

Biden's selected and potential cabinet members

An overview of President-elect Biden's announced nominees and his "shortlist" for various cabinet positions

January 8, 2021

President-elect Joe Biden's cabinet picks

 <p>Vice President Kamala Harris</p>	 <p>State Antony Blinken</p>	 <p>Treasury Janet Yellen</p>	 <p>Defense Lloyd Austin</p>
 <p>Attorney General Merrick Garland</p>	 <p>Interior Deb Haaland</p>	 <p>Agriculture Tom Vilsack</p>	 <p>Commerce Gina Raimondo</p>
 <p>Labor Marty Walsh</p>	 <p>Health & Human Services Xavier Becerra</p>	 <p>Housing & Urban Development Marcia Fudge</p>	 <p>Transportation Pete Buttigieg</p>
 <p>Energy Jennifer Granholm</p>	 <p>Education Miguel Cardona</p>	 <p>Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough</p>	 <p>Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas</p>

Cabinet-level officials*

 <p>White House Chief of Staff Ronald Klain</p>	 <p>White House OMB Director Neera Tanden</p>	<p>CIA Director TBD</p>	 <p>EPA Administrator Michael Regan</p>
 <p>Director of Nat'l Intelligence Avril Haines</p>	 <p>US Trade Representative Katherine Tai</p>	 <p>Small Business Administrator Isabel Guzman</p>	 <p>US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield</p>

* The Biden-Harris transition has not yet announced which non-Cabinet officials will be deemed "Cabinet-level"

SOURCE: Biden-Harris Transition.

Roadmap

- **Selected cabinet members**
- Selected cabinet-level officials

Secretary of State nominee Antony Blinken profile



US DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE
2015-2017

DATE OF BIRTH
4/16/1962 (Age: 58)

HOMETOWN
New York, NY

EDUCATION
Harvard U., BA
Columbia Law School, JD, 1988

FAMILY
Wife (Evan Ryan); 2 children

BIOGRAPHY

An experienced Democratic foreign policy figure and friend of President-elect Biden, Blinken is a proponent of multilateralism and a globally-engaged US

- The son of an investor and prominent figure in the New York arts scene, Blinken spent his early childhood in New York City and moved to Paris at age nine
- Attended Harvard, where he wrote for the school paper; initially worked as a journalist at the New Republic magazine before going to Columbia Law School
- Spent a year at the State Department before landing on President Clinton's National Security Council; advised Clinton on NATO issues
- Developed a close relationship with then-Sen. Joe Biden as the Democratic staff director for the Foreign Relations Committee, and worked for Biden's brief presidential campaign in 2008; joined Biden in the White House after President Obama's election and influenced his approach to Middle East policy
- As Deputy National Security Advisor, Blinken was responsible for convening deputies from different agencies to craft foreign policy, focusing on issues like the rise of ISIS and the destabilization of Iraq in 2012 and 2013; urged Iraq to accept more counterterrorism assistance from the US and defended Obama's Syria policy in the media
- In 2015, 55 Senators voted to confirm Blinken as Deputy Secretary of State; Blinken focused on fighting the Islamic State, pivoting US attention and resources to the Pacific, and addressing a growing global refugee crisis
- Since the end of the Obama Administration, Blinken has advised clients on geopolitical and policy matters as a partner at WestExec Advisors alongside other top Obama alums, and served as the top foreign policy aide on Joe Biden's presidential campaign
- In interviews in 2020, Blinken indicated that a Biden administration would reemphasize alliances in Europe and Asia, pay greater attention to developments in the Western Hemisphere, and focus less on the Middle East than recent administrations
- In November 2020, President-elect Joe Biden announced that he would nominate Blinken to be secretary of state in his administration

Secretary of Treasury nominee Janet Yellen profile



CHAIR, FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
2014-2018

VICE CHAIR, FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
2010-2013

DATE OF BIRTH
08/13/46 (Age: 74)

EDUCATION
Brown U., BA, 1967
Yale U., PhD Economics, 1971

FAMILY
Married (George Akerlof); 1 child

BIOGRAPHY

Respected economist known for bringing economic success to organizations under her leadership; Led both the Council on Economic Advisors and the Federal Reserve is set to lead the Treasury in the Biden administration

- In her early Career, Yellen lectured at Harvard, the London School of Economics, and University of California Berkeley; she also served briefly as a researcher at the Fed's board of governors
- Yellen and her husband, George Akerlof, were key in developing the labor economics theory of the New Keynesian school of economic thought, which calls for greater government intervention in the economy
- Meteoric rise through the field of economics began with Yellen's appointment to the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in 1994 by President Clinton and her subsequent nomination to chair Clinton's Council of Economic Advisors in 1997; chosen to be President of the San Francisco Federal Reserve in 2004 until President Obama selected her to be Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors in 2010
- Yellen's 2010 appointment to the Fed along with Sarah Bloom Raskin was noted as a turning point in monetary policy; Yellen's leadership solidified a transition into a research-based, unemployment-focused economic safeguard that could react to a recession without being slowed by congressional gridlock
- Transitioned to chair of the Federal Reserve in 2014 following a period of slow recovery after the 2008 housing crisis, and immediately worked to expand monetary stimulus; during Yellen's four years as chair, unemployment fell from 6.7% to 4.1%, and she was credited for playing a substantial role in restoring the economy
- Following Yellen's chairmanship, she joined the Brookings Institution's Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy in 2018
- Commentary during the COVID-19 crisis has mirrored President-elect Joe Biden's concerns over recovery in the working class, and will likely make low-income Americans the number one priority when it comes to economic stimulus

