

WOMEN APPOINTED TO PRESIDENTIAL CABINETS

Five women currently serve in cabinet (4) or cabinet-level (1) positions in the Trump administration. A total of **53** women have held a total of 60 such positions in presidential administrations, with seven women serving in two different posts. (These figures do not include acting officials.) Among the 53 women, 31 were appointed by Democratic presidents and 22 by Republican presidents. Only 11 U.S presidents (4D, 7R) have appointed women to cabinet or cabinet-level positions since the first woman was appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933.*

Party breakdown of women appointed to Presidential Cabinets:



Cabinet or Cabinet-level Firsts:

First Woman Appointed



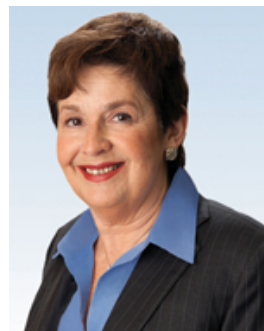
Frances Perkins
Secretary of Labor
1933 (Roosevelt)

First Black Woman Appointed



Patricia Roberts Harris
*Secretary of Housing and
Urban Development*
1977 (Carter)

First Latina Appointed



Aída Álvarez
*Administrator, Small
Business
Administration*
1997 (Clinton)

First Asian Pacific Islander Woman Appointed



Elaine Chao
Secretary of Labor
2001 (G.W. Bush)

* In addition, although President Truman did not appoint any women, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, a holdover from the Roosevelt administration, served in his cabinet.

Women Appointed to Presidential Cabinets (continued)

To date, 24 cabinet or cabinet-level posts have been filled by women:

Position	# of women	Position	# of women
Secretary of Labor	7	U.S. Trade Representative	2
Secretary of Health and Human Services**	5	Secretary of Homeland Security	2
U.N. Ambassador	5	Chair, National Economic Council	1
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency	4	Counselor to the President	1
Administrator, Small Business Administration	4	Director, Office of Personnel Management	1
Chair, Council of Economic Advisors	3	Secretary of Agriculture	1
Secretary of Commerce	3	Secretary of Energy	1
Secretary of Education	3	Secretary of Health, Education, Welfare**	1
Secretary of State	3	Special Trade Representative	1
Attorney General	2	Director, Central Intelligence Agency	1
Director, Office of Management and Budget	2	Secretary of Defense	0
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	2	Secretary of the Treasury	0
Secretary of the Interior	2	Secretary of Veterans Affairs	0
Secretary of Transportation	3		

Among the appointees:



Eighteen have been attorneys:

Barshefsky, Browner, Clinton, Dole, Harris, Heckler, Hills, Hufstedler, LaChance, Lynch, Napolitano, Nielsen, Norton, O'Leary, Power, Pritzker, Reno, and Veneman.



Eleven had backgrounds in academe:

Albright, Harris, Kirkpatrick, Kreps, Rice, Rivlin, Romer, Schwab, Shalala, Tyson, and Yellen.



Nine held federal or state-wide elective offices before serving in cabinets:

Four who served as governors (Whitman, Napolitano, Sebelius, Haley)

One who was an elected state attorney general (Norton)

One who served in the U.S. Senate (Clinton)

Three who served in the U.S. House (Martin, Heckler, Solis)

** Patricia Roberts Harris was appointed as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, but became Secretary of Health and Human Services when the department was renamed in May 1980. We count these as a single appointment.

Women Appointed to Presidential Cabinets (continued)

Totals include only women presidential appointees confirmed by the Senate to cabinet or cabinet-level positions; they do not include acting officials.

