

## Trump Transition Tracker

Updates as of 6 PM EST on Thursday, January 16, 2025.

*This will be the final Transition Tracker with Trump's inauguration on January 20.*

### Transition Updates

**So far, so good.** President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet picks who have had their confirmation hearings this week all seem to be on a glide path to being easily confirmed, including Pete Hegseth as Secretary of Defense. The question now is how quickly can Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) schedule votes on the floor. Look for Secretary of State nominee Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) to be the first vote, perhaps as early as Monday evening. It is worth noting that hearings have yet to be scheduled for Trump's most controversial picks: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr as Secretary of Health and Human Services and Tulsi Gabbard as Director of National Intelligence. Kennedy ultimately will be confirmed. The jury is still out on Gabbard.

**Change is coming.** Before Trump has even taken office, his transition team continues to shake up Washington. The latest actions include attempting to remove U.S. attorneys who the team feels would not support Trump's law enforcement priorities, including deportations. The goal is to replace them with interim leaders who will eventually be elevated to acting U.S. attorneys. The Trump transition team also has asked three senior career diplomats who oversee the State Department's workforce and internal coordination to step down from their roles. The team aims to replace these leaders with political appointees in an attempt to embed allies deep into the State Department. Remember, Trump has long believed his agenda in his first term was derailed by career civil servants.

**Closing time, one last call for President Biden.** President Joe Biden gave his farewell address to the nation from the Oval Office on January 15. After more than 50 years of public service, Biden highlighted some of the accomplishments of his presidency like the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan and \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law. He also warned of a rising American "oligarchy" with a "dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a very few ultrawealthy people" and an influential "tech-industrial complex." Biden leaves office as the oldest sitting president. Trump will be the oldest person to be inaugurated as president. Trump will be the oldest person to be inaugurated as president.

**Batter up!** Trump will assume office with a strong mandate for change, which will come hard and fast. Expect a flurry of executive orders on day one covering everything from trade to climate to DEI, but stay focused on what matters for you and your business. Navigating these changes will require a clear understanding of your priorities and who has the power to shape the agendas that impact you the most. Though this is the last edition of edition of the Trump Transition Tracker, APCO's deep bench of experts is here to help see you through the transformations in the legal, regulatory, and trade landscapes that Trump has promised to bring. We invite you to join APCO's experts for a discussion on Trump's first days in office on Wednesday, January 22. Register for the webinar [here](#).

**Cabinet Spotlight: Secretary of Education nominee Linda McMahon.** The former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment and a major Republican donor, McMahon ran the Small Business Administration (SBA) in Trump's first term. She is presently the board chair of the [America First Policy Institute](#), a pro-Trump think tank that was formed in 2021 and has played a key role in developing policy proposals for Trump's second term. McMahon is considered a relative unknown in education circles, though she has expressed support for [charter schools](#) and school choice. She is a [strong proponent of expanding Pell Grants](#) to include short-term workforce education programs. At the same time, [McMahon has been critical](#) of Biden Administration DEI efforts, saying they could gut apprenticeship programs. McMahon's biggest task will perhaps be eliminating the agency she has been nominated to oversee. Trump [has promised to close the Education Department](#) and return much of its powers to states but has not explained how he would shutter the agency, which was created by Congress in 1979 and [would likely require action from Congress to dismantle](#). She is not expected to have any issues getting through the Senate, especially after a [federal judge recently paused](#) a child sexual abuse case involving her, her husband, Vince

McMahon, and the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). She was confirmed in an overwhelmingly bipartisan 81-19 vote to run the SBA.

## Trade, Tariffs & Investments

**Mexico seeks to cut China trade deficit, continue USMCA.** Mexico's new president has [unveiled](#) an economic development plan aimed at reducing Mexico's dependence on Chinese imports and integrating Mexico into high-value global supply chains. President Claudia Sheinbaum wants to reduce Chinese transshipment through Mexico, which is one of the key reasons Trump has threatened 25% tariffs. Sheinbaum intends to take a two-track approach to Mexico's continued economic development, attempting to foster both foreign investment in manufacturing to boost Mexican exports while also encouraging domestic businesses to grow and reduce Mexico's import dependence on China, a nod to Trump's efforts in his first term to do the same. The plan also upholds Mexico's commitment to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) as an engine of Mexican growth, despite the potential for new U.S. tariffs and a USMCA review in 2026 that threaten to harm U.S.-Mexico economic integration.

## Technology

**One last set of regulations.** The Department of Commerce on January 14 [announced new export controls](#) on biotechnology equipment, citing national security concerns linked to advancements in AI and data science. These regulations impose licensing requirements on certain advanced laboratory instruments, including high-parameter flow cytometers and mass spectrometry systems. This move is part of a broader effort to address concerns over China's use of American AI technologies, particularly in relation to Chinese entities with military affiliations. U.S. lawmakers already have been evaluating various proposals aimed at safeguarding Americans' personal health and genetic data from foreign adversaries and most recently called on the Commerce Department to consider restricting the export of U.S. biotechnology to the Chinese military. Incoming Trump administration nominees have recognized the growing threat and have already committed to collaborating with Congress on further actions to address these concerns during their confirmation hearings.

