

## President Trump's Day One Executive Orders

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*January 21, 2025*

### Overview

On his first day in office, President Trump took decisive action by signing a series of executive orders (EOs) designed to drive substantial changes across the federal government. These measures included appointing key administration officials, repealing 78 executive orders issued during the Biden administration, and instituting new policies on critical issues. Notable among these were reforms to U.S. immigration policy, a declaration of a national energy emergency, the recognition of only two sexes, and the reinstatement of Schedule F for federal employees. The president also [ordered](#) a review of all pending and new regulatory actions by agency leaders appointed after January 20, 2025, with oversight by the OMB and exceptions for emergencies or statutory deadlines. Below, RFA has outlined the most pertinent details of the executive orders signed yesterday.

### Major Relevant Executive Orders

#### Trade/Tariffs

On Monday, President Trump signed an executive order titled “[America First Trade Policy](#)” which instructs the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), the Commerce Department, and the Treasury Department to investigate the persistent annual trade deficits and recommend measures to address related national security risks by April 1, 2025. These actions could involve the implementation of a “global supplemental tariff,” likely referencing Trump’s campaign promise to impose a universal baseline tariff ranging from 10% to 20% on all imports. Further, the President directed the Secretary of Treasury to “investigate the feasibility” of establishing a new External Revenue Service (ERS) to collect tariffs, duties, and other trade revenues. President Trump reiterated his threat to impose a 100% tariff on any country that attempts to undermine the U.S. dollar’s (USD) status as the world’s reserve currency and threatened to impose 100% tariffs on the BRICS nations, which includes China. Additionally, the Treasury Department will review the exchange rates between U.S. trading partners’ currencies and the USD to identify any countries that may be considered currency manipulators.

While President Trump did not implement new tariffs, he indicated on Monday night that he plans to impose 25% tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico effective February 1st, and he indicated that he’s still considering implementing universal tariffs.

#### Outbound Investment/Export Controls

The State Department and Commerce Department have been directed to review the U.S. export control system and provide recommendations to address loopholes in existing export controls. The Trump Administration’s [executive order](#) also calls on federal agencies to review potentially problematic U.S. investments in countries of concern, which could lead to modifications of the Biden Administration’s outbound investment measures aimed at restricting U.S. investment in China.

## Housing

President Trump signed the executive order titled “[Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis](#),” mandating all executive departments and agencies to provide emergency price relief, in accordance with applicable law, to benefit the American people and enhance the prosperity of American workers. This will involve measures such as reducing housing costs and expanding the housing supply, eliminating unnecessary administrative expenses and rent-seeking practices that drive up healthcare costs, and fostering the creation of employment opportunities.

## OECD Tax

President Trump signed a [memorandum](#) rejecting the OECD Global Tax Deal, asserting that it infringes on U.S. sovereignty and restricts the nation’s ability to implement tax policies that benefit American businesses and workers. This memorandum nullifies prior commitments made under the agreement and emphasizes that such provisions hold no legal effect without Congressional approval. To protect U.S. economic interests, the Treasury Department and Trade Representative are tasked with investigating discriminatory or extraterritorial tax measures imposed by foreign countries and proposing protective actions. This approach aims to safeguard American companies while reasserting national authority in tax policymaking, although it may strain international tax relations and invite retaliatory measures.

## Regulatory Freeze Pending Review

This [memorandum](#) mandates that all executive departments and agencies obtain review and approval from department or agency heads appointed after January 20, 2025, before proposing or issuing any new rules. Rules already submitted to the Office of the Federal Register (OFR) but not published must be withdrawn for review and approval. Additionally, the order calls for a 60-day postponement of the effective date for any rules that have been published but not yet enacted, allowing time for a review of factual, legal, and policy considerations. During this postponement, agencies may seek public comments and may extend the review period if needed. Rules that raise no substantial issues will proceed without further action, while those that do will prompt further review and consultation with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director. The order also requires compliance with existing regulatory management executive orders and oversight of the review process by the OMB Director. The OMB Director may also review pending information collections under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

## Energy and Climate

President Trump signed executive orders [withdrawing](#) the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement and revoking several previous administrations’ efforts to combat climate change. Additionally, he declared a [national energy emergency](#), which will allow the federal government to reduce permitting requirements for energy projects, expedite power plant construction, and loosen restrictions on fossil fuel exports. Another notable [executive order](#) directed the government to reverse restrictions on Alaska’s resource development while prioritizing energy projects and expediting permitting in the state. Contrasting his policies on oil and gas leasing, President Trump also signed an [executive order](#) to temporarily withdraw all areas on the continental shelf from offshore wind leasing. Finally, as a part of an [executive order](#) regarding “unleashing” American energy, President Trump directed federal agencies to “immediately pause the disbursement of funds appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)”, restart reviews for applications of liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects, rescind rules that hinder the mining and processing of non-fuel minerals, eliminate the “electric vehicle mandate”, limit funds for electric vehicle charging stations, direct agencies that federal regulations will report a separate domestic cost/benefit analysis, and more.

