

“SWAMPED”

200

200

~~100~~ Ways in ~~100~~ Days

How the Trump Administration Continues
to Flood the Swamp in Washington



DEMOCRACY REFORM TASK FORCE

August 8, 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,”ⁱ and he pledged to aggressively pursue meaningful reforms to improve transparency and accountability in government.ⁱⁱ As President Trump approaches his two-hundredth day in office, the Democracy Reform Task Force in the House of Representatives is measuring the progress of the new Administration in this effort.

This follow-on report, which builds on [an original report issued in April](#), documents 200 ways in which the Trump Administration – after only 200 days in office – has disregarded ethics laws and standards that prevent public corruption and encourage accountability. 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 the 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 Personal Benefit**
- **Raided the Treasury to Pay for Vacation & Private Business Promotion**

Instead of “draining the swamp,” the Trump Administration continues to test the outer limits of the laws and norms in place to prevent corruption and promote accountability. At the same time, President Trump has continued to break its promise of “transferring power to the people,” and is instead empowering a narrow class of wealthy and well-connected insiders.

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*



Made a Mockery of Ethics Law and Regulation

President Donald Trump's 'Ethics' Executive Order was supposed to "drain the swamp." As demonstrated in the Democracy Reform Task Force's [original report](#), the Executive Order was just another example of President Trump's tendency to over-promise and under-deliver. Over the past 100 days, we have continued to witness the Administration openly flout ethics regulations and conflicts of interest law.

(For examples 1-10, see [the original '100 Days' report](#)). New examples include:

101. Trump Violates Pledge to Extricate Himself from the Trump Organization ([Source](#))¹⁰¹
102. Trump Senior Adviser and Son-in-Law, Jared Kushner, Retains Business Ties with Alleged Criminal Enterprise, While Hiding It on Ethics Disclosures ([Source](#))¹⁰²
103. Trump Senior Adviser and Son-in-Law, Jared Kushner, Failed to Disclose on Ethics Filings Loan of \$285 million from Deutsche Bank ([Source](#))¹⁰³
104. Trump's Reelection Campaign Suspected of Illegally Using Official Resources to Support His Candidacy ([Source](#))¹⁰⁴
105. After Intense Bipartisan Pressure, White House Finally Releases Partial Ethics Waivers for Senior Staff ([Source](#))¹⁰⁵
106. White House Ethics Waivers Are Riddled with Errors and May Violate Law ([Source](#))¹⁰⁶
107. White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon Allegedly Violated Federal Law by His Continued Professional Relationship with Republican Media Strategist ([Source](#))¹⁰⁷
108. Senior White House Aide Broke Federal Law by Using Official White House Resources for Campaign Purposes ([Source](#))¹⁰⁸
109. Health & Human Services Secretary Tom Price Allegedly Violated Federal Election Law by Using Campaign Funds to Support His Nomination ([Source](#))¹⁰⁹



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.”ⁱⁱⁱ Ironically, in the first 200 days of his Administration, President Trump has moved quickly to institute a culture of secrecy in the Executive Branch and the White House.

(For examples 11-14, see [the original ‘100 Days’ report](#)). New examples include:

110. President Trump Threatens to Cancel Press Briefings, While Greatly Reducing Press Access ([Source](#))¹¹⁰
111. After Initial Refusal, Trump Administration Forced to Disclose Mar-a-Lago Visitor Logs ([Source](#))¹¹¹
112. Trump Administration Orders Federal Agencies to Ignore Basic Oversight Requests from Congressional Democrats ([Source](#))¹¹²
113. Trump’s Department of Justice Issues Guidance Saying that Federal Agencies Need Not Respond to Most Congressional Inquiries ([Source](#))¹¹³

Stacked the Cabinet with Big Money Campaign Donors

Throughout the Presidential campaign, candidate Trump decried the influence of big-money campaign donors and well-connected insiders. He promised that as President 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.”^{iv} However, in his first 200 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.

ⁱⁱⁱ 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/>.

^{iv} 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.



(For examples 15-21, see [the original '100 Days' report](#)). New examples include:

114. Members of Trump's "Swamp Cabinet" Forced to Hire Conservative PR Firm to Manage 'Toxic' Public Perception During Their Nomination Process ([Source](#))¹¹⁴
115. Analysis Shows Trump's "Swamp Cabinet" Stands to Earn \$313,000 Tax Break from Trump's Health Care Tax Repeal ([Source](#))¹¹⁵
116. Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin Appears to Have Lied Under Oath About Past Firm's Fraudulent Business Practices ([Source](#))¹¹⁶
117. Trump Nominated Big-Money Donor, Kelly Knight Craft, as U.S. Ambassador to Canada ([Source](#))¹¹⁷
118. Trump Nominated Big-Money Donor, Jamie McCourt, as U.S. Ambassador to France ([Source](#))¹¹⁸
119. Trump Nominated Personal Bankruptcy Attorney, David Friedman, as U.S. Ambassador to Israel ([Source](#))¹¹⁹
120. Trump Nominated His Campaign's Tennessee State Finance Chair, William Francis Hagerty IV, as U.S. Ambassador to Japan ([Source](#))¹²⁰
121. Trump Nominated Big-Campaign Donor, Doug Manchester, as U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas ([Source](#))¹²¹
122. Trump Nominated Big-Money Donor, Duke Buchan III, as U.S. Ambassador to Spain ([Source](#))¹²²



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

(For examples 26-39, see [the original '100 Days' report](#)). New examples include:

123. Trump Continues to Appoint Horde of Lobbyists and Special Interests to Jobs Across the Federal Government ([Source](#))¹²³
124. Trump Taps Anti-Consumer Lawyer to Head Bank Regulatory Agency, Skirting Ethics Regulations ([Source](#))¹²⁴
125. Trump Nominates Coal Lobbyist for Deputy Job at EPA ([Source](#))¹²⁵
126. Health Care Lobbyist Granted Ethics Waiver to Work in Trump Administration ([Source](#))¹²⁶
127. Financial Services Lawyer Granted Ethics Waiver to Work in Trump Administration ([Source](#))¹²⁷
128. Trade Lobbyist to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹²⁸
129. Building Trade Lobbyist to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹²⁹
130. Trump Appoints Coal Lobbyist to Help Run the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations ([Source](#))¹³⁰
131. Lobbyist-Turned-Staffer to Education Secretary DeVos Preserves Federal Funding for Beleaguered For-Profit Law School ([Source](#))¹³¹

^v 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>.