Secretary of Defense nominee Lloyd Austin profile



COMMANDER, US CENTRAL
COMMAND
2013-2016

VICE CHIEF OF STAFF, US ARMY
2012-2013

DATE OF BIRTH
08/08/53 (Age: 67)

HOMETOWN
Thomasville, GA

EDUCATION
US Military Academy, BS, 1975
Auburn U., MEd
Webster U., MBA

FAMILY
Wife (Charlene); two stepsons

BIOGRAPHY

Over a forty-year career in the military, Austin commanded US troops in combat, managed a large-scale withdrawal from Iraq, orchestrated the US response to ISIS, and held top Pentagon jobs, earning deep respect from his peers and President-elect Biden

- The son of a postal worker and veteran, Austin grew up in Thomasville, GA, and graduated from West Point in 1975 as an infantry officer; deployed to bases in the US and Europe, and to Panama for Operation Safe Haven
- As a Brigadier General and Deputy Commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, coordinated frontline battlefield operations for the division when it spearheaded the US invasion of Iraq in 2003
- As Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Division, Austin led a 2003 offensive against Al Qaeda and the Taliban in the Afghan mountains called Operation Avalanche
- Took command of the 18th Airborne Corps and redeployed to Iraq when the 18th Corps' headquarters took over Multi-National Corps-Iraq, the Army's headquarters for the country
- In 2009, took a high-level Pentagon role as the Director of the Joint Staff under then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) Admiral Michael Mullen
- Confirmed as Commander of US Forces-Iraq, where he presided over a reduction in US forces and transition to a training and advisory mission for the remaining US troops
- Succeeded then-General Jim Mattis as the Commander of US Central Command (CENTCOM) in 2013; faced strong congressional criticism for the administration's early failure to train Syrian fighters despite a \$500 million commitment
- Following his retirement from the military in 2016, Austin joined the boards of defense contractor Raytheon, steel producer Nucor, Tenet Healthcare, and hospitality management consultant Guest Services; established his own firm, Austin Strategy Group LLC

Attorney General nominee Merrick Garland profile



JUDGE, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT
1997-present

CHIEF JUDGE, U.S. COURT OF
APPEALS, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CIRCUIT
2013-2020

DATE OF BIRTH
11/13/52 (Age: 68)

HOMETOWN
Lincolnwood, IL

EDUCATION
Harvard U., BS, 1974
Harvard U., JD, 1977

FAMILY
Wife (Lynn); two daughters

BIOGRAPHY

A legal professional for over forty years, Judge Garland has served as Chief Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Chair of the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States, and as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General for the Department of Justice, where he oversaw the proceedings of high-profile domestic terrorism cases

- The son of a small business owner and a volunteer director, Garland grew up in the Chicago area, and graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College in 1974 and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1977
- After law school, Garland clerked for Judge Henry J. Friendly of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit, and for Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan
- Joined the law firm Arnold & Porter in 1981, serving as a Partner from 1985 to 1989.
- Served as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1989 to 1992, where he investigated and tried cases relating to public corruption, drug trafficking and fraud
- During the Clinton Administration, Garland served as the Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice. In this role, Garland oversaw the criminal prosecutions for the “Unabomber” and Oklahoma City bombings
- Nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit by President Clinton, confirmed by the Senate in a 76-23 vote; served as Chief Judge to the court from 2013 to 2020
- Became a household name in 2016 when President Obama nominated him to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refused to take up the nomination and it subsequently expired at the end of the 114th session of Congress

Secretary of Interior nominee Deb Haaland profile



US REPRESENTATIVE, NM-01
2018-present

DATE OF BIRTH
12/02/60 (Age: 60)

HOMETOWN
Winslow, AZ

EDUCATION
U. of New Mexico, BA, 1994
U. of New Mexico, JD, 2006

FAMILY
One child

BIOGRAPHY

Former leader of the Laguna Pueblo tribe and career advocate and organizer for Native Americans; leads on Native American affairs and public lands policy

