



“SWAMPED”

100 Ways in 100 Days

**How the Trump Administration
Has Flooded the Swamp
in Washington**

A report by the Democracy Reform Task Force

April 27, 2017

Executive Summary

President Donald J. Trump campaigned on the 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,”¹ and he pledged to aggressively pursue meaningful reforms to improve transparency and accountability in government.² As President Trump approaches his hundredth day in office, this report seeks to measure the progress of the new Administration in this effort.

A comprehensive review of action to-date suggests the Administration’s record does not match Donald Trump’s campaign rhetoric. Specifically, the analysis below lays bare 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 His Personal Benefit**
- **Raided the Treasury to Pay for Vacation & Private Business Promotion**

Instead of “draining the swamp,” the Trump Administration is testing the outer limits of the laws and norms in place to prevent corruption and promote accountability. At the same time, as this report demonstrates, the Trump Administration is breaking its promise of “transferring power to the people,” instead empowering a narrow class of wealthy and well-connected insiders.

¹ 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>.

² *Ibid*



Made a Mockery of Ethics Law and Regulation

On January 28th 2017, a week into his Presidency, Donald Trump signed an Executive Order that was purported to be his first step in delivering on his campaign promise of “draining the swamp.” Yet, the ethics executive order was another example of President Trump’s tendency to over-promise and under-deliver. Specifically, the so-called “Ethics Pledge” – which replaces President Barack Obama’s ethics Executive Order 13490 – contains several significant policy changes that dramatically undermine the stated goals of the effort, which predictably have led to a series of ethics violations by White House staff.

Examples include:

1. The ‘Revolving Door’ is Leading into the Trump White House ([Source](#))¹
2. Trump’s Ethics Pledge Eviscerated Lobbyist Limits ([Source](#))²
3. Trump’s Ethics Pledge Contains Enormous Lobbying Loophole ([Source](#))³
4. Trump’s Ethics Pledge Promotes Shadow Lobbying ([Source](#))⁴
5. Trump’s White House is Filing Numerous Secret Ethics Waivers ([Source](#))⁵
6. Trump Canceled Ethics Training for White House Staff ([Source](#))⁶
7. White House Advisor Kellyanne Conway Violates Federal Ethics Rules ([Source](#))⁷
8. Net Sales for Ivanka Merchandise Line Soar After Conway Endorsement ([Source](#))⁸
9. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin Violates Federal Ethics Rules ([Source](#))⁹
10. Former White House Employee, Robert Wasinger, Evades Ethics Pledge ([Source](#))¹⁰

Promoted a Culture of Secrecy in the Executive Branch

In the years preceding his campaign for President, 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.”³ Ironically, since taking the oath of office, President Trump has moved quickly to institute a culture of secrecy in the Executive Branch and the White House.

³ 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/>.



Examples include:

11. President Trump is the First President in Modern History to Refuse to Release His Tax Returns ([Source](#))¹¹
12. Trump Limits Press Access ([Source](#))¹²
13. Trump Changes Policy to Keep Secret Who Visits the White House ([Source](#))¹³
14. Trump Restricts Communications to Congress ([Source](#), [Source](#))¹⁴

Stacked His Cabinet with Big Money Campaign Donors

Throughout the Presidential campaign, candidate Trump decried the influence of campaign donors and well-connected insiders. As President, he promised he would dismantle the “rigged” political system that rewards campaign donors with plum cabinet posts and would change the system of the “powerful protecting the powerful.”⁴ However, President Trump has stacked his cabinet with many of his largest campaign donors and has relied on numerous well-connected Washington-insiders for top agency positions.

Examples include:

15. Trump ‘Overwhelmed’ by Patronage Requests from the Wealthy and Well-Connected ([Source](#))¹⁵
16. Trump Appoints Billionaire Wilbur Ross for Secretary of Commerce ([Source](#), [Source](#))¹⁶
17. Trump Appoints Billionaire Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education ([Source](#), [Source](#))¹⁷
18. Trump Appoints Millionaire Steve Mnuchin for Secretary of the Treasury ([Source](#), [Source](#))¹⁸
19. Trump Appoints Billionaire Linda McMahon for Small Business Administrator ([Source](#), [Source](#))¹⁹
20. Trump Appoints Millionaire Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State Department ([Source](#))²⁰
21. Trump Appoints Millionaire Jay Clayton for Chair of the Securities & Exchange Commission ([Source](#))²¹

⁴ 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.



22. Trump Nominee for Secretary of Labor, Millionaire Andy Puzder, Removes Himself After Trouble Complying with Ethics Requirements ([Source](#), [Source](#))²²
23. Trump Nominee for Secretary of the Army, Billionaire Vincent Viola, Removes Himself for Consideration Citing Reluctance to Abide Ethics Requirements ([Source](#))²³
24. Trump Nominee for Secretary of the Navy, Millionaire Philip Bilden, Removes Himself for Consideration Citing Reluctance to Abide Ethics Requirements ([Source](#))²⁴
25. Trump Nominee for Deputy Commerce Secretary, Millionaire Todd Ricketts, Removes Himself for Consideration Citing Reluctance to Abide Ethics Requirements ([Source](#))²⁵

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 for the White House, pledging regularly that he would exclude special interest lobbyists from his Administration's staff.⁵ In June 2016, he went so far as to declare he would have "no problem" banning lobbyists from working in his Administration.⁶ Since taking office, the Trump White House has broken that pledge, stocking the White House and the broader Executive Branch with long-time Washington lobbyists and influence peddlers.

