Timelines

Recommendation: Pursue/Option #1. There seems to be data here that could be visualized. The visualizations can be high level answers to how the government gets and spends money that can (1) attract users to our analytics site or (2) connect to more specific (to be developed) stories, for example, an analysis on a specific function, agency (e.g., health or HHS), or major event (e.g., Great Recession).

Concerns to be addressed with this option (as with the other options): Is it compelling? How do we want to publish this on our website? What is the ultimate story and who is the audience?

# MONEY OUT (BY FUNCTION)

1. Outlays by function with Presidential administration timeline
   1. Low-fi Sketch - complete
   2. Concerns:
      1. how far back does data go for outlays by budget function?
      2. Having both nominal and real options (or just real?)
   3. Decisions:
      1. Which functions to include?
         1. Multiple side by side to show different groups of BFs?
         2. Allow user to pick which ones to display? ☺
      2. Could toggle between dollars and percents sand charts
2. Outlays for ONE budget function with Policy/Legislation timeline
   1. Low-fi Sketch - complete
      1. Hover options
         1. Agency breakdown within that budget function
         2. See through Q2 spending facts and tidbits, e.g. OC, biggest Federal account, anything that pops out for that particular area of spending
   2. Concerns:
      1. Meaningful legislation occurred before relevant MTS data is available (e.g. 1960s income security and health legislation)
      2. Can we connect agencies’ outlays to budget function outlays?
   3. Decisions:
      1. What level to aggregate for timeline, especially if user is going to hover… year? Quarter? Month? FY? CY?
      2. Could toggle between dollars and percents sand charts

# MONEY IN (BY SOURCE)

1. Presidential admin timeline with tax revenue – analogue to outlay/function described above
   1. Low-fi Sketch - complete
   2. Concerns:
      1. Aggregating higher enough to avoid weird negative dips in sand chart
   3. Decisions:
      1. What’s a good level to aggregate? If year, CY or FY?
      2. Which sources to show?
         1. At first, the small ones melt together/hard to distinguish
         2. When interactive, you can click to see the small ones.
      3. Could toggle between dollars and percents sand charts
2. Notable policy timeline with tax revenue – analogue to outlay/function described above
   1. Low-fi Sketch -
   2. Concerns:
      1. Lag in effect of policy on tax revenue 🡪 use when things took effect instead of passed?
   3. Decisions:
      1. Which legislation and major events to pick

# OMB/GPO’s historical tables

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/search/pagedetails.action?collectionCode=BUDGET&granuleId=BUDGET-2017-TAB-2-1&packageId=BUDGET-2017-TAB&fromBrowse=true>

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Historicals>

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/omb/budget/Historicals>

# For timeline major events:

<https://www.thebalance.com/us-deficit-by-year-3306306> includes major events affecting deficit

<https://www.thebalance.com/national-debt-by-year-compared-to-gdp-and-major-events-3306287> includes major events by presidential term!

# Thoughts

* Does this align with our team’s vision if it doesn’t incorporate DATA Act data?
* Is this something we will publish to the website this fall?
* Could we connect this timeline view to an object class analysis: once you see why the govt spends money, dive into what it purchased?