

Trump Administration Key Policy Personnel

Updated: February 5, 2017

Positions NOT subject to Senate confirmation in italics

White House Chief of Staff: Reince Priebus

Priebus is the former Chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC). He previously worked as chairman of the Republican Party of Wisconsin. He has a long history in Republican politics as a grassroots volunteer. He worked his way up through the ranks of the Republican Party of Wisconsin as 1st Congressional District Chairman, State Party Treasurer, First Vice Chair, and eventually State Party Chairman. In 2009, he served as General Counsel to the RNC, a role in which he volunteered his time.

White House Chief Strategist and Senior Counselor: Stephen Bannon

Bannon worked as the campaign CEO for Trump's presidential campaign. He is the Executive Chairman of Breitbart News Network, LLC and the Chief Executive Officer of American Vantage Media Corporation and Affinity Media. Mr. Bannon is also a Partner of Societe Generale, a talent management company in the entertainment business. He has served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Genius Products, Inc. since February 2005.

Attorney General: Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.)

Sen. Sessions began his legal career as a practicing attorney in Russellville, Alabama, and then in Mobile. Following a two-year stint as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, Sessions was nominated by President Reagan in 1981 and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the United States Attorney for Alabama's Southern District, a position he held for 12 years. Sessions was elected Alabama Attorney General in 1995, serving as the state's chief legal officer until 1997, when he entered the United States Senate. Sessions currently sits on the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on the Budget, and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The Senate Judiciary Committee advanced Sen. Session's nomination on February 1.

National Security Advisor: Michael Flynn

Flynn is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general who last served as 18th Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, from July 22, 2012 to August 7, 2014.

Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA): Representative Mike Pompeo (R-Ks.)

Pompeo has been the U.S. Representative for Kansas's 4th congressional district since 2011. Rep. Pompeo currently serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The Senate confirmed Rep. Pompeo by a vote of 66-32 on January 23.

Ambassador to the United Nations: Governor Nikki Haley (R)

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley was asked to serve as Trump's next ambassador to the United Nations. Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, was elected as Governor in 2011. She is the youngest current governor in the United States. She previously served in the South Carolina House of Representatives.

The Senate confirmed Governor Haley to serve as U.N. ambassador by a vote of 96-4 on January 24.

Secretary of Education: Betsy DeVos

Betsy DeVos has been tapped for the position of Secretary of Education. DeVos is a Michigan Republican activist and philanthropist. She is the former chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party, and is currently the chairman of The Windquest Group, a Michigan-based investment management company.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee advanced Ms. DeVos' nomination on January 31.

Secretary of Health and Human Service (HHS): Representative Tom Price (R-Ga.)

Congressman Tom Price was first elected to represent Georgia's 6th district in November 2004. Prior to going to Washington, Price served four terms in the Georgia State Senate – two as Minority Whip. In 2002, Price became the first Republican Senate Majority Leader in the history of Georgia. Price currently serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means. In the 114th Congress, Price was named Chair of the House Committee on the Budget. In previous Congresses, he has served as Chairman of the House Republican Policy Committee and Chairman of the Republican Study Committee. For nearly twenty years, Rep. Price worked in private practice as an orthopaedic surgeon. Before coming to Washington he returned to Emory University School of Medicine as an Assistant Professor and Medical Director of the Orthopedic Clinic at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, teaching resident doctors in training. He received his Bachelor and Doctor of Medicine degrees from the University of Michigan and completed his Orthopaedic Surgery residency at Emory University.

HHS is the U.S. government's principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves. The mission of HHS is to enhance the health and well-being of Americans by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering sound, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee held a hearing on Rep. Price's nomination on January 18. The Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on Rep. Price's nomination on January 24. The Senate Finance Committee advanced Rep. Price's nomination on February 1.

Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS): Seema Verma

Seema Verma is the President, CEO and founder of SVC, Inc., a national health policy consulting company. Ms. Verma is the architect of the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), the nation's first consumer directed Medicaid program under Governor Mitch Daniels of Indiana and Governor Pence's HIP 2.0 waiver proposal. SVC and Ms. Verma have developed many of the recent Medicaid reform programs including waivers for Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky and helped design Tennessee's coverage expansion proposal and also provided technical assistance to Michigan as they implemented their 1115 Medicaid waiver. Ms. Verma and SVC also supported Iowa's Medicaid transition to managed care, as well as supporting efforts Medicaid strategy efforts in Maine. Ms. Verma served as the State of Indiana's health reform lead following the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and has worked with multiple public health agencies and state insurance agencies as they prepared for implementation of the Affordable Care Act, including interpreting and implementing regulatory changes and understanding the impact of the health exchanges on state insurance markets. Ms. Verma participated on the Republican Governor's Public Policy Committee on Medicaid reform and contributed to the development of the report "A New Medicaid: A Flexible, Innovation and Accountable Future." Prior to consulting, Ms. Verma served as Vice President of Planning for the Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County and as a Director with the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) in Washington D.C.

CMS is part of the Department of Health and Human Services, and is responsible for administering Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Health Insurance Marketplace.

United States Secretary of the Treasury: Steven Mnuchin

Mnuchin worked as the national finance chairman of Trump's presidential campaign. He is a former partner at Goldman Sachs, founded the hedge fund Dune Capital Management, and was an investor in the film industry.

The Treasury Secretary acts as an advisor on tax policy. Their Department is responsible for collecting taxes and enforcing tax law, which covers the formation of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and tax deductibility for health care expenses.

The Senate Finance Committee advanced Mr. Mnuchin's nomination on February 1.

United States Secretary of Commerce: Wilbur Ross

Ross worked as an economic advisor to Trump during his campaign. Ross is chairman and chief strategist of the private equity firm W.L. Ross & Co. He is a former banker and investor in industrial business.

The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held a hearing on Mr. Ross' nomination on January 18.

United States Secretary of Defense: General James Mattis

General James Mattis is a retired Marine general. Mattis has more recently worked as a national security fellow at the Hoover Institution. His appointment will require a waiver from Congress due to the seven-year buffer required of former military officers before they are allowed to head the Department of Defense.

Gen. James Mattis was confirmed as Secretary of Defense on January 20 by a vote of 98-1.

United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development: Ben Carson, MD

Dr. Carson is a retired surgeon who is known for being a pioneer in the field of neurosurgery. He worked as Director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital from 1984 until his retirement in 2013, making him the youngest chief of pediatric neurosurgery in the country at age 33. He has received more than 60 honorary doctorate degrees, dozens of national merit citations, and written over 100 neurosurgical publications. In 2008, he was bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States. Dr. Carson ran as a Republican in the 2016 presidential elections. He has never held public office.

The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Development Committee held a hearing on Dr. Carson's nomination on January 12.

Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency: Scott Pruitt

Scott Pruitt is the Republican Attorney General of Oklahoma. Pruitt began his career in private practice in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He served as a state senator from 1998 through 2006, during which time he was selected to serve as Republican Whip and later Republican Assistant Floor Leader. He was elected to serve as Oklahoma's Attorney General in 2010.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on Mr. Pruitt's nomination on January 18.

Secretary of the Department of Energy: Rick Perry

Rick Perry is a Republican politician who served as the 47th Governor of Texas from 2000 to 2015. He was elected Lieutenant Governor of Texas in 1998, and assumed the governorship when then-Governor George W. Bush resigned to become president. Perry was the chairman of the Republican Governors Association in 2008 and again in 2011. He ran unsuccessfully for the Republican presidential nomination in 2012 and 2016.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on Mr. Perry's nomination on January 19.

Secretary of State: Rex Tillerson

Rex Tillerson is the chairman and CEO of Exxon Mobil Corporation. He joined the company in 1975 as a production engineer.

