U.S. President's Cabinet

**Department of Agriculture: Established: 1862**

* The Department of Agriculture (USDA) supervises agricultural production to make sure prices are fair for producers and consumers, helps farmers financially with subsidies and development programs, and helps food producers sell their goods overseas. The department runs food assistance and nutrition programs. The USDA's inspection and grading programs make sure food is safe to eat.

**Department of Commerce- 1903**

* The Department of Commerce promotes international trade, economic growth, and technological advancement. It also works to keep the United States competitive in international markets and to prevent unfair foreign trade practices. The department gathers statistics for business and government planners.

**Department of Defense: Established: 1947**

* The Department of Defense (DOD) oversees everything related to the nation's military security. The department directs the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, as well as the Joint Chiefs of Staff and several specialized combat commands. The nonmilitary responsibilities of the DOD include flood control, development of oceanographic resources, and management of oil reserves.

**Department of Education: Established: 1979**

* The Department of Education took over many of the education programs previously managed by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and six other agencies. The department administers more than 150 federal education programs, including student loans, migrant worker training, vocational education, and special programs for the handicapped.

**Department of Energy: Established: Aug. 1977**

* Congress created the Department of Energy (DOE) to address the country's energy problems of the 1970s. The department assumed the responsibilities of several government agencies that dealt with energy-related issues. DOE is responsible for the research and development of energy technology, energy conservation, the civilian and military use of nuclear energy, regulation of energy production and use, and the pricing and allocation of oil. The department sets standards to reduce the harmful effects of energy production.

**Department of Justice: Established: 1870**

* The Attorney General, the chief law officer and legal counsel of the federal government, runs the Department of Justice. The department supervises U.S. district attorneys and marshals, supervises federal prisons and other penal institutions, and advises the President on petitions for paroles and pardons. The department represents the U.S. government in legal matters and gives legal advice to the President and other members of the Cabinet. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which researches violations of federal laws, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which administers immigration laws, are components of the department.

**Department of Housing and Urban Development: Established: 1965**

* The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) promotes community development, administers fair-housing laws, and provides affordable housing and rent subsidies.

**Department of Health and Human Services: Established: 1953**

* The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is perhaps the most far-reaching of the executive departments. It administers Social Security, which provides income to retirees and the disabled, and funds Medicare, a health-insurance program for persons over 65 years of age, and Medicaid, which helps states pay for medical care for the poor. Other HHS agencies offer social services for poor families, Native Americans, children, the elderly, migrants, refugees, and the handicapped. Other agencies under HHS are: the Public Health Service, which oversees institutes dealing with mental health and substance abuse; the Centers for Disease Control, which work to control preventable and infectious diseases; the National Institutes of Health, which conduct research on cancer, AIDS, child health and aging, and other issues; and the Food and Drug Administration, which ensures the safety of the nation's food supply and tests and approves all drugs. Originally Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Name changed in 1979 when Department of Education was activated.

**Department of the Interior: Established: 1849**

* The Department of the Interior protects the natural environment and develops the country's natural resources. Components of the department include: the National Park Service, which manages more than 300 parks, monuments, rivers, seashores, lakes, outdoor recreation areas, and historic sites; the Fish and Wildlife Service, which oversees more than 400 wildlife refuges, research centers, wildfowl production areas, and fish hatcheries; the Bureau of Land Management; which supervises economic development and environmental protection of millions of acres of public land; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which helps Native Americans living on reservations. The Department of the Interior is also responsible for the following U.S. territories: the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Trust Territory of Palau, and the Freely Associated States (Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia)

**Department of Labor: Established:** 1913

* The Department of Labor protects the rights of workers, helps improve working conditions, and promotes good relations between labor and management. The Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks changes in employment, prices, and other national economic statistics.

**Department of State: Established: 1789**

* The Department of State advises the President on foreign-policy issues, works to carry out the country's foreign policy, maintains relations between foreign countries and the United States, negotiates treaties and agreements with foreign nations, speaks for the United States in the United Nations and other major international organizations, and supervises embassies, missions, and consulates overseas.

**Department of Transportation: Established:** 1966

* The Department of Transportation (DOT) sets the nation's transportation policy. There are nine administrations within the department whose jurisdictions include highway planning, development and construction; aviation; urban mass transit; railroads; and the safety of waterways, ports, highways, and oil and gas pipelines. The department also supervises the Coast Guard, which is responsible for search and rescue at sea and the enforcement of laws that protect oceans and waterways from oil spills and other pollution.

