

Takaichi Retains Key Ministers, Adds Five Newcomers in Cabinet Reshuffle

内閣改造は、政権の政策や今後の方向性を知るうえで重要なニュースの一つです。今回の高市内閣の改造では、主要閣僚の多くが留任する一方、新たに入閣した議員もいました。また、日本維新の会から初めて閣僚が起用されたことも注目されています。内閣改造には、どのような意味があるのでしょうか。あなたは、閣僚を選ぶ際にどのような点が重要だと思いますか。



1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi formally launched her reshuffled Cabinet on September 17, keeping her top ministers in place while bringing in five newcomers.

Speaking at a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office that evening, she said the new lineup reflected a "Cabinet of decision, challenge, and action."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Minoru Kihara announced the full roster earlier in the day. The core of the administration stays untouched. Toshimitsu Motegi remains foreign minister, Satsuki Katayama stays on at finance, Shinjiro Koizumi continues as defense minister, and Kihara himself keeps his post.

Several other senior figures were also kept on, including Kenichiro Ueno at health and welfare, Ryosei Akazawa at economy and industry, Minoru Kiuchi overseeing growth strategy, and Kimi Onoda handling economic security.

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1. Article

The most notable change at the top came at internal affairs, where Hisayuki Fujii takes over from Yoshimasa Hayashi, who exits the Cabinet entirely.

Elsewhere, Takashi Yamashita becomes justice minister, Goshi Hosono takes on reconstruction, and Yasuhiro Hanashi returns as chair of the National Public Safety Commission.

Five lawmakers entered the Cabinet for the first time. Yoshihiro Seki takes education, Kazuo Yana takes agriculture, Tatsunori Ibayashi takes transport, Hiroyoshi Sasagawa takes the environment, and Toshiharu Furukawa takes the newly reshaped digital portfolio.

In a first for the ruling coalition, Ishin no Kai's Hiroshi Nakatsuka also joined as minister for regulatory reform.

At the evening press conference, Takaichi laid out how she chose her team. She said she reviewed a questionnaire sent to lawmakers who had won at least two elections, regardless of how many terms they had served, before weighing each candidate's [expertise](#) and settling on people who could "steadily carry out [policy](#) and keep moving it forward."

She framed the reshuffle around economic policy, saying the government would "advance policies toward a strong economy under the banner of responsible, proactive fiscal management."

On why the ministers overseeing foreign affairs and defense—areas where continuity matters—were kept in place, Takaichi pointed to their "proactive attitude and ability to execute," adding that she had reviewed their portfolios before making the call.

She repeated her framing of the reshuffle several times during the briefing, describing an administration that had "kept up decision and challenge" and had now reached "a stage of action, not just defense."

Takaichi described Nakatsuka's appointment as "a symbol of the [coalition](#) government entering a new stage," acknowledging the more prominent role Ishin no Kai now plays as the LDP's coalition partner.

Asked about ministers previously disciplined over the LDP factional slush fund scandal being brought into the Cabinet, Takaichi did not deny their past sanctions. However, she said they had "given full explanations" and had since been returned to the Diet by voters across two elections.

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1. Article

Takaichi faces an LDP presidential race next year, and reporters pressed her on whether the reshuffle was designed with that contest in mind. She said flatly that it had "nothing to do with it."

She also declined to explain why Hayashi, whose future had been closely watched, was left out of the new Cabinet altogether, saying she would "refrain from commenting on personnel decisions regarding individual ministers."

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2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

1. decision 決定

The budget committee finally made a decision after several weeks of discussion and debate.

2. administration 政権

The new administration promised to review and reform the rules on home loans.

3. expertise 専門知識

Mayuko was hired as a researcher for her expertise in electrical engineering.

4. policy 政策

The government has no plans this year to change its policy on school lunches.

5. coalition 連立

Several countries formed a coalition to end the wars in the Middle East.

3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. Describe the reasoning and methods used by the prime minister to choose her cabinet members.
2. Why did Prime Minister Takaichi say some ministers overseeing foreign affairs and defense were kept in place?
3. How have things changed for Ishin no Kai?
4. What do you think about Prime Minister Takaichi's choices? Please explain your answers.
5. In your opinion, what percentage of government ministers should be experienced, and what percentage should be new? Why?

4. 第2次高市改造内閣発足 改造の狙い「決断と挑戦、実行の内閣に」

木原稔官房長官は9月17日、第2次高市早苗改造内閣の閣僚名簿を発表した。茂木敏充外相、片山さつき財務相、小泉進次郎防衛相、木原氏を留任させ、政権の骨格を維持する。上野賢一郎厚生労働相、赤沢亮正経済産業相、城内実成長戦略担当相、小野田紀美経済安全保障担当相も続投させる。

文部科学相に関芳弘氏、農林水産相に築和生氏、国土交通相に井林辰憲氏、環境相に笹川博義氏、デジタル相に古川俊治氏を起用。いずれも初入閣となる。

法相に山下貴司氏、復興相に細野豪志氏、国家公安委員長に葉梨康弘氏を充てる。林芳正総務相の後任には藤井比早之氏を起用。林氏はほかの閣僚にも起用せず、閣外に出る。

自民党と連立を組む日本維新の会からは中司宏氏が入閣し、規制改革担当相に充てる。

高市早苗首相は9月17日に改造内閣の正式発足後、首相官邸での記者会見に臨んだ。「決断と挑戦、実行の内閣」になったと人事の狙いを強調した。

首相は午後6時半から官邸で始まった会見でまず、改造内閣の人事について「当選回数などは問わず、（当選2回以上の衆院議員を対象に）実施したアンケートに目を通したうえで、専門性などを考慮し、腰を据えて政策を実行し、前に進めてもらえることを重視した」と語り、選挙に強い議員を選んだと説明した。

「責任ある積極財政の大方針を掲げ、強い経済の実現に向けた政策を加速させる」と強調した。

継続性が重要な外務、防衛といった主要閣僚らは再任されたが、その理由について「積極性や実行力を評価し、担務を見直した上で判断した」と述べた。「これまでも決断と挑戦を続けてきたが、守るだけではない、実行のステージにきた」と話し、「決断と挑戦、実行の内閣」であることを繰り返し強調した。

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出典：第2次高市改造内閣発足 改造の狙い「決断と挑戦、実行の内閣に」

[Japan Forward](#)

4. 第2次高市改造内閣発足 改造の狙い「決断と挑戦、実行の内閣に」

連立政権を組む日本維新の会からは、中司宏前幹事長が初めて閣内に入った。これに関し、「連立政権が新たな段階に進む象徴となるものだ」と述べた。自民派閥パーティー券収入不記載事件で処分を受けた議員の入閣に関しては、「過去に行ったことがなかったこととされるわけではないが、説明を尽くし、2回の選挙を通じて有権者から国政に送り出してもらった」と述べた。

高市首相は来年、自民党総裁選の任期を迎えるが、今回の人事との関係について「一切関係ない」と述べた。処遇が注目されていた林芳正氏を閣僚から外した理由を問われたが、「個々の閣僚の人事に関するコメントは差し控える」と述べた。

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