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**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Cornerstone  
**SUBJECT:** Presidential Transition Overview  
**DATE:** November 5, 2024

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## Trump-Vance Administration

### Overview

President-elect Trump's team has [announced](#) Linda McMahon, Trump's former Administrator of the Small Business Administration and current board chair of the America First Policy Institute, and Howard Lutnick, CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald and BGC Partners and long-time supporter and adviser of the President-elect, as the co-chairs of his presidential transition team. Mr. Lutnick is reportedly coordinating personnel efforts while Ms. McMahon covers policy initiatives according to [NBC](#). They will serve alongside honorary co-chairs JD Vance, Donald Trump Jr., Eric Trump, Robert F. Kennedy Jr and Tulsi Gabbard as they assist in the policy and organizational buildout operation. In addition, the America First Policy Institute (AFPI) should be considered a key player in policy development.

Trump's transition team has heretofore been privately funded and has largely distanced themselves from any association with outside organizations following reports of Trump-world's connections to the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025. The team has yet to provide the [GSA's required transition team registration information](#) but his lawyers are currently engaged in negotiations in order to be comply with the necessary protocols.

President-elect Trump will likely be hesitant to nominate any Republican Congressmen for cabinet positions given the narrow margin Speaker Johnson will be working with and its implications on passing legislation in what will be an aggressive first 100 days agenda. And, depending on the final Senate margin, nominating more than one or two Senators could also have limiting impacts given Senators Murkowski and Collins independent vote tendencies.

### Key Players in the Trump-Vance Transition Team

#### Linda McMahon

Linda Marie McMahon is an American business executive and political figure. She served as the 25th administrator of the Small Business Administration from 2017 to 2019. Before her appointment, McMahon co-founded World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) with her husband, Vince McMahon, and served as its CEO from 1980 to 2009.

#### Howard Lutnick

Howard Lutnick is an American businessman currently serving as the chairman and CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald and BGC Partners, two prominent financial services firms. In addition to his business and charitable work, Lutnick has been a key supporter of Donald Trump, raising millions for his Trump campaign.

### **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**

Robert F. Kennedy Jr is an American politician, environmental lawyer, and anti-vaccine activist. A member of the prominent Kennedy family, he is the son of former U.S. Attorney General and Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the nephew of President John F. Kennedy and Senator Ted Kennedy. In the 2024 presidential election, he ran as an independent candidate but later dropped out to endorse former President Donald Trump.

### **Tulsi Gabbard**

Tulsi Gabbard is an American politician, United States Army Reserve officer, and conservative political commentator who served as U.S. Representative for Hawaii's 2nd congressional district from 2013 to 2021. She became the first Samoan American voting Member of Congress and was a candidate for the Democratic nomination in the 2020 presidential election. Gabbard's positions have evolved since leaving office as she has become more conservative on various issues. She has frequently appeared on Fox News and endorsed former President Donald Trump for the 2024 presidential election.

### **Donald Trump Jr.**

Donald Trump Jr. is an American businessman and the eldest son of former President Donald Trump and Ivana Trump. He currently serves as a trustee and executive vice president of The Trump Organization. Mr. Trump filled a prominent role at the 2024 Republican National Convention by introducing Senator JD Vance as his father's running mate, further solidifying his influence within the Republican Party. He currently serves as an honorary co-chair of the transition team.

### **Eric Trump**

Eric Trump is an American businessman and activist and is the third child and second son of Donald Trump and Ivana Trump. He serves as a trustee and executive vice president of the Trump Organization and is an honorary co-chair of the transition team.

### **Doug Hoelscher**

Doug Hoelscher is an American politician who served as the director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs during the first Trump administration which he joined the on February 14, 2017, as deputy director of intergovernmental affairs and was subsequently promoted to director. He has previous experience working for the RNC, PwC, and served as the executive director of the Homeland Security Advisory Council during the George W. Bush Administration.

### **Mike Rigas**

Mike Rigas was the Deputy Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and Acting Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Trump's first term. His previous roles included Senior Advisor and Associate Administrator at the General Services Administration (GSA) and Chief of Staff at the Massachusetts Department of Veterans Services. Currently, he is involved with the aforementioned America First Policy Institute (AFPI).

### **Larry Kudlow**

Larry Kudlow is an American conservative broadcast news analyst and financial commentator, currently serving as Vice Chair of the Board for the America First Policy Institute (AFPI) and Chair of the Center for American Prosperity. Kudlow previously held the position of Director of the National Economic Council from 2018 to 2021, where he played a crucial role in shaping domestic and global economic policy, advocating for free markets, tax cuts, and deregulation.

### **Brooke Rollins**

Brooke Rollins currently serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the America First Policy Institute (AFPI). She previously served as the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and Chief Strategist in the White House during Trump's previous administration. She was also the Director of the White House Office of American Innovation where she encouraged the passage of the First Step Act, legislation that reforms the nation's prison system and seeks to reduce recidivism.