^{vi} 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/>.



132. Lobbyist David Urban Expands Influence Business, Leveraging Close Ties to Trump Administration ([Source](#), [Source](#))¹³²
133. Lobbyist Brian Ballard Expands Influence Business, Leveraging Close Ties to Trump Administration ([Source](#))¹³³
134. Lobbyist Stuart Jolly Leaves Firm to Start Super PAC After Bragging About Access to White House ([Source](#), [Source](#))¹³⁴
135. Insurance and Medical Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹³⁵
136. Pharmaceutical Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹³⁶
137. Pharmaceutical Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹³⁷
138. Palantir Lobbyist-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹³⁸
139. Chemical Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹³⁹
140. Energy Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹⁴⁰
141. Longtime Lobbyist to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹⁴¹
142. Saudi Arabia Spends Big on Washington Lobbyist Firm with Ties to Trump Administration ([Source](#))¹⁴²
143. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Works to Unwind Environmental Regulations, Relying on Network of Outside Special Interests, Not EPA Staff ([Source](#))¹⁴³
144. Aerospace and Defense Industry Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹⁴⁴
145. Fracking and Nuclear Energy Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹⁴⁵
146. Transportation Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹⁴⁶



147. Amazon Lobbyist to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹⁴⁷
148. Steel Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹⁴⁸
149. Agricultural Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹⁴⁹
150. Nativist Immigration Organization Director to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver ([Source](#))¹⁵⁰

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.”^{vii}

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.^{viii} Yet, despite this promise and many more like it, President Trump continues to give big campaign donors a big hug.

(For examples 40-67, see [the original ‘100 Days’ report](#)). New examples include:

151. Trump Supports Repeal of Obama-Era Financial Sector Regulation ([Source](#))¹⁵¹
152. Trump Expected to Sign Repeal of Consumer Protection Measure Barring the Use of Forced Arbitration Agreements ([Source](#))¹⁵²

^{vii} 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/>.

^{viii} Hensch *supra* note v5



153. Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn Blocked Action that Would Imperil His (Undisclosed) Employer, Turkey ([Source](#))¹⁵³
154. Trump Treasury Department Calls for a Significant Reduction of Powers for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ([Source](#))¹⁵⁴
155. Trump Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, Taps Former For-Profit Lender to Run Federal Student Loan Program ([Source](#))¹⁵⁵
156. Big Money Special-Interests Prop-Up White House Tax Reform Effort ([Source](#))¹⁵⁶
157. Big Money Special-Interests Prop-Up White House Effort to Remake Federal Judicial System ([Source](#))¹⁵⁷
158. Trump Exploring New Afghanistan Strategy that Relies More Heavily on Private Contractors ([Source](#))¹⁵⁸
159. Trump Exploring New Afghanistan Strategy with an Eye Towards Mineral Deposits ([Source](#))¹⁵⁹
160. Trump is Attempting to Tear Down Wall Between Church and Politics, Making Tax-Free Church Donations Eligible for Use in Politics ([Source](#))¹⁶⁰
161. Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke's Calendar Shows Significant Access of Big Money Interests to Trump Administration ([Source](#))¹⁶¹
162. Trump Infrastructure "Plan" Would Allow NEC Director, Gary Cohn, To Sell Public Assets to His Former Employer, Goldman Sachs, and Others ([Source](#))¹⁶²
163. Top GOP Donors Are Threatening to Withhold Campaign Funds Until Health Care Repeal and Tax Giveaways Are Finalized ([Source](#))¹⁶³
164. Vice President Pence Launches Effort to Hold Regular Private Meetings with Top GOP Donors and Corporations ([Source](#))¹⁶⁴



Turned the Presidency into a Profit-Making Enterprise

In his first 200 days in office, President Trump has still not taken concrete steps to unwind his business interests in his many companies and investments, despite ongoing calls from ethics experts and watchdog organizations to do so. Predictably, numerous instances illustrate how 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 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.

(For examples 68-87, see [the original '100 Days' report](#)). New examples include:

165. Trump Budget Proposes Cuts to Housing Programs, While Largely Preserving Housing Programs that Benefit Trump Residential Properties ([Source](#))¹⁶⁵
166. Trump Organization Earns Nine Additional Chinese Trademarks ([Source](#))¹⁶⁶
167. Trump Organization Earns Additional Chinese Trademark ([Source](#))¹⁶⁷
168. Trump Organization Earns Casino Chinese Trademarks for Macau ([Source](#))¹⁶⁸
169. Trump Has Russian Trademarks Renewed ([Source](#))¹⁶⁹
170. Ivanka Trump Seeks Several More Chinese Trademarks ([Source](#))¹⁷⁰
171. Kushner Family Business Stands to Profit from Trump's First Major Law ([Source](#))¹⁷¹
172. Trump Loyalist, Corey Lewandowski, Sells Access to the White House ([Source](#))¹⁷²
173. Carl Icahn, Billionaire Investor and Friend of the President, Seeks to Shape Policy for Personal Gain ([Source](#))¹⁷³
174. Government Run 'Voice of America' Peddles Ivanka's New Book ([Source](#))¹⁷⁴
175. Senior Adviser Kellyanne Conway Admits the Trump Hotel is a 'Piece of the President' ([Source](#))¹⁷⁵



