Previous Leaders of Transition Teams

2008 Obama-Biden Transition Project:

Jim Messina served as Personnel Director for the 2008 Obama transition team. Messina was named to the role soon after the election in November of 2008. Before the election, he served as National Chief of Staff for the 2008 Obama presidential campaign. Prior to joining the Obama campaign, Messina served as Chief of Staff for Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND), and U.S. Rep Carolyn McCarty (D-NY).

2012 Romney Readiness Project:

Bill Hagerty served as Director of Presidential Appointments for the 2012 Romney transition team. Prior to joining the transition team, Hagerty was the Tennessee Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. He also worked in the private sector at Hagerty Peterson & Company LLC, a merchant bank and private equity firm, Trident Capital, L.P., a private equity investment firm, and the Boston Consulting Group, a management consulting firm. His previous political involvement included serving as deputy director of presidential appointments for the McCain transition team, national finance chairman for the 2008 Romney presidential campaign, and in the George H.W. Bush administration as a member of the President's Council on Competitiveness.

PREVIOUS HEADS OF AGENCY REVIEW

2008 Obama-Biden Transition Project:

Don Gips served as Agency Review Co-Chair and Advisory Board member for the 2008 Obama transition team. Prior to joining the transition team, Gips served as Group Vice President of Global Corporate Development for Level 3 Communications. Previously, he also served as Chief Domestic Policy Advisor to Vice President Gore and Chief of the International Bureau at the Federal Communications Commission. Prior to entering government, Gips worked at McKinsey and Company, a management consulting firm.

Melody Barnes served as Agency Review Co-Chair for the 2008 Obama transition team. Prior to joining the transition team, Barnes served as Executive Vice President for Policy at the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank. Barnes also served as Chief Counsel to Senator Ted Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee, Director of Legislative Affairs for the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and as an attorney with Shearman & Sterling in New York City.

Lisa Brown served as Agency Review Co-Chair for the 2008 Obama transition team. Prior to joining the transition team, Brown served as Executive Director of the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy. Previously, she also served as Counsel to Vice President Gore, a member of the Executive Board of the President's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities, and as an Attorney Adviser in the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice. Prior to entering government, Brown was a partner at the Washington law firm of Shea & Gardner.

2012 Romney Readiness Project:

Jim Quigley served as Director of the Department and Agency Review Group for the 2012 Romney transition team. Prior to joining the transition team, Quigley was CEO of Deloitte, a professional services firm. He served at Deloitte for 37 years in various leadership capacities, including as CEO of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (DTTL, the Deloitte global network) and as CEO of Deloitte LLP, the U.S. member firm of DTTL. He was also involved in a number of business and community groups, including The Economic Club of New York, The Council on Competitiveness, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Financial Accounting Foundation, the U.S. Council for International Business, the Business Roundtable, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Advisory Committee on Improvements to Financial Reporting, and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

PREVIOUS HEADS OF OPERATIONS

2008 Obama-Biden Transition Project:

Katy Kale served as Co-Director of Operations for the 2008 Obama transition team. Prior to joining the transition team, Kale worked for 10 years in the United States Senate on operational and legislative issues, including serving as Administrative Director to Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Bill Nelson (D-FL).

Brad Kiley served as Co-Director of Operations for the 2008 Obama transition team. Prior to joining the transition team, Kiley served as Vice President of Finance and Administration at the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank. Previously, he served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Management and Administration in the Clinton administration and as Director of Operations and Director of Finance and Administration for the Democratic National Committee.

2012 Romney Readiness Project:

Doug Wooden served as Director of Operations for the 2012 Romney transition team. Prior to joining the transition team, Wooden worked in the private sector as Chief Administrative Officer at Putnam Investments, an investment management firm, Executive Vice-President at Great-West Life and Annuity Insurance Company, and Manager at Bain & Company, a management consulting firm.

PREVIOUS HEADS OF POLICY

2008 Obama-Biden Transition Project:

Working Group Leads:

Daniel K. Tarullo led the Obama-Biden Transition Project's Economic Policy Working Group. Prior to joining the transition team, he was a Professor of Law at Georgetown University, where he focused in the areas of banking law, international economic regulation, and economic policymaking. From 1993 to 1998, Tarullo was, successively, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and Assistant to the President for International Economic Policy. From 1995 to 1998 he was also President Clinton's personal representative to the G7/G8 group of industrialized nations. Prior to joining the Administration, he practiced law, served on the staff of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and taught at Harvard Law School.

