

October 10, 2024

Potential Top Officials in a Harris Administration

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With our view that the odds slightly favor Vice President Kamala Harris winning the presidency in November (see [here](#)), we offer a comprehensive list of potential candidates for key Cabinet and other important positions below.

While we believe Harris will win the White House, we see Republicans gaining control of the Senate. As an aside, the House is likely to flip to the Democrats. Many of the positions below, including all Cabinet spots, require Senate confirmation so, if the GOP controls the Senate even by a seat, securing confirmation of her more liberal candidates will be difficult and will surely factor into whether Harris even nominates them or not.

However, she is likely to put forward the names of a couple of very liberal members with the knowledge they will likely be defeated if only to garner favor with the left wing of her party.

Harris has also said she wants to nominate a Republican to the Cabinet. Recall that President Obama (D) included three Republicans in his Cabinet at various points of his term: Robert Gates and Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE) as Secretary of Defense and Congressman Ray LaHood (R-IL) as Transportation Secretary. We would *not* expect Harris to name a Republican to any key economic position such as Treasury Secretary or to politically sensitive positions such as Secretary of Labor or Health and Human Services.

Finally, if Democrats keep the Senate, we expect most of Harris' nominees to be confirmed, including those members farther to the left of the political spectrum. Recall that Sens. Joe Manchin (I-WV) and Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ), then Democrats, were instrumental in blocking various Biden nominations. We do not see that happening this time around if Democrats hold the Senate, as those two members are retiring and we see the remaining Democrats as likely being much more supportive of her nominations.

| Position | Candidates | Background | Comments |
|--------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Treasury Secretary | Gina Raimondo | Current Commerce Secretary. Former Governor of RI (D). Former venture capitalist | Raimondo is likely one of the top three candidates. |
| | Wally Adeyemo | Current Deputy Treasury Secretary | Adeyemo is like one of the top three candidates. He would be the first Black Treasury Secretary. |
| | Gary Gensler | Current SEC chairman and former Goldman Sachs partner | If the GOP controls the Senate, we believe Gensler would have an uphill battle. |
| | Blair Efron | Co-founder of Centerview Partners | Seems more of a long shot. |
| | Ajay Banga | World Bank President. Former executive chairman of Mastercard (MA) | He was an outside advisor to candidate Harris during the 2020 presidential primary. |
| | Ken Chenault | Former CEO of American Express (AXP) | Would be the first Black Treasury Sec. Spoke at the 2024 Democratic National Convention in support of Harris/Walz. |
| | Jamie Dimon | Chairman and CEO of JP Morgan (JPM) | With his Wall Street background, he seems unlikely to be nominated. |
| | Janet Yellen | Current Treasury Secretary and former Fed Chair | She is 78 years old. We believe she's unlikely to be nominated. |

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|---|---|--|--|
| Federal Reserve (Fed) Chair (note Powell's term isn't up until May 15, 2026) | Lael Brainard | Current Director of the National Economic Council (NEC). Former Vice Chair of the Fed. | Her Fed experience, followed by her role as Director of the NEC could be a warmup to becoming Fed chair. |
| | Janet Yellen | Current Treasury Secretary | At 78, we believe it's unlikely she will be picked for the position. |
| | Jerome Powell | Current Fed Chairman | As senator, Harris voted against Powell's re-nomination in 2018. |
| Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chair | Lina Khan | Current FTC chairwoman | While her term as chair expired in Sept., she can stay on until a replacement is named. After over three years as head of FTC she might be looking to move on. |
| | Rohit Chopra | Current head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Former FTC commissioner. | He was unanimously confirmed to the FTC by the Senate in 2017. |
| | Stacey Abrams | Unsuccessful democratic candidate for governor of Georgia | Would be tough to get confirmed under a GOP Senate. |
| | Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) | Mark Cuban | Entrepreneur. Former Shark Tank host. |
| Caroline Crenshaw | | Current SEC commissioner. | She was unanimously confirmed by the Senate |