- Became involved in politics to bolster political engagement amongst Native Americans; Haaland managed the Native American Vote Program, then served as a Tribal Administrator for the Pueblo of San Felipe
- Leveraging her experience in Native American organizing, Haaland worked for the Obama campaign in 2012, and later ran to be Lt. Governor of New Mexico in 2014; shortly after her loss to the incumbent Republican, Susana Martinez, Haaland became New Mexico's Democratic Party Chair and organized their return to the majority in the state House
- Joined Sharice Davids (D-KS-03) as the first two Native American women in congress, following her election in 2018 to fill now-Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham's (D-NM-01) seat; Davids and Haaland have collaborated on several bills related to sexual assault, domestic violence, and the disappearances of women in Native American communities
- Serves as vice chair of the House Natural Resources Committee and chairs the subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, working with other Southwestern Democrats to halt the Trump Administration's removal of public land protections; proposed the widely-cosponsored ANTIQUITIES Act of 2019 to expand and protect public lands and national parks

Secretary of Agriculture nominee Tom Vilsack profile



SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
2009-2017

GOVERNOR OF IOWA
1999-2007

DATE OF BIRTH
12/13/50 (Age: 69)

HOMETOWN
Pittsburgh, PA

EDUCATION
Hamilton College, BA, 1972
Albany Law School, JD, 1975

FAMILY
Married; 2 children

BIOGRAPHY

A lawyer by training, Vilsack rose through the local, state, and federal ranks, serving as a two-term governor of Iowa and secretary of agriculture under President Obama, a role he will resume in the Biden White House; politician tenure marked by policies to support rural farmers, alternative energy sources, and agricultural trade deals

- Originally from Pennsylvania, Vilsack met his wife in college and moved to her hometown of Mount Pleasant, Iowa where he worked for her father's law firm; became involved in the community through fundraising as president of the Rotary Club and the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association
- Political career began when, in 1986, the mayor of Mount Pleasant was killed and local members encouraged Vilsack to fill the seat; served three terms as mayor before he was elected to the state Senate
- Successfully flipped the Iowa gubernatorial seat in 1998 after 32 years of Republican control, winning on a platform to make Iowa the "Food Capital of the World"; as governor, he promoted economic development incentives through a \$503 million Iowa Values Fund, supported small rural communities, created the Iowa Food Policy Council, and advocated for clean energy sources including ethanol
- Transitioned to the federal government after being nominated as secretary of Agriculture by Obama, where he prioritized rural development, invested in local food infrastructure to support supply chains, and advanced food safety; worked to improve children's nutrition and health by supporting Michelle Obama's Let's Move! initiative and crafting the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act to reform school lunch programs
- After heading the USDA, he has worked as chief executive officer of the US Dairy Export Council, a nonprofit organization promoting global sales of domestic dairy products; urges diversifying American agriculture sales, supporting international trade deals including the Trans-Pacific Partnership and USMCA Agreement and expressing disapproval of Trump's trade war

Secretary of Commerce nominee Gina Raimondo profile



GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND
2015-present

DATE OF BIRTH
5/17/71 (Age: 49)

HOMETOWN
Smithfield, RI

EDUCATION
Harvard U., BA, 1993
Yale U., JD, 1998

FAMILY
Married; 2 children

BIOGRAPHY

Prior to becoming Rhode Island's first female governor, Raimondo established her career in financial services; relies on her economic expertise to reform RI's pension fund, stimulate the economy, and develop the workforce

- Born in Rhode Island, Raimondo earned degrees from Harvard, Oxford, and Yale Law School, later clerking for the U.S. District Judge Kimba Wood
- Founding employee and senior vice president at a venture capital firm, Village Ventures, that was active with healthcare start-ups; later moved back to Rhode Island and co-founded Point Judith Capital, an early-stage venture capital firm
- As General Treasurer of Rhode Island, she tackled the state's \$7 billion unfunded pension liability; in 2011, she crafted a pension law to freeze automatic cost-of-living increases and raise retirement ages
- Her gubernatorial tenure focuses on RI's financial stability; has worked to lower unemployment rates, ensure tuition-free community college, and better manage the state's pension fund by enacting the state's first hedge fund portfolio, leading her to be named in Fortune magazine's World's 50 Greatest Leaders in 2016
- Elected to be vice-chair of the Democratic Governors Association (DGA) in 2018, where she helped flip seven seats and tripled the number of women governors; later elected as DGA chair in 2019
- Selected by President-elect Biden to lead the Department of Commerce; if confirmed, Raimondo will undertake a vast portfolio that includes business, tax and technology policy and is expected to work closely with the heads of the Small Business Administration and the Department of Labor to help mitigate the effects of the coronavirus pandemic

Secretary of Labor nominee Marty Walsh profile



MAYOR OF BOSTON
2014-present

DATE OF BIRTH
4/10/67 (Age: 53)

HOMETOWN
Dorchester, MA

EDUCATION
Boston College, BA, 2009

BIOGRAPHY

Boston mayor and Democrat with union background who advocates for low-income communities and has become a leading voice on substance abuse. Frequently cites unconventional political profile as recovering alcoholic who earned his college degree as an adult

