



SPECIAL REPORT: Who's Responsible for Trump Administration Chaos? The Trump Administration.

Trump Administration Clouded by Firings and Resignations. At the highest levels, the Trump administration has been derailed thanks to firings and resignations in the wake of scandals and infighting. An [NPR study](#) found that the Trump administration has had the most Cabinet turnover in more than 100 years.

Nominations Withdrawn or Defeated for Radical Views, Absence of Qualifications, and Lack of Bipartisan Support. Many nominees to high-ranking executive branch positions have been forced to withdraw once their past controversies have come to light. Some of President Trump's judicial nominees have been forced to withdraw due to a clear lack of qualifications. Since the start of his administration, 28 of President Trump's nominations have been withdrawn.

Even Republican Senators Have Blocked Unqualified and Radical Trump Nominees. 18 Republican senators have either placed holds on or threatened to hold up Trump nominees. This includes Republican Whip John Cornyn (R-TX), NRSC Chairman Cory Gardner (R-CO), and several Republican committee chairs. 137 nominations await action by Republican-led committees in the Senate.

Crucial Positions Across the Government Lack Nominees. The Trump administration has failed to submit nominees to hundreds of key positions. The Presidential Personnel Office has been reportedly [hampered](#) by "inexperience and a shortage of staff." And U.S. commanders have [warned](#) that White House chaos is undermining US efforts to fight ISIS.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CLOUDED BY FIRINGS AND RESIGNATIONS

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

Rex Tillerson (Secretary of State): "President Trump has ousted Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and plans to nominate CIA Director Mike Pompeo to replace him as the nation's top diplomat, orchestrating a major change to his national security team amid delicate negotiations with North Korea, White House officials said Tuesday." [Washington Post, [3/13/18](#)]

David Shulkin (Secretary of Veterans Affairs): "The ouster of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, who has been mired in scandal over his charging taxpayers for luxury travel expenses and

the infighting among his senior aides, had been widely expected and was made official at 5:31 p.m. by presidential tweet.” [Washington Post, [3/29/18](#)]

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

H.R. McMaster (National Security Adviser): “Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, the battle-tested Army officer tapped as President Trump’s national security adviser last year to stabilize a turbulent foreign policy operation, will resign and be replaced by John R. Bolton, a hard-line former United States ambassador to the United Nations.” [NYT, [3/22/18](#)]

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

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

Hope Hicks (White House Communications Director): “Her resignation came a day after she testified for eight hours before the House Intelligence Committee, telling the panel that in her job, she had occasionally been required to tell white lies but had never lied about anything connected to the investigation into Russia’s interference in the 2016 election.” [New York Times, [2/28/18](#)]

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

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

Gary Cohn (Director of the National Economic Council): “But his decision to leave came after he seemed poised to lose an internal struggle amid a Wild West-style process over Mr. Trump’s plan to impose large tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.” [New York Times, [3/6/18](#)]

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

Rob Porter (White House Staff Secretary): “Rob Porter, the White House staff secretary, said Wednesday that he would resign his position, a day after a news account that quoted his two ex-wives accusing him of physical abuse during the course of their marriages.” [NY Times, [2/7/18](#)]

Other Departed Administration Staff and Officials:

[Katie Walsh](#) (Deputy Chief of Staff)
[Rick Dearborn](#) (Deputy Chief of Staff)
[Andy Surabian](#) (Deputy Political Strategist)
[Mike Dubke](#) (Communications Director)
[Josh Raffel](#) (Deputy Communications Director)
[Michael Short](#) (Assistant Press Secretary)
[Boris Epshteyn](#) (Special Assistant to the President)
[Andy Hemming](#) (Director of Rapid Response)
[George Sifakis](#) (Director, Office of Public Liaison)
[Omarosa Manigault Newman](#) (Director of Communications for the Office of Public Liaison)
[Paul Winfree](#) (Dep. Director of the Domestic Policy Council)
[Keith Schiller](#) (Director of Oval Office Operations)
[Caroline Wiles](#) (Director of Scheduling)
[George Gigicos](#) (Director of Scheduling & Advance)
[Gerrit Lansing](#) (Chief Digital Officer)
[John McEntee](#) (Personal Aide to the President)
[Josh Pitcock](#) (Chief of Staff for the VP)
[Mark Lotter](#) (Press Secretary for the VP)
[Stephanie Winston Wolkoff](#) (Senior Adviser to the First Lady)
[Kristan King Nevins](#) (Chief of Staff, 2nd Lady)
[Matt Saunders](#) (Special Asst. to Greenblatt)
[Robert Wasinger](#) (Liaison to State Department)
[Dina Powell](#) (Dep. National Security Adviser)
[Tera Dahl](#) (NSC Deputy Chief of Staff)
[Robin Townley](#) (NSC Senior Director)
[Derek Harvey](#) (NSC Senior Director)
[Monica Crowley](#) (NSC Senior Director)
[Craig Deare](#) (NSC Senior Director)
[Ezra Cohen-Watnick](#) (NSC Senior Director)
[Rich Higgins](#) (NSC Director, Strategic Planning)
[Marcus Peacock](#) (Senior Policy Adviser at OMB)