<u>President</u>	<u>Total # of Women appointed this term</u>	<u>Total # of Women Appointees</u>	<u>Maximum # of Women Serving Concurrently</u>	<u># of Cabinet or Cabinet-Level Positions</u>	<u>% of Women at Maximum Level</u>
Trump	6	6	6	23	26
Obama (second term)	8	10	8	23	35
Obama (first term)	8	8	7	23 ^A	30
G.W. Bush (second term)	4	6	5	21	24
G.W. Bush (first term)	4	4	4	21	19
Clinton (second term)	6	9	9	22	41
Clinton ^B (first term)	7	7	7	22	32
G.H.W. Bush	4	4	3	17	18
Reagan (second term)	1	3	3	17	18
Reagan (first term)	3	3	3	17	18
Carter ^C		4	2	18	11
Ford	2	2	1	22	5
Nixon (second term) ^D	1	1	1	13	see note #D
Nixon (first term) ^D	0	0	0	13	0
Johnson	0	0	0	14	0
Kennedy	0	0	0	11	0
Eisenhower (second term)	0	0	0	11	0
Eisenhower (first term)	1	1	1	11	9
Truman (second term)	0	0	0	10	0
Truman (first term) ^E	0	1	1	11	9
F. Roosevelt (all four terms)	1	1	1	11	9

A. The position of Administrator, Small Business Administration was elevated to cabinet status in January, 2012.

B. Clinton appointed seven different women to cabinet or cabinet level positions in his first term, but one woman (Laura D'Andrea Tyson) held two different positions during that administration – first chair of the Council of Economic Advisors, then chair of the National Economic Council (which she continued to hold during his second term). Another woman, Madeleine Albright, held different positions in Clinton's first administration (U.N. ambassador) and second administration (secretary of state).

C. Carter made four appointments of women, but those included one woman appointed to two different posts. During the Carter administration, the position of Secretary of Education was created, and the position of Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare was replaced by a Secretary of Health and Human Services; Patricia Roberts Harris moved from HEW to HHS when the positions were redefined. Earlier, she had been Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

D. No women served in Nixon's 13-member cabinet. One woman held a cabinet-level position, as did a varying number of men at different times, making it impossible for us to provide an exact total number of positions or percentage of women. The position of Postmaster General was eliminated from the cabinet before Nixon's first term ended.

E. When Truman took office, the cabinet included the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy. In 1947, these roles were combined in the new post of Secretary of Defense.

<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Appointed By</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Gina Haspel*	Director, Central Intelligence Agency	Trump (R)	2018-present
Kirstjen Nielsen	Secretary of Homeland Security	Trump (R)	2017-present
<i>Elaine C. Duke</i>	<i>Acting Secretary of Homeland Security¹¹</i>	<i>Trump (R)</i>	<i>2017</i>
Betsy DeVos	Secretary of Education	Trump (R)	2017-present
Nikki Haley	U.N. Ambassador	Trump (R)	2017-2019
Elaine Chao	Secretary of Transportation	Trump (R)	2017-present
Linda McMahon	Administrator, Small Business Administration	Trump (R)	2017-present
<i>Sally Yates</i>	<i>Acting Attorney General¹⁰</i>	<i>Trump (R)</i>	<i>2017</i>
Loretta Lynch	Attorney General	Obama (D)	2015-2017
Sylvia Mathews Burwell	Secretary of Health and Human Services	Obama (D)	2014-2017
Maria Contreras-Sweet	Administrator, Small Business Administration	Obama (D)	2014-2017

See final page for numbered footnotes.

Women Appointed to Presidential Cabinets (continued)

