|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jihad Report  Dec 08, 2018 - Dec 14, 2018 | |
| Attacks | **31** |
| Killed | **251** |
| Injured | **139** |
| Suicide Blasts | **6** |
| Countries | **14** |

**The Deep State Sludge Pit**

When I saw that Donald Trump was running for president, I decided right then that he was the right man for the job. I just knew when he got in that he would say, “You have a certain amount of time to make things happen. If you don’t, you’re fired.”   
  
I wanted someone with balls; unafraid to make decisions, and willing to take-on the entrenched interests. Trump fit that Bill in every way for me.  
  
I know it has only been two years, and we certainly have seen accomplishments like we have never seen before. In every area, except one; justice. It seems the business of America is doing fine, but the laws of America are not written for the democrats or their rich donors.

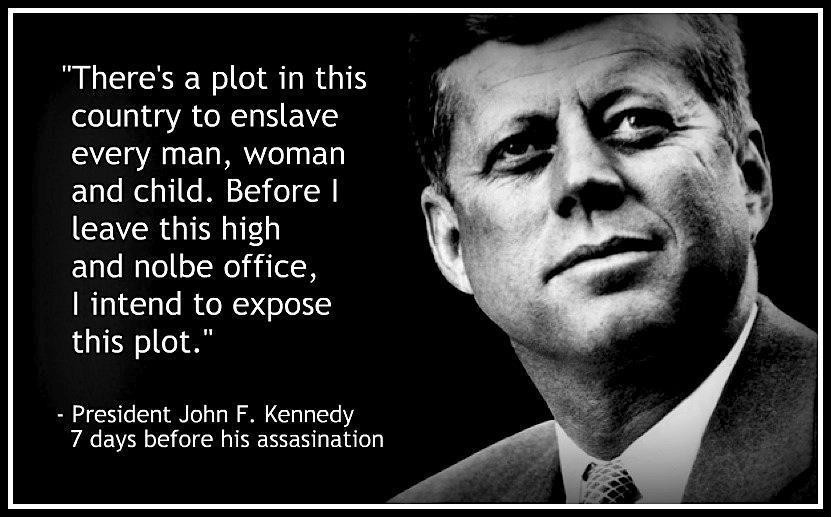
Someone is running the Deep State. Someone is giving the orders in the departments, bureaus, administrations, and agencies. It certainly isn't President Trump.

Early this year, the President ordered the Joint Chiefs to get our people OUT of Syria "by October." He even went so far as to tell them, "Don't come back to me in October and tell me you need more time."  
  
Two days or so later, a false flag chemical attack took place (again) in Syria, we quickly bombed the crap out of two buildings with 107 cruise missiles, and we're still there.  
  
When FBI’s 4th floor gang, Yates, McCabe, Strzok, Page, and the Ors, was exposed as misusing their Government authority to pursue personal political objectives, it was like pulling teeth for Congress to get cooperation from the Dept. of Justice. TRUMP's Department of Justice. They couldn’t have been working more for Hillary Clinton than if they were working for Hillary Clinton.  
  
TRUMP's new appointees, Sessions and Rosenstein delayed, obfuscated, then finally flatly refused to cooperate with Congress. No matter.  
  
The Judicial Oversight Committee was forced to Subpoena Rosenstein, and when they finally did, CONGRESS ITSELF cancelled his appearance just two weeks before the mid-term elections, saying they would call him back after the election. That didn't happen. And the documents Rosenstein was SUBPOENAED to produce to Congress, never got there. Other documents were delayed, redacted, lost, or illegally edited.  
  
Then, President Trump ORDERED the Declassification of the Strzok, Page and other text messages, and the FBI/DOJ Paperwork for the FISA applications. Those documents have never been declassified and never been released.

When the so-called "Migrant Caravan" began heading to our southern border to invade our nation the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon and Defense Secretary Mattis didn't backup Trump's order to send US troops to US southern border.  **It took 3 direct orders** for our Commander-In-Chief to get DoD (NORTHCOM) to protect our Southern border!  
  
Each "request" was denied, which shows you Deep State still in full control of our govt.

Hey DoD: When the Commander in Chief says something, it is not a "request."  It's an ORDER.  Follow it or get out.  Don't make the American people come down there to the Pentagon - or grab you up coming out of your house to go to work one morning  -- and make you get out.

Last week, when former FBI Director Comey appeared before Congress, he had two DOJ lawyers; EXECUTIVE BRANCH LAWYERS! One of whom told Comey NOT TO ANSWER certain Congressional Questions!!!!!!  
  
These DOJ attorneys are in TRUMP's DOJ. Who the hell told them, to tell Comey NOT to answer?  
  
A couple of days ago, the House Oversight Committee brought in two "Whistleblowers" to testify about the 6,000 Documents they turned over to the FBI and the IRS, outlining nefarious and illegal things going on in the Clinton Foundation.  
  
When the two men showed up, they declined to give those documents to Congress! REFUSED !!!!!  
  
And John Huber, the "Prosecutor" assigned by Jeff Sessions to look into the Clinton Foundation and other irregularities . . . was also supposed to testify before the same Congressional Committee today --- **He didn't show up.**  
  
But the two Whistleblowers DID testify they had to send those 6,000 documents to Mr. Huber THREE TIMES because Huber or his staff repeatedly "Lost" them. Did you get that? They freaking lost 6,000 pages of documents.  
  
This is not incompetence. This is obstruction of justice. The bottom line is that the same criminals who have been running the FBI for 83 years are running it now.



Don't FIRE them, PROMOTE them. That is the policy. It has always been the policy.

The Clinton Crime Syndicate has been pumping hundreds of millions of dollars in drug cartel cash straight into the veins of the bankers, the FBI leadership, and Congress for 30 years. They own the place. The FBI has been an opposition research firm for them for decades; the same as it did for the man who founded them. That bought and paid for leadership is still in place. If Trump wants to be effective, he has to jail maybe 10,000 of them and/or fire 1m govt workers.    
  
He hasn't done that, yet. It is questionable as to whether he even can do that. This means either his hands are tied, or he's part of the inside job to keep the patriots complacent while they "pull it" in the immortal words of Larry Silverstein.  (Attacks of 9-11)

Trumps hands are tied by processes that were put in-place years ago, to PREVENT a President from making changes; Union contracts for government workers that make it almost impossible to FIRE them!  . . .  Almost impossible.

Let's go down the list of political "swamp creatures" Trump has been able to get rid of:

James Comey, Director – FIRED  
Andrew McCabe, Deputy Director - FIRED  
Jim Rybicki, Chief of Staff and Senior Counselor – FIRED  
James Baker, General Counsel – FIRED  
Bill Priestap, Director of Counterintelligence (Strzok’s boss) – Cooperating witness [power removed]  
Peter Strzok, Deputy Assistant Director of Counterintelligence – FIRED  
Lisa Page, Office of General Counsel – FIRED/FORCED  
Mike Kortan, Assistant Director for Public Affairs – FIRED  
Josh Campbell, Special Assistant to Comey – FIRED  
David Laufman, Chief of the Justice Department’s Counterintelligence and Export Control Section [NAT SEC - HRC email invest] - FIRED/FORCE  
John Carlin, Assistant Attorney General – Head of DOJ’s National Security Division - FIRED/FORCED  
Sally Yates, Deputy Attorney General & Acting Attorney General - FIRED  
Mary McCord, Acting Assistant Attorney General – Acting Head of DOJ’s National Security Division - FIRED/FORCED  
Bruce Ohr, Associate Deputy Attorney General – Demoted 2x - cooperating witness [power removed] - TERMINATION IMMINENT  
Rachel Brand, Associate Attorney General – No. 3 official behind Deputy AG Rosenstein - FIRED/FORCED  
Jeff Sessions - Attorney General -- FIRED

BUT . . .  look how LONG it took to fire them!  Too long.

President Trump doesn't NEED to fire them to get rid of them -- he can PROMOTE them; To the newly created **Division of Pennsylvania Avenue Left-Turn-Lane Jaywalker enforcement.**  
  
Take all the managers, prosecutors, Department Heads and executives in DOJ who are presently sabotaging everything, and PROMOTE them one grade level to this new division where, once they arrive, they will do . . . . NOTHING.  
  
That's how you deal with un-firable employees; promote them to meaningless jobs with no power, no budget, and no help.  
  
This isn't rocket science. It's not hard to do. Happens all the time in the real world.  
  
Better yet, make it sound important: The new **Continuity of Government back-up location . . . in Barrow, Alaska**. Promotees go up one job grade level for their promotion, and they MUST go to Barrow, Alaska, to STAND-BY in case Washington DC gets wiped out; whereafter, they will THEN be allowed to turn on their government computer terminals, use government phones, and resume work.

It will be better to pay them to do nothing and thereby ISOLATE THEM, rather than allow them to continue being paid while they destroy our elected President.

**SHUT IT DOWN**

Which, it seems to me, is EXACTLY WHY TRUMP INTENDS TO SHUT DOWN THE FEDGOV OVER BORDER WALL FUNDING: It is the single fastest way to totally immobilize the entire apparatus which has stymied him!