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| | Lisa Fairfax | Nominee for SEC commissioner by Obama. Law professor. | Her nomination never came to a floor vote partially because of some Senate Democratic opposition. Seems unlikely to be nominated. |
| | Mary Jo White | Former SEC Chairwoman under Obama | She will be 77 when Harris takes office and may not want to enter govt. service again. |
| Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) | Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA) | Current congresswoman from CA, who is not running for re-election in 2024 | She worked for then-Atty. General Harris in CA and she was appointed by Harris to be the state's independent monitor of banks in a nationwide mortgage settlement |
| Attorney General | Gov. Roy Cooper (D-NC) | Current governor of NC, who is not running for re-election this year | Well respected governor from a red state. He also served as Atty. General of NC. |
| | Gov. Maura Healey D-MA) | Current governor of MA. Former Atty General of MA | She just took office in Jan. 2023 so may not be ready to leave the governorship. |
| | Fmr. Sen. Doug Jones (D-AL) | Former U.S. Senator. Former U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama. | Another potential red state hire for Harris. They did not overlap in the Senate. |
| | Gov. Josh Shapiro (D-PA) | Current governor of PA. Former Atty General of PA. | Given he was on the VP short list, he and Harris probably have a good relationship. |

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| | Lisa Monaco | Current Deputy Atty. General. | Seems like more of a long shot for the position. |
| | Vanita Gupta | Former Associate Atty.General.in the Biden admin. Led DOJ Civil Rights division under Obama. | Only one Senate Republican voted to confirm her for Assoc. Atty. Gen. Tough to confirm is GOP takes the Senate. |
| | Sally Yates | Former Deputy Atty. General during Obama | Would likely have a tough time getting confirmed in a GOP Senate. |
| | Preet Bharara | Former U.S. attorney in NYC under Obama | He also worked for Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D). Given his perceived partisanship, might be tough to get confirmed in GOP-controlled Senate. |
| Secretary of Defense | Michele Flournoy | Former Undersecretary of Defense Policy under Obama | Would be the first female Sec. of Def. |
| | Christine Wormuth | Current Sec. of the Army | Would be the first female Sec. of Def. She is the first female Army Sec. |
| | Kathleen Hicks | Current Deputy Sec. of Defense | Would be the first female Sec. of Def. |
| | Colin Kahl | Former Undersecretary of Defense under Biden | He was confirmed by a vote of 49-45 with a few GOP Senators absent. Tough to get confirmed in a GOP-controlled Senate. |

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| | Mara Karlin | Former Asst. Sec. of Defense for Strategy, Plans and Capabilities under Biden | Would be the first female Sec. of Def. |
| Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) | Neera Tanden | Domestic Policy Council director under Biden. Unsuccessful nominee as OMB director under Biden. Former CEO of Center for American Progress, a left-center think tank. | Previous Tweets attacking GOOP Senators helped led to her withdrawing her name from head of OMB even as Democrats controlled the Senate. |
| | Dr. Rochelle Walensky | Former Dir. Of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under Biden | Her endorsement of COVID restrictions could make it hard for her to be confirmed. Her two years and five months at CDC was the shortest tenure. |
| | Dr. Ashish Jha | Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health. Former White House COVID Response Coordinator under Biden. | His outspoken views on COVID may make it harder to get confirmed in a GOP Senate. |
| | Dr. Zeke Emanuel | Health policy expert. Former bioethicist at NIH and special advisor to OMB and NEC under Obama. | His brother is Rahm Emanuel, former Chicago Mayor, and Obama Chief of Staff. Could head of NIH or FDA. |
| | Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) | Current governor of NM. Former New Mexico Sec. of Health. Former congresswoman from NM. | Served as co-chair for the Biden-Harris transition team. VP Harris officiated her second wedding on May 22, 2022. |

