



Biden Administration Federalism Challenges

By Donald F. Kettl

Joe Biden will come to the presidency with close to a clean slate on the issue of federal-state-local relations. How will he tackle the big issues he can't escape?

He'll have his hands full from the start with issues that are likely to bring a rethinking of federal-state-local relations. The best insight into the former vice president's approach to federalism comes from his work in directing the Obama administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The core of that effort was pumping out more than \$800 billion to stimulate the economy following the 2008 economic collapse, an amount that at the time seemed nearly unthinkable. A big chunk of the money went to state and local governments for health care and infrastructure.

Biden's strategy: Get the money out fast, warn state and local governments about the risks of mismanaging the cash, and reinforce that warning with full transparency. His office created a website, remarkable for the time, that allowed anyone to

track, in real time, what money was flowing where, for which projects. It was a GIS-based map that drilled down to what was happening, quite literally, on any block anywhere in the country.

The do-it-fast, do-it-in-the-spotlight approach is something sure to carry over into Biden's administration. So too, perhaps, is the idea of having the vice president play a central role in directing such an effort, which might be a clue to Kamala Harris's role in the next four years.

But what will be Biden's federalism agenda for 2021 and beyond? Here are five issues where he's likely to act.

Distributing the COVID-19 vaccine: We will soon add to the battle about containing the virus the question of how best to distribute a vaccine (or, more likely, vaccines). This is sure to be even more difficult than the mask/no-mask melee of the last months. There's the tough question of who gets it first, but even more difficult is the puzzle of how to get shots to the arms of hundreds of millions of Americans.

The Trump administration is leaving behind an eleven-page "Operation Warp Speed" game plan



to distribute the vaccine. It's remarkably thorough, and it builds on the assumption that the effort will work through partnerships between the federal and state governments and between government and the private sector.

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If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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PPP Forgiveness Webinar
Thursday, November 19, 2020, 11:30 am–12:30 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Susan Mazza, 802-828-4422, susan.mazza@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA Vermont District Office hosts a free daily webinar from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays to discuss Paycheck Protection Program forgiveness and other changes. To join the webinar, visit <https://meet.lync.com/sba123/sbmazza/SFFM2N9R>. To join by phone, call (202) 765-1264 and when prompted enter the code 237511921#. Upon joining the call, mute the phone to cut down on the background noise and please do not place the call on hold as the hold music will be heard over the presenter. For more information, email susan.mazza@sba.gov.

SBA and SOS Monthly Webinar
Thursday, December 3, 2020, 9:00 am–10:30 am
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division
Contact: Miguel Moralez, 603-225-1601, miguel.moralez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Starting a new business? Looking for capital and finance options? Looking for general advice on starting or maintaining your business? Hear from representatives from the local SBA office and the New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division. To join, copy and paste the link below into your browser. When prompted, install Cisco WebEx. WebEx Communications invites you to join this Webex meeting (access code 472-675-319 and meeting password g4mJ2Asmq). Link: <https://nhgov.webex.com/webappng/sites/nhgov/meeting/download/b07688161d414f808fdd38831ef0e411?siteurl=nhgov&MTID=m307585f85af75b93f230dd770dec82cd>

Free Federal Contracting Webinar
Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 10:30 am–12:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Carmen E. Gonzalez, 904-443-1924, carmen.gonzalez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

This free webinar helps you to investigate and prepare for the possibility of your business providing goods or services to the federal government. Information includes: How to Do Business with the Federal Government; 8(a) Business Development Program; HUBZone Program; Woman-Owned Small Businesses; Service-Disabled Veteran Businesses; Small Disadvantaged Business 8(a) Business Development Program; Certification Boot Camp. Benefits of this webinar include learning about sole-source contracts of up to \$4 million for goods and services and \$6.5 million for manufacturing; and specialized business training, marketing assistance, counseling, and high-level executive development. Since 1953, the Small Business Administration has worked to ignite change and spark action so small businesses can confidently start, grow, expand, or recover.

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