Hillary Clinton has committed to appoint a cabinet that resembles America

Hillary Clinton's cabinet commitment



That is certainly my goal, a very diverse cabinet representing the talents and experience of the entire country. And since we are a 50-50 country, I would aim to have a 50-50 cabinet."

- Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton

Percentage of women holding cabinet positions in recent administrations



November 4, 2016 | Justin C. Brown, Libbie Wilcox and Francis Torres

Clinton may consult her VP shortlist for cabinet appointees

Hillary Clinton's possible cabinet appointees



Elizabeth Warren

Senator for Massachusetts

Warren has become a pivotal figure among the far left wing of the Democratic Party. After being vetted for the position of Hillary Clinton's running mate, Warren has become close to the Clinton campaign and is likely to be honored with a cabinet position. As a fierce critic of Wall Street and a former Harvard Law professor, she has the credentials to be Treasury secretary.



Robby Mook

Clinton campaign manager

Robby Mook is at the helm of Clinton's campaign. He specializes in ground organizing. Mook's first large victory occurred in 2013 when he successfully ran Terry McAulffee's Virginia gubernatorial bid. Mook also ran Clinton's campaign in Ohio and Nevada during her 2008 presidential bid. She won both states. He is the first openly gay manager of a major presidential campaign.



Tom Vilsack

Secretary of Agriculture

Secretary Vilsack has a strong personal relationship with Hillary Clinton, beginning decades before they served in President Obama's cabinet together. Vilsack is the last remaining member of Obama's original cabinet. As secretary, he pushed to revitalize rural America, protect food stamps, fight obesity, make school lunches healthier and invest in renewable energy. Vilsack may be considered for chief of staff.

Sources: Ciro Scotti, "Seven Powerful Women Who Could be Clinton in a Clinton Cabinet," The Fiscal Times, June 12, 2016; Patrick Healy, "President Hillary Clinton? She Wants Progress on Immigration and to Drink with G.O.P.," The New York Times, July 3, 3016; Patricia Garcia, "Hillary Clinton Pledges to Appoint a Gender-Equal Cabinet," Vogue, April 27, 2016; Edward-Isaac Dovere, "Insiders Game Out Clinton's Cabinet," Politico, August 3, 2016.

November 3, 2016 | Justin C. Brown, Libbie Wilcox and Francis Torres

Clinton aims for diverse cabinet that could break numerous barriers

Hillary Clinton's possible cabinet appointees



Tammy Duckworth

Representative for Illinois

Duckworth is an Iraq War veteran who lost both legs when her helicopter was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. After returning from combat, she served as a representative from Illinois and was assistant secretary of the VA Department during Obama's first term. A women has yet to head either the Department of Defense or VA. Duckworth has the necessary credentials to fill either roll.



Ursula Burns *Chief Executive Officer of Xerox*

Burns holds the title of the first African-American woman to head a Fortune 500 company. She is expected to leave her post in 2017. Burns is a Clinton donor and has experience in corporate America beyond Xerox which prepares her for a position like commerce secretary in the Clinton Administration.



Jake Sullivan

National Security Advisor to the Vice President

Sullivan worked as a deputy policy director on Clinton's 2008 presidential primary campaign. He later served as deputy assistant to President Obama before becoming VP Biden's national security advisor. He is also a visiting professor at Yale. If Sullivan wants to be national security advisor, there is little question that he will get it. But considering his relationship with Clinton, he may want a senior advisor position closer to the Oval Office.

Clinton aims for diverse cabinet that could break numerous barriers

Hillary Clinton's possible cabinet appointees



Cheryl Mills

Clinton's Chief of Staff at the State Department

Mills was the deputy White House counsel for President Bill Clinton. She is part of Hillary's small inner circle and was a influential voice in Hillary's vice presidential pick. Mills would be the first female White House Chief of Staff and the first African-American to serve in the role. She is somewhat intertwined with the Benghazi and State Department email controversies.



Michèle Flournoy

CEO and Co-Founder of the Center for New American Security

Flournoy was first considered as defense secretary when there was an opening during Obama's presidency. She would be the first woman in the position. Flournoy served as Obama's undersecretary of defense for policy after leading his DOD transition team. She has since co-founded the Center for New American Security, of which she is the CEO. She is considered to be a likely pick for defense secretary.



Tom Perez

Secretary of Labor

Before serving as Obama's secretary of labor, Perez served as assistant attorney general for civil rights at the US Department of Justice. Perez was considered by the Clinton campaign as a possible VP. He is thought to be a potential pick for attorney general as he was considered for the job before, is close to Clinton and has strong relationships on the Hill.

Clinton could break several glass ceilings with certain cabinet appointments

Hillary Clinton's possible cabinet appointees



Ron Klain

Former Joe Biden Chief of Staff

Klain helped run Clinton's successful debate prep in the primary and general, and he has been the chief of staff for two vice-presidents: Al Gore and Joe Biden. Clinton has been hesitant to bring him into the upper echelons of her team, viewing him more as a talented hired gun than a trusted Clinton loyalist, but he is considered a possible pick for chief of staff.



