

PRESIDENTIAL PLATFORM

White House website offers information and insight on occupant

The way President Donald Trump drives news cycles makes every day seem like Presidents Day. I don't know if there's ever been a president who's garnered so much constant media attention for such an extended period of time. And there doesn't appear to be an end in sight.

Tomorrow is the actual Presidents Day. The holiday was established in 1885 to honor George Washington's birthday. In 1971, it was moved to the third Monday in February and expanded to include Abraham Lincoln. Most people now view it as a day to honor all of the presidents (although

I'm sure many would argue that there are a few who don't deserve to be honored).

Trump has been referred to as the Tweeter-in-Chief because of his prolific use of Twitter to spitball policy ideas and whine. But that's not the only online platform he has. The government, meaning we the taxpayers, provides the president with his own website to help him communicate with his constituents at WhiteHouse.gov.

The official website for the White House has been available for presidents to interact with the pub-

lic since 1994. The basic framework of the site and a lot of the historical content don't change from one administration to the next, but there's plenty of room for a president to put his personal stamp on it.

For instance, there was a lot of grumbling on the left about information on climate change being removed from the site as soon as Trump took office. Sure enough, if you compare the home page from President Obama's term (obamawhitehouse.archives.gov) with Trump's, you'll see a change in tone.

Obama's page featured a banner image of him walking by himself to the White House overlaid with his slogan, "Yes, we did. Yes, we can." Beneath that were five images linking to different issues, among them health care and climate and energy.



from previous administrations. The Briefing Room contains press releases, videos, speeches and other items the current administration wants to push. The Administration section has glowing bios of the president, vice president and their wives.

It also lists cabinet picks. The 1600 Penn section contains history and facts about the presidency. It also details the structure and function of the government. The Participate section has contact information, job and internship listings, tours and events, an area to petition the White House on issues and more.

The section that really reflects the president's personality and agenda is The Issues. This is where he declares what he thinks the most important issues are and how he intends to deal with them.

The writing detailing Trump's proposed policies and plans is full of the hyperbolic language and digs at all that come before him that marked his campaign. Depending on your ideology, reading them will leave you either inspired or outraged.

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