

BOUGHT & SOLD

500 Ways in 500 Days

How the Trump Administration's Culture of Corruption Is Swamping Washington



JUNE 6, 2018

DEMOCRACY REFORM TASK FORCE

REP. JOHN SARBANES, CHAIR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

President Donald J. Trump campaigned on a promise to “drain the swamp” in Washington. He vowed that as President he would take steps to break the “cycle of corruption” and end “decades of special interest dealing,”ⁱ and he pledged to aggressively pursue meaningful reforms to improve transparency and accountability in government.ⁱⁱ As President Trump marks his 500th day in office, this report – the fifth edition in the Democracy Reform Task Force’s series of “100 Ways” oversight reports – lists 500 ways that the Trump Administration has broken its campaign promises.

Specifically, this report explores how the Trump Administration has:

- **Made a Mockery of Ethics Law and Regulation**
- **Promoted a Culture of Secrecy in the Executive Branch**
- **Stacked His Cabinet with Big Money Campaign Donors**
- **Installed a Special-Interest Revolving Door into the Trump White House**
- **Put Big Money Ahead of the Public Interest**
- **Turned the Presidency into a Profit-Making Enterprise**
- **Pursued Public Policy for Trump’s Personal Benefit**
- **Raided the Treasury to Pay for Vacation & Private Business Promotion**

After five hundred days in office, the Trump Administration is defiant in its disregard for the laws and norms in place to prevent corruption and promote accountability. What’s more, the Trump Administration has completely abdicated its promise of “transferring power to the people.” Instead, the Trump Administration – working hand in glove with many Congressional Republicans – has empowered a narrow class of wealthy and well-connected insiders. Trump has not fulfilled his pledge to “drain the swamp.” As one lobbyist-turned-Trump Administration-official put it, “the swamp continues.”ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ Donald J. Trump Campaign, TRUMP PLEDGES TO DRAIN THE SWAMP AND IMPOSE CONGRESSIONAL TERM LIMITS. October 18, 2016. <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/press-releases/trump-pledges-to-drain-the-swamp>.

ⁱⁱ *Ibid*

ⁱⁱⁱ Derek Kavitz, Issac Arnsdorf, & Marina Affo, ProPublica, LIFTING THE VEIL ON ANOTHER BATCH OF SHADOWY TRUMP APPOINTEES. August 31, 2017. <https://www.propublica.org/article/lifting-the-veil-on-another-batch-of-shadowy-trump-appointees>.

Made a Mockery of Ethics Law and Regulation

President Trump’s “Ethics” Executive Order was supposed to “drain the swamp.” As our past four reports – at the 100-day, 200-day, 300-day, and 400-day mark – have shown, the Executive Order was just another example of President Trump’s tendency to overpromise and underdeliver. Since our last report, we have continued to witness the Administration openly flouting ethics regulations and conflict-of-interest law.

Examples include:

- 401) Trump's legal team: No #MAGA at the White House ⁴⁰¹
- 402) Kellyanne Conway Violated the Hatch Act ⁴⁰²
- 403) Zinke Names Several Officials ‘Acting Directors,’ Avoiding Senate and Ethics Scrutiny ⁴⁰³
- 404) Attorney General Sessions Has Not Recused Himself from DOJ Bribery Inquiry, Despite Clear Conflicts of Interest ⁴⁰⁴
- 405) Secret Contributions to Trump’s Inauguration Become A Bonanza for Event Planners ⁴⁰⁵
- 406) White House Aides Blur the Legal Lines Between Partisans and Public Servants ⁴⁰⁶
- 407) Emails Show Ben, Candy Carson Selected \$31,000 Dining Set ⁴⁰⁷
- 408) Trump Aide Fired for Financial Crimes Granted Job in Trump Campaign ⁴⁰⁸
- 409) Trump Aide Fired for Sexist and Racist Comments Receives Position in Trump-Linked Political Group ⁴⁰⁹
- 410) EPA Administrator Pruitt Is Thought to Be Using Current Position – and Taxpayer Resources – to Support His Ambition for Higher Office ⁴¹⁰
- 411) Vice President Pence Urged CEOs to Lobby Their Employees to Lobby for Tax Overhaul ⁴¹¹
- 412) Office That Vets Trump Appointees Plagued by Inexperience ⁴¹²
- 413) EPA Chief’s \$50-a-Night Rental Raises White House Angst ⁴¹³

414) Pruitt Bypassed the White House to Give Big Raises to Favorite Aides ⁴¹⁴

415) Trump Aides' Legal-Defense Fund Raises Significant Ethical Questions ⁴¹⁵

416) Trump's Reelection Committee Spends \$1 out of \$5 on Legal Fees ⁴¹⁶

417) A Lobbyist Planned Pruitt's Morocco Trip. Morocco Hired the Lobbyist. ⁴¹⁷

418) Chao's Interviews with Father Raise Ethical Flags ⁴¹⁸

Promoted a Culture of Secrecy in the Executive Branch

Prior to his election, Donald Trump often criticized the Obama White House for its supposed lack of transparency – going so far as to label President Obama the “least transparent President ever.”^{iv} But it’s President Trump who, in the first 500 days of his Administration, has cemented a culture of secrecy in the Executive Branch and in the White House.

Examples include:

419) Legal Defense Fund for Trump Aides Launches Amid Questions About Donor Transparency ⁴¹⁹

420) Hope Hicks is the Latest White House Staffer to Push the Bounds of Executive Privilege in an Effort to Deny the Public Basic Information ⁴²⁰

421) Anti-secrecy lawsuits soaring against Pruitt's EPA ⁴²¹

422) WH Disregarded Republican Investigators' Requests ⁴²²

423) New Evidence the Daniels Payment May Have Violated Election Law ⁴²³

424) Trump Had Senior Staff Sign Nondisclosure Agreements ⁴²⁴

425) Mulvaney Shuts Down the Public's Access to CFPB Complaints Against Banks⁴²⁵

426) EPA Hired a Major Republican Opposition Research Firm to Track Press ⁴²⁶

^{iv} Chris Cillizza, CNN, DONALD TRUMP ISN'T BIG ON THE WHOLE TRANSPARENCY THING. April 17, 2017. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/04/17/politics/donald-trump-transparency-visitor-logs-taxes/>.

