PEOPLE TO KNOW

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CORE / TEXAS

Benjamin Flores

Texas Democratic nominee for land commissioner

Flores is the Democratic nominee for Texas land commissioner in November 2026. His opponents include incumbent Dawn Buckingham; match his name to the General Land Office rather than the agriculture department.

CLUES Democrat · land commissioner candidate · Dawn Buckingham

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Bo French

Texas Republican nominee for railroad commissioner

French is the Republican nominee for the Texas Railroad Commission seat on the November 2026 ballot. His Democratic opponent is Jon Rosenthal; the commission primarily regulates oil and gas, despite its historical name.

CLUES Republican · Railroad Commission candidate · Jon Rosenthal

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Clayton Tucker

Texas Democratic nominee for agriculture commissioner

Tucker is the Democratic nominee for Texas agriculture commissioner in 2026. He faces Republican Nate Sheets; connect this race to the state’s agriculture department rather than the federal USDA secretary.

CLUES Democrat · agriculture candidate · Nate Sheets

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Dan Patrick

Texas lieutenant governor

Patrick presides over the Texas Senate and helps shape its agenda. He faces Democrat Vikki Goodwin in the 2026 election; lieutenant governor is elected separately from the state’s governor.

CLUES Texas Senate · lieutenant governor · Vikki Goodwin

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Dawn Buckingham

Texas land commissioner; Republican nominee

Buckingham leads the Texas General Land Office and is the Republican candidate for another term. The land commissioner’s responsibilities involve state lands; the 2026 Democratic nominee is Benjamin Flores.

CLUES General Land Office · Republican · state lands

Official source

CORE / TEXAS

Don Huffines

Texas comptroller; Republican comptroller nominee

Huffines is named as comptroller in the office’s October 2026 releases. He is also the Republican nominee facing Sarah Eckhardt; connect the office to state revenues and financial administration.

CLUES Comptroller · state revenues · Sarah Eckhardt

Official source

CORE / TEXAS

Dustin Burrows

Speaker of the Texas House

Burrows represents Lubbock’s House District 83 and became Texas House speaker in January 2025. He leads the state’s lower chamber; Dan Patrick presides over its upper chamber, the Texas Senate.

CLUES Texas House speaker · Lubbock · District 83

Official source

CORE / TEXAS

Gina Hinojosa

Texas Democratic nominee for governor

Hinojosa represents Austin’s House District 49 and is the Democratic nominee for governor. Her 2026 opponent is Greg Abbott; keep her gubernatorial race separate from James Talarico’s Senate race.

CLUES District 49 · Democrat · governor candidate

Reporting / reference

PEOPLE TO KNOW

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CORE / TEXAS

Greg Abbott

Texas governor

Abbott is Texas's 48th governor and previously served as state attorney general and a Texas Supreme Court justice. He faces Democratic nominee Gina Hinojosa in the November 2026 governor's race.

CLUES 48th governor · Republican · Gina Hinojosa

Official source

CORE / TEXAS

James Talarico

Texas Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate

Talarico is a Texas state representative and former teacher seeking a U.S. Senate seat. He is the Democratic nominee against Republican Ken Paxton; a state legislative office differs from service in Congress.

CLUES Democrat · U.S. Senate candidate · former teacher

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Jim Wright

Texas Railroad Commission member

Wright is one of the three elected members of the Texas Railroad Commission. Pair the agency with oil, gas and energy regulation; serving commissioners and candidates for a future term are different categories.

CLUES Railroad Commission · oil and gas · current commissioner

Official source

CORE / TEXAS

John Cornyn

U.S. senator from Texas

Cornyn is Texas's senior U.S. senator and previously served as Senate Republican whip. A current senator continues serving through the term even when the party nominates someone else for the next election.

CLUES Texas · senior senator · former Republican whip

Official source

CORE / TEXAS

Jon Rosenthal

Texas Democratic nominee for railroad commissioner

Rosenthal is the Democratic nominee for Texas railroad commissioner in 2026. His Republican opponent is Bo French; the Railroad Commission contest concerns an energy regulator rather than a passenger-train operating agency.

CLUES Democrat · Railroad Commission candidate · Bo French

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Ken Paxton

Texas attorney general; Republican U.S. Senate nominee

Paxton is Texas's attorney general and the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate in 2026. He faces James Talarico; attorney general is his current office, while U.S. senator is the office he seeks.

CLUES Attorney general · Republican · U.S. Senate race

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Mayes Middleton

Texas Republican nominee for attorney general

Middleton is a state senator and the Republican nominee for Texas attorney general. His opponents include Democrat Nathan Johnson and Libertarian Tom Oxford; the office is separate from the federal attorney general.

CLUES Republican · attorney general candidate · Nathan Johnson

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Mike Morath

Texas education commissioner

Morath has served as Texas education commissioner since 2016 after appointment by Greg Abbott. He leads the Texas Education Agency, making him a key name for public-school policy and accountability.

CLUES TEA · commissioner since 2016 · appointed by Abbott

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

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CORE / TEXAS

Nate Sheets

Texas Republican nominee for agriculture commissioner

Sheets is the Republican nominee for Texas agriculture commissioner in November 2026. His Democratic opponent is Clayton Tucker; being a nominee does not mean he has already replaced current commissioner Sid Miller.

CLUES Republican · agriculture candidate · Clayton Tucker

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Nathan Johnson

Texas Democratic nominee for attorney general

Johnson is a state senator and the Democratic nominee for Texas attorney general. He faces Mayes Middleton and Tom Oxford; avoid confusing him with Republican U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson.

CLUES Democrat · attorney general candidate · Mayes Middleton

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Sarah Eckhardt

Texas Democratic nominee for comptroller

Eckhardt is the Democratic candidate for Texas comptroller in November 2026. Her Republican opponent is Don Huffines; connect the comptroller contest to state finances rather than the attorney general's legal duties.

CLUES Democrat · comptroller candidate · Don Huffines

Reporting / reference

CORE / TEXAS

Sid Miller

Texas agriculture commissioner

Miller is Texas's 12th agriculture commissioner and an experienced farmer and rancher. He remains distinct from Nate Sheets, the Republican nominee campaigning for that office in the November 2026 general election.

CLUES Agriculture commissioner · farmer and rancher · Texas

Official source

CORE / TEXAS

Ted Cruz

U.S. senator from Texas

Cruz began serving in the Senate in 2013 and won a third term in 2024. In the 119th Congress, he chairs Commerce, Science and Transportation; distinguish his federal role from Texas legislators.

