

## Senate Commerce Committee Nominee Questionnaire, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress

Instructions for the nominees: The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation asks you to provide typed answers to each of the following questions. It is requested that the nominee type the question in full before each response. Do not leave any questions blank. Type "None" or "Not Applicable" if a question does not apply to the nominee. Return printed answers to Committee. Begin each section (i.e., "A", "B", etc.) on a new sheet of paper.

### A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Michael John Kotsakas Kratsios

2. Position to which nominated:

U.S. Chief Technology Officer and Associate Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

3. Date of Nomination:

April 4, 2019

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):



**Office**

1650 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20502

5. Date and Place of Birth:

11/7/86  
Salisbury, MD

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Not Applicable

7. List all college and graduate degrees. Provide year and school attended.

AB in Politics, Princeton University, 2004-2008

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

Analyst, Barclays Investment Bank, 2009-2010

Analyst, Lyford Group International, 2010

Associate, Clarium Capital Management, 2010-2011

**Chief Compliance Officer, Clarium Capital Management, 2011-2014**

**Chief Compliance Officer, Thiel Capital, 2012-2014**

**Chief Compliance Officer, Thiel Macro, 2012-2014**

**Chief Financial Officer, Clarium Capital Management, 2014-2015**

**Principal and Chief of Staff, Thiel Capital, 2014-2017**

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

See Attachment 1

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above, within the last ten years.

Not Applicable

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution within the last ten years.

Trustee, Foundation for Student Communication Inc. (Business Today), 2007-2017

Chief Compliance Officer, Clarium Capital Management, 2011-2014

Chief Compliance Officer, Thiel Capital, 2012-2014

Chief Compliance Officer, Thiel Macro, 2012-2014

Board of Directors, International Model United Nations Association, 2013-2016

Chief Financial Officer, Clarium Capital Management, 2014-2015

12. Please list each membership you have had during the past ten years or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Member, American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, 2018-present

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

Yes. I was appointed Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer by President Donald J. Trump in 2017.

No, I have no outstanding campaign debt.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

Not applicable

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of \$500 or more for the past ten years.

None

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

National Merit Scholarship Recipient

American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association Educational Foundation  
Scholarship Recipient

Hellenic Studies Senior Thesis Prize (Princeton University)

17. Please list each book, article, column, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. Also list any speeches that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Do not attach copies of these publications unless otherwise instructed.

**Publications**

High Speed Broadband Is Fostering a New Era of Innovation for Rural America,  
*Agri-Pulse*. February 14, 2019

<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/11905-opinion-high-speed-broadband-is-fostering-a-new-era-of-innovation-for-rural-america>

Why the US Needs a Strategy for AI, *WIRED*, Feb. 2, 2019  
<https://www.wired.com/story/a-national-strategy-for-ai/>

America Will Win the Global Race to 5G, WhiteHouse.gov. October 25, 2018  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/america-will-win-global-race-5g/>

The Future of American Aviation Is All About Drones. CNN.com, June 6, 2018  
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/06/opinions/trump-administration-drone-technology-kratsios/index.html>

Donald Trump Embraces the Drone Age, *The Wall Street Journal*. October 25, 2017  
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/donald-trump-embraces-the-drone-age-1508947220>

Economics and Voting in the Third Hellenic Republic: An Aggregate and Individual-Level Analysis of the Greek Electorate, 1985-2007. April 8, 2008. Princeton University Senior Thesis.  
[https://issuu.com/mkratsios/docs/economics\\_and\\_voting](https://issuu.com/mkratsios/docs/economics_and_voting)

### **Speeches**

May 1, 2017	27th National Science Bowl (Department of Energy)
June 5, 2017	United States of America Mathematical Olympiad Awards Dinner
September 27, 2017	G7 Industry and Information and Communication Technologies Ministerial Meeting
November 2, 2017	Drone Integration Pilot Program Launch (Department of Transportation)
November 13, 2017	Virtuous Circle Summit (Internet Association)*
December 13, 2017	Department of Health and Human Services Innovation Day
January 9, 2018	Administration's Approach to Innovation and Tech Policy (CES)*
February 20, 2018	New Work Summit (New York Times)*
March 14, 2018	ARPA-E Energy Innovation Summit
March 29, 2018	Center for Democracy & Technology Annual Dinner
April 10, 2018	U.S. Chamber of Commerce Tecglobal 2018
April 19, 2018	Unleashing American Innovation Launch Event (Department of Commerce)
May 9, 2018	U.S. Air Force – National Science Foundation Collaboration Announcement Event
May 10, 2018	White House AI for American Industry Summit
June 5, 2018	EmTech Next (MIT Tech Review)*
July 10, 2018	AI Summit: Investing in Innovation and Tomorrow's Workforce (Business Software Alliance)*
August 21, 2018	FedTalks
August 28, 2018	University of Mississippi Technology Summit
September 9, 2018	Tech Olympus Summit*