Stacked His Cabinet with Big Money Campaign Donors

Candidate Trump regularly decried the influence of big campaign donors and well-connected insiders. He promised to dismantle the “rigged” political system that rewards campaign donors with plum cabinet posts. He even pledged to change the system of the “powerful protecting the powerful.”^v However, in his first 500 days, President Trump has done the opposite, stacking his cabinet with many of his largest campaign donors, while relying on numerous well-connected Washington insiders for top Administration positions.

Examples include:

427) Secretary of State Nominee Pompeo Owes Career to Koch Brothers ⁴²⁷

428) Shadow Adviser and Mega Donor, Sheldon Adelson, Directed EPA Administrator to Meet with Company with Business Before the EPA ⁴²⁸

429) An Unprecedented 38 Percent of Trump Appointees Were Trump Campaign Donors ⁴²⁹

Installed a Special Interest Revolving Door into the Trump White House

Donald Trump made criticism of Washington lobbyists and special interests a hallmark of his campaign, regularly pledging to exclude special-interest lobbyists from his Administration.^{vi} In June 2016, he declared he would have “no problem” banning lobbyists from working in his Administration.^{vii} But since taking office, the President has broken that pledge time and time again, flooding the White House – and the broader Executive Branch – with long-time Washington lobbyists and influence peddlers to a stunning degree.

Examples include:

430) Hundreds of Ex-Lobbyists and D.C. Insiders in Trump’s “Drained” Swamp ⁴³⁰

^v Tim Hains, Real Clear Politics, FULL REPLAY/TRANSCRIPT: DONALD TRUMP GIVES FIRST CAMPAIGN SPEECH SINCE HIRING BANNON & CONWAY. August 18, 2016.

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2016/08/18/watch_live_donald_trump_gives_first_campaign_speech_since_hiring_stephen_bannon.html.

^{vi} Mark Hensch, The Hill, TRUMP: I DON'T WANT LOBBYISTS, SPECIAL INTERESTS. August 23, 2016.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/presidential-races/251753-trump-i-dont-want-lobbyists-special-interests>.

^{vii} Tim Perry, CBS, DONALD TRUMP WOULD HAVE “NO PROBLEM” BANNING LOBBYISTS AND BIG DONORS FROM WORKING IN HIS ADMINISTRATION. June 6, 2016. <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-on-banning-lobbyists-and-big-donors-from-his-administration/>.

- 431) Numerous Lobbyists get ethics waivers to work for Trump, Rendering ‘Ethics Pledge’ Toothless ⁴³¹
- 432) Former Coal Lobbyist on Tap for No. 2 Spot at EPA ⁴³²
- 433) Trump picks Dow Chemical Lawyer for Key Role at EPA ⁴³³
- 434) Azar Taps Former CVS Executive to Help Lower Drug Prices ⁴³⁴
- 435) Trump Wildlife Protection Board Stuffed with Trophy Hunters ⁴³⁵
- 436) A Lawyer for Payday Lenders Is Confirmed for F.T.C. Job ⁴³⁶
- 437) State Energy Leader Named Deputy Assistant Secretary in U.S. Department of Energy ⁴³⁷
- 438) Former For-Profit College Executive Shaped Education Department Policy That Could Benefit Former Employers ⁴³⁸
- 439) Monsanto-Linked Former Lobbyist Likely to Become Key Commodities Regulator ⁴³⁹
- 440) Top Interior Official Facing Ethics Questions After Meetings with Casino Lobbyists ⁴⁴⁰
- 441) Top Energy Aide Dumps Trump to Lobby for K Street ⁴⁴¹

Put Big Money Ahead of the Public Interest

Throughout the 2016 election, candidate Donald Trump was quite candid about how big money operates in the American political system. He would often brag during stump speeches about his own campaign contributions to politicians and the influence they bought, declaring, “As a businessman and a very substantial donor to very important people, when you give, they do whatever the hell you want them to do.”^{viii}

^{viii} David Graham, The Atlantic, WAS TRUMP FIBBING ABOUT BUYING POLITICIANS THEN OR NOW? September 6, 2016. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/09/trump-buying-politicians/498749/>.

Trump pledged that he would do things a different way. “I turned down \$5 million last week from a very important lobbyist because there are total strings attached to a thing like that. He’s going to come to me in a year or two years and he’s going to want something for a country that he represents or a company that he represents. That’s the kind of money I won’t take,” he promised.^{ix} Despite this promise and many more like it, President Trump continues to give big campaign donors a big hug.

Examples include:

- 442) Koch Brothers Internal Wish-List for Trump/Republican Agenda Show Their Undue Influence in Current Administration ⁴⁴²
- 443) Venturing Into the Swamp, Trump Dines with Major Donors ⁴⁴³
- 444) Trump Is Systematically Backing Off Consumer Protections, to the Delight of Corporations ⁴⁴⁴
- 445) CFPB Drops Investigation Into Payday Lender, Golden Valley ⁴⁴⁵
- 446) Pruitt Huddled with Coal Executive Who Raised Over \$1M for Trump ⁴⁴⁶
- 447) Trump Has Shown Little Interest in Beefing Up the FEC ⁴⁴⁷
- 448) FEC Unlikely to Launch NRA-Russia Probe ⁴⁴⁸
- 449) Foreign Powers Attempted to Leverage Trump-Donor to Benefit Their Countries ⁴⁴⁹
- 450) Interior Department Relied on Energy Lobbyists to Draft Regulatory Rollback Agenda ⁴⁵⁰
- 451) Mulvaney Advises Bankers on Ways to Curtail Agency and Urges Direct Financial Support to Office Holders ⁴⁵¹
- 452) Invitations Offer Wealthy Chinese Access to Trump at Fundraiser ⁴⁵²
- 453) A Courtside View of Scott Pruitt’s Cozy Ties With a Billionaire Coal Baron ⁴⁵³

^{ix} *Ibid* 5

Turned the Presidency into a Profit-Making Enterprise

After 500 days in office, President Trump has still not taken concrete steps to disentangle himself from his business interests, despite calls to do so from ethics experts and watchdog organizations. In fact, both the Trump Organization and Ivanka Trump's businesses have expanded domestically and, more concerning still, internationally. Predictably, the Trump Organization has profited from the Office of the Presidency, as foreign governments, domestic interests and high-powered individuals seek to curry favor with the Administration by doing business with President's company. And this behavior doesn't stop with President Trump and his family. Throughout the Trump Administration, senior officials have embraced their public service as a means for private gain.