The Senate confirmed Mr. Tillerson as Secretary of State by a vote of 56-43 on February 1.

Director of the National Economic Council: Gary Cohn

Gary Cohn is an American investment banker. He is currently the president and chief operating officer of Goldman Sachs, where he has worked since 1990.

Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security: John Kelly

John Kelly is a retired Marine Corps general, and the former commander of the Unified Combatant Command responsible for American military operations in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. He previously served as the commanding general of the Multi-National Force—West in Iraq from February 2008 to February 2009, and later as the commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North.

Gen. Kelly was confirmed as Secretary of Homeland Security on January 20 by a vote of 88-11. .

Secretary of the Interior: Representative Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.)

Congressman Ryan Zinke is the sole Representative of Montana in the United States House. Ryan is a fifth generation Montanan, former state senator and a 23-year U.S. Navy SEAL veteran. In 2014, Ryan became the first Navy SEAL elected to the House. He serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee held a hearing on Rep. Zinke's nomination on January 17.

Director of the Office of Management and Budget: Representative Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.)

Mick Mulvaney was elected in November 2010 as the Congressman for South Carolina's 5th District. He is a lifelong Carolinas resident. After practicing law following graduating law school, he started his own law firm. Later, he ran his family's real estate business then started a small homebuilding company. He has also owned and operated his own restaurant. He currently serves on the House Financial Services Committee as well as the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Budget Committee advanced Rep. Mulvaney's nomination to the Senate floor on February 2.

Press Secretary: Sean Spicer

Sean M. Spicer has served as RNC Communications Director since 2011, and in February of 2015 added the duties of Chief Strategist. He previously served as Assistant United States Trade Representative for Media and Public affairs in the George W. Bush administration. From May 2005 to 2006, Sean was Communications Director for the House Republican Conference. Before that, he served as Communications Director for the House Budget Committee.

Director of Strategic Communications: Hope Hicks

Hope Hicks is the former press secretary for Donald Trump's presidential campaign, current spokeswoman for Trump's presidential transition team, and incoming White House Director of Strategic Communications. She previously worked with Ivanka Trump on her fashion line.

Director of Social Media: Dan Scavino

Dan Scavino was the director of social media for Donald Trump's presidential campaign. He founded and directs Scavino and Associates, a social media management company.

Counselor to the President: Kellyanne Conway

Kellyanne Conway was Trump's campaign manager during his 2016 presidential campaign. She is a longtime pollster and analyst, specializing in polling data concerning women and younger voters.

Director of the White House National Trade Council: Peter Navarro

Peter Navarro is a professor of economics and public policy at the Paul Merage School of Business, University of California, Irvine. Prior to teaching, Navarro served in the Peace Corps in Southeast Asia and worked in Washington, D.C. as an energy and environmental policy analyst.

Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism: Tom Bossert

Tom Bossert is currently a fellow at the Atlantic Council's Cyber Statecraft Initiative. Bossert was a deputy homeland security adviser in the last year of the Bush administration. He also spent two years as the White House director of infrastructure protection policy.

Special Representative for International Negotiations: Jason Greenblatt

Jason Dov Greenblatt is executive vice president and chief legal officer to Donald Trump and The Trump Organization, and his advisor on Israel.

U.S. Trade Representative: Robert Lighthizer

Lighthizer served as deputy U.S. trade representative in the Reagan administration. He also has experience as chief of staff for the Senate Finance Committee, and has worked in international trade law at the law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom.

Chair of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission: Jay Clayton

Clayton is a partner at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP on Wall Street. He has also worked as an adjunct professor at University of Pennsylvania's law school.

Director of National Intelligence: Dan Coats

Former Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.) was a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee. He is also a former ambassador to Germany.

