

Twitter Thread by Andrew McLaughlin



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For anyone unsure about making @JoeBiden President & Commander-in-Chief, here's a real story about his excellent instincts as a manager.

On inauguration in 2009, @BarackObama gave Biden the biggest assignment of his life: Overseeing the hugest economic stimulus in US history.

With the economy in freefall, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided \$787 billion for state/local support, infrastructure, energy independence - to put people back to work. The challenge was to spend that money quickly, but without fraud, waste, abuse. 2/11

President Obama made VP Biden responsible for overseeing the federal stimulus program. It's not common for a VP to be directly accountable for a high-stakes, high-risk government operation. But that was a signal of how important the effort was for the Administration. 3/11

To pull off a daunting mission, Biden did what a great manager should do: He hired a skilled and experienced team, set clear and measurable goals, delegated authority, invested significant time every week to the team & effort, and fostered a culture of accountability. 4/11

I saw it first-hand. As a Deputy CTO, I worked with the VP's ARRA oversight team on 3 elements - broadband stimulus (implemented by Dept of Commerce), smart grid upgrades (Dept of Energy), and electronic health records (HHS). 5/11

Biden's lead staffer for ARRA oversight was the incredibly gifted @EdDeSeve. He pulled together a tiny but extraordinarily hard-working, high-performing, no-drama team of government operations and budget nerds like his deputy, Frank DiGiammarino. They were relentless. 6/11

Biden got daily updates, conducted a weekly review, and led a weekly conf call with a rotating set of governors and mayors from both parties. He enforced a 24-hour rule, that any question from a Cabinet secretary, governor, or mayor be answered within a day. 7/11

Biden and his chief of staff @RonaldKlain backed Ed & the team at every turn, elevating him to the top layer of White House staff. I saw Ed's daily updates at Rahm Emanuel's early-morning senior staff meeting.

The VP's team established a Transparency Board of agency IGs. 8/11

They set up <https://t.co/g2HnGMpEOJ> - a system open to the public that could track every stimulus \$ down to the sub-recipient level. The result was a massive economic stimulus effort that got deployed quickly, was transparent to the public, and was essentially scandal-free. 9/11

It's common wisdom that Senators don't make good managers. But [@JoeBiden](#) proved otherwise, and I saw up close the kind of operation he runs. He has excellent executive instincts and knows how to drive performance and accountability from the White House. 10/11

Joe Biden will make a great President, not just because of his decency and judgment. He'll need to revitalize a broken and demoralized Executive Branch at a moment when the nation desperately needs it to function well. As I've witnessed, he's just the person to do it. 11/11