



Information Kit

Trump's Cabinet and the Impact on Women

February 11, 2017
Inaugural Meet-up

Introduction

Welcome to the inaugural Red Tent meet-up. Thank you for joining us, as we make herstory together.

Included in the information kit for “Trump’s Cabinet and the Impact on Women,” is a brief analysis of five cabinet nominees, and how policy under their jurisdiction could impact women. For each position, we’ve included a synopsis of the nominee’s background and a related article and video.

If you have access to a printer or copy machine, you may want to print out some copies of the accompanying articles for your attendees. If not, consider highlighting parts of the articles to share with your group. When you host your meeting, you may want to share the video for the group to watch. After each cabinet position, open a discussion to gather your group’s feedback and share thoughts—this is why we are here! You might consider, if possible, printing out pages 9 and 10 on Activism, Upcoming Events and The New Agenda, to hand to your guests as they leave.

Trump's Cabinet: An Overview

Cabinet positions have a major influence on both policy and enforcement. These leadership roles are appointed by the president, and must be confirmed by the US Senate.

Donald Trump's appointees are the least diverse in decades.

So far, just five out of 22 appointees are either women (four) or non-white (one man). By way of comparison, President Obama had 14, President W. Bush had 9, and President Clinton had 12. Also of note, Latinos, the largest minority in the United States, are conspicuously absent from Trump's cabinet.

If confirmed, Trump's four most influential cabinet positions will be headed by white men. By contrast, President Obama's picks for the top 4 posts included a woman and a man of color. The last time all four top four positions were held by white men was under George H. W. Bush.

Also of note, Donald Trump has appointed more generals, Goldman Sachs employees and wealthy Americans than any president in recent history. A USA Today article dubbed his picks, "Goldman, generals and gazillionaires." All of Trump's top security picks are white men.

Reference Links

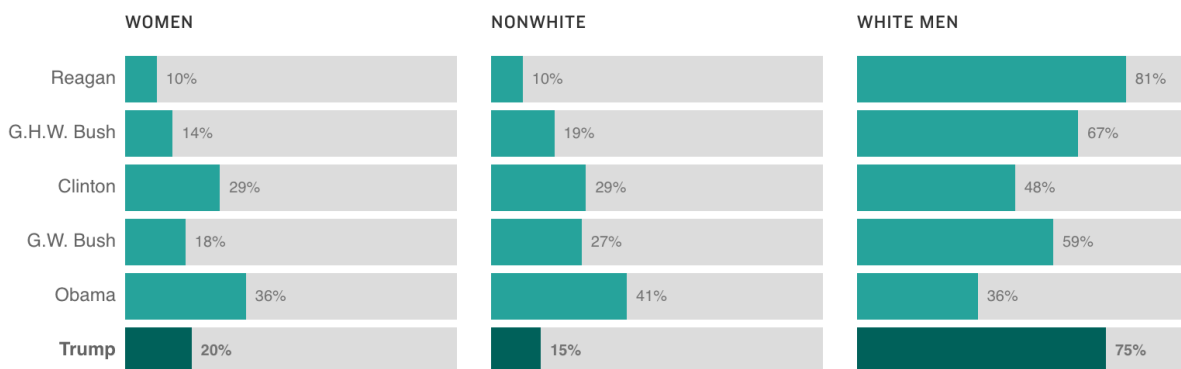
"Trump's Cabinet So Far Is More White and Male Than Any First Cabinet Since Reagan's" (*The New York Times*): <https://goo.gl/cqFQtv>

"White males dominate Trump's top cabinet posts" (*CNN*): <https://goo.gl/Q2ZaMm>

"Trump's Cabinet dubbed 'Goldman, generals and gazillionaires'" (*USA Today*): <https://goo.gl/8xR4Gs>

How Diverse Have Different Cabinets Been?

This chart compares the initial Cabinet picks of the last five presidents alongside the picks Trump has made for his Cabinet thus far. Trump's Cabinet is shaping up to be about as woman-inclusive as those of the last few presidents (none of whose Cabinets have approached the actual gender balance of the country), but far less racially diverse. White men make up nearly three-quarters of his picks thus far.



