



Economics
Fed Notes

Date
17 December 2025

Who's who in the December dot plot?

Although Chair Powell delivered a more dovish message at the December FOMC meeting, the dot plot was in line with expectations (see [“December recap: Powell delivers last of three turtle doves and a signal of ‘wait and see’”](#)). In particular, the median dots were unchanged over the forecast horizon, with the 2026 median showing only one additional rate cut. This expectation is in line with our own forecast for Fed policy over the next year (see [“2026 outlook: Keep on rockin’ in the not so risk-free world”](#)).

Despite the unchanged median, the December SEP continued to show considerable disagreement about the appropriate policy path over the next 12 months. Eleven officials expect the fed funds rate at 3.4% or higher next year; three of those officials – two of which we believe are voters in 2026 (Hammack and Logan) – actually place the fed funds rate at the end of next year above current levels. Conversely, two officials expect at least 100bps of cuts next year with one official (we think Governor Miran) penciling in 150bps of reductions, which would leave the fed funds rate at 2.1% at end-2026.

Needless to say, the strong disagreements that emerged across officials this year are likely to persist into 2026. Below is our initial attempt to identify the 2026 dots in the December SEP.

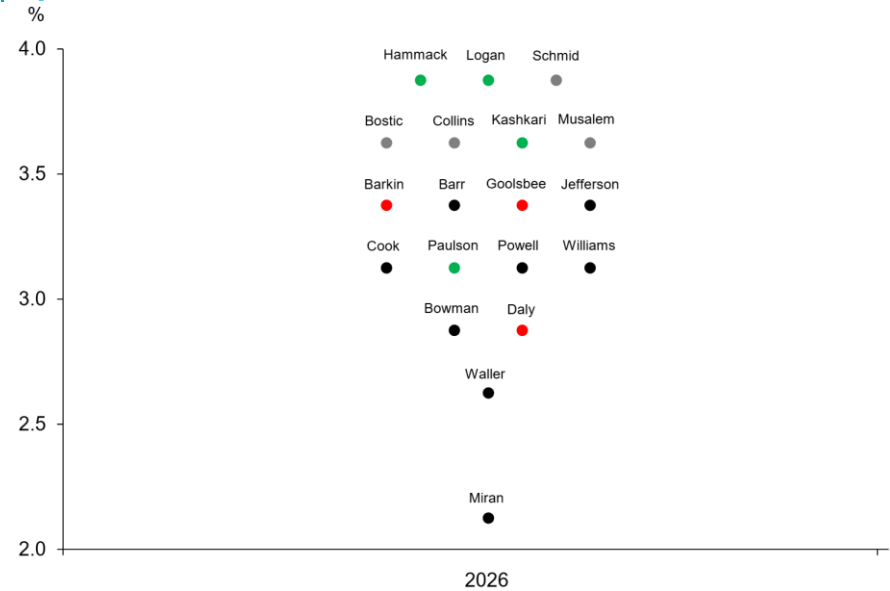
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Figure 1: DB ID of the 2026 dots in December SEP



Source: FRB, Deutsche Bank Research. Note: The black dots represent permanent voting members, including the Governors and NY Fed president. The green dots represent regional voters in 2026 and the red dots represent regional voters in 2027. All other officials are represented by the gray dots including Atlanta Fed president as Bostic has announced his retirement in Feb 2026.

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Appendix 1

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