Samantha Power	U.N. Ambassador ¹	Obama (D)	2013-2017
Gina McCarthy	Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency ⁵	Obama (D)	2013-2017
Penny Pritzker	Secretary of Commerce	Obama (D)	2013-2017
Sally Jewell	Secretary of the Interior	Obama (D)	2013-2017
Sylvia Mathews Burwell	Director, Office of Management and Budget ⁹	Obama (D)	2013-2014
<i>Rosemary DiCarlo</i>	<i>Acting U.N. Ambassador¹</i>	<i>Obama (D)</i>	<i>2013</i>
<i>Miriam Sapiro</i>	<i>Acting U.S. Trade Representative⁴</i>	<i>Obama (D)</i>	<i>2013</i>
Karen G. Mills	Administrator, Small Business Administration ²	Obama (D)	2012-2013
<i>Rebecca Blank</i>	<i>Acting Secretary of Commerce</i>	<i>Obama (D)</i>	<i>2012-2013</i>
<i>Rebecca Blank</i>	<i>Acting Secretary of Commerce</i>	<i>Obama (D)</i>	<i>2011</i>
Kathleen Sebelius	Secretary of Health and Human Services	Obama (D)	2009-2014
Janet Napolitano*	Secretary of Homeland Security	Obama (D)	2009-2013
Hillary Rodham Clinton	Secretary of State	Obama (D)	2009-2013
Lisa Jackson	Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency ⁵	Obama (D)	2009-2013
Susan E. Rice	U. N. Ambassador ¹	Obama (D)	2009-2013
Hilda Solis	Secretary of Labor	Obama (D)	2009-2013
Christina D. Romer	Chair, Council of Economic Advisers ⁷	Obama (D)	2009-2010
<i>Lynn Scarlett</i>	<i>Acting Secretary of Interior</i>	<i>Obama (D)</i>	<i>2009</i>
Mary E. Peters	Secretary of Transportation	G.W. Bush (R)	2006-2009
Susan Schwab	U.S. Trade Representative ⁴	G.W. Bush (R)	2006-2009
<i>Maria Cino</i>	<i>Acting Secretary of Transportation</i>	<i>G.W. Bush (R)</i>	<i>2006</i>
<i>Lynn Scarlett</i>	<i>Acting Secretary of Interior</i>	<i>G.W. Bush (R)</i>	<i>2006</i>
Condoleezza Rice	Secretary of State	G.W. Bush (R)	2005-2009
Margaret Spellings	Secretary of Education	G.W. Bush (R)	2005-2009
<i>Anne W. Patterson</i>	<i>Acting U.N. Ambassador</i>	<i>G.W. Bush (R)</i>	<i>2005</i>
Elaine Chao	Secretary of Labor	G.W. Bush (R)	2001-2009
Gale Norton*	Secretary of Interior	G.W. Bush (R)	2001-2006
Ann Veneman*	Secretary of Agriculture	G.W. Bush (R)	2001-2005
<i>Susan Livingstone</i>	<i>Acting Secretary of the Navy</i>	<i>G.W. Bush (R)</i>	<i>2003</i>
Christine Todd Whitman	Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency ⁵	G.W. Bush (R)	2001-2003
Janice R. Lachance*	Director, Office of Personnel Management ⁶	Clinton (D)	1997-2001
Alexis Herman	Secretary of Labor	Clinton (D)	1997-2001
Charlene Barshefsky	U.S. Trade Representative ⁴	Clinton (D)	1997-2001
Aída Álvarez*	Administrator, Small Business Administration ²	Clinton (D)	1997-2001
Madeleine K. Albright*	Secretary of State	Clinton (D)	1997-2001
Janet L. Yellen	Chair, Council of Economic Advisors ⁷	Clinton (D)	1997-1999
<i>Ginger Lew</i>	<i>Acting Administrator, Small Business²</i>	<i>Clinton (D)</i>	<i>1997</i>
Laura D'Andrea Tyson*	Chair, National Economic Council ⁸	Clinton (D)	1995-1996
	Chair, Council of Economic Advisors ⁷	Clinton (D)	1993-1995
Alice M. Rivlin*	Director, Office of Management and Budget ⁹	Clinton (D)	1994-1996
<i>Cassandra M. Pulley</i>	<i>Acting Administrator, Small Business²</i>	<i>Clinton (D)</i>	<i>1994</i>
Donna E. Shalala	Secretary of Health and Human Services	Clinton (D)	1993-2001
Carol M. Browner*	Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency ⁵	Clinton (D)	1993-2001
Janet Reno*	Attorney General	Clinton (D)	1993-2001
Madeleine K. Albright	U.N. Ambassador ¹	Clinton (D)	1993-1997
Hazel R. O'Leary*	Secretary of Energy	Clinton (D)	1993-1997

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Women Appointed to Presidential Cabinets (continued)