Whoever or whatever is running our FedGov is laughing at everyone arguing over which side is better while neither truly cares about the people of this country who pay for it all. If they did care, this country would look completely different. Better. Stronger. Free-er.

There is nothing new under the sun, and many of us know that, but here we are falling for the same smoke and mirrors all over again. Until everyone can break out of the mental prison they have been conditioned to love, nothing meaningful will ever happen.

 Who is running our FedGov? The simple answer: NOT We The People

The Constitution has been violated already. TRUMP is 1 man against a corrupt system. When will the people rise up and defeat the corruption?  
  
The country is split on so many things now.  Good luck getting a group to agree to anything.

When is enough enough?

The fact that anyone could hack and interfere in our elections should be enough to void our democratic process. Does not matter which side did what.  The end result is our votes do not count.

And when President Trump formed The Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity (PEIC or PACEI), also called the Voter Fraud Commission, it ran from May 11, 2017 to January 3, 2018., NOT EVEN 8 MONTHS.   Why?  BEcause NOT ONE STATE agreed to participate.  NOT ONE.   Want to know why?  THEY ARE ALL CORRUPT.  ***ALL OF THEM.***

Just look at the recent election fiascos in south Florida as proof.  Manufacturing votes from the trucks of cars.  Loading bag loads of Ballots into trucks at locations OTHER THAN polling places.  My God, it was all on video.

Oh, and How about California?   Printing three or four sets of identically numbered, mail-in Ballots and having (Democrats) mail in three or four at a time!  The fraud is unimaginable!  
  
America the great has fallen. It does not exist except in history books as a fairy tale, much like the Roman empire.

We did not lose our status overnight. it took many many years to chisel away our freedoms and liberties.  Name 1 thing we are great at anymore?  
  
I wish TRUMP well as I believe he is the nation's last hope. He needs to show the American people how badly the corruption is and make changes. Without major changes we will be at war with each other. Instead, I wonder if a slew of us have started to realize that the ONLY way this is going to be fixed, is if We the People rise-up with our Second Amendment Rights, and correct what is so badly corrupted?

I am frustrated with the “Q” team.

Is stinks of a **"Placation narrative HOAX."**   A PsyOp.  Placate the masses with hints of future action - while nothing ever changes. I don’t want to believe it. I wrote a book I thought would change things, but it didn’t. Not enough people read it.

The public gets "slow walked" in a giant circle around and around.   After months and months and months of hints, nothing happens. 50,000+ sealed Indictments.  Nothing happens. Pictures from inside Air Force One - nothing happens.

No matter what Q says, the public ends up right back where we started, with **nothing accomplished except a total waste of time**.

We cannot keep going the way things are.  Something has to give.

 Consider the blood trail from just the past few weeks.

November 28th, acting on a tip from an informer, A ship owned and operated by the Clinton Crime Syndicate was raided as it arrived from Africa this morning at the Port of Baltimore. The ship, which was supposed to be carrying “emergency supplies,” was actually carrying a cargo that had authorities stunned. BPA Harbormaster Jake Cummings explained to CNN:

“We received a tip that the Clinton Crime Syndicate flagship, The Chelsea, was carrying illegal contraband into the United States. We honestly didn’t know what to expect, but what we found was simply…surreal. In the middle of the ship’s large manifest of containers, most of which were empty, we found 14 containers containing…people. Yes, people.

They were all Refugees from places like Yemen and Syria and not a single one had any kind of documentation. We interviewed those who spoke English and were told that for $40K, anyone can catch a ride to the United States on a ship nobody would ever suspect.”

Immigration was immediately called and found that of the 460 people on board illegally, not one had been through any kind of vetting process. After running the men through facial recognition, they found more than a dozen suspected terrorists who are on the US no-fly list. Those men were about to be unleashed on the public for $40K each. That is a $18,400,000 cargo. No wonder the other containers were empty.  
  
A spokesman for the Clinton Crime Syndicate denied that the Clintons was involved and promised that they would get to the bottom of the situation.

Two other containers were also found to contain multiple crates of contraband, including illegal fruits that could potentially carry foreign insects and foodborne illnesses, weapons without serial numbers on them and no less than 30 pounds of marijuana. Several of the refugees were also found to be in possession of black tar heroin, an addictive, smokable form of the drug.

Surely the Clintons will manage to weasel their way out of any charges, but at least for now their ships are on the radar. The Crime Syndicate said it will recall all 11 of its boats for inspection as soon as they finish their current missions. If you have read the book *Charm of Favor* you would already know that far more terrible things have been smuggled into America using the diplomatic power of the Clinton Crime Syndicate.

The same day, November 28th, FBI director Wray, The IG Horowitz, the Prosecuting attorney John Huber, the Acting head of the DOJ Matthew Whitaker, and IRS marshals met for hours in a what appears to be a RICO planning meeting. They were planning an apprehension and conviction strategy. Hours later, the FBI whistleblower’s home—by the way he was cooperating with Huber’s team investigating the Clinton Crime Syndicate—was raided by the FBI. Why? To save his life and preserve the evidence he had collected.

A few days later, George HW Bush died and had his funeral. Hillary and Bill attended the event, promptly cancelled their failing book tour and left the country for India; a country that does not have extradition agreements with the United States.

I think they’re getting close, but not close enough.

Mr. President: Blow it up - DECLASSIFY IT ALL

I think Trump is going to say he’s not going to run again because he cannot fix what is completely broken.  He might then go retire to one of his nice Resorts.

He tried.  But even a good man cannot fix what is inherently rotten to the core.  And our FedGov, is literally rotten to the core.  
  
OR . . .

**The President can Blow the whole thing up  -- and I mean all of it --   Release and Declassify ALL OF IT ----   FROM JFK to OBAMA.**

Let us  -- the people -- see it all.

I really think he owes it to all the VETS that served this country, to expose the filth in our government to the cleansing power of light.

Let our VETS see what the country they fought for, has become.

Let them - and all of us -- see the filth.  The degeneracy.  The corruption.  The child rapists held under control by folks who threaten to OUT their secrets.

Mr. President, you told the Democrats that if they investigated you when they take control of the US House in January, you could release the info that you have on them.  You said you hadn't done so because the American people would be horrified at what is actually going on.

**Sir, we're already horrified.** We already SUSPECT the unmitigated depravity.  We already SEE the filth.  Just tell us what the facts are and WE will take care of it . . . . OUR WAY: Suddenly, dramatically, and permanently.

Something has to give. We cannot continue this way!

It is time for the Convention of States to step in and save this Republic from the criminals that operate it from the inside. Listen to the Declaration of Independence:

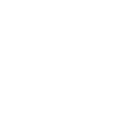
*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That****whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it,****and****to institute new Government****, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. . .*

*. . . But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, i****t is their right,******it is their duty****,****to throw off such Government,****and to provide new Guards for their future security. —*

**Huber’s Hammer**

**The Clinton Foundation operated as a foreign agent ‘early in its life’ and ‘throughout it’s existence’ and did not operate as a 501c3 charitable foundation** as required, and is not entitled to its status as a nonprofit, alleged two highly qualified forensic investigators, accompanied by three other investigators, said in explosive testimony Thursday to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

*[](https://www.zerohedge.com/sites/default/files/inline-images/moy%20doy.jpg?itok=kyyngHPZ)*



John Moynihan and Lawerence W. Doyle, both graduates of the [Catholic Jesuit College of the Holy Cross](https://www.holycross.edu/faith-service/jesuit-tradition) and former expert forensic government investigators, gave their shocking testimony before congress based on a nearly two year investigation into the foundation’s work both nationally and internationally. They were assisted by three other highly trained experts in taxation law and financial forensic investigations. The forensic investigators stressed that they obtained all the documentation on the foundation legally and through Freedom of Information Request Acts from the IRS and other agencies.

Former Utah U.S. Attorney General John Huber, who resigned when he was appointed by former Department of Justice Attorney General Jeff Sessions to investigate the Clinton Foundation and the issues surrounding the approval to sell 20 percent of U.S. Uranium assets to Russia, declined to attend the hearing. **Chairman Mark Meadows, R-NC, who oversaw the hearing stated that it was disappointment that Huber declined**, leaving Congress in the dark regarding the DOJ’s investigation.

Investigations into the Clinton Foundation have always been plagued by politics but Moynihan wanted to make clear in his opening statement that this investigation was one of many his firm has conducted on nonprofits and had nothing to do with politics.

Doyle and Moynihan have amassed 6,000 documents in their nearly two-year investigation through their private firm MDA Analytics LLC. The documents were turned over more than a year and a half ago to the IRS, according to John Solomon, who first published the report last week in [The Hill.](https://thehill.com/opinion/white-house/420131-feds-received-whistleblower-evidence-in-2017-alleging-clinton-foundation)

*“****The investigation clearly demonstrates that the foundation was not a charitable organization per se, but in point of fact was a closely held family partnership****,” said Doyle, who formerly worked on Wall Street and has been involved with finance for the last ten years conducting investigations.*

*“As such it was****governed in a fashion in which it sought in large measure to advance the personal interests of its principals****as detailed within the financial analysis of this submission and further confirmed within the supporting documentation and evidence section.”*

At the onset of the hearing, Moynihan wanted to make perfectly clear that the intention to look into the Clinton Foundation was not political but based on their work with the firm.