Secretary of Transportation: Elaine Chao

Elaine Chao was the 24th U. S. Secretary of Labor who served from 2001-2009. Secretary Chao's career spans the public, private and non-profit sectors. She is the former President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of America and former Director of the Peace Corps. Her government service also includes serving as Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, Deputy Maritime Administrator, and White House Fellow. Prior to her government service, she was Vice President of Syndications at BankAmerica Capital Markets Group and a banker with Citicorp in New York.

The Senate approved Ms. Chao's nomination on January 31 by a vote of 93-6.

Director of White House Domestic Policy Council: Andrew Bremberg

Andrew Bremberg worked at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services from 2001 to 2009, including serving as the Chief of Staff for the Office of Public Health and Science. He later served as Policy Advisor and Counsel on Nominations for Senator Mitch McConnell. He worked as the Policy Director for the 2016 Republican Party Platform. He now works in a lead policy and administrative role on the Presidential Transition Team.

Deputy Director of Domestic Policy Council and Director of Budget Policy: Paul Winfree

Paul Winfree was Director of the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies, the Center for Data Analysis and the Richard F. Aster Research Fellow, all at The Heritage Foundation. Prior to joining Heritage, Mr. Winfree was the Director of Income Security on the U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget.

Healthcare Policy: Katy Talento

Katy Talento, an infectious disease epidemiologist with nearly 20 years of experience in public health and health policy, as well as government oversight and investigations and program evaluation, served on the campaign since July 2016. Ms. Talento has spent 12 years in the U.S. Senate, working for five Senators and two committees. She has also worked in the field on disease control programs in the U.S. and in Africa.

Urban Affairs and Revitalization: Ja'Ron Smith

Ja'Ron K. Smith has served as a Congressional staff member for nearly a decade. Smith served the House Republican Conference legislative staff under then-Chairman Mike Pence prior to joining the Republican Study Committee to serve on the professional policy staff under Congressman Jim Jordan. He later served as Economic Advisor to Senator Tim Scott and currently works as the Director of External Affairs for Generation Opportunity.

Education Policy: Rob Goad

Rob Goad currently serves on the Presidential Transition as the education lead for the implementation of the President's education policy agenda. Prior to developing education policy for the President's successful campaign, Mr. Goad served as a Senior Policy Advisor to House Policy Committee Chair Luke Messer focusing on education issues. He also played a pivotal role advancing school choice policies as Director of the Congressional School Choice Caucus.

Justice and Homeland Security Policy: John Zadrozny

John Zadrozny has worked for the past six years on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Senate Committee on the Judiciary for Senator Ted Cruz. Prior to working on Capitol Hill, he served in the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Department of State.

Regulatory Reform and Legal and Immigration Policy: Zina Bash

Zina Bash has held a variety of positions in business, law and government, and currently serves as the Executive Vice President of Operations and Business Development at Doctors' Hospital at Renaissance. Her previous positions include Deputy Director of Policy and Communications for Senator Ted Cruz's presidential campaign and Senior Counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee in Senator John Cornyn's office. Ms. Bash also practiced law as an appellate attorney at

international law firm Gibson Dunn, & Crutcher LLP. Ms. Bash also served as a law clerk to Justice Samuel Alito of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Brett Kavanaugh of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Senior Policy Analyst: Peter J. White

Peter White has worked at the Federal Trade Commission and the Federal Communications Commission. Most recently, Mr. White served as Legislative Counsel for Congressman Mo Brooks. Licensed to practice law in the District of Columbia, Mr. White is an active member of the Federalist Society and performs pro bono legal work for the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless.

Director of Policy and Interagency Coordination: Carlos Diaz-Rosillo

Carlos Diaz-Rosillo has been serving on the President's Transition Team as Policy Implementation Executive Authority Advisor and White House Lead. He is a faculty member of government at Harvard University for more than eight years.

Advisor for Policy, Strategy and Speechwriting: Vince Haley

Vince Haley is a longtime associate of former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich. He served as policy director and later campaign manager of Gingrich's 2012 presidential campaign. During the President's successful campaign, Mr. Haley developed ethics reform policies.