- Son of Irish immigrants who was born and raised in Dorchester and battled childhood cancer
- Union member for his entire adult life and received crucial support from labor groups during mayoral run; has embraced pro-business groups, including Boston Chamber of Commerce, on initiatives to grow economy
- Work with State Rep. James Brett served as primer to entering public office; earned spot in Massachusetts State House without a college degree
- Advocates for low-income families through workforce development initiatives and affordable housing, including pushing for higher state-wide minimum wage and expanding public housing
- Struggled with alcoholism as a young adult and has made combatting substance abuse a priority as mayor and in his role at the U.S. Conference of Mayors

Secretary of Health and Human Services nominee Xavier Becerra profile



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA
2017-present

DATE OF BIRTH
1/26/1958 (Age: 62)

HOMETOWN
Sacramento, CA

EDUCATION
Stanford U., BA, 1980
Stanford Law School, JD, 1984

FAMILY
Married; 3 children

BIOGRAPHY

Former congressman and chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, Becerra returned to state politics as the Attorney General for California; maintains a broad scope of legislative priorities including crime, education, employment, and the environment

- Born to Mexican immigrants in California
- Began his political career in 1986 as an aide to state Senator Art Torres before later becoming a Deputy Attorney General for CA and a CA state representative
- Rapidly moved into Congress after only one term in the state legislature; served on the Ways and Means Committee and was the ranking member of the Social Security Subcommittee
- Worked with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, where he later became chairman, to protect benefits for immigrants; pushed for a review of Customs and Border Protection practices with the 1993 Immigration Enforcement Review Commission Act; fought against making English the official language of the United States
- Becerra has continued working for youth engagement in politics; towards the end of his congressional term served as chair of the Democratic Caucus
- Became California's Attorney General in 2017, replacing then-Senator Kamala Harris; a staunch critic of the Trump administration's policies, filing lawsuits to support the DACA program and the ACA and suing the Trump administration over its reductions to methane emissions limits that could increase oil and natural gas production
- As Attorney General, criticized tech companies for management of user data; opened an investigation into Facebook's privacy practices and joined a consortium of AGs who expressed concerns over contact tracing apps on Google and Apple's platforms
- Becerra has been an advocate for stronger labor protections; before the passing of Proposition 22, Becerra sued Uber and Lyft for not complying with Assembly Bill 5, which would have reclassified their drivers as employees, instead of contractors

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development nominee Marcia Fudge profile



US REPRESENTATIVE, OH-11
2016-present

DATE OF BIRTH
10/29/52 (Age: 68)

EDUCATION
Ohio State U., BS, 1975
Cleveland State U. Marshall
College of Law, JD, 1983

BIOGRAPHY

Career policymaker who served the greater Cleveland area for over three decades, first as a mayor, then in Congress, where she focused on creating jobs, improving the education system, and eliminating food insecurity; nominated to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Biden-Harris administration

- Raised in Shaker Heights, Ohio, an affluent Cleveland suburb; helped her mother organize for the largest public employee trade union as a child
- Inspired by the Civil Rights Movement; became politically active in high school while volunteering to help elect Carl Stokes, the first elected Black mayor of a major US city
- Served as national president of her sorority Delta Sigma Theta, where she met fellow alumna and mentor Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH11); worked as a staffer for Jones in the county prosecutor's office and as chief of staff in her congressional office
- Elected as the first African American Mayor in Warrensville Heights, Ohio and focused on improving the city's economic prosperity; says she created over 3,000 jobs during her time in office by reinvesting in the city's retail district and infrastructure projects
- When Tubb Jones died suddenly of a brain aneurysm, Fudge was nominated to replace her as the Democratic nominee in the general election for her congressional seat; won the election and has served since 2008
- Committed to funding public education, she introduced legislation to expand Pell Grant access to high school students enrolled in postsecondary courses, support publicly funded early education programs, and advance STEM education
- Challenged Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-08) for speaker of the house in 2018 but withdrew her name from consideration after having a positive discussions with Pelosi about increasing the role of Black women in House leadership
- Held a myriad of leadership roles during her decade in Congress, including chair of the CBC, Agriculture Committee's Nutrition Subcommittee, House Administration Elections Subcommittee, and co-chair for the 2020 campaign Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force on Education

Secretary of Transportation nominee Pete Buttigieg profile



MAYOR OF SOUTH BEND, IN
2012-2020

DATE OF BIRTH
1/19/83 (Age: 37)

HOMETOWN
South Bend, IN

EDUCATION
Harvard U., BA, 2000-2004
Oxford U., BA, 2005-2007

FAMILY
Husband (Chasten)

BIOGRAPHY

Navy veteran and former South Bend, Indiana mayor turned national Democratic political figure during the 2020 presidential campaign; serves as an advisor on President-elect Joe Biden's transition team