“At this point I’d like to answer two questions, who are we? We are apolitical,” Moynihan told the committee. “We have no party affiliation to this whatsoever, No one has financed us… we are forensic investigators that approached this effort in a nonpartisan profession, objective, and independent way…we follow facts, that’s all.”

“We have never been partisan,” he added, speaking on behalf of all five members of his group testifying to Congress. “We come from law enforcement and wall street where each of us has dedicated our entire lives and praised the rule of law doing the right thing pursuing facts. we follow facts. that’s all.”

*“None of this is our opinion,” he went on state.*

*“I emphasize none of this is our opinion.****These are not our facts. They are not your facts. They are the facts of the Clinton Foundation****.”*

He disclosed the reason his firm decided to take on the Clinton Foundation and the fact that they paid for the investigation out of their “own pockets.”

“Are you doing this for money,” said Moynihan to the committee. “Yes, this is how we make a living.”

Moynihan and Doyle swapped back and forth between there testimony and opening statement, making it clear they were working as a team. But the most shocking statements came from Moynihan’s statement as he read the laundry list of violations by the Clinton Foundation.

Moynihan stated “Foreign agent,” as he began to read from a long list of violations discovered during the course of their investigation.

***The Clinton Foundation “began acting as an agent of foreign governments ‘early in its life’ and throughout its existence. As such, the foundation should’ve registered under FARA (Foreign Agents Registration Act),”****he said. “Ultimately, the Foundation and its auditors conceded in formal submissions that it did operate as a (foreign) agent,****therefore the foundation is not entitled to its 501c3 tax exempt privileges as outlined in IRS 170 (c)2.****”*

Doyle, who was also outlining a litany of violations by the foundation, noted that currently there are approximately 1.75 million nonprofits in the United states that annually generate nearly 2 trillion dollars, which is 9 percent of the U.S. GDP.

Trending Articles

**The BOJ Faces An Unexpected Problem: Record Demand For…**

Once upon a time, the most popular "widowmaker" trade was being short Japanese bonds as a result of prevailing…

[Powered By [https://c5x8i7c7.ssl.hwcdn.net/creatives/site_logos/dslogo_sm.png](https://i.jsrdn.com/i/1.gif?r=p2nn&k=&fwd=http://distroscale.com)](https://i.jsrdn.com/i/1.gif?r=p2nn&k=&fwd=http%3A%2F%2Fdistroscale.com)

*“****Whose minding the store, looking out for the donors and minding the rule of law****,” said Doyle.*

*“On that note, we followed the money so we made extensive spreadsheets of their revenues and expenses, we analyzed their income statements and we did a macro-review of all the donors, which its a very (jumbled) sort of foundation,” said Doyle. “****Less than 1/10th of one-percent of the donors gave 80 percent of the money.****So we follow the money.”*

Moynihan added that the foundation “did pursue programs and activities for which it had neither sought nor achieved permission to undertake.”

Particularly, he noted the case of the Clinton Presidential Library in 2004. He noted that the foundation’s role before and after library was built was a misrepresentation to donors “of the approval organizational tax status to raise funds for the presidential library programs therein. In these pursuits the foundation failed the organizational and operational task 501c3 internal revenue code 7.25.3.”

Additionally Doyle stated that the foundation’s intentional “misuse of donated public funds.” He stated that the foundation “falsely attested that it received funds and used them for charitable purposes which was in fact not the case. Rather the foundation pursued in an array of activities both domestically and abroad.”

“Some may be deemed philanthropic, albeit unimproved, while other much larger in scope are properly characterized as profit oriented and taxable undertakings of private enterprise again failing the operational tests philanthropy referenced above,” Doyle said.

Philip Hackney, a tax law professor at Louisiana State University, who is a former Exempt Organizations lawyer at the IRS, and Tom Fitton, president of the conservative government watchdog group Judicial Watch also testified at the hearing. Judicial Watch has been at the forefront of fighting the Clinton Foundation in court to access documents requested by FOIA. Hackney and Fitton testified during the first panel of the hearing.

**Why Downtown is Down and Out**

Downtown doesn’t look like it used to. The barber shops and florists and small grocers that fed the downtown areas with jobs and commerce have all been replaced by condos and law offices and high-end restaurants to cater to a new high-income live-work base. How did this happen? What was the root cause for the demographic to change downtown areas across the country. From Augusta to Sacramento, the old hardware store has become the accounting firm, and the clothing store has become the bistro.

Nationally, activist groups are protesting and suing op block and reverse the upscaling of the downtown areas by outside investors. But they are wasting their time and their money fighting the wrong thing? Why? Because they have been told this is purely a matter of racism. They have been fooled.

The first thing that caused this cleansing of downtown America is President Clinton’s repeal of the last and most critical aspect of the Glass Steagle Act. This allowed banks to purchase brokerage houses and was precipitated by a last-ditch effort to save the Lehman Brothers. Needless to say, it did not save them from one of the most devastating bankruptcies in banking history. That was only the beginning.

It allowed national and global banks to buy up regional and local banks. The lobbyists made out like bandits as the banks were able to extract trillions of dollars from every town and every city to a central location. Those funds were then leveraged to more than 500 trillion dollars in derivatives, creating an unfunded liability that boggles the mind.

As if that wasn’t bad enough, the Obama Administration passed another law called Dodd-Frank that outlawed the lending of money to business startups. Within 6 years, America fell to the lowest level of business startups in history. Businesses with less than two years of continuous profits were denied access to capital.

Possibly the biggest reason for the Obama administration's failure to reignite normal economic growth following the Financial Crisis was the Dodd-Frank law. It not only didn't make the financial system safer, it all but killed small business growth.

A new study released by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the quasi-private think tank that serves as the referee for deciding U.S. upturns and downturns, shows the damage done by Dodd-Frank to small businesses was severe.

The study, "The Impact of the Dodd-Frank Act on Small Business," by economists Michael D. Bordo and John V. Duca, goes a long way toward explaining why GDP growth under Obama was a mere 2%, a full third slower than the long-term average.

It's based on a long-term and well-known dynamic. Small businesses grow faster than large ones, and account for over two-thirds of all U.S. jobs growth. Dodd-Frank's damage was substantial and persistent.

"The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which was passed in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis and was designed to safeguard the banking system, appears to have made it more difficult for small businesses and entrepreneurs to obtain funding," the NBER report notes.

It wasn't a small amount, either: "After controlling for economic conditions and other influences on lending ... the share of commercial and industrial loans of less than $1 million at large banks — those with at least $300 million in assets — has fallen by 9 percentage points since 2010."

Smaller banks, which mainly do only small-business loans, saw their loan volumes decline by twice as much. This is why there has been a silent depression in the once-vibrant small-bank industry.

Meanwhile, loans of over $1 million by bigger banks have soared by 80%. Obama and the Democrats were the least small-business friendly administration and Congress since the Great Depression. Why did this happen? Dodd-Frank made making loans to large companies far more attractive. They did so by new compliance rules that treated small and startup loans as inherently more risky than big-business loans.

In economic terms, Dodd-Frank increased the fixed cost of making a loan to smaller companies. So banks simply stopped lending to them. Overnight, businesses that once had lines of credit lost them. Many closed. Startups could get nothing.

The downtown areas became ghost towns precisely because those businesses were blocked systematically from access to capital. Within a few short years, the desired effect was complete. The price of inner-city real estate fell to Depression values, allowing investors to move in and buy block after block of the best architecture in the country for pennies on the dollar. These investors had access to capital, because they had many years of contiguous profits and because commercial appraisers were able to reinflate the values as though they were finished with new paint, glass, wiring, plumbing, and luxury finishes. Simply put, an old hardware store selling for $10 a square foot could be valued at $300 a square foot as high-end condominiums.

The millions of people that used to live and work downtown no longer could afford to live there, so they were pushed out into the older suburbs. A person with a high school education would never work downtown again. Clinton and Obama were able to completely wipe out the American downtown demographic in less than 20 years.

Change was needed. Help arrived two years ago. This may sound like a wonky debate, but it isn't. Dodd-Frank's destructive lending restrictions destroyed millions of jobs and kept entrepreneurs from creating thousands and thousands of new, wonderful businesses. And it also explains why, with a few deft strokes of his presidential pen, cutting both regulations and taxes sharply, President Trump has been able to offset Dodd-Frank's growth-killing rules and restored 3% growth to the economy.

The recovery won’t happen overnight, but it will happen, now that the law has been moved out of the way of the average American.

**Birther II**

Given that California Sen. Kamala Harris’s [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris) biography states that she was born in Oakland, CA in 1964 to immigrant parents and speculation exists that she plans to run for president in 2020, Golden State citizen Gary Wilmott has been seeking information as to her citizenship status and whether or not she meets the constitutional requirement of “natural born Citizen.”