176. Trump Organization Moves to Profit Off Trump Voters with New Line of ‘Working-Class’ Catered Hotels ([Source](#))¹⁷⁶
177. Trump Hosts Campaign Fundraiser at Trump Old Post Office Hotel ([Source](#))¹⁷⁷
178. Trump Reelection Campaign Committee Spends More Than \$600,000 at Trump Properties ([Source](#))¹⁷⁸
179. Leveraging Trump’s Presidency, Son Promotes Trump Golf Course ([Source](#))¹⁷⁹
180. Trump-Owned Estate Lists for \$10 Million Above Market Rate ([Source](#), [Source](#))¹⁸⁰
181. Trump Promotes the Trump Organization in Bill Signing Statement ([Source](#))¹⁸¹
182. Kushner’s Brother’s Company Invited to Exclusive White House Tech Roundtable ([Source](#))¹⁸²
183. Trump Organization Plans Significant Expansion of U.S. Hotel Chain with Big-Money Campaign Donors ([Source](#))¹⁸³
184. Trump Organization Receives Millions to Remove Trump Brand from Toronto Hotel ([Source](#))¹⁸⁴
185. Trump Organization Sells Numerous Luxury Condos to Secretive Shell Companies for Millions of Dollars ([Source](#))¹⁸⁵
186. Republican Candidates are Clamoring to Spend Campaign Cash at Trump Properties ([Source](#))¹⁸⁶
187. Republican Governors Association Event at Trump Property Earns Trump Organization More Than \$400,000 ([Source](#))¹⁸⁷
188. Trump Hotel Pressures Republican Groups to Do Business, Markets Access to Trump Administration ([Source](#))¹⁸⁸
189. Trump-Supported Legislation was Drafted Almost Entirely by Health Industry Lobbyists ([Source](#))¹⁸⁹



Pursued Public Policy for Personal Benefit

President Trump's business interests continue to color 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 the Trump Organization's bottom line.^{ix}

(For examples 88-91, see [the original '100 Days' report](#)). New examples include:

190. President Trump Changes H-2B Visa Policy, Trump Organization Immediately Asks DOL for Increase in H-2B Allotment ([Source](#))¹⁹⁰
191. Trump's Executive Order to Unwind Rules Governing Pollution Runoff into Small Bodies Water Benefits Trump Golf Courses ([Source](#))¹⁹¹
192. Trump Changes U.S.-Cuba Policy, Hindering Trump Organization Hotel Industry Rivals ([Source](#))¹⁹²
193. Trouble with Trump's Scottish Golf Course Causes Some to Question the President's Future Relations with Scotland ([Source](#), [Source](#))¹⁹³
194. Trump's Position on Gulf Nations' Feud Calls into Question Influence of Trump's Business Interests in Region ([Source](#))¹⁹⁴
195. Kushner's Position on Gulf Nations' Feud Calls into Question Influence of Trump's Business Interests in Region ([Source](#))¹⁹⁵

Raided the Treasury to Pay for Vacations & Private Business Promotion

President Trump continues to embrace 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 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 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.

^{ix} The full extent of which is unknown given his refusal to disclose his tax returns and return information.



(For examples 92-100, see [the original '100 Days' report](#)). New examples include:

196. Secret Service Gets Millions More in Taxpayer Money to Protect Trump and Family
([Source](#))¹⁹⁶

197. State Department Spends Thousands on Trump Hotel Rooms ([Source](#))¹⁹⁷

198. U.S. Government in Contractual Dispute with the Trump Organization Over a Lease in the Trump Tower ([Source](#))¹⁹⁸

199. Trump Has Spent More Than a Quarter of His Time in Office at Trump Properties
([Source](#))¹⁹⁹

200. Bedminster, New Jersey – Home to Trump's Bedminster Golf Course – Designated Secret Service Priority ([Source](#))²⁰⁰

201. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Spends Thousands in Taxpayer Money to Regularly Fly Home to Oklahoma ([Source](#))²⁰¹



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.^x

So far, President Trump has broken this promise. As detailed in this report, President Trump has failed to transfer power to the American people. Instead, he has flooded the “swamp” and consolidated 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?”

^x 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** – chaired by Congressman John Sarbanes of Maryland – is spearheading a legislative agenda that will put the public interest ahead of special interests. Specifically, the **Task Force**:

- Conducts Oversight of Ethical Violations
- Challenges Special-Interest Policies
- Advances Positive Democracy Reforms

Our country's strength comes from the American people's confidence in our institutions of democracy – earned through fair elections, responsive governance and a robust system of checks and balances. The **Democracy Reform Task Force** is fighting to restore the public's trust in those key principles.



