

Jan. 11, 2020

Tracking Biden's picks for Cabinet-level and high-ranking posts

President-elect Joe Biden is rolling out his picks for Cabinet heads and other high-ranking administration officials. Some of these appointments — namely, secretaries of various departments — must be confirmed by the Senate. Others, like the national security adviser, do not need to be confirmed. Here are Biden's nominees and appointees thus far. *This post was last updated on Jan. 8, 2021.*

Cabinet nominees

✓ = NOMINATED, MUST BE CONFIRMED BY SENATE



Antony Blinken
SECRETARY OF STATE

✓ NOMINATED

Blinken was a deputy national security adviser and deputy secretary of State during President Barack Obama's administration.



Janet Yellen
TREASURY SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

If confirmed, Yellen would be the first female Treasury secretary.

Yellen, a widely respected labor economist, was the first woman to serve as chair of the Federal Reserve from 2014 to 2018.



Lloyd Austin III
DEFENSE SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

Austin is a retired Army general and the former commander of U.S. Central Command.

Austin would require a waiver to serve as secretary, like former Secretary Jim Mattis, as he has not been out of the military for the required seven years.



Merrick Garland
ATTORNEY GENERAL

✓ NOMINATED

Garland was previously the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C.

In 2016, Garland was nominated to the Supreme Court by Obama, though his nomination was never brought to a vote in the Senate.



Deb Haaland
INTERIOR SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

If confirmed, Haaland will be the first Native American Cabinet secretary.

She was one of the first two Native American women elected to Congress and at the time of her nomination was vice chair of the Natural Resources Committee.



Tom Vilsack
AGRICULTURE SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

Vilsack previously served as President Barack Obama's secretary of Agriculture for eight years and was also previously the governor of Iowa. Vilsack was selected in order to focus on rural communities, farmers and low-income families.



Gina Raimondo
COMMERCE SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

At the time of her nomination, Raimondo was governor of Rhode Island. She was previously the state's general treasurer.

She previously worked in venture capital and founded her own firm.



Marty Walsh
LABOR SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

At the time of his nomination, Walsh was the mayor of Boston.

Prior to his election as mayor, he served as a union president and was also a state representative from 1997 to 2013.



Xavier Becerra
HHS SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

If confirmed, Becerra will be the first Latino Health and Human Services secretary.

Becerra succeeded Kamala Harris as California's attorney general. He was previously a U.S. representative for more than two decades.

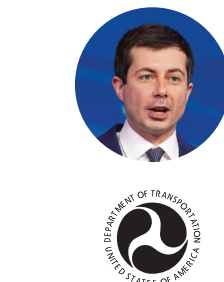


Marcia Fudge
HUD SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

At the time of her nomination, Fudge was a U.S. representative from Ohio. She was also mayor of Warrensville Heights for eight years prior to her time in the House.

Fair housing is expected to be a top priority at HUD during the Biden administration.



Pete Buttigieg
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

If confirmed, Buttigieg would be the first openly LGBT Cabinet secretary.

Buttigieg was formerly mayor of South Bend, Ind., and ran for president in the 2020 Democratic primary season. He also previously served in the U.S. military and as a consultant for McKinsey.



Jennifer Granholm
ENERGY SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

Granholm was the first woman elected governor of Michigan and previously served as the state's attorney general. She founded the American Jobs Project, a national initiative to promote clean energy.



Miguel Cardona
EDUCATION SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

At the time of his nomination Cardona was Connecticut's commissioner of education. He is also a former public school teacher.

In a statement following the announcement, the transition team said one of Cardona's priorities would be safely reopening schools amid the Covid-19 pandemic.



Denis McDonough
VA SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

From 2013 to 2017, McDonough was President Barack Obama's chief of staff. He was also previously a national security adviser for Obama. He is not a veteran; often the VA secretary is someone who has served in the military.



Alejandro Mayorkas
DHS SECRETARY

✓ NOMINATED

If confirmed, Mayorkas will be the first Latino Homeland Security secretary.

Mayorkas served as deputy DHS secretary in the Obama administration from 2013 to 2016.

Cabinet-level and other high-ranking officials



Katherine Tai
US TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

✓ NOMINATED

If confirmed, Tai would be the first woman of color and Asian American to serve as USTR.

At the time of her nomination, Tai was a lawyer for the House Ways and Means Committee. She previously led China enforcement at USTR.