Examples include:

26. Trump Taps Health Care Industry Insider for Top FDA Post ([Source](#))²⁶
27. Trump Selects Construction Industry Lobbyist for Top Labor Department Position ([Source](#))²⁷
28. Trump Chooses For-Profit College Lobbyist for Department of Education Position ([Source](#))²⁸
29. Trump Embraces Lobbyist for Health Insurance Giant with Position at the Department of Health and Human Services ([Source](#))²⁹
30. Trump Taps Former Pharmaceutical Industry Consultant for Advisor Position with Department of Health and Human Services ([Source](#))³⁰

⁵ 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>.

⁶ 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/>.



31. Trump Selects Government Relations Director for a Firm Specializing in Supporting Independent Health Providers for Role with HHS Secretary ([Source](#))³¹
32. Trump Chooses Former Energy Lobbyist as White House Energy Advisor ([Source](#))³²
33. Trump Embraces Former Healthcare Lobbyist as Chief of Staff for the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services ([Source](#))³³
34. Trump Selects Defense Contracting Lobbyist for Position at the Department of Defense ([Source](#))³⁴
35. Trump Taps Defense and Homeland Security Lobbyist for Transportation Security Administration ([Source](#))³⁵
36. Trump Selects Aerospace Industry Lobbyist for Department of Homeland Security ([Source](#))³⁶
37. Trump Hires Big Oil Lobbyist for Liaison Between Congress and the Treasury Department ([Source](#))³⁷
38. Trump Taps Top Energy Industry Lobbyist as Beachhead Team Member in the Department of Energy ([Source](#))³⁸
39. Trump Nominates Friend of Big Business and Opponent of Regulation to Position of Regulatory Czar ([Source](#))³⁹

Put Big Money Ahead of the Public Interest

During the 2016 election, candidate Donald Trump was quite candid about how big money operates in the American political system. During his stump speeches, he would often brag 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.”⁷

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.⁸ Yet, despite this promise and many more like it, President Trump is giving big donors a big hug.

⁷ 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/>.

⁸ *Ibid* 5



Examples include:

40. Trump Solicited Record Breaking Amount of Big Money Contributions from the Wealthy and Well-Connected to Fund Inauguration ([Source](#))⁴⁰
41. Trump Receives Big Money from Private Prison Industry ([Source](#))⁴¹
42. Trump DOJ Reverses Private Prison Directive ([Source](#))⁴²
43. Trump Administration Awards Private Prison Contract to GEO Group ([Source](#), [Source](#))⁴³
44. The Oil & Gas Industry Is Enjoying a Resurgence of Influence with Trump Administration after Giving Big to Inauguration ([Source](#), [Source](#))⁴⁴
45. The Oil & Gas Industry Is Using their Influence in Trump Administration to Systematically Remake the Nation's Environmental Policy ([Source](#))⁴⁵
46. Dow Chemical Co. Donated \$1 Million to Trump Inauguration, Dow CEO Named Trump Advisor ([Source](#))⁴⁶
47. Trump EPA Administrator Pruitt Reverses Course on Banning Pesticide Made by Dow ([Source](#))⁴⁷
48. Dow Urges Trump Administration to Scrap Study Showing Harms of Pesticides ([Study](#))⁴⁸
49. Big Pharma Spent Big for Trump Inauguration ([Source](#))⁴⁹
50. Trump Reneges on Promise to Require Big Pharma to Negotiate for Lower Prices ([Source](#))⁵⁰
51. Exxon Mobil Spent Big to Fund Trump Inauguration ([Source](#))⁵¹
52. GOP-Kingmaker, Sheldon Adelson, Gives \$35 Million to Elect Trump ([Source](#))⁵²
53. Trump Hosts GOP Mega-Donor Sheldon Adelson at White House ([Source](#))⁵³
54. Adelson Gets Personal Apology from Trump Press Secretary Sean Spicer ([Source](#))⁵⁴
55. AT&T Donates \$1 Million to Trump Inauguration, Verizon Gives \$100,000 ([Source](#))⁵⁵
56. Trump Signs Bill Allowing Internet Service Providers to Sell Personal Data ([Source](#))⁵⁶
57. Trump-appointed FCC Chair and Former Verizon Lawyer Allows ISPs to Jack Up Prices for Small Businesses, Schools and Hospitals ([Source](#))⁵⁷
58. Trump Populates Senior Administration Posts with Host of Big Money, Former Wall Street Executives ([Source](#))⁵⁸
59. Trump Signs Order to Stifle Critical Consumer Protection for Americans' Retirement Savings ([Source](#), [Source](#))⁵⁹



60. Trump Signs Order to Unwind Regulation of Wall Street ([Source](#))⁶⁰
61. Billionaire Steve Schwarzman and Wife Gave \$5.5 Million to Republican Party in 2016 ([Source](#))⁶¹
62. Trump Taps Billionaire GOP Donor Steve Schwarzman as Senior Advisor ([Source](#))⁶²
63. Steve Schwarzman, Blackstone Financially Benefits from Policy Counsel Provided to Trump White House ([Source](#))⁶³
64. Senior Members of Trump Cabinet Attend Schwarzman's Elaborate Birthday Party ([Source](#))⁶⁴
65. Trump, After Shaming Lobbyists on the Campaign Trail, Accepts Their Donations to His Transition Committee ([Source](#))⁶⁵
66. GOP Mega-Donors Kochs Get Private Meeting with Trump at Mar-a-Lago ([Source](#))⁶⁶
67. Trump Encourages Supporters to Shop at His Super PAC Donors' Company, L.L. Bean ([Source](#))⁶⁷

Turned the Presidency into a Profit-Making Enterprise

Since taking office, President Trump has not taken concrete steps to unwind his business interest in his many companies and investments, despite the ongoing calls by ethics experts and watchdog organizations. Predictably, this has led to numerous instances in which the Trump Organization has seemingly profited from the Office of the Presidency, as foreign governments, domestic interests, and high-powered individuals seek to curry favor with the new Administration by doing business with the Trump Organization. What's more, this behavior doesn't stop with President Trump. Throughout the Trump Administration, senior officials seem to be embracing their public service as a means for private gain.