- Native of South Bend, Indiana raised by two University of Notre Dame professors; attended Harvard University, and later Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar where he studied Philosophy, History, and Economics
- Gained a keen interest in politics while in college, and upon graduating, worked for various campaigns including John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign and former Rep. Jill Long Thompson's (D-IN4) unsuccessful Indiana gubernatorial campaign
- Spent a stint in the private sector as a consultant at McKinsey & Company working with high-profile clients like Blue Cross Blue Shield, Best Buy, and the Department of Energy
- Elected mayor of South Bend, Indiana at the age of 29, becoming the youngest mayor to serve a city with over 100,000 residents
- Joined the US Navy Reserves in 2009 and, during his first term as mayor, was called to serve for seven months in Afghanistan; worked on the Afghan Threat Finance Cell team
- Returned to South Bend in 2014 to resume his duties as mayor and published an op-ed in the city's paper coming out to the community, explaining that his experience in Afghanistan made him realize he needed to be honest about his sexuality; ran for a second term, easily winning reelection with 80 percent of the vote
- Made a bid for the DNC chairmanship in 2017, but dropped out minutes before the official election due to a lack of support for his candidacy; in 2020, became the first openly-gay person to launch a presidential campaign
- Created the Win Era PAC and Action Fund to support Democratic candidates from traditionally underrepresented communities "running pioneering campaigns" that focused on generational change across the country
- In 2020, appointed as advisor to President-elect Biden on his 15-person transition team

Secretary of Energy nominee Jennifer Granholm profile



GOVERNOR OF MICHIGAN
2003-2011

DATE OF BIRTH
2/05/59 (Age: 61)

HOMETOWN
San Carlos, CA

EDUCATION
U. of California-Berkeley, BA, 1984
Harvard U., JD, 1987

FAMILY
Husband (Daniel Mulhern); three children

BIOGRAPHY

Former governor of Michigan with energy and automotive policy credentials; popular figure in the Democratic party due to success with green energy jobs and economic growth

- Former prosecutor that quickly moved up through the ranks in Michigan's judicial system, moving from an attorney working for Wayne County to Attorney General of Michigan in the span of a decade
- In her role as attorney general at the turn of the century, Granholm focused on consumer protections, including limiting gasoline vendors' ability to drastically shift gas prices following 9/11
- Was elected Governor in 2002, navigating the state's multiple budget crises and the collapse of the auto manufacturing industry; during her second term, she oversaw economic recovery efforts following the great recession and worked with the Obama administration to ensure Michigan companies like GM survived
- After being term limited in 2010, Granholm served as an occasional commentator for several news networks and worked on Clinton's 2016 campaign; dialogue often centered on using state level decisions to influence national policy on energy and economic issues
- Previously speculated by media outlets to be an Obama appointee for the Supreme Court, Secretary of Energy, Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of Labor, or Attorney General; she was also rumored to be an appointee in Hillary Clinton's potential administration
- As Secretary of Energy, is anticipated to bring her public-private partnership expertise to move towards carbon neutrality in the long term, without sacrificing economic development

Secretary of Education nominee Miguel Cardona profile



COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION,
CONNECTICUT
2019-present

DATE OF BIRTH
7/11/75 (Age: 45)

HOMETOWN
Meriden, CT

EDUCATION
**Central Connecticut State U., BA
U. of Connecticut, MA
U. of Connecticut, EdD**

FAMILY
**Married (Marissa Perez); two
children**

BIOGRAPHY

Longtime educator who credits public education for his success; dedicated to addressing inequities in education to close the achievement gap, Cardona pushes to institute measures to safely reopen public schools amid the COVID-19 pandemic

- Born to Puerto Rican parents and raised in a Meriden, Connecticut housing project, Cardona considers himself a “true product” of the Connecticut public school system who started his education career as a fourth-grade teacher in his home district
- Became the youngest principal in Connecticut at age 28 and served in that role for 10 years before becoming assistant superintendent in the district where he attended school himself; appointed commissioner of education by Gov. Ned Lamont (D) in 2019, where his tenure has been defined by his response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Advocates for reopening schools during the pandemic, but has left the final decisions up to local leaders; his department issued clear safety guidance for district leaders to allow for safe reopening and has utilized federal funding to buy safety resources for schools
- Has argued that mitigation strategies for COVID-19 in schools are working, that data in Connecticut has not shown sustained person-to-person transmission in schools, and that schools are likely safer than other places students could be when they would otherwise be in the classroom
- Acknowledges that inequity in education is often accompanied by similar disparities in income, health care access, and housing, and highlights how these issues have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic; directed federal pandemic aid to purchasing laptops and internet access so all students can learn from home
- Nominated to the post of Secretary of Education in December 2020, fulfilling President-elect Biden’s promise to appoint a public school educator to lead the department; supported by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, unions, and civil rights organizations, Cardona appears to be a relatively uncontroversial cabinet selection

Secretary of Veterans Affairs nominee Denis McDonough profile



WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF
2013-2017

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY NATIONAL
SECURITY ADVISER
2010-2013

DATE OF BIRTH
12/02/69 (Age: 51)