**Department of the Treasury: Established:** 1789

* The Department of the Treasury reports to Congress and the President on the financial state of the government and the economy, regulates the interstate and foreign sale of alcohol and firearms; supervises the printing of stamps for the U.S. Postal Service; operates the Secret Service, which protects the president, the vice president, their families, and other officials; curbs counterfeiting; and operates the Customs Service, which regulates and taxes imports. The Internal Revenue Service, a branch of the Treasury, regulates tax laws and collects Federal taxes.

**Department of Veterans' Affairs: Established:** 1988

* The Department of Veterans Affairs was established in 1930 as an independent agency. It provides benefits and services to veterans and their dependents. Through its agencies, the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and the National Cemetery System, the department offers pensions, education, rehabilitation, home loan guarantees, burial, compensation payments for disabilities or death related to military service, and a medical care program.

**Department of Homeland Security: Established**: 2002

* The Department of Homeland Security is responsible for assessing the nation's vulnerabilities. It takes the lead in evaluating vulnerabilities and coordinating with other federal, state, local, and private entities to ensure the most effective response. The collection, protection, evaluation and dissemination of information to the American public, state and local governments and the private sector is central to this task.

Executive Agencies:

1. **CIA**: The **Central Intelligence Agency** was created in 1947 with the signing of the [National Security Act](http://www.intelligence.senate.gov/statutes.htm) by President Harry S. Truman. The act also created a Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) to serve as head of the United States intelligence community; act as the principal adviser to the President for intelligence matters related to the national security; and serve as head of the Central Intelligence Agency. The [Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=108_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ458.108) amended the National Security Act to provide for a Director of National Intelligence who would assume some of the roles formerly fulfilled by the DCI, with a separate Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. To accomplish its mission, the CIA engages in research, development, and deployment of high-leverage technology for intelligence purposes. As a separate agency, CIA serves as an independent source of analysis on topics of concern and also works closely with the other organizations in the Intelligence Community to ensure that the intelligence consumer—whether Washington policymaker or battlefield commander—receives the best intelligence possible.
2. **FBI**: **Federal Bureau of Investigation:** As an intelligence-driven and a threat-focused national security organization with both intelligence and law enforcement responsibilities, the mission of the FBI is to protect and defend the United States against terrorist and foreign intelligence threats, to uphold and enforce the criminal laws of the United States, and to provide leadership and criminal justice services to federal, state, municipal, and international agencies and partners. The FBI focuses on threats that challenge the foundations of American society or involve dangers too large or complex for any local or state authority to handle alone. In executing the following priorities, we will produce and use intelligence to protect the nation from threats and to bring to justice those who violate the law.
3. **Peace Corps**: The Peace Corps traces its roots and mission to 1960, when then Senator John F. Kennedy [challenged students at the University of Michigan](http://www.peacecorps.gov/learn/whatispc/history/speech) to serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries. From that inspiration grew an agency of the federal government devoted to world peace and friendship. Since that time, 210,000+ Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 139 host countries to work on issues ranging from AIDS education to information technology and environmental preservation. Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever, working in emerging and essential areas such as information technology and business development, and contributing to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Peace Corps Volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.
4. **NASA**: NASA's vision: To reach for new heights and reveal the unknown so that what we do and learn will benefit all humankind. To do that, thousands of people have been working around the world -- and off of it -- for 50 years, trying to answer some basic questions. What's out there in space? How do we get there? What will we find? What can we learn there, or learn just by trying to get there, that will make life better here on Earth? President Dwight D. Eisenhower established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1958, partially in response to the Soviet Union's launch of the first artificial satellite the previous year. NASA grew out of the [National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/dryden/news/X-Press/stories/2005/032505_NACA_90th.html) (NACA), which had been researching flight technology for more than 40 years. President John F. Kennedy focused NASA and the nation on sending astronauts to the moon by the end of the 1960s. Through the Mercury and Gemini projects, NASA developed the technology and skills it needed for the journey. On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first of 12 men to walk on the moon, meeting Kennedy's challenge. Meanwhile, NASA was continuing the aeronautics research pioneered by NACA. It also conducted purely scientific research and worked on developing applications for space technology, combining both pursuits in developing the first weather and communications satellites.
