



The COVID-19 pandemic leaves no doubt: **government matters.**

And good government—with skilled public servants and competent leaders—is essential to the health, safety and economic well-being of every person living in the United States.

Unfortunately, as a nation, we have for years tolerated, ignored or encouraged a culture that has eroded federal institutions. We have starved federal entities of resources, diminished their importance and criticized failures without investing in the success of the government, its employees and its leaders. We are now paying a steep price in lives and economic loss.

The stakes are even higher because of the upcoming presidential election. In a matter of months, a new president may take office and immediately must confront an enormous health care and economic crisis in addition to the normal obligations of running the largest enterprise in the world. A second term for the current administration also will present a challenging transition: many politically appointed positions will likely turn over in a second term, adding to an already high number of vacancies at a time when leadership is crucial. second term, adding to an already high number of vacancies at a time when leadership is crucial. Whoever wins in November will need to strengthen our federal institutions while simultaneously safeguarding public health, rebuilding the economy, dealing with the nation's racial divide and helping the country overcome great personal loss.

Today's stark realities demand that we reform our government to meet the challenges of the moment and those to come. We must also address the systemic racism, violence

and inequality that has long plagued our country. This is not about big government versus small government, but about an effective government. At the Partnership, we see a path forward for our government and our nation despite the current troubles and uncertainty. For 19 years, we have promoted service to our country, advocated for critically needed system reforms, and supported federal leaders and institutions as they respond to the challenges of our time.

We are redoubling our efforts to build consensus on the need for reform and are developing a comprehensive plan and recommendations for the most important needed changes across government. We see an extraordinary opportunity to enhance the capabilities of politically appointed and career government leaders, recruit the next generation to serve, and apply the innovative practices federal leaders have adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the same time, we are committed to helping federal leaders in this current moment. We are offering opportunities to meet, often through virtual platforms, and to collaborate on shared problems. We are providing our transition expertise to the current administration and the transition team of Democratic nominee Joseph Biden as the nation looks ahead to the 2020 presidential election. We are delivering new content and leadership training tailored to federal employees' immediate needs. And we are continuing to spotlight the vital work of federal employees to the broader public.

In this annual report, we share the Partnership's strategies for strengthening our government and highlight our accomplishments during the past year. Although our plans are ambitious, we are not immune to the financial impact of this crisis, which is adversely affecting nonprofits across the country. We are grateful that members of our board and other longtime supporters are committing additional resources to help us weather the very challenging days ahead. Our organization's achievements would not be possible without the generous support of our donors and partners, whom we thank for supporting our work.

Together, we can restore our government, and what we need is the will and the action. Join with us.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Stier".

Max Stier
President and CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom A. Bernstein".

Tom A. Bernstein
Chairman