Examples include:

68. President Trump is Leasing the Government's Old Post Office for Use as a Private Hotel ([Source](#), [Source](#))⁶⁸
69. President Trump Reneges on Promise to Donate Profits from Foreign Governments Generated by Trump Hotels ([Source](#))⁶⁹
70. Kuwait Government Selects Trump Old Post Office Hotel for Gala in Potential Breach of Emoluments Clause ([Source](#), [Source](#))⁷⁰



71. Diplomats Flock to Trump Old Post Office Hotel to Curry Favor with Trump Administration ([Source](#))⁷¹
72. Industries Book Trump Properties for Conventions ([Source](#))⁷²
73. Mar-a-Lago – the President’s Privately-owned Club – is Being Promoted as “the winter White House” on U.S. Government-run Website ([Source](#))⁷³
74. Trump Org Profiteering from 2020 Trump Reelection Effort ([Source](#))⁷⁴
75. Trump Wins Chinese Trademarks ([Source](#))⁷⁵
76. Ivanka Trump Wins Chinese Trademarks for Her Brand After Meeting with President Xi Jinping ([Source](#))⁷⁶
77. Ivanka Trump to Launch Fund, Soliciting Contributions from Foreign Governments and Private Interests ([Source](#))⁷⁷
78. Trump Campaign Chairman Manafort Retroactively Registers as Foreign Agent ([Source](#))⁷⁸
79. Manafort Lobbying for Chinese Company Eager to Earn Trump Administration Infrastructure Contracts ([Source](#))⁷⁹
80. Trump’s Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, Retains Interest in Shipping Company While Conducting U.S. Trade Policy ([Source](#))⁸⁰
81. Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Resort Doubles Initiation Fees from \$100,000 to \$200,000 ([Source](#))⁸¹
82. Mar-a-Lago Member Secured Private Oval Office Meeting ([Source](#))⁸²
83. Trump’s Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tom Price, is Embroiled in Allegations of Insider Trading ([Source](#))⁸³
84. Fired U.S. Attorney General, Preet Bharara, Was Reported to Have Been Investigating Price’s Stock Trades Before Termination ([Source](#))⁸⁴
85. Former Trump Aide, Brian Ballard, Cashes-in as Lobbyist ([Source](#))⁸⁵
86. Former Pence Aide, Bill Smith, Rakes-in Corporate Lobbying Cash ([Source](#))⁸⁶
87. Former Trump Aide, Corey Lewandoski, Positions Himself as Lobbyist with Access to Trump ([Source](#))⁸⁷



Pursued Public Policy for His Personal Benefit

President Trump's business interests seem to be coloring his pursuit of certain policy priorities. In several instances, the Trump Administration has avoided policy detrimental to the Trump Organization, while in other instances, the Administration has pursued policy that would directly benefit his bottom line.⁹

Examples include:

88. Trump Tax Plan Would Drastically Lower His Own Taxes ([Source](#))⁸⁸
89. Trump Considers Limiting Charitable Tax Deductions to Finance Rate Reduction for Wealthy, Like Himself ([Source](#), [Source](#))⁸⁹
90. Trump to Review H-1B Immigration Visas, But Not H-2B Visas on Which Trump Businesses Rely ([Source](#))⁹⁰
91. Trump's Muslim Ban Excluded Every Muslim Majority Country where the Trump Org Has Investments ([Source](#))⁹¹

Raided the Treasury to Pay for Vacations & Private Business Promotion

President Trump has embraced frequent travel since assuming the Office of the Presidency at great expense to the American taxpayer – and often to the benefit of the Trump-owned properties, which he visits. At the same time, his adult children – namely, his two sons who manage the family business's day-to-day operations – continue to exhaust significant taxpayer dollars on Secret Service protection as they travel the globe in promotion of their private interests, all with the false imprimatur of the United States government.

Examples include:

92. Secret Service Forced to Request More Money to Accommodate Trump's Travel-Heavy Lifestyle ([Source](#))⁹²
93. Trump's Trips to Mar-a-Lago Have Cost Taxpayers More Than \$20 million ([Source](#))⁹³
94. Secret Service Racking up Costs for Protection of the Trump Family ([Source](#))⁹⁴

⁹ The full extent to which is unknown given his aforementioned refusal to disclose his tax returns and return information.



95. Secret Service Paid \$64,000 to Inspect Trump Tower Elevators ([Source](#))⁹⁵
96. Secret Service Has Paid \$35,000 in Golf Cart Rentals to Protect Trump on Golf Excursions ([Source](#))⁹⁶
97. Secret Service and State Department Spent More Than \$53,000 on Hotel Rooms for a Trump Organization Business Trip to Vancouver ([Source](#))⁹⁷
98. Secret Service and State Department Spent More Than \$16,000 on Hotel Rooms for a Trump Organization Business Trip to Dubai ([Source](#))⁹⁸
99. Secret Service and State Department Spent Nearly \$100,000 on Hotel Rooms for a Trump Organization Business Trip to Uruguay ([Source](#))⁹⁹
100. Secret Service Spent More Than \$12,000 on Ski Rentals for Trump Kids' Vacation ([Source](#))¹⁰⁰

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.¹⁰

So far, President Trump has broken this promise to the American people. As this report details, President Trump has failed to transfer power to the American people and instead 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, with these facts in-hand, “Whose side is the President on?”