HOMETOWN
Stillwater, MN

EDUCATION
St. John's U., BA, 1992
Georgetown U., MS, 1996

FAMILY
Married; 3 children

BIOGRAPHY

A former White House Chief of Staff, Deputy National Security Advisor, and Chief of Staff of the National Security Council, McDonough made a point of going into the field to meet directly with service members in Afghanistan and Iraq

- Served as President Obama's Principal Deputy National Security Advisor during his first term and as his White House Chief of Staff during his second term
- Former chair of the National Security Council's Deputies Committee, leading a multiagency team to address issues including crisis management and national security policy making
- Served as Professional Staff Member on the House International Relations Committee
- Worked in the Senate, both for Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and for Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO)

Secretary of Homeland Security nominee Alejandro Mayorkas profile



DEPUTY SECRETARY, DHS
2014-2016

DIRECTOR, US CITIZENSHIP AND
IMMIGRATION SERVICES
2009-2013

DATE OF BIRTH
11/24/1959 (Age: 61)

HOMETOWN
Havana, Cuba

EDUCATION
UC Berkeley, BA, 1981
Loyola Marymount U., JD, 1985

FAMILY
Married; 3 children

BIOGRAPHY

Experienced DHS policymaker and lawyer who started his public service career as a California assistant US attorney and is now nominated for secretary of homeland security; balances immigration priorities with national security concerns

- Born in Cuba, Mayorkas immigrated with his parents to the US as refugees following the Cuban Revolution; moved from Miami, FL to LA and later Beverly Hills, CA
- After graduating from law school and completing several years in private practice, Mayorkas became an assistant US attorney for the Central District of California and was later appointed as a US attorney by Pres. Bill Clinton; developed a specialization in white collar crime and oversaw high profile criminal cases, including the prosecution of Buford O. Furrow, Jr. for the murder of a postal worker
- Returned to private practice as a litigation partner before being selected to serve on then President-elect Obama's transition team in 2008, where he led the team responsible for the Department of Justice's criminal division; later nominated and confirmed as director of US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), where he implemented the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program within 60 days of its implementation in 2013 and pushed for management efficiencies, fiscal responsibility, and safeguarding the integrity of the immigration system
- Nominated by Pres. Obama to serve as deputy secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and confirmed in a party line Senate vote in 2014; prioritized cybersecurity issues, expanding the department's Cyber Crimes Center
- Re-entered the private sector in 2016 to work at law firm Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr
- Nominated by President-elect Joe Biden as secretary of homeland security, Mayorkas is projected to reverse Trump administration immigration policies and prioritize cybersecurity; his announcement has been received favorably by members of both parties, as well as immigrant advocacy groups

Roadmap

- Selected cabinet members
- **Selected cabinet-level officials**

Chief of Staff Ron Klain profile



CHIEF OF STAFF, VP JOE BIDEN
2009-2011

CHIEF OF STAFF, VP AL GORE
1995-1999

DATE OF BIRTH
8/8/1961 (Age: 59)

HOMETOWN
Indianapolis, IN

EDUCATION
Georgetown U., AB, 1983
Harvard Law School, JD, 1987

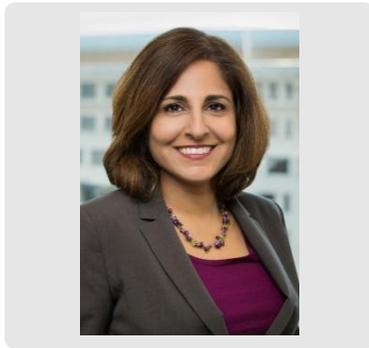
FAMILY
Wife (Monica Medina); 3 children

BIOGRAPHY

A longtime Democratic aide, strategist, and trusted Biden adviser, Klain is a sought-after voice on the COVID-19 pandemic crisis

- Extensive background in law, politics, and the private sector working as a top aide to Vice Presidents Al Gore and Joe Biden; now works on the Biden campaign and as General Counsel and EVP of investment firm Revolution
- Began professional relationship with Biden on the Senate Judiciary Committee; chief counsel during Biden's chairmanship from 1989-1992
- As Vice President Gore's chief of staff, helped his boss navigate Pres. Clinton's impeachment while positioning him to run for president
- Played a central role in overseeing the 2009 stimulus package under then-Vice President Biden
- Appointed by President Obama in 2014 to be the WH "Ebola Czar" for his crisis-management skills; efforts to contain Ebola considered successful
- In his role with Revolution, Klain has joined CEO Steve Case on road trips to promote tech entrepreneurship across the country
- Advises the Biden campaign's COVID-19 response as well as private sector entities through his position at Revolution
- In-demand interview subject for his pandemic expertise; has consistently called for a more unified, aggressive federal COVID-19 response
- Appointed by President-elect Joe Biden to be his White House chief of staff

Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) nominee Neera Tanden profile



PRESIDENT AND CEO, CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS
2011-2020

DATE OF BIRTH
09/10/1970 (Age: 50)