Linda Darling-Hammond was the head of the Transition Project's Education Policy Working Group. Prior to joining the Obama-Biden Transition Project, she was Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University, where she launched the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education and the School Redesign Network. Her research, teaching, and policy work focused on issues of school reform, teaching quality and educational equity. Darling-Hammond was also a former president of the American Educational Research Association and member of the executive board of the National Academy of Education. She was a leader in the standards movement, chairing both the New York State Curriculum and Assessment Council as it adopted new standards and assessments for students and the Interstate New Teachers Support and Assessment Council (INTASC) as it developed new standards for teachers. From 1994-2001, she served as executive director of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, a blue-ribbon panel whose 1996 report, What Matters Most: Teaching for America's Future, was named in 2006 as one of the most influential affecting U.S. education, and Darling-Hammond was named one of the nation's ten most influential people affecting educational policy. She received her BA from Yale University, magna cum laude, in 1973 and her Doctorate in Urban Education from Temple University in 1978. She began her career as a public school teacher.

Carol M. Browner led the Energy and Environment Policy Working Group for the Obama-Biden Transition Project. Prior to joining the transition team, she was the longest serving Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, serving from 1993 to 2001. Before leading the EPA, she served as Florida Secretary of the Environment. Browner is a founder and principal of The Albright Group LLC, a global strategy firm and of Albright Capital Management, an investment advisory firm that focuses on emerging markets. Browner serves as the chair of the National Audubon Society Board of Directors, and sits on the Board of Directors of APX, the Alliance for Climate Protection, the Center for American Progress and the League of Conservation Voters.

Senator Tom Daschle served as head of the Obama-Biden Transition Project's Health Care Policy Working Group. Prior to joining the transition, Daschle was an advisor to the law firm of Alston and Bird, where he provided strategic advice on public policy issues such as climate change, energy, health care, trade, financial services, and telecommunications. He was also a Distinguished Fellow at the Center for American Progress, a Visiting Professor at Georgetown University and a public speaker. In 2007, he joined with former Majority Leaders George Mitchell, Bob Dole, and Howard Baker to create the Bipartisan Policy Center, an organization dedicated to finding common ground on some of the pressing public policy challenges of our time. He also Co-Chaired the ONE Vote '08 Campaign, along with former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, to address health and poverty in the developing world in a more aggressive and successful way.

Daschle was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978, serving eight years. In 1986, Daschle was elected to the U.S. Senate. Two years later he became the first Co-Chairman of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee and the first South Dakotan to be elected to a leadership position in the U.S. Congress. In 1994, Daschle was elected by his colleagues as their Democratic Leader. Daschle is one of the longest-serving Senate Democratic Leaders in history and the only one to serve twice as both Majority and Minority Leader.

T. Alexander Aleinikoff co-led the Immigration Policy Working Group for the Obama-Biden Transition Project. Previously, he was Dean of the Georgetown University Law Center and Executive Vice President of Georgetown University since July 2004. He joined the Georgetown faculty in 1997. Dean Aleinikoff served as General Counsel and Executive Associate Commissioner for Programs at the Immigration and Naturalization Service for several years during the Clinton Administration. From 1997 to 2004, he was a Senior Associate at the Migration Policy Institute, and later joined the Institute's Board of Trustees. Prior to his appointment, he wrote widely on immigration, refugee and citizenship law and constitutional law. Dean Aleinikoff graduated from Swarthmore College and Yale Law School.

Mariano-Florentino (Tino) Cuéllar co-led the Immigration Policy Working Group for the Obama-Biden Transition Project. Prior to joining the transition, he was Professor and Deane F. Johnson Faculty Scholar at Stanford Law School. His work focused on how organizations manage complex regulatory, migration, international security, and criminal justice problems. During the Clinton Administration, he served at Treasury as Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Enforcement, where he worked on countering domestic and international financial crime, improving border coordination, and enhancing anti-corruption measures. He served on the boards of numerous organizations, including Asylum Access and the Stanford Center for International Security and Cooperation. He testified before Congress on immigration policy and separation of powers, and was appointed to the Silicon Valley Blue Ribbon Task Force on Aviation Security. Cuéllar, an elected member of the American Law Institute, earned a J.D. from Yale Law School and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford.