¹⁰ 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 bold effort in the House of Representatives to build a government that puts public interest ahead of special interests. Sadly, despite promises to “drain the swamp,” President Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress are quickly pursuing an agenda that primarily benefits the wealthy and well-connected, while testing the 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

¹ **The ‘Revolving Door’ is Leading into the Trump White House:** President Trump – despite public promises to “drain the swamp” – has hired a staff of former lobbyists and corporate representatives. The available financial disclosures of senior Trump political employees – of whom only half have filed – shows the White House staff includes more than 300 recent corporate clients. ([Source](#))

² **Trump’s Ethics Pledge Eviscerated Lobbyist Limits:** President Trump has eliminated entirely an ethics provision enacted by the Obama Administration that prohibited lobbyists from working for federal agencies they lobbied in the prior two years. ([Source](#))

³ **Trump’s Ethics Pledge Contains Enormous Lobbying Loophole:** Trump Ethics Executive Order includes an enormous exemption to its purported two-year post-White House lobbying ban, permitting former Trump White House employees to lobby the Trump Administration on government rulemakings, adjudications and licensing activities. This is in direct contradiction to the Ethics Executive Order’s promise former Trump officials will be “banned” from lobbying for two years. ([Source](#))

⁴ **Trump’s Ethics Pledge Promotes Shadow Lobbying:** Trump’s Ethics Executive Order does nothing to address the massive shadow-lobbying industry that has sprung up in recent years to avoid lobbyist registration requirements; given the strict definition used by Trump Executive Order, White House officials would still be very much able to work as “strategic advisors” or “policy historians,” doing a complete end-around of the purported intent of the Executive Order. ([Source](#))

⁵ **Trump White House is Filing Numerous Secret Ethics Waivers:** For those White House staff hires who are not exempted from the already Swiss-cheese like Ethics Executive Order, the Trump Administration has utilized a bevy of secret waivers that make “it easier for former lobbyists in the government to get waivers that would let them take up matters that could benefit former clients.” ([Source](#))

⁶ **Trump Canceled Ethics Training for White House Staff:** The White House canceled an ethics training program for White House staff, bucking the precedent set by both the Obama and Bush White Houses. ([Source](#))

⁷ **White House Advisor Kellyanne Conway Violates Federal Ethics Rules:** Conway blatantly violated ethics law encouraging the American public to “go buy Ivanka’s stuff.” ([Source](#))



⁸ **Net Sales for Ivanka Merchandise Line Soar After Conway Endorsement:** Buoyed by strong February sales, the Ivanka Trump Brand reported a 21% increase in sales. Company president Abigail Klem was clear about the connection, declaring that the surge in sales during February represented “some of the best performing weeks in the history of the brand.” ([Source](#))

⁹ **Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin Violates Federal Ethics Rules:** Mnuchin blatantly violated ethics law by encouraging the Americans to “send your kids to Lego Batman” (a movie which he produced). ([Source](#))

¹⁰ **Former White House Employee, Robert Wasinger, Evades Ethics Pledge All Together:** Senior Trump State Department Liaison never signed the Trump Ethics Pledge before leaving his job to become a corporate lobbyist. ([Source](#))

¹¹ **President Trump is the First President in Modern History to Refuse to Release His Tax Returns:** Candidate Trump promised on multiple occasions during his campaign bid that he would eventually release his tax returns. Following his inauguration, President Trump and his Administration changed their message, declaring the President would not release his tax returns. ([Source](#))

¹² **Trump Limits Press Access:** The Trump Administration has repeatedly broken with long standing protocol regarding press access to White House officials and press briefings. ([Source](#))

¹³ **Trump Changes Policy to Keep Secret Who Visits the White House:** The Trump Administration has reversed the policy of the Obama Administration to publicly disclose the visitor logs of the White House and other properties where the President conducts official business, casting a dark shadow on who is meeting with the White House in an effort to try and influence federal policy. ([Source](#))

¹⁴ **Trump Restricts Communications to Congress:** Internal Congressional audits and statements from one agency indicate that the Trump Administration’s new policy is to only respond to requests from Committee Chairs. Agencies are prohibited by law from restricting employee communications with Congress. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

¹⁵ **Trump ‘Overwhelmed’ by Patronage Requests from the Wealthy and Well-Connected:** President Trump is reportedly “overwhelmed” by the number of requests from donors and friends to whom he promised various posts and ambassadorships. ([Source](#))



¹⁶ **Trump Appoints Billionaire Wilbur Ross for Secretary of Commerce:** Secretary Ross gave more than \$200,000 in personal donations to the Trump campaign and was an early supporter and bundler for the President’s campaign. He has an estimated net worth of \$2.9 billion. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

¹⁷ **Trump Appoints Billionaire Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education:** Secretary DeVos and her family gave more than \$1.8 million in personal donations to the Trump campaign and the Republican Party. She has an estimated net worth of \$1.25 billion. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

¹⁸ **Trump Appoints Millionaire Steve Mnuchin for Secretary of the Treasury:** Secretary Mnuchin gave more than \$425,000 in personal donations to the Trump campaign and was the campaign’s finance chair. He has an estimated net worth of \$500 million. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

¹⁹ **Trump Appoints Billionaire Linda McMahon for Small Business Administrator:** Administrator McMahon gave more than \$7.5 million to affiliated Trump Super PACs, the Republican Party and the Trump campaign. She and her husband have an estimated net worth of \$1.16 billion. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

²⁰ **Trump Appoints Millionaire Rex Tillerson for Secretary of the State Department:** Secretary of State Tillerson has an estimated net worth of \$325 million – a fortune built working for Exxon Mobil. ([Source](#))

