intensity. Only exceptional performance will constitute a passing grade.

Twitter will also be much more engineering-driven. Design and product management will still be very important and report to me, but those writing great code will constitute the majority of our team and have the greatest sway. At its heart, Twitter is a software and servers company, so I think this makes sense.

If you are sure that you want to be part of the new Twitter, please click yes on the link below:

[forms.gle](#)

Anyone who has not done so by 5pm ET tomorrow (Thursday) will receive three months of severance.

Whatever decision you make, thank you for your efforts to make Twitter successful.

Elon