

**Federal Update:  
Budget and More!  
February 24, 2021**

**Moderator:**

**Wendy Streit**, COGR  
President

**Panelists:**

**Matt Hourihan**, Director of  
R&D Budget and Policy, AAAS

**Matthew Owens**, EVP and VP  
for Federal Relations, AAU

**Sarah Spreitzer**, Director of  
Government Relations, ACE

# Federal Update: Regulatory Landscape

February 24, 2021

Sarah Spreitzer, Director of Government Relations  
American Council on Education



# Types of Regulatory Action

- Unified Agenda
- Presidential Actions (including Executive Orders, proclamations, and memoranda)
- Policy Memorandums
- Proposed Rules
- Interim Final rules
- Congressional Review Act

# Use of Regulatory Actions

## Trump Administration

- Many ultimately caught up in litigation and in the courts (i.e. travel ban)
- January 2017 EO 13771, “Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs”

## Comparison to previous administrations

- Trump issued a total of 894 executive actions, with 220 of those EO’s. George W. Bush had 291, Clinton had 364, and Obama had 276 (two terms).
- Usually used when Congress is uncooperative or to address timely issues.

## Biden actions so far.....

January 20<sup>th</sup> memo issuing a regulatory freeze

Withdrawal of proposed rules (i.e. DHS rule on SEVIS/ Confucius Institutes)

Biden Presidential Actions:

- January 27 “Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence Based Policy Making”
- January 27 “Executive Order on the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology”
- January 20 “Proclamation on Ending Discriminatory Bans on Entry to the U.S.”
- January 20 “Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government”

# What happens if a rule has been finalized?

Use of the Congressional Review Act (unlikely to happen)

Can carry out new rulemaking process, final rule will continue until a new rule replaces it

Biden WH also watching court cases

Outstanding issues for higher education:

- Title IX
- Section 117 ICR and investigations
- Others

# Looking Ahead to R&D Appropriations

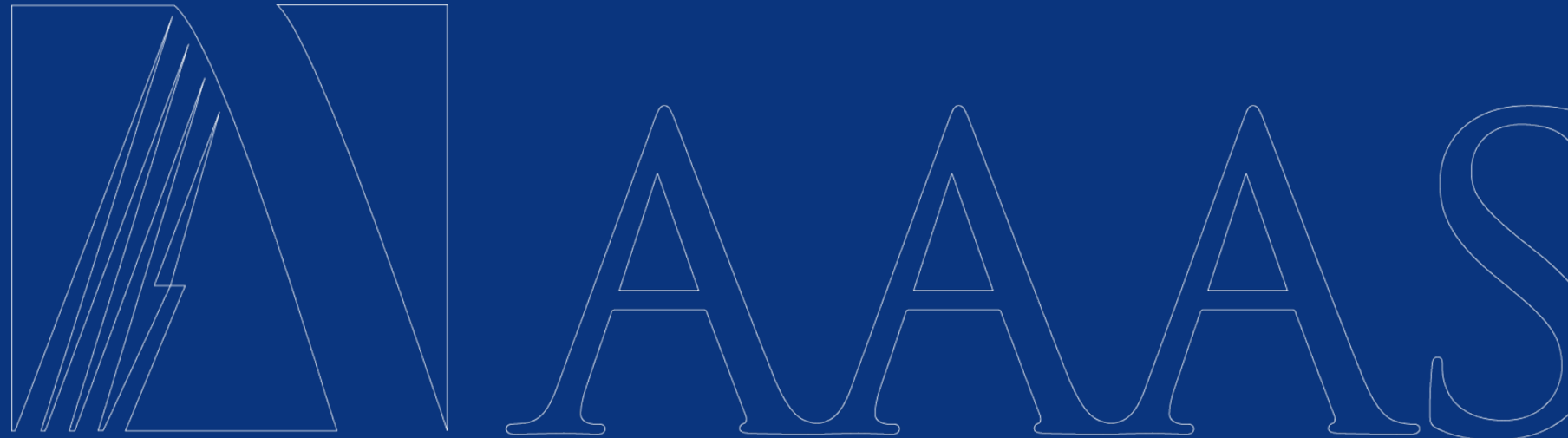
Matt Hourihan

February 24, 2021

For the Council on Government Relations

AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program

<http://www.aaas.org/rd>



## Upcoming Milestones

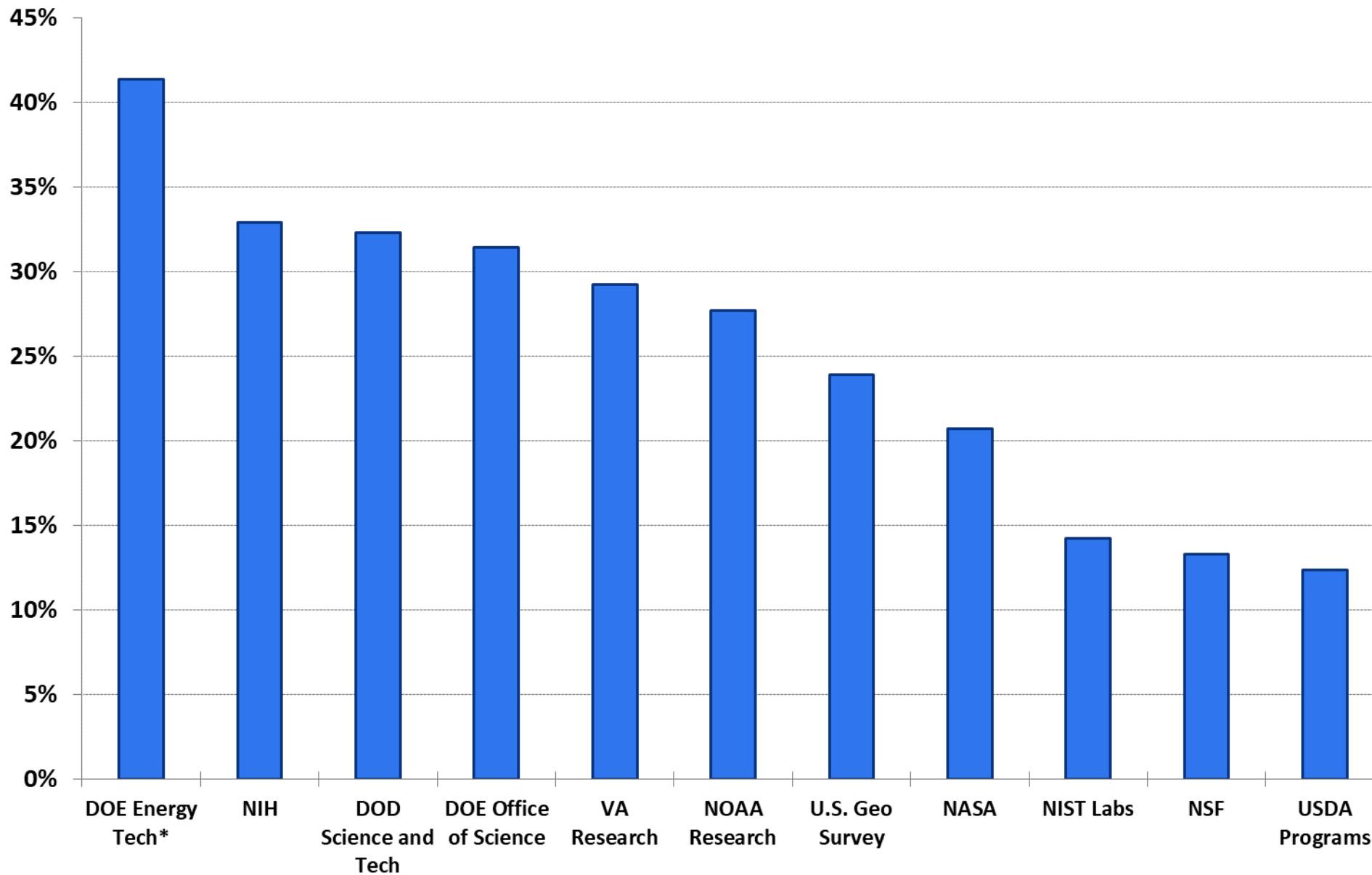
- First up: COVID-19 reconciliation package
- Biden Budget: Full details out in April or so?
- Congressional Budget: how much will we spend? Defense vs. Nondefense?
- Appropriations in summer
  - Debt ceiling returns
- Remember: nobody knows anything



