
How Long Can I Go Without Interacting With Government?



Supporting Questions

1. What is the federal bureaucracy and what is its role?
2. What agencies and departments make up the federal bureaucracy?
3. Is the federal bureaucracy necessary?

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HS Civics Inquiry

How Long Can I Go Without Interacting with Government?

Michigan Content Expectations:	Civics-3.1.4 Identify the role of independent regulatory agencies in the federal bureaucracy (e.g., Federal Reserve Board, Food and Drug Administration, Federal Communications Commission).
Staging the Compelling Question:	Student Response Sheet

Supporting Question 1
What is the federal bureaucracy and what is its role?
Formative Performance Task
Write a paragraph defining federal bureaucracy including where it gets its power and what its role is.
Featured Sources
Source A: U.S. Constitution- Article 2, Section 3 Source B: Who Are the Bureaucrats? Source C: Bureaucracy Basics: Crash Course Government and Politics #15

Supporting Question 2
What agencies and departments make up the federal bureaucracy?
Formative Performance Task
Choose 5 departments/agencies from the list (source C), research the role and purpose of that entity. Then, rank them from most important (1) to least important (5). Be prepared to defend your choices. (Each student would choose 5 different entities and then share out)
Featured Sources
Source A: 4 Types of Bureaucracy Source B: Chart of the Structure of the Federal Government Source C: A-Z Index of U.S. Government Departments and Agencies

Supporting Question 3
Is the federal bureaucracy necessary?
Formative Performance Task
Revisit your timeline from the anticipatory activity and identify additional steps that the government is involved that you didn't know before. Make a t-chart of the costs/negative results and the benefits/positive results of the federal bureaucracy.
Featured Sources
Source A: Political Cartoon "Another Layer of Bureaucracy" Source B: A Day in your Life Source C: Graph: Total Government Spending Source D: Website: Debt Clock

Summative Performance Task	Argument: Make a claim using evidentiary support- is the benefit of federal bureaucracy worth the cost?
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Overview

Students in High School Civics are challenged in this inquiry to learn the answer to the compelling question: How long can I go without interacting with government? Over the course of this small inquiry unit they will explore exactly how involved we all are with government in our daily lives. They will investigate what the word “bureaucracy” means and drill into the many different departments that exist within the federal government.

Staging the Compelling Question

To stage this inquiry, teachers might begin by having students create a detailed timeline of their day up to them being in your class. Students should try to identify which steps they think the government is involved in. (students need to be very detailed- ie. 6:30- woke up, 6:35- brushed teeth, 6:40- took a shower, etc.)

Supporting Question 1 Overview

The first supporting question—“What is the federal bureaucracy and what is its role?”—launches the inquiry by asking student to define the federal bureaucracy and explore where it comes from and what it does. Through featured sources, students should develop an understanding that the federal bureaucracy is instrumental in fulfilling the duties of the executive and legislative branches. After examining the sources, students write a paragraph defining federal bureaucracy including where it gets its power and what its role is.

Supporting Question 2 Overview

The second supporting question—“What agencies and departments make up the federal bureaucracy?”—directs students to discover the general size and scope of the federal bureaucracy by examining the sources- a graphic organizer depicting the 4 types of bureaucracy, a diagram of the structure of the federal government an a comprehensive A-Z list of the federal government’s departments and agencies. The formative performance task calls on students to construct a t-chart sorting bureaucratic agencies into the most relevant and irrelevant to the function of the federal government.

Supporting Question 3 Overview

This third supporting question—“Is the federal bureaucracy necessary?”—begins a two-part exploration of the positive and negative effects of the federal bureaucracy. As the formative performance task, students revisit their timeline from the opening activity and highlight additional steps where the government is involved to determine how much they depend on the bureaucracy on a daily basis. Then students will make a list of the costs of the federal bureaucracy (money, time, resources, etc.)

Summative Performance Task

In the Summative Performance Task, students address the issue of whether or not the federal bureaucracy effectively fulfills its role. After learning what the federal bureaucracy is and what it is supposed to do, examining the agencies and departments that make up the federal bureaucracy, and examining the positive and negative aspects of the federal bureaucracy, students should be able to draw on a range of examples to use as evidence in answering the compelling question “is the benefit of federal bureaucracy worth the cost?”

Student arguments will likely vary but could include any of the following:

- The federal bureaucracy is involved in almost all aspects of our lives and therefore is definitely worth the cost
- The federal bureaucracy is an important instrument in making our lives comfortable and productive but is inefficient in carrying out its duties and needs to be reformed
- The federal bureaucracy wastes so much time, money and resources that it is not worth the benefits to our everyday lives

Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source A

U.S. Constitution - Article 2 Section 3
Article 2 - The Executive Branch
Section 3 - State of the Union, Convening Congress

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source B

8c. Who Are the Bureaucrats?