The Wikipedia entry states that Harris’s mother, Dr. Shyamala G. Harris, was from India, arriving in Berkeley, CA in 1960.

Dr. Harris passed away in February 2009.  Her “Legacy” [obituary](https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?pid=125330757) states that she arrived alone in the U.S. at the age of 19 after having earned her undergraduate degree from Delhi University.

Kamala’s father, Donald Harris, is a retired Stanford University economics professor whose biography [affirms](https://web.stanford.edu/~dharris/professional_career.htm) that he arrived in the U.S. in 1961 as an “Issa Scholar” from Jamaica.  It adds that he was born in Jamaica and naturalized in the U.S. but does not provide the year.

Neither parent reportedly was present in the U.S. as a legal resident for five years prior to Harris’s birth, a [requirement](https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/citizenship-through-naturalization/continuous-residence-and-physical-presence-requirements-naturalization) to apply for naturalization, Wilmott observed in an interview with The Post & Email on Thursday.

After her parents divorced when she was seven, Wikipedia reports, Harris’s mother was granted full custody of her two daughters, after which they moved to Quebec, Canada.   Dr. Harris’s obituary, reposted at SFGate on March 22, 2009, states that her medical research took her to McGill University in Montreal for 16 years.  It further [reads](https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?pid=125330757), in part:

Her passion for science was augmented by a fervent commitment to social justice. While a student at Berkeley in the ’60s, she became fully engaged in the Civil Rights Movement, leading to a lifelong fight against injustice, racial discrimination and intolerance. She instilled these values in her daughters, who in turn have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of justice and equality – one as the first female elected District Attorney of SF and the other as vice president of Peace and Social Justice at the Ford Foundation in NY.

According to Wikipedia, Harris graduated from [Westmount High School](http://westmount.koumbit.org/) in Westmount, Quebec, presumably in 1981 or 1982.  However, Harris’s U.S. Senate biography [does not say](https://www.harris.senate.gov/about) that she lived and obtained most of her public education in Canada:

Growing up in Oakland, Kamala had a stroller-eye view of the Civil Rights movement. Through the example of courageous leaders like Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, and Charles Hamilton Houston, Kamala learned the kind of character it requires to stand up to the powerful, and resolved to spend her life advocating for those who could not defend themselves.

Wilmott considers a “natural born Citizen” to be an individual born to two U.S.-citizen parents subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.  He openly admits that his own birth in the United Kingdom to then-British-citizen parents disqualifies him from that subset of Americans.

During our interview, Wilmott told us that at the end of last year, local “scuttlebutt” had it that Harris was eyeing a 2020 presidential run, prompting him to research her constitutional eligibility.  Further supporting speculation that Harris will declare herself a 2020 presidential candidate are numerous articles dating to just after the 2016 presidential election.

An August 15, 2018, an opinion column in the Long Beach Press-Telegram [contended](https://www.presstelegram.com/2018/08/15/san-franciscos-decline-could-hurt-kamala-harris-presidential-ambitions/) that “the betting website Oddshark just published brand new odds for the 2020 presidential race — and for the first time California’s junior U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris has tied Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders as the betting favorite among potential Democratic candidates to win the election.”  At the same time, the writer believes “that the soft-on-crime policies that Harris helped pass while serving as the district attorney of San Francisco and California attorney general directly contributed to the complete breakdown of one of America’s most beautiful cities,” referring to San Francisco.

The writer’s views on Harris’s approach to prosecutions appear to be supported by statistics cited by [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris).

Before providing an answer to his own question, writer and radio show host John Phillips asked, “When, and if, Kamala Harris decides to run for president of the United States, voters will undoubtedly ask themselves the question, ‘Do I want the whole country to look like San Francisco?’”

Since early this year, a myriad of [mainstream reports](https://search.yahoo.com/yhs/search;_ylt=AwrJ25UfnHlbllcAoYsPxQt.;_ylc=X1MDMjExNDcwMDU1OQRfcgMyBGZyA3locy1hdmctZmhfbHNvbnN3BGdwcmlkA1VBSWtxaGRJUTR1RTZ4UHFVMzdCREEEbl9yc2x0AzAEbl9zdWdnAzEwBG9yaWdpbgNzZWFyY2gueWFob28uY29tBHBvcwMwBHBxc3RyAwRwcXN0cmwDMARxc3RybAMyNQRxdWVyeQNTYW4lMjBGcmFuY2lzY28lMjBuZWVkbGVzBHRfc3RtcAMxNTM0Njk2OTIz?p=San+Francisco+needles&fr2=sb-top&hspart=avg&hsimp=yhs-fh_lsonsw&param1=jZFNU4MwEIb_ihdyK5MPAvSQQ_3o6NiDU-v06ARIWrQETIDWf-8GWsf2oM4Auwvv7r48yctCoEIQzqI45hGjGGNUOCH7jTtItJNmI5SZvDyjCpRFlGiuKYmnkWYkVVKqmGKeKJoqnSQcNSDatx3qRRSycBom6KazVpn2SW7Uy3Ihtm3bBEwGVMNVfTolbb4NYVuY1xW8akDnIJ4-uOYQMJ1XMDhgRUDjDwiPspI7mJHdS2tLkMdOwtTCtJB6y5APpqGshsa_jIMwP23oIRzdQ1U4KEcavoICpwHldE6mQ6CYQJ1h0HI242MgFLSNBXFn3k29N96i8c3bZnT7KnPvGPvFbT4sznzPYAIIepX_DfSsbK_sw61YXdPJbLWYrOd3OEFLpRWAtSem7jeorcwA4g9Gtm8hJRcLvwn8m9k5nHNwF-cw0DgSHJlpD1KPGDHwY5L7x8CuOzo5HTwqGxGnISFwT0lIaYpqJ9alKeq9uyIYZWJeWqXrA8p6EZMQo1yJle0UenNj8gU1&param2=new_tab_search&param3=ff.61.w10.nt.04-03.us.avg._._&type=ff.61.w10.nt.04-03.us.avg._._) have cited San Francisco’s growing sanitation crisis powered by homelessness and rampant drug use, with discarded hypodermic needles and tent cities a common sight in some areas.  Some have compared the situation there to that of a “[third-world](https://medium.com/@pablocp/san-francisco-the-third-world-city-in-a-first-world-country-12f9a2e7bb8)” country for various reasons.

An August 8, 2018 editorial cited the same statistics source at [SFGate](https://www.sfgate.com/politics/article/Kamala-Harris-2020-Democratic-primary-betting-odds-13142323.php?utm_campaign=email-mobile&utm_source=CMS%20Sharing%20Button&utm_medium=social" \t "_blank) favoring Harris as a Democrat presidential contender.

Harris served as City and County of San Francisco District Attorney from [2003](https://www.harris.senate.gov/about) to 2010, when she was elected California Attorney General.  She served one term, was re-elected in 2014, but in January 2015 [announced](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris) her intention to seek the U.S. Senate to be vacated by the retiring Barbara Boxer.

Harris’s Wikipedia entry is arguably not particularly favorable to her.  Under the subheading, “2020 Presidential speculation,” it reads:

Kamala Harris has been considered a top contender for the [2020 Democratic nomination for President](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Party_presidential_primaries,_2020).[[145]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris#cite_note-145)[[146]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris#cite_note-146) She has publicly stated that she is “not ruling it out”.[[147]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris#cite_note-147) Her spending on Facebook advertising is unusually high, and targeted to reach voters outside California.[[148]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris#cite_note-148)[[149]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris#cite_note-149). In July 2018, it was announced that she would publish a memoir, another sign of a possible run.[[150]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamala_Harris#cite_note-150)

On November 11, 2016, The Huffington Post published an article [titled](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/kamala-harris_us_58247ce2e4b0aac62489433d), “Meet Kamala Harris, Who Could Become The First Woman President.”

As early as [July of last year](https://www.breitbart.com/california/2017/07/18/kamala-harris-absolutely-running-president-2020-fundraiser/), a Democrat involved in fundraising reportedly said that Harris “is ‘absolutely’ running for president.”

In September 2017, Newsweek [reported](https://www.newsweek.com/kamala-harris-2020-election-trump-663103) that “[PredictIt](https://www.predictit.org/Market/3633/Who-will-win-the-2020-Democratic-presidential-nomination" \t "_blank), an online political stock market, now lists Harris as the most valuable of the possible 2020 Democratic nominees, higher even than Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, as well as than former Vice President Joe Biden.”

On August 9, 2018, Buzzfeed News [reported](https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/darrensands/as-2020-talk-continues-kamala-harris-to-headline-marthas) that “California Sen. Kamala Harris is headlining a Martha’s Vineyard reception next week amid a swell of excitement here for her possible candidacy for president.”

On August 10, 2018, a letter to the editor in The Los Angeles Times [opined](http://www.latimes.com/opinion/readersreact/la-ol-le-kamala-harris-president-20180810-story.html) that “Kamala Harris is a lot more qualified to be president than Donald Trump.”  The article did not raise the constitutional eligibility issue.