Barbara H. Franklin	Secretary of Commerce	Bush (R)	1992-1993
Lynn Morley Martin	Secretary of Labor	Bush (R)	1991-1993
Carla Anderson Hills	Special Trade Representative ⁴	Bush (R)	1989-1993
Elizabeth Hanford Dole	Secretary of Labor	Bush (R)	1989-1990
Ann Dore McLaughlin	Secretary of Labor	Reagan (R)	1987-1989
Elizabeth Hanford Dole*	Secretary of Transportation	Reagan (R)	1983-1987
Margaret M. Heckler	Secretary of Health and Human Services	Reagan (R)	1983-1985
Jeane J. Kirkpatrick*	U.N. Ambassador ¹	Reagan (R)	1981-1985
Patricia R. Harris**	Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare/Health and Human Services	Carter (D)	1979-1981
Shirley M. Hufstedler*	Secretary of Education	Carter (D)	1979-1981
Juanita A. Kreps*	Secretary of Commerce	Carter (D)	1977-1979
Patricia R. Harris	Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Carter (D)	1977-1979
Carla Anderson Hills*	Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Ford (R)	1975-1977
Anne Armstrong	Counselor to the President ³	Nixon (R), Ford (R)	1973-1974
Oveta Culp Hobby*	Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare	Eisenhower (R)	1953-1955
Frances Perkins*	Secretary of Labor	F.D. Roosevelt (D), Truman (D)	1933-1945

* First woman to hold this position.

** Harris was appointed as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, but became Secretary of Health and Human Services when the department was renamed in May 1980. She was the first woman to hold the position under the new title.

Italics signify women who have served in an acting capacity; no biographical information is provided for those individuals.

Brief Personal Histories of Appointees Listed Alphabetically

MADELEINE K. ALBRIGHT (D) – Secretary of State, 1997-2001; United Nations Ambassador, 1993-97 ¹: Albright is the first woman to serve as secretary of state and the highest ranking woman in the U.S. government. Before her appointment to the State Department, she served as U.N. Ambassador from 1993 to 1997. Prior to her service in government, she was president of the Center for National Policy. She was also a research professor of International Affairs and the director of Women in Foreign Service at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

AIDA ALVAREZ (D) – Administrator, Small Business Administration, 1997-2001 ²: Alvarez is the first Hispanic woman and the first person of Puerto Rican heritage to hold a position in a president's cabinet. Prior to her appointment as administrator, Alvarez directed the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight (OFHEO). Before her service in Washington, DC, she was a Wall Street investment banker, television journalist and president of the largest municipal health care system – the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation.

ANNE ARMSTRONG (R) – Counselor to the President, 1973-74 ³: Armstrong was a Republican Party activist, co-chairing the Republican National Committee from 1971 to 1973 and keynoting the party's convention in 1972. As counselor to the President with cabinet rank, she established the Office for Women's Programs.

CHARLENE BARSHEFSKY (D) – U. S. Trade Representative, 1997-2001 ⁴: Prior to her nomination as the U.S. Trade Representative, Barshefsky served as Acting U.S. Trade Representative since April 1996. She served as the Deputy U.S. Trade Representative from 1993 to 1996. Before coming to government service, she was a partner in a Washington, D.C. law firm specializing in international trade law and policy.

CAROL M. BROWNER (D) – Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 1993-2001 ⁵: Prior to her appointment, she was secretary of the Florida State Department of Environmental Regulation. Browner previously served as legislative director for then-U.S. Senator Al Gore.

SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL (D) – Director, Office of Management and Budget, 2013-2014; Secretary of Health and Human Services, 2014-2017: Prior to her appointment, Burwell was president of the Walmart Foundation. Earlier, she served as president of the Global Development Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. From 1998 to 2001, Burwell was deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget.

ELAINE CHAO (R) – Secretary of Labor, 2001-2009; Secretary of Transportation 2017-present: Chao is the first Asian-American woman to serve in a presidential cabinet. Prior to her appointment to the Trump administration, she was a Distinguished Fellow at the Hudson Institute. Prior to her appointment in the Bush administration, she was senior editor and distinguished fellow at the Heritage Foundation. She has been both president of the United Way and director of the Peace Corps. During the first Bush administration, Chao was deputy secretary of the Department of Transportation. During the latter part of the Reagan administration, she served as deputy administrator of the Federal Maritime Administration.