James B. Steinberg co-led the National Security Policy Working Group for the Obama-Biden Transition Project. Previously, he was dean of the LBJ School of Public Affairs and served as Deputy National Security Advisor to President Clinton (1996-2000). His previous positions include vice president and director of Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution (2001-2005), director of the Policy Planning Staff (1994-1996) and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Analysis in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (1993-1994) at the U.S. Department of State. He is the author of and contributor to many books on foreign policy and national security topics, including, most recently, with Kurt Campbell, Difficult Transitions: Foreign Policy Troubles at the Outset of Power.

Dr. Susan E. Rice co-led the National Security Policy Working Group for the Obama-Biden Transition Project. Immediately prior to her appointment, Rice served as a Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to the Obama for America campaign while on leave from the Brookings Institution, where she was a Senior Fellow in the Foreign Policy and Global Economy and Development Programs. Rice also served on the Obama-Biden Transition Project Advisory Board. From 1997-2001, she was U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. Prior to that, Rice served in the White House at the National Security Council as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs and as Director for International Organizations and Peacekeeping. Rice was previously a management consultant at McKinsey and Company. She received her B.A. in History with Honors from Stanford University and her M.Phil. and D.Phil. (Ph.D.) degrees in International Relations from Oxford University, where she was a Rhodes Scholar. Blair Levin co-led the Obama-Biden Transition Project's Technology, Innovation & Government Reform Policy Working Group. Previously, Levin was Managing Director of Stifel Nicolaus and served as the firm's principal telecom, media and tech regulatory and strategy analyst. Prior to his work as an analyst, Mr. Levin served as Chief of Staff to Chairman Reed Hundt at the Federal Communications Commission from 1993 through 1997. Before joining the FCC, Levin was a partner in the North Carolina law firm of Parker Poe, Poe, Adams and Bernstein.

Sonal Shah co-led the Obama-Biden Transition Project's Technology, Innovation & Government Reform Policy Working Group. Prior to joining the transition, Sonal headed Google.org's global development efforts. Prior to joining Google, she was Vice President at Goldman, Sachs and Co. developing and implementing the firm's environmental policy. She is also the co-founder of Indicorps, a U.S.-based non-profit organization offering one-year fellowships to Indian-Americans to work on development projects in India. Sonal also worked at the Center for American Progress on trade, outsourcing and post conflict issues and the Center for Global Development on development policy issues. Sonal worked at the Department of Treasury from 1995-2002 on various economic issues and regions of the world, including Bosnia, Kosovo, the Asian crisis and sub-Saharan Africa. During that time, she also worked at the National Security Council from 1998-1999. Sonal received her BA in economics from the University of Chicago and her MA in economics from Duke University. She served on the Obama-Biden Transition Project Advisory Board.

Julius Genachowski co-led the Obama-Biden Transition Project's Technology, Innovation & Government Reform Policy Working Group. Prior to joining the Transition Project, he co-founded Rock Creek Ventures and LaunchBox Digital, served as a special advisor at General Atlantic, and was a member of various boards of directors and advisors. From 1997 to 2005, he was a senior executive at IAC/InterActiveCorp, where his roles included Chief of Business Operations, General Counsel, and a member of the Office of the Chairman. Genachowski served at the Federal Communications Commission from 1994 to 1997, including as Chief Counsel to the Chairman. From 1991 to 1994 he served as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter, to U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. (ret.), and to Chief Judge Abner J. Mikva of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He worked in Congress from 1985 to 1988, for Sen. Charles E. Schumer (then a U.S. Representative), and for the joint select committee on the Iran-Contra Affair. He served on the Obama-Biden Transition Project Advisory Board.

2012 Romney Readiness Project:

Tim Adams served as Director of Policy and Strategy Council for the 2012 Romney transition team. Prior to joining the transition team, Adams served as Managing Director of the Lindsey Group, a DC-based economic advisory firm. Previously, he served as Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs in the George W. Bush administration, as Chief of Staff at the Treasury for Secretaries Paul O'Neill and John Snow, as a senior member of the Bush-Cheney campaign policy team, and in the White House Office of Policy Development in the George H.W. Bush administration.



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