CLUES Texas · U.S. Senate · Commerce Committee

Official source

CORE / TEXAS

Vikki Goodwin

Texas Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor

Goodwin represents House District 47 in western Travis County. She is challenging Dan Patrick for lieutenant governor, an office that presides over the Texas Senate despite being elected statewide.

CLUES District 47 · Democrat · Dan Patrick

Reporting / reference

STUDY THIS SECTION

Cover the names. Identify each person from the office and clues. Then use the separate Review tab or workbook to test yourself.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

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CORE / UNITED STATES

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

U.S. representative from New York

Ocasio-Cortez represents New York's 14th Congressional District and is often identified by the initials AOC. Connect her to the House and progressive policy debates, including the Green New Deal.

CLUES AOC · New York 14th · Green New Deal

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Amy Coney Barrett

Supreme Court associate justice

Barrett joined the Supreme Court in 2020 after nomination by Donald Trump. She previously served on the Seventh Circuit appeals court and taught law at the University of Notre Dame.

CLUES 2020 · Donald Trump · Notre Dame

Supreme Court Historical Society

CORE / UNITED STATES

Barack Obama

Former U.S. president

Obama served as the 44th president from 2009 to 2017 and was the first Black U.S. president. Connect his administration to the Affordable Care Act and distinguish historical service from current office.

CLUES 44th president · 2009-2017 · Affordable Care Act

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Bernie Sanders

Senator from Vermont

Sanders is Vermont's independent senator and caucuses with Senate Democrats. He serves as the conference's outreach chair; remember that his independent party affiliation differs from the Democrats he organizes with.

CLUES Vermont · independent · Senate outreach

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Brett Kavanaugh

Supreme Court associate justice

Kavanaugh joined the Supreme Court in 2018 after nomination by Donald Trump. He previously served on the federal appeals court in Washington and worked in George W. Bush's White House.

CLUES 2018 · Donald Trump · D.C. Circuit

Supreme Court Historical Society

CORE / UNITED STATES

Brooke Rollins

U.S. agriculture secretary

Rollins grew up in Glen Rose, Texas, and previously led the America First Policy Institute. As agriculture secretary, she connects to farming, food policy and federal agricultural programs.

CLUES USDA · Glen Rose · agriculture

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Chris Wright

U.S. energy secretary

Wright founded energy-services business Liberty Energy before entering government. His department connects him to energy production, nuclear security and scientific research, including debates over how to provide reliable power.

CLUES Energy Department · Liberty Energy · nuclear security

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Chuck Grassley

Senate president pro tempore

Grassley is the Republican senator from Iowa serving as president pro tempore. This constitutionally recognized Senate office is different from majority leader and is part of the presidential succession order.

CLUES Iowa · president pro tempore · Senate

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

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CORE / UNITED STATES

Chuck Schumer

Senate minority leader

Schumer is a Democratic senator from New York and leads Senate Democrats. Pair him with the Senate minority, while fellow New Yorker Hakeem Jeffries leads Democrats in the House.

CLUES Senate · New York · Democratic leader

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Clarence Thomas

Supreme Court associate justice

Thomas joined the Supreme Court in 1991 after nomination by George H. W. Bush. He previously served on the federal appeals court in Washington and chaired the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

CLUES 1991 · George H. W. Bush · associate justice

Supreme Court Historical Society

CORE / UNITED STATES

Donald Trump

U.S. president

Trump is the 45th and 47th U.S. president. He returned to the White House in January 2025, making his second administration central to immigration, trade and executive-power debates.

CLUES 45th and 47th · White House · Republican

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Doug Burgum

U.S. interior secretary

Burgum previously served as North Dakota governor and worked in the software industry. He now heads Interior, connecting him to federal lands, natural resources and energy-development policy.

CLUES Interior · North Dakota · federal lands

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Doug Collins

U.S. veterans affairs secretary

Collins is a former Georgia congressman, military chaplain and Air Force Reserve officer. He leads the department responsible for veterans' healthcare and benefits, rather than the active-duty armed forces.

CLUES Veterans Affairs · Georgia · veterans' benefits

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Elena Kagan

Supreme Court associate justice

Kagan joined the Supreme Court in 2010 after nomination by Barack Obama. She previously led Harvard Law School and served as U.S. solicitor general, the government's principal Supreme Court advocate.

CLUES 2010 · Barack Obama · former solicitor general

Supreme Court Historical Society

CORE / UNITED STATES

Hakeem Jeffries

House minority leader

Jeffries is the New York Democrat who leads House Democrats. He speaks for his caucus in legislative negotiations and opposition to Republicans; winning an election majority would be needed to change House control.

CLUES House · New York · Democratic leader

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Howard Lutnick

U.S. commerce secretary

Lutnick previously led financial-services company Cantor Fitzgerald. As commerce secretary, he is a prominent figure in industrial and trade-policy coverage; distinguish his department from Treasury and the trade representative's office.

CLUES Commerce · Cantor Fitzgerald · industry and trade

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

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CORE / UNITED STATES

Jamieson Greer

U.S. trade representative

Greer leads the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. He previously served as chief of staff to Robert Lighthizer, connecting his name to tariffs, trade agreements and negotiations with foreign trading partners.

CLUES USTR · tariffs · trade agreements

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Jay Clayton

Director of national intelligence

Clayton became director of national intelligence in August 2026. He previously chaired the Securities and Exchange Commission and served as U.S. attorney in Manhattan; his current role coordinates the intelligence community.

CLUES DNI · August 2026 · former SEC chairman

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

JD Vance

U.S. vice president

Vance previously represented Ohio in the Senate. As vice president, he is president of the Senate and can break tied votes, a role different from the Senate majority leader.

CLUES Vice president · Ohio · Senate tie-breaker

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Joe Biden

Former U.S. president

Biden was the 46th U.S. president from 2021 to 2025. He served between Donald Trump’s two administrations; older reporting calling Biden president describes a different period from the current season.

CLUES 46th president · 2021-2025 · former president

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

John Ratcliffe

Central Intelligence Agency director

Ratcliffe leads the CIA and previously served as director of national intelligence. He also represented a Texas congressional district. Distinguish leadership of one intelligence agency from coordination of the wider intelligence community.