Examples include:

- 454) RNC Started Paying Trump Campaign's Rent at Trump Tower After It Stopped Covering Trump's Legal Bills for Russia ⁴⁵⁴
- 455) Scandal-Consumed Trump Inaugural Adviser Parts Ways with First Lady After Unable to Fully Account for Over \$26 Million in Inaugural Spending ⁴⁵⁵
- 456) Kushner's Family Business Received Loans After White House Meetings ⁴⁵⁶
- 457) Foreign Governments Seek to Manipulate White Adviser, Jared Kushner, By Leveraging the Difficult Financial Position of His Private Businesses ⁴⁵⁷
- 458) Jared Kushner's Business (Unsuccessfully) Sought Investment from Qatar Government Weeks Before US Government Blockade Against Qatar ⁴⁵⁸
- 459) Trump Ally Was in Talks to Earn Millions in Effort to End 1MDB Probe in U.S. ⁴⁵⁹
- 460) Trump Organization Says It Has Removed Presidential Seal from Golf Markers: Report ⁴⁶⁰
- 461) Trump Charges His Campaign Top Dollar to Rent A Basically Empty Trump Tower Office ⁴⁶¹
- 462) Trump Tower Gift Shop Sells Various Tchotchkes with the Presidential Seal ⁴⁶²
- 463) EPA Appointee Gets Approval to Consult for Outside Clients ⁴⁶³

- 464) DOD Has Spent \$140,000 of Taxpayer Dollars at Trump Branded Properties ⁴⁶⁴
- 465) Pentagon Spent \$17,000 at Panama Trump Hotel ⁴⁶⁵
- 466) Oil Group to Lobby President After Stay at Trump Hotel ⁴⁶⁶
- 467) Trump Jr., Donor Have Longtime Undisclosed Ties ⁴⁶⁷
- 468) Ivanka Trump Never Cut Ties with the Trump Organization ⁴⁶⁸
- 469) Out of Public View, Trumps and Kushners Are Talking Business ⁴⁶⁹
- 470) Republican-Affiliated Groups Have Spent More than \$3M at Trump Properties ⁴⁷⁰
- 471) Wilbur Ross Says He Divested from Chinese Shipping Firm Months Ago. Ethics Filings Show Otherwise. ⁴⁷¹
- 472) Kushner Companies Confirms Meeting with Qatar on Financing ⁴⁷²
- 473) Fund-Raiser Held Out Access to Trump as a Prize for Prospective Clients ⁴⁷³
- 474) Wooing Saudi Business, Tabloid Mogul Had a Powerful Friend: Trump ⁴⁷⁴
- 475) White House Investigating Loans to Kushner's Business ⁴⁷⁵
- 476) Trump to Host Japanese Prime Minister at Mar-a-Lago ⁴⁷⁶
- 477) Critics Say Payday Lenders Are Buying White House Access with Industry Conference at Trump National Doral Hotel ⁴⁷⁷
- 478) Philippine Government to Hold Independence Day Event at Trump Hotel ⁴⁷⁸
- 479) Qatar Just Bought \$6.5M Apartment in Trump Property ⁴⁷⁹
- 480) Qatar Nears Deal to Bail Out Failed Kushner Property ⁴⁸⁰

Pursued Public Policy for Trump's Personal Benefit

President Trump's business interests often appear to color his policy priorities. The Trump Administration has both avoided policies that would be detrimental to the Trump Organization and advanced policies that would directly benefit the Trump Organization's bottom line.^x

Examples include:

481) Trump's Company Is Suing Towns Across the Country to Get Breaks on Taxes ⁴⁸¹

482) Ivanka's Clothing Company Will Be Spared from Tariffs, Thanks to Her Dad ⁴⁸²

483) New Memo Shows How Republicans Used Tax Bill to Enrich Themselves ⁴⁸³

484) Ryan Zinke Is Opening Up Public Lands. Just Not at Home. ⁴⁸⁴

485) After China Approves Money for Trump Project, Trump Orders Help ⁴⁸⁵

486) Ivanka Wins China Trademarks, Then Her Father Vows to Save ZTE ⁴⁸⁶

Raided the Treasury to Pay for Vacations & Private Business Promotion

President Trump has continued his frequent and unnecessary travel at great expense to the American taxpayer – and often to the benefit of the Trump-owned properties that he visits. All the while, his adult children – namely, his two sons who manage the family business's day-to-day operations – continue to exhaust taxpayer dollars on Secret Service protection as they travel the globe in promotion of their private interests, with the false imprimatur of the United States government. This same profligacy with taxpayer money has infected Trump's Cabinet, with numerous officials wasting significant sums on first-class travel.

Examples include:

487) Donald Trump's Scottish Resort Paid by U.S. Taxpayers for 'VIP Visit' ⁴⁸⁷

^x The full extent to which the Trump Organization profits from the Administration's policy agenda is unknown, given his refusal to disclose his tax returns.

- 488) Trump in Palm Beach: Sheriff's OT Bill for Feds \$3.3 Million and Growing ⁴⁸⁸
- 489) Trump Cabinet Members Accused of Living Large at Taxpayer Expense ⁴⁸⁹
- 490) White House Scolds Cabinet Officials After Embarrassing Ethics Reports ⁴⁹⁰
- 491) Pruitt Spent Over \$105,000 on First-Class Flights ⁴⁹¹
- 492) Pruitt Had Travel Wish List and Asked Staff to Find 'Official' Reasons to Go ⁴⁹²
- 493) Lobbyist Helped Arrange Scott Pruitt's \$100,000 Trip to Morocco ⁴⁹³
- 494) EPA Explored Private Jet Lease for Pruitt's Travels Last Year ⁴⁹⁴
- 495) Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Accused of Mixing Politics with Government Business ⁴⁹⁵
- 496) Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's NRA Visit Among Several Trips Being Questioned ⁴⁹⁶
- 497) Zinke Brought Security Team to Vacation in Turkey and Greece ⁴⁹⁷
- 498) Trump's Trade Rep Spends \$1M on New Furniture, Blames Obama ⁴⁹⁸
- 499) Pruitt Spent at Least \$9600 on Office Decor, Desks: Email ⁴⁹⁹
- 500) Pruitt Spent \$3.5 Million on Security During First Year as EPA Head ⁵⁰⁰

CONCLUSION

At President Trump's inauguration on January 20, 2017, he made a critical promise to the American people. The President declared:

For too long, a small group in our nation's Capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost. Washington flourished – but the people did not share in its wealth. Politicians prospered – but the jobs left, and the factories closed. The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country. That all changes – starting right here, and right now. Because today we are not merely transferring power from one administration to another, or from one party to another – but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the American People.^{xi}

President Trump has broken this promise to the American people.

As this report details, President Trump has failed to transfer power to the people; instead, he has flooded the proverbial “swamp” and accumulated even greater power in the hands of a select few. Americans of all political stripes should be concerned by the Trump Administration's actions and should ask themselves, “Whose side is the President on?”

Five hundred days in and the answer seems more and more clear.

^{xi} NPR, PRESIDENT TRUMP'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS, ANNOTATED. January 20, 2017.
<http://www.npr.org/2017/01/20/510629447/watch-live-president-trumps-inauguration-ceremony>.



ABOUT THE DEMOCRACY REFORM TASK FORCE

The **Democracy Reform Task Force** is a concerted effort in the House of Representatives to build a government that puts the public interest ahead of special interests. Despite promises to “drain the swamp,” President Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress are pursuing an agenda that primarily benefits the wealthy and well-connected, while flouting long-established norms and laws that prevent public corruption.

To fight back, the **Democracy Reform Task Force** – chaired by Congressman John Sarbanes – is working to confront the Trump Administration’s conflicts of interest and ethical lapses and fight back against special-interest policies in Congress, while advancing positive reforms to improve accountability and transparency in government.

ENDNOTES

⁴⁰¹ [Trump's Legal Team: No #MAGA at the White House](#): After a series of ethical violations from White House staff, the Office of Special Counsel was forced to issue a new set of guidelines to remind White House staff of their ethical obligations, including abidance to the Hatch Act – which restricts official government employees from using official resources for campaign purposes.

⁴⁰² [Ethics Office Finds Kellyanne Conway Broke Law in Alabama Race](#): The Office of Special Counsel confirmed the obvious in a recent report, finding that White House adviser Kellyanne Conway broke the law when she used official resources to get involved in the Alabama special election. Given that disciplinary discretion falls to President Trump, no action has been taken by the White House, which maintains Conway's actions were not illegal.

⁴⁰³ [Zinke Names Several Officials 'Acting Directors,' Avoiding Senate and Ethics Scrutiny](#): In an apparent violation of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Zinke named several officials “Acting Directors,” thereby evading the Senate’s advice and consent power and ethics scrutiny.

⁴⁰⁴ [Jeff Sessions Has a Huge Conflict of Interest in a Federal Bribery Case—and It Keeps Getting Worse](#): Recent reporting has indicated that AG Sessions was intimately involved in delaying federal environmental clean-up of a North Birmingham neighborhood. The incident is central to a federal bribery case, which already led to the guilty pleas of former elected officials. AG Sessions has not recused himself from the matter.

⁴⁰⁵ [Secret Contributions to Trump's Inauguration Become a Bonanza for Event Planners](#): Investigate reporting has shown the secret ways in which the Trump Inauguration funneled funds from dark money organizations into the inaugural coffers and then back out to shady businesses, with little proof that said businesses offered services of comparable value.

⁴⁰⁶ [White House Aides Blur the Legal Lines Between Partisans and Public Servants](#): Eight White House officials – including Dan Scavino Jr., Kellyanne Conway and Jared Kushner – have received formal complaints, alleging that they violated the Hatch Act, a law that prevents government officials from using their positions to engage in political activity.

⁴⁰⁷ [Emails Show Ben, Candy Carson Selected \\$31,000 Dining Set](#): U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson and his wife used \$31,000 in taxpayer dollars to purchase an ornate dining room set for Carson’s HUD office.

⁴⁰⁸ [Longtime Trump Aide Fired Over Financial Crime Investigation](#): White House aide John McEntee was fired by the White House after it was revealed he was under investigation for serious financial crimes. Minutes later, it was announced he would receive a new position working as part of the Trump campaign.

⁴⁰⁹ [The Trump Campaign and An Outside Group Are Becoming "Soft Landings" For Controversial Loyalists](#): Following his dismissal from the Trump Administration due to sexist and racist remarks, Carl Higbie was hired by the Trump-linked America First Policies political group.

⁴¹⁰ [Scott Pruitt, Trump's Rule-Cutting EPA Chief, Plots Political Future](#): Leveraging his position as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Scott Pruitt has used taxpayer-funds to return home frequently to Oklahoma, as well as to Iowa, raising questions about whether he is improperly using his public office for future political ambitions.

⁴¹¹ [U.S. Companies Are Pressuring Their Workers on How to Lobby and Vote](#): Reports suggest that Vice President Pence encouraged some of the nation's CEOs to approach their employees and encourage them to lobby for the recent "tax reform" legislation, raising concerns of compelled political speech.

⁴¹² [Office that Vets Trump Appointees Plagued by Inexperience](#): The White House office in charge of vetting Administration political appointees – including ethics matters – has been consumed by staff shortages and inexperience, highlighting the low priority the Administration places on ethics compliance.

⁴¹³ [EPA Chief's \\$50-a-Night Rental Raises White House Angst](#): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt was revealed to have been living in a lobbyist-owned condo at a reduced rental rate, raising serious questions of whether the Administrator violated federal gift laws.

⁴¹⁴ [Pruitt Bypassed the White House to Give Big Raises to Favorite Aides](#): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt used a little-known provision of the Safe Drinking Water Act to grant significant raises to senior aides, raising questions of impropriety and the ire of the White House.