Brigadier General Clara L. Adams-Ender, Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, represents the changing face of today's bureaucracy as more women and minorities enter government service.

The image of the faceless federal employee is completely false.

The 4 million Americans who work for the federal government have many faces and do many jobs. For starters, over 1.4 million are in military service. Overall, they represent much more of a cross section of the American population than do members of Congress or federal judges. About 43% are women, and 28% represent minority groups.

Surprising Facts

Many other misconceptions exist about federal employees. Consider the following:

Only about 10% of civilian employees work in the Washington, D.C. area. Postal workers and forest rangers live and work across the country, for example. California alone has more federal employees than does the District of Columbia.

About 30% of the civilian employees work for the army, the navy, the air force, or some other defense agency. Even though bureaucrats work at a variety of jobs, most are white-collar workers like secretaries, clerks, lawyers, inspectors, and engineers.

The number of federal employees per 100 people in the United States population has actually decreased from over 14 per 100 in the early 1970s to a little over 10 per 100 by the late 1990s.

Rangers like this fellow at the Grand Canyon have many duties. Some are responsible for wildlife preservation, others educate visitors about parks and monuments. Park Service employees also work as attendants at buildings like the White House and the Smithsonian museums.

What Do Bureaucrats Do?

Most people think that bureaucrats only follow orders. They carry out the decisions that the President or members of Congress make. Of course, anyone who works in the executive branch is there to implement decisions, but the reality of their work is more complicated. The power of the bureaucracy depends on how much discretionary authority it is granted.

Congress passes laws, but it cannot follow through on all the little decisions that have to be made as the law is translated into action. Bureaucrats, then, may make policies and choose actions that are not spelled out in advance by laws.

Congress delegates substantial authority to administrative agencies in several areas:

Paying subsidies — government support money — to farmers, veterans, scientists, schools, universities, and

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hospitals

Transferring money to state and local governments for grants-in-aid, such as highway building, city improvements, or educational programs.

Devising and enforcing regulations, such as who owns television stations, what safety features automobiles have, and what kinds of scientific research will be specially encouraged.

Vince and Larry, U.S. Department of Transportation crash test dummies, have been used in ad campaigns encouraging motorists to wear seatbelts and discouraging drunk driving. The Department of Transportation is instrumental in enforcing regulations regarding automobiles, railroads, and aviation.

About 90% of all federal bureaucrats are hired under regulations of the civil service system. Most of them take a written examination administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and they meet selection criteria, such as training, education levels, or prior experience. Some of them take special tests and meet special criteria, such as postal employees, FBI agents, CIA intelligence officers, foreign-service officers, and doctors in the Public Health Service.

The variety of people who work for the federal bureaucracy is greater than most people realize. They may do scientific research, clerk in welfare offices, decide burn policies for national forests, or do undercover intelligence work. They are all a part of the process whereby the government fulfills the many expectations that Americans have for it today.

Source: <http://www.ushistory.org/gov/8c.asp>

Supporting Question 1 - Featured Source C (Video)