CLUES CIA · former DNI · Texas congressman

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

John Roberts

Chief justice of the United States

Roberts became chief justice in 2005 after nomination by George W. Bush. He is the Court’s presiding justice, while the other eight members hold the title associate justice.

CLUES Chief justice · 2005 · George W. Bush

Supreme Court Historical Society

CORE / UNITED STATES

John Thune

Senate majority leader

Thune is South Dakota’s Republican senator and the Senate majority leader. He guides his party’s floor agenda, making him a key name in legislation, confirmations and negotiations over the chamber’s schedule.

CLUES Senate · South Dakota · majority leader

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Kamala Harris

Former U.S. vice president

Harris served as vice president under Joe Biden from 2021 to 2025. She previously represented California in the Senate; JD Vance now holds the vice presidency in Trump’s second administration.

CLUES Vice president 2021-2025 · California · Biden administration

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

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CORE / UNITED STATES

Kash Patel

Federal Bureau of Investigation director

Patel leads the FBI, the federal investigative agency within the Justice Department. Distinguish his job from the attorney general, who heads the department, and the CIA director, whose agency focuses on foreign intelligence.

CLUES FBI · Justice Department · federal investigations

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Keith Sonderling

U.S. labor secretary

Sonderling previously served as deputy and acting labor secretary. His department enforces federal protections involving wages, workplace safety and employee benefits; the permanent title is an update from earlier 2026 materials.

CLUES Labor · workplace protections · former acting secretary

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Ketanji Brown Jackson

Supreme Court associate justice

Jackson joined the Supreme Court in 2022 after nomination by Joe Biden. She previously served as a federal trial and appeals judge and became the Court’s first Black woman justice.

CLUES 2022 · Joe Biden · first Black woman justice

Supreme Court Historical Society

CORE / UNITED STATES

Kevin Warsh

Federal Reserve chair

Warsh became Federal Reserve chair in May 2026. Associate him with monetary policy and the central bank’s interest-rate decisions; Scott Bessent leads Treasury, a different institution with different responsibilities.

CLUES Federal Reserve · May 2026 · interest rates

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Lee Zeldin

Environmental Protection Agency administrator

Zeldin is a former New York congressman who heads the EPA. Connect his agency to federal environmental rules, air and water protection, and disputes about regulation’s economic costs.

CLUES EPA · New York · environmental regulation

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Linda McMahon

U.S. education secretary

McMahon previously led the Small Business Administration during Trump’s first presidency and was a WWE executive. Her current department places her in debates about federal education policy and the government’s role in schooling.

CLUES Education · former SBA administrator · WWE

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Marco Rubio

U.S. secretary of state

Rubio is the nation’s chief diplomat and previously represented Florida in the U.S. Senate. Pair his name with the State Department, foreign negotiations and relations with other governments.

CLUES State Department · Florida · diplomacy

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Markwayne Mullin

U.S. homeland security secretary

Mullin formerly represented Oklahoma in both chambers of Congress. He leads Homeland Security, connecting him to immigration enforcement, border security and federal emergency-management issues rather than the Justice Department.

CLUES DHS · Oklahoma · border security

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

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CORE / UNITED STATES

Mike Johnson

U.S. House speaker

Johnson is the Republican House speaker from Louisiana. The speaker presides over the House and stands next in the presidential succession after the vice president; the majority leader is a separate official.

CLUES House speaker · Louisiana · presidential succession

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Neil Gorsuch

Supreme Court associate justice

Gorsuch joined the Supreme Court in 2017 after nomination by Donald Trump. He previously served on the Tenth Circuit appeals court; he was Trump's first Supreme Court appointee.

CLUES 2017 · Donald Trump · Tenth Circuit

Supreme Court Historical Society

CORE / UNITED STATES

Pete Hegseth

U.S. secretary of war (administration title)

Hegseth is an Army veteran and former television host. The administration styles his office secretary of war; older materials call him defense secretary. Associate him with the Pentagon and national military policy.

CLUES Pentagon · military policy · secretary of war

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

U.S. health and human services secretary

Kennedy leads Health and Human Services and previously worked as an environmental lawyer. He is Robert F. Kennedy's son and John F. Kennedy's nephew; connect him to national health-policy debates.

CLUES HHS · health policy · Kennedy family

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Russell Vought

Office of Management and Budget director

Vought heads the White House budget office and held the same office during Trump's first term. Connect him to the president's budget proposals and executive-branch management rather than the independent Federal Reserve.

CLUES OMB · White House budget · executive management

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Samuel Alito

Supreme Court associate justice

Alito joined the Supreme Court in 2006 after nomination by George W. Bush. He previously served on the Third Circuit appeals court; distinguish him from Chief Justice John Roberts.

CLUES 2006 · George W. Bush · Third Circuit

Supreme Court Historical Society

CORE / UNITED STATES

Scott Bessent

U.S. treasury secretary

Bessent leads the Treasury Department after a career in investment management. Associate his office with federal finances, financial sanctions and international economic negotiations rather than the Federal Reserve's interest-rate decisions.

CLUES Treasury · financial sanctions · federal finances

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Scott Turner

U.S. housing and urban development secretary

Turner is a former Texas state representative and NFL player. He leads Housing and Urban Development, connecting him to affordable housing, community development and housing assistance.

CLUES HUD · Texas House · former NFL player

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

UNITED STATES / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

CORE / UNITED STATES

Sean Duffy

U.S. transportation secretary

Duffy previously represented Wisconsin in Congress and worked as a district attorney. Transportation places him in coverage of aviation, roads and infrastructure, including oversight involving federal transportation agencies.

CLUES Transportation · Wisconsin · aviation and roads

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Sonia Sotomayor

Supreme Court associate justice

Sotomayor joined the Supreme Court in 2009 after nomination by Barack Obama. Born in the Bronx, she previously served on the Second Circuit appeals court and as a federal trial judge.

CLUES 2009 · Barack Obama · Bronx

Supreme Court Historical Society

CORE / UNITED STATES

Steve Scalise

House majority leader

Scalise represents Louisiana and leads Republicans on the House floor. His office helps move the majority's legislative agenda; distinguish his title from Speaker Mike Johnson and Majority Whip Tom Emmer.

CLUES House · Republican · majority leader

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Todd Blanche

U.S. attorney general

Blanche heads the Justice Department after previously serving as deputy attorney general. His earlier career included federal prosecution in New York and representing Trump in criminal cases.