⁴¹⁵ [House Dems Seek Information About Trump Aides' Legal-Defense Fund](#): Significant ethical questions surround a new Trump legal-defense fund established for White House aides with legal exposure. The fund is currently able to accept secret donations, raising concerns it may become yet another avenue for special interest influence over the Trump Administration.

⁴¹⁶ [Trump's Reelection Committee Spends \\$1 Out of \\$5 on Legal Fees](#): President Trump's reelection campaign has spent \$1.1 million in legal fees – more than \$1 out of every \$5 raised for the campaign – in connection with the special counsel's investigation, raising questions about whether campaign donors appreciate how their support is being utilized.

⁴¹⁷ [A Lobbyist Planned Pruitt's Morocco Trip. Morocco Hired the Lobbyist.](#): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt's recent trip to Morocco was planned to a surprising degree by a lobbyist working on behalf of the Moroccan government, raising questions of impropriety.

⁴¹⁸ [Chao's Interviews with Father Raise Ethical Flags](#): U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao has participated in joint interviews with her father James Chao, owner and founder of a Chinese shipping company. In the interviews, the Department of Transportation's logo was displayed – a potential violation of U.S. law, which bars public officials from using their office for private gain.

⁴¹⁹ [Legal Defense Fund for Trump Aides Launches Amid Questions About Donor Transparency](#): A recently established legal defense fund for Trump aides – the Patriot Legal Expense Fund – is refusing answer questions about how it plans to vet and disclose its funders, raising concerns that the Fund could act as yet another channel of influence for wealthy and well-connected interests seeking to gain access to and exert influence over the Trump Administration.

⁴²⁰ [Hope Hicks's Evasiveness Highlights How Far Trump Is Pushing the Envelope on Executive Privilege:](#)

Following in the footsteps of her boss and fellow colleagues, Hope Hicks refused to answer even basic Congressional inquiries into her interactions with President Trump, including her role in drafting President Trump's statement denying his son's meeting with Russian foreign agents who offered information to advantage the Trump campaign.

⁴²¹ [Anti-Secrecy Lawsuits Soaring Against Pruitt's EPA:](#) In the face of historic U.S. Environmental Protection Agency secrecy, outside organizations and watchdog groups have filed a record number of open records lawsuits to compel disclosure of public information.

⁴²² [White House Disregarded Republican Investigators' Requests. The GOP Has Been Reluctant to Fight Back.:](#) The White House refused to comply with three Republican-led Congressional investigations, rejecting document requests and other Congressional inquiries.

⁴²³ [New Evidence the Daniels Payment May Have Violated Election Law:](#) New evidence suggests that the \$130,000 alleged hush-payment to porn star Stormy Daniels in the waning days of the 2016 election was an illegal campaign contribution to candidate Trump.

⁴²⁴ [Trump Had Senior Staff Sign Nondisclosure Agreements:](#) In an affront to the First Amendment and the public's right to know, reports indicate that President Trump forced his senior White House staff to sign nondisclosure agreements, seeking to shield the Administration's business from the public's view.

⁴²⁵ [Mulvaney Does Not Want You to See Complaints Against Banks:](#) Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Mulvaney has taken steps to end the public's access to the CFPB consumer complaint database, shuttering a valuable tool for consumers.

⁴²⁶ [EPA Hired a Major Republican Opposition Research Firm to Track Press:](#) As if it were ripped from the pages of Orwell, it was recently reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hired an opposition research firm to track journalists who were covering the agency's work.

⁴²⁷ [Secretary of State Nominee Pompeo Owes Career to Koch Brothers:](#) Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has a long history of carrying water for the GOP mega donors, the Koch Brothers.

⁴²⁸ [At Adelson's Request, Pruitt Met with Israeli Company That EPA Will Study:](#) Shadow White House adviser and mega donor Sheldon Adelson requested that U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt meet privately with a company that later received a contract with the EPA.

⁴²⁹ [Trump Rewards Big Donors with Jobs and Access:](#) Recent reporting found that more than 38 percent of Trump political appointees were donors to the Trump campaign, an unprecedented level of political patronage in the modern era.

⁴³⁰ [What We Found in Trump's Drained Swamp: Hundreds of Ex-Lobbyists and D.C. Insiders:](#) New investigative reporting found that there are at least 187 Trump political appointees who have been federal lobbyists and that many of those same individuals are now in government roles overseeing the same industries they once lobbied for.

⁴³¹ [What Swamp? Lobbyists Get Ethics Waivers to Work for Trump](#): Former lobbyists had no problem finding employment within the Trump Administration, with the Administration regularly and routinely issuing ethics waivers for those appointees who clearly conflict with the Administration's Potemkin ethics executive order.

⁴³² [Former Coal Lobbyist on Tap for No. 2 Spot At EPA](#): President Trump nominated a former fossil fuel lobbyist, Andrew Wheeler, as deputy administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Wheeler had previously lobbied on behalf of some of the largest oil and gas companies in the United States.

⁴³³ [Trump Picks Dow Chemical Lawyer for Key Role at EPA](#): President Trump tapped a chemical industry insider to run the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency department in charge of overseeing responses to hazardous spills and the clean-up of toxic sites.

⁴³⁴ [Azar Taps Former CVS Executive to Help Lower Drug Prices](#): The Trump-led U.S. Department of Health and Human Services appointed a former CVS Caremark executive, Daniel Best, to lead the agency's efforts to lower prescription drug costs.

⁴³⁵ [Trump Wildlife Protection Board Stuffed with Trophy Hunters](#): President Trump appointed several trophy hunters to oversee an advisory board charged with helping write federal rules to protect endangered species from trophy hunters.

⁴³⁶ [A Lawyer for Payday Lenders Is Confirmed for F.T.C. Job](#): Andrew M. Smith – a former lawyer for payday lenders, internet giants and financial services companies – was confirmed as director of the Federal Trade Commission's consumer protection unit. Many of Smith's former employers have business before the commission.

⁴³⁷ [State Energy Leader Named Deputy Assistant Secretary in U.S. Department of Energy](#): The Trump Administration appointed Shawn Bennett, an Ohio oil and gas lobbyist, as the U.S. Department of Energy's deputy assistant secretary for oil and natural gas. He will oversee the Office of Fossil Energy, which runs the agency's oil and gas programs, research and analysis.