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Women Appointed to Presidential Cabinets (continued)

HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON (D) – Secretary of State, 2009-2013: Prior to her appointment, Clinton was U.S. Senator from New York from 2001 to 2008. She was a presidential candidate in 2008 and was first lady from 1993 to 2000. Prior to her governmental service, she was a partner in an Arkansas law firm from 1979 to 1992.

MARIA CONTRERAS-SWEET (D) – Administrator, Small Business Administration, 2014-2017: Prior to her appointment, Contreras-Sweet served as secretary of California's Business, Transportation and Housing Agency from 1999 to 2003.

BETSY DEVOS (R) – Secretary of Education 2017 – present: An activist for school choice, DeVos chaired the Michigan Republican party, the American Federation for Children, and the Windquest Group. She has also served on national and local civic and charitable boards.

ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE (R) – Secretary of Transportation, 1983-87; Secretary of Labor, 1989-90: An attorney, Dole served as a White House aide in the Johnson and Reagan administrations and was appointed by President Nixon to the Federal Trade Commission. She left her Reagan administration cabinet post to work for the presidential campaign of her husband, Kansas Senator Robert Dole. She was appointed Secretary of Labor by President Bush.

BARBARA H. FRANKLIN (R) – Secretary of Commerce, 1992-93: Franklin was one of the first women to graduate from Harvard Business School. As an international trade and governmental management expert, Franklin held several non-cabinet-level appointed positions during the Nixon and Reagan administrations prior to her appointment as Secretary of Commerce by President Bush.

NIKKI HALEY (R) – United Nations Ambassador, 2017-2019 ¹: Prior to her appointment, Haley was governor of South Carolina, elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2014. She also served in the South Carolina House of Representatives. One of two women of color who were first to serve as governors of states, Haley is the first Indian-American woman appointed to a presidential cabinet level position. She earned her degree in accounting.

GINA HASPEL (R) – Director, Central Intelligence Agency, 2018-present: Haspel was the first woman to be appointed Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Previously, Haspel had been a member of the Central Intelligence Agency since 1985 and was appointed Deputy Director in 2017.

PATRICIA ROBERTS HARRIS (D) – Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 1977-79; Secretary of Health and Human Services 1979-81: Harris was the first black woman to serve in a presidential cabinet and the first woman to hold two different cabinet posts. An attorney and longtime Democratic party activist, she had taught law, served on corporate boards, and served as Ambassador to Luxembourg under President Johnson.

MARGARET HECKLER (R) – Secretary of Health and Human Services, 1983-85: Heckler was a member of Congress (1967-83) representing suburban Boston and lost a re-election bid when redistricting forced her to run against another incumbent Congressman. Her cabinet service ended when President Reagan appointed her Ambassador to Ireland.

ALEXIS M. HERMAN (D) – Secretary of Labor, 1997-2001: Prior to her appointment to the Department of Labor, Herman served as assistant to President Clinton and director of the White House public liaison office. In the Carter Administration, she served as director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor. Before joining the Clinton White House, she was founder and president of A.M. Herman & Associates, where she advised state and local governments.

CARLA ANDERSON HILLS (R) – Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 1975-77; Special Trade Representative ⁴, 1989-1993: An attorney, she served as assistant attorney general in the Ford administration before her appointment as Housing and Urban Development secretary. Prior to her appointment to the Bush administration, she chaired the board of the Urban Institute while practicing law in Washington.

OVETA CULP HOBBY (R) – Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, 1953-55: Hobby was named head of the Federal Security Administration; when that agency became part of the newly-established Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), she became the first Secretary of HEW. She had been a colonel in the Women's Army Corps during World War II and had served as president of the Texas League of Women Voters.

SHIRLEY MOUNT HUFSTEDLER (D) – Secretary of Education, 1979-81: An attorney, Hufstedler was the first person to head the newly-created Department of Education. She had been a federal judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and returned to practicing law when the Carter administration ended.

LISA JACKSON (D) – Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 2009-2013 ⁵: Jackson served as chief of staff to New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine briefly at the end of 2008. She was commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection from 2006 to 2008, after working there since 2002. Prior to that she had spent 16 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

SALLY JEWELL (D) – Secretary of Interior, 2013-2017: In 1996, after working in the banking industry for twenty years, Jewell joined the board of REI; she was named chief operating officer in 2000, and became CEO in 2005. Jewell has served on the boards of Premera, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the University of Washington Board of Regents. Prior to her appointment, Jewell received the National Audubon Society's Rachel Carson Award for her leadership in and dedication to conservation.

