

Biden Administration: Cabinet and Staff

Cabinet Officials—Department Heads



Department of Agriculture

Tom Vilsack

Confirmed

President Biden nominated former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to reprise his role. President Biden stressed that Secretary Vilsack's previous experience would allow the nominee to hit the ground running on his first day in office and combat the unprecedented hunger crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Former Secretary Vilsack was unanimously confirmed as Secretary of Agriculture in 2009.



Department of Commerce

Governor Gina Raimondo

Confirmed

Gina Raimondo, the Governor of Rhode Island, was confirmed to lead the Department of Commerce. She will be a major player in deciding whether or not to roll back any of the sanctions imposed on Chinese corporations by the former Trump administration. Once considered a potential running-mate for then-candidate Biden, she previously worked as a venture-capital executive and State Treasurer. President Biden also selected Don Graves to serve as Deputy Secretary of Commerce.



Department of Defense

Retired General Lloyd Austin

Confirmed

General Austin is the first Black man in history to helm the Defense Department. He had an easy confirmation process, after both the House of Representatives and Senate passed a waiver allowing the former general to take control of the civilian branch of the military. Before retiring in 2016, General Austin served in the Army for more than 40 years. President Biden nominated Dr. Kathleen Hicks to serve as deputy secretary of defense and Dr. Colin Kahl as under-secretary of defense for policy.



Department of Education

Dr. Miguel Cardona

Confirmed

Dr. Miguel Cardona, who previously served as Connecticut's Education Commissioner, was confirmed as the Secretary of Education. He has more than two decades of public sector education experience, having previously worked as an elementary school teacher, a principal and an assistant superintendent in Connecticut.



Department of Energy

Former Governor Jennifer Granholm

Confirmed

Former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm will lead the Department of Energy. During her time as the first female governor of Michigan, she closely worked with the Obama-Biden administration to rescue the automobile industry and helped build the state's clean-energy industry. She would oversee the president's proposed \$2 trillion clean energy initiative if confirmed by the Senate.



Department of Health and Human Services

Xavier Becerra

Confirmed

Xavier Becerra, a former member of Congress and Attorney General of California, was nominated to lead President Biden's Department of Health and Human Services. While he has no medical training or experience in public health, Becerra has been a top defender of the Affordable Care Act. While in Congress, he was one of its leading advocates and has defended the law before the Supreme Court. Becerra is the first Latino to hold the position.



Department of Homeland Security

Alejandro Mayorkas

Confirmed

Alejandro Mayorkas is the first Latino and the first immigrant to lead the Department of Homeland Security. Mayorkas spearheaded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program while serving as the director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) under former President Obama.



Department of Housing and Urban Development

Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (D-OH)

Confirmed

President Biden selected Representative Marcia Fudge (D-OH) to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Her nomination comes after many groups, including the Congressional Black Caucus, openly lobbied for the Congresswoman to lead the Department of Agriculture. Congresswoman Fudge serves on many committees, including the House Administration, Agriculture, and Education and Labor Committees.



Department of Interior

Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-NM)

Confirmed

Representative Deb Haaland, a member of Pueblo of Laguna, is the first Native American to lead the Interior Department if confirmed. In a statement released after her nomination, Representative Haaland stated: “it’s profound to think about the history of this country’s policies to exterminate Native Americans and the resilience of [her] ancestors that gave [her] a place here today.” Elected to Congress in 2018, she is a supporter of the Green New Deal and opposed President Trump’s rollback of environmental regulations. Congresswoman Haaland serves on the House Natural Resources and Armed Services Committees.



Department of Justice

Judge Merrick Garland

Confirmed

President Biden nominated Judge Merrick Garland, whose Supreme Court nomination Republicans blocked in 2016, to lead the Justice Department. The president said he chose the U.S. Court of Appeals D.C. Circuit Judge because he believes that Judge Garland can “restore the honor, the integrity, [and] the independence of the [Department of Justice].” President Biden also nominated Lisa Monaco to serve as deputy attorney general.



Department of Labor

Mayor Marty Walsh

Awaiting Confirmation

President Biden picked Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, a former union leader, to serve as his Labor secretary. In a statement, the Biden transition team stressed that Mayor Walsh has the “trust of the president to help workers recover from this historic economic downturn and usher in a new era of worker power.” Leaders of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and the Service Employees International Union backed Walsh’s selection.