On Sunday, The Hill [wrote](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/kamala-harris-prepares-for-moment-in-the-spotlight/ar-BBM793x?li=BBnb7Kz) that “A year and a half into her first term in office, the Judiciary Committee’s most junior member is already seen as a potential presidential front-runner.”

Former Obama eligibility litigant Commander Charles F. Kerchner, Jr. (Ret) recently posted an [article](https://cdrkerchner.wordpress.com/) arguing that Harris is not constitutionally qualified.  “Senator Harris is not being transparent on this issue and her office staff has refused to answer any questions on this subject,” Kerchner wrote. “Given Kamala Harris’s year of birth, and her parents emigration years, she was born in the USA to two foreign nationals and thus inherited their respective birth nation’s citizenship when she was born, in addition to being a basic Citizen by being born in the USA to aliens legally domiciled here. Thus Senator Kamala Harris was born with citizenship and required allegiance at birth to three countries. This is hardly what the founders and framers intended when [they selected the “natural born Citizen” requirement](http://www.scribd.com/document/241491173/John-Jay-Letter-to-George-Washington-in-1787-Recommending-the-Natural-Born-Citizen-Clause-be-Added-to-Requirement-for-Future-Pres-CinC) for the person who would in the future be permitted to be the President and Commander in Chief of our military, once the founding generation was gone.”

Citing the Wikipedia entry and the five-year naturalization requirement, Wilmott told us, “Each of the parents has to be here five years to apply for citizenship. So if she was born in 1964 and the father came in 1961, adding five years to that, he could not have become an American citizen until 1966, at the earliest.  So I immediately wrote a letter to her, which you posted.”

Wilmott’s December 4, 2017 [letter](https://www.thepostemail.com/2017/12/04/california-constituent-sen-kamala-harris-not-natural-born-citizen/) to Harris references questions surrounding Barack Obama’s eligibility given that no verifiable proof of his alleged birth in the U.S. exists and he claims a father who was never a U.S. citizen.  As the result of a five-year criminal investigation, the “[long-form](https://www.thepostemail.com/2018/08/18/mike-zullo-connects-former-intelligence-officials-to-obama-birth-certificate-phony-narrative/)” birth certificate image posted at the White House website in 2011 bearing Obama’s name was declared a “computer-generated forgery” in March 2012.

Wilmott’s letter to Harris states, in part:

I couldn’t help but notice that the press has recently been extolling you as the next “Obama” and the inevitable frontrunner for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020. While this growing presidential buzz may be quite intoxicating for you, I suggest that you take a serious look at Article II of the U.S. Constitution, i.e., the presidential eligibility clause.

Article II, Section 1, Clause 5 mandates that a president be a NATURAL-born citizen, which you clearly are not. At the time of your birth, BOTH of your parents were citizens of foreign countries, so your birth in California makes you at best a NATIVE-born citizen (anchor baby?) under the prevailing view of the 14th Amendment. Lest you think that I have Republican bias I would also point out that presidential wannabes Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio also fail to meet this higher standard of citizenship. Their campaigns were fraudulent and in clear violation of the U.S. Constitution.

He reported that his letter received no response.

Early last month, Wilmott wrote Harris a second letter asking about her parents’ naturalization or absence thereof:



The letter concluded with, “I look forward to your prompt response.”

“I personally don’t think she is a viable candidate and will not run,” Wilmott told us, “but I do think she’s being looked at as a vice-presidential candidate, and she’s not eligible.”

The [12th Amendment](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/amendmentxii) states that the vice president must possess the same qualifications as the president.

Regarding political operatives’ consideration of constitutional requirements, Wilmott remarked, “At the end of the day, they don’t care about the Constitution; they care about their self-serving aspirations and being in the limelight. If Harris is paying attention, she knows the whole history and that the same situation could come up again.  The reason the ‘birther’ issue has never been put to rest is that we know we’re right and we have the Constitution on our side.”

Since 2008, anyone questioning Obama’s eligibility has been called a “birther” or a “racist.”  On Friday, the lead investigator of the “long-form” image posted at whitehouse.gov, Mike Zullo, announced that two intelligence-community professionals informed him that “it’s been [an open secret](https://www.thepostemail.com/2018/08/18/mike-zullo-connects-former-intelligence-officials-to-obama-birth-certificate-phony-narrative/)” in Washington, DC that “Obama could never satisfy the constitutional requirement of being born on American soil.”

**The Subpeona Canon is Cocked and Locked**

We have been briefed by the Globalist Elites who defrauded the 2018 election to steal dozens of Congressional districts around the country. Here in North Carolina, the 9th district is being sued for the 10th time in a row. Horrendous and blatant fraud is now so bold, the rental trucks just pull up to the polling station now and unload pre-voted ballots. Yes, the FEC has been alerted. Yes, they turned it over to the DA’s office for prosecution. No. Nothing has been done for 20 years. It’s the same story in Georgia, Florida, and California.

That is the world of corruption we see every day. What we are about to see has never happened before. Congress is about to go to war with America. They hate America, and they hate you. And, they hate anyone work works for or even thinks Donald Trump is an okay guy. Trump can take it. But his people cannot.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, facing federal investigations into his travel, political activity and potential conflicts of interest, will be leaving the administration at year's end, President Donald Trump said Saturday. In his resignation letter, obtained by The Associated Press, Zinke said "vicious and politically motivated attacks" against him had "created an unfortunate distraction" in fulfilling the agency's mission.

Trump, in tweeting Zinke's departure, said the former Montana congressman "accomplished much during his tenure" and that a replacement would be announced next week. The Cabinet post requires Senate confirmation.

Zinke is leaving weeks before Democrats take control of the House, a shift in power that promises to sharpen the probes into his conduct. His departure comes amid a staff shake-up as Trump heads into his third year in office facing increased legal exposure due to intensifying investigations into his campaign, business, foundation and administration.

Zinke's resignation letter, obtained from a Zinke aide on Saturday, cites what he calls "meritless and false claims" and says that "to some, truth no longer matters."

The letter, dated Saturday, said Zinke's last day would be Jan. 2. It was not clear whether Zinke had already submitted the letter when Trump tweeted. Zinke, 57, played a leading part in Trump's efforts to roll back federal environmental regulations and promote domestic energy development. He drew attention from his first day on the job, when he mounted a roan gelding to ride across Washington's National Mall to the Department of Interior.

Zinke had remained an ardent promoter of both missions, and his own macho image, despite growing talk that he had lost Trump's favor. On Tuesday, Zinke appeared on stage at an Environmental Protection Agency ceremony for a rollback on water regulations. Mentioning his background as a Navy SEAL at least twice, he led the audience in a round of applause for the U.S. oil and gas industry.

Trump never established a deep personal connection with Zinke but appreciated how he stood tall against criticisms from environmental groups as he worked to roll back protections. But the White House concluded in recent weeks that Zinke was likely the Cabinet member most vulnerable to investigations led by newly empowered Democrats in Congress, according to an administration official not authorized to publicly discuss personnel matters who spoke on condition of anonymity.

His tenure was temporarily extended as Interior helped with the response to California wildfires and the West Wing was consumed with speculation over the future of chief of staff John Kelly. But White House officials pressured him to resign, the official said, which he did after his final public appearance at his department's Christmas party on Thursday night.

As interior secretary, Zinke pushed to develop oil, natural gas and coal beneath public lands in line with the administration's business-friendly aims. But he has been dogged by ethics probes, including one centered on a Montana land deal involving a foundation he created and the chairman of an energy services company, Halliburton, that does business with the Interior Department.

Investigators also are reviewing Zinke's decision to block two tribes from opening a casino in Connecticut and his redrawing of boundaries to shrink a Utah national monument. Zinke has denied wrongdoing. The Associated Press reported last month that the department's internal watchdog had referred an investigation of Zinke to the Justice Department.

Zinke's travels with his wife, Lola Zinke, also had come under scrutiny. Interior's inspector general's office said Zinke allowed his wife to ride in government vehicles with him despite a department policy that prohibits nongovernment officials from doing so. The report also said the department spent more than $25,000 to provide security for the couple when they took a vacation to Turkey and Greece.

Trump told reporters this fall he was evaluating Zinke's future in the administration in light of the allegations and offered a lukewarm vote of confidence. Zinke in November denied he already was hunting for his next job.

"I enjoy working for the president," he told a Montana radio station. "Now, If you do your job, he supports you."

"I think I'm probably going to be the commander of space command," Zinke said. "How's that one?"

Zinke outlasted EPA chief Scott Pruitt, another enthusiastic advocate of Trump's business-friendly way of governing who lost favor with Trump amid ethics scandals. Pruitt resigned in July. Trump's first Health and Human Services secretary, Tom Price, also resigned under a cloud of ethical questions.

Democratic leaders in Congress were scathing in response to the news that Zinke was leaving as well.

"Ryan Zinke was one of the most toxic members of the cabinet in the way he treated our environment, our precious public lands, and the way he treated the govt like it was his personal honey pot," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of the New York tweeted Saturday. "The swamp cabinet will be a little less foul without him."