Endnotes

- ¹⁰¹ **Trump Violates Pledge to Extricate Himself from the Trump Organization:** Investigative reporting shows that President Trump has failed to carry-out his pledge to resign from his many businesses, remaining as the CEO for at least four entities of which he had previously claimed he left management. ([Source](#))
- ¹⁰² **Trump Senior Adviser and Son-in-Law, Jared Kushner, Retains Business Ties with Alleged Criminal Enterprise, While Hiding It on Ethics Disclosures:** The Kushner family business under Jared Kushner's leadership entered in business dealings with the Steinmetz family, which is currently being investigated by U.S. federal prosecutors for bribery allegations. Kushner White House ethics disclosures show a continued business relationship with the Steinmetz family, though it seems attempts were made to cloak the business relationship. ([Source](#))
- ¹⁰³ **Trump Senior Adviser and Son-in-Law, Jared Kushner, Failed to Disclose on Ethics Filings Loan of \$285 million from Deutsche Bank:** In the run-up to Election Day, Jared Kushner's real estate firm received a \$285 million loan from Deutsche Bank. In required ethics filings for his subsequent White House job, Mr. Kushner did not disclose the loan. ([Source](#))
- ¹⁰⁴ **Trump's Reelection Campaign Suspected of Illegally Using Official Resources to Support His Candidacy:** Questions surround President Trump's atypical decision to launch his reelection bid the day he took the oath of office. ([Source](#))
- ¹⁰⁵ **After Intense Bipartisan Pressure, White House Finally Releases Partial Ethics Waivers for Senior Staff:** The White House finally released 14 ethics waivers for senior officials in the West Wing, after initially refusing the Office of Government Ethics' requested disclosure. ([Source](#))
- ¹⁰⁶ **White House Ethics Waivers Are Riddled with Errors and May Violate Law:** The ethics waivers disclosed by the White House included numerous undated waivers and a blanket exemption for Chief Strategist Steve Bannon to communicate with his former employer, Breitbart News – both apparent violations of federal ethics law and regulation. ([Source](#))
- ¹⁰⁷ **White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon Allegedly Violated Federal Law by His Continued Professional Relationship with Republican Media Strategist:** The Campaign Legal Center alleges Chief Strategist Steve Bannon, in an apparent breach of several federal laws, has illegally received uncompensated professional services from a Republican media strategist affiliated with Bannon's former employer, Breitbart News. ([Source](#))
- ¹⁰⁸ **Senior White House Aide Broke Federal Law by Using Official White House Resources for Campaign Purposes:** Social Media Director Dan Scavino violated the Hatch Act when he used his official Twitter account to call for the electoral defeat of a Republican Member of Congress. ([Source](#))
- ¹⁰⁹ **Health & Human Services Secretary Tom Price Allegedly Violated Federal Election Law by Using Campaign Funds to Support His Nomination:** In a complaint filed by watchdog organizations, Tom Price is accused of illegally using his campaign funds to aid in his nomination process for Secretary of HHS. ([Source](#))



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- ¹¹⁰ **President Trump Threatens to Cancel Press Briefings, While Greatly Reducing Press Access:** In the wake of firing FBI Director James Comey, President Trump threatened to end daily White House press briefings, citing the inability of his staff to provide “perfectly accurate” information. ([Source](#))
- ¹¹¹ **After Initial Refusal, Trump Administration Forced to Disclose Mar-a-Lago Visitor Logs:** Following a lawsuit from the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), the Trump Administration is being compelled to disclose Mar-a-Lago visitor logs. ([Source](#))
- ¹¹² **Trump Administration Orders Federal Agencies to Ignore Basic Oversight Requests from Congressional Democrats:** Uttam Dhillon, a White House attorney, reportedly told federal agencies to not respond to Congressional inquiries from Democrats, breaking with longstanding practices of past Administrations – Democratic and Republican alike. ([Source](#))
- ¹¹³ **Trump’s Department of Justice Issues Guidance Saying that Federal Agencies Need Not Respond to Most Congressional Inquiries:** The Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel issued guidance that said federal agencies do not need to respond to Congressional inquiries unless they are from a Committee’s Chairman. ([Source](#))
- ¹¹⁴ **Members of Trump’s “Swamp Cabinet” Forced to Hire Conservative PR Firm to Manage ‘Toxic’ Public Perception During Their Nomination Process:** Using a loophole in campaign finance law created by *Citizen United*, several prominent Trump cabinet nominees hired America Rising Advanced Research to generate talking points, rapid response public relations and political advertisements to support their nominations. ([Source](#))
- ¹¹⁵ **Analysis Shows Trump’s “Swamp Cabinet” Stands to Earn \$313,000 Tax Break from Trump’s Health Care Tax Repeal:** Members of the Trump Cabinet stand to earn an average tax break of \$313,000 in the event the Trump health care tax repeal goes into law. ([Source](#))
- ¹¹⁶ **Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin Appears to Have Lied Under Oath About Past Firm’s Fraudulent Business Practices:** Secretary Mnuchin denied under oath before the Financial Services Committee that OneWest engaged in “robo-signing,” while he was the company’s CEO. A good-government group has filed suit against Mnuchin, saying his statement is contradicted by “significant evidence to the contrary.” ([Source](#))
- ¹¹⁷ **Trump Nominated Big-Money Donor, Kelly Knight Craft, as U.S. Ambassador to Canada:** Kelly Knight Craft, a billionaire Republican campaign donor, was nominated by the President to be the Ambassador to Canada, in an apparent display of political patronage. ([Source](#))
- ¹¹⁸ **Trump Nominated Big-Money Donor, Jamie McCourt, as U.S. Ambassador to France:** Jamie McCourt, owner of the LA Dodgers and wealthy campaign donor, was nominated by the President as U.S. Ambassador to France, in an apparent display of political patronage. ([Source](#))
- ¹¹⁹ **Trump Nominated Personal Bankruptcy Attorney, David Friedman, as U.S. Ambassador to Israel:** David Friedman – the longtime personal bankruptcy attorney for Donald Trump – was nominated as U.S. Ambassador to Israel, in an apparent display of political patronage. ([Source](#))



¹²⁰ **Trump Nominated His Campaign’s Tennessee State Finance Chair, William Francis Hagerty IV, as U.S. Ambassador to Japan:** William Francis Hagerty IV – big donor and campaign finance chair for the Trump campaign in Tennessee – was nominated as U.S. Ambassador to Japan, in an apparent display of political patronage. ([Source](#))

¹²¹ **Trump Nominated Big-Money Donor, Doug Manchester, as U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas:** Doug Manchester – billionaire donor and real estate magnate – was nominated as U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas, in an apparent display of political patronage. ([Source](#))