CLUES Justice Department · attorney general · former deputy AG

Official source

CORE / UNITED STATES

Zohran Mamdani

New York City mayor

Mamdani became New York City's 112th mayor on January 1, 2026. His office leads the city government; Kathy Hochul is governor of New York State, a separate level of government.

CLUES New York City · 112th mayor · January 2026

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Adam Schiff

U.S. senator from California

Schiff represents California in the Senate after previously serving in the House. He began a full six-year Senate term in January 2025; current study sheets should identify the correct chamber.

CLUES California · Senate · former House member

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Amy Klobuchar

Senate Democratic steering and policy chair

Klobuchar represents Minnesota and chairs Senate Democrats' steering and policy committee. Associate her with Senate party leadership and the development of Democratic policy priorities rather than House leadership.

CLUES Minnesota · Senate · steering and policy

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Brian Kemp

Georgia governor

Kemp is Georgia's 83rd governor. Pair him with the state government in Atlanta, a useful distinction from Georgia's U.S. senators and from federal officials making national election policy.

CLUES Georgia · 83rd governor · Atlanta

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

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EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Cory Booker

U.S. senator from New Jersey

Booker won a special election to represent New Jersey in 2013. He previously served as Newark mayor; his current federal role is in the Senate rather than a state or city executive office.

CLUES New Jersey · Senate since 2013 · Newark

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Dick Durbin

Senate Democratic whip

Durbin represents Illinois and serves as Senate Democratic whip. The whip helps organize the party's legislative votes; this is a Senate position rather than Katherine Clark's corresponding role in the House.

CLUES Senate · Illinois · Democratic whip

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Elizabeth Warren

Senator from Massachusetts

Warren is a Massachusetts Democrat and a vice chair of the Senate Democratic Conference. She is an important name in financial-regulation and consumer-protection debates as well as party leadership.

CLUES Massachusetts · Senate · consumer protection

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Gavin Newsom

California governor

Newsom is California's 40th governor. His leadership of the nation's most populous state makes him useful for following housing, climate, technology and state-federal policy debates.

CLUES California · 40th governor · Sacramento

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Gretchen Whitmer

Michigan governor

Whitmer leads Michigan's government as governor. Michigan is important in national election and manufacturing coverage; pair her name with the state executive branch rather than Illinois governor JB Pritzker.

CLUES Michigan · governor · Lansing

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

JB Pritzker

Illinois governor

Pritzker is Illinois's 43rd governor, elected in 2018 and reelected in 2022. He is a prominent Democratic state executive; connect his name to Illinois rather than neighboring Michigan.

CLUES Illinois · 43rd governor · Democrat

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Joe Neguse

Assistant House Democratic leader

Neguse is assistant Democratic leader in the House. He assists the party's leadership team and belongs to the lower chamber of Congress; distinguish this position from Senate Democratic leadership.

CLUES House · Democrat · assistant leader

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

John Barrasso

Senate majority whip

Barrasso is a Republican senator from Wyoming and the Senate majority whip. His leadership job centers on organizing his party's votes, rather than presiding as vice president or leading the House.

CLUES Senate · Wyoming · majority whip

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

UNITED STATES / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Jon Ossoff

U.S. senator from Georgia

Ossoff is Georgia's senior U.S. senator. He is a Democrat whose federal legislative role differs from the state executive office held by Governor Brian Kemp; pair him with fellow Georgia senator Raphael Warnock.

CLUES Georgia · Democrat · U.S. Senate

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Josh Shapiro

Pennsylvania governor

Shapiro is Pennsylvania's 48th governor and previously served as state attorney general. His administration includes automatic voter registration and digital-government work; distinguish his state executive role from Congress.

CLUES Pennsylvania · 48th governor · former attorney general

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Katherine Clark

House minority whip

Clark serves as Democratic whip in the House. Her role includes helping leadership organize votes, a useful distinction from Hakeem Jeffries's position as the party's top House leader.

CLUES House · Democrat · minority whip

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Kathy Hochul

New York governor

Hochul is New York's 57th governor and its first woman governor. She previously served as lieutenant governor and a member of Congress; her statewide office differs from New York City's mayor.

CLUES New York · 57th governor · first woman governor

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Kelly Loeffler

Small Business Administration administrator

Loeffler leads the Small Business Administration after serving as a U.S. senator from Georgia. Her agency connects her to small-business financing, entrepreneurship and disaster assistance rather than monetary policy.

CLUES SBA · Georgia · small businesses

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Lisa McClain

House Republican Conference chair

McClain chairs the House Republican Conference, the organization of Republican representatives. Her leadership role concerns the party conference; it is different from presiding over the entire House as speaker.

CLUES House · Republican Conference · party leadership

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Lisa Murkowski

U.S. senator from Alaska

Murkowski is an Alaska Republican who joined the Senate in 2002. She is associated with bipartisan negotiations and Alaska policy issues; distinguish her state from Maine, represented by Susan Collins.

CLUES Alaska · Republican · Senate since 2002

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Mark Kelly

U.S. senator from Arizona

Kelly represents Arizona and previously served as a Navy pilot and NASA astronaut. He was selected in the same astronaut class as his twin brother Scott, a useful clue distinguishing the two.

CLUES Arizona · NASA astronaut · Navy pilot

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

UNITED STATES / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Mitch McConnell

U.S. senator from Kentucky; former Republican leader

McConnell represents Kentucky and previously led Senate Republicans. John Thune now holds the party's top Senate leadership position, so older descriptions of McConnell as Republican leader should be read in their historical context.

CLUES Kentucky · former Republican leader · Senate

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Nancy Pelosi

U.S. representative; former House speaker

Pelosi became the first woman House speaker in 2007. Her title as former speaker is different from the current speakership; she remains an important name for congressional leadership history and Democratic politics.

CLUES First woman speaker · 2007 · former speaker

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Pete Aguilar

House Democratic Caucus chair

Aguilar chairs the House Democratic Caucus, the organization of Democratic representatives. Pair him with the House leadership team and distinguish his caucus role from floor leader and whip.

CLUES House · Democratic Caucus · caucus chair

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Pete Buttigieg

Former U.S. transportation secretary

Buttigieg served as transportation secretary from 2021 to 2025 under Joe Biden. He previously led South Bend, Indiana, as mayor; distinguish his former Cabinet position from current transportation secretary Sean Duffy.

CLUES Transportation 2021-2025 · South Bend · former secretary

University biography

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Raphael Warnock

U.S. senator from Georgia

Warnock is a Democratic U.S. senator and senior pastor of Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church. That church was Martin Luther King Jr.'s pulpit; his profile connects religious leadership, civil-rights history and national politics.

