Leadership Now Project

BUSINESS PLAN FOR AMERICA

Executive Summary

November 2026

This Executive Summary provides a preview of the Business Plan recommendations. To view the full report, scan the QR code or visit businessplanforamerica.org.

BUSINESS PLAN FOR AMERICA

TOPIC AREAS

*Items in **bold** are available now*



01 AMERICA'S TALENT ADVANTAGE

- **AI & America's workforce**
- **Immigration**
- **Higher education**



02 GROWTH & AFFORDABILITY

- **Housing**
- **Energy**
- **Data centers**
- Healthcare



03 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

- **Global competitiveness**
- **Research & innovation**
- **Capital markets**
- **AI safety**



04 GOVERNMENT THAT DELIVERS & EARNS TRUST

- **Rule of Law**
- Election reform
- Effective delivery
- Talent renewal



05 FISCAL STRENGTH

- **Tax reform**
- Budget & debt sustainability

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Election after election, Americans have sent a consistent message: they want affordability, opportunity, and a government they can trust to deliver. American business depends on the same—firms cannot thrive in a dysfunctional democracy, or in a society where most feel shut out of opportunity. Our country's economic vitality and credibility depend on advancing a concrete agenda that solves problems, seizes opportunities, and rebuilds the confidence of Americans.

The Business Plan for America is a practical governing framework, built by business leaders in consultation with policy experts, to answer that call. It advances three core goals:

STRENGTHEN U.S. COMPETITIVENESS

Build an adaptable economic foundation by prioritizing growth, developing a skilled workforce, and securing leadership in strategic sectors.

BROADEN ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Grow supply to lower costs and expand access to opportunity so gains reach every American family.

BUILD EFFECTIVE AND TRUSTED INSTITUTIONS

Dramatically improve government performance while restoring confidence by reinforcing the rule of law, checks and balances, and democratic processes.

To deliver on these goals, the Plan identifies strategic priorities and offers actionable policy recommendations. This update sets out an emerging business perspective on the challenges of AI, including safety and data centers. The Plan will continue to evolve and expand, addressing new subject areas and incorporating feedback from experts and business and political leaders. We believe the American people are best served by a rigorous debate on the issues facing the country, and we look forward to that exchange of views.

The window to act is narrow. The Plan therefore begins with "Delivering for Americans: A To-Do List for the Next Congress": a focused set of priorities, drawn from the broader Plan and built to draw support across party lines, that the new Congress can advance now. We believe that by setting the machinery of government working against bipartisan priorities we can build vital muscle memory for action to tackle increasingly ambitious goals. Beyond that, leaders shaping the 2028 presidential campaign must define a stronger path forward, translating public demand into not just winning campaign messages, but a credible governing agenda.

What follows is the latest in a series of policy papers laying out Leadership Now's vision for what comes next.

For full details please visit businessplanforamerica.org.

BUSINESS PLAN FOR AMERICA

AREA	CHALLENGE	POLICY POSITION & SELECT RECOMMENDATIONS
01. America's Talent Advantage		
AI & America's workforce	AI is poised to reshape the workforce, yet as a nation we are not prepared for the rapid pace of change.	**Support AI innovation while enabling workers to adapt and benefit from its deployment.** • Increase the portability of benefits to ease transitions • Incentivize and scale proven reskilling and accreditation programs • Explore innovations to increase worker ownership, improve safety nets, and shift taxation to incentivize investment in labor
Immigration	Immigration is critical to the U.S. economy, but decades of policy paralysis and political swings have raised risks for businesses.	**Secure the border while providing legal pathways for immigrants to contribute to the U.S. economy.** • Maintain border security while ensuring immigration enforcement is lawful, humane, and predictable • Attract and retain talent to strengthen U.S. leadership in advanced technologies and other strategic industries • Expand temporary visas and fill gaps in skilled trades
Higher Education	Rising costs, falling public trust, and rapid AI adoption threaten the advantage of America's colleges and universities.	**Accelerate change in higher education while upholding academic freedom and institutional independence.** • Require colleges whose borrowers persistently default to share in the cost • Extend Pell grants to low-income students in high-quality early-college programs • Break training bottlenecks in medicine, nursing, and the skilled trades
02. Growth and Affordability		
Housing	Restrictive zoning, lot-size minimums, and lengthy permitting have constrained housing supply and driven up costs.	**Modernize land use policy to significantly expand housing supply and bring down costs.** • Legalize smaller lots and light-touch density • Streamline permitting and expand by-right development • Leverage federal funding to incentivize state-level reform
Energy	Electricity demand is rising rapidly, while permitting delays and grid bottlenecks are limiting supply growth.	**Expand supply across technologies through an all-of-the-above strategy grounded in system performance, and lower emissions.** • Expand transmission and grid infrastructure • Reform permitting and interconnection processes • Strengthen energy supply chains and system flexibility
Data Centers	Public backlash over rising utility bills, water use, and few permanent jobs is outpacing policy on AI data centers.	**Ensure communities share in the benefits of data centers, not just the costs.** • Set a federal floor for ratepayer protection, transparency, and environmental standards • Reform permitting and expand transmission and grid infrastructure • Pilot community benefit and profit-share models

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03. Global Leadership		
Global Competitiveness	The U.S. faces intensifying geopolitical competition, economic fragmentation, and growing pressure on strategic industries and supply chains.	**Strengthen U.S. leadership in a more contested world to support broad-based American prosperity.** • Secure and diversify supply chains for critical goods and industrial inputs • Compete and win in the industries of the future, including AI • Renew and adapt a stable international system that advances U.S. interests
Research & Innovation	America's research lead is narrowing as China's investment surges and federal science funding grows less stable.	**Strengthen the science base and make the research system more productive.** • Provide durable, multi-year funding for science, with more support for early-career and high-risk research • Make two-stage grant applications the norm and invest in metascience • Expand ARPA-style programs and time-bound national challenges
Capital Markets	Fewer public companies, eroding faith in market fairness, and pressure on the dollar are testing America's financial leadership.	**Expand access to capital markets and enforce equal rules for all participants.** • Lower barriers to going public without weakening disclosure • Ban officials in all three branches from trading individual stocks and political prediction markets • Codify Federal Reserve independence and set clear rules for stablecoins and crypto markets
AI Safety	Serious security failures at major AI labs have exposed the absence of enforceable federal safeguards.	**Advance AI innovation while establishing enforceable guardrails to manage its risks.** • Require independent verification of frontier developers' safety practices • Mandate reporting of critical safety incidents • Give an expert regulator emergency authority to suspend models posing catastrophic risk
04. Government That Delivers and Earns Trust		
Rule of Law	Public trust has weakened as institutional norms, oversight, and confidence in impartial enforcement have eroded.	**Strengthen the rule of law through consistent enforcement, reliable oversight, and anti-corruption safeguards.** • Protect the independence and impartiality of the Department of Justice • Strengthen checks and balances • Tighten ethics and conflict-of-interest rules
05. Fiscal Strength		
Tax Reform	Rising affordability pressures and persistent structural deficits underscore the need to reward work, broaden the tax base, and restore fiscal sustainability.	**Reward work and productive investment while restoring fiscal sustainability through pro-growth reform and a broader tax base.** • Lower the tax burden on wage earners by increasing the standard deduction and child tax credit • Broaden the tax base by limiting loopholes and deferrals that allow income to escape taxation • Maintain favorable tax treatment for domestic investment