²¹ **Trump Appoints Millionaire Jay Clayton for Chair of the Securities & Exchange Commission:** Nominee Jay Clayton has an estimated net worth of \$50 million – a fortune built working for the same companies he now stands to oversee in his post at the SEC. ([Source](#))

²² **Trump Nominee for Secretary of Labor, Millionaire Andy Puzder, Removes Himself After Trouble Complying with Ethics Requirements:** Andy Puzder – President Trump’s failed pick for the Secretary of Labor – gave more than \$332,000 to the Trump campaign and the Republican Party. He has estimated net worth of \$45 million. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

²³ **Trump Nominee for Secretary of the Army, Billionaire Vincent Viola, Removes Himself for Consideration Citing Reluctance to Abide Ethics Requirements:** Vincent Viola – President Trump’s failed pick for the Secretary of the Army – has an estimated net worth of \$1.8 billion. Viola removed himself for consideration for the post, citing a reluctance to comply with ethics requirements. ([Source](#))



²⁴ **Trump Nominee for Secretary of the Navy, Millionaire Philip Bilden, Removes Himself for Consideration Citing Reluctance to Abide Ethics Requirements:** Philip Bilden – President Trump’s failed pick for the Secretary of the Navy – removed himself for consideration for the post, citing a reluctance to comply with ethics requirements. ([Source](#))

²⁵ **Trump Nominee for Deputy Commerce Secretary, Millionaire Todd Ricketts, Removes Himself for Consideration Citing Reluctance to Abide Ethics Requirements:** Todd Ricketts – failed pick for Deputy Secretary of Commerce Ricketts – removed himself for consideration for the post, citing a reluctance to comply with ethics requirements. ([Source](#))

²⁶ **Trump Taps Health Care Industry Insider for Top FDA Post:** Scott Gottlieb has spent his career working for and advising biomedical firms seeking to bring their pharmaceuticals to market. Gottlieb will now be the chief regulator in charge of clearing new drugs for those same companies. ([Source](#))

²⁷ **Trump Selects Construction Industry Lobbyist for Top Labor Department Position:** President Trump has appointed Geoff Burr, the chief lobbyist for a powerful construction industry trade group, to a top position in the Labor Department. Burr will be overseeing many of the same issues he lobbied for in his time at the firm. ([Source](#))

²⁸ **Trump Chooses For-Profit College Lobbyist for Department of Education Position:** Taylor Hansen, who spent much of her time lobbying to weaken the regulations on for-profit colleges, will now have a role in deciding on the future of such regulations. ([Source](#))

²⁹ **Trump Embraces Lobbyist for Health Insurance Giant for Position with the Department of Health and Human Services:** Alexandra Campau has been brought on as a part of the “beachhead” team at HHS. Prior to this she was a lobbyist for the health insurance industry. ([Source](#))

³⁰ **Trump Taps Former Pharmaceutical Industry Consultant for Advisor Position with Department of Health and Human Services:** Timothy Clark has gone from running his consulting firm that had PhRMA, a large trade group for the pharmaceutical industry, as a client, to a senior advisor to HHS Secretary Price. ([Source](#))

³¹ **Trump Selects Government Relations Director for a Firm Specializing in Supporting Independent Health Providers for Role with HHS Secretary:** Industry insider Keagan Lenihan left her role as Director of Government Operations at McKesson Specialty Health for a position as a senior advisor to HHS Secretary Price. ([Source](#))



³² **Trump Chooses Former Energy Lobbyist as White House Energy Advisor:** Mike Catanzaro, a former lobbyist working for numerous prominent energy companies to fight Obama-era regulations, is now a top White House energy advisor working for the same cause. ([Source](#))

³³ **Trump Embraces Former Healthcare Lobbyist for Chief of Staff for the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services:** HHS Secretary Price's new chief of staff Lance Leggit was lobbying for numerous healthcare clients as recently as last year, and now has a strong voice in the administration. ([Source](#))

³⁴ **Trump Selects Defense Contracting Lobbyist for Position at the Department of Defense:** Justin Mikolay went from lobbying on behalf of a defense company founded by his good friend and transition aide Peter Thiel to being one of the first set of boots on the ground at the Trump Administration DOD. ([Source](#))

³⁵ **Trump Taps Defense and Homeland Security Lobbyist for Transportation Security Administration:** In another case of top lobbyists getting top roles in the Trump Administration, Chad Wolf went from his position at the head of a firm lobbying for defense and homeland security contractors to his current role as Chief of Staff for the TSA. ([Source](#))

³⁶ **Trump Selects Aerospace Industry Lobbyist for Department of Homeland Security:** John Barsa, the owner of a government relations firm specializing in homeland security, has been chosen by the Trump Administration for a key role in the DHS. ([Source](#))

³⁷ **Trump Hires Big Oil Lobbyist for Liaison Between Congress and the Treasury Department:** Government affairs executive at big oil companies Drew Maloney has been brought on as the Treasury Department's Capitol Hill liaison. ([Source](#))

³⁸ **Trump Taps Top Energy Industry Lobbyist as Beachhead Team Member in the Department of Energy:** Mark Maddox, a lobbyist for a number of energy companies, was brought onto the beachhead team at the Dept. of Energy. ([Source](#))

³⁹ **Trump Nominates Friend of Big Business and Opponent of Regulation to Position of Regulatory Czar:** President Trump selected a well-known opponent of government regulation to head up the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). ([Source](#))

⁴⁰ **Trump Solicited Record Breaking Amount of Big Money Contributions from the Wealthy and Well-Connected to Fund Inauguration:** Breaking with his campaign rhetoric, President-elect Trump raised twice as much for his inauguration than the previous record – with 48 individuals and corporations giving more than \$1 million. ([Source](#))



