

Who Will Clinton Pick as VP?

2016 Democratic Vice Presidential Power Rankings

Based on a [story](#) from
National Journal Daily

1. Tim Kaine



Senator from Virginia
Age: 58

Pros: The former Richmond mayor and Virginia Governor could help in the swing state of Virginia. He speaks fluent Spanish and has ample charisma. Kaine, who sits on the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees, may be the most qualified to assume the Presidency if necessary. Choosing Kaine for VP would not lose a Senate seat for Democrats.

Cons: Kaine is not a natural demographic counterbalance to Clinton. He may not inspire the enthusiasm from young and minority voters that other candidates would.

2. Elizabeth Warren



Senator from Massachusetts
Age: 66

Pros: Warren would be far and away the most capable of rallying Sanders supporters and energizing progressive Democrats. Warren’s criticism of Trump has been aggressive and effective so far. Some, including Rep. Nancy Pelosi, are pining for a two-woman ticket, considering Trump’s weakness among female voters. Warren’s Senate seat would be quicker and easier to win back than other vacancies.

Cons: She may not have a close relationship to Clinton and has yet to endorse her.

3. Sherrod Brown



Senator from Ohio
Age: 63

Pros: Brown, a strong Wall Street critic and long-time populist, could energize Sanders supporters without overshadowing Clinton. Brown could help in Ohio, one of the most important swing states.

Cons: If Clinton picks Brown, Ohio Governor John Kasich would appoint someone as Senator to fill the seat through 2018, costing Democrats a Senate seat.

Source: Karym Bruggeman, “2016 Democratic Vice Presidential Power Rankings,” National Journal, June 7, 2016.

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4. Cory Booker



Senator from New Jersey
Age: 47

Pros: Booker could gin up enthusiasm among black and youth voters. He has earned plaudits for his work on criminal justice reform, and has proven to be a loyal campaigner for Clinton.

Cons: A first-term Senator, he lacks the depth of experience and gravitas that other picks might bring. A Booker VP nomination would allow Gov. Chris Christie to appoint a successor. Booker’s support from Wall Street may not play well with Sanders supporters.

5. Julián Castro



Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
Age: 41

Pros: Castro would offer a strong geographic, demographic and generational counterbalance to Clinton, and has the benefit of being a fresh face in the party. Castro earned national attention when he delivered the keynote speech at the 2012 DNC.

Cons: Trump is so thoroughly alienating to Latinos (and all minorities) that it dilutes the argument that adding a demographic minority to the ticket is a necessity. As Secretary of the HUD, Castro lacks experience and is in a position with a low national profile.

6. Tom Perez



Secretary of Labor
Age: 54

Pros: The former civil-rights lawyer and assistant US attorney general is popular with unions and progressive leaders, and offers a compelling biography as the son of immigrants from the Dominican Republic.

Cons: He is practically unknown outside plugged-in DC and has never won election to an office higher than a county-council seat in suburban Maryland.

Source: Karym Bruggeman, “2016 Democratic Vice Presidential Power Rankings,” National Journal, June 7, 2016.