Department of State

Antony Blinken

Confirmed

Antony Blinken is a longtime advisor of President Biden, counseling the President on foreign policy for nearly two decades. A deputy Secretary of State under former President Obama, he began his career at the State Department during the Clinton administration. Blinken will be tasked with mending deteriorating relationships with allies who disagreed with the Trump administration.



Department of Transportation

Mayor Pete Buttigieg

Confirmed

President Biden nominated his former rival, former Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg, to lead the Department of Transportation. Before politics, Buttigieg was a U.S. Navy Intelligence Officer and served in Afghanistan. At the Transportation Department, Buttigieg will be charged with implementing Biden's plan to drastically increase infrastructure spending. If confirmed, he would be the first LGBTQ+ cabinet member to be confirmed by the Senate in history.



Department of Treasury

Janet Yellen

Confirmed

Janet Yellen is the first person in U.S. history to have served as the Treasury Secretary, the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors and the Chair of the Federal Reserve. Additionally, she is the first female head of the Treasury Department. President Biden has also selected Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo, a former senior international economic adviser during the Obama administration, to serve as Yellen's top deputy at the Treasury Department.



Department of Veterans Affairs

Denis McDonough

Confirmed

Former White House Chief of Staff, Denis McDonough, has been confirmed to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs. While this position has traditionally gone to a veteran—which McDonough is not—it has been suggested that President Biden chose McDonough because the president felt he was "crisis-tested." Previously serving as former President Obama's Chief of Staff, McDonough also worked on Capitol Hill before entering the White House. While in the legislative branch, he worked for the House Foreign Relations Committee as a Professional Staff Member.

Cabinet Officials—Cabinet Rank



Central Intelligence Agency Director

Ambassador William Burns

Confirmed

Former president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and former U.S. deputy Secretary of State, William “Bill” Burns will lead the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). In 2014, he retired from the Foreign Service after a 33-year diplomatic career. Burns was Ambassador to Russia, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs and Ambassador to Jordan throughout his career. He holds the highest rank in the Foreign Service and is only the second career diplomat in history to become deputy secretary of state.



Director of the National Economic Council

Brian Deese

No Confirmation Needed

During the Obama administration, Brian Deese served in a number of roles including as a senior adviser to the President. He also served as the deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget and deputy director of the National Economic Council. Deese currently serves as the Global Head of Sustainability at BlackRock.



Small Businesses Administrator

Isabel Guzman

Confirmed

Isabel Guzman has been confirmed to lead the SBA. She previously served as the Director of the Office of the Small Business Advocate within the California Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development. She helped launch the Shop Safe Shop Local and Get Digital CA initiatives to support small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. During her nomination announcement, Guzman stressed the importance of small businesses, stating they “fuel our economy, bring new ideas to transform our lives for the better, and enliven every main street in America.”



Director of National Intelligence

Avril Haines

Confirmed

Avril Haines is the first female director of National Intelligence, after being confirmed by the Senate 84 to 10. She was the first female deputy director of the CIA and deputy national security advisor, both during the Obama administration. She was the Senate Foreign Relations Committee deputy chief counsel while then-Sen. Joe Biden was Chairman.

Special Presidential Envoy for Climate



John Kerry

No Confirmation Needed

In naming former Secretary of State John Kerry as the special presidential envoy for climate, President Biden is creating the first National Security Council position solely focused on the effects of climate change. After his nomination, Kerry tweeted that the Biden administration would treat the “climate crisis as the urgent national security threat it is.” During his time as Secretary of State, Kerry spearheaded U.S. participation in the Paris Climate Accords, which President Biden has

reentered.



Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality

Brenda Mallory

Awaiting Confirmation

Brenda Mallory, is already familiar with the White House Council on Environmental Quality; during the Obama administration, she served as the office’s general counsel. Widely considered one of the country’s top experts on environmental regulatory policy, she will oversee all environmental reviews of President Biden’s promised infrastructure plan. If confirmed, Brenda Mallory will be the first African American to lead the Council on Environmental Quality.



National Climate Advisor

Gina McCarthy

No Confirmation Needed

Gina McCarthy, former environmental protection administrator, will now lead the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy in the Biden administration. In this new position, McCarthy will coordinate climate policies across the United States government and will act as the domestic counterpart to former Secretary of State John Kerry. On the campaign trail, then-candidate Biden promised carbon neutrality by 2050.