5. **Postal Service**: On July 26, 1775, members of the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, agreed That a postmaster General be appointed for the United Colonies, who shall hold his office at Philadelphia, and shall be allowed a salary of 1000 dollars per an: for himself, and 340 dollars per an: for a secretary and Comptroller, with power to appoint such, and so many deputies as to him may seem proper and necessary. That a line of posts be appointed under the direction of the Postmaster general, from Falmouth in New England to Savannah in Georgia, with as many cross posts as he shall think fit This simple statement signaled the birth of the Post Office Department, the predecessor of the United States Postal Service and the second oldest federal department or agency of the United States of America. Benjamin Franklin served as Postmaster General until November 7, 1776. He was in office when the Declaration of Independence created the United States in July 1776, making Franklin the first Postmaster General of the United States. America’s present Postal Service descends from the system Franklin placed in operation.
6. **SEC**: The mission of the **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission** is to protect investors, maintain fair, orderly, and efficient markets, and facilitate capital formation. As more and more first-time investors turn to the markets to help secure their futures, pay for homes, and send children to college, our investor protection mission is more compelling than ever. As our nation's securities exchanges mature into global for-profit competitors, there is even greater need for sound market regulation. And the common interest of all Americans in a growing economy that produces jobs, improves our standard of living, and protects the value of our savings means that all of the SEC's actions must be taken with an eye toward promoting the capital formation that is necessary to sustain economic growth. When the stock market crashed in October 1929, public confidence in the markets plummeted. Investors large and small, as well as the banks who had loaned to them, lost great sums of money in the ensuing Great Depression. There was a consensus that for the economy to recover, the public's faith in the capital markets needed to be restored. Congress held hearings to identify the problems and search for solutions. Based on the findings in these hearings, Congress — during the peak year of the Depression — passed the Securities Act of 1933. This law, together with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which created the SEC, was designed to restore investor confidence in our capital markets by providing investors and the markets with more reliable information and clear rules of honest dealing.
7. **US Consumer Product Safety Commission:** CPSC is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with the use of the thousands of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries, and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than $900 billion annually. CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed to a decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is an [independent agency of the United States government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_agencies_of_the_United_States_government). It was created in 1972 through the [Consumer Product Safety Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consumer_Product_Safety_Act). The CPSC is an agency that reports to Congress and the President and is not part of any other department or agency in the federal government. The CPSC is generally headed by three commissioners nominated by the [President of the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States) and confirmed by the [Senate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Senate) for staggered seven-year terms. The commissioners set policy for the CPSC. The CPSC is located in [Bethesda, Maryland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethesda,_Maryland)
8. **FCC**: The **Federal Communications Commission** regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite and cable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories. It was established by the Communications Act of 1934 and operates as an independent U.S. government agency overseen by Congress. The commission is committed to being a responsive, efficient and effective agency capable of facing the technological and economic opportunities of the new millennium. In its work, the agency seeks to capitalize on its competencies in: Promoting competition, innovation, and investment in broadband services and facilities; Supporting the nation’s economy by ensuring an appropriate competitive framework for the unfolding of the communications revolution; Encouraging the highest and best use of spectrum domestically and internationally; Revising media regulations so that new technologies flourish alongside diversity and localism; Providing leadership in strengthening the defense of the nation’s communications infrastructure.In 1972 Congress passed the Federal Advisory Committee Act to ensure that advice by the various advisory committees formed over the years is objective and accessible to the public. The Act put in place a process for establishing, operating, overseeing, and terminating these committees.
9. **CDC**: On July 1, 1946 the **Communicable Disease Center** (CDC) came into being on one floor of a small building in Atlanta, Georgia. Today, CDC is the nation′s premier health promotion, prevention, and preparedness agency and a global leader in public health. It remains at the forefront of public health efforts to prevent and control infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, workplace hazards, disabilities, and environmental health threats. CDC is globally recognized for conducting research and investigations and for its action-oriented approach. CDC applies research and findings to improve people′s daily lives and responds to health emergencies—something that distinguishes CDC from its peer agencies. CDC works with states and other partners to provide a system of health surveillance to monitor and prevent disease outbreaks (including bioterrorism), implement disease prevention strategies, and maintain national health statistics. CDC also guards against international disease transmission, with personnel stationed in more than 25 foreign countries. CDC is now focusing on becoming a more efficient and impactful agency by focusing on five strategic areas: supporting state and local health departments, improving global health, implementing measures to decrease leading causes of death, strengthening surveillance and epidemiology, and reforming health policies.
10. **FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency:** FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. The Federal Emergency Management Agency coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror. FEMA can trace its beginnings to the Congressional Act of 1803. This act, generally considered the first piece of disaster legislation, provided assistance to a New Hampshire town following an extensive fire. In the century that followed, ad hoc legislation was passed more than 100 times in response to hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters.