Notes

— The 22 Cabinet-level positions in the Obama administration (not counting the Vice President) are held constant across all five administrations, except for the Department of Homeland Security, which wasn't established until 2002. We have counted Tom Ridge, the first DHS secretary, as an initial pick for George W. Bush.

— Census Bureau classifications were used for race. Hispanics are counted as nonwhite.

Credit: Meg Anderson, Danielle Kurtzleben and Alejandra Salazar/NPR

Secretary of Health and Human Services: **Tom Price**

It is widely known that the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) has provided millions of previously uninsured Americans with affordable health insurance coverage. Less well known are the benefits it has extended specifically to women, such as mandating coverage of maternity care and FDA-approved forms of birth control, prohibiting denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions (including pregnancy), and banning insurers from charging women more than men. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, insurers in most states were allowed to charge women more than men for the exact same coverage, through a practice known as “[gender rating](#)”. Research conducted before the implementation of the Affordable Care Act found that in the 37 states where gender rating was permitted, the vast majority of health plans on the individual market – [about 95%](#) – charged women as much as 80% more for health insurance than men. The Affordable Care Act put an end to gender rating in all 50 states, saving women an estimated [\\$1 billion annually](#) in insurance costs. That’s on top of the [\\$1.4 billion](#) in annual savings attributed to the expansion of contraceptive coverage, which works out to about \$250 a year for every woman who uses birth control.

Unfortunately, all of these benefits – and more – may be wiped out if the Trump administration follows through with their pledge to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The likely Secretary of Health and Human Services, Rep. Tom Price, has been described as a “[nightmare for women’s health](#)”. He has consistently voted in support of so-called “conscience clauses”, which allow medical providers to prioritize their personal beliefs over the safety and well-being of patients. In the past, Rep. Price has indicated that [he does not believe it is necessary](#) to require insurance companies to cover contraception, and has even [supported laws](#) that would allow them to deny coverage. At his recent confirmation hearing, he [refused to commit](#) to upholding the contraceptive coverage guaranteed by the Affordable Care Act. Since the contraceptive mandate was enacted through an administrative procedure within the Department of Health and Human Services, Rep. Price could single-handedly eliminate this provision – even before Congress takes action to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The [confirmation vote](#) for Rep. Price will take place on Friday, Feb. 10. He is expected to be confirmed with a party-line vote, despite [unanswered questions](#) about dozens of health industry-related stock trades he made while serving on the Ways and Means Committee. If Rep. Price used insider information from his job to make decisions about the stock market, he could be in violation of the Stop Trading On Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act.

Additional Information

Articles

“Tom Price would be Dangerous as Secretary of Health and Human Services” (*National Women’s Law Center*): <https://goo.gl/NxINM9>

“A Lot to Lose: What’s on the Line for Women if the Affordable Care Act is Repealed” (*Center on Health Insurance Reforms at the Georgetown University Health Policy Institute*): <https://goo.gl/BJqVHZ>

Video

“Women have a lot to lose if Obamacare is repealed.” (*Huffington Post*): <https://goo.gl/dgDGcm>

Attorney General: Jeff Sessions (CONFIRMED)

Senator Jeff Sessions, who as Attorney General would be charged with enforcing laws to protect women, has a very troubling past on women's issues. There are many areas of concern to note, including his vote against the Violence Against Women Act (three times), his seeming indifference to sex trafficking, his record of voting against equal pay measures (including voting against raising the minimum wage which disproportionately impacts women), and his hostility towards women's access to reproductive rights.

Another area of note for Black, Hispanic and Muslim American women, is assuring that their children are safe, and whether Sessions would ensure police are enforcing the law in an unbiased manner, and pursue hate crimes. Sessions' checkered past with both civil rights and immigration calls this into question.

Sessions has a checkered past with civil rights – so much so, that for the first time in history, a sitting US Senator, Cory Booker, spoke against Sessions, his colleague, because of Sessions' racist past. So too, did many members of the Congressional Black Caucus come to the Sessions' hearing to voice their concern. Sessions was nominated for a federal judge position in 1986, but was not confirmed because of his record of racism while serving as state Attorney General in Alabama.