Advisor for Policy, Strategy and Speechwriting: Ross Worthington

Ross Worthington was a longtime aide to former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich. He served as research director for Gingrich, deputy communications director for Gingrich's 2012 presidential campaign and later as Gingrich's primary writer. During the campaign, Mr. Worthington, together with Mr. Vince Haley, worked to formulate and communicate policies that advanced the Trump agenda.

Advisor for Policy Development and Speechwriting: Ryan Jarmula

Ryan Jarmula served as a member of Vice President Mike Pence's staff for a number of years. As a member of then-Congressman Pence's Capitol Hill office, he handled a variety of issues including foreign affairs, and later served Pence in his capacity as Governor of the State of Indiana as Policy Director for Veterans Affairs and most recently as Speechwriter. During the campaign, Mr. Jarmula had an active role in policy development.

Special Assistant to the Senior Advisor: Robert Gabriel

Robert Gabriel served as policy advisor on the President's campaign and assisted the National Policy Director in policy development, speechwriting functions, and staff management.

Deputy Director of the National Trade Council for the Defense Industrial Base: Alexander Gray

Alexander Gray is currently a member of the U.S. Department of State Landing Team for the Presidential Transition, focusing on Asia-Pacific issues. Previously, he served as Senior Defense Advisor to the Trump-Pence campaign helping to craft the campaign's plan to rebuild the U.S. military and the defense industrial base. Mr. Gray has also served as Senior Advisor to U.S. Congressman J. Randy Forbes, a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, focusing on defense industrial base issues and Asia-Pacific security.

Deputy Director of the National Trade Council for "Buy American, Hire American": Rolf Lundberg

During the President's campaign and Presidential Transition, Mr. Lundberg focused his efforts on policies to reverse the economic injustice of offshoring and used his experience and insights to challenge special interests and support the President's "Buy American, Hire American" project. Mr. Lundberg was Senior Vice President for Congressional and Public Affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, after serving as Assistant General Counsel and Vice President for International Relations with Marriott International, Inc. Mr. Lundberg served as Legal Counsel for Tax and International Trade to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, International Trade Counsel to Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration in the George H.W. Bush Administration and International Trade Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance.

United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs: David Shulkin

The Honorable Dr. David J. Shulkin is Under Secretary for Health for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to being nominated by President Obama and being confirmed by the United States Senate as Under Secretary for Health,

Dr. Shulkin served in numerous chief executive roles including serving as President at Morristown Medical Center, Goryeb Children's Hospital, and Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute, and the Atlantic Health System Accountable Care Organization. Dr. Shulkin also previously served as President and CEO of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City. Dr. Shulkin has held numerous physician leadership roles including the Chief Medical Officer of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University Hospital, and the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital. Dr. Shulkin has also held academic positions including the Chairman of Medicine and Vice Dean at Drexel University School of Medicine. As an entrepreneur, Dr. Shulkin founded and served as the Chairman and CEO of DoctorQuality one of the first consumer-oriented sources of information for quality and safety in healthcare. Dr. Shulkin is a board-certified internist, a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has scheduled a hearing on the pending nomination of David J. Shulkin, MD to be Secretary of Veterans' Affairs on February 1.

Small Business Administration: Linda McMahon

Linda McMahon an American professional wrestling magnate and politician. From 1980 to 2009, McMahon was active in growing the WWE to a multinational corporation. In 2009 and again in 2012, she ran as a Republican for a seat in the United States Senate from Connecticut.

The Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee advanced Ms. McMahon's nomination on January 31.

United States Secretary of Labor: Andy Puzder

Andrew Puzder is the chief executive of CKE Restaurants, the parent company of Hardee's and Carl's Jr. He has worked as president and CEO of CKE since 2000.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a hearing on Mr. Puzder's nomination on February 2.