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Women Appointed to Presidential Cabinets (continued)

JEANE J. KIRKPATRICK (R) – United Nations Ambassador, 1981-85¹: A political scientist, Kirkpatrick taught at Georgetown University before joining the Reagan administration. A Democrat at the time of her appointment, she later switched parties. She wrote one of the earliest books about women and politics, *Political Woman*, based on information gathered at CAWP's first Conference for Women State Legislators.

JUANITA KREPS (D) – Secretary of Commerce, 1977-79: Kreps was the first economist to serve as Secretary of Commerce. She had been a professor and vice president at Duke University and had served on several corporate boards and on the board of the New York Stock Exchange prior to her appointment by President Carter.

JANICE R. LACHANCE (D) – Director, Office of Personnel Management, 1997-2001⁶: Prior to her appointment to the Office of Personnel Management, Lachance served as OPM's director of Communication. An attorney, she has served as director of communications and political affairs for the American Federation of Government Employees (AFLCIO); served as communications director in the office of Senator Tom Daschle; administrative assistant to Congresswoman Katie Hall. She was also part of the Clinton-Gore transition team.

LORETTA LYNCH (D) – Attorney General, 2015-2017: Lynch was appointed by President Clinton as U.S. Attorney for Eastern District of New York. She served as a board member of the Federal Reserve Board.

LYNN MORLEY MARTIN (R) – Secretary of Labor, 1991-93: Martin represented northwestern Illinois in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1981 to 1991. She was the first woman to achieve an elective leadership post in the House, vice chair of the House Republican Conference. Prior to serving in the House she had served on the Winnebago County board and in both houses of the Illinois State Legislature. Martin lost a bid for a U.S. Senate seat in 1990.

GINA MCCARTHY (R) – Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 2013-2017⁵: Prior to her appointment, McCarthy served as the assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. From 2004 to 2009 she was commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. McCarthy served as an environmental advisor to five Massachusetts governors.

ANN DORE MCLAUGHLIN (R) – Secretary of Labor, 1987-89: McLaughlin worked in a variety of communications-related posts within and outside the government before becoming a cabinet member. She held two sub-cabinet posts in the Reagan administration: Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Affairs and Undersecretary of Interior.

LINDA MCMAHON (R) – Administrator, Small Business Administration 2017-present²: McMahon is the co-founder and former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, and has been an adviser to global businesses. She served on the Connecticut Board of Education and on the boards of Sacred Heart University and the Close Up Foundation. She ran for the U.S. Senate seat in Connecticut in 2010 and 2012, losing both times.

KAREN G. MILLS (D) – Administrator, Small Business Administration, 2012-2013²: Initially appointed in 2009; SBA was later elevated to cabinet-level status. She served as chair of the Maine Council on Competitiveness and the Economy.

JANET NAPOLITANO (D) – Secretary of Homeland Security, 2009-2013: Prior to her appointment, Napolitano served as governor of Arizona. She was Arizona's elected attorney general from 1998 to 2002. Prior to that she served as U.S. Attorney and as a federal prosecutor.

KIRSTJEN NIELSEN (R) – Secretary of Homeland Security, 2017-present: Nielsen was assistant to the president and principal deputy chief of staff under John Kelly in the Trump administration. Earlier, she served as chief of staff to Kelly when he was DHS secretary. A cybersecurity expert, she worked at DHS during the George W. Bush administration and established a consulting firm, Sunesis Consulting.

GALE NORTON (R) – Secretary of the Interior, 2001-2006: Norton is the first woman to serve as Secretary of the Interior. Prior to her appointment, she was the first woman to be elected Colorado's attorney general, where she served for two full terms. She is the founder of the Council of Republicans for Environmental Advocacy. In 1996, she made an unsuccessful bid for a U.S. Senate seat. During the Reagan administration, she worked for two years for the Department of the Interior. As an attorney, she began her legal career at the Mountain States Legal Foundation.