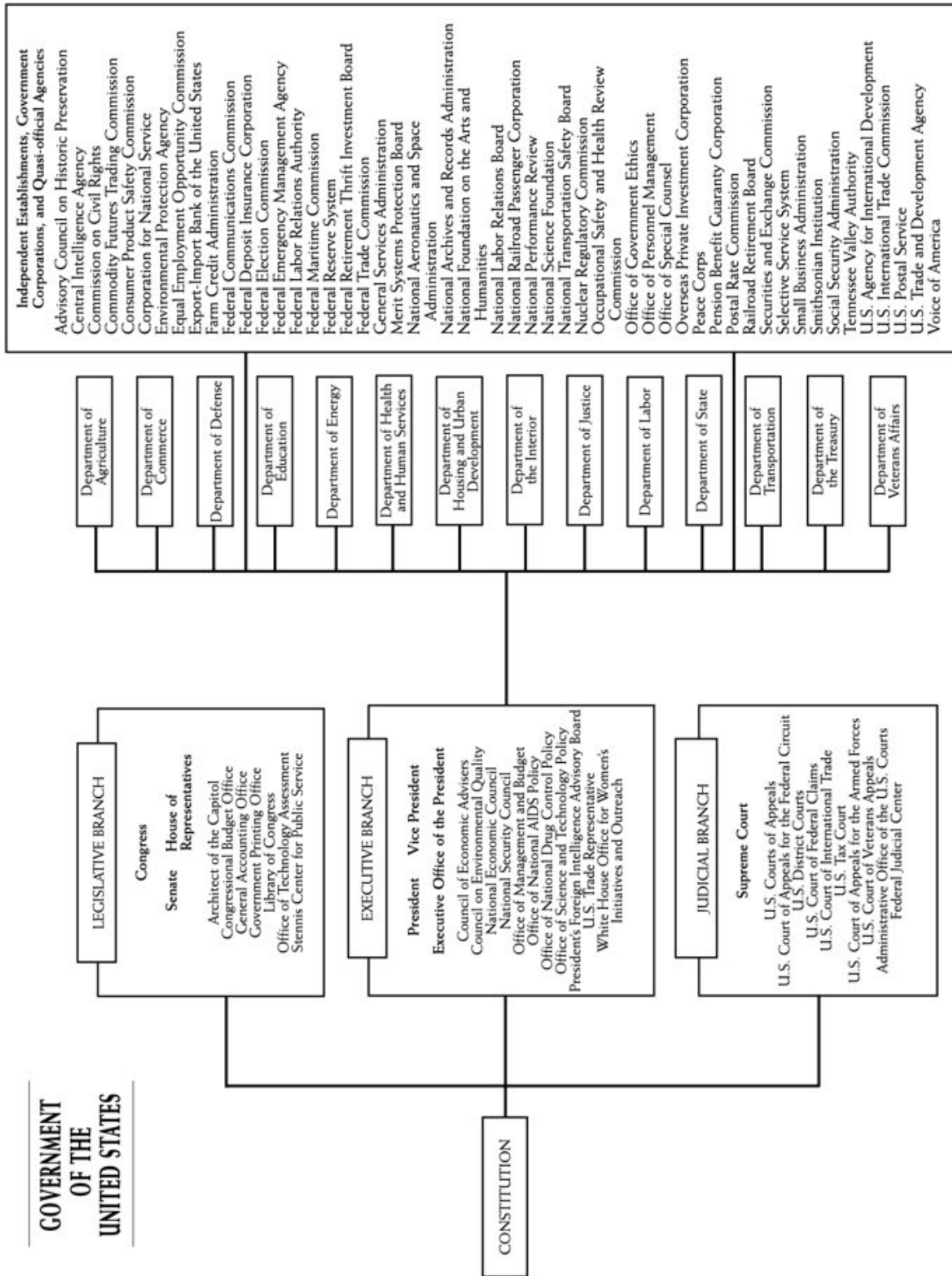
Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source A

<https://www.slideshare.net/aquinaspolitics/the-executive-branch-the-presidency-30582634>

Federal Bureaucracy



Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source B



3

2

<http://www.tep-online.info/download/govchart.pdf>

Supporting Question 2 - Featured Source C

A-Z Index of U.S. Government Departments and Agencies	American Battle Monuments Commission	Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)
A	American Samoa	Bureau of International Labor Affairs
AbilityOne Commission	Amtrak (AMTRAK)	Bureau of Justice Statistics
Access Board	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	Bureau of Labor Statistics
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	Antitrust Division	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Administration for Community Living	Appalachian Regional Commission	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Administration for Native Americans	Architect of the Capitol	Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
Administrative Conference of the United States	Archives, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)	Bureau of Reclamation
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts	Arctic Research Commission	Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Arizona	Bureau of Transportation Statistics
African Development Foundation	Arkansas	Bureau of the Census
Agency for Global Media	Armed Forces Retirement Home	Bureau of the Fiscal Service
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	Arms Control and International Security	C
Agency for International Development (USAID)	Army	California
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	Army Corps of Engineers	Capitol Police
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)	Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, National Institute of	Capitol Visitor Center
Agricultural Research Service	B	Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Office of
Agriculture Department (USDA)	Bankruptcy Courts	Census Bureau
Air Force	Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program	Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
Air Force Reserve	Bonneville Power Administration	Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP)
Alabama	Botanic Garden	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Alaska	Bureau of Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)	Central Command (CENTCOM)
Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Bureau (ATF)	Bureau of Consular Affairs	Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
Alhurra TV	Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection	Chemical Safety Board
AmeriCorps	Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)	Chief Acquisition Officers Council
	Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)	Chief Financial Officers Council
	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Chief Human Capital Officers Council
		Chief Information Officers Council
		Child Support Enforcement, Office

