

The United States Cabinet: A Reference Guide



**By the students of American Government & Politics with
Mr. Glynn and Mr. Fischer at Somerville High School in 2016-17.**

Secretary of Treasury

Date Created: 1/1/1789

First to Hold the Office: Alexander Hamilton

Current Office Holder: Jack Lew

Next Office Holder: Steve Mnuchin

Most Notable Office Holder: Alexander Hamilton, and being the first one

Departments That Report to this Office: Office of the Treasurer, Office of Domestic Finance, Office of International Affairs, Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence

Responsibilities: General Financial Oversight, Funding, Financial Budgeting, Financial Reporting, Banking and Recording, Control of Fixed Assets and Stocks

Current Issue: How much regulation should there be on Wall Street.

Other Notes: Nothing Much

Researched by G_____ G_____

Secretary of State

Date Created: 7/27/1789

First to Hold the Office: Thomas Jefferson

Current Office Holder: John Kerry

Next Office Holder: Considering Romney, Giuliani, Petraeus

Most Notable Office Holder: Hillary Clinton , Thomas Jefferson, John Kerry

Departments That Report to this Office: Education and Cultural affairs, Intelligence and research, Foreign Services

Responsibilities: Is the president's chief foreign affairs adviser. The secretary carries out the president's foreign policies through the State Department and the Foreign Service of the United States.

Current Issue: Iran Nuclear Deal, Cuba, China

Other Notes: That it is the most important job.

Researched by J_____ K_____

Attorney General

Date Created: 9/26/1789

First to Hold the Office: Edmund Jennings Randolph

Current Office Holder: Loretta Lynch

Next Office Holder: Jeff Sessions

Most Notable Office Holder: Robert Francis Kennedy

Departments That Report to this Office: FBI, DEA, Civil Division

Responsibilities: Check on the Supreme Court, Give advice to when the president asks for it.

Current Issue: Civil Division

Other Notes: This takes a bit of more responsibility, because one wrong thing can turn the whole country against you.

Researched by P_____ L_____

Secretary of the Interior

Date Created: 3/3/1849

First to Hold the Office: Thomas Ewing

Current Office Holder: Sally Jewell

Next Office Holder: Still considering.

Most Notable Office Holder: Columbus Delano - first Secretary to work to get America's first national park Yellowstone founded and Protected by Congress.

Departments That Report to this Office: National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Us Geological Service, Office of Insular Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation

Responsibilities: Responsible for the management of public lands and Indian reservations and affairs along with all of the other departments under control of the interior.

Current Issue: The support of controversial seismic test in the Atlantic Ocean the department offers.

Other Notes: First National park was yellowstone.

Researched by D_____ A_____

Agriculture

Date Created: 5/15/1862

First to Hold the Office: Norman J. Coleman

Current Office Holder: Tom Vilsack

Next Office Holder: Considering Sam Miller, Chuck Conner.

Most Notable Office Holder: Tom Vilsack- build vibrant rural communities

Departments That Report to this Office: Food Safety, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services

Responsibilities: Helping farmers and inspecting food.

Current Issue:

Other Notes:

Researched by S_____ F_____

Secretary of Labor

Date Created: 3/6/1913

First to Hold the Office: William B. Wilson

Current Office Holder: Thomas Perez

Next Office Holder: Victoria Lipnic, Andrew Puzder, and Scott Walker

Most Notable Office Holder: Frances Perkins, she was the first woman to ever hold a cabinet and the longest.

Departments That Report to this Office: Women's bureau, office of public affairs, wage and hour division

Responsibilities: Control the department, and enforces and suggests laws involving unions, the workplace, and all other issues involving any form of business-person controversies.

Current Issue: Controversy of Child Labor proposal for farms withdrawn.

Other Notes: More women have served in this cabinet than in any other.

Researched by C_____ L_____

Department of Veteran Affairs

Date Created: 1/9/1944

First to Hold the Office: Herbert Hoover

Current Office Holder: General Shinseki

Next Office Holder: Sloan Gibson

Most Notable Office Holder: General Shinseki

Departments That Report to this Office: Veterans Benefits, Health, and Cemetery

Responsibilities: Taking care of the Benefits, Health, and Cemetery of Veterans after a war.

