

REFORMS BY ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

If the Independent Branch is created, it would be empowered to apply discipline to federal government activities through administrative actions. Following are a few examples of administrative reforms that might be considered:

For an Effective Government:

1. Establish procedures to better control federal expenditures by reducing opportunities for improper payments, fraud, and waste; hold departments responsible for failure to observe the rules.
2. Ensure the independence of all federal forecasting activity, blocking any attempts by the president or Congress to influence or interfere with the projections.
3. Define a standard procedure for processing bills in Congress, including:
 - a. A clear statement of the problem to be addressed.
 - b. A definition of the objectives of the bill and its constitutional authority.
 - c. A provision to evaluate the results if the bill is enacted, measuring results against objectives, paying particular attention to cost/benefit analysis.
 - d. After such review, consider changes to or repeal of the act if warranted.
4. Define procedures in Congress to ensure that free and open debate is accorded to all bills.
5. Approve the calendar of Congress, including a standard work week. Require that any session called outside of the regular schedule be approved by the minority party leader.
6. Define performance standards for responses to Freedom of Information Act requests; assess penalties and/or reprimands for failure to meet the standards.

For an Informed Electorate:

The objective of these measures would be to allow candidates to exercise their right to free speech while holding them accountable for statements made. The intent is to publicize the relevant information to allow the public to draw its own conclusions about the style and truthfulness of each candidate.

1. Establish a procedure allowing challenges of facts claimed in political ads and speeches, with investigation and resolution publicized; retain a public record of all such events.
2. Require that the originator of an ad or speech submit an analysis of its content in categories such as:
 - a. New policy proposal
 - b. Rebuttal of opponents policy statement
 - c. Personal attack on opponent
 - d. Attack on opponent group
3. After confirmation of the analysis, this data would be publicized and accumulated during a campaign.