September 21, 2018	Reboot 2018 (Lincoln Network)*
September 24, 2018	White House Quantum Information Sciences Summit
September 28, 2018	White House 5G Summit
October 2, 2018	Commercial UAV Expo*
November 8, 2018	Technology 202 Live: View from the White House Technology Team (Washington Post)
November 11, 2018	Techonomy*
November 15, 2018	Global Entrepreneurship Summit Launch Event
December 6, 2018	Business Roundtable CEO Innovation Summit*
December 9, 2018	NSF Expeditions in Computing Event
January 29, 2019	State of the Net
February 27, 2019	Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute Tech Talk
February 28, 2019	The White House: Accelerating America's Leadership in Artificial Intelligence (Center for New American Security)
March 1, 2019	Preparing for the G20 (US Chamber of Commerce)*
March 7, 2019	DARPA AI Colloquium
March 11, 2019	Safeguarding the Crown Jewels of U.S. Innovation (SXSW)*
March 12, 2019	Consumer Technology Association Innovation Policy Day (SXSW)
March 19, 2019	The AI Agenda (The Economist)*
March 27, 2019	Blueprint York
April 9, 2019	Domestic Drone Safety and Security Series*
April 18, 2019	2nd Annual Choctaw Nation Emerging Aviation Conference
April 30, 2019	2019 Digital Patriots Dinner

\*Armchair conversation (Q&A format)

18. List digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the name of an "alias" or "handle" you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

Facebook: Michael Kratsios [dormant]

Instagram: mkratsios [active] <https://www.instagram.com/mkratsios/>

LinkedIn: Michael Kratsios [active] <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelkratsios>

Snapchat: scgreek [deleted]

Tumblr: mkratsios [deleted]

Twitter: mkratsios [dormant] <https://twitter.com/mkratsios>

19. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

Not Applicable

20. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

For the past two years, I have had the honor to serve as the Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer in The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). During this time, I have engaged directly in the type of work I would do if I have the privilege of being confirmed. Under my leadership, OSTP has focused on the emerging technologies that will provide the foundation for industries of the future. The White House launched the American Artificial Intelligence Initiative to preserve and advance American leadership in artificial intelligence. I championed the issuance of a Presidential Memorandum to create a National Spectrum Strategy to help America win the global race to 5G, a technology critical to our nation's prosperity and security. I helped spearhead the government-wide effort to launch the American Broadband Initiative to bring broadband access to rural America and led the development of a drone pilot program to accelerate the integration of unmanned aircraft systems into our national airspace. In addition, I also convened a first-of-its-kind White House Summit on STEM education to help develop a new 5-year national strategy for STEM education that was released in December of 2018.

Earlier in my career, during my time working in the venture capital industry in Silicon Valley, I saw firsthand the absolute best that the American entrepreneurial spirit has to offer. Our Nation's innovation ecosystem is something we should all be immensely proud of. I also experienced how government's role can either foster the growth of new technologies or keep them locked in captivity. When I joined The White House at the beginning of the Trump Administration, I saw tremendous opportunity for creating a regulatory environment that ensures that as the future takes shape, the American people always end up the winners. If confirmed as U.S. Chief Technology Officer, I will seek to ensure that the benefits of emerging technologies extend far beyond Silicon Valley, lifting up Americans in every corner of our Nation.

Growing up the son of a Greek immigrant, my family instilled in me the enduring hope for a better tomorrow. I believe that embracing technological innovation, building new technologies in America, and shaping those technologies with American values will lead us to that stronger future. The U.S. Chief Technology Officer can help chart the path, and it would be my greatest privilege to serve my country in this capacity.

21. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

As U.S. Chief Technology Officer I would have the responsibility of supporting the Director of OSTP in stewarding the office's resources in furtherance of OSTP's mission and strategic initiatives. This includes ensuring that all management procedures and financial controls operate in accordance with established laws and procedures. For the past two years, I have had the privilege of leading the technology policy team at OSTP, managing the research, creation, and dissemination of dozens of reports, executive orders, presidential memoranda, and more in fields as diverse as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, STEM education, entrepreneurship, drones, rural broadband, and spectrum. Prior to working at OSTP, I served as a Principal and Chief of Staff at investment management firm Thiel Capital, working cross functionally to provide strategic support and drive key projects across affiliated entities, which included venture capital funds, hedge funds, and a philanthropy. I also previously served as the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer of global macro hedge fund Clarium Capital Management, overseeing all operations and financial reporting.

22. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

The first challenge is to establish American leadership in key emerging technologies to ensure they are developed with American values and applied in a manner that benefits the American people. This will require maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government's role in America's research and development (R&D) ecosystem, alongside the efforts of academia and industry. OSTP can support aligning interagency R&D priorities and improving the planning and coordinating of federal research investments. By promoting collaboration between the government and the private sector, we can turn the scientific discoveries of government labs into beneficial technologies for the American people and the world.

Second, American leadership in emerging technologies requires a flexible regulatory system that supports innovation while preserving and ensuring protections for the safety, civil liberties, and well-being of the American people. In coordination with relevant agencies, and leveraging the National Science and Technology Council, OSTP can work to draft, streamline, or remove regulations to enable novel applications of emerging technologies. By doing so, we can promote American ingenuity and collect the data required to inform future policymaking on these issues.

