

**The United States
Government Manual
2005/2006**

**Office of the Federal Register
National Archives and Records Administration**

Revised June 1, 2005

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On the cover: Marking 70 years of providing ready access to essential Federal Government records, the cover displays an image of the National Archives Building during the Red, White, and Blue Nighttime Illumination Event on September 17, 2003, and a montage of covers from the 70-year history of the *Federal Register*.

The records preserved by the National Archives and Records Administration (National Archives) and the documents published in the *Federal Register* are essential to understanding and protecting our democratic system of government. Those records and documents form the tangible thread linking the power exercised by Federal agencies to its source in “We the People.” Providing access to these records and documents—be they the oldest Charters of Freedom enshrined in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building or the newest Federal regulations published in today’s *Federal Register*—ensures that our government remains one of laws, not of whims.

Recognizing the urgent need to modernize the physical means of preserving those records, Congress appropriated more than \$96 million in 1999 for extensive renovation of the National Archives Building. The renovation included re-encasing the Charters—the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights; improving public outreach and exhibit space; completing replacement of deteriorated building systems; making the building compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and improving storage conditions for archival records and security and safety features. In addition, private donations funded the new William G. McGowan Theater and the restoration of historic murals in the Rotunda. Seventy years after first opening, the National Archives Building is once again a state-of-the-art facility where the archives of the United States are explained through a wide variety of public events, samples of the Nation’s documentary history are exhibited, and in-depth research and ongoing discovery of the treasures within the National Archives are promoted.

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The *Federal Register* has been published every Federal business day since March 19, 1936, to provide public notice of the regulatory activities of the Federal executive branch agencies and of official Presidential and executive branch documents. Final rules published in the *Federal Register* are ultimately codified in the *Code of Federal Regulations*, another publication of the Office of the Federal Register which is located within the National Archives. Before the advent of these two publications 70 years ago, American citizens had no single, authoritative source of information about their legal rights and responsibilities under Federal agency programs.

We thank Creative Services at the U.S. Government Printing Office and Special Media Preservation at the National Archives and Records Administration for their contributions in developing the cover.

Preface

As the official handbook of the Federal Government, *The United States Government Manual* provides comprehensive information on the agencies of the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. The *Manual* also includes information on quasi-official agencies; international organizations in which the United States participates; and boards, commissions, and committees.

A typical agency description includes a list of principal officials, a summary statement of the agency's purpose and role in the Federal Government, a brief history of the agency, including its legislative or executive authority, a description of its programs and activities, and a "Sources of Information" section. This last section provides information on consumer activities, contracts and grants, employment, publications, and many other areas of public interest.

The 2005/2006 *Manual* was prepared by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Office of the Federal Register, under the supervision of Gwendolyn J. Henderson. Alfred W. Jones was Managing Editor; Stephen J. Frattini was Chief Editor, assisted by Stacey A. Mulligan.

THE FEDERAL REGISTER AND ITS SPECIAL EDITIONS

The *Manual* is published as a special edition of the *Federal Register* (see 1 CFR 9.1). Its focus is on programs and activities. Persons interested in detailed organizational structure, the regulatory documents of an agency, or Presidential documents should refer to the *Federal Register* or one of its other special editions, described below.

Issued each Federal working day, the *Federal Register* provides a uniform system for publishing Presidential documents, regulatory documents with general applicability and legal effect, proposed rules, notices, and documents required to be published by statute.

The *Code of Federal Regulations* is an annual codification of the general and permanent rules published in the *Federal Register*. The *Code* is divided into 50 titles that represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. The *Code* is kept up to date by the individual issues of the *Federal Register*.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* serves as a timely, up-to-date reference source for the public policies and activities of the President. It contains remarks, news conferences, messages, statements, and other Presidential material of a public nature issued by the White House during the week reported.

A companion publication to the *Weekly Compilation* is the *Public Papers of the Presidents*, which contains public Presidential documents and speeches in convenient book form. Volumes of the *Public Papers* have been published for every President since Herbert Hoover, with the exception of Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose papers were published privately.

OTHER OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER PUBLICATIONS

The Office of the Federal Register publishes slip laws, which are pamphlet prints of each public and private law enacted by Congress. Slip laws are compiled annually as the *United States Statutes at Large*. The *Statutes* volumes contain all public and private laws and concurrent resolutions enacted during a session of Congress;

recommendations for executive, legislative, and judicial salaries; reorganization plans; proposed and ratified amendments to the Constitution; and Presidential proclamations. Included with many of these documents are sidenotes, U.S. Code and statutes citations, and a summary of their legislative histories.

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ELECTRONIC SERVICES

The Office of the Federal Register maintains an Internet site for public law numbers, the Federal Register's public inspection list, and information on the Office and its activities at www.archives.gov/federal-register. This site also contains links to the texts of *The United States Government Manual*, Public Laws, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*, the *Federal Register*, and the *Code of Federal Regulations* (both as officially published on a quarterly basis and a new unofficial, daily updated version, the e-CFR) in electronic format through *GPO Access*. For more information about these online publications, contact the Electronic Information Dissemination Services, U.S. Government Printing Office. Phone, 202-512-1530, or 888-293-6498. Internet, www.gpoaccess.gov. E-mail, gpoaccess@gpo.gov.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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