Neera Tanden

Former Chief of Staff to the U.S. Secretary of State (Hillary Clinton)

Tanden was a top aide in Clinton's Senate office and in her 2008 campaign. Tanden has emerged in Podesta's hacked emails as one of his closest confidantes and someone willing to deliver an honest assessment of Clinton's flaws and blind spots. She is considered on of Clinton's go-to advisors on domestic policy issues. Clinton has expressed a commitment to place women in top jobs, and could choose to appoint Tanden as the first female chief of staff to the first female president.



Lael Brainard

Serves on the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors

Dr. Brainard served as undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Treasury from 2010 to 2013 and counselor to the secretary of the Treasury in 2009. She served as the deputy national economic adviser and deputy assistant to President Bill Clinton. She is considered to be a contender for secretary of the Treasury.

State and Agriculture roles are still in contention

Hillary Clinton's possible cabinet appointees



Tom Donilon

Co-chair of Clinton's transition team

Donilon is seen as a top contender for the secretary of state role. Donilon previously served as President Obama's national security advisor. He has also served as the State Department's chief of staff. He has worked in every Democratic administration since Jimmy Carter was president, and is seen by senior administration members as a strong policy wonk with a wide breadth of skills and experience. However, Donilon has been criticized for his lack of overseas experience, and reportedly has had "friction" with Michèle Flournoy, the top contender for the secretary of defense role.



William Burns

President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Burns was Hillary Clinton's former deputy secretary of state, and has extensive foreign service experience as well as strong connections to the Clinton team. He has served as the US ambassador to Russia and to Jordan, as well as undersecretary of state for political affairs and assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs. Burns held top posts in both the Obama and George W. Bush administrations and has avoided controversy, making him a nonpartisan pick for the role of secretary of state.



Karen Ross

Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture

Ross is a top contender for the role of secretary of agriculture. As the head of California's Department of Food and Agriculture, Ross oversees the largest farming state in the country and has deep experience with environmental, labor and trade aspects of agricultural policy. Ross is close with current Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. Other agriculture secretary contenders are Blanche Lincoln, a former Arkansas senator; Kathleen Merrigan, the former deputy secretary of agriculture; John Hickenlooper, governor of Colorado; and Steve Beshear, the former governor of Kentucky.

Sources: Hellena Bottlemiller Evich, "Lincoln, Hickenlooper and Ross included at top of Clinton's ag secretary list," Politico, October 21, 2016; Elise Vialbeck, "Is Tom Donilon the frontrunner to lead Clinton's State Department?," The Washington Post, October 25, 2016.

Clinton has the opportunity to bring the progressive wing of the party into her inner circle with these appointments

Hillary Clinton's possible cabinet appointees



Tulsi Gabbard

Democratic Representative of Hawaii's 2nd Congressional District

Gabbard is a star on the rise. She became the first American Samoan and the first Hindu member of Congress when she was elected in 2013. She also served as the vice-chair of the DNC and is a veteran of the Iraq war. She was a vocal supporter of Bernie Sanders. By including her in the cabinet, Clinton could extend an olive branch to the progressive wing of the party. Gabbard is considered a possible choice for secretary of veterans affairs.



Huma Abedin

Vice Chairwoman of Clinton's 2016 campaign

Abedin is a longtime Clinton aide and part of her trusted inner circle. Abedin was also Clinton's traveling chief of staff and assistant during the 2008 campaign. However, the federal investigation into her husband, Anthony Weiner, from whom she is separated, has resulted in considerable public scrutiny of Abedin's personal life. Abedin is considered an option for Clinton's chief of staff.



Christine Quinn

Former New York City Council Speaker

The first female and openly gay speaker, Quinn was the second-most-powerful elected official in New York City. She entered into politics as a housing advocate and is seen as a possible housing and urban development secretary. Quinn currently heads a nonprofit organization providing services to homeless women and children, Women in Need. She also has worked with the Clinton campaign.

Sources: Hellena Bottlemiller Evich, "Lincoln, Hickenlooper and Ross included at top of Clinton's ag secretary list," Politico, October 21, 2016; Elise Vialbeck, "Is Tom Donilon the frontrunner to lead Clinton's State Department?," The Washington Post, October 25, 2016.

Clinton states she won't tap her husband for cabinet

Hillary Clinton's possible cabinet appointees



John Podesta

Clinton's Campaign Chairman

A consummate political insider, Podesta has already served as chief of staff to President Bill Clinton and special advisor to President Obama. He currently is leading Clinton's transition team. Podesta is said to have his eyes on the role of secretary of energy.

Bill Clinton will not be part of Hillary Clinton's cabinet



While Hillary Clinton expects her husband Bill to be an integral part of her administration should she be elected president, **she has stated that she would not appoint her husband to a cabinet position**. Clinton has stated that she plans to place Bill in a position to be "in charge of revitalizing the economy," but her spokesman Nick Merrill has told reporters that the candidate has not formally decided on Bill Clinton's role in her administration.