Chief of Staff

Ron Klain

No Confirmation Needed

President Biden appointed his longtime aide, Ron Klain, to the White House’s second-most powerful position. Previously, he served as chief of staff to both former Vice President Al Gore during the Clinton administration and then-Vice President Biden during the Obama administration. In 2014, former President Obama appointed Klain as the White House Ebola Response Coordinator to fight what was then considered the world’s most damaging pandemic.

Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development



Samantha Power

Awaiting Confirmation

President Biden announced former Ambassador Samantha Power as his nominee for Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and elevated the position to the National Security Council. She served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and on the National Security Council during the Obama administration. Power started her career as a war correspondent and was the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy's founding executive director at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

Michael Regan

Confirmed

Michael Regan has been confirmed to head the EPA. He previously served as the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ). Prior to joining the NC DEQ, he served as Associate Vice President of U.S. Climate and Energy for the Environmental Defense Fund. Regan also previously worked at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during the Clinton and Bush administrations.



Director of the Domestic Policy Council

Susan Rice

No Confirmation Needed

Former Obama-U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and National Security Adviser Susan Rice will head the Biden administration's Domestic Policy Council. In this new position, Ambassador Rice will help coordinate the new administration's domestic policy agenda, a move away from her typical foreign policy roles.



Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers

Cecilia Rouse

Confirmed

President Biden nominated Cecilia Rouse, Dean of Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, to chair the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA). She is the first woman of color to chair the Council. Rouse is no stranger to the White House, having served as a CEA member during the first two years of the Obama administration. President Biden has also nominated Jared Bernstein and Heather Boushey to serve as members of the CEA.

U.S. Trade Representative



Katherine Tai

Confirmed

President Biden nominated senior congressional staffer Katherine Tai to serve as his U.S. Trade Representative. Tai previously worked in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) during the Obama administration as its chief counsel for China trade enforcement. She is the first Asian American woman to hold the position and the first woman of color.



Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Neera Tanden

Withdrew Nomination

Neera Tanden withdrew her nomination on March 2, 2021 after controversy over her past tweets.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations



Linda Thomas-Greenfield

Confirmed

Linda Thomas-Greenfield has served in the Foreign Service for more than three decades and was the assistant Secretary of State for African affairs during the Obama administration. While serving as the assistant Secretary of State, Thomas-Greenfield focused on economic empowerment, investment opportunities, peace and security, and democracy and governance.

White House Senior Officials and Advisors



White House Communications Director

Kate Bedingfield

No Confirmation Needed

In the new Biden-Harris administration, Kate Bedingfield serves as President Biden's communications director. She is no stranger to the White House, having served as then-Vice President Biden's communications director during the Obama administration. Bedingfield will lead the administration's all-female communications team.



Senior Advisor to the President

Mike Donilon

No Confirmation Needed

Another longtime aide to President Biden, Mike Donilon, will serve as a senior advisor to the president in the Biden administration. A veteran Democratic strategist, pollster and media specialist, he was the President's chief strategist during the 2020 campaign. Previously, Donilon served as counselor to then-Vice President Biden during the Obama administration.



Deputy Chief of Staff

Jen O'Malley Dillon

No Confirmation Needed

Former Joe Biden for President campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon will serve as the administration's deputy chief of staff. O'Malley Dillon has worked in leadership and organizing positions on campaigns at every level—from state senate and mayoral races to congressional, gubernatorial, senatorial and presidential campaigns. This will be the first time she has worked in the White House.



White House Press Secretary

Jen Psaki

No Confirmation Needed

Former President Obama's communications director, Jen Psaki, serves the new administration as President Biden's press secretary. During the Obama administration, Psaki also served as the State Department, Deputy White House communications director and deputy White House press secretary.



Counselor to the President

Steve Ricchetti

No Confirmation Needed

No stranger to the White House, Steve Ricchetti has been tapped to serve as counselor to President Biden. He has held many senior roles in the White House, including chief of staff to then-Vice President Biden, deputy chief of staff and deputy assistant to the President for legislative

affairs during Clinton administration. However, Ricchetti is facing growing pressure to recuse himself from working on issues he or his brother have lobbied on, such as prescription drug prices.



Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement

Former Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-LA)

No Confirmation Needed

Congressman Cedric Richmond (D-LA) left the House of Representatives to serve as a senior advisor and director of the White House Office of Public Engagement in the Biden administration. During his almost ten-year tenure in the House of Representatives, Congressman Richmond served on many committees, including Ways and Means, Homeland Security and Judiciary.