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of (OCSE)	Consular Affairs, Bureau of	Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)
Circuit Courts of Appeal	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau	Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)
Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee	Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)	Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)
Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)	Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
Civil Rights, Department of Education Office of	Copyright Office	Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)
Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services Office for	Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)	Defense Security Service
Coast Guard	Corps of Engineers	Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC)
Colorado	Council of Economic Advisers	Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
Commerce Department (DOC)	Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency	Delaware
Commission of Fine Arts	Council on Environmental Quality	Delaware River Basin Commission
Commission on Civil Rights	Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia	Delta Regional Authority
Commission on International Religious Freedom	Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	Denali Commission
Commission on Presidential Scholars	Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces	Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission)	Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit	Department of Commerce (DOC)
Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements	Court of Federal Claims	Department of Defense (DOD)
Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States	Court of International Trade	Department of Education (ED)
Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)	Customs and Border Protection	Department of Energy (DOE)
Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)	D	Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Community Planning and Development	Defense Acquisition University	Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Compliance, Office of	Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)	Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Comptroller of the Currency, Office of (OCC)	Defense Commissary Agency	Department of Justice (DOJ)
Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US CERT)	Defense Contract Audit Agency	Department of Labor (DOL)
Congress—U.S. House of Representatives	Defense Contract Management Agency	Department of State (DOS)
Congress—U.S. Senate	Defense Department (DOD)	Department of Transportation (DOT)
Congressional Budget Office (CBO)	Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)	Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Congressional Research Service	Defense Finance and Accounting Service Out-of-Service Debt Mgmt. Center	Department of the Interior (DOI)
Connecticut	Defense Health Agency	Department of the Treasury
		Director of National Intelligence, Office of
		Disability Employment Policy, Office of (ODEP)
		District of Columbia

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Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy

E

Economic Adjustment Office
Economic Analysis, Bureau of (BEA)
Economic Development Administration (EDA)
Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment
Economic Research Service
Economics and Statistics Administration
Education Department (ED)
Education Resources Information Center (ERIC)
Elder Justice Initiative
Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of
Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)
Employment and Training Administration
Endangered Species Program
Energy Department (DOE)
Energy Information Administration
Energy Star Program
English Language Acquisition Office
Engraving and Printing, Bureau of (BEP)
Environmental Management, Office of
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission (EEOC)
European Command
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Export-Import Bank of the United States

F

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO)
Fannie Mae
Farm Credit Administration
Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation
Farm Service Agency
FedStats
Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)
Federal Citizen Information Center
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
Federal Consulting Group
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
Federal Election Commission
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Federal Executive Boards
Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council
Federal Financing Bank
Federal Geographic Data Committee
Federal Highway Administration (FHA)
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Cor-

poration (Freddie Mac)
Federal Housing Administration (FHA)
Federal Housing Finance Agency
Federal Interagency Committee on Education
Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy
Federal Judicial Center
Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA)
Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC)
Federal Library and Information Center Committee
Federal Maritime Commission
Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service
Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae)
Federal Protective Service
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
Federal Register
Federal Reserve System
Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board
Federal Student Aid Information Center
Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
Federal Voting Assistance Program
Federated States of Micronesia
Fiscal Service, Bureau of the
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
Fleet Forces Command



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Florida	Helsinki Commission	Weeds
Food Safety and Inspection Service	Holocaust Memorial Museum	Interagency Council on Homelessness
Food and Agriculture, National Institute of	Homeland Security Department (DHS)	Interior Department (DOI)
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	House Office of Inspector General	Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
Food and Nutrition Service	House Office of the Clerk	International Labor Affairs, Bureau of
Foreign Agricultural Service	House of Representatives	International Trade Administration (ITA)
Foreign Claims Settlement Commission	Housing Office	International Trade Commission
Forest Service	Housing and Urban Development, Department of (HUD)	Interpol
Fossil Energy	I	Iowa
Freddie Mac	Idaho	
Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board	Illinois	J
	Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS)	James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation
G	Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	Japan-United States Friendship Commission
General Services Administration (GSA)	Indian Affairs	Job Corps
Geological Survey (USGS)	Indian Arts and Crafts Board	John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Georgia	Indian Health Service	Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries
Ginnie Mae	Indiana	Joint Chiefs of Staff
Government Accountability Office (GAO)	Industrial College of the Armed Forces	Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies
Government Ethics, Office of (OGE)	Industry and Security, Bureau of (BIS)	Joint Fire Science Program
Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae)	Information Resource Management College	Joint Forces Staff College
Government Publishing Office (GPO)	Information Resources Center (ERIC)	Joint Military Intelligence College
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration	Innovation and Improvement Office	Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense
Guam	Inspectors General	Judicial Circuit Courts of Appeal
	Institute of Education Sciences	Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation
H	Institute of Museum and Library Services	Justice Department (DOJ)
Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation	Institute of Peace	Justice Programs, Office of
Hawaii	Inter-American Foundation	Justice Statistics, Bureau of
Health Resources and Services Administration	Interagency Alternative Dispute Resolution Working Group	Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of
Health and Human Services Department (HHS)	Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic	K
		Kansas

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Kennedy Center
Kentucky

L

Labor Department (DOL)
Labor Statistics, Bureau of
Land Management, Bureau of
(BLM)
Legal Services Corporation
Library of Congress (LOC)
Louisiana

