

Jim Tozzi

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is jim tozzi one of the most significant regulatory policy makers of the past fifty years

Yes, **Jim Tozzi** is widely considered one of the most significant and influential U.S. regulatory policy makers of the past fifty years. While he spent most of his federal career as a behind-the-scenes civil servant rather than an elected official, he was the **chief institutional architect of centralized regulatory review**. He fundamentally shaped how the modern American administrative state operates.

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The "Father of OIRA"

Tozzi's influence spans five presidential administrations, bridging both political parties to build the machinery that coordinates federal rules:

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- **Centralized Regulatory Review:** In the 1970s, Tozzi coined the term "centralized regulatory review" and engineered the Nixon administration's *Quality of Life Review*, which first mandated that agencies like the EPA submit major rules to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before publication.

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- **The Creation of OIRA:** He was instrumental in drafting the [Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980](#), which formally created the **Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA)**. Tozzi served as OIRA's first career Deputy Administrator.

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- **Institutionalizing Cost-Benefit Analysis:** He helped draft President Reagan's landmark **Executive Order 12291**. This order institutionalized the requirement that executive agencies justify federal regulations through strict cost-benefit analyses.

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Post-Government Influence and Legacy

After leaving government in 1983, Tozzi continued to heavily impact federal policy from the private sector:

Wikipedia

- **The Data Quality Act (2000):** Working from the outside, Tozzi essentially wrote the **Data Quality Act** (also known as the Information Quality Act). This powerful, brief statute allows outside parties to legally challenge the scientific and statistical data used by agencies to justify federal regulations.

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- **The Center for Regulatory Effectiveness (CRE):** He founded the [CRE](#), an industry-backed watchdog group that acts as an aggressive commentator and advocate on regulatory issues.

The Federalist Society



A Polarizing Figure

Tozzi's legacy depends largely on one's perspective of the administrative state:

- **Supporters** view him as a brilliant bureaucratic tactician who brought economic rigor, transparency, and presidential accountability to runaway agencies.



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- **Critics**, including environmental and consumer groups, labeled him "Stealth" and characterized his centralized review process as a "black hole" designed to delay, weaken, or kill necessary health, safety, and environmental protections on behalf of corporate interests.