



“Republican Trifecta”: How will the 2024 Election Results Impact Policy & Priorities?

November 29, 2024

By Andrew Paterson and Bryan Cheong

The outcome of the 2024 election will significantly influence policy directions and national priorities. With Donald Trump returning to the White House and Republicans holding majorities in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the administration is expected to prioritize deregulation, tax reform, stricter immigration policies, and a renewed focus on energy strategies emphasizing fossil fuels and nuclear development, under the theme “Energy Dominance”. Trump’s Cabinet is likely to combine traditional Republican ideals with unique, targeted approaches across key policy areas. Here’s a closer look at how these changes could unfold:

STATE: Marco Rubio, a U.S. Senator from Florida, is recognized for his emphasis on foreign policy, immigration, and national security. In a potential Trump administration, Rubio’s policies would likely align with Trump’s “America First” approach, while also highlighting his unique focus on Latin American relations, national security, and economic reform. Foreign conflicts, particularly in the Middle East and Ukraine, would remain an immediate priority.

TREASURY: Scott Bessent is a prominent executive renowned for his expertise in investment management, particularly in hedge funds and global macro investing. Bessent gained recognition for his ability to navigate complex economic and geopolitical trends. A long-time supporter of Donald Trump, he would likely focus on striking a balance between fiscal discipline and addressing the challenges of a significant national deficit, minding Treasury bond issuance.

INTERIOR: Doug Burgum, the current Governor of North Dakota, is a former tech entrepreneur whose company grew into a major success and was acquired by Microsoft in 2001 for \$1.1 billion. As Secretary of the Interior, Burgum would likely champion a robust “Drill, Baby, Drill” agenda, emphasizing expanded resource extraction and energy production on millions of acres of federal lands, particularly in the western United States. His priorities would include increased access to public lands for oil, gas, and even coal development (for baseload power), along with modernizing infrastructure and streamlining federal land management. His business background would likely drive him to seek efficiency and innovation in managing the Department of the Interior, with an eye toward supporting economic growth through energy development on federal lands and increased use of technology.

ENERGY: Chris Wright is a prominent leader in the oil and gas industry and a strong advocate for energy independence. While his career has centered on fossil fuels, Wright’s

role on the board of Oklo, a Silicon Valley-based developer of small modular reactors (SMRs), emphasizes his interest in advancing nuclear energy innovation. His appointment as Secretary of Energy signals a commitment to an "Energy Dominance" agenda focused on maximizing domestic energy production and global competitiveness.

As Secretary of Energy, Wright would prioritize oil and natural gas production, especially through fracking, and expanding LNG exports. His focus would be on deregulation, market-driven solutions, and reducing government intervention. While supporting fossil fuels, he would also back innovation in clean coal, energy storage, and renewable energy, where they align with his goals of resilience and competitiveness.

Nuclear energy would play a significant role under Wright's leadership. He would likely push for a robust nuclear policy focused on advanced technologies like SMRs, reducing regulatory barriers, and finding practical solutions for nuclear waste management. Wright's philosophy would emphasize nuclear energy as a key element in decarbonizing the U.S. energy system, ensuring energy independence, and reducing reliance on foreign energy sources. He may also advocate for U.S. leadership in the global nuclear "arena" by promoting the export of nuclear technologies and expertise, and teaming alliances, enhancing both economic opportunities and geopolitical influence.

From a national security perspective, Wright would likely see nuclear energy as vital for diversifying the U.S. energy portfolio and maintaining leadership in clean energy innovation. He could position nuclear as a complementary technology to fossil fuels, addressing future energy demands while supporting climate goals. His approach would balance economic growth, energy security, and environmental stewardship, ensuring the U.S. remains a dominant player in the global energy landscape with allies.

DEFENSE: Army Major **Pete Hegseth** is a warrior with two bronze stars in combat – his top priority is military recruitment and readiness and sweeping out all Progressive "Woke" DEI (Diversity Equity & Inclusion) polices from the Biden Administration. Hegseth served as a captain in the Army and later became a prominent advocate for veterans' issues. Under the Trump administration, Hegseth would be a proponent of a "Peace through Strength" military posture, aligned with Trump's "America First" agenda.

