

# Trump White House Transition Team Prioritizes Federal Employee Purge

## Key Comments On Federal Employees by Transition Team Chief Chris Christie



### Purge List

The Trump campaign is compiling a list of federal employees to fire if it wins the election, focusing particularly on Obama administration political appointees



### Burrowing Concerns

Transition team fears that the Obama administration may convert political appointees to civil servants – a practice referred to as ‘burrowing’ – which would make them harder to fire even under a Republican administration



### Congressional Action

Christie stated that a Trump White House would likely ask Congress to change the laws governing civil service employment in order to make them easier to fire

### Background

- Christie made his comments to a group of Republican donors in a closed-door meeting at the Republican National Convention; the New Jersey governor was named chief of the Trump transition team in May
- The House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform has sent letters to 23 executive-branch agencies asking information on all political appointees converted to career positions since September 2015
- As of March 2016, there were a total of 3,164 political appointees, 852 of whom were presidential appointees

Source: Emily Flitter, “Exclusive: Trump could seek new law to purge government of Obama appointees,” Reuters, July 20, 2016; Joe Davidson, “Federal Insider Christie on Trump’s Plan to Fire Feds Faster and Clean Out Obama’s People,” Washington Post, July 22, 2016.