National Security Adviser

Jake Sullivan

No Confirmation Needed

Jake Sullivan will be the youngest person to hold the national security adviser position. He previously served as then-Vice President Biden's national security adviser and as deputy chief of staff to then-Secretary of State Hilary Clinton.

Additional Staffers



Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary

Yohannes Abraham

National Security Council

Yohannes Abraham serves as the Biden administration's chief of staff and executive secretary of the National Security Council (NSC). During the Obama-Biden administration, he was a senior advisor to the National Economic Council and chief of staff of the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs. Abraham has also worked on the Vanguard Group's global investment leadership team and at the Obama Foundation. He received his undergraduate degree from Yale, and his master's in business administration from Harvard Business School.



Senior Advisor for Climate Policy and Innovation

Sonia Aggarwal

Office of Domestic Climate Policy

Coming to the White House for the first time in her career, Sonia Aggarwal will serve in the Office of Domestic Climate Policy as a senior advisor for climate policy and innovation. She co-founded and served as the vice president of Energy Innovation, an organization aimed at "accelerating clean energy by supporting the policies that most effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions." Previously, Aggarwal managed global research at ClimateWorks Foundation, where she worked on the McKinsey carbon abatement cost curves and led research for the American Energy Innovation Council. She is a graduate of Haverford College and Stanford University.



Senior Director for Strategic Planning

Sasha Baker

National Security Council

As a former senior national security and presidential campaign advisor to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Sasha Baker will join the Biden-Harris' National Security Council as its senior director for strategic planning. During the Obama-Biden administration, she worked under Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and as a budget analyst in the Office of Management and Budget homeland and national security divisions. Baker began her government career as a research assistant for the House Armed Services Committee. She is a graduate of Dartmouth College and received her master's in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Special Assistant to the President for Budget and Tax Policy

Nadiya Beckwith-Stanley

National Economic Council

Nadiya Beckwith-Stanley will join the National Economic Council as a special assistant to the President for budget and tax policy. Prior to joining the team, she was an associate in the tax group of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. Beckwith-Stanley also served as a clerk to Judge Ronald Buch of the U.S. Tax Court. She graduated from Pomona College and earned her law degree from New York University School of Law.

Senior Director for Partnerships and Global Engagement



Tanya Bradsher

National Security Council

After serving as the transition team's National Security Agency lead, Tanya Bradsher will continue working with the Biden-Harris administration on the issue as the National Security Council's senior director for partnerships and global engagement. Bradsher was previously the chief of staff for Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA). This is not Bradsher's first time working in the National Security Council; during the Obama-Biden administration, she was the Assistant Press Secretary. Bradsher also served as the assistant secretary for public affairs in the Department of Homeland Security from 2014 to 2015. She is an Iraq war veteran who served 20 years in the United States Army and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. Bradsher is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and George Washington University.



Senior Director for Legislative Affairs

Rebecca Brocato

National Security Council

Rebecca Brocato is returning to the National Security Council and serves as its Senior Director for Legislative Affairs. She worked previously at the State Department as an aide to Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD). She is a graduate of Harvard College and Oxford University.



Senior Director for Global Health Security and Biodefense

Elizabeth "Beth" Cameron

National Security Council

Beth Cameron is already familiar with the duties of the senior director for global health security and biodefense, having served in the position during the Obama-Biden administration. In the Obama-Biden administration, she also worked at the Departments of Defense and State. Since 2017, Cameron has worked with the Nuclear Threat Initiative as its vice-president on global biological policy and programs. She started her career in former Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) office as a health policy fellow. Cameron earned her doctorate in biology from Johns Hopkins University and her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia.



Senior Director for Technology and National Security

Tarun Chhabra

National Security Council

Currently a senior fellow at the Center for Security and Emerging Technology at Georgetown University, Tarun Chhabra will return to the National Security Council as its senior director for technology and national security. Previously, he served in the Obama-Biden National Security Council as the director for strategic planning and director for human rights and national security issues. Before that, Chhabra worked at the Pentagon as a speechwriter to Secretaries of Defense Chuck Hagel and Ash Carter. He has a law degree from Harvard School of Law, a master's from Oxford University and an undergraduate degree from Stanford University.