On immigration, the Washington Post recently described Sessions to be the “[intellectual godfather](#)” of Trump's immigration plans, including Trump's Muslim Ban. [According to the Post](#), Sessions “lobbied for a “shock-and-awe” period of executive action that would rattle Congress, impress Trump's base and catch his critics unaware.” Sessions has also urged Trump to eliminate the DREAM Act, which grants legal status to certain undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children, and went to school here.

With Sessions' record on civil rights and immigration, it's hard to imagine he would continue the work of Attorney General Loretta Lynch to ensure equal protection under the law. It's also unlikely he would push for investigation of individual cases, as hate crimes.

Additional Information

Articles

“Attorney General Nominee Jeff Sessions Is Lying Through His Teeth if He Says He'll Protect Women's Rights” (*Glamour*): <https://goo.gl/jZ9WL5>

“Senator Jeff Sessions' Problematic Record on Women's Rights” (*National Women's Law Center*): <https://goo.gl/aZCnhU>

Video

Senator Leahy questions Jeff Sessions: <https://youtu.be/Jy8yQ9H0Ac8?t=1m17s>

Secretary of State: **Rex Tillerson (CONFIRMED)**

The position of Secretary of State is primarily focused on foreign policy and international affairs, but the State Department (which the Secretary of State is in charge of) advises the President on a range of policies, including the health of women and girls globally and other women's issues.

The State Department, under Secretary John Kerry, [spearheaded resistance to the efforts of Russia and Islamic countries](#) to “enshrine discrimination at the United Nations by favoring the so-called natural family (i.e., dominant husband, obedient wife, many kids) over the diversity of family arrangements found across the world,” and so protected all families.

Under Hillary Clinton's leadership, the office of the Secretary of State prioritized women's and gender issues by bringing the [Office of Global Women's Issues](#) a part of her personal staff. The office additionally spearheading several programs to promote and protect women in other oppressive countries such as the [Women, Peace and Security initiative](#), which was based on the argument that increased security for women can contribute to overall peace and security, and vice versa.

The U.S. government's attention to the plight of women and girls abroad continued after Clinton left office. The [House voted unanimously](#) to pass the Women, Peace and Security Act in November of 2016, which was meant to make the State Department's initiative permanent.

In March of 2016, Secretary Kerry announced a national strategy to promote the protection of adolescent girls around the world from things such as forced marriage, genital cutting, sexual violence and denial of access to education. “We are here, all of us, every single one of us, because we believe ... that equitable treatment of women and girls is and always must be a core tenet of America's global leadership,” Kerry said.

Under the new Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, former chairman and chief executive of Exxon Mobil, all of this funding can stop and programs can be shuttered. In December, the Trump transition team [asked for the positions of “gender-related staffing, programming, and funding,”](#) which for many is ominous and suggests they are planning to reduce funding and attention for these programs.

“It's not clear to us what the intent is behind this request,” the anonymous official said. “The Trump team could be looking to advance gender issues and make it a priority — or you could look at it as a witch hunt.”

Additional Information

Articles

“Trump team asked State Department for info on women's issues programs, sparking fears of another witch hunt” (*Washington Post*): <http://wpo.st/-9fZ2>

Video

Anti-Trump Women Storm In and Interrupt Rex Tillerson's Confirmation:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bX5j43ksjEI>

Secretary of Education: **Betsy DeVos (CONFIRMED)**

In addition to her responsibilities overseeing educational programs and policies, as Secretary of Education, DeVos will also hold an important role in keeping our college students safe. The Department of Education is responsible for enforcing Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Title IX also comes into play with keeping women safe from sexual assault on our college campuses. According to the Department of Justice, [1 in 5 women](#) are sexually assaulted while in college!

In recent years, numerous colleges and universities were sued by their student for mishandling sexual assault on campus, in violation of Title IX. The first case was filed in March 2011, when sixteen Yale students sued their school, arguing that [Yale is a sexually hostile environment](#), which prevents women from participating in campus life as fully as men.

