

Presidential Search Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the role of a Federal Reserve Bank president?

The president of a Federal Reserve Bank is the chief executive officer of the Bank. The president is responsible for all of the Reserve Bank's activities, including monetary policy, bank supervision and regulation, and payments services. In addition, the president serves on the Federal Reserve's chief monetary policymaking body, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC).

2. How is a Federal Reserve Bank president [selected](#)?

The process for selecting a Federal Reserve Bank president is set forth in the [Federal Reserve Act](#). Subject to the approval of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the president is appointed by the Reserve Bank's Class B and C directors (those directors who are not affiliated with a supervised entity).

To conduct the search, the Reserve Bank's board of directors forms a search committee composed of Class B and C directors. That committee hires a search firm to help identify a broad, diverse, highly qualified candidate pool. The committee considers a large nationwide pool of candidates, both within and outside the Federal Reserve System, who meet the position's qualifications.

The Bank's Class B and C directors then formally appoint a candidate, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

3. What is the ideal experience the search committee is looking for in a new Federal Reserve Bank president?

As described in the [position description](#), the search committee seeks candidates who have:

- Strategic and integrative thought process with the ability to make critical, difficult and timely decisions, execute and follow through to completion
- Demonstrated executive leadership of a highly sophisticated and complex organization, including a track record of people management of a sizable and diverse staff, and a commitment to best practices in long-range planning, team building, organizational effectiveness, and enterprise-wide management
- Comprehensive working experience in markets, credit, banking and/or financial services, ideally with an understanding of the "plumbing" of the banking system, the international role of the New York Fed, the new economy and labor markets
- Familiarity with the Federal Reserve System and/or prior public policy experience in order to, among other roles, function effectively as the Vice Chair of the Federal Open Markets Committee ("FOMC")

- History of active community participation and civic leadership, and an understanding of and commitment to the community engagement responsibilities required for the position
- Proven ability to interact with, engage and communicate effectively across multiple constituencies, and to communicate clearly the Federal Reserve’s policy stance to market participants globally
- Ability to obtain and maintain a Top Secret-level security clearance
- Advanced degree in business, economics or finance preferred

4. What is the term length of a Federal Reserve Bank president?

The president of a Federal Reserve Bank is appointed for a term of five years. The terms of all 12 Reserve Bank presidents run concurrently, ending on the last day of February of years numbered 6 and 1 (for example, 2016 and 2021). The appointment of a president who takes office after a term has begun ends upon the completion of that term. A president of a Reserve Bank may be reappointed after serving a full term or an incomplete term. Reserve Bank presidents are subject to mandatory retirement at 65 years of age. However, presidents initially appointed after age 55 can, at the option of the Reserve Bank’s board of directors, be permitted to serve until attaining 10 years of service in the office or age 75, whichever comes first.

5. What is the timeline for selecting a Federal Reserve Bank president?

There is no predetermined timeline. What is most important is that the search committee identifies a deep pool of candidates with diverse experiences and backgrounds to land on the right person.

6. What process will the search committee follow in selecting the next president?

The search process is expected to take six to nine months, during which time the search committee will:

- solicit input regarding the key attributes that are important in the ideal presidential candidate from stakeholders across the New York Fed’s district and beyond;
 - stakeholders will include representatives from academia, community and economic development organizations, not-for-profits, industry, small businesses, minority and women-owned businesses, manufacturing and labor
 - members of the search committee will also meet with several of the New York Fed’s advisory groups, including those representing regional interests, communities and small businesses

- identify a diverse slate of potential candidates;
- interview a range of candidates reflecting the diversity of the qualified candidate pool; and,
- recommend to the full Board (excluding the Class A directors) one or more candidates for consideration for appointment as president and CEO, subject to approval by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

7. What role do Class A directors of a Reserve Bank’s board of directors have selecting in the next president?

Class A directors are expressly excluded from the appointment of Reserve Bank presidents due to concerns about potential conflicts of interest that could arise from bankers participating in the selection of the leadership of their federal bank supervisor. Additional information is available from the Federal Reserve Board of Governors [website](#).

However, Class A directors may provide input to members of the search committee in the same manner as that of the general public. Members of the public are able to submit potential candidates directly to the search firms for proper vetting at newyorkfed@spencerstuart.com. General feedback is also welcome at PresidentialSearch@ny.frb.org.

8. What financial restrictions would a potential candidate be subject to?

The search committee should ensure that potential candidates are informed, prior to being interviewed, of restrictions concerning financial holdings, compensation, outside activities, and other matters that may influence their interest in the position.

The New York Fed expects its employees to perform their duties with honesty, integrity and impartiality, and without improper preferential treatment of any person. The New York Fed’s [Code of Conduct](#) outlines its principles and standards for employee conduct, including rules for avoiding actual and apparent conflicts of interest. New York Fed employees are also subject to the same conflict of interest statute that applies to federal government employees (18 U.S.C. Section 208). Additional information is available on the [Ethics and Conflicts](#) of Interest section of the website.