

The Original Cabinets: Eisenhower to George W. Bush

Over the years, the president's cabinet has expanded from a handful of close advisors to the leaders of 15 federal departments and other key officials the president chooses to grant cabinet rank. This chart, adapted from [What Do We Do Now? A Workbook for the President-Elect](#) (Brookings, 2008), by Brookings expert Stephen Hess, presents the starting line ups of the past 50 years from President Eisenhower to George W. Bush, and shows the increasing diversity and complexity of the cabinet.

Dwight Eisenhower's Original Cabinet (1953)

Cabinet Member	Gender	Race	Age	Prior Position(s)	Home State
John Foster Dulles Secretary of State	M	White	65	Foreign policy advisor	New York
George M. Humphrey Secretary of the Treasury	M	White	63	President of iron-ore processor M.A. Hanna Company (1929-52)	Ohio
Herbert Brownell, Jr. Attorney General	M	White	49	Lawyer, campaign advisor	New York
Arthur E. Summerfield Postmaster General	M	White	54	Chairman, Republican National Committee (1952-53)	Michigan
Douglas McKay Secretary of the Interior	M	White	60	Governor of Oregon (1949-52)	Oregon
Ezra T. Benson Secretary of Agriculture	M	White	54	Executive Secretary of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (1939-52)	Idaho
Sinclair Weeks Secretary of Commerce	M	White	60	Business executive	Massachusetts
Martin P. Durkin Secretary of Labor	M	White	59	President, AFL Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union (1933-53)	Illinois
Charles E. Wilson Secretary of Defense	M	White	63	CEO of General Motors (1941-52)	Michigan

Oveta Culp Hobby Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare	F	White	48	Head of Federal Security Agency (1953)	Texas
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John F. Kennedy's Original Cabinet (1961)

Cabinet Member	Gender	Race	Age	Prior Position(s)	Home State
Dean Rusk Secretary of State	M	White	52	Deputy Secretary of State (1949-50)	Georgia
C. Douglas Dillon Secretary of the Treasury	M	White	52	Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs (1959-61)	New York
Robert F. Kennedy Attorney General	M	White	36	Counsel on Senate Committees (1953-60)	New York
J. Edward Day Postmaster General	M	White	47	Illinois State Insurance Commissioner (1949-53)	Illinois
Stewart L. Udall Secretary of the Interior	M	White	41	U.S. House of Representatives (1955-61)	Arizona
Orville L. Freeman Secretary of Agriculture	M	White	43	Governor of Minnesota (1955-61)	Minnesota
Luther H. Hodges Secretary of Commerce	M	White	63	Governor of North Carolina (1954-61)	North Carolina
Arthur J. Goldberg Secretary of Labor	M	White	53	General Counsel, AFL-CIO (1948-61)	Illinois
Robert S. McNamara Secretary of Defense	M	White	45	President of Ford Motor Company (1960)	California
Abraham A. Ribicoff Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare	M	White	51	Governor of Connecticut (1955-61)	Connecticut

Richard Nixon's Original Cabinet (1969)

Cabinet Member	Gender	Race	Age	Prior Position(s)	Home State
William Rogers Secretary of State	M	White	56	Attorney General (1957-61)	New York
David M. Kennedy Secretary of the Treasury	M	White	63	President/Director, Continental Illinois Bank (1959-69)	Utah
John N. Mitchell Attorney General	M	White	56	Municipal bonds lawyer	New York
Winton M. Blount Postmaster General	M	White	48	President, U.S. Chamber of Commerce (1968)	Alabama
Walter J. Hickel Secretary of the Interior	M	White	50	Governor of Alaska (1966-69)	Alaska
Clifford M. Hardin Secretary of Agriculture	M	White	54	Chancellor, University of Nebraska (1954-69)	Indiana
Maurice H. Stans Secretary of Commerce	M	White	60	Director, Bureau of the Budget (1958-61)	Minnesota
George P. Shultz Secretary of Labor	M	White	48	Dean, University of Chicago Business School (1962-69)	New York
Melvin R. Laird Secretary of Defense	M	White	46	House of Representatives, Wisconsin (1946-69)	Wisconsin
Robert Finch Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare	M	White	43	Lt. Governor of California (1966-69)	California
George Romney Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	M	White	61	Governor of Michigan (1963-69)	Michigan
John A. Volpe Secretary of Transportation	M	White	60	Governor of Massachusetts (1961-63, 65-69)	Massachusetts