⁴³⁸ [Former For-Profit College Executive Shaped Education Department Policy That Could Benefit Former Employers](#): Robert Eitel, a former vice president at two for-profit colleges, joined the Trump Administration in February 2018 and helped roll back U.S. Department of Education regulations that protect student borrowers from being deceived and preyed upon by for-profit colleges.

⁴³⁹ [Monsanto-Linked Former Lobbyist Likely to Become Key Commodities Regulator](#): President Trump appointed Dawn DeBerry Stump, a former lobbyist for Wall Street and the financial services industry, to lead the Commodity Futures Trading Commission – a key financial regulator.

⁴⁴⁰ [Top Interior Official Facing Ethics Questions After Meetings with Casino Lobbyists](#): The Trump Administration's deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, David Bernhard, met on several occasions with MGM casino representatives who are lobbying the agency's Bureau of Indian Affairs. Before coming to the Interior Department, Bernhard lobbied for MGM. He is barred – by an ethics agreement he signed – from participating in any business that involves his former employer.

⁴⁴¹ [Top Energy Aide Dumps Trump to Lobby for K Street](#): Mike Catanzaro recently completed his trip through the revolving door at the Trump White House, leaving his post as special assistant to the president for domestic energy and environmental policy to return to same lobbying firm he came from – CGCN Group.

⁴⁴² [Koch Document Reveals Laundry List of Policy Victories Extracted from the Trump Administration](#): In a stunning display of their undue access to and influence over the Trump Administration and the Republican-controlled Congress, the Koch Brothers political network bragged in a recently disclosed document about their policy accomplishments in the new Congress, taking credit for GOP tax giveaway and Trump Administration's massive deregulation of American industry.

⁴⁴³ [Venturing Into the Swamp, Trump Dines With Major Donors](#): As Trump prepares for his reelection bid, he has grown cozy with the same wealthy and well-connected donors he once decried, offering them undue access and influence over his Administration's policies in exchange for campaign support.

⁴⁴⁴ [Trump Is Systematically backing Off Consumer Protections, to the Delight of Corporations](#): Across the federal government, the Trump Administration is rolling back consumer protections at the behest of corporate interests and Wall Street.

⁴⁴⁵ [CFPB Drops Investigation Into Payday Lender, Golden Valley](#): Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Mick Mulvaney suspended investigation into unscrupulous practices of a major payday lender firm that was alleged to have charged a 950% interest rate on small-dollar loans.

⁴⁴⁶ [Pruitt Huddled with Coal Executive Who Raised Over \\$1M for Trump](#): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt reportedly met with a major Trump donor who was seeking EPA regulatory relief from a pollution rule, raising concerns of undue access and influence of Trump campaign donors on the Trump Administration.

⁴⁴⁷ [Trump Has Shown Little Interest in Beefing Up the FEC](#): Despite candidate Trump's promise to clean up the nation's broken campaign finance system, President Trump has done little to empower the nation's only campaign finance agency, the Federal Election Commission. His failure to appoint new Commissioners runs the risk of the Commission lacking a quorum, thereby suspending its ability to police and enforce campaign finance law – a boon to big-money donors and organizations that regularly test the limits of campaign finance law.

⁴⁴⁸ [FEC Unlikely to Launch NRA-Russia Probe](#): The Federal Election Commission – hobbled by partisan rancor and the Trump Administration's unwillingness to appoint new Commissioners – is unlikely to take meaningful action to investigate allegations of illicit contributions to the NRA from Russia.

⁴⁴⁹ [How Two Gulf Monarchies Sought to Influence the White House](#): New reporting about the special counsel's investigation has laid bare how Saudi Arabia and the UAE sought to leverage George Nader and Elliot Broidy – both major fundraisers for candidate Trump – to advance policy goals in the Administration favorable to the Middle Eastern countries' national interests.

⁴⁵⁰ [How the Energy Industry's Wish List Became Interior's To-Do List](#): Documents obtained by the media show that the Trump Administration's Interior Department relied heavily on top energy lobbyists as they crafted their deregulatory agenda. In fact, metadata retrieved from the Department's memo found that the original author was the government affairs department of Western Energy Alliance.

⁴⁵¹ [Mulvaney Advises Bankers on Ways to Curtail Agency](#): In a brash speech before the American Bankers Association, Office of Management and Budget head and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Mick Mulvaney encouraged banking industry representatives to give financial support to federal office holders in order to receive access and potentially favorable policy treatment.

⁴⁵² [Invitations Offer Wealthy Chinese Access to Trump at Fundraiser](#): Wealthy Chinese businessmen have gained access to President Trump by attending several of his campaign fundraisers, raising serious ethical questions and raising the possibility that foreign businessmen are making indirect payments to Republican campaign committees – which would be illegal.

⁴⁵³ [A Courtside View of Scott Pruitt's Cozy Ties with a Billionaire Coal Baron](#): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt accepted two courtside tickets from billionaire coal executive Joseph W. Craft III, who's currently lobbying the Trump Administration and the EPA to get rid of Obama-era regulations on the coal industry.

⁴⁵⁴ [RNC Started Paying Trump Campaign's Rent at Trump Tower After It Stopped Covering Trump's Legal Bills for Russia Probe](#): The Republican National Committee was revealed to be paying well over \$35,000 a month to the Trump Organization for rent in the Trump Tower as part of their broader effort to cover the legal costs of President Trump's private defense relating to the Mueller probe.

⁴⁵⁵ [Melania Trump Parts Ways with Adviser Amid Backlash Over Inaugural Contract](#): Melania Trump was forced to sever ties with Trump's Inaugural adviser after it was revealed that her firm earned more than \$26 million for event planning services associated with the Inaugural proceedings.

⁴⁵⁶ [Kushner's Family Business Received Loans After White House Meetings](#): Private equity giant Apollo Global Management supplied significant loan support to the Kushner Companies after the Apollo Group's executive team met with White House adviser Jared Kushner, raising suspicion that Mr. Kushner was leveraging his public office for private gain.

⁴⁵⁷ [Kushner's Overseas Contacts Raise Concerns as Foreign Officials Seek Leverage](#): Government officials from the UAE, China, Israel and Mexico have all discussed ways to influence White House adviser Jared Kushner, seeking ways to leverage his financial difficulties into more favorable policy from the U.S. government.

