Office of External Affairs
Office Update

Presented By
James Kaplan, Director of External Affairs

October 28, 2025

Thrift Savings Plan
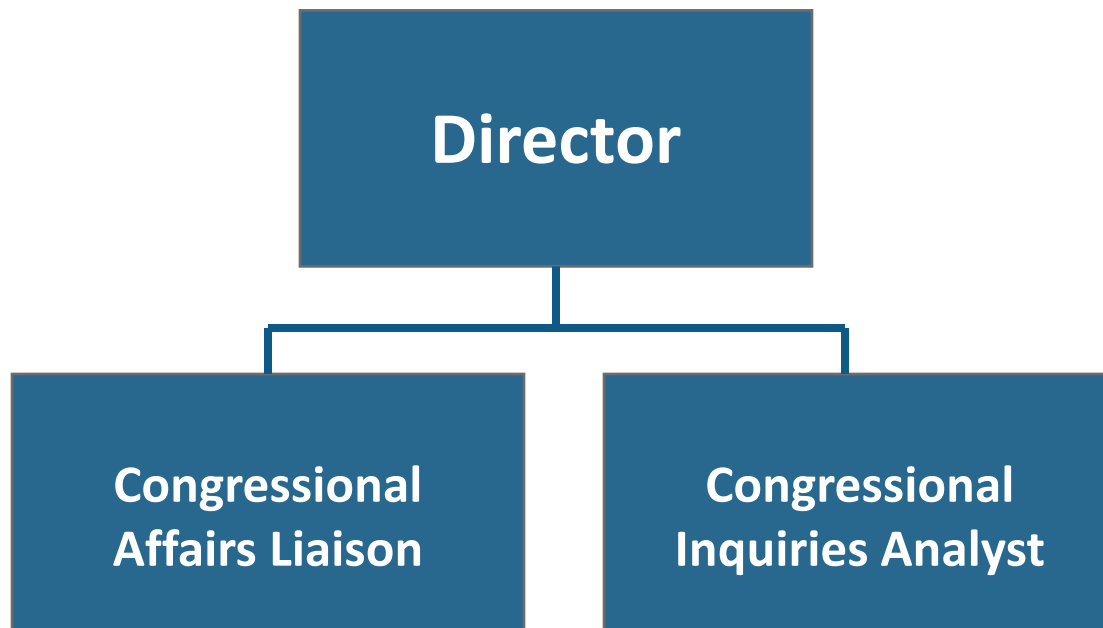Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board
tsp.gov

OEA Functional Statement

Office of External Affairs Functional Statement
The mission of the Office of External Affairs (OEA) is to develop and manage external communications strategies to Congress, the media, ETAC, and other Federal agencies at a policy level in support of FRTIB strategies and programs.

Thrift Savings Plan

OEA Structure

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              │    Director      │
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┌─────────────────┐       ┌─────────────────┐
│  Congressional   │       │  Congressional   │
│ Affairs Liaison  │       │ Inquiries Analyst│
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Thrift Savings Plan

Stakeholders: U.S. Congress

- Congress establishes and conducts oversight of federal agencies

- Congressional Support Offices:
  - Government Accountability Office
  - Congressional Research Service

- Congress authorizes and appropriates most federal agency budgets
  - The FRTIB does not receive an annual appropriation
  - Operates under budget approved by the Board

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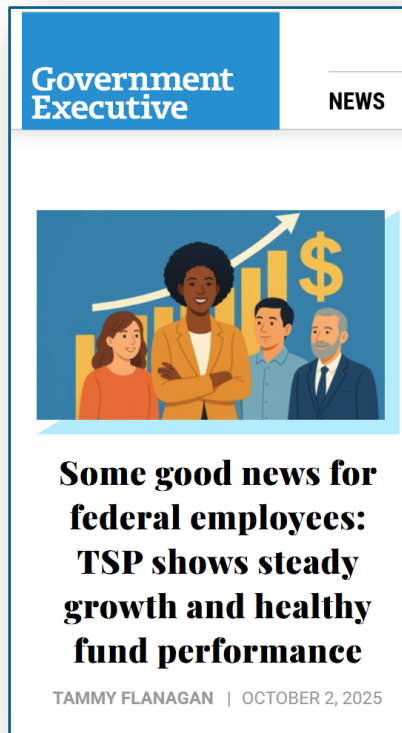# Stakeholders: Congressional Committees

- **Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs** (8R/7D)
  - Chair – Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)
  - Ranking Member – Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)

- **House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform** (26R/21D)
  - Chair – Rep. James Comer (R-KY)
  - Ranking Member – Rep. Robert Garcia (D-CA)

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Stakeholders: Media

- Inform TSP participants and beneficiaries through communications channels

- Provide Board Materials and other information of interest to engaged media outlets

- Respond to Queries

- Ensure factual accuracy

Government Executive | NEWS

Some good news for federal employees: TSP shows steady growth and healthy fund performance

TAMMY FLANAGAN | OCTOBER 2, 2025

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Stakeholders: Employee Thrift Advisory Council

- Advise the Board and the Executive Director on proposed TSP policies and operations

- Provide suggestions based on their organizational interests or priorities

- Channel for communications from the TSP to their membership about operations and improvements

- Meets twice per year:

    - Board – ETAC joint meeting

    - ETAC Meeting with the Executive Director

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Stakeholders: Federal Agencies

- Focus on Policy

- In coordination with other Offices

    - **Office of Management and Budget** (*with OCFO*)
    - **Office of Personnel Management** (*with ORM*)
    - **Dept. of Labor**, Employee Benefits Administration (*led by OPE and OCFO*)
    - **Dept. of Treasury** (*led by OPE and OCFO*)
    - **Payroll Agencies** (*led by OPE*)
    - Other Agencies as appropriate

- Interactions on day-to-day operations are managed by each FRTIB office

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Message and Mission