Jimmy Carter's Original Cabinet (1977)

Cabinet Member	Gender	Race	Age	Prior Position(s)	Home State
Cyrus Vance Secretary of State	M	White	59	Deputy Secretary of Defense (1963-69)	West Virginia
W. Michael Blumenthal Secretary of the Treasury	M	White	51	Deputy Trade Representative (1963-67)	Michigan
Griffin Bell Attorney General	M	White	58	Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for 5th Circuit (1961-76)	Georgia
Cecil Andrus Secretary of the Interior	M	White	46	Governor of Idaho (1971-77)	Idaho
Robert Bergland Secretary of Agriculture	M	White	48	House of Representatives, Minnesota (1971-77)	Minnesota
Juanita Kreps Secretary of Commerce	F	White	56	Vice President, Duke University (1973-77)	North Carolina
F. Ray Marshall Secretary of Labor	M	White	48	Professor, University of Texas at Austin (1962-77)	Louisiana
Harold Brown Secretary of Defense	M	White	49	President, Cal-Tech (1969-77)	New York
Joseph Califano Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare	M	White	46	White House domestic policy council aide (1965-69)	New York
Patricia R. Harris Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	F	African-American	52	Law professor (1961-77)	Illinois
Brock Adams Secretary of Transportation	M	White	50	House of Representatives, Washington (1965-77)	Washington
James Schlesinger Secretary of Energy	M	White	48	Secretary of Defense (1973-75)	New York

Ronald Reagan's Original Cabinet (1981)

Cabinet Member	Gender	Race	Age	Prior Position(s)	Home State
Alexander Haig Secretary of State	M	White	56	Supreme Allied Commander of NATO (1974-79)	Pennsylvania
Caspar Weinberger Secretary of Defense	M	White	63	Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (1974-75)	California
Donald Regan Secretary of Treasury	M	White	62	CEO/Chairman, Merrill Lynch (1971-80)	Massachusetts
William French Smith Attorney General	M	White	63	President Reagan's lawyer and advisor (1966-80)	New Hampshire
James Watt Secretary of Interior	M	White	43	Vice Chairman, Federal Power Commission (1975-76)	Wyoming
John Block Secretary of Agriculture	M	White	45	Illinois Director of Agriculture (1977-81)	Illinois
Malcolm Baldrige Secretary of Commerce	M	White	58	Chairman/CEO, Scovill, Inc. (1962-80)	Nebraska
Raymond Donovan Secretary of Labor	M	White	50	Executive Vice President of Schiavone Construction Company (1971-81)	New Jersey
James Edwards Secretary of Energy	M	White	53	Governor of South Carolina (1975-79)	South Carolina
Samuel Pierce Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	M	African-American	58	General Counsel, Department of the Treasury (1970-73)	New York
Drew Lewis Secretary of Transportation	M	White	49	Headed a business consulting firm (1974-81)	Pennsylvania
Richard Schweiker Secretary of Health and Human Services	M	White	49	Senator, Pennsylvania (1969-81)	Pennsylvania
Terrel Bell Secretary of Education	M	White	59	Utah Commissioner of Education (1976-81)	Idaho

George H.W. Bush's Original Cabinet (1989)

Cabinet Member	Gender	Race	Age	Prior Position(s)	Home State
James A. Baker Secretary of State	M	White	58	Secretary of Treasury (1985-88)	Texas
Dick Cheney Secretary of Defense	M	White	47	House of Representatives, Wyoming (1979-89)	Wyoming
Nicholas Brady Secretary of Treasury	M	White	58	Secretary of Treasury (1988)	New Jersey
Richard Thornburgh Attorney General	M	White	56	Governor of Pennsylvania (1979-88)	Pennsylvania
Manuel Lujan Secretary of Interior	M	Hispanic	60	House of Representatives, New Mexico (1969-89)	New Mexico
Clayton Yeutter Secretary of Agriculture	M	White	59	U.S. Trade Representative (1985-89)	Nebraska
Robert Mosbacher Secretary of Commerce	M	White	53	Founder of Texas energy company (1954-89)	New York
Elizabeth Dole Secretary of Labor	F	White	52	Secretary of Transportation (1983-87)	North Carolina
James D. Watkins Secretary of Energy	M	White	51	Chief of Naval Operations (1982-86)	California
Jack Kemp Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	M	White	53	House of Representatives, New York (1971-89)	New York
Samuel Skinner Secretary of Transportation	M	White	51	Chairman of Regional Transportation Authority of Northeast Illinois (1984-88)	Illinois
Louis Sullivan Secretary of Health and Human Services	M	African-American	56	President, Morehouse School of Medicine (1975-89)	Georgia
Lauro Cavazos Secretary of Education	M	Hispanic	61	President, Texas Tech University (1980-88)	Texas
Edward Derwinski Secretary of Veterans' Affairs	M	White	63	House of Representatives, Illinois (1959-83)	Illinois