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| Secretary of Labor | Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-CA) | Current senator of CA. Long-time labor leader in CA Former head of Emily's List. | Long time ally of Harris, Butler is probably the leading candidate. |
| Secretary of Commerce | Blair Efron | Co-Founder Centerview Partners | He is a longtime supporter of Democratic presidents/candidate, including Kerry, Obama, Clinton and Biden. |
| | Charles Phillips | Co-Chair Black Economic Alliance. Chairman and former CEO of Infor. | He has close ties to Harris. Served in the U.S. Marines becoming a Captain. A very public affair could affect a potential nomination. |
| | Ken Chenault | Former CEO of American Express (AXP) | Spoke at the 2024 Democratic National Convention in support of Harris/Walz. Also potentially considered for Treasury Sec. |
| | Brad Smith | President of Microsoft (MSFT) | Recently held a fundraiser for Harris in Seattle. |
| | Rahm Emanuel | Current U.S. Ambassador to Japan. Former congressman from IL. , Obama Chief of Staff, and Chicago mayor. | A stalwart in Democratic politics, he probably finds some position within a Harris admin. |
| Secretary of Energy | Gov. Jared Polis (D-CO) | Current governor of CO. Former congressman from CO. | Polis is generally seen as being relatively moderate, which would help him in any confirmation. |

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| | Gov. Michele Lujan Grisham (D-NM) | Current governor of NM. Former New Mexico Sec. of Health. Former congresswoman from NM. | Served as co-chair for the Biden-Harris transition team. VP Harris officiated her second wedding on May 22, 2022. |
| | Ali Zaidi | Current White House National Climate Advisor | His youth might play against him as he is only 36. |
| | Arun Majumdar | Stanford Dean of Doerr School of Sustainability. Former Acting Undersecretary of Energy under Obama. | Combination of private (he worked on energy issues at Google) and public sector experience makes him an interesting candidate. |
| | David Turk | Current Deputy Energy Sec. Worked for then Sens. Biden (D-DE) and Conrad (D-ND). | He was confirmed for his current position by a vote of 98-2. |
| | Katie McGinty | Vice President at Johnson Controls (JCI). Former Pennsylvania Sec. of Environmental Protection. | She unsuccessfully ran for gov. of PA in 2014 and for the U.S. Senate in 2016. |
| | Richard Kauffman | “Energy Czar” for New York. Former senior advisor to Energy Sec. Steven Chu under Obama. | Extensive experience in govt. managing green energy initiatives. |
| Potential Candidate for Various Jobs | Former Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) | Former congresswoman from WY | Might be difficult to get through a GOP Senate. |
| | Former Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) | Former congressman from IL | Might be difficult to get through a GOP Senate. |

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| | Meg Whitman | Current US Ambassador to Kenya. Former CEO of eBay (EBAY) and Hewlett-Packard (HPE). Unsuccessful GOP gubernatorial candidate in CA. | Harris is said to want a Republican in her cabinet. Meg would probably be a good fit. |
| | Transportation Sec. Pete Buttigieg | Current Sec. of Transportation. Former Democratic presidential candidate in 2020. Former mayor of South Bend, IN. | He is close to Harris. |
| | Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) | Current senator from IL, who is retiring from the Senate. | She's close to Harris. |
| | Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D-MI) | Current governor of MI, who is in her second term | Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist would become the first Black governor of Michigan if Whitmer leaves the post. |
| Potential Candidates for Economic Jobs (Council of Economic Advisors, Nat'l Economic Council, etc.) | | | |
| | Brian Nelson | Various Treasury positions under Obama and Biden | Resigned from the Treasury Dept. to work on the Harris campaign. |
| | Brian Deese | Former Director of the Nat'l Economic Council under Biden | Notably clashed with Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) during debate on the BBB/IRA. |

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| | Deanne Millison | Former Chief Economic advisor to VP Harris. Current Ford (F) lobbyist. | Reported as part of Harris' "kitchen cabinet". |
| | Bharat Ramamurti | Former Deputy Dir. of Nat'l Economic Council. Former senior counsel to Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) for banking and economic policy. | He seems likely to join the Harris admin. |
| | Charles Phillips | Co-Chair Black Economic Alliance. Chairman and former CEO of Infor. | He has close ties to Harris. Served in the U.S. Marines becoming a Captain. A very public affair could affect a potential nomination. |
| | Ike Irby | Senior advisor to Harris on climate policy | Seems likely to get a position within the Harris admin. |
| | Mike Pyle | Economic advisor to Harris's campaign. Former Deputy National Security Advisor for international economics under Biden. Held various economic jobs in the Obama and Biden admins. Now back at BlackRock (BLK). | Reported as part of Harris' "kitchen cabinet". |

Sources: The Hill, The Week, WSJ, Politico, MSN.com, CNN, FT.com, The Daily Beast

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