¹²² **Trump Nominated Big-Money Donor, Duke Buchan III, as U.S. Ambassador to Spain:** Duke Buchan III – a big donor to the Donald Trump campaign – was nominated as U.S. Ambassador to Spain, in an apparent display of political patronage. ([Source](#))

¹²³ **Trump Continues to Appoint Horde of Lobbyists and Special Interests to Jobs Across the Federal Government:** In a continued blatant rebuke of his pledge to “drain the swamp,” President Trump has relied heavily on corporate lobbyists and attorneys to staff his Administration. ([Source](#))

¹²⁴ **Trump Taps Anti-Consumer Lawyer to Head Bank Regulatory Agency, Skirting Ethics Regulations:** Keith Noreika – a long-time bank attorney and advocate of deregulation – was appointed to lead the Office of Comptroller of the Currency. President Trump named Noreika a “special government employee,” before tapping him to be the Acting Director of the OCC, thereby skirting many ethics laws that would have prevented Noreika from working on certain matters related to his past clients. ([Source](#))

¹²⁵ **Trump Nominates Coal Lobbyist for Deputy Job at EPA:** Andrew Wheeler – a prominent lobbyist for the coal industry – has been nominated to be the Environmental Protection Agency’s Deputy Administrator. ([Source](#))

¹²⁶ **Health Care Lobbyist Granted Ethics Waiver to Work in Trump Administration:** Department of Health & Human Services Chief of Staff Lance Leggitt was granted an ethics waiver to serve in the Trump Administration despite an extensive lobbying career, which included him lobbying his new employer regularly on reform of Medicare. ([Source](#))

¹²⁷ **Financial Services Lawyer Granted Ethics Waiver to Work in Trump Administration:** Treasury Department Deputy General Counsel, Brian Callanan, was granted an ethics waiver to serve in the Trump Administration despite an extensive legal career working on housing finance matters – policy he will now oversee. ([Source](#))

¹²⁸ **Trade Lobbyist to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** United States Trade Representative General Counsel, Stephen Vaughn, was not granted an ethics waiver to serve in the Trump Administration despite an extensive lobbying career working on trade related matters – policy he will now oversee. ([Source](#))

¹²⁹ **Building Trade Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of Labor Adviser, Geoffrey Burr, was not granted an ethics waiver to serve in the Trump Administration despite an extensive lobbying career working on Department of Labor policy – policy he will now oversee. ([Source](#))



¹³⁰ **Trump Appoints Coal Lobbyist to Help Run the Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations:** In an apparent violation of the Administration’s own “Ethics Pledge,” Trump tapped lobbyist Elizabeth “Tate” Bennett to work at the EPA. ([Source](#))

¹³¹ **Lobbyist-Turned-Staffer to Education Secretary DeVos Preserves Federal Funding for Beleaguered For-Profit Law School:** Lauren Maddox – a lobbyist tapped to shepherd Betsy DeVos through her confirmation process – recently was hired by the for-profit law school Charlotte School of Law, which has lost access to federal student loans after it was found to have violated federal law by misleading students. Maddox lobbied her new employer, the Department of Education, to restore federal funding. ([Source](#))

¹³² **Lobbyist David Urban Expands Influence-Business, Leveraging Close Ties to Trump Administration:** Lobbyist David Urban – who is said to have been considered for a senior job in the Administration – hauled in more than \$2.4 million for his lobbying firm, American Continental Group, in the first three months of 2017, leveraging his close ties to the Administration. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

¹³³ **Lobbyist Brian Ballard Expands Influence Business, Leveraging Close Ties to Trump Administration:** Lobbyist Brian Ballard – with clients including the government of Turkey, Prudential Financial, and the American Health Care Association – has hauled in more than \$4 million for his lobbying firm, Ballard Partners, in the first few months of 2017, leveraging his close ties to the Administration. ([Source](#))

¹³⁴ **Lobbyist Stuart Jolly Leaves Firm to Start Super PAC After Bragging About Access to White House:** Trump campaign aide Stuart Jolly was hired as president of the lobbying firm SPG, but ultimately departed after he was criticized for inappropriately bragging about his access to the White House. He has since launched a pro-Trump super PAC. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

¹³⁵ **Insurance and Medical Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of Health and Human Services Adviser Alexandra Campau was not granted an ethics waiver to serve in the Trump Administration despite past lobbying on behalf of the industries she will help oversee. ([Source](#))

¹³⁶ **Pharmaceutical Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of Health and Human Services White House Liaison Timothy Clark, founder of Clark Strategy Group, did not receive an ethics waiver to work in the Administration on health care policy, despite past work on behalf of PhRMA. ([Source](#))

¹³⁷ **Pharmaceutical Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of Health and Human Services Senior Adviser Keagan Lenihan, was not granted an ethics waiver to serve in the Administration despite previous direct lobbying of HHS on behalf of pharmaceutical companies. ([Source](#))

¹³⁸ **Palantir Lobbyist to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of Defense Special Assistant Justin Mikolay did not receive an ethics waiver to work in the Department of Defense, despite previously working as a lobbyist for Peter Thiel’s defense company Palantir. ([Source](#))

¹³⁹ **Chemical Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Assistant Administrator Nancy Beck did not receive an ethics waiver to work at EPA’s Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, even though she previously worked as the American Chemistry Council’s senior director of regulatory science policy. ([Source](#))



¹⁴⁰ **Energy Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of Energy Special Assistant Mark Maddox was not granted an ethics waiver to work at DOE despite previously working as a lobbyist for a number of oil, gas and energy companies. ([Source](#))

¹⁴¹ **Longtime Lobbyist to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of the Treasury Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs Drew Maloney did not receive an ethics waiver to work in the Treasury Department despite spending years at the Hess Corporation and K Street powerhouse Ogilvy Government Relations. ([Source](#))