## Look Who's Coming to the Inauguration

**Tech titans kiss the ring.** America's three richest men, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg, all [plan](#) to attend Trump's inauguration, as do Google CEO Sundar Pichai and OpenAI founder Sam Altman. The showing marks a significant shift in how big tech platforms are approaching his administration. Each of them has made significant contributions to Trump's campaign or inauguration, which they expect to pave the way for a friendlier regulatory environment under the next administration. Their appearances come as Meta faces an anti-trust case in U.S. federal court, Amazon looks to retain its position as a premier federal contractor, and Musk takes the reins at the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

**TikTok CEO holds out hope for platform's future.** TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew [plans](#) to attend Trump's inauguration on January 20, just one day after a U.S. ban on TikTok goes into effect. Chew's appearance suggests that he might still be holding out hope that the ban could be reversed. Trump railed against the TikTok ban throughout his campaign and is reportedly [considering](#) a day-one executive order to help TikTok evade it.

**Envoys from both China and Taiwan to attend Trump's inauguration.** Chinese President Xi Jinping [plans](#) to send a top-level envoy to attend Trump's inauguration, potentially Vice President Han Zheng or Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The move is unprecedented and could help diffuse the fiery rhetoric that Trump has offered on China during his campaign and transition, including a threat to impose a 60% tariff on all Chinese imports. However, representatives from Taiwan's parliament will also be in [attendance](#), potentially setting the stage for tensions at the outset of Trump's term.

## APCO Deep Dives

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- Results
- Global Reaction
- Health Care
- DEI
- ESG & Sustainability
- AI
- The Changing Media Landscape
- Non-profit & Philanthropy

## Confirmation Hearings and Votes

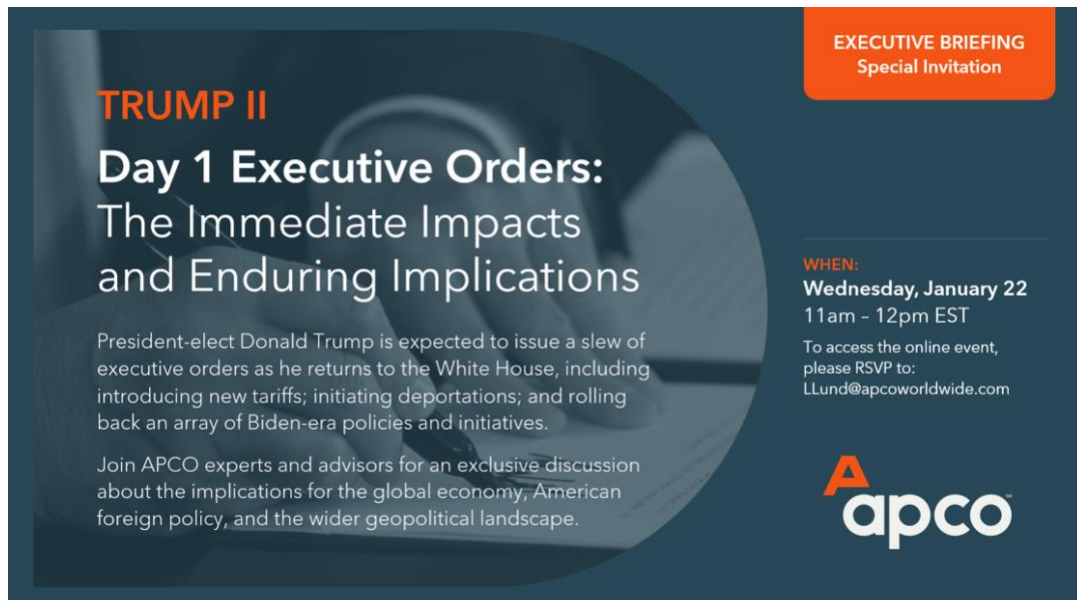
### Week of January 20

- Secretary of State Marco Rubio (Vote)
- Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations Elise Stefanik
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs Doug Collins
- Director of the Office of Management and Budget Russell Vought
- Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy (Vote)
- Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins

Click [here](#) for a Senate calendar of confirmed hearings.

For more information email Dan Scandling at [dscandling@apcoworldwide.com](mailto:dscandling@apcoworldwide.com).

For more information on Trump Inauguration packages, please email Dan Meyers at [dmeyers@apcoworldwide.com](mailto:dmeyers@apcoworldwide.com).



**TRUMP II**

## Day 1 Executive Orders: The Immediate Impacts and Enduring Implications

President-elect Donald Trump is expected to issue a slew of executive orders as he returns to the White House, including introducing new tariffs; initiating deportations; and rolling back an array of Biden-era policies and initiatives.

Join APCO experts and advisors for an exclusive discussion about the implications for the global economy, American foreign policy, and the wider geopolitical landscape.

**EXECUTIVE BRIEFING**  
Special Invitation

**WHEN:**  
Wednesday, January 22  
11am - 12pm EST

To access the online event,  
please RSVP to:  
[LLund@apcoworldwide.com](mailto:LLund@apcoworldwide.com)



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