House Minority Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi, who is set to become speaker in January, said Zinke had "been a shameless handmaiden for the special interests" and his "staggering ethical abuses have delivered a serious and lasting blow to America's public lands, environment, clean air and clean water."

Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, had warned that after Democrats took control of the House they intended to call Zinke to testify on his ethics issues.

Grijalva spokesman Adam Sarvana said Saturday that committee leaders still intended to ask for Zinke's testimony. "It's safe to say that Citizen Zinke may be leaving, but real oversight of former Secretary Zinke has not even started," Sarvana said in an email.

Earlier this month, Zinke unleashed a jarring personal attack on Grijalva, tweeting, "It's hard for him to think straight from the bottom of the bottle."

Zinke got a warmer send-off from Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, head of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, who said in a statement that he had been a "strong partner for Western states."

Under Zinke's watch, the Interior Department moved to auction off more oil leases, ended a moratorium on new sales of federally owned coal, and repealed mandates governing drilling. Zinke's focus on the president's energy agenda was cheered by oil, gas and mining advocates, who credit the administration with seeking to balance conservation with development on public lands. But his tenure was denounced by most conservation groups.

"Zinke will go down as the worst Interior secretary in history," said Kieran Suckling, executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity, in a statement released Saturday. "His slash-and-burn approach was absolutely destructive for public lands and wildlife. Allowing David Bernhardt to continue to call the shots will still be just as ugly. Different people, same appetite for greed and profit."

Bernhardt, the deputy secretary, is in line to lead the Interior Department on an interim basis. He has spent years in Washington as a lobbyist for the oil and gas industry and has deep ties to Republican politicians and conservative interest groups.

Two outgoing Republican congressmen are said to be interested in the job.

Rep. Raul Labrador of Idaho planned to go to the White House on Saturday to discuss the job with officials, said a GOP congressional aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe Labrador's private plans. Labrador, 51, a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, who is retiring from Congress after eight years. He lost a bid for his state's GOP gubernatorial nomination last spring.

Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif., is also interested in Zinke's job, according to another Republican congressional aide who described the situation only on condition of anonymity. The aide said the White House has made inquiries about Denham to Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., who will be House minority leader next year. Denham, 51, has been involved in water issues in California. He lost his bid for re-election last month.

As head of Interior, Zinke made plans to realign the agency's bureaucracy, trimming the equivalent of 4,600 jobs, about 7 percent of its workforce. He also proposed a massive overhaul that would have moved decision-making out of Washington, relocating headquarters staff to Western states at a cost of $17.5 million.

Zinke was a one-term congressman when Trump selected him to join his incoming Cabinet in December 2016.

An early Trump supporter, Zinke is close to the president's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., and publicly expressed his interest in a Cabinet post when Trump visited Montana in May 2016.

**The DNC War Against America has Begun**

 "I want to be crystal clear. **There will be no additional appropriations to pay for the border wall.** **It’s done,**" Chuck Schumer

"They do not have the votes to pass the president’s proposal — $5 billion or whatever it is for the wall," said Pelosi at a recent news conference. "So … if nothing is going to change in that regard, **I don’t know why we just don’t proceed to keep government open so that people can be home for the holidays**."

Meanwhile, the odds of a shutdown spiked to 58% on *PredictIt*, nearly double what it was 24 hours ago.

Rep. Paul Mitchell (R-MI) thinks the odds are even higher. "The odds are 65/35 we're shutting down. I'm not optimistic we're going to see some kind of compromise on appropriations on Homeland Security," said Mitchell, the freshman representative for the Republican leadership team. "I don't see that they're going to get done bickering."

"Trump will get the blame, but he won’t care," added an unnamed GOP lawmaker quoted by The Hill. "And the base will love him for it."

[Yesterday we reported](https://www.zerohedge.com/news/2018-12-14/theres-no-plan-gop-shutdown-turmoil-trump-holds-out-wall) that Republicans are growing frustrated with Trump's holdout over funding the wall, after the president shockingly declared that he would be "proud" to take credit for a shutdown if he doesn't get his wall.

"If we don't get what we want, one way or the other ... I will shut down the government. Absolutely," said Trump during an awkward argument broadcast live. "**I am proud to shut down the government for border security.**"

With the two sides at an impasse, it appears that the partial shutdown is a foregone conclusion unless someone blinks.

"**There is no discernable plan. None that’s been disclosed**," said #2 Senate Republican John Cornyn of Texas. "Everybody’s looking to [Trump] for a signal about what he wants to do. So far, it’s not clear."

**The last time the government shut down** in January, the GOP-controlled House was able to pass a short-term spending solution until February 16 - only to be blocked by Schumer and Democratic Senators because it did not have provisions for immigrants in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

**Steven Miller**

The Trump administration has continued its public fight over the [**border wall**](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/11/28/18112713/trump-border-wall-funding-shutdown), with White House senior adviser Stephen Miller telling [**CBS**](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/stephen-miller-on-face-the-nation-trump-absolutely-willing-to-shut-down-government-over-border-wall/) that President Donald Trump is “absolutely” willing to shut down the government on December 21 if Congress refuses to authorize funding for his wall.

Echoing Trump’s own sentiments from Tuesday’s [**fiery Oval Office debate**](https://www.vox.com/2018/12/11/18136261/trump-schumer-pelosi-border-wall-shutdown), Miller told CBS’s Margaret Brennan on Sunday’s Face the Nation that Trump would do “whatever is necessary” — including allowing a partial government shutdown.

“If it comes to it, absolutely. This is a very fundamental issue,” he [**said**](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/transcript-stephen-miller-on-face-the-nation-december-16-2018/). “At stake is the question of whether or not the United States remains a sovereign country. Whether or not we can establish and enforce rules for entrance into our country.”

Miller’s comments come after a very tense, very public week of funding negotiations: A televised [**White House meeting**](https://www.vox.com/2018/12/11/18136261/trump-schumer-pelosi-border-wall-shutdown) between Trump, incoming House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer Tuesday ended with the president saying he would be “proud” to shut down the government over their refusal to allocate [**$5 billion in wall funding**](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/11/28/18112713/trump-border-wall-funding-shutdown) (the total cost of the wall ranges from [**$20 billion**](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/2/10/14575890/leaked-report-wall-cost-trump) to [**$70 billion**](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Southern%20Border%20Wall%20-%20HSGAC%20Minority%20Report.pdf)). “If we don’t get what we want one way or another... I will shut down the government,” Trump said.

**Comet Time**

Today, a comet called 46P/Wirtanen is going to come within 7.1 million miles of the Earth (about 30 times the distance of the Earth to the moon). While that may sound extremely far away, it’s actually close enough for us to potentially see its green-hued tail with the naked eye.

[**According to NASA**](https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?release=2018-289), Wirtanen’s flyby will be one of the top 10 closest flybys of a comet to the Earth in 70 years. The University of Maryland’s astronomy department — which is leading a scientific observation campaign of the comet — [**assures us**](http://wirtanen.astro.umd.edu/46P/46P_2018.shtml) there’s “no chance of the comet hitting Earth.” So look on in amazement, not horror.

It’s hard to predict the exact brightness, and thus visibility, of a comet. Comets are balls of ice and rock that form tails of debris as they approach the sun. (The sun melts some material off the comet.) But the quantity of material in the comet’s tail is not stable.

Sometimes a comet will have more material in its tail to reflect sunlight and appear brightly in our night sky. Sometimes it won’t. It can also be hard to predict the spread of a comet’s tail. The more spread out the tail, the more diffuse the comet becomes.

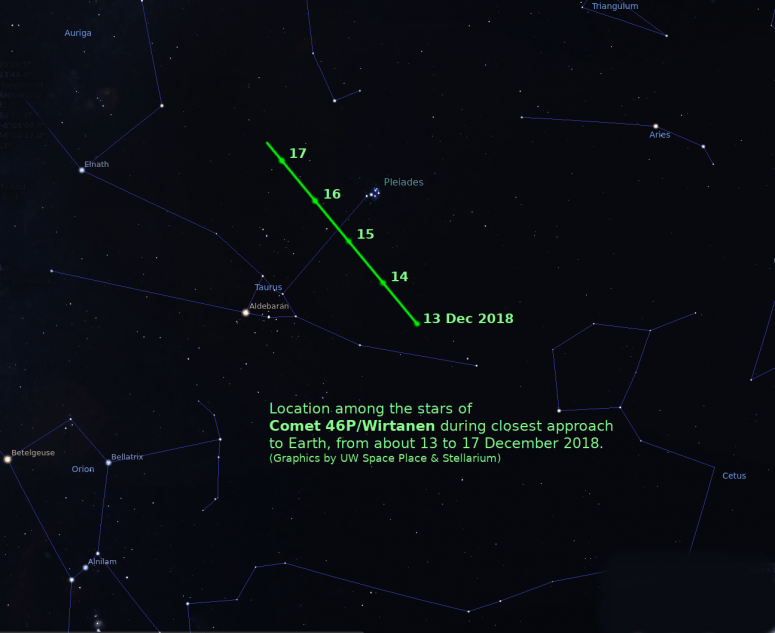
Regardless, “even if it does not reach naked eye brightness, it will still be a great object to view with binoculars or a small telescope,” the University of Maryland explains. Wirtanen, named after its discoverer, the astronomer [**Carl A. Wirtanen**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_A._Wirtanen), is a “hyperactive” comet, meaning it produces more water in its tail than most comets its size. That makes it more likely to be bright. In any case, try to find the darkest spot you can with [**this dark sky finder**](https://darksitefinder.com/map/) app.