CLUES Georgia · Ebenezer Baptist Church · pastor and senator

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Ron DeSantis

Florida governor

DeSantis is Florida's 46th governor, first elected in 2018. His current role is governor; candidates campaigning to succeed him in the 2026 election have not yet taken that office.

CLUES Florida · 46th governor · Tallahassee

Reporting / reference

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Susan Collins

U.S. senator from Maine; Appropriations chair

Collins is Maine's Republican senator and chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee. That committee works on federal spending bills, making her name useful in government-funding negotiations and budget coverage.

CLUES Maine · Republican · Appropriations Committee

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Ted Lieu

House Democratic Caucus vice chair

Lieu is vice chair of the House Democratic Caucus. He belongs to the party's House leadership team, which organizes members and develops priorities; he is not a Senate leader.

CLUES House · Democratic Caucus · vice chair

Official source

PEOPLE TO KNOW

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EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Tom Cotton

Senate Republican Conference chair

Cotton represents Arkansas and chairs the Senate Republican Conference. He also appears in national-security coverage; for leadership identification, remember the Senate conference rather than the House conference chaired by Lisa McClain.

CLUES Arkansas · Senate · Republican Conference

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Tom Emmer

House majority whip

Emmer is the Republican House majority whip. Whips help organize support and count votes, making him a useful name in close legislative negotiations and efforts to keep the majority united.

CLUES House · Republican · vote counting

Official source

EXTENDED / UNITED STATES

Wes Moore

Maryland governor

Moore is Maryland’s 63rd governor. He leads the state’s executive branch and is a useful name in coverage of state policy and governors’ cooperation on national issues.

CLUES Maryland · 63rd governor · Annapolis

Official source

STUDY THIS SECTION

Cover the names. Identify each person from the office and clues. Then use the separate Review tab or workbook to test yourself.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

WORLD LEADERS / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Abbas Araghchi

Foreign minister of Iran

Araghchi represents Iran as foreign minister and appears in coverage of negotiations with foreign governments. He is a diplomat rather than Iran's president or supreme leader. Connect his name to talks involving the United States, Russia and Iran's nuclear activities.

CLUES Iran · Foreign minister · Nuclear diplomacy

Iran International, October 4, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi

President of Egypt

Sisi leads Egypt as president. In October 2026, he discussed possible support for Saudi Arabia while saying any role would be limited to defending Saudi territory. Connect his name to Egypt, the Red Sea and regional security diplomacy.

CLUES Egypt · Cairo · Red Sea · Saudi relations

Reuters, October 21, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Andy Burnham

Prime minister of the United Kingdom

Burnham became Britain's prime minister on July 20, 2026, after previously serving as mayor of Greater Manchester. He leads the Labour government. Older study sheets naming Keir Starmer as the current prime minister need this leadership update.

CLUES United Kingdom · Labour · Greater Manchester · July 2026

Official leadership profile

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Anthony Albanese

Prime minister of Australia

Albanese became Australia's 31st prime minister in May 2022. He previously represented the Sydney electorate of Grayndler in Parliament. Connect him to Australia's national government and Indo-Pacific diplomacy, while remembering that the country's monarch is a separate head of state.

CLUES Australia · Canberra · Grayndler · Prime minister

Australian prime minister biography

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Asim Munir

Pakistan's military chief and field marshal

Munir is Pakistan's top military leader and holds the rank of field marshal. In October 2026, he visited Iran as part of mediation efforts. His position is distinct from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who heads the civilian government.

CLUES Pakistan · Field marshal · Military · Iran mediation

Reuters, October 20, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Benjamin Netanyahu

Prime minister of Israel

Netanyahu leads Israel's government and the Likud party. His political future is central to the October 27, 2026 parliamentary election. Connect him to Gaza, Iran and coalition politics, while distinguishing campaign prospects from an election result that has not occurred.

CLUES Israel · Likud · Gaza · October 27 election

AP election guide, October 19, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Claudia Sheinbaum

President of Mexico

Sheinbaum leads Mexico's national government as president. She is an important name in coverage of trade, migration and security involving the United States. Keep the regional leaders straight: Mexico has a president, while Canada has a prime minister.

CLUES Mexico · President · U.S.-Mexico relations

Official leadership profile

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Cyril Ramaphosa

President of South Africa

Ramaphosa became South Africa's president in February 2018 and began a new administration in June 2024. His background includes the struggle against apartheid and constitutional negotiations. Connect his current office to Pretoria and South Africa's national government.

CLUES South Africa · Pretoria · President · Anti-apartheid

South African presidency

PEOPLE TO KNOW

WORLD LEADERS / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Delcy Rodríguez

Interim president of Venezuela

Rodríguez serves as Venezuela’s interim president. In October 2026, Reuters reported that she and President Trump had promised elections without providing a timeline. Her administration’s relationship with Washington and Venezuela’s oil sector are important connections in current coverage.

CLUES Venezuela · Interim president · Oil · Election timetable

Reuters, October 21, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Emmanuel Macron

President of France

Macron is the eighth president of France’s Fifth Republic. He represents France in European Council meetings and major international diplomacy. Remember that the French president and prime minister are different offices, even when both appear in the same political story.

CLUES France · Élysée · Fifth Republic

Official leadership profile

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Flávio Bolsonaro

Brazilian senator and presidential runoff candidate

Flávio Bolsonaro is a Brazilian senator from Rio de Janeiro and a presidential candidate for the Liberal Party. He faces incumbent Lula in the 2026 runoff. He is the son of former president Jair Bolsonaro; the two names identify different people.

CLUES Brazil · Liberal Party · Rio de Janeiro · Lula

Reuters, October 22, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Friedrich Merz

Federal chancellor of Germany

Merz heads Germany’s federal government as chancellor. He is a key figure in European negotiations involving economic competitiveness and support for Ukraine. His office differs from the German federal presidency, which is a separate position.

CLUES Germany · Chancellor · European Council

Official leadership profile

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Gadi Eisenkot

Israeli opposition politician and Yashar leader

Eisenkot is a former Israeli military chief and a leading challenger to Benjamin Netanyahu in the October 2026 election. He leads Yashar. Identify him as a candidate and opposition figure, rather than assuming that a favorable poll makes him prime minister.