¹⁴² **Saudi Arabia Spends Big on Washington Lobbyist Firm with Ties to Trump Administration:** The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed a \$5.4 million one-year lobbying contract with SPG, a lobbying firm with ties to the Trump Administration. ([Source](#))

¹⁴³ **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Works to Unwind Environmental Regulations, Relying on Network of Outside Special Interests, Not EPA Staff:** Scott Pruitt has “outsourced crucial work to a network of lawyers, lobbyists and other allies” in his unprecedented effort to undo, block and delay more than 30 EPA rules and regulations. ([Source](#))

¹⁴⁴ **Aerospace and Defense Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of Homeland Security Senior Adviser John Barsa was not granted an ethics waiver to work at DHS despite a history of lobbying for defense and security companies. ([Source](#))

¹⁴⁵ **Fracking and Nuclear Energy Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Special Assistant to the President for International Energy and Environment George David Banks was not given an ethics waiver to work on energy issues in the White House even though he lobbied on behalf of Constellation, FirstEnergy and the Nuclear Energy Institute. ([Source](#))

¹⁴⁶ **Transportation Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of Transportation Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs Anthony Bedell did not receive an ethics waiver to work at DOT despite shutting down his lobbying shop just before joining the Administration and having lobbied on behalf of transportation companies. ([Source](#))

¹⁴⁷ **Amazon Lobbyist to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Department of Justice antitrust official Makan Delrahim was not granted an ethics waiver to work on antitrust issues despite having worked as a lobbyist for Amazon, which may have antitrust business in front of DOJ. ([Source](#))

¹⁴⁸ **Steel Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Under Secretary for International Trade Gilbert Kaplan did not receive an ethics waiver to work on trade issues for the Department of Commerce even though he had lobbied for the steel industry on trade-related issues. ([Source](#))

¹⁴⁹ **Agricultural Industry-Insider to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** Senior Adviser to the Secretary Kristi Boswell did not receive an ethics waiver to work on agriculture issues despite moving directly from the American Farm Bureau Federation to the Department of Agriculture. ([Source](#))



¹⁵⁰ **Nativist Immigration Organization Director to Work in Trump Administration – No Ethics Waiver:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ombudsman Julie Kirchner was not granted an ethics waiver to work for USCIS despite previously working as director of the Federation for American Immigration Reform, an extreme anti-immigrant organization labeled a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center. ([Source](#))

¹⁵¹ **Trump Supports Repeal of Obama-Era Financial Sector Regulation:** The White House applauded the House’s passage of the CHOICE Act, a deregulatory measure that tears down the Dodd-Frank Wall Street regulatory reforms of 2010. ([Source](#))

¹⁵² **Trump Expected to Sign Repeal of Consumer Protection Measure Barring the Use of Forced Arbitration Agreements:** The White House announced it “strongly supports” Congressional efforts to repeal a rule from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which bars the use of anti-consumer forced arbitration agreements – contractual prohibitions against consumers join class-action lawsuits against banks. ([Source](#))

¹⁵³ **Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn Blocked Action that Would Imperil His (Undisclosed) Employer, Turkey:** After receiving \$500,000 from the Turkish Government as a foreign-agent, then-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn worked to block a military plan against the Islamic State that Turkey opposed. ([Source](#))

¹⁵⁴ **Trump Treasury Department Calls for a Significant Reduction of Powers for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau:** The Treasury Department embraced Wall Street’s goal of significantly handicapping the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. ([Source](#))

¹⁵⁵ **Trump Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, Taps Former For-Profit Lender to Run Federal Student Loan Program:** A. Wayne Johnson – the former CEO of a private student loan company – was tapped by Secretary DeVos to lead the Federal Student Aid program. ([Source](#))

¹⁵⁶ **Big Money Special-Interests Prop-Up White House Tax Reform Effort:** The Business Roundtable, the Koch-Brothers’ Americans for Prosperity and the American Action Network have all pledged millions of advertising dollars to support the Trump Administration’s push for tax reform – a plan that is said to dramatically lower taxes on the largest corporations. ([Source](#))

¹⁵⁷ **Big Money Special-Interests Prop-Up White House Effort to Remake Federal Judicial System:** The Judicial Crisis Network – after spending \$7 million to support President Trump’s nomination of Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court – has pledged to spend “whatever we need” to support the Trump Administration’s more than one hundred judicial nominees. ([Source](#))

¹⁵⁸ **Trump Exploring New Afghanistan Strategy that Relies More Heavily on Private Contractors:** Stephen Feinberg, a billionaire investor and informal Trump adviser, is reportedly encouraging the Administration to stay in Afghanistan by relying more heavily on private contractors – including his own firm, DynCorp International. ([Source](#))

¹⁵⁹ **Trump Exploring New Afghanistan Strategy with an Eye Towards Mineral Deposits:** Stephen Feinberg, a billionaire investor and informal Trump adviser, is reportedly encouraging the Administration to stay in Afghanistan given the business opportunity presented by the nation’s large mineral deposits. ([Source](#))



¹⁶⁰ **Trump is Attempting to Tear Down Wall Between Church and Politics, Making Tax-Free Church Donations Eligible for Use in Politics:** In a boon to many Christian-right supporters, the Trump Administration is seeking a repeal of the so-called “Johnson Amendment.” The change would allow tax-free donations to religious institutions to be used in politics. ([Source](#))

¹⁶¹ **Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke’s Calendar Shows Significant Access of Big Money Interests to Trump Administration:** Public records secured through a Freedom of Information Act request show the new Interior Secretary has granted significant access to oil and gas industry executives, who support reversing Obama-era restrictions on energy exploration on federal land. ([Source](#))

¹⁶² **Trump Infrastructure “Plan” Would Allow NEC Director, Gary Cohn, To Sell Public Assets to His Former Employer, Goldman Sachs and Others:** The Trump Administration announced a proposal to incentivize the sale of public assets to private investors, including large investment banks and private equity companies. ([Source](#))

