



## One Year In, Trump Administration Still Hampered By Unprecedented Dysfunction

**Nominations Withdrawn for Radical Views, Absence of Qualifications, and Lack of Bipartisan Support.** Nominees to high-ranking executive branch positions have been forced to withdraw once their past controversies have come to light. Some of President Trump’s judicial nominees have resigned due to a clear lack of qualifications. Over the last year, 22 of President Trump’s nominations have been withdrawn.

**Trump’s First Year Clouded by Firings, Withdrawals, and Resignations.** At the highest levels, the Trump administration has been derailed thanks to firings and resignations in the wake of scandals and infighting.

**Even Republican Senators Have Blocked Unqualified and Radical Trump Nominees.** In Trump’s first year, 18 Republican senators have either placed holds on or threatened to hold up Trump nominees. This includes Republican Whip John Cornyn (R-TX), NRSC Chairman Cory Gardner (R-CO), and several Republican committee chairs.

### NOMINATIONS WITHDRAWN FOR RADICAL VIEWS, ABSENCE OF QUALIFICATIONS, AND LACK OF BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

**Andrew Puzder (Secretary of Labor):** “The fast-food executive Andrew F. Puzder withdrew his nomination to be labor secretary on Wednesday as Republican senators turned sharply against him, the latest defeat for a White House besieged by infighting and struggling for traction even with a Republican-controlled Congress.” [NYT, [2/15/17](#)]

**Sam Clovis (Under Secretary of USDA):** “Clovis has come under criticism recently for his lack of science credentials and for his role supervising George Papadopoulos, a Trump campaign foreign policy adviser who struck a plea deal on charges he lied to FBI investigators about his communications with Russia-linked contacts.” [Politico, [11/2/17](#)]

**Brett Talley (US District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama):** “Talley had been rated ‘unanimously unqualified’ for the post by the American Bar Association this year after an evaluation that questioned his experience. Talley had never argued a case, or even a motion, in federal court, he testified.” [NPR, [12/13/17](#)]

**Jeff Mateer (US District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas):** “Jeff Mateer, a top lawyer for the state of Texas who has described transgender children as evidence of ‘Satan’s plan,’ will not become a federal judge.” [Dallas Morning News, [12/13/17](#)]

**Matthew Petersen (US District Judge for the District of Columbia)** “President Donald Trump’s judicial nominee Matthew Petersen has withdrawn his name from consideration after a video went viral of him failing to answer basic questions about law in his confirmation hearing, according to an aide to a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.” [Huffington Post, [12/18/17](#)]

**Mark Green (Secretary of the Army)\*:** “President Donald Trump's choice for Army secretary announced Friday that he is withdrawing his name from consideration.” ... “The decision by Green, Trump's second pick for the post, came after his nomination ran into trouble following a backlash after past controversial statements on LGBT issues, Islam and evolution were revealed.” [CNN, [5/5/17](#)]

**Daniel Craig (Deputy Administrator of FEMA)** “President Donald Trump's nominee for the No. 2 spot at the Federal Emergency Management Agency withdrew from consideration on Wednesday after NBC News raised questions about a federal investigation that found he had falsified government travel and timekeeping records when he served in the Bush administration in 2005. [NBC, [9/13/17](#)]

**Michael Dourson (Assistant Administrator of the EPA):** “His withdrawal followed the release of several hundreds of pages of his correspondence with chemical industry officials while he was being considered for the E.P.A. job.” [NYT, [12/13/17](#)]

**David Jonas (General Counsel of the Department of Energy):** “A Department of Energy nominee who co-wrote a piece in 1993 objecting to gay people serving in the military withdrew from consideration on Sunday.” [The Hill, [1/8/18](#)]

**Timothy Kelly (Assistant Secretary of Education):** “Last week, Michigan state lawmaker Timothy Kelly withdrew his name from consideration to be assistant secretary of Education for career, technical and adult education, after offensive blog posts he wrote from 2009 to 2012 came to light.” [Government Executive, [11/15/17](#)]

#### ***Other Withdrawn Nominees in Year One:***

[Tom Marino](#) (ONDCP Director)

[Jim Clinger](#) (FDIC Chairman)

[George Nesterczuk](#) (OPM Director)

[Paul Trombino](#) (FHA Administrator)

[Vincent Viola](#) (Army Secretary)

[Philip Bilden](#) (Navy Secretary)\*

[Todd Ricketts](#) (Deputy Commerce Secretary)

[Jim Donovan](#) (Deputy Treasury Secretary)