Senior Director for Resilience and Response



Caitlin Durkovich

National Security Council

Caitlin Durkovich, a member of the Biden-Harris transition's Department of Homeland Security Agency review team, joins the National Security Council as its senior director for resilience and response. Previously, she worked at Toffler Associates, where she focused on critical infrastructure security and resilience issues. During the Obama administration, Durkovich worked in what is now the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). She earned an undergraduate degree in public policy from Duke University.



Deputy Director

Sameera Fazili

National Economic Council

Sameera Fazili, the economic agency lead for the Biden-Harris transition team, joins the National Economic Council as its deputy director. Before joining the Biden-Harris team, she worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta as its director of engagement for community and economic development. Like many of her colleagues on the transition team, she served in the Obama-Biden administration as a senior policy adviser on the National Economic Council, where she covered retirement, consumer finance and community and economic development. She is a graduate of Yale Law School and Harvard College.



Principal Deputy National Security Advisor

Jon Finer

National Security Council

Jon Finer is joining the Biden-Harris administration as its principal deputy national security advisor. During the Obama-Biden administration, he was chief of staff and director of policy planning at the Department of State. Before that, he worked for four years in the White House as senior advisor to then-deputy national security advisor Antony Blinken and as a foreign policy speechwriter for then-Vice President Biden. Finer began his career as a foreign correspondent for *The Washington Post*. He is a Rhodes Scholar and a graduate of Harvard College, Oxford University and Yale Law School.



Senior Director for Western Hemisphere

Juan Gonzalez

National Security Council

Juan Gonzalez, formerly a senior fellow at the Penn Biden Center for Global Diplomacy and Global Engagement, will join the Biden-Harris National Security Council as its senior director for the western hemisphere. He previously served as deputy assistant Secretary of State for western hemisphere affairs, where he led U.S. diplomatic engagement in Central America and the Caribbean. Gonzalez was also National Security Council Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs from 2011 to 2013. In 2017, Gonzalez was appointed by Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) to serve on the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission. He also represented the Biden campaign on the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force on Immigration. Gonzalez holds a master's degree from Georgetown and a bachelor's of science from the University of Buffalo.

Senior Director for South Asia



Sumona Guha

National Security Council

A member of the State Department Review Team for the Biden-Harris transition team, Sumona Guha has held many positions that have placed her in a key position to shape U.S. foreign policy. She was a co-chair of the South Asia Foreign Policy Working Group on the Biden-Harris campaign, where she crafted its South Asian related-policy positions. Before joining the transition team, Guha was a Senior Vice President at Albright Stonebridge Group. Within the Obama-Biden administration, she was a special advisor for national security affairs to then-Vice President Biden. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins and Georgetown University.



Deputy Chief of Staff and Deputy Executive Secretary

Ryan Harper

National Security Council

Ryan Harper will serve as the National Security Council's Deputy Chief of Staff and Deputy Executive Secretary. Before joining the transition, Harper was a partner at McKinsey & Co. During the Obama-Biden administration, Harper served in the Department of Justice and the Office of Presidential Personnel. He is a graduate of College of the Holy Cross, Stanford School of Law and Stanford School of Business.



Senior Director for International Economics and Competitiveness

Peter Harrell

National Security Council

Peter Harrell will become Senior Director for International Economics and Competitiveness. Prior to joining the administration, Harrell was an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) and taught law at the University of Pennsylvania. He served in the Obama-Biden administration from 2009 to 2014 on the State Department Policy Planning Staff and as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School.



Special Assistant to the President for Climate Policy

David Hayes

Office of Domestic Climate Policy

A current adjunct professor of law at the NYU School of Law, David Hayes will return to the White House for the third time and work in the Office of Domestic Climate Policy as a special assistant to the President. A nationally recognized environmental, energy and natural resources lawyer, he previously served as the deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior for Presidents Obama (2009-2013) and Clinton (1999-2001). He attended the University of Notre Dame and Stanford Law School.

Senior Director for Press and NSC Spokesperson



Emily Horne

National Security Council

As a volunteer on the Biden-Harris transition team, Emily Horne led communications for several national security Cabinet nominees. Before joining the Biden-Harris administration, Horne was Vice President of Communications at Brookings. In the Obama-Biden administration, she served in many roles, including Assistant Press Secretary and Director of Strategic Communications at the National Security Council, Communications Director for the Special Presidential Envoy to the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS, and Spokesperson for South and Central Asian Affairs. Horne received her B.A. and M.A. from the George Washington University.



