

Trump Eyes Names for Key Roles in New Admin: Mike Huckabee, Rubio and More

President-elect Donald Trump's camp is floating a new batch of names as he is expected to announce more key nominations for his administration.

Ambassador to Israel

At the top of the list is former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Trump announced on Tuesday afternoon he's nominating Huckabee as the ambassador to Israel.



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Huckabee is a staunch defender of Israel and has led tour group visits to the country for many years.

"Mike has been a great public servant, Governor, and Leader in Faith for many years. He loves Israel, and the people of Israel, and likewise, the people of Israel love him. Mike will work tirelessly to bring about Peace in the Middle East," Trump said in a statement.

Huckabee is a former Baptist minister and Fox News host. He currently hosts the "Huckabee" show for the Trinity Broadcasting Network. The hour-long program is "a down-home slice of wholesome Americana in all of its patriotic, God-honoring, and family-friendly glory," according to a website description.

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His daughter, Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, served as

White House press secretary during Trump's first presidency.

David Friedman, who served as Trump's ambassador to Israel during his first term, said he was "thrilled" by Trump's selection of Huckabee.

Secretary of State

Sources close to Trump told the New York Times Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) could be picked as his Secretary of State.

Rubio has a hard-line position on foreign policy, often butting heads with Republicans "about interventions abroad."

The Florida senator could play a major role in Trump's "America First" idea due to his strong stance on China, Iran, Venezuela and Cuba.

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Rubio sides with Trump about bringing a "conclusion" to Russia's war with Ukraine and has been outspoken "on the need for the United States to be more aggressive on China," the NYT reports.

After Trump won the election last Tuesday, Rubio said the U.S. would see "pragmatic foreign policy" from the White House.

"We're entering into an era of pragmatic foreign policy in which the world is rapidly changing," Rubio said in an interview with CNN. "Adversaries are uniting—North Korea, Iran, China, Russia [are] increasingly coordinating—it's going to require us to be very pragmatic and wise and how we invest overseas and what we do."

If confirmed, Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, would become the first Latino to ever serve as the nation's top diplomat.

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