Current Issue: Improving the Veteran's Experience, At a minimum the contacts between Veterans and the VA should be predictable, consistent and easy. Making the Access for Veterans to be get benefits easier

Other Notes: Veterans get benefits after war time for jobs or PTSD. That Veterans get all these benefits, health care and a proper burial.

Researched by R_____ P_____

Secretary of Defense

Date Created: 8/10/1949

First to Hold the Office: James V. Forrestal

Current Office Holder: Ash Carter

Next Office Holder: General James N. "Mad Dog" Mattis

Most Notable Office Holder: Robert Strange McNamara. He held the position the longest at 2,595 days

Departments That Report to this Office: Departments of the Navy, Army, and Air Force.

Responsibilities: The function of the government that is responsible for the concerns directly with national security and the US Armed Forces

Current Issue: The Department of Defense doled out as much as \$6.8 million in taxpayer money to professional sports teams to honor the military at games and events over the past four years.

Also, General James N. "Mad Dog" Mattis is by law not allowed to be head of the Department of Defense as he retired from the military three years ago and the law says you could not have been in the military for the last seven years. Congress needs to change the law to allow General Mattis to be head of the Department of Defense

Other Notes: The Department of Defense is the largest employer in the world.

Researched by Z_____ C_____

Department of Health and Human Services

Date Created: 4/11/1953

First to Hold the Office: Oveta Culp Hobby

Current Office Holder: Sylvia Mathews Burwell

Next Office Holder: Tom Price

Most Notable Office Holder: Louis Sullivan - he was the president of Morehouse School Medicine, battled the tobacco industry, and also took on a campaign to battle against AIDS, where he traveled across the US to better inform students on this issue.

Departments That Report to this Office: CDC, FDA, IHS

Responsibilities: To make sure that the people in the United States of America are protected from disease and poor health, and also to provide human services to help accomplish that.

Current Issue: Tom Price, Trump's secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services wants to weaken the health care safety net if not get rid of it all together. This will affect people who cannot afford to get health care if he gets rid of affordable healthcare.

Other Notes: The affordable healthcare act was passed in 2010 and it reduces the cost of a good quality healthcare, for people who would not normally be able to afford it. The Department of Health and Human Services assures that Americans are well protected in terms of health and safety

Researched by J _____ C _____

Secretary of Energy

Date Created: 10/1/1977

First to Hold the Office: James Schlesinger

Current Office Holder: Ernest Moniz

Next Office Holder: Ray Washburne

Most Notable Office Holder: Hazel R. O'Leary is well known as the first female African-American to hold office as Secretary of Energy

Departments That Report to this Office: Offices of the Under Secretary for Nuclear Security and National Nuclear Security Administration, Under Secretary for Science & Energy, and Under Secretary for Management & Performance

Responsibilities: The DOE is responsible for energy production along with creating technologies that are more energy efficient. The DOE also addresses radioactive waste disposal and maintenance of the environment.

Current Issue: The people of North Dakota are protesting the construction of a oil pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

Other Notes: The ideas of the DOE change their perspective on what they should be working over time.

Researched by A _____ C _____

Department of Education

Date Created: 10/17/1979

First to Hold the Office: Shirley Hufstedler

Current Office Holder: John B. King, Jr.

Next Office Holder: Betsy DeVos

Most Notable Office Holder: Arne Duncan implemented the No Child Left Behind Act

Departments That Report to this Office: Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development

Responsibilities: In charge of making sure all students have equal opportunities.

Current Issue: Federal Funding, bullying.

Other Notes: They deal with student loans.

Researched by L_____ B_____

Homeland Security

Date Created: 11/25/2002

First to Hold the Office: Tom Ridge

Current Office Holder: Jeh Johnson

Next Office Holder: None has been announced.

Most Notable Office Holder: Tom Ridge

Departments That Report to this Office: Operational and Supports components and Department of Leadership Biographies.

Responsibilities: Provide protection of the nation.

Current Issue: People wouldn't want the to go through what they do on the web.

Other Notes: They keep track of cyberspace threats.

Researched by P_____ M_____