CLUES Israel · Yashar · Netanyahu challenger · Former general

Council on Foreign Relations, October 22, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Giorgia Meloni

Prime minister of Italy

Meloni leads Italy’s national government as prime minister. She represents Italy in the European Council. For recognition questions, connect her name to Rome and the Italian government, rather than confusing her with European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen.

CLUES Italy · Rome · Prime minister

European Council member directory

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Javier Milei

President of Argentina

Milei leads Argentina as president. He has pursued closer economic ties with the United States, including interest in mining and energy investment. Pair his name with Argentina and Buenos Aires, rather than Brazil’s Lula or presidential candidate Flávio Bolsonaro.

CLUES Argentina · Buenos Aires · Investment · Energy

AP coverage of Argentina’s economic diplomacy

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Lai Ching-te

President of Taiwan

Lai became Taiwan’s president in May 2024 after serving as vice president. His earlier career included medical work. His name is important for cross-strait relations and Taiwan’s high-technology economy; distinguish Taiwan’s leadership from that of the People’s Republic of China.

CLUES Taiwan · Taipei · Cross-strait relations · 2024

Taiwan presidential biography

PEOPLE TO KNOW

WORLD LEADERS / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Lee Jae Myung

President of South Korea

Lee leads the Republic of Korea as president. A state visit to Singapore in March 2026 identified him as the country's head of state. Connect South Korea with Seoul, and distinguish it from North Korea and its separate leadership.

CLUES South Korea · Seoul · Republic of Korea

Singapore foreign ministry, March 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

President of Brazil and presidential runoff candidate

Lula is serving his third presidential term in Brazil and is seeking reelection in 2026. He faces Senator Flávio Bolsonaro in the presidential runoff. Pair Lula with the Workers' Party, and remember that a runoff candidate has not yet won.

CLUES Brazil · Workers' Party · Runoff · Flávio Bolsonaro

Brazil electoral court, October 5, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Mahmoud Abbas

President of the Palestinian Authority

Abbas leads the Palestinian Authority and is a senior figure in Palestinian diplomacy. Distinguish him from Israel's leadership and from Hamas. His name is relevant to debates over Palestinian statehood, international recognition and future governance of Palestinian territories.

CLUES Palestinian Authority · Statehood · Diplomacy

Palestinian presidency, September 23, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Mark Carney

Prime minister of Canada

Carney leads Canada's government and previously headed the Bank of Canada and Bank of England. Connect his financial background to current coverage of tariffs, industrial policy and Canada's international economic relationship with the United States.

CLUES Canada · Prime minister · Central banking · Trade

Official leadership profile

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

María Corina Machado

Venezuelan opposition leader

Machado leads Venezuela's Vente Venezuela opposition movement and has called for free elections. Her movement organized nationwide protests in October 2026. Distinguish her opposition role from interim president Delcy Rodríguez, whose administration had not yet provided an election timetable.

CLUES Venezuela · Vente Venezuela · Opposition · Elections

Reuters, October 22, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Masoud Pezeshkian

President of Iran

Pezeshkian serves as Iran's president. He is involved in diplomacy over the war and negotiations with outside powers. His office is distinct from supreme leader Mojtaba Khamenei, who holds final authority over major strategic decisions in Iran's political system.

CLUES Iran · President · Mojtaba Khamenei · Diplomacy

Reuters, October 20, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President of the United Arab Emirates

Often abbreviated MBZ, Mohamed bin Zayed is president of the United Arab Emirates and ruler of Abu Dhabi. He invited Singapore's prime minister for an October 2026 visit. Distinguish MBZ from Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, or MBS.

CLUES United Arab Emirates · MBZ · Abu Dhabi

Singapore foreign ministry, October 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Mohammed bin Salman

Crown prince and prime minister of Saudi Arabia

Often abbreviated MBS, Mohammed bin Salman is Saudi Arabia's crown prince and prime minister. His name connects to Saudi security, oil policy and regional relations. Distinguish him from Mohamed bin Zayed, the president of the United Arab Emirates.

CLUES Saudi Arabia · MBS · Crown prince · Oil

Saudi Press Agency, July 14, 2026

Original study material. Editorial selection; not an official UIL list or prediction.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

WORLD LEADERS / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Mojtaba Khamenei

Supreme leader of Iran

Mojtaba Khamenei became Iran’s supreme leader after the death of his father, Ali Khamenei. He is a different person from President Masoud Pezeshkian. Reuters reporting identifies him as retaining final authority over major decisions during the conflict.

CLUES Iran · Supreme leader · Ali Khamenei’s son

Reuters, August 28, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Narendra Modi

Prime minister of India

Modi began his third term as India’s prime minister in June 2024. He leads the national government and is a major figure in India’s international diplomacy. Distinguish the prime minister’s governing role from the separate office of Indian president.

CLUES India · Third term · Prime minister

Official leadership profile

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Nigel Farage

Leader of Reform UK

Farage leads Reform UK, a British political party associated with stricter immigration policies and the Brexit movement. He is an opposition political figure, rather than the prime minister. Pair his party with the United Kingdom, not France’s National Rally.

CLUES United Kingdom · Reform UK · Brexit

Reform UK party site

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Pope Leo XIV

Head of the Catholic Church

Born Robert Francis Prevost in Chicago, Leo XIV was elected pope in May 2025. He is the first pope from the United States and a member of the Augustinian order. His earlier ministry included many years working in Peru.

CLUES Robert Prevost · Chicago · Augustinian · Peru

Official leadership profile

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Prabowo Subianto

President of Indonesia

Prabowo leads Indonesia as president. He hosted Singapore’s prime minister for a leaders’ retreat in Jakarta in July 2026. Connect his name to Indonesia’s role in Southeast Asia, and distinguish him from Singaporean leader Lawrence Wong.

CLUES Indonesia · Jakarta · President

Singapore foreign ministry, July 6, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Péter Magyar

Prime minister of Hungary

Magyar became Hungary’s prime minister after defeating Viktor Orbán in the 2026 election. His Tisza party promised anti-corruption and rule-of-law reforms. Remember that Orbán is now the former leader, an important correction to older European leadership lists.

CLUES Hungary · Tisza · Viktor Orbán · 2026 change

AP interview, October 21, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Recep Tayyip Erdoğan

President of Türkiye

Erdoğan leads Türkiye as president. He participates in regional diplomacy involving the Middle East and European security. Türkiye is a NATO member, so his name can appear in both alliance discussions and talks involving Gaza or relations with Russia.