In April 2011, the Obama Administration took action. Then Secretary of Education Duncan, along with Vice President Biden, [announced that the administration would hold colleges and universities accountable](#) for their handling of sexual assault under Title IX. In the coming years, the Department of Education [compiled a list of over 300 schools under investigation](#) for mishandling sexual assault on their campuses. This, in turn, spurred these schools, along with many others not yet on the list, to open Title IX offices on their campus, and take the issue of sexual assault more seriously. Numerous schools worked with the Department of Education to [reach agreement](#), and put in place better practices.

Also, as part of the Obama administration's efforts, in 2011, the Office of Civil Rights sent a letter to all schools [ordering that schools use the lower "preponderance of evidence"](#) in determining whether a rape has taken place.

There is no evidence to date that the Trump administration will continue the important work of holding colleges and universities accountable. Early statements by Trump indicate he might take responsibility away from the schools, entirely, which would be a grave mistake. Each state has different laws, and a different level of police training for handling campus sexual assault; but, generally police are less well trained, and less willing to pursue the types of cases arising today.

As well, left to their own devices, for PR reasons with admissions and their alumni, schools, if not held accountable, will likely return to turning a blind eye on campus sexual assault. As evidence, in 2014, [91% of schools reported there were no rapes](#) on their campus.

Additional Information

Articles

"Here's What a Trump Administration Could Mean for Campus Sexual Assault" (*NY Magazine*): <https://goo.gl/XBYQNG>

Video

Senator Warren questions Betsy DeVos: https://youtu.be/w_jqd-sdvXk?t=37s

Secretary of Labor: **Andrew Puzder**

The Secretary of Labor nominee, Andrew Puzder, is the acting CEO of CKE Restaurants, the parent company of Carl's Jr. and Hardee's. As the Secretary of Labor, Andrew Puzder would oversee workplace issues and enforce current laws and regulations related to employer-employee relations to protect and promote the labor force. He would also oversee the Women's Bureau, which advocates for the equal treatment of women and offers resources for sexual discrimination in the workplace.

As stated in [Newsweek](#), during his tenure as CEO of CKE Restaurants, Carl's Jr. and Hardee's have seen the highest percentage of racial discrimination and sexual harassment employee lawsuits compared to other top fast food chains. A recent [study](#) conducted by Restaurant Opportunities Centers (ROC) United (released in January 2017), revealed that 66% of female workers reported they were victims of sexual harassment while working for CKE, which is well over the national average of 40% for the industry. CKE is also known for their sexist advertising with commercials featuring a woman (or women) in barely there clothing, eating a cheeseburger in a sexual manner. Andrew Puzder has been quoted as saying in an article for [Entrepreneur](#) (2015), "I like our ads. I like beautiful women eating burgers in bikinis. I think it's very American. I used to hear, brands take on the personality of the CEO. And I rarely thought that was true, but I think this one, in this case, it kind of did take on my personality."

Originally reported in the [Riverfront Times](#), Puzder's first wife accused him of domestic violence on several occasions, in the 70s and 80s, and filed for a protective order. Puzder denied these accusations and his ex-wife recanted her statements of abuse in November of 2016. However, the descriptions of the abuse have been laid out in their divorce filings and his ex-wife was featured (in disguise) on the [Oprah Winfrey Show](#) identifying herself as a domestic violence survivor and recounting her experiences.

Andrew Puzder is outspoken on his opposition for [raising the minimum wage](#), expansion of overtime pay, and the Affordable Care Act; declaring each of these hurts employers. Puzder believes raising the federal minimum wage will result in job losses. According to the [National Women's Law Center](#), he advocates for repealing the ACA, due to the requirement for employers to make health insurance available to employees working under 30 hours/week.

As CEO of CKE Restaurants he has been in direct violation of the very things he would be enforcing as Secretary of Labor. A [USA Today article](#) states, CKE is currently subject to several potential and pending class action lawsuits relating to meal and rest breaks, wages and hour disputes.

Andrew Puzder's confirmation hearing has been postponed for the fourth time. A new hearing date will not be rescheduled until he submits financial disclosures and other required documents to the Committee. On February 6th, a story was released by [The Huffington Post](#) stating that Andrew Puzder and his wife hired an undocumented immigrant as a housekeeper. The hiring of undocumented workers has derailed Cabinet nominees in the past, most notably when it is directly related to the scope of the Cabinet position.