⁴⁵⁸ [Jared Kushner's Business \(Unsuccessfully\) Sought Investment from Qatar Government Weeks Before U.S. Government Blockade Against Qatar](#): The Kushner Company – a real estate firm owned by the family of Senior White House Advisor Jared Kushner – sought direct investment from the government of Qatar. After investment talks stalled, the U.S. Government imposed a blockade on Qatar, with Jared Kushner playing a key role in implementing the action and then resisting State Department efforts to end the blockade.

⁴⁵⁹ [Trump Ally Was in Talks to Earn Millions in Effort to End 1MDB Probe in U.S.](#): Former RNC Deputy Finance Chair and Trump ally Elliott Broidy tried to receive payment for his work pushing to end a Department of Justice investigation into a Malaysian state investment fund, raising corruption concerns.

⁴⁶⁰ [Trump Organization Says It Has Removed Presidential Seal from Golf Markers](#): In a flagrant bid to capitalize on President Trump's occupancy of the White House, the Trump Organization placed the White House seal on golf flags at Trump properties. Following an ethics outcry, the Trump Organization was forced to remove the logos.

⁴⁶¹ [Trump Charges His Campaign Top Dollar to Rent A Basically Empty Trump Tower Office](#): The Trump political operation has once again been shown to be using its resources to enrich the Trump Organization, paying top dollar for a "campaign office" in the Trump Tower that is largely empty and unused. What's more, the current rental rate is significantly higher than what Trump was charging himself back when he was largely self-financing his electoral bid.

⁴⁶² [Trump Tower Gift Shop Sells Various Tchotchkes with the Presidential Seal](#): In yet another example of the Trump Organization profiting off the presidency, the Trump Tower in New York City has been selling Trump-branded items emblazoned with the White House seal.

⁴⁶³ [EPA Appointee Gets Approval to Consult for Outside Clients](#): John Konkus, an aide to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt, was cleared to work for private clients, while simultaneously serving in his position with the EPA, raising concerns he may use his public office for private gain.

⁴⁶⁴ [Defense Dept. charged nearly \\$140,000 at Trump branded properties](#): In the first 8 months of the Trump presidency, the Department of Defense spent close to \$140,000 in taxpayer dollars at Trump-branded properties.

⁴⁶⁵ [Pentagon Spent \\$17,000 at Panama Trump Hotel](#): Pentagon officials spent over \$17,000 in taxpayer dollars on lodging at a Trump-branded property in Panama.

⁴⁶⁶ [Oil Group to Lobby President After Stay at Trump Hotel](#): In an apparent attempt to curry favor with the Trump Administration, the American Petroleum Institute held their annual board meeting at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.

⁴⁶⁷ [Trump Jr., Donor Have Longtime Undisclosed Ties](#): Donald Trump Jr. and Gentry Beach have been shown to have previously undisclosed business ties. The disclosure raises questions about whether Trump Jr. may be exploiting his access to the Trump Administration to the benefit of Beach, and thereby indirectly profiting off the Presidency.

⁴⁶⁸ [Ivanka Trump Never Cut Ties with the Trump Organization](#): Ivanka Trump continues to blur the line between public service and private business, never fully severing ties with the Trump Organization, resulting in a litany of conflicts of interest that cast doubt on her ability to properly work in the public's interest – not her own interests.

⁴⁶⁹ [Out of Public View, Trumps and Kushners Are Talking Business](#): In an unprecedented turn, the Trump and Kushner family businesses are now in talks to enter into business together, magnifying the existing conflicts of interest that have come under scrutiny since both families took few steps to separate their private affairs from their responsibilities as public servants.

⁴⁷⁰ [Republican-Affiliated Groups Have Spent More Than \\$3M at Trump Properties](#): Republican organizations continue to spend big at Trump properties, lining the pockets of President Trump.

⁴⁷¹ [Wilbur Ross Says He Divested from Chinese Shipping Firm Months Ago. Ethics Filings Show Otherwise](#): U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross seems to have broken his pledge to divest from his business holdings, including major stakes in the Chinese shipping industry – a direct conflict of interest to his responsibilities as head of the Commerce Department.

⁴⁷² [Kushner Companies Confirms Meeting with Qatar on Financing](#): The Kushner companies confirmed a meeting with officials from Qatar to consider direct investment from the state’s sovereign wealth fund, raising more questions about whether the family business sought to leverage Jared Kushner’s White House position for private gain.

⁴⁷³ [Fund-Raiser Held Out Access to Trump as a Prize for Prospective Clients](#): Elliot Broidy reportedly touted his access and influence in the Trump Administration in attempt to win private business, an apparent bid to capitalize on Trump’s presidency that may implicate federal lobbying and anti-corruption law.

⁴⁷⁴ [Wooing Saudi Business, Tabloid Mogul Had a Powerful Friend: Trump](#): David Pecker – chairman of the National Enquirer – is reported to have leveraged his close ties and access to President Trump to court Saudi investment, an unsavory arrangement that may implicate federal lobbying and anti-corruption law.

⁴⁷⁵ [White House Investigating Loans to Kushner’s Business](#): In the face of mounting criticism and suspicion of untoward business dealings, the White House Counsel’s Office has been forced to open an investigation into \$500 million in loans secured by the Kushner Companies and whether there are any illicit ties to Jared Kushner’s acts as an officer of the White House.

⁴⁷⁶ [Trump to Host Japanese Prime Minister at Mar-a-Lago](#): Once again, Trump hosted Prime Minister Abe at his Florida Resort, Mar-a-Lago, raising the ire of ethics watchdogs who believe the use of Mar-a-Lago for White House business amounts to taxpayer-subsidized advertising for the Trump Organization.

⁴⁷⁷ [Critics Say Payday Lenders Are Buying White House Access with Industry Conference at Trump National Doral Hotel This Week](#): In yet another example of an industry seeking to curry favor with the President by spending money with his private business, the payday lending industry hosted its annual conference at the Trump Organization’s Doral Hotel in Florida.

⁴⁷⁸ [Philippine Government to Hold Independence Day Event at Trump Hotel](#): Following in the footsteps of many other nations, the Philippine government spent large at the Trump Hotel in what some consider an attempt to curry favor with President Trump and the Trump Administration more broadly.