CLUES Türkiye · Ankara · NATO · Regional diplomacy

Turkish presidential communications

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Sanae Takaichi

Prime minister of Japan

Takaichi leads Japan’s government as prime minister. Her name connects to Japan’s defense policy, economic security and relationships with other Indo-Pacific countries. Do not confuse the prime minister, who heads the government, with Japan’s emperor.

CLUES Japan · Prime minister · Indo-Pacific · Economic security

Japanese government, September 17, 2026

Original study material. Editorial selection; not an official UIL list or prediction.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

WORLD LEADERS / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Shehbaz Sharif

Prime minister of Pakistan

Sharif heads Pakistan’s civilian government as prime minister. He met the UN secretary-general during an October 2026 visit. Distinguish his political office from Field Marshal Asim Munir’s military leadership, even when both appear in reports on Pakistan’s diplomacy.

CLUES Pakistan · Islamabad · Civilian government

UN secretary-general activities, October 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Vladimir Putin

President of Russia

Putin leads Russia as its full-scale war against Ukraine continues. His name connects to the Kremlin, international sanctions, energy exports and proposed negotiations. Distinguish announcements about possible meetings from completed agreements or an actual end to the war.

CLUES Russia · Kremlin · Ukraine war · Sanctions

Reuters, October 19, 2026

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Volodymyr Zelenskyy

President of Ukraine

Zelenskyy was elected Ukraine’s president in 2019 after a career in entertainment. He leads the country during Russia’s full-scale invasion. His name connects to military assistance, air defenses, security guarantees and Ukraine’s participation in negotiations over its future.

CLUES Ukraine · Kyiv · 2019 election · Security guarantees

Official leadership profile

CORE / WORLD LEADERS

Xi Jinping

President of China and Communist Party general secretary

Xi holds China’s presidency and leads the Communist Party and central military commission. His authority includes state, party and military roles. Connect him to China’s economy, U.S.-China relations, Taiwan and the country’s growing international influence.

CLUES China · Communist Party · Central Military Commission

Official leadership profile

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Alexander Stubb

President of Finland

Stubb is Finland’s president and participates in European security diplomacy. In October 2026, his office announced a visit to Norway for meetings with its prime minister and king. Distinguish Finland from neighboring Sweden, and presidential diplomacy from parliamentary government.

CLUES Finland · Helsinki · European security

Finnish presidency, October 6, 2026

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Charles III

King of the United Kingdom

Charles III is the United Kingdom’s constitutional monarch. The King’s Speech sets out the government’s legislative program, rather than the monarch’s personal policy platform. Distinguish the king’s head-of-state role from Prime Minister Andy Burnham’s leadership of the government.

CLUES United Kingdom · Constitutional monarchy · King’s Speech

UK government, King’s Speech 2026

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Donald Tusk

Prime minister of Poland

Tusk is Poland’s prime minister and represents the country’s government in the European Council. His name is important in European security and EU policy coverage. Do not confuse the Polish prime minister with Poland’s separately elected president.

CLUES Poland · Warsaw · Prime minister

European Council member directory

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Ed Miliband

UK foreign secretary

Miliband became Britain’s foreign secretary in July 2026. He leads the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and also became the UK governor to the World Bank. This is a changed role: older lists identifying him only with energy policy are outdated.

CLUES United Kingdom · Foreign secretary · July 2026 · World Bank

UK government, July 27, 2026

Original study material. Editorial selection; not an official UIL list or prediction.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

WORLD LEADERS / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Haakon VIII

King of Norway

Haakon VIII became Norway’s king after his father, Harald V, died in August 2026. He is the constitutional monarch, while Jonas Gahr Støre leads the government as prime minister. Remember that royal succession and a change of government are different events.

CLUES Norway · Constitutional monarchy · Harald V

Reuters, September 1, 2026

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

John Healey

UK chancellor of the Exchequer

Healey became chancellor of the Exchequer in July 2026 after previously serving as defence secretary. He is the government’s chief finance minister, responsible for taxation, borrowing and public spending. Distinguish the British chancellor’s financial role from Germany’s chancellor.

CLUES United Kingdom · Treasury · Budget · Taxation

UK government biography

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Jonas Gahr Støre

Prime minister of Norway

Støre heads Norway’s government as prime minister. He took part in October 2026 diplomacy in Oslo involving Ukraine and its partners. Distinguish him from King Haakon VIII: Støre leads the government, while the king is the constitutional head of state.

CLUES Norway · Oslo · Prime minister

Finnish presidency, October 6, 2026

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Lawrence Wong

Prime minister and finance minister of Singapore

Wong leads Singapore’s government and also serves as finance minister. In October 2026 he made official visits to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. Pair him with Singapore’s economic diplomacy, rather than neighboring Indonesia or Malaysia.

CLUES Singapore · Prime minister · Finance

Singapore prime minister’s office, October 2026

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Mette Frederiksen

Prime minister of Denmark

Frederiksen leads Denmark’s government and represents the country in the European Council. Her name belongs with Copenhagen and Danish politics. In stories involving Greenland and Arctic security, distinguish Denmark’s national leadership from Greenland’s own elected government.

CLUES Denmark · Copenhagen · Arctic

European Council member directory

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Pedro Sánchez

Prime minister of Spain

Sánchez leads Spain’s government as prime minister and represents the country in the European Council. Connect him to Madrid and Spain’s place in European decision-making. The prime minister’s office is separate from Spain’s monarchy and its head-of-state role.

CLUES Spain · Madrid · Prime minister

European Council member directory

EXTENDED / WORLD LEADERS

Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani

Emir of Qatar

Tamim is Qatar’s emir, a hereditary head of state. Singapore’s October 2026 visit announcement identifies him as the leader who invited Lawrence Wong to Qatar. Connect Qatar with Doha and distinguish the emir from Saudi and Emirati leaders.

CLUES Qatar · Emir · Doha

Singapore foreign ministry, October 2026

STUDY THIS SECTION

Cover the names. Identify each person from the office and clues. Then use the separate Review tab or workbook to test yourself.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ajay Banga

World Bank Group president

Banga began his five-year term as World Bank Group president in June 2023. He previously led Mastercard. His agenda emphasizes development, poverty reduction and job creation, including attracting private investment. Distinguish the World Bank from the International Monetary Fund.