⁴¹ **Trump Receives Big Money from Private Prison Industry:** The private prison industry donated – potentially illegally – hundreds of thousands of dollars to support President Trump’s campaign and inauguration. ([Source](#))

⁴² **Trump DOJ Reverses Private Prison Directive:** Trump Attorney General Sessions rescinded an Obama-era directive prohibiting new contracts for private prisons. ([Source](#))

⁴³ **Trump Administration Awards Private Prison Contract to GEO Group:** The GEO Group – which donated \$225,000 to the Trump campaign and supported a Trump-affiliated super PAC – won the federal contract bid to build a \$110 million private detention center in Texas. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

⁴⁴ **The Oil & Gas Industry Is Enjoying a Resurgence of Influence with Trump Administration after Giving Big to Inauguration:** Industry insiders are giddy at the newfound political power, with former industry executives and corporate lobbyists littered throughout the Trump Administration. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

⁴⁵ **The Oil & Gas Industry Is Using their Influence in Trump Administration to Systematically Remake the Nation’s Environmental Policy:** The Trump Administration is remaking U.S. environmental policy at every level. ([Source](#))

⁴⁶ **Dow Chemical Co. Donated \$1 Million to Trump Inauguration, Dow CEO Named Trump Advisor:** The chemical company’s business is heavily impacted by EPA and USDA regulations. ([Source](#))

⁴⁷ **Trump EPA Administrator Pruitt Reverses Course on Banning Pesticide Made by Dow:** The EPA chief rejected his own agency’s science showing that chlorpyrifos is linked to brain and nervous system damage and undid steps by the Obama Administration to ban the pesticide. ([Source](#))

⁴⁸ **Dow Urges Trump Administration to Scrap Study Showing Harms of Pesticides:** The corporation wrote to the heads of the EPA and Interior and Commerce Departments asking them to ignore the study. ([Study](#))

⁴⁹ **Big Pharma Spent Big for Trump Inauguration:** The country’s largest pharmaceutical companies gave over \$7 million to the Trump Inaugural Committee. ([Source](#))



⁵⁰ **Trump Reneges on Promise to Require Big Pharma to Negotiate for Lower Prices:** Following the President's inauguration, Trump met with Big Pharma and promptly reneged on his campaign promise to require pharmaceutical companies to negotiate with Medicare for bulk discounts and instead adopted a new policy of lowering taxes and regulations on one of the nation's most profitable industries. ([Source](#))

⁵¹ **Exxon Mobil Spent Big to Fund Trump Inauguration:** The Exxon Mobil Corporation gave \$500,000 to the Trump Inauguration, a mere week after the announced nomination of its CEO Rex Tillerson. ([Source](#))

⁵² **GOP-Kingmaker, Sheldon Adelson, Gives \$35 Million to Elect Trump:** Sheldon Adelson gave a total of \$35,000,000 to a super PAC dedicated to the election of Donald Trump. ([Source](#))

⁵³ **Trump Hosts GOP Mega-Donor Sheldon Adelson at White House:** After criticizing his primary opponents' cozy relationship with Adelson, President Trump hosted him for dinner at the White House shortly after being inaugurated. ([Source](#))

⁵⁴ **Adelson Gets Personal Apology from Trump Press Secretary Sean Spicer:** Following Press Secretary Spicer's bungled press conference, in which he falsely claimed Adolf Hitler did not gas his own people, Spicer personally called the GOP-kingmaker Adelson to apologize. An apology to the American people has not been issued. ([Source](#))

⁵⁵ **AT&T Donates \$1 Million to Trump Inauguration, Verizon Gives \$100,000:** The telecommunications giants gave large to the Trump Inauguration. ([Source](#))

⁵⁶ **Trump Signs Bill Allowing Internet Service Providers to Sell Personal Data:** The bill, which passed with only GOP support, allows ISPs to sell personal browsing information to advertisers. ([Source](#))

⁵⁷ **Trump-appointed FCC Chair and Former Verizon Lawyer Allows ISPs to Jack Up Prices for Small Businesses, Schools and Hospitals:** The FCC removed caps on the prices charged for internet access to small businesses, schools, hospitals and other protected entities. ([Source](#))

⁵⁸ **Trump Populates Senior Administration Posts with Host of Big Money, Former Wall Street Executives:** President Trump has populated his Administration with a host of former Wall Street executives, breaking with campaign rhetoric promising as President he would hold Wall Street accountable. ([Source](#))



⁵⁹ Trump Signs Order to Stifle Critical Consumer Protection for Americans' Retirement

Savings: The Trump Administration delayed the implementation of the Department of Labor's conflict-of-interest rule, which ensures financial advisors act in the best interest of their clients. The 60-day delay – favored by Wall Street – will cost Americans an estimated \$3.6 billion in lost retirement savings. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

⁶⁰ Trump Signs Order to Unwind Regulation of Wall Street: President Trump signed an executive order requiring a wholesale review of the Dodd-Frank financial regulatory bill enacted following the economic collapse of 2008. ([Source](#))

⁶¹ Billionaire Steve Schwarzman and Wife Gave \$5.5 Million to Republican Party in 2016: Blackstone CEO and billionaire Steve Schwarzman gave over \$5 million to the Republican Party in 2016, aiding the presidential campaign of Donald Trump. ([Source](#))

⁶² Trump Taps Billionaire GOP Donor Steve Schwarzman as Senior Advisor: President Trump appointed Blackstone CEO Steve Schwarzman to lead a business leader panel of advisors. ([Source](#))