ATTORNEY GENERAL Former Florida Attorney General **Pam Bondi** is set to bring both stability and a sharp edge to the Department of Justice. She has promised to investigate the alleged "weaponization" of the DOJ against Republicans, positioning herself as a "fist for Justice." Bondi's policies under the Trump administration will closely mirror the president's conservative positions on immigration, law enforcement, and states' rights. But, a battle looms with "Sanctuary Cities" refusing cooperation.

AGRICULTURE: **Brooke Rollins**, a former business executive with deep roots in conservative policy, has extensive experience in government reform, economic growth, and agriculture. Having grown up on a farm in Texas, Rollins is deeply committed to "fighting for farmers" rather than imposing regulations on agricultural emissions, as seen in Europe recently. Water policy is also expected to be a key focus under her leadership. As Secretary of Agriculture, Rollins would likely advocate for a policy agenda centered on deregulation, market-driven solutions, and the expansion of global trade opportunities for U.S. agriculture.

COMMERCE/TRADE: Billionaire **Howard Lutnick**, CEO of bond trading house Cantor Fitzgerald, will be charged with tackling negotiations on tariffs, particularly on China, as a major thrust for Team Trump. As Secretary of Commerce, Lutnick would likely advocate for policies focused on free-market principles, reducing trade barriers, and promoting innovation, while curtailing theft of intellectual property. With his extensive experience in financial services and global trade, he would likely push for policies that support U.S. industries, streamline trade and commerce, and maintain the United States' position as a leader in the global economy, with US allies.

LABOR: **Lori Chavez-DeRemer**, a Congresswoman from Eastern Oregon, represents a district deeply rooted in ranching and labor. She has gained the support of the Teamsters union, whose backing for Trump was crucial in his Midwest victory. Known for her conservative views on fiscal policy, immigration, and taxation, Chavez-DeRemer has consistently pushed for reducing government spending and lowering taxes for both businesses and individuals. As Secretary of Labor, Chavez-DeRemer would likely prioritize pro-business reforms, workforce development, and deregulation.

TRANSPORTATION: Former Representative **Sean Duffy** (R-WI) is poised to shift the Department of Transportation’s focus toward advancing automotive technology—emphasizing hybrids without mandating EV adoption—and investing in road infrastructure improvements. As Secretary of Transportation, Duffy would likely prioritize fiscal conservatism, rural infrastructure development, and deregulation, aiming to foster economic growth through strategic transportation investments.

HOMELAND SECURITY **Kristi Noem**, the current Governor of South Dakota, is a conservative known for her fiscal discipline and regulatory reform during her time in Congress (2011-2018), where she became a key ally of the Trump administration. As Secretary of Homeland Security, Noem would likely spearhead a large-scale deportation initiative and an extensive border repair program, while also enhancing counter-terrorism measures. Indeed in November, Trump has already forced change with Mexico and Canada by threatening tariffs of 25% to stop drug smuggling and violent gang activities.

OMB (Office of Management & Budget) **Russ Vought**, who served as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under President Donald Trump from 2017 to 2020. He was a key advisor on federal budget policy and fiscal strategy within the Trump administration, deeply aligned with conservative economic principles focused on reducing government size, cutting spending, and limiting regulation. In a second Trump administration, Vought would will intensify the budget cutting he championed earlier, and use impoundments of funds.

Placing the Trump Victory for 2024 in Historical Perspective of Major Turning Point elections

| Year | Prez Winner | Senate result | House Result |
|------|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1932 | FDR beats Hoover, amid Depression, 42 states 22.8m votes vs 15.7m votes | 59D – 36R; +12D | 313D – 117R; +97D |
| 1964 | LBJ (incumbent) vs Goldwater with 44 states 43.1m votes vs 27.1m | 68D – 32R; +2D | 295D – 140R +36D |
| 1972 | Nixon over McGovern with 49 states 47.1m votes over 29m | 56D – 42R; +2D | 242D – 192R +12R |
| 1984 | Reagan re-elected with 49 states vs Mondale 54.4m votes vs 37.6m | 53R – 47D; +2D | 253D – 182R +16R |
| 2008 | Obama defeats McCain 365 to 173, 28 states 69.5m votes vs 60m | 59D – 41R; +8D | 257D – 178R +21D |
| 2024 | Trump wins 312 to 226 over Harris, 31 states 76.1m votes vs 73m | 53R – 47D; +3R | 221R – 214D +3R |

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