[Jeremy Katz](#) (NEC Deputy Director)
[George David Banks](#) (Special Assistant at NEC)
[Taylor Weyeneth](#) (Deputy COS, ONDCP)
[David Sorensen](#) (Speechwriter, Council on Environmental Quality)
[Fred Volcansek](#) (Executive Dir. of SelectUSA)
[Chris Garcia](#) (Acting National Director of the Minority Business Development Agency)
[Edgar Mkrtchian](#) (Senior Adviser to the International Trade Administration)
[Justin Arlett](#) (Senior Adviser to the Economic Development Administration)
[William Bradford](#) (Director of the Office of Indian Energy)
[John Bardis](#) (HHS Asst. Sec. for Administration)
[Teresa Manning](#) (Dep. Asst. Secretary at HHS)
[Brenda Fitzgerald](#) (Director of the CDC)
[Brian Neale](#) (Deputy Administrator of CMS)
[Jamie Johnson](#) (Director of the Center for Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships at DHS)
[Johnson Joy](#) (HUD Chief Information Officer)
[Shermichael Singleton](#) (Senior Adviser at HUD)
[Christine Bauserman](#) (Special Assistant to Secretary Zinke)
[Rachel Brand](#) (Associate Attorney General)
[Steve Goldstein](#) (Under Secretary of State)
[Julia Haller](#) (State Dept. Senior Adviser)
[Kiron Skinner](#) (State Dept. Senior Adviser)
[Maliz Beams](#) (Counselor of the State Dept.)
[Heath Hall](#) (Acting Administrator of the FRA)
[Vivieca Wright Simpson](#) (VA Chief of Staff)
[Carl Higbie](#) (Chief of External Affairs at CNCS)
[Daniel Pollack](#) (Senior Adviser at CNCS)

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

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

Tom Marino (Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy): “Rep. Tom Marino, R-Pa., has withdrawn his name from consideration as America’s drug czar, President Trump said Tuesday. Marino is stepping back days after reports that legislation he sponsored hindered the Drug Enforcement Administration in its fight against the U.S. opioid crisis.” [NPR, [10/17/17](#)]

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

K.T. McFarland (US Ambassador to Singapore): “Ms. McFarland’s nomination had become embroiled in the controversy over the Trump campaign’s contacts with Russian officials, with some senators left wondering if she had answered questions deceptively when asked if she knew of discussions between Michael T. Flynn, the former national security adviser, and a Russian ambassador.” [NY Times, [2/2/18](#)]

Scott Garrett (President of the Export-Import Bank): “Sens. Mike Rounds of South Dakota and Tim Scott of South Carolina joined all Democrats on the committee to oppose Scott Garrett, a critic of the Export-Import Bank who voted twice to eliminate it as a member of Congress.” [NBC News, [12/19/17](#)]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kathleen Hartnett White (Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality): “The White House has withdrawn its controversial nominee to head the Council on Environmental Quality, Kathleen Hartnett White, whose selection failed to gather momentum with some Senate Republicans raising questions about her expertise.” [Washington Post, [2/4/18](#)]

Other Withdrawn Nominees:

[Jim Clinger](#) (FDIC Chairman)

[George Nesterchuk](#) (OPM Director)

[Paul Trombino](#) (FHA Administrator)

[Vincent Viola](#) (Army Secretary)

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

[Robert Weaver](#) (IHS Director)

[Todd Ricketts](#) (Dep. Commerce Sec.)