11. **Food and Drug Administration: FDA**: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA or USFDA) is an [agency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_agency) of the [United States Department of Health and Human Services](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Department_of_Health_and_Human_Services), one of the [United States federal executive departments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_federal_executive_departments). The FDA is responsible for protecting and promoting [public health](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_health) through the [regulation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regulation) and supervision of [food safety](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_safety), [tobacco products](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tobacco_products), [dietary supplements](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietary_supplement), [prescription](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prescription_drug) and [over-the-counter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Over-the-counter_drug) [pharmaceutical drugs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharmaceutical_drug) (medications), [vaccines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaccine), [biopharmaceuticals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biopharmaceutical), [blood transfusions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_transfusion), [medical devices](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_device), [electromagnetic radiation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetic_radiation) emitting devices (ERED), and [veterinary products](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Veterinary_medicine). In June 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt signed into law the Food and Drug Act, also known as the "[Wiley Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Early_history_of_food_regulation_in_the_United_States#The_1906_Pure_Food_and_Drug_Act_.28Wiley_Act.29)" after its chief advocate [Dr. Harvey Washington Wiley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvey_Washington_Wiley) who riveted the country's and eventually congress's attention with public hygiene demonstrations.
12. **Internal Revenue Service: IRS**: The roots of IRS go back to the Civil War when President Lincoln and Congress, in 1862, created the position of commissioner of Internal Revenue and enacted an income tax to pay war expenses. The income tax was repealed 10 years later. Congress revived the income tax in 1894, but the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional the following year. **16th Amendment:** In 1913, Wyoming ratified the 16th Amendment, providing the three-quarter majority of states necessary to amend the Constitution. The 16th Amendment gave Congress the authority to enact an income tax. That same year, the first Form 1040 appeared after Congress levied a 1 percent tax on net personal incomes above $3,000 with a 6 percent surtax on incomes of more than $500,000. In 1918, during World War I, the top rate of the income tax rose to 77 percent to help finance the war effort. It dropped sharply in the post-war years, down to 24 percent in 1929, and rose again during the Depression. During World War II, Congress introduced payroll withholding and quarterly tax payments.
13. **Social Security Administration: SSA**: Social Security is a form of social insurance to protect individuals from financial hardships. Situations that affect a person's ability to provide for his family include disability, death and retirement. To ensure that money is available for beneficiaries, Social Security benefits are collected through payroll taxes and paid out when citizens meet specific criteria. Social Security is designed to protect citizens when they encounter social situations that make it difficult for them to provide for themselves. These protections include unemployment, old age and disability. Social Security began during the Great Depression to assist the elderly. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the original Social Security Act into law in 1935 to combat unemployment and poverty and provide benefits for surviving family members. The original provisions of the act excluded many service categories, including agricultural and domestic workers, but today Social Security benefits are paid for all industries.
14. **Custom and Border Protection:** CBP is one of the Department of Homeland Security’s largest and most complex components, with a priority mission of keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. It also has a responsibility for securing the border and facilitating lawful international trade and travel while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws and regulations, including immigration and drug laws. The uniformed men and women of CBP make up the largest law enforcement organization in the nation and take a solemn vow to secure the homeland from terrorists and other threats while facilitating legitimate trade and travel. CBP performs two crucial roles in facilitating trade to and from the U.S. and around the globe: securing it from acts of terrorism and assuring that goods arriving in the U.S. are legitimate and that appropriate duties and fees are paid. Last year CBP safely welcomed more than 300 million people into the U.S., continuing America's tradition of being a welcoming country while also preventing dangerous individuals from entering.
15. **Environmental Protection Agency: EPA**: The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. EPA's purpose is to ensure that: all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work; national efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best available scientific information; federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively; protection is an integral consideration in U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy; all parts of society -- communities, individuals, businesses, and state, local and tribal governments -- have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks; environmental protection contributes to making our communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable and economically productive; and the United States plays a leadership role in working with other nations to protect the global environment.