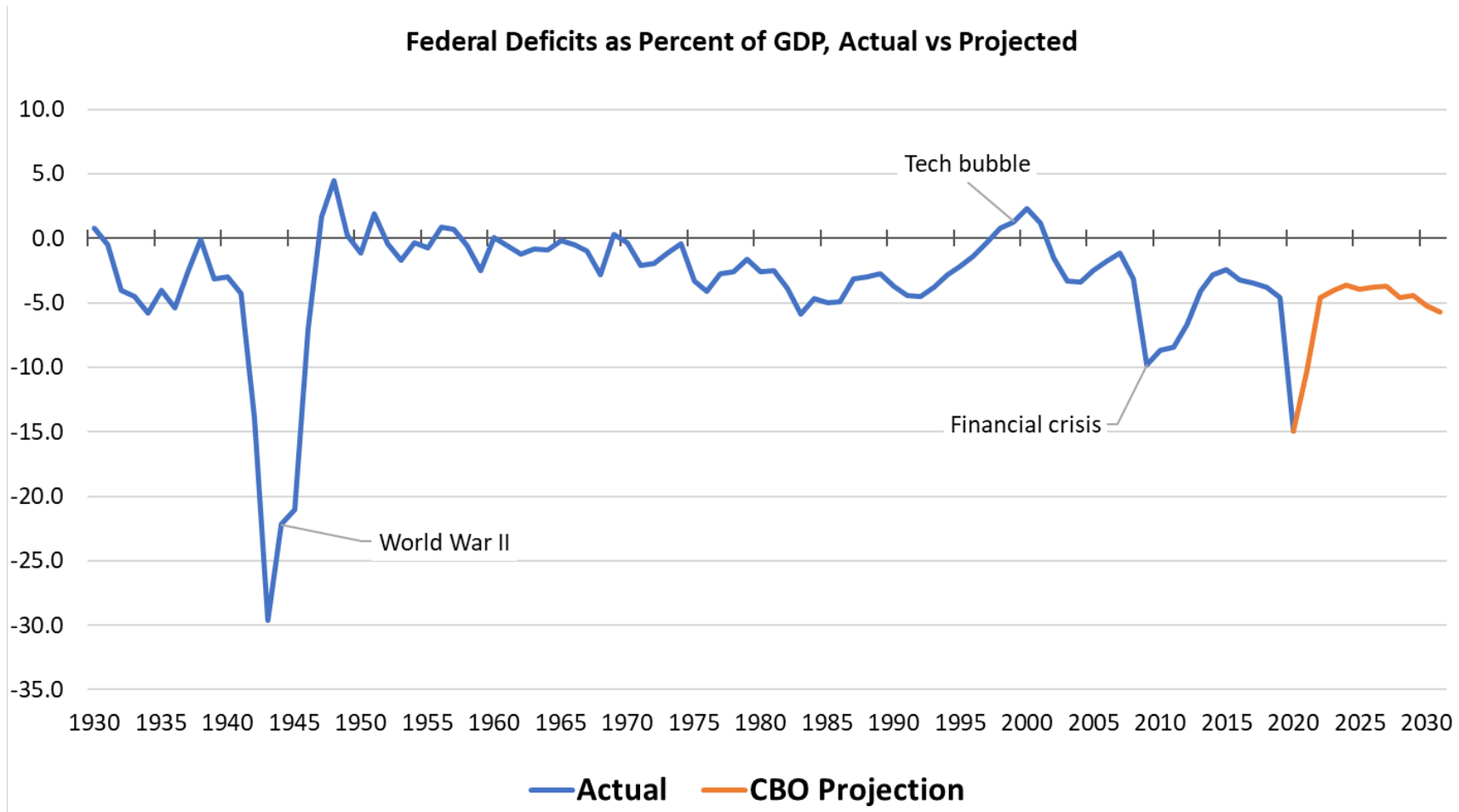


# Science Agency Budget Increases Since January 2017

Percent change from FY 2016 - FY 2021, nominal dollars



\*Nuclear, fossil, renewables, efficiency, grid security and reliability, ARPA-E.  
Source: agency budget documents and appropriations. | AAAS 2021



# For more info...

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# Matthew Owens

**Executive Vice President and Vice  
President for Federal Relations  
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# Q & A

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**Next Session: Disclosure Requirements @ 2 pm EST**

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Thank You



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