## Immigration

President Trump signed an [executive order](#) to declare of state of emergency at the United States' southern border, which would allow the president to access additional funds and use the military to conduct immigration enforcement. Additionally, the president signed an [executive order](#) to designate cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs). As an FTO, businesses that engage in providing material support for designated cartels or paying money for ransom or protections fees to cartels may face criminal penalties. Further, the FTO designation will require financial institutions to retain and report to the government any assets controlled by FTOs.

## United States DOGE Service (USDS)

President Trump signed an [executive order](#) to establish the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) to modernize federal technology and maximize productivity. The order reorganizes the U.S. Digital Service into the U.S. DOGE Service (USDS), led by an administrator reporting to the White House Chief of Staff. Agencies are required to form "DOGE Teams" to coordinate with the USDS and implement modernization goals, including improved software and IT systems. A temporary organization within USDS will advance the President's 18-month DOGE agenda and terminate on July 4, 2026. The executive order also calls for the USDS Administrator to lead a Software Modernization Initiative to improve government-wide IT systems. Agency heads must ensure USDS has access to unclassified records and systems. This order supersedes prior executive orders that hinder USDS access.

## Foreign Assistance

President Trump signed an [executive order](#) to realign U.S. foreign aid with American interests and values, pausing new disbursements for a 90-day review period. The order mandates that all foreign aid programs be assessed for efficiency and consistency with U.S. foreign policy under guidelines from the Secretary of State and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Department and agency heads will determine whether to continue, modify, or terminate each program based on the reviews. Funding may resume during the 90-day period if a program is approved by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the OMB. Waivers for the pause may also be granted by the Secretary of State for specific programs. The order ensures that future foreign aid strictly aligns with U.S. foreign policy priorities while complying with existing laws and budgetary requirements.

## Biden-Era Policies Repealed

President Trump ordered the [rescission of 78 Biden-era executive orders](#). A large number of executive orders repealed are in regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies implemented during the prior administration. Notable executive orders repealed include the following:

### Bureaucratic Reforms

[Executive Orders 14134-14139, which Provide an Order of Succession Within Various Departments.](#)

- These EOs established an order of succession within various government agencies to ensure continuity of operations in case of vacancies in key leadership positions. The order designated specific officials to temporarily assume duties if the Secretary or Deputy Secretary are unable to perform their duties.

Executive Order 14003 (Protecting the Federal Workforce).

- This EO revoked Schedule F and reversed Trump-era anti-federal employee union policies.

## Energy and Climate

Executive Order 14030 (Climate-Related Financial Risk).

- This EO directed the federal government to assess and address climate-related financial risks to promote resilience in the U.S. economy. It calls for the integration of climate risk into financial disclosures, encourages sustainable investment practices, and aims to align financial policies with the goal of mitigating climate change.

Executive Order 14007 (President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology).

- This EO sought to increase climate resilience and support a pathway to lower greenhouse gas emissions. Further, this EO established the Office of Climate Policy and the National Climate Task Force.

Executive Order 14027 (Establishment of the Climate Change Support Office).

- This EO established the Climate Change Support Office.

Executive Order 14052 (Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act).

- This EO established a framework to implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, focusing on efficient spending, job creation, competitiveness, equity, and climate resilience. It created an Infrastructure Implementation Task Force to coordinate federal, state, and local efforts in executing the Act's provisions.

Executive Order 14057 (Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability).

- This EO mandated federal agencies to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, with an interim target of a 65% reduction by 2030, and required agencies to procure 100% clean electricity by 2030. The order emphasized electrifying the federal vehicle fleet, improving building energy performance, and investing in clean energy innovation. It also called for integrating climate risk into federal decision-making and required agencies to develop and implement plans to meet these objectives, leveraging the federal government's purchasing power to drive market transformation in clean energy.