M

Maine
Manufactured Housing Programs,
Office of
Marine Corps
Marine Mammal Commission
Maritime Administration (MA-
RAD)
Marketing and Regulatory Pro-
grams
Marshals Service
Maryland
Massachusetts
Mediation and Conciliation Service
Medicaid (CMS)
Medicaid and CHIP Payment and
Access Commission
Medicare (CMS)
Medicare Payment Advisory Com-
mission
Merit Systems Protection Board
Michigan
Middle East Broadcasting Networks
Migratory Bird Conservation Com-
mission
Military Postal Service Agency
Millennium Challenge Corporation
Mine Safety and Health Adminis-
tration (MSHA)
Minnesota

Minority Business Development
Agency
Minority Health, Office of
Mint
Missile Defense Agency (MDA)
Mississippi
Mississippi River Commission
Missouri
Montana
Morris K. Udall and Stewart L.
Udall Foundation
Multifamily Housing Office

N

NOAA Fisheries
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration (NASA)
National Agricultural Statistics
Service
National Archives and Records
Administration (NARA)
National Cancer Institute (NCI)
National Capital Planning Com-
mission
National Cemetery Administration
National Constitution Center
National Council on Disability
National Credit Union Administra-
tion (NCUA)
National Defense University
National Defense University iCol-
lege
National Endowment for the Arts
(NEA)
National Endowment for the Hu-
manities
National Flood Insurance Program
(NFIP)
National Gallery of Art
National Geospatial-Intelligence
Agency
National Guard

National Health Information Cen-
ter (NHIC)
National Heart, Lung, and Blood
Institute (NHLBI)
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration (NHTSA)
National Indian Gaming Commis-
sion
National Institute of Arthritis, Mus-
culoskeletal and Skin Diseases
National Institute of Corrections
National Institute of Food and
Agriculture
National Institute of Justice
National Institute of Mental Health
(NIMH)
National Institute of Occupational
Safety and Health (NIOSH)
National Institute of Standards and
Technology (NIST)
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
National Intelligence University
National Interagency Fire Center
National Labor Relations Board
(NLRB)
National Laboratories
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Mediation Board
National Nuclear Security Admin-
istration
National Ocean Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)
National Park Foundation
National Park Service (NPS)
National Passport Information
Center (NPIC)
National Pesticide Information
Center
National Railroad Passenger Cor-
poration (AMTRAK)
National Reconnaissance Office
National Science Foundation (NSF)

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National Security Agency (NSA)	reau of	(OPM)
National Technical Information Service	Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education	Office of Policy Development and Research
National Telecommunications and Information Administration	Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services	Office of Postsecondary Education
National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)	Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education	Office of Refugee Resettlement
National War College	Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE)	Office of Science and Technology Policy
National Weather Service	Office of Community Planning and Development	Office of Scientific and Technical Information
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Office of Compliance	Office of Servicemember Affairs
Natural Resources Revenue, Office of	Office of Cuba Broadcasting	Office of Special Counsel
Navy	Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)
Nebraska	Office of Elementary and Secondary Education	Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement
Nevada	Office of Environmental Management	Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)
New Hampshire	Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO)	Office of the Director of National Intelligence
New Jersey	Office of Fossil Energy	Office of the Federal Register
New Mexico	Office of Government Ethics (OGE)	Office of the Pardon Attorney
New York	Office of Housing	Ohio
North Carolina	Office of Investor Education and Advocacy	Oklahoma
North Dakota	Office of Justice Programs	Open World Leadership Center
Northern Border Regional Commission	Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention	Oregon
Northern Command	Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes	Out-of-Service Debt Management Center
Northern Mariana Islands	Office of Management and Budget (OMB)	Overseas Private Investment Corporation
Northwest Power Planning Council	Office of Manufactured Housing Programs	
Northwest Power and Conservation Council	Office of Minority Health	P
Nuclear Energy, Office of	Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)	Pacific Command
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)	Office of Natural Resources Revenue	Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board	Office of Nuclear Energy	Pardon Attorney, Office of
	Office of Personnel Management	Parole Commission
O		Patent and Trademark Office
Oak Ridge National Laboratory		Peace Corps
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)		Pennsylvania
Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission		Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC)
Ocean Energy Management, Bu-		