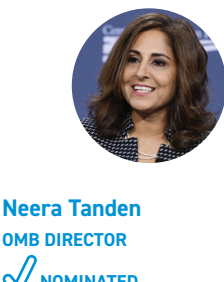


Avril Haines
DIRECTOR OF NAT'L INTELLIGENCE

✓ NOMINATED

Haines is the first woman to be appointed director of National Intelligence.

During the Obama administration, Haines served as deputy national security adviser and was the first female deputy CIA director.



Neera Tanden
OMB DIRECTOR

✓ NOMINATED

At the time of her nomination, Tanden was president of the Center for American Progress, a think tank in Washington, D.C. She was an adviser to Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign and has advised other Democratic presidential campaigns.



Michael Regan
EPA ADMINISTRATOR

✓ NOMINATED

If confirmed, Regan would be the first Black man to serve as EPA administrator.

At the time of his nomination, Regan was secretary of North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality. He has previously worked at the EPA under Republican and Democratic presidents.



Isabel Guzman
SBA ADMINISTRATOR

✓ NOMINATED

Guzman is currently the director of California's Office of the Small Business Advocate.

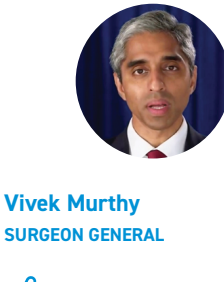
She previously worked at the SBA during the Obama administration.



Linda Thomas-Greenfield
U.N. AMBASSADOR

✓ NOMINATED

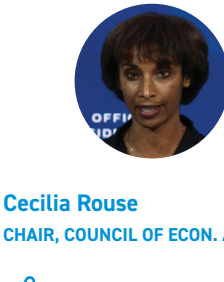
Thomas-Greenfield is a veteran diplomat who was an assistant secretary of State during the Obama administration.



Vivek Murthy
SURGEON GENERAL

✓ NOMINATED

Murthy previously served as surgeon general in the Obama administration beginning in 2014, and as a holdover in the early Trump administration. He is a former vice admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and is also a member of Biden's Covid-19 task force.



Cecilia Rouse
CHAIR, COUNCIL OF ECON. ADVISERS

✓ NOMINATED

If confirmed, Rouse would be the first Black woman to chair the Council of Economic Advisers.

At the time of her nomination, Rouse was dean of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. She was previously a member of Obama's CEA and President Bill Clinton's National Economic Council.

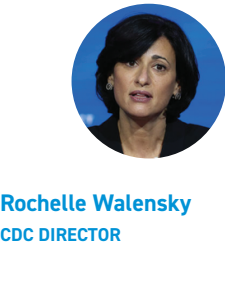


Brenda Mallory
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CHAIR

✓ NOMINATED

If confirmed, Mallory would be the first African American to serve as CEQ chair.

At the time of her nomination Mallory was the director of regulatory policy for the Southern Environmental Law Center. She served as general counsel for the CEQ during the Obama administration.



Rochelle Walensky
CDC DIRECTOR

NOT A SENATE-CONFIRMED ROLE

If confirmed, Walensky will be the third woman to head the CDC.

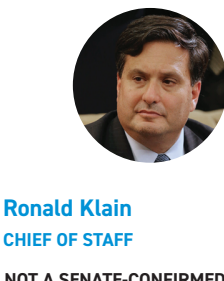
At the time of her nomination, Walensky was the chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital and a professor at Harvard Medical School.



John Kerry
SPECIAL ENVOY FOR CLIMATE

NOT A SENATE-CONFIRMED ROLE

Kerry was secretary of State during Obama's second term. He also helped negotiate and signed the Paris climate agreement to lower greenhouse gas emissions. He was the Democratic presidential nominee in 2004.



Ronald Klain
CHIEF OF STAFF

NOT A SENATE-CONFIRMED ROLE

Klain was a senior adviser to the Biden campaign, vice presidential chief of staff from 2009 to 2011 and was appointed by the Obama administration to coordinate its response to the Ebola pandemic.



Jake Sullivan
NAT'L SECURITY ADVISER

NOT A SENATE-CONFIRMED ROLE

Sullivan was Biden's national security adviser during the Obama administration.

Sources: The White House, Biden presidential transition, POLITICO staff reports, Getty Images, CNN, Reuters, The Washington Post

By Taylor Miller Thomas and Cristina Rivero, POLITICO Pro DataPoint