

Echols, Mabel E.

From: Taylor Gordon
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 12:20 AM
To: FN-OMB-OIRA-Submission
Subject: Executive Order

A great information system, specifically including a public portal, would be a great way to include the American People. Lay it out for people so it is easy to understand but possible to drill down into the details, and you will satisfy a wide range of people. I encounter people whose opinions on subjects are directly determined by their misunderstanding of a subject. They typically don't intend to do this, and would likely feel differently if they knew the truth. I think the only time information accessibility isn't good is when you are trying to deceive people, because in that case you get caught and end up looking terrible. In other words, there is nothing stronger for your case, regardless if the audience is liberal/anything/conservative, than if you make a Sincere attempt at doing what you said you were going to do and are simply honest about the results. Good or bad, we understand. All that needs to happen is the avoidance of deception... but i won't go into that, as i believe that luckily the newest Administration doesn't seem to have as much of a problem with that one :)

An example usage of IT might be the dreaded earmark. Much aligned and misunderstood, but where is the straight-up low-down? Correct me if I'm wrong, but earmarks are direct investments in communities, which is great, but the problem is that the distribution is uneven at best, and obviously subject to intense skepticism. Why not create an interactive map of the projects/funds, where a person could easily find specifics or review the whole thing? That way, Citizens can have direct access to the reality of the budget situation, not some garbled interpretation off of cable news. In other words, they can judge for themselves whether a project is a reasonable use of the People's Money or not. With a bunch of informed Citizens running around, hopefully our elected representatives will begin feeling an enhanced sense of fairness and the problem will go away... or at least the fault will then go to us Citizens, for not saying something! We Citizens should be included in that list of checks and balances that we all learn in grade school. Maybe then people will find an easier excuse to take responsibility for their Nation.

Anyway, apologies for the lecture! Let me know if there is anything I can do to help. And thanks already for all the hard work--it is a huge undertaking and I know that we can do it.

Taylor

Taylor D. Gordon