Bill Clinton's Original Cabinet (1993)

Cabinet Member	Gender	Race	Age	Prior Position(s)	Home State
Warren Christopher Secretary of State	M	White	67	Deputy Secretary of State (1977-81)	California
Les Aspin Secretary of Defense	M	White	54	House of Representatives, Wisconsin (1971-93)	Wisconsin
Lloyd Bentson Secretary of Treasury	M	White	71	Senator, Texas (1971-93)	Texas
Janet Reno Attorney General	F	White	54	Florida State Attorney (1978-95)	Florida
Bruce Babbitt Secretary of Interior	M	White	54	Governor of Arizona (1978-87)	Arizona
Mike Espy Secretary of Agriculture	M	African-American	39	House of Representatives, Michigan (1987-93)	Michigan
Ronald H. Brown Secretary of Commerce	M	African-American	51	Chairman, Democratic National Committee (1988-92)	New York
Robert B. Reich Secretary of Labor	M	White	46	Harvard professor (1981-93)	Pennsylvania
Hazel O'Leary Secretary of Energy	F	African-American	55	Executive Vice President, Northern States Power Co. (1989-93)	Virginia
Henry G. Cisneros Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	M	Hispanic	45	Mayor San Antonio, Texas (1981-89)	Texas
Federico F. Pena Secretary of Transportation	M	Hispanic	45	Mayor of Denver, Colorado (1983-93)	Colorado
Donna E. Shalala Secretary of Health and Human Services	F	Lebanese-American	51	Chancellor, University Wisconsin-Madison (1987-93)	Ohio
Richard W. Riley Secretary of Education	M	White	59	Governor of South Carolina (1979-87)	South Carolina
Jesse Brown Secretary of Veterans' Affairs	M	African-American	48	Director, Disabled American Veterans (1989-93)	Illinois

George W. Bush's Original Cabinet (2001)

Cabinet Member	Gender	Race	Age	Prior Position(s)	Home State
Colin Powell Secretary of State	M	African-American	63	Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff (1989-93)	New York
Donald Rumsfeld Secretary of Defense	M	White	68	Secretary of Defense (1975-77)	Illinois
Paul O'Neill Secretary of Treasury	M	White	65	CEO, Alcoa (1987-2000)	Pennsylvania
John Ashcroft Attorney General	M	White	58	Senator, Missouri (1995-2001)	Missouri
Gale Norton Secretary of Interior	F	White	46	Attorney General, Colorado (1991-99)	Colorado
Ann Veneman Secretary of Agriculture	F	White	51	Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) (1995-99)	California
Donald Evans Secretary of Commerce	M	White	54	CEO of energy company (1975-2001)	Texas
Elaine Chao Secretary of Labor	F	Asian-American	47	Director, Peace Corps (1991-92)	New York
Spencer Abraham Secretary of Energy	M	Lebanese-American	48	Senator, Michigan (1995-2001)	Michigan
Mel Martinez Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	M	Hispanic	54	Lawyer at Florida firm (1973-98)	Florida
Tommy Thompson Secretary of Health and Human Services	M	White	59	Governor of Wisconsin (1985-2001)	Wisconsin
Rod Paige Secretary of Education	M	African-American	67	Schools Superintendent, Houston, Texas (1989-2001)	Michigan
Anthony Principi Secretary of Veterans' Affairs	M	White	56	Deputy and Secretary of Veteran's Affairs (1989-93)	California
Norman Mineta Secretary of Transportation	M	Asian-American	69	Secretary of Commerce (2000-01)	California