HAZEL O'LEARY (D) – Secretary of Energy, 1993-1997: Prior to her appointment, O'Leary was the executive vice president of Northern States Power in Minneapolis, Minnesota. O'Leary also served as a senior energy policy advisor in the Carter and Ford administrations.

FRANCES PERKINS (D) – Secretary of Labor, 1933-1945: Perkins, the first woman to serve in a president's cabinet, had a long background of labor-related public service, including serving as Industrial Commissioner in New York State, before coming to Washington. She was one of only two people to remain in the cabinet throughout Roosevelt's presidency, helping to draft and implement much of the New Deal legislation. She remained in office briefly after Roosevelt's death and later became a member of the Civil Service Commission under President Truman.

MARY E. PETERS (R) – Secretary of Transportation, 2006-2009: Prior to her appointment, Peters was national director for transportation policy and consulting at HDR, Inc. President G. W. Bush appointed her administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, where she served from 2001 to 2005. From 1998 to 2001, she was director of the Arizona Department of Transportation.

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SAMANTHA POWER (D) – Ambassador to the United Nations, 2013-2017 ¹: Power was a senior adviser to Senator Barack Obama early in his presidential campaign. She joined Obama's State Department transition team in November 2008, and was named Special Assistant to President Obama and Senior Director for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights on the National Security Council. From 1998-2002, Power was a professor at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the founding executive director of the Kennedy School's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy.

PENNY PRITZKER (D) – Secretary of Commerce, 2013-2017: Prior to her appointment, Pritzker served on the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board and was appointed to the President's Council for Jobs and Competitiveness. She was the founder, chairman and CEO of PSP Capital Partners and Pritzker Realty Group, as well as co-founder and chairman of Artemis Real Estate Partners.

JANET RENO (D) – Attorney General, 1993-2001: As the first woman to serve as attorney general, Reno heads the Justice Department. Prior to her appointment, she served as the state prosecutor of Dade County, Florida. Reno previously was an associate and partner in several law firms, worked for the state prosecutor's office, and was a staff director to the Florida House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

CONDOLEEZZA RICE (R) – Secretary of State, 2005-2009: Prior to being appointed Secretary of State, Rice served as national security advisor from 2001 to 2005. Before that, she was a tenured professor at Stanford University. In 1993, she became the first woman and African American to be appointed provost of Stanford, a post in which she served for six years. During the first Bush administration, she rose from director to senior director for the National Security Council on Soviet and East European Affairs. She began her academic career as a fellow in the arms control and disarmament program at Stanford.

SUSAN E. RICE (D) – Ambassador to the United Nations, 2009-2013 ¹: Rice served as a senior policy analyst to the Obama-Biden campaign. She served in the Clinton administration in various capacities: at the National Security Council from 1993 to 1997; as director for International Organizations and Peacekeeping from 1993 to 1995; and as special assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs from 1995 to 1997. She served as a foreign policy aide to Michael Dukakis during his 1988 presidential campaign. In the early 1990's she was a consultant for the global management consulting firm of McKinsey and Company. She left the U.N. post to become President Clinton's national security adviser.

ALICE RIVLIN (D) – Director, Office of Management and Budget, 1994-96 ⁹: Prior to her appointment as director, Rivlin was its deputy director since 1993. She was the founding director of the Congressional Budget Office. She served as a Senior Fellow and Director of Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution. Rivlin also served as Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

CHRISTINA D. ROMER (D) – Chair, Council of Economic Advisers, 2009-2010 ⁷: Romer, an economic historian, taught at University of California, Berkeley since 1988, and became a full professor in 1993. She taught at Princeton University from 1985 to 1988. In addition, she was co-director of the Program in Monetary Economics at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a former vice president of the American Economic Association.

SUSAN SCHWAB (R) – U. S. Trade Representative, 2006-2009 ⁴: Prior to her appointment, Schwab was deputy U.S. trade representative. She served as president and CEO of the University System of Maryland Foundation, She has also worked in the private sector and as a congressional aide, and she served as dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Policy. She was assistant secretary of commerce and director general of the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service during the administration of President George H. W. Bush.