### The path of comet 46P/Wirtanen

On the night of December 16, you can look for Wirtanen near the constellation Taurus (the bull) high up in the Southeastern sky. I recommend downloading a smartphone astronomy app like [**Sky Guide**](https://www.google.com/search?q=skyguide+app&oq=skyguide+app&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l5.2414j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8) to know exactly where to look in your area. These apps use your phone’s GPS to show you where objects are in the night sky.

Sky Guide

And here’s how it will move across the sky over the next several nights.



The comet passes by Earth every 5.4 years. But this weekend might be the best time to view it in a lifetime. “This will be the closest comet Wirtanen has come to Earth for centuries and the closest it will come to Earth for centuries,” Paul Chodas, a scientist at NASA’s Center for Near-Earth Object Studies, said in a press [**statement**](https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?release=2018-289).

Scientists are excited to observe the comet as it approaches. It’s a comet that regularly comes close enough to the Earth that one day we [**could**](http://wirtanen.astro.umd.edu/46P/index.shtml) send a spacecraft to rendezvous with it. (It was actually the original target of the Rosetta mission launch by the European Space Agency. Rosetta ended up orbiting the comet [**67P/Churyumov–Gerasimenko**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/67P/Churyumov%E2%80%93Gerasimenko).)

Comets are believed to be leftover material from the formation of our solar system. Understanding them better helps us better understand how star systems form.

And if you miss the comet on Sunday, don’t fear. It’s should also be visible for a few more nights.

**The NC Ballot and Voter ID**

There was something on the ballot in North Carolina in 2018 that the press doesn’t want to talk about. It was overwhelmingly passed by the voters. The ballot asked for a State Constitutional amendment asking for photo ID to vote in the State. The State Congress and Senate passed it, but the State’s new Democrat governor vetoed it. Does that surprise anyone? Well, not so fast.

Republican leaders in North Carolina’s GOP-dominated General Assembly vowed late Friday to override Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper’s veto of a state voter identification bill.

Earlier Friday, Cooper said no to the legislation, which more than 55 percent of the state’s voters had approved in a recent referendum.

The referendum called for the state’s constitution to add an amendment requiring in-person voter photo ID.

“Requiring photo IDs for in-person voting is a solution in search of a problem,” Cooper said in a statement.

But state Republicans saw the governor’s action as a rejection of the will of state residents.

“We are disappointed that Gov. Cooper chose to ignore the will of the people and reject a commonsense election integrity measure that is common in most states, but the North Carolina House will override his veto as soon as possible,” state House Speaker Tim Moore said in a statement.

We are disappointed that Gov. Cooper chose to ignore the will of the people and reject a commonsense election integrity measure that is common in most states, but the North Carolina House will override his veto as soon as possible.

**"We are disappointed that Gov. Cooper chose to ignore the will of the people and reject a commonsense election integrity measure that is common in most states."**

— North Carolina House Speaker Tim Moore

“Despite the governor's personal feelings on voter ID, the fact remains that the constitutional amendment passed with a broad mandate from North Carolinians," GOP Senate leader Phil Berger added, calling Cooper's arguments a “tired rehash of unconvincing talking points rejected by the voters.”

[View image on Twitter](https://twitter.com/SenatorBerger/status/1073934447760867330/photo/1)

[](https://twitter.com/SenatorBerger/status/1073934447760867330/photo/1)

The voters made their preference clear on Election Day that they want voter ID in their constitution and we plan to override Governor Cooper's veto [#ncga](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ncga?src=hash) [#ncpol](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ncpol?src=hash)

[Twitter Ads info and privacy](https://support.twitter.com/articles/20175256)

Republicans hold veto-proof majorities in both the House and Senate in North Carolina, so an override would succeed if GOP lawmakers remain united on the issue. Votes could occur next week. GOP lawmakers are acting now because, come January, they will no longer have supermajorities because of Democratic gains made on Election Day.

The bill would expand the number of qualifying forms of ID and exceptions compared to legislation blocked earlier this decade. Republicans say the changes will ensure that everyone lawfully registered to vote can cast a ballot.

Permitted IDs would include traditional driver's licenses and military identification, student IDs from colleges and universities, and employee ID cards for state and local governments. Those IDs must meet certain security thresholds.

There also would be a new, free, photo voter identification card produced by county election boards. People having trouble obtaining an ID could fill out forms at the polling site, and their ballots likely would be counted too.

Democratic legislators acknowledge that voter ID rules are necessary because of the referendum, but they say the details are being rushed, are complex and will prevent some minorities and poor people from voting.

Cooper’s veto came at the urging of groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Common Cause NC, Equality NC and the Washington-based Campus Vote Project of the Fair Elections Center, the News & Observer of Raleigh reported.

The governor suggested that the integrity of absentee ballots was a greater concern for the state.

"Instead, the real election problem is votes harvested illegally through absentee ballots, which this proposal fails to fix," he said, referencing an investigation of alleged absentee ballot fraud in the state's 9th Congressional District in November's election.

He added that the bill's fundamental flaw was a "sinister and cynical" attempt to suppress the voting rights of minorities, the poor, and the elderly.

Federal judges struck down a 2013 state law that included photo ID and other voting restrictions, ruling they were approved with intentional racial discrimination in mind. Republicans strongly disagreed and put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to give them more legal and popular standing to require voter ID.

**The Great Social Security Affair**

Social Security was first introduced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and since its inception both parties have continually violated the original terms of the FICA contract, but one political party alone stands out.

What started out as a program with voluntary participation became mandatory for all. Money was at first put into an independent trust fund to be used for retiree annuities only. The very year it looked like the fund was actually strong enough to provide the workers who paid into it a decent and perpetual retirement, the Democrats used their power to move the money into the general funds to be used to fund all other government programs. They immediately began buying votes with the money.

For years, only American citizens could receive payments upon retirement, provided they had paid into the system for a certain amount of time. That was reversed as soon as Democrats began losing elections and saw that their largest constituent was not American citizens, but in fact was populated with foreign citizens not under our jurisdiction. In other words, illegal aliens. Now, any immigrant coming into the U.S. and reaching the age of 65 is eligible to start receiving SS annuities, even if they have never paid into the system. No wonder it is going broke.

These violations of the original contract were brought about by the likes of FDR, LBJ, Carter, Gore and Clinton, and Obama; all Democrats. The fund has gone broke twice, and it is in danger of becoming insolvent again by 2030. That means there will be no money left from the trillions paid into the system by workers who actually pay the social security tax.

The Democrats, the same violators of the public trust, and their Political Action Committee the fake stream news, have the audacity to tell the American people that it is the Republicans who are trying to take away Social Security from us all. The most frustrating thing is that low-information voters continue to believe this fascist propaganda. The party of open borders, illegal immigration, sanctuary cities, open disregard for law enforcement, abortion on demand, unchecked welfare abuse and fraud is going to take control of the very committees that write these laws.

They have one goal and one goal only. That goal is to register and motivate as many foreign citizens as possible so that they can remove Donald Trump from office. That, my Earth Explorers, is meddling in our election system. That is collusion. That is revolution and sedition.

**Americans are using less cash**, with roughly 29% of adults making no purchases with physical currency during a typical week, [according to the Pew Research Center](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/12/12/more-americans-are-making-no-weekly-purchases-with-cash/). That's up from 24% in 2015. And more Americans are comfortable walking around without cash — 53% try to keep currency on hand, down from 60% in 2015. The shift comes as businesses increasingly go cashless. [Critics argue this trend hurts low-income Americans — particularly the unbanked](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cashless-retailers-penalize-the-poor-critics-say/) — who use cash much more regularly than wealthier households, according to Pew.

Lawmakers in New York City and New Jersey are working to pass bills that would require retailers to accept cash, alleging that the growing cashless trend discriminates against low-income customers.

Low-income, minority and less-educated households are more likely to have no bank accounts or rely on financial products that come from outside the banking system. People who defend cashless commerce cite greater convenience for customers and lower risks for businesses.

Although mobile payments and digital banking products are on the rise, many Americans still do not use a credit or debit card. Roughly 7 percent of U.S. households, or 8.4 million, are unbanked, meaning that no one in the household possesses a checking or savings account, according to a 2017 survey by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Another 19 percent are underbanked, indicating that they have a bank account but still rely on financial products such as payday loans.

"Cash-free businesses are discriminatory by design," tweeted New York City Councilman Ritchie Torres, a Democrat, who introduced a bill last month that would prohibit retailers from refusing to accept cash payments. Businesses would be fined $250 for their first violation and $500 for each subsequent violation under the measure.

