

2024 presidential transition

An overview of the presidential transition process and significant events that occur after Election Day

November 12, 2024

Presidential transitions are designed to ready officials and agencies to govern by inauguration

Presidential transitions are significant undertakings

> Transition teams help incoming presidents staff agencies and implement their agenda

Transition teams are responsible for:

- Vetting candidates for over 4,000 presidential appointments, of which 1,200 require Senate confirmation
- Recommending staffing decisions to the presidential candidate
- Coordinating with the outgoing administration
- Learning about how over 100 agencies function
- Applying knowledge of federal agencies to help the president effectively implement their agenda

> Outgoing administrations are expected to cooperate on the transition

The Presidential Transition Act of 1963 requires the outgoing administration to coordinate the transition:

- The White House must create a Transition Coordination Council of senior administration officials six months before the election;
- The General Services Administration (GSA) must provide office space and funding for coordination with transition teams
- GSA is also expected to mediate between the transition teams and the outgoing administration



What is a presidential transition?

The structured process that equips an incoming administration with the knowledge and resources needed for the president to lead effectively from their first day in office

Transitions have practical and symbolic implications

- Effective transitions ensure that the new administration is fully prepared to manage natural disasters, international issues, and national security threats from day one
- The US has peacefully transferred power between executives for over 200 years, encouraging outgoing and incoming administrations to work together

2024 presidential transition recommended timeline



Cabinet vetting begins months before the election

1 Sourcing

- Former administration officials
- Campaign staff
- NGO & business leaders
- Well-known political officials



2 Vetting

- Initially vetted by public
- Deep vetting begins post-election
- FBI background checks finished pre-Senate hearings
- Process begins in August of election year



3 Nomination

- President and 4-5 key advisors will formally send nomination to Senate
- Finished within a month of election



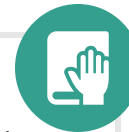
4 Confirmation

- Nomination is passed to the proper Senate committee
- Senate holds hearings on whether to confirm the nomination
- Simply majority needed to confirm a nominee



5 Appointment

- President presents a signed commission to the nominee
- Appointee is sworn in to faithfully execute the duties of their position



The Biden administration is cooperating with the Trump transition team

Biden and Harris promised a peaceful transfer of power following election loss

- Harris stated during her November 6 concession speech at Howard University that the administration will assist the Trump transition team with a peaceful transfer of power
- President Biden said the administration will work toward “a peaceful and orderly transition,” during remarks in the Rose Garden
- President Biden and President-elect Trump are scheduled to meet in the Oval Office on Wednesday, November 13



TRANSITION OUTLOOK

- Biden administration officials overseeing the transition believe Trump **will formally accept** assistance from the administration on the transition
- A Trump transition team spokesperson reported that attorneys for the transition team “**continue to constructively engage with the Biden-Harris administration lawyers** regarding all agreements contemplated by the Presidential Transition Act”
- Experts caution that while signing the memorandum isn’t mandatory, declining the administration’s assistance could hinder Trump’s ability to govern effectively upon taking office

KEY TRANSITION OFFICIALS

Outgoing administration:

- **Aimee Whiteman**, Federal Transition Coordinator, General Services Administration
- **Shalanda Young**, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Incoming administration:

- Cantor Fitzgerald CEO **Howard Lutnick**, Co-chair, Trump transition team
- Former Administrator of the Small Business Administration **Linda McMahon**, Co-chair, Trump transition team