CLUES World Bank · Development · Jobs · Mastercard

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Amina J. Mohammed

UN deputy secretary-general

Mohammed is deputy secretary-general of the United Nations. Her work includes sustainable development and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. She supports Secretary-General António Guterres; her office is distinct from the rotating presidency of the UN General Assembly.

CLUES United Nations · Deputy secretary-general · SDGs

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

António Costa

President of the European Council

Costa began his term as European Council president in December 2024. He chairs meetings where EU national leaders set broad political priorities. Distinguish his role from Ursula von der Leyen's leadership of the European Commission and from a national presidency.

CLUES European Council · EU leaders · December 2024

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

António Guterres

UN secretary-general

Guterres is the ninth secretary-general of the United Nations and a former Portuguese prime minister. His second term ends in December 2026. Connect his name to UN diplomacy and the process of choosing his successor, rather than NATO's leadership.

CLUES United Nations · Portugal · 2026 succession

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Barham Salih

UN high commissioner for refugees

Salih became UN high commissioner for refugees in January 2026 after previously serving as Iraq's president. He heads UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. Distinguish his refugee-protection role from Volker Türk's leadership of the UN human-rights office.

CLUES UNHCR · Refugees · Iraq · January 2026

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Christine Lagarde

European Central Bank president

Lagarde leads the European Central Bank, which sets monetary policy for the euro area. She previously headed the International Monetary Fund. Connect her current role to euro-area interest rates and inflation, and distinguish it from Georgieva's current IMF leadership.

CLUES ECB · Euro area · Interest rates · Inflation

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Kaja Kallas

EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy

Kallas leads the European Union's foreign and security policy and is a European Commission vice-president. She also heads the European Defence Agency. Connect her name to the EU's diplomatic service, not to NATO's separate leadership under Mark Rutte.

CLUES European Union · Foreign policy · EEAS · Defence Agency

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Khalilur Rahman

President of the 81st UN General Assembly

Rahman, a Bangladeshi diplomat, was elected president of the UN General Assembly's 81st session in June 2026. His role involves leading the Assembly's work. Distinguish that session presidency from the UN secretary-general and the Security Council presidency.

CLUES Bangladesh · UNGA81 · General Assembly · June 2026

Official leadership profile

PEOPLE TO KNOW

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Kristalina Georgieva

IMF managing director

Georgieva has led the International Monetary Fund since October 2019, beginning a second term in October 2024. Her work involves economic stability, debt pressures and financial assistance to member countries. Her official title is managing director, rather than president.

CLUES IMF · Bulgaria · Debt · Managing director

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Mark Rutte

NATO secretary-general

Rutte became NATO’s 14th secretary-general in October 2024 after serving as Dutch prime minister. He leads the alliance’s civilian organization and helps members reach consensus. Connect him to NATO defense cooperation, rather than the UN or European Commission.

CLUES NATO · Netherlands · Defense alliance · Consensus

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

World Trade Organization director-general

Okonjo-Iweala became WTO director-general in March 2021. She previously served as Nigeria’s finance minister and worked at the World Bank. Connect her name to international trade rules and negotiations, while distinguishing the WTO from the World Health Organization.

CLUES WTO · Nigeria · Trade rules · Director-general

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rafael Mariano Grossi

International Atomic Energy Agency director-general

Grossi has led the International Atomic Energy Agency since December 2019. The organization is the UN nuclear watchdog. His name is especially useful in coverage of nuclear safeguards and safety, including issues involving Iran and Ukrainian nuclear power stations.

CLUES IAEA · Nuclear safeguards · Iran · Ukraine

UN Geneva, June 2026

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Rebeca Grynspan

UNCTAD secretary-general on special leave; UN leadership candidate

Grynspan is a Costa Rican economist and former vice president who became UNCTAD secretary-general in 2021. She is on special leave while seeking the UN secretary-general post in 2026. Her candidacy should not be confused with already holding Guterres’s office.

CLUES Costa Rica · UNCTAD · 2026 UN leadership race

UNCTAD leadership biography

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Simon Stiell

UN Climate Change executive secretary

Stiell leads the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat. The Grenadian official was appointed in 2022 and reappointed for a second term in 2025. Connect his name to climate negotiations and COP meetings, rather than the World Meteorological Organization.

CLUES UNFCCC · Grenada · Climate negotiations · COP

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

World Health Organization director-general

Tedros leads the World Health Organization and was reelected to a second term in 2022. He previously served as Ethiopia’s health and foreign minister. Connect his name to global public health and WHO leadership, rather than the World Trade Organization.

CLUES WHO · Ethiopia · Public health

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Tom Fletcher

UN humanitarian affairs chief and emergency relief coordinator

Fletcher heads the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and serves as emergency relief coordinator. His work connects to organizing humanitarian responses to conflicts and disasters. Distinguish aid coordination from the UN refugee agency and its protection mandate.

CLUES OCHA · Emergency relief · Humanitarian aid

Official leadership profile

PEOPLE TO KNOW

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS / 163 PROFILES IN THE FULL COLLECTION

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Tomoko Akane

President of the International Criminal Court

Akane is a Japanese judge who became president of the International Criminal Court in March 2024. The ICC deals with individual criminal responsibility. Distinguish it from the International Court of Justice, which hears legal disputes between states.

CLUES ICC · Japanese judge · Individual criminal responsibility

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

Von der Leyen has led the European Commission since 2019 and was the first woman in the role. She represents the Commission in international meetings. Distinguish her institution from the European Council, whose president is António Costa.

CLUES European Commission · EU · 2019

Official leadership profile

CORE / INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Volker Türk

UN high commissioner for human rights

Türk became UN high commissioner for human rights in October 2022. His office monitors and addresses human-rights issues worldwide. Distinguish this position from the UN high commissioner for refugees: human rights and refugee protection have separate institutional leaders.

CLUES OHCHR · Human rights · October 2022

Official leadership profile

STUDY THIS SECTION

Cover the names. Identify each person from the office and clues. Then use the separate Review tab or workbook to test yourself.

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Original study material. Editorial selection; not an official UIL list or prediction.

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YOUR REVIEW PLAN

ONE SMALL SESSION AT A TIME

1. Start with Core picks. Read the office, background and clues.

2. Cover the names. Use the role and clues to identify each person.

3. Check the source. Current offices can change. Use the linked source when updating your notes.

4. Use the separate review workbook. Record missed names and try them again the next day.

5. Study online. Open lfcurrentevents.lol/#people-review for five-choice practice, role matching and written recall.