The fines would be 10 times higher in New Jersey, with businesses having to pay $2,500 for their first violation and up to $5,000 for subsequent offenses. The New Jersey Senate Commerce Committee voted Dec. 3 to advance the bill, which was passed by the state Assembly in June and will now be voted on by the full state Senate.

Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia have considered similar measures, but none have been signed into law yet.

"We live in a society where it's not enough to stigmatize poverty," Torres said in an interview with food news site Grub Street. "We are also going to stigmatize the means with which poor people pay for goods and services."

National chains, including DryBar hair salons and Sweetgreen salad restaurants, and local shops alike are part of the growing cashless wave. Businesses say that their decisions to stop accepting cash are rooted in purely financial motives, such as discouraging would-be robbers, shortening transaction times at the register and reducing banking fees.

Danny Meyer — founder of Shake Shack and owner of Union Square Hospitality Group, which includes several New York restaurants — defended his restaurants' shift toward cashless in a blog post on LinkedIn.

"We might be inconveniencing guests who simply don't have their credit/debit on them at the time," he wrote. Still, the benefits "outweighed the unintended side-effects for a small segment of our guests."

However, some business owners have hinted at more discriminatory intentions behind going cashless. Tony Zazula, owner of the now-closed Commerce restaurant in New York, explained his reasons for going cashless in a 2009 interview with the The Wall Street Journal.

"If you don't have a credit card, you can use a debit card. If you don't have a debit card, you probably don't have a checking account. And if you don't have a checking account, you probably shouldn't be eating at Commerce to begin with," Zazula said.

A vote on the bill in New Jersey had been delayed since September due to pushback from Amazon, which is working to expand its cashless Amazon Go stores, according to a report by The Philadelphia Inquirer. The company recently selected the Long Island City neighborhood in Queens for its second headquarters, increasing its presence in New York City. An Amazon spokesperson declined to comment on the proposed cashless ban.

Credit card companies, which receive a fee on each transaction, have been actively working to speed the transition to a cashless society. Last year, Visa declared a "war on cash" and offered $10,000 to small businesses if they stopped accepting it.

"This credit card company-led initiative underscores that the intended beneficiary of a cashless practice is not necessarily the customer," reads an ordinance proposed last year in Chicago that targets cashless businesses.

Proponents of a ban argue that cashless businesses also discriminate against children without bank accounts, as well as people who would rather use cash for data security reasons. Last month, Marriott revealed that the personal details of 500 million customers had been accessed by hackers, including credit card information. The data breach was one of the largest in history. Cash has never been hacked. Cash is the best way to stay free and to keep your identity private. However, cash is the currency of crime, according to the Democrats. They want to control you. They want to be able to seize your money if you do not support them. Receiving payments in cash is seen by the Democrats as a violation of their Fascist system of total domination of your speech. If they can control your currency, they can control your speech.

By the way, Rep.-elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) on Thursday said she is interested in a seat on the powerful House committee overseeing the financial sector. Ocasio-Cortez told Hill.TV in an interview Thursday that she’s "looking at" serving on the House Financial Services Committee, which leads congressional regulation and supervision of U.S. banks, lenders, insurers and housing industry.

The Financial Services panel is one of the most sought-after House committees. It’s members wield significant influence over Washington’s relationship with Wall Street, and the panel offers access to millions of dollars in financial sector campaign donations.

The committee is also is expected to lead several investigations into President Trump’s personal finances, along with potential connections between his businesses and Russian oligarchs.

"I think with our district, we can be ambitious, so we're kind of swinging for the fences on committees," Ocasio-Cortez said. "We might as well ask for something big."

The number one target of her agenda is the destruction of easy access to investment capital. What does that mean? It means that organizations like GoFundMe, KickStarter, and Indigogo will be targeted for destruction. The Democrats cannot control people if they can start their own businesses and compete against their campaign donors. The movement and earning of money is the single most powerful method the Democrats have for destroying their political enemies. Just ask Donald Trump.

**Naples Volcano about to Contribute to Global Cooling**

New research indicates that a volcano near Naples, Italy might be in the early stages of gearing up for an eruption large enough to change the area’s landscape.

The [study, published today](http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/4/11/eaat9401) in Science Advances, may be of particular interest to the 1.5 million people living within the bounds of the volcanic complex. Fortunately for them, there’s no indication that this massive event will happen any time soon. Volcanic eruptions like this can take thousands of years to develop, and there’s no way for volcanologists to tell when, or even if, this particular type of eruption will occur. Still, it’s a fascinating and rare look at the innards of one of the most dramatic phenomena on Earth.

In the study, researchers found that molten rock (magma) under the Campi Flegrei volcano could be slowly building up toward a massive eruption, one big enough to carve out a huge depression on the landscape called a caldera.

Since 1912, only [seven caldera-collapsing events](http://science.sciencemag.org/content/353/6296/aaf8988) have occurred worldwide. Campi Flegrei has had at least two huge caldera-forming eruptions in its history, including one 39,000 years ago that sent nearly 48 cubic miles of magma roiling onto the surface, and another one 15,000 years ago that released 9.6 cubic miles of magma. The latter formed the current caldera at Campi Flegrei, which is [more than eight miles across](https://volcano.si.edu/volcano.cfm?vn=211010).

Today the caldera is home to a regional park, towns, suburbs of Naples, and a cratered surface that occasionally trembles with earthquakes and sends belches of sulfurous gas into the air.

THE CURRENT CALDERA AT CAMPI FLEGREI IS [MORE THAN EIGHT MILES ACROSS](https://volcano.si.edu/volcano.cfm?vn=211010)

For this study, researchers examined rocks from these caldera-forming eruptions — and 21 smaller eruptions from the same volcano — to pinpoint how the reservoirs of magma underneath Campi Flegrei changed over time.

“Understanding what the melt is doing below the surface is so important for helping us forecast what volcanoes might do in the future,” Janine Krippner, a volcanologist at Concord University in West Virginia says. Krippner was not involved in the research. “It’s really stunning research to see all of this data over all these eruptions being looked at to tell a story.”

“Campi Flegrei is very special,” lead author and volcanologist Francesca Forni says. Forni started looking into the caldera-forming cycles at Campi Flegrei as a PhD student at ETH Zürich. To geologists, these two caldera-forming events happened relatively recently, in the past 60,000 years.

That “young” age means that the rocks Forni was looking at were still relatively fresh, and hadn’t gone through damaging cycles of deformation and erosion, which might have destroyed valuable data. As it was, Campi Flegrei offered an extraordinary opportunity to look at the relatively new idea of cycles of caldera formation.

“In the past, many studies at Campi Flegrei were focused on single eruption or limited period of activity. This is the first study that takes into account the magmatic evolution of the system” Forni says.

IN 1538 AN ERUPTION BUILT UP A [403-FOOT-TALL](http://www.geo.mtu.edu/volcanoes/boris/mirror/mirrored_html/Montenuovo.html) HILL IN A SINGLE WEEK

The last time that the Campi Flegrei volcano had a significant eruption was in 1538 when an eruption built up a [403-foot-tall](http://www.geo.mtu.edu/volcanoes/boris/mirror/mirrored_html/Montenuovo.html) hill in a single week. The hill became known as Monte Nuovo, or “new mountain.” Forni’s research indicates that the conditions at that eruption were similar to those that preceded the caldera-forming eruption.

“Generally, magmas want to erupt. They don’t like to accumulate in the crust.” Forni says. So conditions like temperature, pressure, gas content, and the presence of water all have to be just right for enough magma to build up and eventually form a caldera. Forni thinks that those conditions may have been met after the 1538 eruption, meaning the volcano could have kicked off another caldera cycle at that time.

But time is a tricky thing when you’re dealing with cycles that endure far longer than any human lifespan.

“We don’t have any constraints at the moment about time,” Forni says. “We don’t know when it will erupt in the future.” They know that the previous caldera cycle took 21,000 years, but there are no guarantees that the next one will take the same amount of time. There’s also a possibility that the volcano could simply go extinct before it creates another caldera. Without more data, there’s currently no way to tell.

“Volcanos are not clocks, either in terms of time, or behavior,” Forni says.

“VOLCANOS ARE NOT CLOCKS”

That doesn’t mean that people shouldn’t do their best to prepare for the potential hazard of a caldera-forming eruption.

“These really big eruptions are extremely low probability,” Krippner says. “But if it does happen, we need to know as much as we can.” This study adds to that growing body of knowledge about Campi Flegrei.

Krippner and Forni both emphasize that Campi Flegrei’s activity is extremely closely monitored by local authorities. They also point out that emergency planners are constantly on the lookout for much smaller signs of eruptive activity at the volcano. Preparing for future eruptions, whether they are caldera-forming colossuses or something far smaller, is a fact of life for the people who live in the area.

“Because there is a city built in this caldera, even small eruptions can be very destructive,” Krippner says. “There are 800 million people living near volcanos around the world, and in this case, they’re living inside of one.”