

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS



December 18, 2019

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform
United States House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Maloney and Chairman Johnson:

I am pleased to transmit to you the Integrated Digital Experience Act Report for the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), in accordance with the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (Public Law 115-336).

If you require additional information or have questions regarding the report, please contact OGE's Chief of Staff, Shelley K. Finlayson, at 202-482-9314.

Sincerely,

Emory A. Rounds, III
Director

Enclosure





INTEGRATED DIGITAL EXPERIENCE ACT REPORT

December 2019

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Preventing Conflicts of Interest
in the Executive Branch



INTEGRATED DIGITAL EXPERIENCE ACT REPORT

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Background

In accordance with the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (Public Law 115-336), the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) has prepared this publicly available report to be submitted to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget.

Per section 3(b) of the Act, the report includes:

- a list of the websites and digital services OGE considers most important for public engagement;
- a prioritized subset of websites and digital services from that list that require modernization to meet the eight elements described in section 3(a) of the Act; and
- an estimation of the cost and schedule associated with modernizing the items of the prioritized subset.

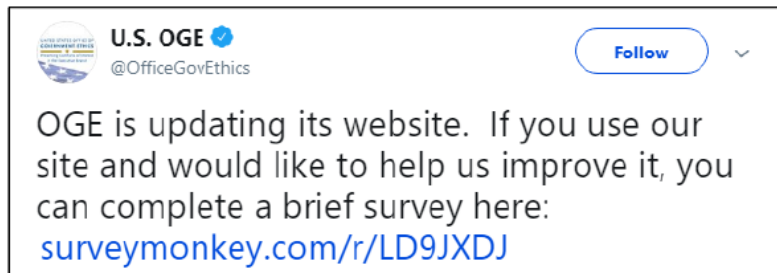
Per section 3(d), the report details OGE’s progress in implementing section 3 of the Act and will be made publicly available on OGE’s website.

Most Important Websites and Digital Services for Public Engagement

OGE’s website, www.oge.gov, is its primary tool for public engagement and communicating with its external stakeholders, and serves as a valuable tool for building confidence in the systems designed to detect and resolve conflicts of interest in the federal executive branch.

OGE’s website also directs the public to other critical digital services made available by OGE that facilitate public engagement. For example, OGE has created an [automated form](#) that allows the public to “Request to Inspect or Receive Copies of Executive Branch Personnel Public Financial Disclosure Reports or Other Covered Records.” In addition, OGE’s [Institute for Ethics in Government](#) is a digital portal that makes education materials for ethics officials available to the public.

OGE’s most recent [Open Government Plan](#) addresses OGE’s new initiative to review and redesign its website to improve users’ experience. As detailed in the plan, OGE has begun the process of redesigning its



website to improve the public's ability to search ethics documents, to improve the ability of ethics officials to effectively search and locate key resources needed to perform their jobs, and to further ensure IT security. In doing so, OGE has focused on increasing its capacity and responsiveness to public requests and increasing the transparency of ethics information by improving the ability of website visitors to search, filter, and view the information.

Prioritized Subset of Websites and Digital Services that Require Modernization to Meet the Eight Elements Described in Section 3(a) of the Act

As part of the process of redesigning its website, OGE is ensuring, to the greatest extent practicable, that each redesigned section, form, application or digital service:

- (1) is accessible to individuals with disabilities in accordance with section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d);
- (2) has a consistent appearance;
- (3) does not overlap with or duplicate any legacy websites and, if applicable, ensure that legacy websites are regularly reviewed, eliminated, and consolidated;
- (4) contains a search function that allows users to easily search content intended for public use;
- (5) is provided through an industry standard secure connection;
- (6) is designed around user needs with data-driven analysis influencing management and development decisions, using qualitative and quantitative data to determine user goals, needs, and behaviors, and continually test the website, web-based form, web-based application, or digital service to ensure that user needs are addressed;
- (7) provides users of the new or redesigned website, web-based form, web-based application, or digital service with the option for a more customized digital experience that allows users to complete digital transactions in an efficient and accurate manner; and
- (8) is fully functional and usable on common mobile devices.

Estimated Cost and Schedule Associated with Modernizing the Prioritized Subset

The estimated cost and schedule associated with OGE's website modernization is detailed in [OGE's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Justification and Annual Performance Plan](#), which notes that with continued heightened public interest in OGE and its work, it is imperative that OGE increase the functionality, capacity, and access to ethics information via its website. To that end, in addition to dedicating a significant portion of its limited staff resources, OGE requested \$20,000 toward a redesign of its website to improve public access to ethics documents, ethics officials' access to key resources needed to perform their jobs, and to further ensure IT security.