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Pentagon Force Protection Agency	Rural Business and Cooperative Programs	State Justice Institute
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration	Rural Development	Stennis Center for Public Service
Policy Development and Research	Rural Housing Service	Strategic Command
Political Affairs	Rural Utilities Service	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Postal Inspection Service		Supreme Court of the United States
Postal Regulatory Commission	S	Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, Office of
Postal Service (USPS)	Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Bureau of	Surface Transportation Board
Postsecondary Education, Office of	Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation	Susquehanna River Basin Commission
Power Administrations	Science Office	
President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition	Science and Technology Policy, Office of	T
Presidential Scholars Commission	Scientific and Technical Information, Office of	Tax Court
Presidio Trust	Seafood Inspection Program	Taxpayer Advocacy Panel
Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia	Secret Service	Tennessee
Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Accounting Agency	Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)	Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)
Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (PCLOB)	Selective Service System (SSS)	Texas
Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs	Senate	Trade Representative
Public and Indian Housing	Sentencing Commission	Trade and Development Agency
Puerto Rico	Servicemember Affairs, Office of	Transportation Department (DOT)
	Small Business Administration (SBA)	Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
R	Smithsonian Institution	Transportation Statistics, Bureau of
Radio Free Asia (RFA)	Social Security Administration (SSA)	Treasury Department
Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)	Social Security Advisory Board	Trustee Program
Radio Sawa	South Carolina	U
Radio and TV Martí	South Dakota	U S Virgin Islands
Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)	Southeastern Power Administration	U.S. AbilityOne Commission
Reclamation, Bureau of	Southern Command	U.S. Access Board
Refugee Resettlement, Office of	Southwestern Power Administration	U.S. Agency for Global Media
Rehabilitation Services Administration	Special Counsel, Office of	U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
Republic of Palau	Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of (OSERS)	U.S. Air Force
Republic of The Marshall Islands	Special Forces Operations Command	U.S. Air Force Reserve Command
Research and Innovative Technology Administration		U.S. Arctic Research Commission
Rhode Island		U.S. Army
Risk Management Agency	State Department (DOS)	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
		U.S. Botanic Garden
		U.S. Capitol Police



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U.S. Capitol Visitor Center	U.S. European Command	V
U.S. Census Bureau	U.S. Fleet Forces Command	Vermont
U.S. Central Command (CENT-COM)	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	Veterans Affairs Department (VA)
U.S. Chemical Safety Board	U.S. House of Representatives	Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)	U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	Veterans Day National Committee
U.S. Coast Guard	U.S. International Trade Commission	Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
U.S. Commission of Fine Arts	U.S. Marine Corps	Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS)
U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom	U.S. Marshals Service	Vietnam Education Foundation
U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC)	U.S. Military Academy, West Point	Virginia
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims	U.S. Mint	Voice of America (VOA)
U.S. Courts of Appeal	U.S. Mission to the United Nations	W
U.S. Customs and Border Protection	U.S. National Central Bureau - Interpol	Washington
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)	U.S. Navy	Washington Headquarters Services
U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)	U.S. Northern Command	Weather Service
U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)	Weights and Measures Division
U.S. Department of Education (ED)	U.S. Pacific Command	West Point Military Academy
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)	U.S. Parole Commission	West Virginia
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	Western Area Power Administration
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	U.S. Postal Inspection Service	White House
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	U.S. Postal Service (USPS)	Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	U.S. Senate	Wisconsin
U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)	U.S. Sentencing Commission	Women's Bureau
U.S. Department of State (DOS)	U.S. Southern Command	Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)	U.S. Special Operations Command	Wyoming
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	U.S. Strategic Command	
U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)	U.S. Trade Representative	
U.S. Department of the Treasury	U.S. Trade and Development Agency	
U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC)	U.S. Transportation Command	
	U.S. Trustee Program	
	US-CERT (US CERT)	
	USAGov	
	Unified Combatant Commands	
	Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences	
	Utah	

Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source A

<http://governmentisgood.com/articles.php?aid=1&print=1>

Government is Good

An Unapologetic Defense of a Vital Institution
A web project of Douglas J. Amy, Professor of Politics at Mount Holyoke College

A Day in Your Life

Though we usually fail to notice it, government programs and policies improve our daily lives in innumerable ways.

Ask yourself this question: “What has government done for me lately?” If you are like most Americans, you will probably answer: “Not much.” Many people feel government. Surveys show that 52% of Americans believe that “government programs have not really helped me and my family.”¹ But let’s see if that is really true for an average American and try to identify some of the ways that government improves that person’s life during that 24-hour period.

6:30 a.m. You are awakened by your clock radio. You know it is actually 6:30 because the National Institute of Standards and Technology keeps the official time. The Federal Communications Commission brings organization and coherence to our vast telecommunications system. It ensures, for example, that radio stations do not interfere with numerous other devices – cell phones, satellite television, wireless computers, etc. – whose signals crowd our nation’s airwaves.

6:35 a.m. Like 17 million other Americans, you have asthma. But as you get out of bed you notice that you are breathing freely this morning. This is thanks in part to government programs that would otherwise greatly worsen your condition.

6:38 a.m. You go into the kitchen for breakfast. You pour some water into your coffeemaker. You simply take for granted that this water is safe to drink. But in fact, you are relying on government to ensure the quality of your water and to immediately take measures to correct any potential problems with this vital resource.

6:39 a.m. You flip the switch on the coffee maker. There is no short in the outlet or in the electrical line and there is no resulting fire in your house. Why? Because government programs have inspected to make sure it was properly installed – a service provided by your local government. And it was installed by an electrician who was licensed by your state.

6:45 a.m. You sit down to breakfast with your family. You are having eggs – a food that brings with it the possibility of salmonella poisoning, a serious food-borne illness.

Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source B

Federal spending gets more ridiculous every year, and a new congressional report details 100 of the most egregious examples.

Following in the footsteps of chronic-waste chronicler Tom Coburn, Oklahoma senator James Lankford published “Federal Fumbles” late on Monday afternoon. The football-themed report examines not only ridiculous spending but also costly or burdensome overregulation.

Here are NR’s top-ten favorite — which is to say, most scoff-worthy and absurd — examples of how the government wastes your time, energy, and hard-earned cash.

10. \$283,500 on Department of Defense bird-watching

In the sage scrub of the California coast lives a small grey bird known as the California gnatcatcher. Its biggest enemy? Cowbirds, which like to hijack the gnatcatcher’s nest and lay eggs. The poor gnatcatchers never quite realize they’re raising someone else’s kin.

The federal government designated the gnatcatcher a threatened species more than two decades ago, and the Department of Defense has not-so-bravely rallied to its rescue. This year, DOD approved a \$283,500 grant to monitor the day-to-day life of baby gnatcatchers.

9. \$48,500 to write about Russian smokers

It’s no secret Russians like their tobacco. Roughly 60 percent of Russian men and 25 percent of Russian women smoke, averaging just over half a pack of cigarettes each day, according to a 2011 report by the Kennan Institute. What that has to do with the U.S. National Institutes of Health, however, is unclear. In April, the NIH announced

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it would grant some hapless grad student \$48,500 to pen the definitive history of smoking in Russia over the past 130 years. This tome must “reconstruct the culture of tobacco using newspapers, journals, industry publications, etiquette manuals, propaganda posters, popular literature, films, cartoons, and advertising images.”

The NIH apparently thinks someone is going to a) read this; and b) learn from Russia’s mistakes. That seems unlikely.

8. \$406,419 to look at a “chicken and egg” problem

America’s feeling pretty polarized these days, and the National Science Foundation wants to know whether to blame TV pundits.

So it gave Massachusetts Institute of Technology more than \$400k to ponder the burning question: “Does media choice cause polarization, or does polarization cause media choice?”

Just wait until the study is published and discussed on cable news. That will be really meta.

7. \$3.1 billion on vacation for federal employees placed on administrative leave

Just a few weeks ago, NR wrote about how DEA employees caught patronizing prostitutes were given bonuses rather than being fired, as if anyone needed more proof of how incredibly difficult it is to lose a government job. The GAO reports that five federal agencies alone spent \$3.1 billion on workers placed on administrative leave in a two-year timespan. A lot of that cash — \$775 million, to be exact — went to public employees banned from their desks for more than a month. (“Primarily,” Lankford’s waste book finds, “workers are placed on leave because they are under investigation for misconduct.”)

Why work for the government when you can get paid not to?

6. \$5,000 for a documentary film about Madison County, North Carolina’s best fiddler

The National Park Service forked over \$5,000 to Mars Hill University so it could make a documentary film about a local musician. Optimistically, they assumed it might lure tourists to the region.

It’s not the biggest expenditure, but it’s still irksome. “A \$5,000 grant, which is \$500 greater than the monthly income of the average American family, does not compare to the billions of dollars of frivolous spending by the federal government each year,” Lankford notes. But “with all due respect to [the musician] and his accomplishments, a documentary about a North Carolina fiddler does not benefit the U.S. national interest or the American public.”

#share#

5. Nearly \$150,000 to understand why politics stress us out

The National Science Foundation seems to have taken note of how stressful it can be to debate politics with friends and family.

It’s such a problem, apparently, that the NSF needs to spend taxpayer cash to delve into its root causes.

“One could argue,” the report quips, “that the most stressful thing about politics is the waste and bloat of government spending, especially researching topics such as this.”

4. Regulating llama farmers out of existence

Remember those adorable llamas who escaped in Arizona last winter? Well, the federal government seized on the opportunity to ruin their home.

According to Lankford’s report, the Department of Agriculture decided the owners of these llamas needed a license to “showcase” their animals, which they raised especially to help little kids and the elderly in their community. When the owners tried to fight back, they found themselves tangled in even more red tape.

Eventually, says llama owner Karen Freund, they just gave up. The federal government had “just totally destroyed everything I had planned for my retirement,” she said.

3. \$65,473 to figure out what bugs do near a lightbulb

The National Park Service was wondering what happened when insects used to dark, rural environments suddenly encountered a light.

It’s a stupid question, the report notes, because “anyone raised in a rural area can attest that one way to attract insects is to turn on a light.”

No word yet on how many bureaucrats it took to screw in that light bulb.

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2. Making Americans do their dishes twice

In 2015, the Department of Energy mandated that dishwashers must use no more than 3.1 gallons of water per load. The problem? Dishes don't really get clean with so little water.