⁶³ Steve Schwarzman, Blackstone Financially Benefits from Policy Counsel Provided to Trump White House: Schwarzman was reported to have encouraged the Trump Administration to not label China a currency manipulator – a policy that benefits Blackstone's bottom line. ([Source](#))

⁶⁴ Senior Members of Trump Cabinet Attend Schwarzman's Elaborate Birthday Party: Secretary Ross, Secretary Chao, and Secretary Mnuchin – along with Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner – all attended billionaire Steve Schwarzman's elaborate birthday party. ([Source](#))

⁶⁵ Trump, After Shaming Lobbyists on the Campaign Trail, Accepts Their Donations to His Transition Committee: President Trump's transition team accepted donations from at least a dozen lobbyists, raising questions about his commitment to “draining the swamp.” ([Source](#))

⁶⁶ GOP Mega-Donors Kochs Get Private Meeting with Trump at Mar-a-Lago: After bragging the Koch brothers would “not have influence over a Trump Administration” during the campaign, President Trump hosted the Koch brothers for a private meeting at Mar-a-Lago. ([Source](#))

⁶⁷ Trump Encourages Supporters to Shop at His Super PAC Donors' Company, L.L. Bean: President Trump implored his supporters to shop at Linda Bean's company. Ms. Bean supported Trump's *Make American Great Again* super PAC. ([Source](#))



68 President Trump is Leasing the Government’s Old Post Office for Use as a Private Hotel:

The Trump Organization currently is a lessor of the Old Post Office in Washington, DC and is using the property as a hotel - an apparent breach of the GSA standard lease agreement, which dictates “No... elected official of the Government of the United States ... shall be admitted to any share or part of this Lease, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom.” The GSA – following Trump’s inauguration – determined the "simplistic 'black and white' conclusions regarding the meaning" was incorrect. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

69 President Trump Reneges on Promise to Donate Profits from Foreign Governments

Generated by Trump Hotels: As of March 2017, President Trump had failed to deliver on his promise to donate profits from foreign governments generated by his Old Post Office hotel or other properties or even disclose his plan for doing so. ([Source](#))

70 Kuwait Government Selects Trump Old Post Office Hotel for Gala in Potential Breach of Emoluments Clause:

The Kuwaiti Government held their annual independence celebration at the Trump hotel, canceling their reservation at a competing property. Reports indicate the change was made after pressure from the Trump Organization. Kuwaiti officials deny allegations the change was politically-motivated. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

71 Diplomats Flock to Trump Old Post Office Hotel to Curry Favor with Trump Administration:

Reports indicate foreign governments may try to use their patronage of the new Trump hotel to curry favor with the Trump Administration, with one diplomat declaring, “Why wouldn’t I stay at his hotel blocks from the White House, so I can tell the new president, ‘I love your new hotel!’ Isn’t it rude to come to his city and say, ‘I am staying at your competitor?’” ([Source](#))

72 Industries Book Trump Properties for Conventions: The National Confectioners Association is holding two events at Trump’s D.C. hotel as it brings members to the capital to lobby for policy changes to benefit their businesses. ([Source](#))

73 Mar-a-Lago – the President’s Privately-owned Club – is Being Promoted as “the winter White House” on U.S. Government-run Website: The U.S. Embassy & Consulates webpage for the United Kingdom is promoting the Mar-a-Lago in an apparent violation of U.S. ethics law. ([Source](#))

74 Trump Org Profiteering from 2020 Trump Reelection Effort: Already Trump is using his 2020 reelection bid to personally profit, paying Trump owned-companies nearly \$500,000 in rental income in the first quarter of 2017. ([Source](#))

75 Trump Wins Chinese Trademarks: China granted the Trump Organization preliminary approval to 38 previously-stalled trademarks. ([Source](#))



⁷⁶ **Ivanka Trump Wins Chinese Trademarks for Her Brand After Meeting with President Xi Jinping:** Ivanka Trump’s business was granted provisional approval to 3 trademarks the same evening she dined with the President of China at Mar-a-Lago. ([Source](#))

⁷⁷ **Ivanka Trump to Launch Fund that Will Solicit Contributions from Foreign Governments and Private Interests:** Daughter and senior aide to President Trump, Ivanka Trump, has announced plans to launch a ‘entrepreneurial fund’ for women, which will solicit contributions from foreign governments and private interests. Ethics experts say the plan is likely illegal and, if instituted, will quickly become another avenue for those seeking undue influence with the Administration. ([Source](#))

⁷⁸ **Trump Campaign Chairman Manafort Retroactively Registers as Foreign Agent:** Paul Manafort is expected to register as a foreign agent after allegations he improperly avoided registration while working for sovereign governments seeking to influence U.S. policy. ([Source](#))

⁷⁹ **Manafort Lobbying for Chinese Company Eager to Earn Trump Administration Infrastructure Contracts:** Former campaign chairman Paul Manafort is reportedly advising a Chinese company – the Pacific Construction Group – on how to navigate potential U.S. government contracts for infrastructure construction. ([Source](#))

⁸⁰ **Trump’s Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, Retains Interest in Shipping Company While Conducting U.S. Trade Policy:** Wilbur Ross will retain his ownership stake in Diamond S Shipping Group, potentially leading to a bevy of conflicts of interest as Ross fulfills his responsibilities of designing, implementing and executing U.S. trade policy. ([Source](#))

⁸¹ **Trump’s Mar-a-Lago Resort Doubles Initiation Fees from \$100,000 to \$200,000:** In the wake of President Trump’s inauguration, Mar-a-Lago – the so-called “Winter White House” – doubled its initiation fee for club members to \$200,000. ([Source](#))