[Dean L. Winslow](#) (Asst. Secretary of Defense)

[Anne W. Patterson](#) (Defense Undersecretary for Policy)\*

[David Ehrhart](#) (General Counsel of the Air Force)

[Ryan Newman](#) (General Counsel of the Army)

*\*Nomination was not formally submitted to the Senate*

#### **TRUMP'S FIRST YEAR CLOUDED BY FIRINGS, WITHDRAWALS, AND RESIGNATIONS**

**Tom Price (Secretary of Health and Human Services):** “Tom Price, the health and human services secretary, resigned under pressure on Friday after racking up at least \$400,000 in travel bills for chartered flights and undermining President Trump's promise to drain the swamp of a corrupt and entitled capital.” [NYT, [9/29/17](#)]

**Michael Flynn (National Security Adviser):** “Michael T. Flynn, the national security adviser, resigned on Monday night after it was revealed that he had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other top White House officials about his conversations with the Russian ambassador to the United States.” [NYT, [2/13/17](#)]

**Reince Priebus (Chief of Staff):** “Reince Priebus, the White House chief of staff who failed to impose order on a chaos-racked West Wing, was pushed out on Friday after a stormy six-month tenure, and President Trump replaced him with John F. Kelly, the secretary of homeland security and retired four-star Marine general.” [NYT, [7/28/17](#)]

**Stephen Bannon (White House Chief Strategist):** “Stephen K. Bannon, the embattled chief strategist who helped President Trump win the 2016 election but clashed for months with other senior West Wing advisers, is leaving his post, a White House spokeswoman announced Friday.” [NYT, [8/18/17](#)]

**Anthony Scaramucci (White House Communications Director):** “President Trump has decided to remove Anthony Scaramucci from his position as communications director, three people close to the decision said Monday, relieving him just days after Mr. Scaramucci **unloaded a crude verbal tirade** against other senior members of the president’s senior staff.” [NYT, [7/31/17](#)]

**Sean Spicer (Press Secretary):** “Sean Spicer, the White House press secretary, resigned on Friday morning, telling President Trump he vehemently disagreed with the appointment of New York financier Anthony Scaramucci as communications director.” [NYT, [7/21/17](#)]

**Sebastian Gorka (Deputy Assistant to the President):** “Sebastian Gorka, a deputy assistant to the president who was closely aligned with former chief strategist Steve Bannon, was ousted from the White House, officials said Friday.” [Politico, [8/25/17](#)]

***Other Departed Administration Staff and Officials in Year One:***

[Katie Walsh](#) (Deputy Chief of Staff)  
[Andy Surabian](#) (Deputy Political Strategist)  
[Mike Dubke](#) (Communications Director)  
[Michael Short](#) (Assistant Press Secretary)  
[Boris Epshteyn](#) (Special Assistant to the President)  
[Andy Hemming](#) (Director of Rapid Response)  
[George Sifakis](#) (Director, Office of Public Liaison)  
[Omarosa Manigault Newman](#) (Director of Communications for the Office of Public Liaison)  
[Keith Schiller](#) (Director of Oval Office Operations)  
[Caroline Wiles](#) (Director of Scheduling)  
[George Gigicos](#) (Director of Scheduling & Advance)  
[Gerrit Lansing](#) (Chief Digital Officer)  
[Josh Pitcock](#) (Chief of Staff for the VP)  
[Mark Lotter](#) (Press Secretary for the VP)  
[Kristan King Nevins](#) (Chief of Staff, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lady)  
[Matt Saunders](#) (Special Asst. to Greenblatt)  
[Robert Wasinger](#) (Liaison to State Department)

[Dina Powell](#) (Dep. National Security Adviser)  
[Robin Townley](#) (NSC Senior Director)  
[Monica Crowley](#) (NSC Senior Director)  
[Craig Deare](#) (NSC Senior Director)  
[Ezra Cohen-Watnick](#) (NSC Senior Director)  
[Rich Higgins](#) (NSC Director, Strategic Planning)  
[Marcus Peacock](#) (Senior Policy Adviser at OMB)  
[Taylor Weyeneth](#) (Deputy COS, ONDCP)  
[Teresa Manning](#) (Deputy Asst. Secretary at HHS)  
[Brian Neale](#) (Deputy Administrator of CMS)  
[Jamie Johnson](#) (Director of the Center for Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships at DHS)  
[Shermichael Singleton](#) (Senior Adviser at HUD)  
[Julia Haller](#) (State Dept. Senior Adviser)  
[Kiron Skinner](#) (State Dept. Senior Adviser)  
[Maliz Beams](#) (Counselor of the State Dept.)  
[Carl Higbie](#) (Chief of External Affairs at CNCS)