¹⁶³ **Top GOP Donors Are Threatening to Withhold Campaign Funds Until Health Care Repeal and Tax Giveaways Are Finalized:** Several GOP kingmakers are reportedly refusing to contribute any more campaign money to the Trump Campaign or Republican Congressional campaigns until the Administration and Congressional Republicans pass major tax giveaways. ([Source](#))

¹⁶⁴ **Vice President Pence Launches Effort to Hold Regular Private Meetings with Top GOP Donors and Corporations:** Vice President Pence has launched an effort to hold a series of “private gatherings and one-on-one conversations” with top GOP donors and corporate executives to solicit input on the Trump Administration’s agenda. ([Source](#))

¹⁶⁵ **Trump Budget Proposes Cuts to Housing Programs, While Largely Preserving Housing Programs that Benefit Trump Residential Properties:** The Trump Budget makes massive cuts to federal funding for the poor, but largely preserves the federal housing subsidy that provides private landlords rental payments for low-income households – a policy that the Trump Organization relies on for millions of dollars in revenue every year. ([Source](#))

¹⁶⁶ **Trump Earns Nine Additional Chinese Trademarks:** Nine previously rejected trademarks were granted to the Trump Organization by Chinese authorities. ([Source](#))

¹⁶⁷ **Trump Earns Additional Chinese Trademark:** The Trump Organization was granted yet another trademark for catering by the Chinese trademark authority. This comes on the heels of a separate batch of Chinese trademarks being approved after Trump’s election. ([Source](#))

¹⁶⁸ **Trump Organization Casino Chinese Trademarks for Macau:** The Trump Organization was granted a trademark for a Trump-branded casino in the Chinese gambling center, Macau. ([Source](#))¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁹ **Trump Has Russian Trademarks Renewed:** The Russian trademark authority renewed six Trump trademarks. ([Source](#))

¹⁷⁰ **Ivanka Trump Seeks Several More Chinese Trademarks:** After winning approval for a series of Chinese trademarks earlier in 2017, the Ivanka Trump company submitted 14 applications for additional trademarks in China. ([Source](#))



¹⁷¹ **Kushner Family Business Stands to Profit from Trump's First Major Law:** A provision in the first major law signed by President Trump renewed the EB-5 Visa program, which grants visas to wealthy foreign nationals who invest \$500,000 or more in the United States. Mere hours after the provision was signed into law, Jared Kushner's sister was promoting the program's renewal and her brother's White House position to a group of Chinese investors considering purchase of Kushner-owned luxury apartments in the United States. ([Source](#))

¹⁷² **Trump Loyalist, Corey Lewandowski, Sells Access to the White House:** Former Campaign Manager and Senior Aide, Corey Lewandowski, launched a new lobbying firm that leverages his access to the White House and unofficial role as an adviser to President to help corporate clients, including predatory pay-day lenders. ([Source](#))

¹⁷³ **Carl Icahn, Billionaire Investor and Friend of the President, Seeks to Shape Policy for Personal Gain:** Notorious activist investor, Carl Icahn, has been accused of advocating for changes to the EPA renewable fuel policy – changes which would benefit his investments in an energy firm. ([Source](#))

¹⁷⁴ **Government-Run 'Voice of America' Peddles Ivanka's New Book:** Government-funded Voice of America ran a report about Ivanka Trump's new book that reads like a promotion. ([Source](#))

¹⁷⁵ **Senior Adviser Kellyanne Conway Admits the Trump Hotel is a 'Piece of the President':** Conway admitted the Trump Old Post Office Hotel is an appendage of the President, making it a "very popular place to have dinner." ([Source](#))

¹⁷⁶ **Trump Organization Moves to Profit Off Trump Voters with New Line of 'Working-Class' Catered Hotels:** Citing experience and perspective gained on the campaign trail, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump announced plans to open a new line of hotels catering to "working-class voters." ([Source](#))

¹⁷⁷ **Trump Hosts Campaign Fundraiser at Trump Old Post Office Hotel:** President Trump hosted a campaign fundraiser for himself at his Trump Hotel in Washington, personally profiting from his campaign funds while simultaneously using the event to promote the property and brand. ([Source](#))

¹⁷⁸ **Trump Reelection Campaign Committee Spends More Than \$600,000 at Trump Properties:** Only seven months into the Presidency and years out from the 2020 election, the Trump Campaign has already spent \$600,000 at Trump Organization properties. ([Source](#))

¹⁷⁹ **Leveraging Trump's Presidency, Son Promotes Trump Golf Course:** Eric Trump once again mixed the Trump business and his father's Presidency at the Trump Turnberry Golf Course opening ceremony, declaring "we made Turnberry great again!" ([Source](#))

¹⁸⁰ **Trump-Owned Estate Lists for \$10 Million Above Market Rate:** A Trump-owned estate in the U.S. Virgin Islands recently listed for \$28 million – well above what some claim is the market rate for such properties – causing observers to question the timing of the sale and to wonder if the Trump Organization is seeking a premium, given the current owner sits in the White House. After the property failed to sell, the price was eventually reduced in August 2017 with no comment or explanation provided by the realty company or the Trump Organization. ([Source](#), [Source](#))



¹⁸¹ **Trump Promotes the Trump Organization in Bill Signing Statement:** In a highly unusual use of a bill signing statement, President Trump promoted his business interests and prowess, declaring, "I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars. That is a big part of the reason I was elected. As President, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress." ([Source](#))

¹⁸² **Kushner's Brother's Company Invited to Exclusive White House Tech Roundtable:** OpenGov – a tech firm partially owned by Senior Adviser Jared Kushner's brother – was invited to attend a White House tech summit with industry leaders, including Microsoft and Apple. ([Source](#))