So now, Americans have to wash their plates twice.

"Families already have enough to worry about without adding extra loads of dishes to the mix, simply due to poorly conceived federal regulations," the report notes.

1. \$35,000 for solar-powered beer

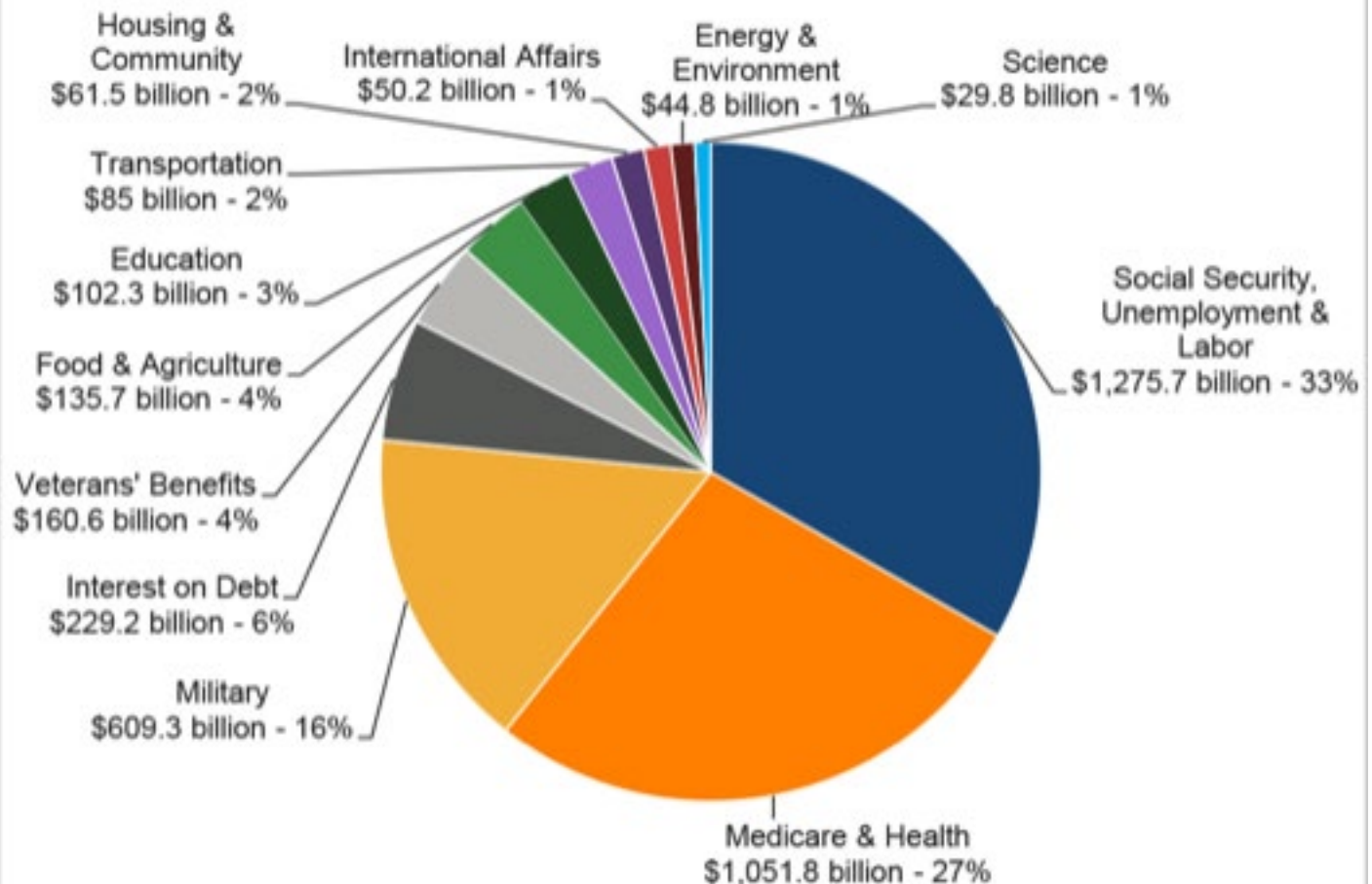
The Department of Agriculture wants your suds to be greener. So in Michigan and Wyoming, it paid for solar-panel installations at breweries. They're literally drinking away taxpayer money.

— Jillian Kay Melchior writes for National Review as a Thomas L. Rhodes Fellow for the Franklin Center. She is also a senior fellow at the Independent Women's Forum and the Tony Blankley Fellow at the Steamboat Institute.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2015/12/top-10-wasteful-government-expenses/>

Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source C

Total Federal Spending 2015: \$3.8 Trillion



Supporting Question 3 - Featured Source D

Visit: <https://www.usdebtclock.org> For the latest numbers.