Third, as emerging technologies become commonplace across our society, we must ensure that the American worker is empowered by this technological change and enjoys the economic security they deserve. This will require a multi-faceted effort, including implementation of the Administration's recently released 5-year national strategy for STEM education, as well as a continued focus on retraining and reskilling to address the workforce changes caused by the emergence of these new technologies.

## B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts.

I will continue to participate in my former employer's 401(k) plan. The former employer no longer makes contributions to this plan.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

No

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and OSTP's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement that I have entered into with OSTP's Designated Agency Ethics Official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and OSTP's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement that I have entered into with OSTP's Designated Agency Ethics Official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and OSTP's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement that I have entered into



with OSTP's Designated Agency Ethics Official and that has been provided to this Committee. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

None

### C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:
  - a. Provide the name of agency, association, committee, or group;
  - b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
  - c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
  - d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

No

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain.

Yes. In 2014, Thiel Marco filed a civil action for breach of contract and misappropriation of trade secrets. The case was subsequently settled.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

No

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

Not applicable

#### **D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE**

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistle blowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures?

Yes

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so?

Yes

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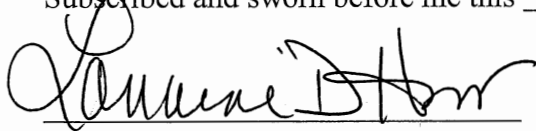
(Nominee is to include this signed affidavit along with answers to the above questions.)

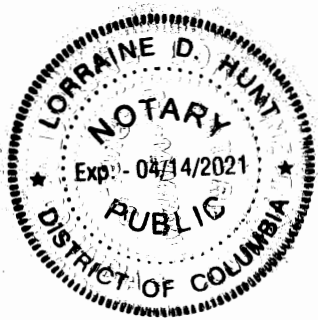
**F. AFFIDAVIT**

Michael Kratsios being duly sworn, hereby states that he/she has read and signed the foregoing Statement on Biographical and Financial Information and that the information provided therein is, to the best of his/her knowledge, current, accurate, and complete.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Nominee

Subscribed and sworn before me this 10<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public



## Michael J.K. Kratsios

### EXPERIENCE

**Executive Office of the President of the United States** Washington, D.C.  
Deputy Assistant to the President for Technology Policy and Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer 2017 - present

- Serve as principal technology policy advisor at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
- Serve as secretary-level representative of the United States in international fora, including the G7 and G20
- Lead team of policy advisors driving U.S. policy and priorities on a range of technology issues, including artificial intelligence, unmanned aerial systems, autonomous vehicles, quantum computing, telecommunications, rural broadband, entrepreneurship, the digital economy, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, and STEM education
- Oversee the development and execution of national-level technology initiatives, including the American Artificial Intelligence Initiative, the National Quantum Initiative, and the American Broadband Initiative
- Responsible for administration efforts to integrate commercial drones into the national airspace, including a Presidential action creating the FAA Drone Integration Pilot Program, which was ultimately codified into law

**Thiel Capital** San Francisco, CA  
Thiel Capital is an investment firm founded by Peter Thiel, providing strategic and operational support for Mr. Thiel's investment initiatives and entrepreneurial endeavors. Related subsidiaries include Founders Fund, Mithril, Valar Ventures, Thiel Macro, Clarium Capital Management, and The Thiel Foundation.

Principal and Chief of Staff, Thiel Capital 2014 - 2017

- Led the Office of Peter Thiel, ensuring his vision was well informed and properly executed
- Served as primary point of contact for investment subsidiaries and all initiatives involving Mr. Thiel, working cross-functionally to drive key projects across affiliated entities

Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer, Clarium Capital Management 2010 - 2015

- Oversaw operations and financial reporting of SEC-registered global macro hedge fund, including cash management, counterparty relationships, systems integration and automation, performance and P&L tracking, NAV and investor statement approval, and annual audit for the fund (CFO, 2014 - 2015)
- Oversaw all regulatory and self-regulatory compliance of SEC-registered global macro hedge fund Clarium, proprietary trading fund Thiel Macro, and the Thiel Family Office (CCO, 2011-2014)
- Served as chairman of firm's Valuation and Conflicts committees
- Rapidly promoted to top-level leadership, reporting directly to company President, Peter Thiel
- *Previously:* Associate (Aug 2010-March 2011)

**Barclays** New York, NY  
Analyst, Investment Banking Division Summer 2007 & 2008 - 2009

- Operated as one of 40 professionals offering M&A advice and underwriting capabilities to companies worldwide
- Completed ten-week intensive investment banking training program; modules included financial analysis and accounting, credit valuation, financial modeling, credit structuring, and financial markets

### EDUCATION

**Princeton University** Princeton, NJ  
2008

- A.B. in Politics, *magna cum laude*
- Certificates in Political Economy and Hellenic Studies

**Tsinghua University, School of Economics and Management** Beijing, China  
2010

- Visiting Scholar & Instructor, Principles of Economics course

### OTHER

Clearance: Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information

Other: Fluent in modern Greek, former EMT and member of the Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad, marathon runner and Boston Marathon qualifier, published in *The Wall Street Journal*, *WIRED*, CNN, and WhiteHouse.gov