

Trump is refusing to sign an ethics agreement to begin the formal transition process, which has prevented the FBI from doing background checks on any of his nominees.

President-elect Trump has also named three of his *personal lawyers* for top positions at the Department of Justice, putting them in charge of the agency that carried out criminal investigations into Trump's mishandling of classified documents and his efforts to overthrow the 2020 election. One of them is Todd Blanche - he's nominated as deputy attorney general, the Justice Department's second most powerful position.

Pete Hegseth - Secretary of Defense

- Defends war criminals (including Eddy Galagar, who was shooting civilians (including woman and children) and executed a captive, which is a war crime).
- Had a baby with a Fox news producer while he was married. That same year, sexual assault allegation from a woman he had sex with at a conservative political convention. (He said it was consensual, but he paid her an undisclosed amount of hush money...)
- During Biden's inauguration, he was removed from a security detail there because he was seen as a threat after another person in his national guard unit saw **his tattoos that symbolized white supremacy and christian nationalism**.
- His book "The War on Warriors" calls for the deployment of the US military domestically in service of his idea of what he calls an American crusade - many critics warn this foreshadows a Total War on the American people.

Russel Vought - nominated to head the Office of Management and Budget

- **Project 2025 architect.**
- Plans to fire thousands of civil servants and supports deploying the military domestically (source: ProPublica's recordings they obtained of his private speeches at the Center for Renewing America.)

Matt Gaetz - Dept of Justice (he once wanted this dept abolished)

- Far-right loyalist
- Threatens to defund all government programs if they “do not come to heel”
- Had an investigation after a woman testified to the panel that she and Gaetz had sex when she was 17 and in high school
- Resigned from Congress the day before he was nominated by Trump. The House Ethics Committee dropped their investigation (a **federal sex trafficking probe**, and the sex scandal mentioned above) after he resigned.
- He withdrew because he didn’t want his scandals to be a “distraction” from the Trump campaign

Doug Burgum - Secretary of Interior

- Ban on trans girls and women from participating in school sports
- **Total abortion ban**
- **Ban on teaching critical race theory**
- Was also tapped to head a newly created National Energy Council aimed at increasing oil and gas production.

Chris Wright - Energy Secretary

- Wright is a fracking magnate who has long championed fossil fuel production
- **Publicly denied the existence of the climate crisis**
- He is the CEO of the Denver-based oil field firm Liberty Energy, serves on the board of Oklo, a nuclear power startup.
- “There is no climate crisis, and we’re not in the midst of an energy transition, either. Humans and all complex life on Earth is simply impossible without carbon dioxide, hence the term “carbon pollution” is outrageous. ... There is no such thing as clean energy or dirty energy. ... These five terms — “climate crisis,” “energy transition,” “carbon pollution,” “clean energy” and “dirty energy” — are not only deceptive, they are in fact destructive deceptions.”
- Drank a fracking fluid bleach cocktail on camera to prove it was “safe”

Sebastian Gorka - senior National Security Council director for counterterrorism and deputy assistant to the president

- Controversial far right pundit. This is a top post that doesn't require Senate confirmation.
- Gorka advised Trump in his first term but was pushed out after the forward revealed he once had **ties to a Hungarian far right Nazi allied group and that he supported an anti-Semitic and racist paramilitary militia** in Hungary while he served as a Hungarian politician.
- He denies Palestine exists.

Robert F Kennedy Jr - Department of Health and Human Services

- Most prominent vaccine skeptics
- The watchdog group Public Citizen calls Kennedy a clear and present danger to the nation's health
- He has **spread numerous public health conspiracy theories about vaccines** and other issues
- Claimed chemicals in the nation's water supply is leading to a rise in sexual dysphoria in kids
- "COVID-19 is targeted to attack Caucasians and black people."
- Promised to lift restrictions on unpasteurized milk and has claimed there are no vaccines that are safe and effective. Infectious disease expert Dr. Michael Mina recently wrote that bird flu could become the next pandemic, warning, "If H5N1 bird flu continues to expand to human transmission ... the history books will not look kindly upon the U.S. early efforts to contain it when we absolutely could have taken much more aggressive and clear action." (the bird flu is spreading in California through milk....)

Kevin Hassett to lead the National Economic Council

- Hassel helped craft the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which massively **redistributed wealth to the richest 1% of Americans**
- In 2020, Hassett argued COVID lockdown should be lifted, predicting zero deaths from the disease by May 15th of that year

Doctor J Bhattacharya - to lead the National Institution of Health

- Main author of the Great Barrington Declaration (which argued against COVID lockdowns at a time when no vaccines were available)
- Said COVID should be allowed to spread without mitigation in order to create so-called "Heard-immunity"

Doctor Martin Makary - Food and Drug Administration

- Vocal critic of vaccine mandates

Dave Weldon - Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Vaccine skeptic

Scott Besant - Treasury Secretary

- Billionaire hedge fund manager.
- Embrace's Trump's unusual and harmful tariffs that can negatively affect our economy. (Trump wants to impose a 25% tariff on all goods from Mexico and Canada, and add a 10% tariff to all goods from China on the first day of his 2nd term. The move could undo Trump's own 2018 trade deal, and economists warn such tariffs could severely hamper trade in industry and result in higher costs for consumers already struggling to make ends meet.)