DONNA SHALALA (D) – Secretary of Health and Human Services, 1993-2001: Prior to joining the Clinton administration, Shalala was Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a professor of political science. She served as assistant secretary for policy development in the Department of Housing and Urban Development during the Carter administration.

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS (D) – Secretary of Health and Human Services, 2009-2014: Prior to her appointment, Sebelius was governor of Kansas from 2003 to 2009. From 1995 to 2003, she served as Kansas insurance commissioner. She served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1987 to 1994. She worked in the Kansas Department of Corrections and served on the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission.

HILDA SOLIS (D) – Secretary of Labor, 2009-2013: Prior to her appointment, Solis was a U.S. Representative from California. From 1993 to 2001 she served first as a state assemblywoman and then as a state senator. She was an assistant in the White House Office of Hispanic Affairs under President Jimmy Carter and served as a budget analyst for federal office of Personnel Management in the Reagan administration.

MARGARET SPELLINGS (R) – Secretary of Education, 2005-2009: Prior to her appointment, Spellings was assistant to the President for domestic policy. Before her White House appointment, she worked for six years as Governor George W. Bush's senior advisor with responsibility for education policy.

LAURA D'ANDREA TYSON (D) – Chair, National Economic Council, 1995-1997 ⁸: Prior to Tyson's appointment, she was chair of the Council of Economic Advisors.⁷ Tyson was a professor of economics and business administration and director of the Institute of International Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

Women Appointed to Presidential Cabinets (continued)

ANN VENEMAN (R) – Secretary of Agriculture, 2001-2005: Veneman is the first woman to serve as Secretary of Agriculture. Prior to her appointment, she was the first woman to serve as Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. During the Bush administration, she was deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the highest ranking woman ever at USDA. She also served as deputy undersecretary of agriculture for international affairs and commodity programs. During the Reagan administration, she was the associate administrator for the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. Before joining the Bush administration, she was a partner with the law firm Nossaman, Gunther, Knox & Elliot.

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN (R) – Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, 2001-2003⁵: Whitman was the first female former governor to serve in a presidential cabinet. Prior to being appointed, she was the first woman elected governor in New Jersey, where she served two terms. For two years she headed the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. She began her political career as a freeholder (New Jersey's equivalent of a county commissioner) on the Somerset County Board of Freeholders.

JANET L. YELLEN (D) – Chair, Council of Economic Advisers, 1997-1999⁷: Prior to her nomination as chair to the Council of Economic Advisers, Yellen served since her appointment by President Clinton in 1994 as a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. In 1977 to 1978, she served as an economist with the Federal Reserve's Board of Governors. Yellen taught at the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley. She was appointed in 2014 as chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Our final authority for designating "cabinet" or "cabinet-level" in an administration is that president's official library.

¹ The position of U.N. Ambassador is considered cabinet-level in the Trump administration, as it was during the Obama, Clinton and Reagan administrations.

² The position of Administrator of the Small Business Administration is a cabinet-level position in the Trump administration, as it was during the Obama and Clinton administration.

³ The position of Counselor to the President was considered cabinet-level during the Nixon and Ford administrations.

⁴ The position of Special Trade Representative was considered cabinet-level during the G.H.W. Bush administration, as was the U.S. Trade Representative in the Clinton, G.W. Bush, and Obama administrations.

⁵ The position of Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is cabinet-level in the Obama administration, as it was during the Clinton and G.W. Bush administrations.

⁶ The position of Director, Office of Personnel Management, was a cabinet-level position in the Clinton administration.

⁷ The position of Chair, Council of Economic Advisors is considered cabinet-level in the Obama administration, as it was during Clinton administration.

⁸ The position of Chair of the National Economic Council was considered cabinet-level in the Clinton administration.

⁹ The position of Director, Office of Management and Budget, is a cabinet-level position in the Obama administration, as it was during the Clinton administration.

¹⁰ Yates was a holdover from the Obama administration, where she was Deputy Attorney General, and served briefly as acting Attorney General in the Trump administration.

¹¹ Duke was appointed Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and became Acting Secretary when the Secretary was appointed White House chief of staff.

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