



## FACT SHEET: President Obama’s National Security Nominees

*The Department of Defense and the Department of Justice each play a critical role in combatting terrorism and ensuring our national security. In Ashton Carter and Loretta Lynch, President Obama has nominated two highly qualified nominees with bipartisan support to lead each department. Both nominees have an equal right to a full, fair, and swift confirmation process.*

| Ashton Carter (Secretary of Defense)  | Reason to Confirm                                | Loretta Lynch (Attorney General)   |
|---|--|--|
| <p>The Secretary of Defense is the top official in our nation’s military and the principal defense policy advisor to the President. The Secretary of Defense manages the global operations of our military forces around the world, including the critical campaigns against ISIL and other terrorist groups like Al Qaeda.</p>   | <p><b>Post Critical to National Security</b></p> | <p>As the leader of the Department of Justice, the Attorney General is the Nation’s chief law enforcement officer. The DOJ protects the American people investigating and disrupting threats to our safety and national security and also brings criminals to justice. As the head of the DOJ, the U.S. Attorney General is responsible for overseeing important law enforcement activities that make us all safer, including the FBI.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy Secretary of Defense from October 2011 to December 2013</li> <li>• 4 Department of Defense Distinguished Service Medals awarded</li> <li>• Defense Intelligence Medal awardee</li> <li>• Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy</li> <li>• PhD Theoretical Physics, University of Oxford</li> </ul> | <p><b>Extremely Qualified</b></p>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twice served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York</li> <li>• Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York</li> <li>• Member - Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York</li> <li>• Member - New York State Commission on Public Integrity</li> <li>• J.D., Harvard Law School, 1984</li> </ul>   |

| Carter  | Reason to Confirm                                | Lynch  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Senator John McCain:</b> “Dr. Ashton Carter is a highly competent, experienced, hard-working, and committed public servant.”</li> <li>• <b>Senator Jim Inhofe:</b> “I welcome the nomination of Dr. Ash Carter to be the next Secretary of Defense. I have worked with Dr. Carter over the years and consider him qualified for the position.”</li> <li>• <b>Senator Kelly Ayotte:</b> “Ash Carter is a respected and well-qualified nominee to lead the Department of Defense.”</li> </ul> | <p align="center"><b>Bipartisan Support</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Senator Orrin Hatch:</b> "I believe she's not only qualified but exceptionally well-qualified."</li> <li>• <b>Senator Lindsey Graham:</b> “Lynch ‘seems to be a solid choice’ and is qualified.”</li> <li>• <b>Senator Jeff Flake:</b> “She’s got an incredible history and background and experience.”</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Less than 2 months.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nomination announced on December 5, 2014.</li> <li>• Reported favorably by Senate Armed Services Committee February 10, 2015.</li> <li>• <b>Took 57 days from announcement to committee vote.</b></li> </ul>   | <p align="center"><b>Committee Wait Time</b></p> | <p><b>Still waiting after three months.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nomination announced on November 8, 2014.</li> <li>• Has yet to be reported out of Senate Judiciary Committee.</li> <li>• <b>As of today, it has been 96 days since announcement.</b></li> </ul>  |
| <p>Two days between committee report and confirmation vote.</p>   | <p align="center"><b>Senate Speed</b></p>        | <p align="center">TBD.</p>   |