



# **PROFITING OFF THE PRESIDENCY**

**Trump Spent a Third of His First Year in Office at  
Trump-Owned Properties, Promoting His Businesses  
and Making a Killing**



**An Update from the Democracy Reform Task Force**

January 30, 2018

## IN THE OFFICE OR ON THE LINKS?

One week into his presidential campaign, then-candidate Donald Trump described what he thought would be required of a president, saying, “I would rarely leave the White House because there’s so much work to be done. I would not be a president who took vacations. I would not be a president that takes time off.”<sup>[1]</sup> Fittingly, Trump made these promises at the opening of the Trump National Golf Club in Virginia, where he has spent 23 days since taking the Oath of Office. All told, President Trump has spent about one-third of his days as President at his own properties.<sup>[2]</sup>



These frequent visits raise not just a host of ethical concerns, but also – when considered alongside the unprecedented number of vacancies across the federal government and the lack of a coherent agenda from the White House – questions of the President’s commitment to the work he once acknowledged had to be done. This update from the Democracy Reform Task Force highlights the staggering amount of time the President has spent at his personal properties during his first year in office.

<sup>[1]</sup> Kurtz, Judy. *The Hill*. [Trump: 'I Would Rarely Leave the White House'](#). June 23, 2015.

<sup>[2]</sup> Johnstone, Liz. *NBC News*. [Tracking President Trump’s Visits to Trump Properties](#). December 29, 2017.

## LINING HIS POCKETS ON THE TAXPAYERS' DIME

In addition to spending time and taxpayer dollars at his lavish private properties, President Trump has also found ways to leverage his position of power and influence to increase Trump Organization revenues. For



example, Mar-a-Lago doubled its initiation fee to \$200,000 shortly after the election, suggesting that President Trump is exploiting the presidency for personal gain while at the same time providing the wealthy and well-connected access to him.

## PROMOTING THE TRUMP ORG BRAND AROUND THE WORLD



President Trump regularly plugs his properties and products in speeches and tweets. He made sure to mention the nearby Trump Tower in a speech to the United Nations,

praised his New Jersey golf club in an address to the South Korean National Assembly and plugged his winery during a press conference on the violence in Charlottesville.



## 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 the long-established norms and laws that prevent public corruption.

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.