⁸² **Mar-a-Lago Member Secured Private Oval Office Meeting:** Christopher Ruddy had a private meeting with President Trump – lasting over an hour – allowing his friend to lobby the White House on a policy matter. ([Source](#))

⁸³ **Trump’s Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tom Price, is Embroiled in Allegations of Insider Trading:** Secretary Tom Price is alleged to have engaged insider trading of health care stocks using non-public while a member of Congress, raising concerns how he may behave in new Administration post as top health care official. ([Source](#))



⁸⁴ Fired U.S. Attorney General, Preet Bharara, Was Reported to Have Been Investigating

Price’s Stock Trades Before Termination: Following the surprise firing of U.S. Attorney General, Preet Bharara – who had previously been asked by President Trump to remain in his post – reports surfaced that Bharara was investigating allegations that Secretary Price had engaged in insider trading. ([Source](#))

⁸⁵ Former Trump Aide, Brian Ballard, Cashes-in as Lobbyist: Following his stint as senior campaign and transition aide to President Trump, Ballard has founded a new lobbying organization, earning more than \$1.1 million dollars in the first quarter of 2017. His client list includes several foreign governments and the GEO Group private prison firm. ([Source](#))

⁸⁶ Former Pence Aide, Bill Smith, Rakes-in Corporate Lobbying Cash: Former Chief of Staff to Mike Pence, Bill Smith, has earned over 6 figures in the first three months of 2017 lobbying for several large corporate clients, including AT&T and Microsoft. ([Source](#))

⁸⁷ Former Trump Aide, Corey Lewandowski, Positions Himself as Lobbyist with Access to Trump: Corey Lewandowski, former campaign official for Trump, has launched a new for-profit business to lobby the new Administration. The firm’s co-founder Barry Bennett affirmed the organization’s ties to the White House are a selling-point for potential clients, saying “Of course, it helps.” ([Source](#))

⁸⁸ Trump Tax Plan Would Drastically Lower His Own Taxes: The proposed elimination of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) by the Trump Administration would drastically reduce the President’s effective tax rate – potentially to zero. ([Source](#))

⁸⁹ Trump Considers Limiting Charitable Tax Deductions to Finance Rate Reduction for Wealthy, Like Himself: Reportedly the Trump Administration is considering capping the charitable tax deduction in an effort to finance tax cuts for the wealthy – a particularly cynical proposal, given the reported lack of charitable giving by President Trump and the Trump Foundation ([Source](#), [Source](#))

⁹⁰ Trump to Review H-1B Immigration Visas, But Not H-2B Visas on Which Trump Businesses Rely: President Trump signed an executive order making significant changes to the H-1B Visa program, while ignoring altogether the H-2B visa program on which several Trump owned properties – including Mar-a-Lago – rely for immigrant workers. ([Source](#))

⁹¹ Trump’s Muslim Ban Excluded Every Muslim Majority Country where the Trump Org Has Investments: The Trump Administration’s executive order excluded those Muslim-majority countries – namely, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Dubai, Egypt and Saudi Arabia – in which the Trump Organization conducts business or has investments. ([Source](#))



⁹² **Secret Service Forced to Request More Money to Accommodate Trump’s Travel-Heavy Lifestyle:** The Secret Service has requested an additional \$60 million in funding to cover Trump’s travel costs. \$26.8 million of that money is to protect the Trump family at Trump Tower in New York. ([Source](#))

⁹³ **Trump’s Trips to Mar-a-Lago Have Cost Taxpayers More Than \$20 million:** Less than 5 months into the Trump presidency, his trips to Mar-a-Lago have cost more than \$20 million. That figure includes all 7 of his trips there thus far, with each trip costing an estimated \$3 million. ([Source](#))

⁹⁴ **Secret Service Racking up Costs for Protection of the Trump Family:** The Secret Service has spent over \$190,000 to protect Eric Trump and Donald Trump Jr. ([Source](#))

⁹⁵ **Secret Service Paid \$64,000 to Inspect Trump Tower Elevators:** In December 2016, the Secret Service spent nearly \$70,000 to inspect the elevators in Trump Tower in order to prepare the building for the President to spend time there. ([Source](#))

⁹⁶ **Secret Service Has Paid \$35,000 in Golf Cart Rentals to Protect Trump on Golf Excursions:** Purchasing orders show that the Secret Service has spent over \$35,000 on golf cart rentals to protect President Trump on the course since his inauguration. ([Source](#))

⁹⁷ **Secret Service and State Department Spent More Than \$53,000 on Hotel Rooms for a Trump Organization Business Trip to Vancouver:** When Donald Jr., Eric, and Tiffany Trump took a business trip to Vancouver this year, the U.S. taxpayer ended up spending over \$50,000 on their tab. ([Source](#))

⁹⁸ **Secret Service and State Department Spent More Than \$16,000 on Hotel Rooms for a Trump Organization Business Trip to Dubai:** When Eric and Donald Trump Jr. took a business trip to Dubai this February, it cost U.S. taxpayers over \$16,000 to secure Secret Service hotel rooms. ([Source](#))

⁹⁹ **Secret Service and State Department Spent Nearly \$100,000 on Hotel Rooms for a Trump Organization Business Trip to Uruguay:** On Eric Trump’s trip to Uruguay to conduct private business, nearly \$100,000 of public funds were used on hotel rooms required to protect him there. ([Source](#))

¹⁰⁰ **Secret Service Spent More Than \$12,000 on Ski Rentals for Trump Kids’ Vacation:** When Ivanka Trump, along with her husband Jared Kushner and brother Eric Trump, took to the slopes in Aspen this winter, the U.S. taxpayer spent \$12,208 on ski rentals alone through the secret service. ([Source](#))