¹⁸³ **Trump Organization Plans Significant Expansion of U.S. Hotel Chain with Big-Money Campaign Donors:** The Trump Organization is reportedly planning 33 new hotels with the Chawla family – long-time business partners and big-money campaign donors to the Trump campaign. ([Source](#))

¹⁸⁴ **Trump Organization Receives Millions to Remove Trump Brand from Toronto Hotel:** The JCF Capital Group will reportedly pay the Trump Organization \$6 million to exit a naming contract of a Toronto hotel. ([Source](#))

¹⁸⁵ **Trump Organizations Sells Numerous to Secretive Shell Companies for Millions of Dollars Since Election Day:** Investigative reporting found that the Trump Organization has sold multiple real estate properties since Election Day for millions of dollars – with more than 70% of the sales occurring between the Trump Organization and opaque shell companies. ([Source](#))

¹⁸⁶ **Republican Candidates are Clamoring to Spend Campaign Cash at Trump Properties:** In an apparent attempt to ingratiate themselves with the new President, several Republican candidates are spending big money at Trump Properties for campaign fundraisers. ([Source](#))

¹⁸⁷ **Republican Governors Association Event at Trump Property Earns Trump Organization More Than \$400,000:** The Republican Governor Association hosted a "corporate policy summit" with Republican governors and special-interest lobbyists at the Trump Doral Miami golf club, earning the Trump Organization over \$400,000. ([Source](#))

¹⁸⁸ **Trump Hotel Pressures Republican Groups to Do Business, Markets Access to Trump Administration:** Management at the Trump Old Post Office Hotel admits that it uses the President's name to market to conservative and Republican organizations. ([Source](#))

¹⁸⁹ **Trump-Supported Legislation was Drafted Almost Entirely by Health Industry Lobbyists:** A measure – supported by the Trump Administration – to greatly reduce patient legal protections from malpractice was drafted almost entirely by health industry lobbyists. ([Source](#))

¹⁹⁰ **President Trump Changes H-2B Visa Policy, Trump Organization Immediately Asks DOL for Increase in H-2B Allotment:** The Trump Administration increased the number of H-2B visas permitted per year from 66,000 to 81,000. Three days later the Trump Organization submitted paperwork to the Department of Labor for approval of 76 additional H-2B visa holders. This increase comes as the Trump Administration seeks to reduce other visa types. ([Source](#))



¹⁹¹ **Trump’s Executive Order to Unwind Rules Governing Pollution Runoff into Small Bodies Water Benefits Trump Golf Courses:** The Trump Administration’s Executive Order to review an EPA rule governing pollution runoff into small bodies of water is thought to benefit the Trump Organization’s many golf courses. ([Source](#))

¹⁹² **Trump Changes U.S.-Cuba Policy, Hindering Trump Organization Hotel Industry Rivals:** The Trump Administration’s restrictions on business with Cuba will significantly limit the hotel industry’s plans to develop on the island – undermining the business interests of the Trump Organization’s competitors. Some allege the shift in policy may have been an attempt to ‘pause’ Cuba hotel development until the Trump Organization is better positioned to capitalize on the new market. ([Source](#))

¹⁹³ **Trouble with Trump’s Scottish Golf Course Causes Some to Question the President’s Future Relations with Scotland:** Scotland announced it is putting a hold on the development of the Aberdeen golf course property by the Trump Organization, citing environmental concerns. Given prior efforts by the President to use his official capacity to influence the property’s development, it is unclear how the President may react to the announcement. ([Source](#), [Source](#))

¹⁹⁴ **Trump’s Position on Gulf Nations’ Feud Calls into Question Influence of Trump’s Business Interests in Region:** A diplomatic feud among Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar has some questioning whether Trump’s prior business ventures – and failed ventures – in the region may be influencing U.S. foreign policy. ([Source](#))

¹⁹⁵ **Kushner’s Position on Gulf Nations’ Feud Calls into Question Influence of Trump’s Business Interests in Region:** A diplomatic feud among Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar has some questioning whether Senior Adviser Jared Kushner’s prior failed attempt to secure a loan from Qatar government may be influencing U.S. foreign policy. ([Source](#))

¹⁹⁶ **Secret Service Gets Millions More in Taxpayer Money to Protect Trump and Family:** The Secret Service was forced to request millions of additional taxpayer dollars to finance the continued protection of President Trump and his family. ([Source](#))

¹⁹⁷ **State Department Spends Thousands on Trump Hotel Rooms:** The State Department spent more than \$15,000 for Trump Hotel rooms on a recent trip to Vancouver. The State Department officials were on hand to provide “assistance with security and logistics” for the international trip. ([Source](#))

¹⁹⁸ **U.S. Government in Contractual Dispute with the Trump Organization over a Lease in Trump Tower:** The General Services Administration is reportedly at odds with the Trump Organization regarding a lease for office space in Trump Tower to allow the Secret Service to provide security for the Trump Family. The dispute is reportedly over the price and terms of the lease agreement. ([Source](#))

¹⁹⁹ **Trump Has Spent More Than a Quarter of His Time in Office at Trump Properties:** As of July 31, President Trump had spent 58 of his 196 days in office at Trump-owned properties, at great expense to the American taxpayer. ([Source](#))



²⁰⁰ **Bedminster, New Jersey – Home to Trump’s Bedminster Golf Course – Designated Secret Service Priority:** The Secret Service will now receive millions in federal funding to secure the town of Bedminster, New Jersey, given President Trump’s frequent visits to the golf course. ([Source](#))

²⁰¹ **EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Spends Thousands in Taxpayer Money to Regularly Fly Home to Oklahoma:** Citing “informal meetings,” EPA Administrator Pruitt has routinely used taxpayer dollars to fly home to Oklahoma, raising the ire of watchdog organizations that claim the travel is not for official purposes. ([Source](#))