HOMETOWN
Bedford, MA

EDUCATION
Yale U., JD, 1996
U. of California, Los Angeles, BS, 1992

FAMILY
Married (Ben Edwards); 2 children

BIOGRAPHY

A longtime Democratic operative with ties to both the Clinton and Obama administrations, Tanden has positioned herself as a leading progressive academic voice on health care and the economy

- Grew up in the Boston suburb of Bedford, Massachusetts as the daughter of Indian immigrants in a single parent household; Tanden moved west to complete her bachelor's degree at UCLA
- After obtaining her law degree from Yale Law School, she worked for the Clinton administration as an associate director for domestic policy and senior policy advisor to the First Lady
- Retained close ties to then-First Lady Hillary Clinton, joining her 2000 campaign for Senate in New York and later serving as the legislative director for Clinton's Senate staff in 2003; joined Clinton's presidential campaign in 2008 as the policy director before moving on to Barack Obama's campaign as the director of domestic policy
- As a senior advisor in the Department of Health and Human Services, Tanden galvanized support for the Affordable Care Act
- Initially joined the Center for American Progress in 2003 as the senior vice president for domestic policy before becoming the chief operating officer; promoted to the presidency upon John Podesta's departure in 2012
- Under her tenure, CAP has pushed back against the Trump administration's repeals of the ACA and has worked to create a coalition of defenders; she supports an expansion of the ACA with a public option which retains the role of private insurance in the market rather than a Medicare for All plan
- Concerned about state budget shortfalls, declining consumer spending, and a sharp increase in the unemployment rate caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Tanden has supported providing direct federal aid to state and local governments, an expansion of unemployment insurance, increasing eligibility and benefits, and using federal emergency actions to better support supply chain shortfalls nationwide

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator nominee Michael Regan profile



SECRETARY, NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
2017-present

HOMETOWN
Goldensboro, NC

EDUCATION
**North Carolina Agricultural and
Technical State U., BS, 1998**
George Washington U., MPA, 2005

FAMILY
Wife (Melvina); 1 son

BIOGRAPHY

A state environmental regulator and longtime air quality specialist recently nominated as EPA administrator; if confirmed, Regan is projected to prioritize market-based solutions to climate change, investment in clean energy, and environmental justice

- Began his career with a ten-year long stint at the EPA, rising to become national program manager at the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, where he focused on initiatives to reduce pollution and improve energy efficiency
- Transitioned to the advocacy space as southeast regional director and later national director of energy efficiency, climate, and energy policy for the Environmental Defense Fund; led efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change and improve air quality in polluted communities
- Before returning to government, Regan briefly operated his own energy and environmental consulting firm, M. Regan & Associates
- Since 2017, Regan has served as secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), where he has worked with Governor Roy Cooper (D) on the state's Clean Energy Plan to move towards carbon neutrality by 2050; supports ambitious carbon reduction at the state and federal levels
- An advocate of environmental justice, Regan created North Carolina's Environmental Justice and Equity Board and gained recognition for his work facilitating environmental clean up settlements with Duke Energy and Chemours to address the disproportionate impact of air and water pollution on the state's minority communities
- Nominated by President-elect Biden in December 2020 to lead the EPA, an announcement which has been received favorably by environmental activists like the Sierra Club; if confirmed, Regan will become the first Black man to run the agency, and is expected to advocate for leveraging markets, technology, and innovation to help transition to a clean energy economy

Director of National Intelligence nominee Avril Haines profile



DEPUTY NATIONAL SECURITY
ADVISOR
2015-2017

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CIA
2013-2015

DATE OF BIRTH
8/29/1969 (Age: 51)

HOMETOWN
New York, NY

EDUCATION
U. of Chicago, BS, 1992
Georgetown U., JD, 2001

FAMILY
Husband (David Davighi)

BIOGRAPHY

A lawyer by training and an expert in treaties and counterterrorism, Haines brings legal acumen, intelligence experience, and a unique personal narrative to the top position in the US intelligence community

- Born and raised in Manhattan by a professor and an artist, Haines cared for her ailing mother as a child and teen; as a young adult, trained as a martial artist in Japan and as a pilot in the US, and obtained a physics degree from the University of Chicago
- Owned and operated an independent bookstore in Baltimore, where she had initially planned to pursue a PhD in physics at Johns Hopkins University; became interested in a legal career after engaging in local community activism
- At Georgetown Law, Haines began to focus on international law; following her graduation, she worked at the Hague Conference on International Private Law
- In her first role at the State Department's Office of the Legal Adviser, Haines acquired a deep expertise in US treaties; worked in Iraq under then-State Department Legal Adviser John B. Bellinger III in 2006
- As the deputy chief counsel for the majority on the Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by then-Sen. Joe Biden, Haines briefed members for hearings on treaties and was granted floor privileges for a debate on the Bush admin's 2007 troop surge in Iraq
- Returned to State to lead the Office of Treaty Affairs
- Joined the White House as Deputy Assistant and Deputy Counsel for National Security; played a crucial role overhauling the Obama administration's lethal drone program
- At the urging of then-CIA director John Brennan, Obama appointed Haines as the agency's first female deputy director
- Returned to the White House as Deputy National Security Advisor
- After leaving government in 2017, Haines joined with foreign policy figures from previous administrations to sign a court letter in support of a suit against President Trump for his executive order banning travelers from seven majority-Muslim countries