Coordinator for Democracy and Human Rights

Shanthi Kalathil

National Security Council

Shanthi Kalathil was the Senior Director of the International Forum for Democratic Studies at the National Endowment for Democracy before joining the Biden-Harris administration. She has previously served as a senior democracy fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development, an associate with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Hong Kong-based reporter for the Asian *Wall Street Journal*. Kalathil is a graduate of the University of California Berkeley and the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Senior Director for Russia and Central Asia

Andrea Kendall-Taylor

National Security Council

Prior to joining the Biden-Harris administration, Andrea Kendall-Taylor served as a senior intelligence officer in the CIA and as Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Russia and Eurasia at the National Intelligence Council in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. She is a graduate of Princeton University and holds a doctorate in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Senior Advisor to the Principal Deputy National Security Advisor

Ella Lipin

National Security Council

Before joining the Biden-Harris administration, Lipin served as a foreign policy advisor to Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV). She also served as Egypt Country Director in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and in the Secretary of Defense's speechwriting office. She graduated from Duke University and received her MPA from Princeton University.

Senior Director for Environmental Justice



Dr. Cecilia Martinez

White House Council on Environmental Quality

Dr. Cecilia Martinez is the co-founder and former Executive Director at the Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED). She previously held positions as an associate research professor in the College of Earth, Ocean and Environment at the University of Delaware, associate professor at Metropolitan State University and research director at the American Indian Policy Center. Dr. Martinez will be joining the Biden-Harris administration as the senior director for environmental justice in the White House Council on Environmental Quality. She received her B.A. from Stanford University, an MPA from New Mexico State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware's College of Urban Affairs and Public Policy.



Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa

Brett McGurk

National Security Council

Brett McGurk is a Frank E. and Arthur W. Payne Distinguished Lecturer Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. Before entering academia, McGurk held senior positions in the last three administrations, most recently as Special Presidential Envoy for the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. He served as a law clerk to Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist on the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and Columbia University School of Law.



Senior Director for Climate and Energy

Melanie Nakagawa

National Security Council

As a former climate change and energy advisor to the transition team, Melanie Nakagawa will continue her work as the new administration's senior director for climate and energy. Like others, she also worked in the Obama-Biden administration. Nakagawa was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for energy transformation in the State Department and served as a strategic advisor on climate change to former-Secretary of State John Kerry. Additionally, she previously worked as the Senior Energy and Environment Counsel for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and as an attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. She received her law degree from American University Washington College of Law, a master of international affairs from American University School of International Service, and bachelor's degree from Brown University.



Senior Director for Speechwriting and Strategic Initiatives

Carlyn Reichel

National Security Council

A former member of the Biden-Harris transition's National Security Council Agency Review team, Carlyn Reichel will join the National Security Council as its senior director for speechwriting and strategic initiatives. On the Biden-Harris campaign, she served as both Director of Speechwriting and Foreign Policy Director. She earned her master's in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and her undergraduate degree from Stanford University.

Senior Director for Europe



Dr. Amanda Sloat

National Security Council

Before joining the Biden-Harris administration, Dr. Amanda Sloat was a senior fellow at Brookings and a non-resident fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. During the Obama administration, she served as deputy assistant secretary for southern Europe and eastern Mediterranean affairs at the State Department and as senior advisor to the Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs. On the Hill, Sloat was a professional staff member for the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She is a graduate of Michigan State University and the University of Edinburgh.



Chief of Staff for the Office of Domestic Climate Policy

Maggie Thomas

Office of Domestic Climate Policy

Maggie Thomas, a former climate advisor to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Gov. Jay Inslee (D-WA), will join the Biden-Harris administration as the chief of staff for the Office of Domestic Climate Policy under Gina McCarthy. She was the political director at Evergreen Action, a nonprofit working to advance a full government mobilization to defeat the climate crisis, before joining the Biden-Harris transition team as a policy volunteer. She earned her bachelor's degree from Trinity College and her master's of environmental management from the Yale School of Environment.



Senior Advisor for Climate Policy and Finance

Jahi Wise

Office of Domestic Climate Policy

Jahi Wise served as the Policy Director for the Coalition for Green Capital (CGC) before joining the administration as the senior advisor for climate policy and finance in the Office of Domestic Climate Policy. Like Nadiya Beckwith-Stanley, he also worked at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in their energy and infrastructure group. Wise is a graduate of Morehouse College, Yale School of Management and Yale Law School.