Executive Order 14082 (Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022).

- This EO directed federal agencies to implement the energy and infrastructure provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022. It focused on accelerating clean energy investments, decarbonization, and infrastructure projects, while ensuring that disadvantaged communities benefit from these efforts through expanded renewable energy, improved energy efficiency, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

Executive Order 14094 (Modernizing Regulatory Review).

- This EO modified the federal regulatory review process by strengthening the role of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). It directed agencies to focus on outcome-based analysis, incorporating long-term impacts on public health, climate, and equity, particularly for disadvantaged communities.

The Presidential Memorandums (Withdrawal of Certain Areas off the United States Arctic Coast of the Outer Continental Shelf from Oil or Gas Leasing) and (Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf from Oil or Natural Gas Leasing).

- These memorandums issued under President Biden sought to protect the entire U.S. East Coast, the eastern Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, and additional portions of the Northern Bering Sea in Alaska from future oil and natural gas leasing.

## Other Notable Policies

Executive Order 14110 of October 30, 2023 (Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence)

- This EO established a comprehensive framework for the development, deployment, and governance of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in the United States. The order aimed to promote responsible AI innovation while ensuring safety, security, and trustworthiness, addressing concerns such as bias, discrimination, and potential threats to civil liberties and national security. It mandated federal agencies to implement various measures, including creating chief AI officer positions, developing safety guidelines, and fostering competition in the AI industry, while also emphasizing the protection of workers' rights, consumer privacy, and America's global leadership in AI.

Executive Order 14006 (Reforming Our Incarceration System to Eliminate the Use of Privately Operated Criminal Detention Facilities).

- This EO banned the renewal of private prison contracts.

Executive Orders 14010-14013 which pertain to immigration related policies.

- Executive Order 14010 established a framework to address migration causes in North and Central America, manage migration, and provide safe processing of asylum seekers at the U.S. border. Executive Order 14011 created an Interagency Task Force to reunite children separated from their families at the U.S.-Mexico border between January 20, 2017, and January 20, 2021. Executive Order 14012 directed agencies to review and remove barriers to the legal immigration system, ordered a review of public charge inadmissibility policies, and established a Task Force on New Americans to coordinate efforts to welcome and support immigrants. Executive Order 14013 focused on rebuilding refugee resettlement programs and planning for climate change impacts on migration.

## Appointment of New Administration Officials

The first actions taken in the Trump Administration was the formal nomination of new administration officials throughout the executive branch.

### Cabinet and Cabinet Level Nominations

Below are notable nominations made by President Trump out of the 22 total announced.

- Secretary of the Treasury – Scott Bessent
- Secretary of the Interior – Doug Burgum
- Secretary of Commerce – Howard Lutnick
- Secretary of State – Marco Rubio
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development – Eric Turner
- Secretary of Energy – Christopher Wright

- U.S. Trade Representative – Jamieson Greer
- Director of the Office of Management and Budget – Russell Vought
- Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency – Lee Zeldin

### Sub-Cabinet Level Nominations

Below are notable nominations made by President Trump out of the 47 total announced.

- Deputy Secretary of the Treasury – Michael Faulkender
- U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York – Walter Clayton
- Commissioner and Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission – Paul Atkins
- Under Secretary of Energy – Preston Griffith
- Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy – Darío Gil
- Under Secretary for Nuclear Security – Brandon Williams
- Commissioner of Internal Revenue – William Long
- Federal Trade Commissioner – Mark Meador

### Acting Designations

Below are notable designations of acting agency leaders made by President Trump out of the 31 total announced.

- Acting Secretary of the Treasury – David Lebryk
- Acting Secretary of the Interior – Walter Cruickshank
- Acting Secretary of Commerce – Jeremy Pelter
- Acting Secretary of State – Lisa Kenna
- Acting Secretary of Housing and Urban Development – Matthew Ammon
- Acting Secretary of Energy – Ingrid Kolb
- Acting U.S. Trade Representative – Juan Millan
- Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget – Matthew Vaeth
- Acting Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency – James Payne

### Commission Chairmen and Acting Chairmen Appointments

Below are notable appointments made by President Trump out of the 15 total announced.

- Chair of the Federal Trade Commission – Andrew Ferguson
- Chairman of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission – Mark Christie
- Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission – David Wright
- Acting Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission – Mark Uyeda
- Acting Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation – Travis Hill
- Acting Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission – Caroline Pham