

Key Nominees

Marco Rubio, Secretary of State



Throughout his political career, Rubio has advocated for a hawkish approach to foreign policymaking and an increased focus on the Americas. Rubio is a vocal critic of authoritarian-leftist regimes like Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua. He will also likely seek to address China's growing presence in the region, flagging concern over China's use of Mexico as a backdoor to access preferential tariffs via the USMCA.

Ronald Johnson, Ambassador to Mexico



A former Green Beret and CIA officer, Johnson previously served as Ambassador to El Salvador (2019-2021), supporting President Nayib Bukele's strategy on organized crime and efforts to reduce China's influence. Known for his expertise in intelligence and security, Johnson's appointment signals a focus on combating transnational crime and efforts to reinforce U.S.-Mexico cooperation on drug trafficking and security matters.

Pete Hoekstra, Ambassador to Canada



The former Republican congressman from Michigan, a border state with Canada, served as Ambassador to the Netherlands (2018-2021) during Trump's first presidency. Hoekstra's appointment, which came earlier than historical announcements of Ambassador to Canada, indicates the potential for a closer focus on the bilateral relationship.

Christopher Landau, Deputy Secretary of State



Landau, an attorney by training, served as ambassador to Mexico during Trump's first term. He is expected to support Trump's approach to curtailing irregular migration in the Americas – a focus of his time as ambassador.

Mauricio Claver-Carone, Special Envoy for Latin America



Claver-Carone's nomination as president of the Inter-American Development Bank by Trump marked a departure from the institution's tradition of selecting Latin American leaders. Prior to this, Claver-Carone served as an advisor to the Treasury Department and National Security Council during the first Trump administration. He will likely propose tougher economic policies against Venezuela and Cuba and will be a close ally of Rubio on China-related policy decisions.

Jamieson Greer, U.S. Trade Representative



Greer served as chief of staff to Trump's USTR, Robert Lighthizer, during his first term. Greer, a trade lawyer by training, is expected to follow in Lighthizer's footsteps, strictly enforcing compliance with existing trade agreements and renegotiating protectionist policies where possible.

Howard Lutnik, Secretary of Commerce



Trump has suggested that the Department of Commerce will have additional oversight over USTR. Lutnik, CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald, a financial services firm, will likely back Trump's proposed tariffs. American auto manufacturing in Mexico, which he has publicly criticized, could be a key target.

Kristi Noem, Secretary of Homeland Security



A Trump loyalist and former South Dakota governor, Noem will continue to advocate for stronger border security to combat irregular immigration, human trafficking, and transnational criminal organizations. Under her leadership, the department is expected to increase its focus on China's potential influence in strategic sectors, including agriculture, critical minerals, and cybersecurity.

Rodney Scott, Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection



Scott has served as chief of the Border Patrol under both Trump and Biden, implementing influential border policies like Title 42 and 'Remain in Mexico.' He has spent most of his career overseeing border operations in San Diego and is likely to push for the use of border walls to deter migration.

Tom Homan, 'Border Czar'



Homan has been a border agent under six U.S. presidents and was Trump's former acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He was a key architect of the controversial family separation policy and is unlikely to shy away from similarly tough policies.

Peter Navarro, Senior Counselor for Trade and Manufacturing



Navarro, an economist, served as an advisor to Trump during his first term. He will likely continue to design and endorse tariffs to protect domestic industries. A hard-liner on China, Navarro will be particularly critical of policies in the region that enable Chinese access to U.S. markets at preferential tariffs.

Kevin Hassett, Director of National Economic Council



Hassett, an economist and academic, served as chair of the Council of Economic Advisors during the first Trump administration. In his new role, he will support Trump in implementing proposed tax cuts and tariffs.