### **Brian Hook**

Brian Hook is currently the Vice Chairman for Global Investments at Cerberus Capital Management and previously served as the Special Representative for Iran and Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of State from 2018-2021. Reports indicate he will be coordinating the State Department roles and plans under the Trump Administration.

### **Mark Paoletta**

Mark Paoletta is an attorney and Partner at Schaerr Jaffe LLP a D.C based boutique law firm and previously served as General Counsel for the Office of Management and Budget from 2018-2021 and Counsel to Vice President Pence from 2017-2018. Paoletta is reportedly coordinating the Department of Justice's transition team.

### **Robert Lighthizer**

Robert Lighthizer currently serves as the Chair of the Center for American Trade at the America First Policy Institute and previously as the 18<sup>th</sup> United States Trade Representative under the Trump Administration. In his previous role, Lighthizer helped negotiate the China trade agreement and fought for American workers, farmers, and manufacturers.

### **America First Policy Institute**

The America First Policy Institute (AFPI) is a think tank established in 2021 to promote the public policy agenda of then former President Trump. Founded by Brooke Rollins, a former acting director of the Domestic Policy Council, and Larry Kudlow, the former Director of the National Economic Council, AFPI aims to develop and advocate for policies prioritizing American interests. The organization's leadership includes notable figures such as Linda McMahon, former Administrator of the Small Business Administration, chairperson, and a team comprising eight former cabinet secretaries from the Trump administration. AFPI focuses on job creation, affordable housing, reducing federal bureaucracy, and enhancing American military superiority while pushing for policies that support free enterprise and national greatness.

### Trump Potential Political Appointees

- Attorney General
  - Jeffrey Clark
  - Sen. Mike Lee
  - Sen. Eric Schmitt
  - John Ratcliffe
  - Jay Clayton
- CIA Director
  - John Ratcliffe
  - Rep. Michael Waltz
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs
  - Rep. Brian Mast
  - Robert Wilkie
  - Peter O'Rourke
- EPA Administrator
  - Andrew Wheeler
  - Aurelia Skipwith Giacometto
  - Travis Voyles
  - Mandy Gunasekara
  - RFK Jr.
- Federal Reserve Chair
  - Kevin Hassett
  - Arthur Laffer
  - Christopher Waller
  - Kevin Warsh
- National Security Advisor
  - Robert O'Brien
  - Ric Grenell
  - Elbridge Colby
- Secretary of Agriculture
  - Charles Herbster
  - Gov. Mike Parson
  - Kip Tom
  - Sherry Vinton
  - Sid Miller
  - Ted McKinney
- Secretary of Commerce
  - Linda McMahon
  - Sen. Marsha Blackburn
  - Bob Lighthizer
  - Sen. Bill Haggerty
  - Former Speaker Kevin McCarthy
- Secretary of Defense
  - Christopher Miller
  - John Ratcliffe
  - Mike Pompeo

- Rep. Michael Waltz
- Robert O’Brien
- Mike Gallagher
- Secretary of Energy
  - Gov. Doug Burgum
  - Mark Menezes
  - Paul Dabbar
- Secretary of Education
  - Rep. Elise Stefanik
  - Jason Miyares
  - Betsy DeVos
  - Ryan Walters
  - Tiffany Justice
- Secretary of Homeland Security
  - Rep. Mark Green
  - Vivek Ramaswamy
  - Mark Morgan
  - Thomas Homan
  - Chad Wolf
- Secretary of Health and Human Services
  - Bobby Jindal
  - Brian Blase
  - Eric Hargan
  - Paul Mango
  - Joe Grogan
  - Joseph Ladapo
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
  - Ben Carson
  - Sen. Tim Scott
  - Brian Montgomery
- Secretary of Interior
  - David Bernhardt
  - Gov. Doug Burgum
  - Katharine MacGregor
  - Mandy Gunasekara
  - Sen. Cynthia Lummis
- Secretary of Labor
  - Linda McMahon
  - Patrick Pizzella
  - Bryan Slater
- Securities and Exchange Commission Chair
  - Hester Pierce
- Secretary of State
  - Elbridge Colby
  - John Ratcliffe
  - Sen. Marco Rubio

- Ric Grenell
- Robert O'Brien
- Sen. Bill Hagerty
- Rep. Michael Waltz
- Secretary of Treasury
  - Sen. Bill Hagerty
  - Bob Lighthizer
  - Jay Clayton
  - Jeff Yass
  - John Paulson
  - Scott Bessent
  - Steve Mnuchin
  - Stephen Moore
  - Howard Lutnick
  - Jay Clayton
- Secretary of Transportation
  - Rep. Garret Graves
  - Rep. Troy Nehls
- White House Chief of Staff
  - Brooke Rollins
  - Kevin McCarthy
  - Susie Wiles