



THE
PRESIDENCY
ATA
CROSSROADS

THE MILLER CENTER'S NEW
PRESIDENTIAL STUDIES RESEARCH AGENDA





THE PRESIDENCY *at a Crossroads*

How can American presidents lead the nation in an era of polarization and dysfunction? And where is our cherished republic headed if we don't find the answers?

In order for the president, and the *presidency*, to succeed, we must explore these and other vital national questions that affect future generations—considering viewpoints from across the political spectrum but free of partisan rancor. The Miller Center's newest initiative, *Presidency at a Crossroads*, offers actionable advice to those best positioned to influence and shape the debate.

The *Presidency at a Crossroads* starts with questions—and a commitment to answers rather than ideology. By mining lessons from the past, we seek understanding of current challenges to constitutional freedoms, policy decisions, and Americans' wavering faith in our system of government.

The Miller Center brings together an unmatched team. We are home to a dozen senior University of Virginia faculty in politics, history, law, foreign affairs, management, and economic policy. We augment this expertise with our own team of senior fellows who are former White House officials and dozens of other veteran officials from multiple administrations, both Democrat and Republican. We then work directly with policy makers and the media to bring forward the best lessons of presidential history and practice.

THERE IS A RISK TO DOING NOTHING. AND GETTING IT RIGHT IS NOT SOLELY THE PRESIDENT'S JOB. THE NATION'S FOUNDERS CALLED ON ALL CITIZENS TO SERVE.

“NO OTHER ORGANIZATION
can put the presidency and presidential history into
context like the Miller Center.”

—John Dickerson, *Host, Face the Nation*

*"The Miller Center is the
GOLD STANDARD
for presidential studies."
—Thomas F. "Mack" McLarty,
Clinton White House Chief of Staff*



OUR CORE AUDIENCES

- The 1,000 most influential people around the presidency
- National media
- Business leaders
- Students, educators, and the engaged public

VITAL QUESTIONS FROM OUR RESEARCH AGENDA

THE PRESIDENCY AND CONSTITUTIONAL POWER

- How can 21st-century presidents lead a system designed almost 250 years ago?
- What leadership traits best serve an American president as both chief executive and ceremonial head of state?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of our democratic institutions in the modern age?

THE PRESIDENCY AND POLICYMAKING

- How do presidents decide when and how to go to war—and when to end them?
- How much can a presidency affect economic trends?
- What are the takeaways from the private sector for a president operating in a global economy?
- What are the lessons learned from the Affordable Care Act? What remains to be done?
- Is domestic policy more effectively made in the White House, Congress, or state government?
- Should corporations have a role in redefining entitlements?

THE PRESIDENCY AND THE PEOPLE

- How can a president work across party lines in a highly polarized era? Or avoid overreach when working within his own party? What happens to presidential power and influence when parties fracture?
- How can presidents bridge regional, racial, and religious differences to promote diversity in a pluralistic nation?
- What is the role of traditional and new media in communicating about or from the presidency?
- Does an overexposed presidency decrease the power of the bully pulpit?

“Now more than ever the country needs the non-partisan work of the Miller Center. I have found both its conferences on presidential leadership and its relevant, accessible scholarship invaluable tools in bringing to life the complexities of the modern presidency. At its core, the **MILLER CENTER’S WORK IS ACTIONABLE. IT MATTERS. AND IT’S A BLUEPRINT**

for what can and should happen tomorrow.”

—Gary Ginsberg, Executive Vice President, Time Warner

REACHING OUR AUDIENCES: A COMMITMENT TO HONEST INQUIRY

MEDIA INFLUENCE

- Miller Center experts average 70 appearances each month in major national media, including preeminent newspapers, radio, and broadcast and cable TV networks
- Miller Center ranked second out of 25 top U.S. think tanks in terms of media mentions (Source: June 2017 mediaQuant rating service)
- **millercenter.org** website ranked first out of 39 top U.S. think tanks in terms of visits and unique visitors (relative to revenues) throughout much of 2017
- **millercenter.org** consistently ranks first in Google search results for more than 500 common queries relating to presidents

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- Frequent op-eds, essays, and policy briefs that inject a steady stream of wisdom and context into the public discussion around the presidency
- Experts who mine presidential history, analyzing mistakes, highlighting successes, and prompting dynamic discussions of lessons for the future
- Books that inform how practitioners and the public view the presidency, as well as new ways to teach the presidency—from elementary schools to elite leadership programs
- Unique publications from the Miller Center’s unmatched archive of Secret White House Tapes and presidential oral histories
- Short videos and documentaries that offer historical presidential lessons in compelling formats

NONPARTISAN CIVIL CONVERSATION

- Seminars, conferences, panels, lectures, and private briefings that bring together scholars, students, public officials, and practitioners from the White House alumni network—in order to place the modern presidency in historical context and influence the public debate
- Programming and research partnerships with presidential landmarks such as Monticello, Montpelier, Highland
- **PREZFEST 2019**: A Presidential Ideas Festival that invites living former presidents, elite Washington influencers, presidential scholars, journalists, and business leaders for multiple days of robust discussions about challenges confronting the modern presidency