US Trade Representative nominee Katherine Tai profile



CHIEF TRADE COUNSEL, HOUSE
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
2017-present

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL,
USTR
2007-2014

HOMETOWN
Washington, DC

EDUCATION
Yale U., BA, 1996
Harvard Law School, JD, 2001

FAMILY
Married

BIOGRAPHY

Legal expert on trade, particularly with China, who helped craft aspects of the USMCA and TPP through her service on the Democratic side of the House Ways and Means Committee's Trade Subcommittee

- Began public service in 2007, joining the US Trade Representative's (USTR) office as associate general counsel; early work with the USTR included analysis on China's economic recovery from the 2008 crisis
- Worked on the USTR analysis of trade deals with Oman and Peru while in the general counsel's office, but was later promoted to be Chief Counsel for China Enforcement
- Shifted to the Democratic staff on the Ways and Means committee in 2014; was initially brought on to work on international labor issues, specifically within US-Vietnam labor agreements under the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)
- Worked under Jason Kearns before assuming the role of chief counsel for Democrats on Ways and Means, working closely with Trade Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR3)
- In the House, often dealt with representatives' district-based intellectual property (IP) disputes through section 337, the US International Trade Commission's regulation on unfair import rules
- Collaborated on the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), working most prominently on the labor, dispute settlement, and energy provisions of the Democratic revisions to the bill, and joined the congressional delegation to discuss the deal with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador; worked closely with Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA8) on the negotiation on labor enforcement with Mexican leaders
- Recent work in the House has geared towards the bipartisan push to bar imports made from forced labor in China
- Anticipated to advocate for punitive tariffs for US companies that offshore, more investments in domestic manufacturing to prevent other companies from leaving, and barring foreign (particularly Chinese) companies from owning US firms like TikTok

Small Business Administrator nominee Isabel Guzman profile



DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA'S OFFICE OF
THE SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE
2019-present

DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF AND
SENIOR ADVISER, SBA
2014-2017

EDUCATION
U. Of Pennsylvania, BS

BIOGRAPHY

A lifetime proponent of small businesses and a former small business entrepreneur, Guzman currently helps coordinate California's economic recovery plan amid the COVID-19 crisis

- Currently serves as Director of the Office of the Small Business Advocate within the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development
- Launched the Shop Safe Shop Local initiative aimed at helping small businesses reopen safely amidst the COVID-19 pandemic
- Launched the Get Digital CA initiative to help companies adopt technology to safely operate during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Formerly served as Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor of the SBA during the Obama-Biden Administration
- Previously a small business entrepreneur and an advisor to fellow founders
- Prior advisor at ProAmérica Bank, the first California-chartered Latino-formed business bank to form in LA in over 35 years

US Ambassador nominee to the United Nations

Linda Thomas-Greenfield profile



ASST. SECRETARY, BUREAU OF
AFRICAN AFFAIRS
2013-2017

HOMETOWN
Baker, LA

EDUCATION
Louisiana State U., BA, 1974
U. of Wisconsin-Madison, MA, 1976

FAMILY
**Husband (Lafayette Masteen
Greenfield); 2 children**

BIOGRAPHY

After dedicating over 35 years to the US Foreign Service, notably as ambassador to Liberia, Thomas-Greenfield is President-elect Biden's choice to serve as US Ambassador to the United Nations; her service abroad has focused on peace, democracy, capacity-building, and economic development

- Born in segregated Louisiana, Thomas-Greenfield went on to graduate from Louisiana State University; spent a year studying abroad in Liberia while getting her master's in public administration at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and later taught political science at Bucknell University
- Embarked on an extensive foreign service career at the State Department and served in various capacities abroad in places such as Switzerland, Pakistan, Kenya, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Jamaica
- In 2005, she led the US delegation overseeing the Liberian national elections and in 2008 became the ambassador to Liberia; as assistant secretary of state for African Affairs during Obama's second term, she directed US policy regarding sub-Saharan Africa
- Removed from the State Department by President Trump in early 2017, she joined former Secretary of State Madeline Albright's global advisory and diplomacy firm, Albright Stonebridge Group, to lead the Africa policy group
- As head of the Biden State Department transition team, Thomas-Greenfield promotes increased diversity and rehiring to "save" and rebuild the department
- Her nomination by President-elect Biden to serve as the US ambassador to the United Nations, a post he is returning to Cabinet-level, has been celebrated by the foreign service community, particularly diplomats of color; due to her regional background, it is expected that she will play a vocal role in the UN Security Council, where a majority of peace initiatives pertain to Africa and work to re-establish and strengthen relationships with allies