⁴⁷⁹ [Qatar Bought \\$6.5M Apartment in Trump Property](#): In yet another example of the Qatar government seemingly seeking to influence the Trump Administration through private business transactions, the Qatar mission to the United Nations purchased an apartment in the Trump World Tower for \$6.5 million.

⁴⁸⁰ [Kushners Near Deal with Qatar-Linked Company for Troubled Tower](#): Kushner Companies may soon receive a massive infusion of capital from the Qatari government to bail out the company’s failed 666 Fifth Avenue property, fueling concerns that the arrangement suffers from political conflicts of interest.

⁴⁸¹ [Trump's Company Is Suing Towns Across the Country to Get Breaks on Taxes](#): The Trump Organization has continued its practice of suing municipal governments to lower its tax bills, raising new concerns about the obvious conflicts of interest that cities – which rely on federal funding controlled in part by the Trump Administration – must confront in battling the President's private business.

⁴⁸² [Ivanka's Clothing Company Will Be Spared from Tariffs, Thanks to Her Dad](#): Proposed tariffs on Chinese goods excluded clothing, shielding Ivanka Trump's clothing line that enjoys trademark protection in China and raising ethical questions of how the decision was reached by the Administration.

⁴⁸³ [New Memo Shows How Republicans Used Tax Bill to Enrich Themselves](#): Taking a page out of President Trump's book, new research shows how Republican members of Congress directly benefited financially from provisions in the "tax reform" package.

⁴⁸⁴ [Ryan Zinke Is Opening Up Public Lands. Just Not at Home.](#): As U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke moves to ease rules governing energy exploration on federal land, one state has been conspicuously absent from the deregulatory campaign: Montana – Zinke's home state.

⁴⁸⁵ [After China Approves Money for Trump Project, Trump Orders Help](#): A Trump development project in Indonesia recently received a \$500 million loan from the Chinese government. Days later, Trump called for a bailout for Chinese-government technology firm, ZTE.

⁴⁸⁶ [Ivanka Wins China Trademarks, Then Her Father Vows to Save ZTE](#): Ivanka Trump was awarded seven new trademarks for business in China, just days after her father promised to help the Chinese-government-backed technology firm, ZTE, raising ethical questions.

⁴⁸⁷ [Donald Trump's Scottish Resort Paid by U.S. Taxpayers for 'VIP Visit](#): President Trump's resort and golf club in Turnberry, Scotland received more than \$6,000 in taxpayer dollars for hotel rooms ahead of the President's official trip to Scotland in July of this year.

⁴⁸⁸ [Trump in Palm Beach: Sheriff's OT Bill for Feds \\$3.3 Million and Growing](#): Taxpayers paid nearly \$3.3 million to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department between November 2017 and February 2018 to cover overtime costs for sheriff's deputies that provided security to President Trump during his frequent trips to Mar-a-Lago – the exclusive, \$200,000-per-member resort he owns and regularly visits.

⁴⁸⁹ [Trump Cabinet Members Accused of Living Large at Taxpayer Expense](#): Across the Trump Administration, cabinet officials are under scrutiny for their profligate spending of taxpayer dollars.

⁴⁹⁰ [White House Scolds Cabinet Officials After Embarrassing Ethics Reports](#): The White House was forced to meet privately with four cabinet officials to reprimand them for their profligate spending of taxpayer dollars.

⁴⁹¹ [Pruitt Spent Over \\$105,000 on First-Class Flights](#): During his first year as U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Scott Pruitt spent more than \$105,000 in taxpayer money on first-class flights – a sum that does not include the \$58,000 that Pruitt spent on charter flights and a military jet.

⁴⁹² [Pruitt Had Travel Wish List and Asked Staff to Find 'Official' Reasons to Go](#): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt compiled a travel wish list with several destinations – including Canada, Colombia, India, Japan, Panama, Poland and Saudi Arabia – and asked his staff to find official reasons to justify travel to those countries.

⁴⁹³ [Lobbyist Helped Arrange Scott Pruitt's \\$100,000 Trip to Morocco](#): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt spent \$100,000 on a taxpayer-funded trip to Morocco and Paris. During the trip, Pruitt was accompanied by eight EPA staffers and a permanent security detail. The trip was organized by a lobbyist and personal friend of Pruitt, Richard Smotkin, who earned a \$40,000-per-month contract from the government of Morocco after the trip concluded.

⁴⁹⁴ [EPA Explored Private Jet Lease for Pruitt's Travels Last Year](#): To accommodate U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's propensity for first-class travel, EPA officials considered leasing a private, \$100,000-per-month jet.

⁴⁹⁵ [Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Accused of Mixing Politics with Government Business](#): New reporting raises questions about whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is using his public office to advance political purposes – a potential violation of U.S. law that bars public officials from using public resources for political reasons.

⁴⁹⁶ [Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's NRA Visit Among Several Trips Being Questioned](#): U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke raised eyebrows after documents revealed that he inappropriately mixed several official business trips with political events, using taxpayer money to pay for travel costs and accommodations at a number of unofficial engagements, including a National Rifle Association-sponsored retreat at the Four Seasons resort in Dallas for female gun enthusiasts.

⁴⁹⁷ [Zinke Brought Security Team to Vacation in Turkey and Greece](#): On a private vacation to Greece and Turkey, U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke used taxpayer money to pay for a security detail of U.S. Park Police officers to accompany Zinke and his wife during the entire trip.

⁴⁹⁸ [Trump's Trade Rep Spends \\$1M on New Furniture, Blames Obama](#): In a flagrant abuse of the public trust, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer spent more than \$917,000 to furnish two offices.

⁴⁹⁹ [Pruitt Spent at Least \\$9600 on Office Decor, Desks: Email](#): U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt spent at least \$9600 in taxpayer funds to decorate his personal office with art from the Smithsonian.

⁵⁰⁰ [Pruitt Spent \\$3.5 Million on Security During First Year as EPA Head](#): Newly released U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data shows that Administrator Scott Pruitt spent \$3.5 million on round the clock security, greatly exceeding past EPA Administrators' spending on security.