Additional Information

Article

"Why Department of Labor Pick Puzder is a Threat to Women" (*Huffington Post*): <https://goo.gl/eTFDYb>

Video

"Andrew Puzder in 60 Seconds" (*CNN Money*): <https://goo.gl/PjDgby>

Activism: Get Involved!

Upcoming Protests

“Nationwide Strike”: February 17 (via Francine Prose) “Let’s designate a day on which no one (that is, anyone who can do so without being fired) goes to work, a day when no one shops or spends money, a day on which we truly make our economic and political power felt, a day when we make it clear: how many of us there are, how strong and committed we are, how much we can accomplish.” [Learn more.](#)

“Tech Stands Up to Trump”: March 14 (Pi Day) Sponsored by technology companies. [Learn more.](#)

“March for Science”: April 22 (Earth Day) Nationwide marches. [Learn more and register here.](#)

“A Day Without Women” Strike: Date TBD [Learn More](#)

Boycotts

Already, several retailers, including Nordstrom and Neiman Marcus have dropped Ivanka Trump’s products. The website [“Don’t Pay Trump”](#) offers an app to help avoid Donald and Ivanka Trump’s products

Activism: Reach Out to Elected Officials

Feedback from Senator Toomey’s office in Pennsylvania: “Everyone we spoke with was rattled. They have never experienced this much constant feedback.”

We cannot overstate the importance of keeping the pressure on your elected officials. Here are some tools for doing so:

- Phone calls
- Letters/postcards
- Facebook/Twitter
- Stop by your elected officials’ office!
- App: Countable: <https://www.countable.us/>

Countable allows you to directly connect to your state representatives. You are able to select from a list of topics to create a profile and set up your news feed, from which you can ‘Take Action’ by sending messages to your representative regarding legislation that is of interest to you. If you log-in through the website, you have the option to call, e-mail or send them a video message on any particular topic by visiting your representative’s profile page.

- Personal stories are very effective!

What’s Next?

Mark Your Calendars

Next Red Tent meet-up: March 11

Theme: “The Cost of Being a Woman”

National Girlfriends Networking Day (#NGNDay): June 1

National Girlfriends Networking Day is a nationwide celebration of the power of building connections. We are thrilled to announce that MSNBC’s Joy-Ann Reid, and comedian Aida Rodriguez are confirmed for this year’s panel. The panel will take place in NYC at 11:30 a.m., EST, and be streamed to events around the country. If you want to host a #NGNDay event in your town or city, please email us at editor@thenewagenda.net. Registration and more information at <https://thenewagenda.net/ngn-day/>

the new agenda



a voice for all women

ABOUT THE NEW AGENDA

The New Agenda was founded in 2008, when 30 Hillary Clinton supporters from around the country met in New York to sketch out plans for a new women's advocacy group. It was the 2008 elections that provided the *raison d'être* for the new group: to support women in leadership roles, to draw a line in the sand against the sexism and misogyny so much in evidence in 2008, and to build a national organization to advance key goals for women. The New Agenda focuses its year-round programming on inspiring and empowering college and Millennial women, as well as the diverse needs of women of all ages, backgrounds and aspirations. The New Agenda Foundation is dedicated to raising awareness of, and providing educational content around, sexual assault on campus, and to teaching teen girls to build healthy relationships and self-images.

OUR GOALS

The New Agenda is an organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls by bringing about systemic change in the media, at the workplace, at school and at home.

OUR MISSION

The New Agenda seeks to achieve safety and opportunity for all women by addressing issues which unite us, and by advancing women into leadership roles.

OUR INITIATIVES



JUNE 1, 2017
#NGNDay



OCTOBER 2017
#SToPP



MONTHLY 2017
#RedTent



MAKE A DONATION

The New Agenda is a 501(c)(4) dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls. Contributions to The New Agenda are not tax deductible. Contributions may also be made to The New Agenda Foundation, a 501(c)(3). Contributions to The New Agenda Foundation are tax deductible.

\$35 Friend \$50 Patron \$100 Sponsor \$250 Angel Investor

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Check Enclosed Pay with Credit Card

Name on Card: _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: (____ / ____) CCID Code: _____

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