**EVEN REPUBLICAN SENATORS HAVE BLOCKED UNQUALIFIED AND RADICAL TRUMP NOMINEES**

**Senate Republican Whip John Cornyn (R-TX):**

**Axios: John Cornyn holds up top White House nominee.** “Texas Sen. John Cornyn is frustrating both administration officials and conservative movement leaders by holding up the confirmation of Russ Vought to be Mick Mulvaney’s right hand man at the Office of Management and Budget.” [Axios, [10/19/17](#)]

**Senate Republican Policy Committee Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY):**

**Roll Call: Holds on Energy and Environment Nominees Pile Up — Again.** “Wyoming Republican John Barrasso, an Energy Committee member, is the latest senator to place a hold on a Trump Energy nominee, citing a policy difference affecting his state’s uranium mining industry.” [Roll Call, [1/22/18](#)]

**National Republican Senate Committee Chairman Cory Gardner (R-CO):**

**Washington Examiner: Cory Gardner vows to hold Trump’s judicial nominees until marijuana decision is reversed.** “Republican Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said Thursday he would block all of

President Trump's judicial nominees until the administration reverses its decision to rescind a policy that de-prioritized the enforcement of federal marijuana laws." [Washington Examiner, [1/4/18](#)]

**Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-TN):**

**The Hill: Corker: McFarland's nomination 'frozen' over contradictions in her testimony.** "Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) said Tuesday that former deputy national security adviser K.T. McFarland's nomination to be the U.S. ambassador to Singapore is 'frozen' amid questions over whether she deceived lawmakers about her knowledge of former national security adviser Michael Flynn's contacts with Russia." [The Hill, [12/5/17](#)]

**Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA):** "Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent requests at the present time relating to the nominations of David J. Ryder, of New Jersey, to be Director of the Mint, and of Isabel Marie Keenan Patelunas, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury." [Congressional Record, [12/20/17](#); Other Holds: AP, [10/17/17](#); Roll Call, [6/15/17](#); Washington Post, [3/14/17](#)]

**Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Jim Inhofe (R-OK):**

**Radio Oklahoma: Inhofe Puts 'Hold' on Democratic FERC Nominee....Causes Delay in Others.** "Senator Jim Inhofe apparently is showing Democrats in the Senate 'Two Can Play This Game' by putting an indefinite hold on Democratic FERC nominee Richard Glick." [Radio Oklahoma Network, [10/27/17](#)]

**Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain (R-AZ):**

**Stars and Stripes: McCain threatens new hold on Pentagon nominees.** "A slate of Pentagon nominees faced off with a Senate panel Tuesday about the changes facing military recruiting today, as one key senator warned that confirmation hearings could be stalled again if the Pentagon doesn't cooperate with new demands for information." [Stars and Stripes, [11/14/17](#); Other Holds: Defense News, [10/3/17](#); CNN, [6/20/17](#)]

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK):**

**Washington Examiner: Lisa Murkowski won't take up Trump's energy nominees until September.** "Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairwoman Sen. Lisa Murkowski said her committee won't take up President Trump's latest batch of energy nominations, sent to her committee Wednesday night, until after the August recess, despite earlier statements that it could happen sooner. On top of that, the Republican from Alaska has not rescheduled votes on six other nominees for the interior and energy departments." [Washington Examiner, [8/3/17](#)]

**Sens. Mike Rounds (R-SD) and Tim Scott (R-SC):**

**NBC News: Two Republicans block Trump's Ex-Im Bank nominee Scott Garrett.** "Two Republicans on the Senate Banking Committee helped to block President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the Export-Import Bank in a critical vote Tuesday. Sens. Mike Rounds of South Dakota and Tim Scott of South Carolina joined all Democrats on the committee to oppose Scott Garrett, a critic of the Export-Import Bank who voted twice to eliminate it as a member of Congress." [NBC News, [12/19/17](#)]

**Other Republican Senators with Holds on Trump Nominees in Year One:**

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) [Globe Gazette, [11/15/17](#); Bloomberg, [8/2/17](#)]

Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) [AP, [10/18/17](#)]

Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) [Politico, [11/10/17](#)]

Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL), Mike Lee (R-UT) [Free Beacon, [12/1/17](#)]

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) [Daily Beast, [12/22/17](#)]

Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC) [WSJ, [1/17/18](#)]

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) [McClatchy, [7/12/17](#)]

Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) [Huffington Post, [10/18/17](#)]