

Trump Transition Tracker

*Updates as of 5 PM EST on Thursday, November 14, 2024.
Future updates will be distributed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.*

Transition Updates

President-Elect Donald Trump is keeping his promise to shake up Washington. Trump's cabinet selections already demonstrate that he is willing to push the envelope without giving his governing partners a heads-up. For instance, the newsworthy appointments of controversial [former Rep. Matt Gaetz](#) (R-FL) and [former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard](#) (D-HI) surprised many Capitol Hill allies. While he has [told](#) Congressional Republicans he expects them to be firmly behind him in implementing his agenda, several Republican Senators have voiced concern over the nominations of Gabbard and Gaetz.

Trump is moving quickly to fill positions in his administration. He has already announced [nine cabinet nominees](#) (approximately half the total). In 2016, Trump's first cabinet appointment did not come until 10 days after the election. His selections this time are all Trump loyalists who are expected to carry out his mandate. While many of his appointees have government experience, some will be tested quickly in their ability to effectively lead agencies, such as former [Rep. Lee Zeldin](#) (R-NY) at the helm of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Fox News personality and Army veteran [Pete Hegseth](#) at the Department of Defense (DOD). Unlike in 2016, the nomination process in 2024 has occurred primarily behind closed doors with announcements coming via social media.

Trump is doubling down on his tough stance towards China by selecting hawkish appointments to top national security positions, including [Rep. Mike Waltz](#) (R-FL) as National Security Advisor and [Sen. Marco Rubio](#) (R-FL) as Secretary of State.

Trump announced a non-governmental commission called the "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE), led by Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk. This aims to leverage private-sector expertise to achieve Trump's goal of creating a leaner, more efficient government and reflects his known frustration with the size of the federal bureaucracy during his first administration.

Trade, Tariffs & Investments

Trump's Promised Tariffs Spur Supply Chain Shifts: Several major companies, including shoemaker Steve Madden, plan to [slash](#) production in China in anticipation of Trump's promised 60% tariff on Chinese imports.

Lighthizer and Allies Lay Groundwork for Expansive Tariff Plan: Robert Lighthizer, Trump's former US Trade Representative (USTR) and potentially future trade czar, has been [circulating](#) memos on tariff policy to members of Congress and their staff, aiming to future-proof Trump's tariff proposals through legislation.

China's PNTR Status is Coming to the Forefront: The Trump transition team continues to push revoking China's favorable Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status. House Republicans have drafted a bill in anticipation of Trump's inauguration which will likely [serve](#) as a starting point for tariff legislation negotiations next year.

More Hawkish on China, Skeptical on Ukraine: Trump and his key foreign policy picks are likely to prioritize the U.S. posture towards China and deprioritize U.S. aid packages to Ukraine amid growing frustrations domestically. Trump reportedly [spoke](#) to Putin in the past week and also reportedly [spoke](#) to the Ukrainians, suggesting he will attempt to move Putin and Zelensky towards peace negotiations.

Trump to Renew Campaign Against Iran: Trump [plans](#) to aggressively pursue a renewed sanctions program against Iran targeting its oil sales, a policy allegedly influenced by Iran's recently publicized assassination attempt unsealed

by the FBI in court documents last week. Iran has already [sought](#) to defuse the potential tension by meeting with Elon Musk in New York on Monday.

Regulation & Deregulation

Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to Head New Department of Government Efficiency: Trump has tapped Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to lead the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), which aims to [identify](#) at least \$2 trillion in government spending cuts by July 4, 2026. DOGE will be a Trump-endorsed non-governmental commission partnering with the White House and Office of Management & Budget.

Zeldin's EPA to Roll Back Climate Regulations: Trump [says](#) Zeldin will ensure fair and swift deregulatory decisions that “unleash the power of American businesses” while maintaining high environmental standards.

Trump Team Split on Anti-Trust: The trajectory of anti-trust policy in the next Trump administration will [hinge](#) on internal debates around what oversight powers the federal government should have over the private sector. While Vice President-elect JD Vance and Attorney General nominee Matt Gaetz have praised current FTC chair Lina Khan for her aggressive anti-trust enforcement, key Trump allies like Elon Musk are vehemently opposed to Khan's stance.

Technology

Congress to Prioritize Innovation in AI: Trump has [vowed](#) to repeal the Biden administration's executive order on AI. In lieu of a lighter regulatory approach, a Republican majority in Congress may step in to create a new roadmap on AI, [favoring](#) more industry-friendly provisions.

Trump Will Struggle to Save TikTok: Trump has [promised](#) to reverse the impending ban on TikTok. However, overturning it would require an act of Congress, which is unlikely given the overwhelming majorities that the ban passed with earlier this year.

Crypto Industry Pushing for Supportive Regulation: Cryptocurrency industry executives are [calling](#) for Trump to implement executive orders on access to banking services and a crypto-friendly Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Latest Trump Appointments

Secretary of Commerce

US Attorney-SDNY

Jay Clayton

Secretary of Health and Human Services

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Attorney General

Matt Gaetz

Director of National Intelligence

Tulsi Gabbard

Secretary of State

Marco Rubio

Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy

Stephen Miller

CIA Director

John Ratcliffe

Secretary of Defense

Pete Hegseth

Secretary of Homeland Security

Kristi Noem

National Security Adviser

Mike Waltz

Border Czar

Tom Homan

UN Ambassador

Elise Stefanik

EPA Director



Lee Zeldin



Chief of Staff
Susie Wiles

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