Midnight Regulations and the Decrease of OIRA Staff

Every four years, the number of new general regulations surges during the “midnight” period between the presidential election day and Inauguration Day. This surge is seen when an incumbent president is reelected; however, it is considerably higher when there is a change in party.

Data notes: Secondary chart does not cross horizontal axis at 0. Sources: OIRA’s online "review counts" database; Appendix to the Budget of the United States for FY 1981–2014. Produced by Sherzod Abdukadirov and Rizqi Rachmat, January 2016.