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

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

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

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

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

[Victor Cha](#) (Ambassador to South Korea)*

[Johnathan Miller](#) (Asst. Administrator of USAID)

**Nomination was not formally submitted to the Senate*

***Nomination was returned to the president in December 2017 and not formally resubmitted in 2018*

EVEN REPUBLICAN SENATORS HAVE BLOCKED UNQUALIFIED AND RADICAL TRUMP NOMINEES

Senate Republican Whip John Cornyn (R-TX):

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

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

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

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

Washington Examiner: Cory Gardner vows to hold Trump’s judicial nominees until marijuana decision is reversed. “Republican Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado said Thursday he would block all of President Trump’s judicial nominees until the administration reverses its decision to rescind a policy that de-prioritized the enforcement of federal marijuana laws.” [Washington Examiner, [1/4/18](#)]

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

The Hill: Corker: McFarland’s nomination ‘frozen’ over contradictions in her testimony. “Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) said Tuesday that former deputy national security adviser K.T. McFarland’s nomination to be the U.S. ambassador to Singapore is ‘frozen’ amid questions over whether she

deceived lawmakers about her knowledge of former national security adviser Michael Flynn's contacts with Russia." [The Hill, [12/5/17](#)]

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-IA): "Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent requests at the present time relating to the nominations of David J. Ryder, of New Jersey, to be Director of the Mint, and of Isabel Marie Keenan Patelunas, of Pennsylvania, to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, Department of the Treasury." [Congressional Record, [12/20/17](#); Other Holds: AP, [10/17/17](#); Roll Call, [6/15/17](#); Washington Post, [3/14/17](#); Congressional Record, [3/12/18](#)]

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

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

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

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

Other Republican Senators Who Placed Holds on Trump Nominees:

[Sen. Ted Cruz](#) (R-TX)

[Sen. Mike Lee](#) (R-UT)

[Sen. Joni Ernst](#) (R-IA)

[Sen. Rand Paul](#) (R-KY)

[Sen. Jeff Flake](#) (R-AZ)

[Sen. Tim Scott](#) (R-SC)

[Sen. Dean Heller](#) (R-NV)

[Sen. Thom Tillis](#) (R-NC)

[Sen. Marco Rubio](#) (R-FL)

[Sen. Todd Young](#) (R-IN)

CRUCIAL POSITIONS ACROSS THE GOVERNMENT LACK NOMINEES

Presidential appointments sent to Senate by March 29



Note: Judiciary and non-civilian positions are excluded.

Source: Partnership for Public Service

THE WASHINGTON POST

Numerous positions across the federal government have had [no nominee](#) submitted to the Senate since the start of the Trump administration.

Department of Agriculture positions that have never had nominees include Chief Financial Officer; Undersecretary for Food Safety; Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services; and Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

Department of Commerce positions that have never had nominees include Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration; Assistant Secretary for Economic Development; and Director of the Census Bureau.

Department of Defense positions that have never had nominees include Inspector General; Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Research and Engineering; and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Department of Education positions that have never had nominees include Undersecretary; Assistant Secretary for Communications and Outreach; and Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

Department of Energy positions that have never had nominees include Inspector General; Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; and Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy.

Department of Homeland Security positions that have never had nominees include Undersecretary for Science and Technology; Assistant Secretary for Policy; and Inspector General.

Department of the Interior positions that have never had nominees include Inspector General; Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Director of the Bureau of Land Management; Director of the National Park Service; and Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Department of Justice positions that have never had nominees include Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration; Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Programs Division; Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division; and Director of the Office on Violence Against Women.

Department of Labor positions that have never had nominees include Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training; Assistant Secretary for Disability Employment Policy; Assistant Secretary for Policy; and Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employment and Training.

Department of State positions that have never had nominees include Chief Financial Officer; Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research; Undersecretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights; Undersecretary for Economic Growth, Energy and Environment; Undersecretary for Political Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Political-Military Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Conflict and Stabilization Operations; Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees and Migration; Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International, Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Assistant Secretary for African Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs; and Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs. Ambassadorships that have never had nominees include Belize, Congo, Cuba, Egypt, Jordan, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Mongolia, Panama, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, and Yemen, as well as the Representative to the European Union.

Department of Transportation positions that have never had nominees include Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs and Chief Financial Officer; Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs; Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy; Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration; and Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Department of the Treasury positions that have never had nominees include Chief Financial Officer; Undersecretary for Domestic Finance; Assistant Secretary for Financial Markets; and Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability.

Department of Veterans Affairs positions that have never had nominees include Undersecretary for Health and Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology.