



Trump Administration Initiatives and NYS & Local Initiatives, Policy and Laws

Kingston, NY

a/o 3/19/17

The following are the initiatives set forth by President-Elect Donald Trump's administration for his first 100 days in office. It is our intention over time to outline the context of these initiatives to the best of our ability, using existing and original materials. From there and together for our ongoing efforts, our group will identify local and NYS initiatives, policies and laws in 2017 to help organize a baseline of knowledge as to what is in place in NYS, Ulster County and the City of Kingston. If you wish to contribute any local/NYS laws or policy that pertain to the following, please write to Rebecca Martin at: rebecca@kingstoncitizens.org or you may 'comment' next to your selected item in this Google document.

This document is an initiative of KingstonCitizens.org and is made possible by many volunteer contributors living in Kingston, NY and the surrounding communities of the Hudson Valley Region.

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“In our system of government, [Congress makes the laws](#) and the President implements them. By practice rather than constitutional design, the President, over time, has become responsible for introducing laws to Congress. Typically, a member of Congress will introduce the legislation to the chamber on behalf of the President. It is important to note that Article II defining the powers of the President are few and abstract. Most of the powers that have accrued to the executive branch are extra-constitutional and only develop with the presidency of FDR. The framers never intended the executive branch to become "imperial" in the words of Arthur Schlesinger. Instead, the framers saw the executive branch as largely an administrative position. Throughout American history we have had cycles of legislative and then executive branch dominance. Of all the branches, the framers feared that the legislative branch would dominate all the others. This is why Article I is the longest and most detailed. As many scholars have noted, it is now the executive branch that dominates the others.”

For your review:

[VIEW:](#) *INDIVISIBLE: Best practices for making Congress listen.*

[VIEW:](#) *List of United States federal executive orders 13765 and above: Donald J. Trump*

[VIEW:](#) *25-year Repository of Declassified CIA Documents (for research)*

[VIEW:](#) *The Rise Citizen Guide: Ten Steps To Take To Save Healthcare*

[VIEW:](#) *Internet Archive*

[VIEW:](#) *Daily Acts of Resistance*

[VIEW:](#) *Tracking Trump's first 100 days (Associated Press)*

TEMPLATE

What is the Trump Administration's Motivation?

Briefly identifying Trump's motivation with each initiative.

Context

Placing the initiative into context in a national, state or local light.

NYS Initiatives

What NYS initiatives are currently underway?

NYS Policies & Laws

What policies and NYS laws are in place?

Ulster County (UC) and City of Kingston (COK) Initiatives

What Ulster County and City of Kingston initiatives are currently underway?

UC and COK Policies & Local Laws

What policies and local laws are in place?

Related Articles and Video

Compelling articles and video on the item.

Making Connections

Who can I contact to collaborate with that is already working on this initiative?

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On Civil Society and Democratic Norms

By Dr. Lynn Eckert

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“One of the issues this document doesn’t discuss is the importance of civil society and reinforcing democratic norms. These items might seem theoretical but are nonetheless important to consider. One of the most devastating aspects of Trump’s campaign is that he has significantly eroded democratic norms and will likely continue to do so over the course of his term in office. This document discusses the more tangible adverse effects of Trump’s initiatives such as gutting the EPA: those effects are observable and measurable. Despite less visibility, the erosion of democratic norms are by far the most nefarious and far-reaching. I’ll start with the abstract and then discuss how we might combat the corrosion of democratic norms.

Democracy only thrives under certain preconditions and those preconditions are organic and fragile. Undermine the preconditions and you’ve thwarted democracy. One of those preconditions is a healthy civil society, which is the space between the formal institutions of government and private life. In civil society, we find civic associations like political parties, businesses, interest groups, the PTA, the Elks, Little League, etc. Those groups teach citizens important skills essential to functioning in a democracy. In these groups like the PTA, we meet neighbors from different class backgrounds, different religions, different ethnicities and races, and different sexual orientations. We come together, despite our differences, with a common goal. By virtue of membership in the group, we bridge differences by getting to know one another and interacting. Through that interaction, a bond develops, a sense of trust. Membership and participation also leads us to take a hermeneutic leap — to place ourselves in the position of the other in an attempt to understand their worldview. When we join groups and interact with one another across differences, we’re less likely to have a polarized society: it becomes easier to

compromise as we moderate our views based on our knowledge of the other. Democratic norms — values that help democracy work — require us to know one another, to trust one another even when we differ, and to respect one another. A healthy respect for one another often develops unselfconsciously through our membership in civic associations.

Political scientists like Robert Putnam have noted for some time that civil society in the United States is in deep trouble. To reiterate, if democracy is to thrive, we must have a healthy civil society, which is comprised of groups (civic associations). Groups socialize citizens to live and participate in a democracy. They teach us how to bridge our differences, how to engage in civil debate, how to manage disagreement respectfully, and ultimately, how to compromise. Yet, in the United States, memberships in groups is declining precipitously. The decline in group membership among citizens is one measure of a declining civil society, without which democracy fails. Civil society, through group membership, teaches us vital democratic norms.

How does all of this relate to Trump? First, Trump comes to office at a time when the US has experienced a massive redistribution of wealth from the middle class to the wealthiest 1% of the population. No democracy has ever survived without a robust middle class. Moreover, democracy cannot survive an extensive wealth gap. Plato, Aristotle and Machiavelli (just to name a few) tell us that extremes in wealth undermine democracy by corroding norms essential to self-governance. Extremes in wealth lead to greater polarization, less compromise, less moderation, less respect. Trump's supply side tax cuts will further exacerbate wealth inequality. Such wealth inequality leads to kleptocracy. Wealth inequality, then, further undermines civil society, and more specifically, undermines democratic norms.

Second, Trump's campaign and his conduct since becoming President-elect also deeply threaten civil society, and more specifically, democratic norms. Trump has unleashed unprecedented racism, sexism, homophobia and xenophobia. Through his Twitter account, he has unleashed attacks on private citizens who have been critical of his administration. These Twitter attacks have led the alt-right to engage in intimidation and harassment of ordinary people. During these

attacks, Trump has never apologized or spoken out against such intimidating behavior. By tacitly endorsing these alt-right tactics, Trump is corroding democratic norms of trust, respect, compromise, moderation and an understanding of the other. He is attempting to silence anyone who disagrees. When civil society is silent, when people fear speaking up, we have lost democracy. Another crucial function of civil society in addition to socializing citizens is to provide a bulwark or defense against the overreach of government. Government can't perform that bulwark function if people are too intimidated to speak, if they fear harassment of themselves and their family. Russia, for example, has a cancerous civil society, in part, because it doesn't provide a bulwark against government overreach. When citizens or groups in civil society, such as journalists, speak out, they are literally imprisoned, killed, or harassed into silence. Free speech and keeping government from abusing its power are interrelated and central to the functions of civil society.

Trump, if he follows through on his promises, will exacerbate income inequality, attack democratic norms, and worsen polarization in the US. Moreover, civil society could become so weakened and fearful that it no longer performs as a safeguard or sentry against governmental abuse of power.

One way to inoculate civil society against Trump is through the strengthening of organizations like KingstonCitizens.org. We need to meet, get engaged, and cross lines in the community to better know one another. Moreover, we need to stand up against bullies who attempt to silence through threats, intimidation, harassment and cruelty. A civil respect for opponents is the only way for democracy to work. When local blogs insult and harass citizens who attempt to petition local government for change, we must all stand up and unite to shut down the bully. Much more is at stake than simply defending one person. Civil disrespect starts locally and builds its way to the national level.

We must also pursue policies that will make life easier for the poor, working, and middle classes. They are scared and that leads to polarization, discord, distrust and anger. When the context is

one of discord, it is much harder to govern. A healthy civil society leads citizens to freely choose norms of respect and to find common ground despite differences. An unhealthy civil society makes it very difficult to solve political problems because we find no common ground.

Supporting policies like the [Alms House](#), free public college tuition for those making under \$125,000 a year, universal healthcare in NY State, better and cheaper public transportation, etc. will help relieve some of the middle class' burdens. Neoliberalism has radically threatened the health of civil society. We have to create and support policies that strengthen the middle class and revive civil society. When civil society is healthy, seemingly intractable political problems become solvable. Without a healthy civil society, democracy - the norms that support and maintain it - fails."

KingstonCitizens.org: Eight-part Community Educational Forum Series in 2017

[Part I: "On Constitutional Law"](#)

[Part II: "On Climate Change, Energy and Infrastructure"](#)

[Part III: "On Immigration"](#)

[Part IV: "On Public Education"](#)

Part V: "On Women's Issues" [Part one](#) [Part two](#)

[Part VI: "On Economics"](#)

~~Part VII: "On Strategic Organizing: Looking Forward"~~

~~Part VIII: "On Local and NYS Clean Energy"~~

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Term Limits

[Propose a Constitutional Amendment to impose term limits on all members of Congress.](#)

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

Imposing term limits on Congress might have been proposed due to Trump having promised his

supporters to “Drain the Swamp”. It is unlikely that the Republican party would allow this to occur.

CONTEXT:

“Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, long an opponent of term limits, threw cold water on this idea Wednesday, saying “it will not be on the agenda in the Senate” and “I would say we have term limits now — they’re called elections.” A constitutional amendment must be proposed by Congress or a constitutional convention (the latter has never happened). Since the president does not have a constitutional role in the amendment process, this is not likely to happen without Senate leadership on board.” - Amita Kelly, NPR

Term limits could be useful, however one could make the argument that institutional knowledge is extremely valuable. Leveling the playing field might be a better first step in making elections transparent and fair, including: a) Push for campaign finance reform to make campaigns publically financed and eliminate campaign contributions. b) Reform NYS redistricting to avoid ‘gerrymandered’ districts that would favor one party or another. Incumbency rates are extremely high in NYC, not generally reflecting where the public truly is.

NYS INITIATIVES:

1. Host Zephyr Teachout to discuss campaign finance reform to insist on transparency and to discuss how citizens can be effective in NYS on the matter.
2. In 2012, Governor Cuomo announced the “passage of a constitutional amendment and legal statute that reforms the redistricting process in NYS by putting an end to partisan and incumbent-protection gerrymandering.” Citizens can support Cuomo’s “Independent Redistricting Commission” requiring “the appointment of an independent redistricting commission to draw the district lines, consisting of ten members: two appointees by each of the four legislative leaders and two appointees selected by at least five of those eight members. Neither of the latter two members shall have been enrolled members of either of the two major

political parties in New York State in the last five years and at least one appointee made by either the Assembly or Senate minority leader must approve those two members. Accordingly, the commission's composition will ensure unprecedented and substantial roles in drawing the district lines for both the minority party conferences and for citizens who are not major party members. seeking sound and new solutions (such as using computer models) to create competitive districts.” Redistricting is to occur next in 2020 - 2022.

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

Same as NYS (See above).

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. Lawrence Lessig “[A Radical Fix for the Republic](#)”

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

[Citizen Action NY](#), [League of Women Voters Mid Hudson Valley](#), [SWING LEFT](#)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Employees

[A hiring freeze on all federal employees to reduce federal workforce through attrition \(exempting military, public safety, and public health\).](#)

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S MOTIVATION?

Trump is in favor of reducing the size of government. Smaller size government means a lack of personnel to enforce regulations. Additionally, it’s an easy way to show you’re not increasing the budget. “Union busting” Government unions tend to vote Democrat.

CONTEXT:

*“According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), there are some 2.75 million civilian federal employees as of November (2016?) That includes 593,000 Postal Service workers. The number of federal workers has remained fairly stable during the Obama administration and is in fact as low as it has been since the mid-1960s. The federal workforce did grow a bit early on in the Obama administration, largely owing to increased hiring at the departments of Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs. Trump wants to exempt public safety employees from a freeze, and if he wants to hire more Immigration and Customs Enforcement patrol officers, it seems unlikely he will be able to shrink the federal workforce much through attrition, as retirement rates average around 3.5 percent a year, according to a Government Accountability Office [report](#). Still, that report says some 600,000 federal employees will be eligible to retire as of next September (2017?). Trump’s efforts to freeze the federal workforce are likely to find support on Capitol Hill. Republicans have proposed shrinking the number of federal employees by as much as 10 percent.” - **Brian Naylor, NPR***

NYS INITIATIVES:**NYS POLICIES & LAWS:****ULSTER COUNTY (UC) & CITY OF KINGSTON (COK) INITIATIVES:**

Government is complex, and the public benefits from the institutional security which transparency can provide. In [Kingston with its “Strong Mayor” form of government](#), the community may have an entirely new administration with or without continuity every four years. Kingston may benefit from exploring the different forms of government that exist or at the very least, consider updating the [City of Kingston’s Charter](#) for more clarification and detail.

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:**RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:**

1. **Washington Post:** [VIEW](#) "Before Trump rushes to impose a freeze, he should take time to consult history. Required reading should be “Recent Government-Wide Hiring Freezes Prove Ineffective in Managing Federal Employment.” Published by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in 1982, this report examines hiring freezes imposed by former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan."

More: "Before Trump proceeds, he needs to know, as the GAO does, that freezes caused staffing problems, damaged recruiting efforts, disrupted government operations and lost money owed Uncle Sam." Carter and Reagan freezes led to the loss of 445 IRS revenue agent and auditor

More: "Here's one more item from the GAO report for Trump to ponder. Because the staff-years, the amount of tax dollars lost to the government was more than 20 times the amount saved in salary and benefits."

2. **KingstonCitizens.org:** "[How Kingston Got Its Strong Mayor Form of Government](#)"

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Regulations

A requirement that for every new federal regulation, two existing regulations must be eliminated.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

Trump believes that too many regulations stifle business and innovation. It's a consistent Republican narrative.

CONTEXT:

"Reducing the number of federal regulations is an unending quest for Republicans in Congress and conservative groups, which charge that "regulations hurt businesses and slow economic growth". The Competitive Enterprise Institute, which tracks the number of pages in the Federal Register, [reports](#) it is up to 79,380 for the year, with a month and a half to go. So where to start for President-elect Trump, who at one campaign stop said 70 percent of regulations "can go"?"

One likely place: the environment. An EPA power plant rule aims to cut carbon emissions by nearly a third by 2030. Trump couldn't simply veto the regulation although Congress could vote to overturn it. But a Trump administration could certainly weaken enforcement of the standard. The banking sector is another place for Trump to focus. During the campaign he said he wanted to "get rid of" the Dodd-Frank law that reshaped the banking industry after the 2008 recession. If repealing the entire law seems a heavy lift, one possibility would be to try to eliminate the so-called Volcker rule, which prohibits banks from making risky investments. Republicans make no secret of their dislike of the recent Federal Communications Commission ruling that protects net neutrality. The Trump administration could also attempt to repeal a regulation that makes more workers eligible for overtime."

- Brian Naylor, NPR

Republicans believe that government is too big, and the best kind of government is administrative at best. They believe the ideology of the "market correcting all wrongs" and/or bad behavior. For those reasons, they feel that regulations are unnecessary.

The housing bubble and its disastrous result in 2008 proves this theory to be flawed. Rep. Mark Meadows (R-N.C.), the incoming chairman of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, has "offered Donald Trump a list of 232 regulations that the incoming president could repeal immediately" including the FDA all together to leave drugs unregulated.

The public and corporations are not on an equal playing field when regulations are considered unnecessary. Corporations have information that the people do not, and this information can be distorted by lobbying, etc. Trump appears to want to gut the regulatory and information-sharing processes even further.

Deregulating could lead to privatization of public assets such as bridges, roads, infrastructure and water. Prices then can become unstable, as companies can charge whatever they wish.

Privatization of public assets is ‘regressive’ because people with lower incomes are impacted the most.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS could turn to initiatives already in place in progressive cities and states such as California (sixth largest economy in the world). Because of their wealth/success, they outpace the regulatory arm of the federal government and help to set better standards for the US. In San Francisco, for example, the city placed an extra \$12 per year on property taxes and used that money to protect the Bay against the effects of climate change. It took ten years, but the public had become frustrated to see on-the-ground erosion due to climate change and were willing to bypass the federal government to do something about it.

In NYS and in Kingston, we can continue to put into place regulations that demand transparency as they pertain to business, food, etc. The challenge here is that such transparency can act as a double-edge sword as some corporations may choose to go elsewhere, i.e., where regulations are less stringent. Given our global economy, some believe that an international policy needs to be set in place for this very reason.

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES: Identify “Quality of life” laws (i.e.: Comprehensive Plan - Comp Plan Zoning), etc.

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

NOTES:

“In March, 2016, Trump [promised to make major budget cuts to the EPA](#) and to “get rid of [EPA] in almost every form. We are going to have little tidbits left but we are going to take a tremendous amount out.” [\[73\]](#)

DeSmog noted that earlier in August, climate change denier [Kathleen Hartnett-White](#), director of the energy and environment project at the [Texas Public Policy Foundation \(TPPF\)](#) joined Trump's “Economic Advisory team.” A [post-election chart provided to Politico](#) confirmed that Ebell would be managing Trump's EPA transition team. [\[64\]](#) , [\[72\]](#)”

[Who is Myron Ebell?](#)

[Biography of Myron Ebell, Director of Trump EPA Transition](#): Earlier in his career Ebell was Policy Director for [Frontiers of Freedom](#), which among other things advocates for extremely limited federal government and taxation, and as lobbyist for the National Inholders Association (now American Land Rights Association), part of the national “Wise Use” property rights movement.

The Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), which Ebell worked for as [Director of Energy and Environment](#), is heavily funded by the fossil fuel industry.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Lobbying

A 5- year-ban on White House and Congressional officials becoming lobbyists after they leave government service.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

“Trump’s pledge to place a five-year ban on senior White House officials from becoming lobbyists has been applauded by good government groups and others, who have criticized the so-called revolving door through which people pass from government to become corporate lobbyists and back again. Trump wants Congress to pass legislation to enact the White House ban into law, so it can’t be reversed by future presidents. Trump also called on Congress to institute its own ban to prohibit lawmakers and their staffs from lobbying for five years. That may be a tough request for Congress, where plum lobbying jobs are seen as a payoff for the sacrifice of public service.” - Brian Naylor, NPR

You have the right to earn a living. A five year ban won't pass legal muster. The law he proposes has no teeth and it's unenforceable. Even if you have been a lobbyist, in the case of a Trump cabinet, as long as you renounce your lobbying, you may work for Trump.

Instead, make lobbying a transparent process and require that gifts are documented in a public registry (how much and where they went). Create a paper trail. Slapping transparency laws on lobbying will go a long way.

NYS INITIATIVES:

With corruption in NYS government, cleaning up each level is in the public good. NYS could begin by reforming the NYS Ethics Law.

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

[NYS Ethics Law](#).

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

The City of Kingston's ethics law is fairly new. Some believe it was written in haste. More work/reform is necessary.

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

[City of Kingston Ethics Law](#)

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. [Politico](#): “Lobbyists scoff at Trump's five-year ban. Insiders say it will scare off top talent and encourage unregistered 'shadow lobbying’.”

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

NOTES:

Federal law states there is a seven year ban on Military officials serving in the cabinet.

Therefore, Trump needs to get Congressional approval for three of his appointments).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Lobbying/Ban on US - Foreign

[A lifetime ban on White House officials lobbying on behalf of a foreign government.](#)

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

This would go directly against Trump’s interests and Trump himself is breaking this one as president. This is another election ploy and more of his ‘Drain the Swamp’ rhetoric. It might be unconstitutional to ban lobbying for a lifetime, as one has the right to work. A less complicated way to ‘drain the swamp’ would be through transparency in campaign contributions, for instance, and disallowing individual contributors from hiding behind a corporation. It should be mandatory that contributors are made public: who they are and how much they have contributed. In that way, individuals, corporations and organizations can be held accountable and we can evaluate potential conflicts of interest.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:**UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:****MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Lobbying/Ban on Foreign - US

[A complete ban on foreign lobbyists raising money for American elections.](#)

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?**CONTEXT:**

It's against the law for foreigners to contribute to US campaigns. Entanglement with multinational corporations and super-PACs, however, challenges how one would ever know. This brings us back to the conversation about needing to eliminate private campaign contributions to elections. Large donors can hide behind corporations, and there can be no consequence for negative actions taken (issue ads, etc.) because we do not know who they are.

NYS INITIATIVES:

Perhaps an end to [Citizens United](#)

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:**UC & COK INITIATIVES:****UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:**

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

As it relates to Citizens United: Santa Clara County vs. Southern Pacific Railroad Co. [VIEW](#)

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

TRADE: NAFTA

[I will announce my intention to renegotiate NAFTA or withdraw from the deal under Article 2205.](#)

[Article 2205](#) (Escape Clause) “A Party may withdraw from this Agreement six months after it provides written notice of withdrawal to the other Parties. If a Party withdraws, the Agreement shall remain in force for the remaining Parties.”

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S MOTIVATION?

Another election ploy to appeal to middle America. The public wants to blame NAFTA for their jobs disappearing, however this is a larger and much more complicated conversation about economics. Trump has properties (and other business interests) all over the world, so his stance here would directly impact him (an unprecedented matter). Although Trump has the power to do so, it would take six months (see Article 2205 “Escape Clause” above) from when he wrote it to it being enacted, and Congress could change legislation during this time period.

CONTEXT:

“Renegotiating NAFTA ‘would not be a trivial matter,’ said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University. The agreement, approved by Congress more than two decades ago, ties together the economies of the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Changing it would hurt many U.S. businesses and farmers that have well-established supply chains and distribution systems based on it. Still, Trump could significantly [undermine NAFTA](#) by using his administration’s enforcement mechanisms to hassle companies, ‘making life potentially difficult’ for anyone doing

cross-border business, Prasad said. ‘Could NAFTA be killed? Not in letter, but in spirit — yes,’ he said.” - Marilyn Geewax, NPR

NAFTA makes it easier for companies to move overseas and such deals set a bad precedent for many reasons, one of which is that offshoring jobs in exchange for cheap goods is unsustainable on a large scale. *They are also fundamentally redistributing income by giving tax breaks to the larger companies, which have (a) no clawback i.e.: they leave after tax breaks run out and (b) the middle class gets stuck paying for it.* Some have concerns that America appearing to ‘go it alone’ might lead to the interpretation that we are “isolationists”.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

Bypass the businesses that are affected by NAFTA (big corporate powers) and reconfigure the ways and wish of the global economy since WWII. Attach ourselves to diverse, sustainable business such as technological innovation, green technology, the entertainment industry, etc. Being reliant on a single ‘corporation’ can have devastating consequences such as what happened to our local economies when IBM left Ulster County.

An international approach is important as corporations who are seeking less stringent regulations can, for example, go into third world economies and decimate them (IMF, World Bank).

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

[**VIEW**](#) Resolution No. 346: Establishing A Broadband Policy For The County Of Ulster

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. [CNN MONEY](#): "U.S. importers would take the U.S. to court the next day," Gary Horlick, a trade lawyer, said. What's also clear is the uncertainty would wreak havoc on American businesses, and the withdrawal would likely lead to higher prices for American consumers, as Trump himself acknowledged in a speech in New Hampshire (in July 2016). And experts don't expect eliminating NAFTA will bring back jobs."
2. "Life and Debt" Documentary [VIEW](#)

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

I will announce our withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

Another election promise (ploy). TPP is over. Obama had said long ago that he was not going to pursue it, and the Republicans have always been against it.

CONTEXT:

The loss of jobs hasn't a lot to do with these trade agreements. Job losses have resulted from advances in automation and the failure to create democratically accountable worldwide financial regulatory systems: Today, we are still using an outdated, WWII-era global financial system. Organizations such as the World Bank and IMF are proposing and making decisions without any democratic accountability. [Joseph Stiglitz](#) helps us to understand what's problematic about these trade agreements.

On the subject of worldwide financial regulatory systems, US corporations' only obligation is creating profits for their shareholders. This is not true in Europe, as they use a different stakeholder structure - harnessing 'business for public good' and enforcing it. Otherwise, if a European business does not strike that balance, their charter will be revoked. In the US, charters are granted perpetuity and corporations function behind a veil. During the 2008 housing crisis, that is why none of the CEOs of banks were ever punished or went to jail: [[Under what charter or law??] CEO can't be held criminally accountable.

It hasn't always been this way. Our forefathers were anti-corporate, which is different from anti-business. Businesses are held accountable. Corporations are not. Around the turn of last century, the very wealthy paid to have the laws changed in their favor.

It is easy to point the finger at NAFTA and/or TPP. However, there are many complex issues that make NAFTA irrelevant.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

Can we push to make corporations accountable in NYS? Address “Race to the Bottom” (a progressive lowering or deterioration of standards, especially as a result of the pressure of competition) here. Our goal could be to enact nationally and internationally recognized standards. With those in place, corporations could no longer take advantage of other states or countries who may not have strong regulations in place or decide to pull out and conduct business in a state that doesn’t care. The only entity large enough to place limits on corporations is the federal government. Therefore, we can’t afford for it to be smaller. We must instead make it more transparent.

UC & COK INITIATIVES:**UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:**

1. “Life and Debt” Documentary [VIEW](#)

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

TRADE: China

I will direct my Secretary of the Treasury to label China a currency manipulator.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S MOTIVATION?

Trump has a huge loan with China. Trump states China is devaluing goods, but that’s not what

they are doing. What's actually happened is that China wants to maintain its value, not devalue artificially. [Pulling Taiwan in as Trump appears to be doing could create a wedge between America and China/Taiwan.](#)

CONTEXT:

In fact, China is propping up the dollar. In an era of globalization, we are all interdependent. [VIEW](#) "The Commanding Heights", a four part series. The first part speaks to the economic theory that led to the rise of Reagan and Thatcher and the consequences of "neoliberalism".

China may be fearful of 'contagion'. If something goes negative in any other country it impacts all. Therefore, China is interested in propping up dollar and in manipulating it in such a way that their exports are more appealing and cheaper to buy than ours.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. [Mother Jones](#): Trumps conflict of interest big overseas bank getting worse by the minute.
2. [New York Times](#): Trump's Empire: A Maze of Debts and Opaque Ties.
3. [Redstate](#): "According to the Times, a building on the Avenue of the Americas in New York City's Manhattan borough that is partially owned by Trump has a loan of \$950

million that was paid for by a few different entities, including the Bank of China and Goldman Sachs." August 20, 2016

4. [Forbes](#): “Proof That China Is A Currency Manipulator As Donald Trump Says - So, Subsidise Import”
5. [VIDEO](#): The Commanding Heights.

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

TRADE: Abuses

I will direct the Secretary of Commerce and U.S. Trade Representative to identify all foreign trading abuses that unfairly impact American workers and direct them to use every tool under American and international law to end those abuses immediately.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:**NYS INITIATIVES:****NYS POLICIES & LAWS:****UC & COK INITIATIVES:****UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:****MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

ENERGY: Shale, Oil, Gas, Coal

I will lift the restrictions on the production of \$50 trillion dollars worth of job-producing American energy reserves, including shale, oil, natural gas and clean coal.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

This is part of his campaign promise to create more jobs and profits for extraction industries.

CONTEXT:

First, it's important to understand what the current restrictions on production of 'energy reserves' are. You can find them here:

Dept. of Interior restrictions. [INVENTORY](#) from 2008

[EPA](#) Clean Power Plan

Federally protected Lands and closing state parks for private use? In Wyoming: [VIEW](#)

In addition, look at cabinet picks and their agendas.

With more production of oil and natural gas, there will be more transport pressure for the Hudson Valley, an area that is already heavily burdened.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS Gov. Cuomo banned fracking. Can federal law 'trump' what we've done here? Drilling wells in private property creates local issues. Is fracking a land use matter? Could a claim be made that extraction is an issue of 'national security' and that we have to build our own energy reserves leading to a reversal of Obama's Clean Power Plan?

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

There is a moratorium on fracking by the NYS Legislature. NYS Governor Cuomo has issued a ban. However, the latter is not a law and it can be reversed with a new Governor or challenged once the moratorium is lifted.

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

The Ulster County Legislature and the City of Kingston have both opposed the Pilgrim Pipelines proposal and the proposal to allow multiple fuel storage and transport anchorages along the Hudson River.

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. [EPA](#): Clean Power Plan
2. [“Governor Cuomo Announces Launch of New Blueprint to Guide Preservation of Natural Resources Across New York”](#)
3. [Democracy Now: Freespeech](#)
4. [Bloomberg](#): “Congress Passes U.S. Spending Bill to End Oil Export Ban”

MAKING CONNECTIONS: [Riverkeeper](#), [Woodstock Land Conservancy](#), [Scenic Hudson](#)

ENERGY: Pipelines

[Lift the Obama-Clinton roadblocks and allow vital energy infrastructure projects, like the Keystone Pipeline, to move forward.](#)

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

“The Obama administration blocked construction of the northern stretch of the Keystone XL pipeline by denying TransCanada Corp. a needed State Department permit. A Trump

administration could greenlight the project by granting that permit. TransCanada says it is eager to start work. Climate activists complain the pipeline will encourage greater development of carbon-intensive oil from the Canadian tar sands.” - Scott Horsley, NPR

New York is fast becoming a storage and transport hub for Bakken crude oil and Marcellus fracked gas. Many people, grassroots organizations and nonprofit groups (such as Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson and Sierra Club) have been working on individual emergencies and widespread issues converging along the length of the Hudson River and at its mouth. These groups need people on the ground, information sharing and support.

NYS INITIATIVES:

Faso: Lobbyist for Constitution Pipeline

The Algonquin Pipeline (In current HIGH emergency):

- History & Policy: <http://SAPE2016.org>, <http://SEnRG.org>
- Non Violent Direct Action: [Sane Energy Project](#)

The Pilgrim Pipeline (In Scoping):

- <https://stoppilgrimpipeline.com>
- <http://catskillmountainkeeper.org>

Long Term Crude Storage on the Hudson The public comment deadline for this proposal (aka the Anchorage proposal) was December 6, 2016 and about 8000 comments were submitted.

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

NYS Assembly Skartado’s proposed legislation

“Current law requires a resolution by a city or village to permit a pipeline to be constructed within its boundaries. This legislation will include towns in that law and thereby give towns the local control they need to protect their community. Pipelines transport volatile and dangerous materials that pose a number of health and environmental hazards to the communities through and next to which they are constructed. In order for such a project to be permitted within the town's borders, this law would require a resolution prescribing the route, manner of construction and terms upon which it would be granted, and that it be adopted at a regular meeting of the board of trustees of the town board or the legislative body.”

[VIEW](#): A.10468 Skartados - Town Control Over Pipelines - Corp Transportation Law

[VIEW](#): Riverkeeper’s Support Memo

[VIEW](#): Memo in support of A.10468 + S.7979

[State Environmental Review Quality Act \(SEQRA\)](#)

“In New York State, most projects or activities proposed by a state agency or unit of local government, and all discretionary approvals (permits) from a NYS agency or unit of local government, require an environmental impact assessment as prescribed by [6 NYCRR Part 617 State Environmental Quality Review \(SEQR\)](#) (link leaves DEC website.) [Statutory authority: Environmental Conservation Law Sections 3-0301(1)(b), 3-0301(2)(m) and 8-0113.] SEQR requires the sponsoring or approving governmental body to identify and mitigate the significant environmental impacts of the activity it is proposing or permitting.

Environmental assessments are standardized through use of the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF). [The Environmental Assessment Forms](#) are in a pdf format that can be filled and saved. To assist applicants in preparing the Part 1 of either the Short or Full EAF, we have developed EAF Workbooks and a GIS mapping program (the EAF Mapper) that searches spatial databases and provides answers to location-based questions which are automatically filled into a pdf copy of an EAF and provided to the user. The spatial data used by the EAF mapping program to complete

the new EAFs is based on the GIS data sets used and maintained by DEC, or actively maintained by various agencies and shared with DEC.

On completing an EAF, the lead agency determines the significance of an action's environmental impacts. The agency then decides whether to require (or prepare) an Environmental Impact Statement and whether to hold a public hearing on the proposed action.”

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

PIPELINES: “The Proposed Pilgrim Pipelines Project: What Citizens Need To Know and How Local Action Makes Global Impacts.” Educational forum on the Pilgrim Pipeline and draft scoping document in SEQRA. Guests include Jon Bowermaster who will present his film “A Pipeline Runs Through It”. Guest panelists Jeremy Cherson of Riverkeeper, Jen Metzger of Citizens for Local Power and Sue Rosenberg of CAPP. [VIEW](#) Event

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

City of Kingston Resolutions (Proposed Pilgrim Pipeline Project)

Jan. 5, 2015: Resolution No. 22 - City of Kingston Opposes Pilgrim Pipeline Project [VIEW](#)

City of Kingston Resolutions and Comments (Proposed Anchorage Project)

Aug. 22, 2016: City of Kingston Mayor Comments on Proposed Anchorage Project [VIEW](#)

Ulster County Resolutions (Proposed Pilgrim Pipeline Project)

Feb. 17, 2015: Resolution No. 38 - Opposing the Pilgrim Pipeline [VIEW](#)

Dec. 15, 2015: Resolution No. 485 - DEC Lead Agency of SEQRA for Pilgrim Pipeline [VIEW](#)

Dec. 20, 2016: Resolution No. 388 - Scoping Process for the Pilgrim Pipeline [VIEW](#)

Ulster County Resolutions and Comments (Proposed Anchorage Project)

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

MAKING CONNECTIONS: Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson, KingstonCitizens.org, Citizens for Local Power, CAPP-NY

CLIMATE CHANGE: Programs & Infrastructure

[Cancel billions in payments to U.N. climate change programs and use the money to fix America's water and environmental infrastructure.](#)

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

“Donald Trump does not take climate science seriously, believes there is a tradeoff between climate action and economic growth, and both invents and peddles conspiracy theories related to a changing climate. He has previously called global warming a "hoax" that was "created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.”^[1] In a February debate, Trump said that with respect to the EPA, “[We] waste all of this money. We’re going to bring that back to the states.”^[2] Trump does not support wind energy, citing aesthetic and wildlife concerns^[3]. He has vowed to withdraw from the Paris Agreement.”

CONTEXT:

“The U.S. government does not give billions of dollars to the United Nations for climate work. The U.S. government gives about \$10 million a year to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), created in 1992 under a global treaty signed by

*President George H. W. Bush. Some of the money helps support the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a scientific organization that collects research on climate and advises the UNFCCC. In 2014, President Obama said the U.S. intends to contribute \$3 billion dollars to the Green Climate Fund, as part of a pledge by the developed nations to help less developed nations deal with the deleterious effects of climate change. The UN has promised to raise a total of \$100 billion a year for that Fund and start disbursing it in 2020. The Green Climate Fund is an independent body accountable to the United Nations but not part of it. In 2008, President Bush pledged \$2 billion for climate aid to developing countries.” - **Chris Joyce, NPR***

- 1) Trump owes Blackstone/Bayrock group \$560 million dollars (one of his largest debtors and the primary reason he won't reveal his tax returns).
- 2) Blackstone is owned wholly by Russian billionaires, who owe their position to Putin and have made billions from their work with the Russian government.
- 3) The Russian economy is badly faltering under the weight of its over-dependence on raw materials which as you know have plummeted in the last two years leaving the Russian economy scrambling to pay its debts.
- 4) Russia has an impetus to influence our election to ensure the per barrel oil prices are above \$65 (they are currently hovering around \$50).
- 5) Russia can't affordably get at 80% of its oil reserves and reduce its per barrel cost to compete with America at \$45 or Saudi Arabia at \$39. With Iranian sanctions being lifted, Russia will find another inexpensive competitor increasing production and pushing Russia further down the list of suppliers.

The six countries lifting the Iranian sanctions will allow Iran to collect on the billions it is owed for pumping oil but not being paid for it. Iran can only get these billions of dollars if the Iranian

nuclear deal is signed. Trump spoke of ending the deals which would cause oil sales sanctions to be reimposed, which would make Russian oil more competitive.

6) Rex Tillerson (Trump's pick for Secretary of State) is the head of ExxonMobil, which is in possession of patented technology that could help Putin extract 45% more oil at a significant cost savings to Russia. This profit would allow Putin to put money into the Russian coffers to help reconstitute its military and finally afford to mass produce the new and improved systems that it had invented before the Russian economy had slowed so much.

7) Due to US sanctions on Russia, Putin cannot get access to these new cost saving technologies OR access outside oil field development money because of its involvement in Ukrainian civil war.

8) Look for Trump to end sanctions on Russia and to back out of the Iranian nuclear deal. These measures would help Russia rebuild its economy, strengthen Putin and make Tillerson and Trump even richer, thus allowing Trump to satisfy his creditors at Blackstone.

9) With Trump's fabricated hatred of NATO and the U.N., and with the Russian military reconstituted, the threat to the Baltic States is real. Russia retaking their access to the Baltic Sea from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia -- and thereby threatening the shipping of millions of cubic feet of natural gas to lower Europe from Scandinavia -- would allow Russia to make a good case for its oil and gas being piped into eastern Europe.

Sources: Time Magazine, NY Times, **The Atlantic** ([Article A](#)) ([Article B](#)), **The Guardian UK** ([Article A](#)).

NYS INITIATIVES:

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) is a very powerful tool and it can be used to reverse regulations, i.e. to revoke Obama regulations and take them back to June 2016. It would

prohibit the agency (EPA?) from promulgating anything similar again. The Methane Rule required oil/gas operators to control the amount of methane they were releasing. Methane can be sold and, as a greenhouse gas, is 37 times more powerful than carbon.. However, after two years of public input, the CRA threw out the requirements to control methane emissions. The recent enactment of the bill to allow coal ash waste in streams is another example. The term “CRAing” is being used.

In NY and CA, our ethic needs to continue to be focused on maintaining protections despite Federal initiatives. NY can serve as a model for others, particularly in the future when there is a need to reconstruct protections. NY has the opportunity to encourage elected officials to move farther/faster and the role of NYS is extremely important. Our focus on local energy production can serve as a model. “We are watching. We will remember when re-election comes up.”

We need to support those who are trying to put safeguards in place. We need an army of lawyers, similar to what’s been happening related to the proposed immigration ban. Decisions in the lower courts are crucial and one of our most powerful tools. SEQR changes? Long trajectory, prior to current situation (10 years ago, DEC held many forums re: changes/proposed changes, DEC internal arguments.

State Environmental Quality Review Act - Proposed Amendments 2017

The Department has scheduled to hold the following public hearings:

Date: Friday, March 31, 2017 - Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Room 129, Albany, NY

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2017 - Time: 6:00 PM

Location: NYS DEC Region 3 Headquarters, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz, NY

In January 2017, the proposed changes to SEQR were not as drastic as the business community wanted and the Public Comment period extends until May 19. The Type II List (actions that are exempt from environmental review, administrative stuff) has been expanded.

Comments on the proposed amendments may be submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Permits, Attn: James J. Eldred, Environmental Analyst, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-1750 or by e-mail to: seqra617@dec.ny.gov.

Comments will be accepted until the close of business on May 19, 2017, e-mailed comments should be provided as an Adobe PDF or Microsoft Word document.

Notices appear in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (published weekly by the DEC).

Suggestion: We need a workshop on this topic.

Ultra conservationists have played a very long game. Gerrymandering nationwide. We have to be in this for the long game. Support / run in local elections. Try to win over NYS legislators before next census. Electoral College.

Motivation = money and power. Fossil fuels. Pipelines = enchain us to 50 years of fossil fuel years of infrastructure. Keeping oil and gas and those who control it in power. Their motives are completely exposed now.

Gerrymandering done by NYS legislature every 10 years. Two years after, Senate draws up districts. Suits can be brought.

FERC Federal gas lines

Oil pipelines are done at State level. Pilgrim Pipelines = opportunity to engage local communities. Local municipalities have power - NYS statute on books from 1920s, however, a check on that power = requirements on pipeline operators. 1 is that cities/villages must approve by Supermajority of each elected body. 10 (including 4 cities) passed opposition to it. Bill introduced in Senate = modifies to extend to towns. Go to State Legislative rep and urge to (Skardato's NYS Transportation la)

READING:

Dark Money by Jane Meyer.

Capitalism Versus the Climate by Naomi Klein

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

The City of Kingston's Water Department with a budget reliant solely on water users (there are 8000 currently) has limited funds for updating its infrastructure needs. Several items that could be explored include:

- The City of Kingston hasn't paid for its water use since 1984 (when the Sewer tax came into effect) to the tune of \$40,000.00 per year.
- Currently, 6500 of its 8000 water meters are antiquated (1500 currently are newer, radioed meters). It's thought that the 6500 are currently under-registering water usage, a potentially large drain on the Kingston Water Department's budget. A consultant ([Johnson Controls?](#)) could be hired to do a comprehensive study (performance contract) that could allow for grants and other funding sources to be located for an approximate job cost of \$1.5 million to upgrade meters. Increased revenue from updated meters could also be studied that could offset costs as well.

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. Danny Kennedy, Bioneers discussion [VIEW](#)
2. [Reuters](#): Blackstone, Russia and Trump

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

NOTES:

Two environmental rules Trump could change without Congressional approval are the definition of United States waters (which determines whether tributaries and adjacent wetlands are protected) and vehicle emission standards. [For references, see the Supreme Court brief filed by environmental groups.](#)

On vehicle emissions see the [NY Times article](#).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Executive Action

[Cancel every unconstitutional executive action, memorandum and order issued by President Obama.](#)

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

“The president can revoke President Obama’s executive action in 2012 that created an immigration program known as DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. This policy allows certain immigrants in the U.S. illegally who were brought to the country as kids to receive protection from deportation and work permits. As of June 30, [there have been 1.3 million cases approved](#). It’s uncertain whether Trump will allow the existing DACA permits to expire on their own or dissolve them the day he signs the order. In either case, the young immigrants will lose their protected status and be eligible for deportation.” - John Burnett, NPR

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

SUPREME COURT: Selection

Begin the process of selecting a replacement for Justice Scalia from one of the 20 judges on my list, who will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

"Actually, there are two lists Trump released during the campaign, totaling 21 names, including state as well as federal judges, and one U.S. senator; Mike Lee of Utah, who rejected the idea at

*the time and never endorsed Trump. Two days after the election, a quick survey of individuals who normally would be involved in the Supreme Court selection process for an incoming Republican president produced a remarkable lack of information. Individuals involved in the past said this time they had “no idea” who was doing this for Trump and had not been consulted. The lists produced during the campaign were generated in large part by the conservative Heritage Foundation, and the ideology represented by those potential nominees ranges from very conservative to even more conservative. There are some common themes, however. A general hostility to claims of “reproductive freedom,” from abortion to contraception; a hostility to government regulations, ranging from rules aimed at protecting the environment from coal-fired utilities to rules limiting access to guns. All of these are consistent with positions taken by Trump during the campaign. Some of the listed judges, however, have taken anti-gay-rights positions that Trump stayed away from in the campaign. It is not entirely clear at this point whether Trump will actually pick someone from his two campaign lists or might go outside those lists. And there is some effort to get him to consider conservative judges and lawyers who are not on the lists. Among them: Paul Clement, the former George W. Bush solicitor general, who has argued 75 cases in the Supreme Court, including some of the most important conservative challenges to liberal Obama administration policies; Brett Kavanaugh, a highly respected federal judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia; and Jeffrey Sutton, of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Ohio, who was also one of the late Justice Antonin Scalia’s favorite law clerks.” - **Nina Totenberg, NPR***

Attempt to Reverse Roe-vs-Wade; DOMA; Environmental field concerns.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. [Business Insider](#): President-elect Donald Trump Supreme Court List

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

HUMAN RIGHTS: Sanctuary Cities

[Cancel all federal funding to Sanctuary Cities.](#)

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

"Trump's administration has proposed to deport 2-3 million[1] immigrants "immediately," cut federal funding to "Sanctuary Cities" that refuse to help identify and apprehend undocumented immigrants, triple the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents[2], and build a wall across the southern US border[3]. Trump has sent mixed messages[4] regarding whether he'd rescind Obama's DACA program and deport the more than 700,000 Dreamers in America[5] (undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children). Trump's deportation scheme would be implemented, at least in part, through reinstating the 287(g) and Secure Communities programs through executive/administrative action."

CONTEXT:

"While Trump said he'd deport "criminals," there aren't that many 2-3 million undocumented

immigrants in America who have been convicted of crimes[6]. So, to get to the 2-3 million deportations Trump promised, he'd have to deport immigrants whose only crime is being undocumented in America. Trump's proposal to cut some amount of federal funding from sanctuary cities also threatens more than 500 counties and cities that have some kind of policy limiting cooperation with the immigration authorities[7]. Not all sanctuary cities are Democratic, some are Republican and have become sanctuary cities because of the costs of helping federal law enforcement deport people.[8] There are also reports that Trump plans to ask Congress (and therefore the American taxpayer) to pay for the wall and try to get reimbursed by Mexico later.[9]”

What happens to the children who are left behind when family members are returned to their country of origin?

If money is for police forces and equipment, and the municipality refuses to turn over records of convicted non-documented residents, the outcome is that constitutionally it may be possible to hold funds. **(HUD? Fair housing law?)** On the other hand, if you are using federal funding to coerce a municipality to comply when they otherwise have not had to, it may be unconstitutional. If it's the “gun to the head” argument, i.e., coercion, it's unconstitutional. “Federalism” which states “**pay** in more money then they get back” occurs in more blue states. “**Take** in then pay out” occurs in more red states.

What happens if blue states start withdrawing monies to the Federal Government?

NYS INITIATIVES:

“Call your [state legislators](#) and [county legislators](#) and local [city council members](#) and tell them to pass policies that:

1. *Prohibit the use of funds or resources to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law or to collect or disseminate information regarding the immigration status of individuals. As part of this legislation, police should be explicitly prohibited from stopping, questioning, arresting, or detaining any individual because of their national origin or suspected immigration status.*
2. *Establish enforceable bans on racial profiling and stop-and-frisk for law enforcement under their jurisdiction and decline to participate in any federal program that encourages these tactics.*
3. *Establish emergency alert systems, 24-hour crisis hotlines and legal protection funds to protect immigrants from federal actions. (Chicago Legal Protection Fund)*
4. *Raise taxes on the wealthiest residents and/or corporations to offset any cuts to social programs imposed by a Trump administration as a result of non-compliance with federal enforcement efforts.*
5. *Connect people who are experiencing immigration issues and/or are at-risk of deportation to [Crisis Resources](#) that can help protect and assist them.*

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

“As the chief law enforcement officer in our state, I have heard from many New Yorkers who have questions about what this week’s transfer of power in Washington, D.C. means for federal immigration enforcement. Local elected officials and law enforcement agencies rightly want to promote public safety while protecting vulnerable communities. I write today to set forth what the US Constitution and federal law currently require and describe concrete steps that local governments and law enforcement agencies can immediately take to achieve these important dual objectives.” - NYS Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman

VIEW: January, 2017 - “Guidance Concerning Local Authority Participation in Immigration Enforcement and Model Sanctuary Participation”

UC & COK INITIATIVES: This is what Sanctuary City is all about. Some suggest that what people ought to be upset about is that “neoliberal” policies led to an unprecedented wealth to the 1% in our country. Undocumented citizens provide “mobile labor” (a labor force that you can hire and fire depending on demand). In the City of Kingston, our economy couldn’t function without mobile laborers by gutting all regulations and institutions that have helped the middle class. “My grandfather came here legally, why shouldn't others today?” (*Discuss then and now*)

[VIEW](#) City of Kingston reaffirms itself as a “welcoming and inclusive city”

- Create educational panels to discuss the process of acquiring green cards. (The differences between visas (categories 1/2/3), green card, citizenship. *Invite* churches who initiated the letter to Mayor Noble.
- FAQ on Immigration and other materials from panels to be distributed throughout the city (Schools, etc). This should be fact-based, non-politicizing information
- Programs for KCSD and ways for PTO/PTA’s to implement cross cultural communication (Approach via District Wide Parent Council).
- Create a more diverse police force by recruiting officers who speak multiple languages, and especially Spanish in Kingston.

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

City of Kingston Census 2010 [VIEW](#)

KCSD: “English as a New Language” [VIEW](#)

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. [Politifact](#): “Bill De Blasio, NYC’s Mayor, Says President Can’t Defund Sanctuary Cities.”
2. [Sanctuary Cities Map](#): Here's a link that shows several NYS counties that are already designated in New York State: Franklin County, Nassau County, New York City, Onondaga County, Rensselaer County, Saratoga County, Suffolk County, St. Lawrence County, Wayne County.
3. [Politifact](#): “The Supreme Court, in *South Dakota vs. Dole*, concluded that Congress could not coerce local governments to act based on the threat of withholding federal funds. Also, any funds that are withheld must be germane to the reason they are being withheld. The court ruling dealt with Congress, however, and not the executive branch, and there is ambiguity about both what tactic Trump might pursue and the legal precedence behind it.”
4. [California Values Act](#)
5. [Washington Post](#) : “6 Big Things to Know About Sanctuary Cities and Illegal Immigration.”
6. [LA Times](#): “Can Trump Cut off Funds for Sanctuary Cities? The Constitution says yes.”
7. **Citizen/Immigration Tool Kit**: [VIEW](#)
8. [NY Times](#): “Cities in NY Advised How To Buck a Trump Deportation Push.”

MAKING CONNECTIONS: *Citizen Action NY, Workers Justice, [Mano a Mano](#) , Green Light (Marco: Drivers Licenses), La Voz (Mariel Fiori), Mirna (Marco), Richard Levy (NYC/Saugerties-Woodstock), Dan Green (Immigration Attorney), Kingston Clergy*

HUMAN RIGHTS: Illegal Immigrants

Begin removing the more than 2 million criminal illegal immigrants from the country and cancel visas to foreign countries that won't take them back.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

“Trump's administration has proposed to deport 2-3 million[1] immigrants "immediately," cut federal funding to "Sanctuary Cities" that refuse to help identify and apprehend undocumented immigrants, triple the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents[2], and build a wall across the southern US border[3]. Trump has sent mixed messages[4] regarding whether he'd rescind Obama's DACA program and deport the more than 700,000 Dreamers in America[5] (undocumented immigrants who came to the US as children). Trump's deportation scheme would be implemented, at least in part, through reinstating the 287(g) and Secure Communities programs through executive/administrative action.”

CONTEXT:

“While Trump said he'd deport "criminals," there aren't that many 2-3 million undocumented immigrants in America who have been convicted of crimes[6]. So, to get to the 2-3 million deportations Trump promised, he'd have to deport immigrants whose only crime is being undocumented in America. Trump's proposal to cut some amount of federal funding from sanctuary cities also threatens more than 500 counties and cities that have some kind of policy limiting cooperation with the immigration authorities[7]. Not all sanctuary cities are Democratic, some are Republican and have become sanctuary cities because of the costs of helping federal law enforcement deport people.[8] There are also reports that Trump plans to ask Congress (and therefore the American taxpayer) to pay for the wall and try to get reimbursed by Mexico later.[9]”

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VIEW: January, 2017 - “Guidance Concerning Local Authority Participation in Immigration Enforcement and Model Sanctuary Participation”

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- 2. Establish enforceable bans on racial profiling and stop-and-frisk for law enforcement under their jurisdiction and decline to participate in any federal program that encourages these tactics.*
- 3. Establish emergency alert systems, 24-hour crisis hotlines and legal protection funds to protect immigrants from federal actions. (Chicago Legal Protection Fund)*
- 4. Raise taxes on the wealthiest residents and/or corporations to offset any cuts to social programs imposed by a Trump administration as a result of non-compliance with federal enforcement efforts.*
- 5. Connect people who are experiencing immigration issues and/or are at-risk of deportation to [Crisis Resources](#) that can help protect and assist them.*

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:**UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:****MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

HUMAN RIGHTS: Immigration

Suspend immigration from terror-prone regions where vetting cannot safely occur. All vetting of people coming into our country will be considered extreme vetting.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?**CONTEXT:****NYS INITIATIVES:**

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. [NY Times](#): “Trump Vows to Stop Immigration from Nations “Compromised” with Terrorism; how could it work?”
2. [Washington Post](#): “Trump’s First 100 Days: Don’t expect Team Trump to give up on a fight. (Except maybe on China?)”

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

ECONOMICS: Middle Class Tax Relief & Simplification Act

Middle Class Tax Relief And Simplification Act. An economic plan designed to grow the economy 4% per year and create at least 25 million new jobs through massive tax reduction and simplification, in combination with trade reform, regulatory relief, and lifting the restrictions on American energy. The largest tax reductions are for the middle class. A middle-class family with 2 children will get a 35% tax cut. The current number of brackets will be reduced from 7 to 3, and tax forms will likewise be greatly simplified. The business rate will be lowered from 35 to 15 percent, and the trillions of dollars of American corporate money overseas can now be brought back at a 10 percent rate (tax?).

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

“Trump’s tax plan would cut income tax rates while capping deductions for the wealthy. He would also reduce the business tax rate to 15 percent and eliminate the estate tax. Workers at every income level would enjoy lower taxes under Trump’s plan, but the biggest beneficiaries by far are the very wealthy. Estimates from the Tax Policy Center and the Tax Foundation estimate that the top 1 percent of income households would see their after-tax incomes rise by 10.2 to 13 percent under Trump’s plan, while “middle income” households -- those from the 40th to the 60th percentile -- would see an increase of 1.3 to 1.8 percent. Tax savings at all levels could be higher from economic growth, but the wealthy still see the biggest bump.” - Scott Horsley, NPR

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS Citizens can request from their Congress member to contact the [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO), a nonpartisan and independent of the president’s [Office of Management and Budget](#) (OMB). The CBO has a role in investigating the budgetary proposals from the Executive branch such as this one. In the case the CBO doesn’t have this information, citizens can also request that the [Congressional Research Service](#) (CRS) be contacted to perform the analysis.

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

Ulster County and Kingston Citizens can request [Congressman Faso](#) contact the [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO), (nonpartisan) and independent of the president’s [Office of Management and Budget](#) (OMB). The CBO has a role in investigating the budgetary proposals from the Executive branch such as this one. In the case the CBO doesn’t have this information, citizens can also request that the [Congressional Research Service](#) (CRS) be contacted to perform the

analysis. Citizens might also contact [Senator Gillibrand](#) or [Senator Schumer](#) to do the same.

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

ECONOMICS: Offshoring Act

End the Offshoring Act. Establishes tariffs to discourage companies from laying off their workers in order to relocate in other countries and ship their products back to the U.S. tax-free.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

NYS INITIATIVES:

Find out what Congress doing on the matter. What are their goals, intentions and initiatives?

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:**UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:****MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

INFRASTRUCTURE: Public/Private

American Energy & Infrastructure Act. Leverages public-private partnerships, and private investments through tax incentives, to spur \$1 trillion in infrastructure investment over 10 years. It is revenue neutral.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?**CONTEXT:**

The moment you privatize bridges, roads and infrastructure, you remove access to a public good. Prices become unstable, as companies can charge whatever they want. It's 'regressive' because people with lower incomes are impacted the most.

NYS INITIATIVES:**NYS POLICIES & LAWS:****UC & COK INITIATIVES:****UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:****MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

EDUCATION: Public/Private/Charter/Magnet/Religious/Home School

School Choice And Education Opportunity Act. Redirects education dollars to give parents the right to send their kid to the public, private, charter, magnet, religious or home school of their choice. Ends common core, brings education supervision to local communities. It expands vocational and technical education, and make 2 and 4-year college more affordable.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S MOTIVATION?**CONTEXT:**

“The big question surrounding Trump’s school choice plan is this: How will he pay for it? Not with new money, he has been clear, but “redirects education dollars” is vague. The fact is, much of the money the U.S. government spends in schools goes to districts that serve low-income, at-risk students. Under Trump’s plan, at least some of these so-called Title I dollars would likely end up going to more affluent districts or leaving the public system entirely. Here’s the other

headline in this graph: “Ends common core.” Learning standards, including the Common Core, are adopted (and replaced) at the state level, and the new federal education law, ESSA, will make it very difficult for Trump to change that. [Here’s why](#). He could try to use federal dollars to push states away from the Common Core, but, again, the new law is clear about the government’s right/ability to do such pushing: It can’t. For more unpacking of Trump’s education plan, [check this out](#). “ - Cory Turner, NPR

From the NYTimes, 11/23/16: Mr. Trump’s \$20 billion proposal would be, by itself, very expensive. It may be hard to fit into a budget passed by a Republican Congress that has pledged to enact large tax cuts for corporations and citizens, expand the military and eliminate the budget deficit, all at the same time. Yet \$20 billion isn’t nearly enough to finance vouchers nationwide, which is why Mr. Trump’s proposal assumes that states will kick in another \$110 billion. States don’t have that kind of money lying around. The only plausible source is existing school funding. But even if Ms. DeVos were to find a willing governor and state legislature, it’s not that easy. Roughly half of all non-federal education funding comes from local property taxes raised by over 13,000 local school districts. They and their elected representatives will have a say, too.

From Chalkbeat, 11/29/16: A voucher program in New York “would require a lot of political support, more so than is here now,” said Aaron Pallas, an education professor at Teachers College. He noted that the state legislature has even refused to approve a much [softer measure](#) to make certain donations to private schools tax deductible. “It’s unlikely a DeVos appointment is going to change that political calculus,” he said.

The Federal role in education has generally been limited; much is left to the states. In the 1950 - 70s, the federal government focused on ensuring equal access to education (Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and Title I, Brown vs BOE, Bilingual Education Act, IDEA, etc.).

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/gs_20161206_principled_federal_role_browncenter1.pdf. Later, NCLB and then RTTT both expanded the federal reach into education. ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), which is the latest reauthorization of ESEA, was passed with strong bipartisan support in 2015 and gives authority back to the states. However, much regulation attached to this law has yet to be written, so there is potential for federal intrusion there. And, states are currently in the process of writing their plans for implementing ESSA; these must be approved by the USDOE. States are usually allowed latitude here, but it's unclear how this administration will deal with these plans.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

The Constitution of NYS provides for the “maintenance and support of a system of free common schools, wherein all the children of this state may be educated.” Provision of education is a state, not federal, exercise.

The Blaine Amendment prohibits public funding for religious schools (but case law allows for public funding for materials in private schools and also funding of a school founded by a religious order but not controlled by that order and not teaching that order exclusively).

https://ij.org/images/pdf_folder/school_choice/50statereport/states/new_york.pdf.

Charters and vouchers are concerns because they gut public education. They become private funding for private schools, using tax dollars meant for public schools. [NYS Legislation](#)

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

HEALTHCARE: Repeal and Replace Affordable Healthcare

Repeal and Replace Obamacare Act. Fully repeals Obamacare and replaces it with Health Savings Accounts, the ability to purchase health insurance across state lines, and lets states manage Medicaid funds. Reforms will also include cutting the red tape at the FDA: there are over 4,000 drugs awaiting approval, and we especially want to speed the approval of life-saving medications.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

“The GOP Congress has already demonstrated its willingness to repeal the insurance tax subsidies and Medicaid expansion portions of the Affordable Care Act, along with the requirement that all Americans have health insurance, using a fast-track legislative maneuver known as “reconciliation” that prevents a Democratic filibuster. President Obama vetoed that measure, but President-elect Trump would presumably sign it. The Congressional Budget Office predicts that could strip health insurance coverage from more than 20 million people -- although the change would most likely be phased in over a couple of years. Trump’s replacement plan is less clear. Health savings accounts would allow more people to buy insurance with pre-tax

dollars, and selling insurance across state lines might increase competition and reduce prices. But coverage will very likely remain out of reach for many. The requirement that insurance companies provide coverage to people with pre-existing conditions cannot be repealed through reconciliation. But preserving that requirement without the individual mandate to purchase insurance could create a costly situation in which people wait until they're sick to buy coverage.” - Scott Horsley, NPR

More on removing regulations (via FDA) to allow medications on the market where side-effects may/may not be known.

NYS INITIATIVES:

New York State could take on Healthcare reform for New Yorkers in the same way Vermont is doing. [VIEW](#)

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

[VIEW](#): The Rise Citizen Guide: Ten Steps To Take To Save Healthcare

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

HEALTHCARE: Affordable Childcare & Eldercare Act

Affordable Childcare and Eldercare Act. Allows Americans to deduct childcare and elder care from their taxes, incentivizes employers to provide on-site childcare services, and creates tax-free Dependent Care Savings Accounts for both young and elderly dependents, with matching contributions for low-income families.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

Market based solutions benefit Wall Street, but with governmental oversight in place, more adequate coverage, services, human rights, etc. will be protected. With a move toward privatization, citizens are more vulnerable as the financial markets don't care about equality. Privatized prisons, for example, make money but they are violating human rights (inadequate medical care, etc).

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

1. [Washington Post](#): Donald Trump unveils child-care policy influenced by Ivanka Trump

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

HUMAN RIGHTS: Illegal Immigration Act

End Illegal Immigration Act Fully-funds the construction of a wall on our southern border with the full understanding that the country Mexico will be reimbursing the United States for the full cost of such wall; establishes a 2-year mandatory minimum federal prison sentence for illegally reentering the U.S. after a previous deportation, and a 5-year mandatory minimum for illegally reentering for those with felony convictions, multiple misdemeanor convictions or two or more prior deportations; also reforms visa rules to enhance penalties for overstaying and to ensure open jobs are offered to American workers first.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

*“Mexico’s president made it clear to President-elect Trump when they met this summer that his government is not willing to finance a border wall. At one point, Trump suggested the wall might be financed by taxing money that Mexican citizens working in the U.S. send home.” - **Scott Horsley, NPR***

“Trump may...have a hard time convincing Congress to pay for a wall given that, currently, there are more people leaving the United States for Mexico than entering the United States from Mexico.[12] This might be reinforced by the fact that even on Election Day, most voters polled opposed the wall and over 70% of voters polled said they supported a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.[13]”

NYS INITIATIVES:

“Call your [state legislators](#) and [county legislators](#) and local [city council members](#) and tell them to pass policies that:

- 1. Prohibit the use of funds or resources to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law or to collect or disseminate information regarding the immigration status of individuals. As part of this legislation, police should be explicitly prohibited from stopping, questioning, arresting, or detaining any individual because of their national origin or suspected immigration status.*
- 2. Establish enforceable bans on racial profiling and stop-and-frisk for law enforcement under their jurisdiction and decline to participate in any federal program that encourages these tactics.*
- 3. Establish emergency alert systems, 24-hour crisis hotlines and legal protection funds to protect immigrants from federal actions. (Chicago Legal Protection Fund)*
- 4. Raise taxes on the wealthiest residents and/or corporations to offset any cuts to social programs imposed by a Trump administration as a result of non-compliance with federal enforcement efforts.*
- 5. Connect people who are experiencing immigration issues and/or are at-risk of deportation to [Crisis Resources](#) that can help protect and assist them.”*

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:**MAKING CONNECTIONS:**

PUBLIC SAFETY: Community Safety Act

Restoring Community Safety Act. Reduces surging crime, drugs and violence by creating a Task Force On Violent Crime and increasing funding for programs that train and assist local police;

increases resources for federal law enforcement agencies and federal prosecutors to dismantle criminal gangs and put violent offenders behind bars.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

“Violent crime rose slightly in 2015 and murders increased nearly 11 percent according to the FBI data but criminologists report the nation is safer now than 45, 25 or even 10 years ago. In 2014, the Obama Justice Department launched the “violence reduction network,” matching troubled cities with a law enforcement analyst and a federal grant official. The program now operates in about 10 cities including Camden, N.J.; Chicago; Detroit and Flint, Mich.; Little Rock, Ark.; Newark, N.J.; Compton, Oakland and Richmond, Calif.; and West Memphis, Ark. It’s not clear whether Trump’s team wants to expand on this idea or scrap it in favor of something else. The Justice Department traditionally funds training programs for local police and in recent years has offered federal funds to pay for body cameras and bulletproof vests. In a time of tight federal budgets, a popular Bill Clinton-era program that helps localities pay the salaries of police officers for a set time frame has been scaled back somewhat. In 2016, the Justice Department allocated approximately [\\$119 million](#) to fund the COPS Hiring Program, which enables law enforcement agencies to hire or rehire career law enforcement officers and increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. Some \$12 million has gone to [community policing](#) and collaborative reform grants in 2016 and another \$12 million is funding the [2016 COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force Program](#) and COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program grants to state law enforcement agencies. Most law enforcement in the U.S. remains the responsibility of state and local authorities.” - Carrie Johnson, NPR

When people are poor, they are desperate. If you want to fight crime and drug addiction, you fight poverty. (FDR'S Economic bill of rights. Profound response to neoliberalism). Poor citizens are not free, can't practice their rights. An aspect of Black Lives Matter has to do with the

militarization of the police (and having equipment they are not trained to use). If you go to places where there is a social safety net, such as in Finland, you don't have these kinds of issues.

Poverty creates trauma and stress. It's a spiral. None of this is complicated, we just don't have the political will to fix it.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

[RUPCO](#): Alms House, housing for the homeless, housing for the poor.

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

MAKING CONNECTIONS: Citizen Action NY

PUBLIC SAFETY: National Security Act

Restoring National Security Act. Rebuilds our military by eliminating the defense sequester and expanding military investment; provides Veterans with the ability to receive public VA treatment or attend the private doctor of their choice; protects our vital infrastructure from cyber-attack; establishes new screening procedures for immigration to ensure those who are admitted to our country support our people and our values

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

“Trump’s defense agenda as described here is hugely ambitious. Republicans and Democrats have warred over the 2011 Budget Control Act, which imposed automatic, across-the-board spending restrictions, since it was first passed. Repealing it even with Republican majorities in both houses of Congress would require new consensus about exempting both defense and nondefense spending from the restrictions, as well as an agreement about how to pay for any new spending that Trump proposes. His VA proposal sounds a lot like the Veterans Choice program that Congress enacted after high-profile VA scandals in 2014, one that enables veterans to go outside the VA system. But as NPR’s Quil Lawrence has reported, even that “fix” [now is in need of a new fix.](#)” - Phil Ewing, NPR

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT: Ethics Reform

Clean up Corruption in Washington Act. Enacts new ethics reforms to Drain the Swamp and reduce the corrupting influence of special interests on our politics.

WHAT IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S MOTIVATION?

CONTEXT:

Multi-prong approach. You've got to get good people in office who are saying these things, and then in addition you have to have people understand the connections between what they are experiencing and the economy.

NYS INITIATIVES:

NYS POLICIES & LAWS:

UC & COK INITIATIVES:

UC & COK POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

RELATED ARTICLES AND VIDEO:

MAKING CONNECTIONS:

[Trump Appointments](#)

Secretary of State: Rex W. Tillerson, (CEO of Exxon Mobile)

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

“Whether Mr. Trump picks an ideologue or a seasoned foreign policy hand from past Republican administrations, his challenge will be that the State Department is the centerpiece of the post-1945 experiment of alliance-building and globalism, which Mr. Trump said he would dismantle.” (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

“Mr. Trump’s choice is the president and chief executive of Exxon Mobil, whose ties with Russian President Vladimir V. Putin may [draw scrutiny during the confirmation process](#).” (NYT)

“Trump's nominees for Interior and State, Ryan Zinke[13] and ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson[14], are intimately tied to the oil industry and appear to have complicated relationships with climate science.”

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

POLICIES & NYS LAWS:

OPPORTUNITY:

Requires Senate confirmation.

Interior Secretary: Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT)

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

“The Interior Department manages the nation’s public lands and waters. The next secretary will decide the fate of Obama-era rules that stop public land development; curb the exploration of oil, coal and gas; and promote wind and solar power on public lands.” (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

“Mr. Trump [has selected](#) Montana’s freshman representative, a former Navy SEAL commander who was an early supporter of the president-elect and ran for office largely on a national security platform.” (NTY)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:**POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Requires Senate confirmation.

Energy Secretary: Rick Perry, Former Governor of Texas

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

“Despite its name, the primary purview of the Energy Department is to protect and manage the nation’s arsenal of nuclear weapons.” (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

“Former Texas Governor Rick Perry, Trump's pick for Energy Secretary, dismisses climate science as a “contrived, phony mess.” During a previous presidential candidacy, Perry stated he wanted to dismantle the department he will now head. (Or, rather, he attempted to do so but infamously forgot the name of the department[9].) Perry is also a former board member of Energy Transfer Partners, the company building the Dakota Access Pipeline[10]. While much of DoE's work focuses on nuclear security and nonproliferation, it is also responsible for supporting clean-energy research via ARPA-E[11] and the DoE National Labs [12], thus making Perry a figure relevant to climate policy. The DoE does not play a role in pipeline permitting.”

LOCAL INITIATIVES:**RELATED ARTICLES:****POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Requires Senate confirmation.

Labor Secretary: **TBA**

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

“My office (AG Schneiderman) stands ready to act to protect New Yorkers. I wanted to share my statements on these appointments, and I hope you'll join me in speaking out by tweeting ([here](#) and [here](#)), posting on Facebook ([here](#) and [here](#)), and sharing these links with your network.”

12/9/16 Statement From NYS Attorney General Schneiderman On The Reported Nomination Of Andrew Puzder As Labor Secretary [VIEW](#)

RELATED ARTICLES:**POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:**

New York State (and New York City too) has its own labor laws that provide employees that are

additional to the federal law and often provide more protection than the federal law. For example, NY has its own minimum wage law that sets the minimum wage higher than federal law. Employers in New York are required to comply with both the state and federal law in most cases. So even if the new administration tries to emasculate the federal laws, employees in New York have protection. Of course, there are holes in the New York State protection that may need attention. For example, exceptions to NY's overtime protections often follow the federal law. If the new administration degrades the federal protections, the protections under New York law will be affected.

There are some specific areas where NY could shore up protections. For example, we could advocate that NY de-link its wage-and-hour (minimum wage and overtime) law from the federal law and definitions. California has done so and it is considered to have the strongest protections in the country. California also has a Private Attorney Generals Act (PAGA) that makes it easier for employees to bring claims on a representative basis. Such a law would be helpful in NY.

New Legislation Will Hold Out-Of-State LLC Members Accountable for Denying Fair Wages to Employees in New York. State Labor Commissioner Will Have Enhanced Authority to Issue Orders Against Business Owners Who Steal From Workers.

This new proposal would amend State law to hold the top 10 members of out-of-state limited liability companies personally financially liable for unsatisfied judgments for unpaid wages. This liability already applies to in-state and out-of-state corporations, and to in-state LLCs, but not to out-of-state LLCs. Further, the Governor will advance legislation to empower the Labor Commissioner to directly enforce all wage liabilities on behalf of workers with unpaid wage claims.

OPPORTUNITY:

Small Business Administration: Linda McMahon, former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE)

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

“The agency guarantees loans for small businesses, helps them get government contracts and supports their interests on Capitol Hill. “ (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

“Mr. Trump [has selected](#) the former chief executive of World Wrestling Entertainment to lead the agency. Ms. McMahon, a failed Senate candidate from Connecticut, was with her husband, Vince, one of Mr. Trump’s biggest donors.” (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

[FORBES](#): *“Meet Linda McMahon, Wife Of WWE Billionaire And Trump's Pick For Small Business Administrator”*

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

POLICIES & NYS LAWS:

OPPORTUNITY: Requires Senate confirmation.

Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Scott Pruitt, Oklahoma Attorney General

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

“The Environmental Protection Agency, which issues and oversees environmental regulations, is under threat from the president-elect, who has vowed to dismantle the agency “in almost every form.” (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

“Trump's EPA pick, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, also questions climate science[\[4\]](#) and has previously sided with polluting companies[\[5\]](#) in anti-EPA legislation[\[6\]](#). Mr Pruitt has been known to receive support from industries impacted by environmental policies and favor cooperation with them instead of confrontation, and he has sued the EPA 14 times over federal environmental regulations[\[7\]](#). If confirmed by the Senate he is expected to operate a major shift from the current Administration's positions and collaborate with the industries his agency has the responsibility to police. This move could have a global impact, as the EPA also enforces rules to fight climate change[\[8\]](#).”

What are some of the shifts that have occurred to the EPA since Pruitt was confirmed?

Very hostile to EPA mission, unwilling to make science/law based decisions. Congress can refuse to enact Executive Orders. Budget must be passed by Congress. Citizens have potential to influence Congress - must be our focus.

EPA - slash budget by $\frac{1}{3}$, cut EPA Science Office by $\frac{1}{2}$. No more funds for climate change because it's felt to be a waste of money. As AG of OK, Pruitt sued EPA 14 times. Doesn't believe carbon pollution is main source of climate change. Eliminate = agency enforcement on the ground.

Acid rain in the Adirondacks was the impetus for starting the EPA 46 years ago. Between early 1970 and 2012 (???) was reduced 72% and acid rain was reduced by 70%.

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

EPA Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic Region) includes NY, NJ, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Cecil A. Rodriguez is the Acting Administrator of Region 3. Contact info is: Phone: (215) 814-2900 and Email: R3_RA@epa.gov

Citizen lawsuits have resulted in incentivizing EPA or bringing lawsuits themselves. There is currently legislation under consideration that would require citizens to pay their own lawsuit fees and to post bond. This legislation would virtually eliminate citizen lawsuits, evidence that the focus now is on neutralizing these suits. The Republican administration is now seeking to dismantle the Clean Power Plan (an Obama initiative) and it may be assumed that the Attorney General, i.e., "The People's Lawyer," will not aggressively defend these cases.

Trump's proposed budget includes drastic environmentally-related cuts (Kate read a list) - EPA, Dept of Interior (federal lands and their use = 12%) Energy by 6%, NASA eliminate Science arm looking at climate change/research. EPA = eliminate 3200 staff. Clean power plants = all. Elimination of international climate change programs. A slight increase in programs focused on drinking/waste water. A 29% reduction in State Department programs, with the prime target being UN climate change initiatives = no US funding for those. Reduction of 21% to the Department of Agriculture's programs related to natural forests. Justice Dept = the enforcers of laws on books. NOAA = elimination of coastal and marine management. Department of the Interior = 12% decrease, an increase of drilling, and cuts to protection of National Heritage and

wildlife areas. Energy Department - cut clean energy technology, advanced research projects, and vehicle/fuel efficiency manufacturing programs.

By 2013, more than 25% of crude oil from North Dakota was being transported through Albany.

- Kate Hudson

“My office (AG Schneiderman) stands ready to act to protect New Yorkers. I wanted to share my statements on these appointments, and I hope you’ll join me in speaking out by tweeting ([here](#) and [here](#)), posting on Facebook ([here](#) and [here](#)), and sharing these links with your network.”

12/9/16: Statement By NYS Attorney General Schneiderman On The Reported Nomination Of Scott Pruitt As Administrator Of The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [VIEW](#)

RELATED ARTICLES:

1. [Forbes](#): How he won and the impact of Bannon’s Cambridge Analytica - use of social media, data collection, targeted campaigns, streamlined response
2. [Cambridge Analytica](#)

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

POLICIES & NYS LAWS:

OPPORTUNITY: Requires Congressional confirmation.

Homeland Security Secretary: **Ret. General John F. Kelly**

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

“The hodgepodge agency, formed after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has one key role in the Trump administration: guarding the United States’ borders. If Mr. Trump makes good on his

promises of widespread deportations and building a wall, this secretary will have to carry them out.” (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

Mr. Trump [has named](#) the retired four-star Marine general, whose son was killed in combat in Afghanistan. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

POLICIES & NYS LAWS:

OPPORTUNITY:

Requires Senate confirmation.

Defense Secretary: Ret. General James N. Mattis

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The incoming secretary will shape the fight against the Islamic State while overseeing a military that is struggling to put in place two Obama-era initiatives: integrating women into combat roles and allowing transgender people to serve openly. Both could be rolled back. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

Mr. Trump [announced at a rally that](#) he had selected General Mattis, who led a Marine division to Baghdad during the 2003 invasion of Iraq and led the United States Central Command from 2010-13. General Mattis, now retired, has been a critic of the Obama administration. He would need a waiver from Congress to lead the Pentagon because he has been out of uniform for less than seven years. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:**RELATED ARTICLES:****POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Requires Senate confirmation.

Treasury Secretary: **Steven Mnuchin, former Trump Campaign Finance Chairman**

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The secretary will be responsible for government borrowing in financial markets, assisting in any rewrite of the tax code and overseeing the Internal Revenue Service. The Treasury Department also carries out or lifts financial sanctions against foreign enemies — which are crucial to President Obama’s Iran deal and rapprochement with Cuba. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

Mr. Trump [has selected](#) Mr. Mnuchin, who served as his campaign finance chairman. Mr. Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs executive, has deep roots in Hollywood but no government experience. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:**RELATED ARTICLES:****POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:**

OPPORTUNITY:

Requires Senate confirmation.

Transportation Secretary: **Elaine L. Chao, former Secretary of Transportation**

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The next transportation secretary will oversee Mr. Trump's campaign pledge to increase infrastructure funding to rebuild America's roads, bridges, airports and transit systems. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?

Mr. Trump [has selected](#) Ms. Chao, the labor secretary under President George W. Bush. Ms. Chao, who is married to the Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, has been a fixture of the Republican establishment in Washington. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:**RELATED ARTICLES:****POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Requires Senate confirmation.

Health and Human Services Secretary: **Rep. Tom Price (R-GA)**

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The secretary will help Mr. Trump achieve one of his central campaign promises: to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. The department approves new drugs, regulates the food supply, operates biomedical research, and runs Medicare and Medicaid, which insure more than 100 million people. (NYT)

What is Trump's motivation? Mr. Trump [has selected](#) Mr. Price, a six-term Republican congressman from Georgia and orthopedic surgeon who has led opposition to the Affordable Care Act. Mr. Price has said the law interferes with the ability of patients and doctors to make medical decisions. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

[**FORBES:**](#) *"Draining the Swamp? Not With Tom Price As Head Of Health."*

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

POLICIES & NYS LAWS:

OPPORTUNITY:

Requires Senate confirmation.

White House Counsel: Donald F. McGahn II, former Chairman of the Federal Elections Commission; former Chief Counsel to National Republican Congressional Committee

NATIONAL CONTEXT: As the president's adviser on legal matters, the White House counsel may have an unusually daunting job in the Trump administration, given Mr. Trump's far-reaching business empire and potential conflicts of interest. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?

Mr. Trump [has chosen](#) Mr. McGahn, who served as general counsel for the Trump campaign. Mr. McGahn, a Washington lawyer who pushed to deregulate campaign finance and election laws, served on the Federal Election Commission for five years. This position is appointed. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

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OPPORTUNITY:

Commerce Secretary: **Wilbur Ross, private equity investor**

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The Commerce Department has been a perennial target for budget cuts, but the secretary oversees a diverse portfolio, including the census, the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

Mr. Trump [has selected](#) Mr. Ross, an investor whose fortune is estimated by Forbes to be \$2.9 billion. Mr. Ross has said the United States must free itself from the “bondage” of “bad trade agreements,” and has advocated threats to impose steep tariffs on China. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

POLICIES & NYS LAWS:

OPPORTUNITY:

Requires Senate confirmation.

NOTES:

Treasury Secretary Jonathan Gray? [VIEW](#)

Education Secretary: **Betsy DeVos, Chair of Michigan Republican Party**

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

Mr. Trump has said he wants to drastically shrink the Education Department and shift responsibilities for curriculum research, development and educational aid to state and local governments. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?

Mr. Trump [has selected](#) Ms. DeVos, a former chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party and an education activist who is a passionate believer in school choice, as his nominee. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:**RELATED ARTICLES:****POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Requires Senate confirmation.

U.N. Ambassador: Nikki R. Haley, Governor of South Carolina

NATIONAL CONTEXT: Second to the secretary of state, the United States ambassador to the United Nations will be the primary face of America to the world, representing the country's

interests at the Security Council on a host of issues, from Middle East peace to nuclear proliferation

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?

Mr. Trump [has selected](#) Ms. Haley, the governor of South Carolina, as his nominee. The daughter of immigrants from India, she was a prominent and frequent critic of Mr. Trump early in his run. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

POLICIES & NYS LAWS:

OPPORTUNITY: Requires Senate confirmation.

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development: Dr. Ben Carson, retired

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The secretary oversees fair-housing laws, the development of affordable housing and access to mortgage insurance. As a real estate developer, Mr. Trump is attuned to the tax breaks for housing development. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?

Mr. Trump [has selected](#) the former neurosurgeon and presidential candidate to be his nominee to lead HUD. Mr. Carson had previously said he did not want to work in government. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:**RELATED ARTICLES:****POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Requires Senate confirmation.

C.I.A. Director: Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS)

NATIONAL CONTEXT: Mr. Trump takes over at a time of diverse and complex threats to American security. The new C.I.A. director will have to decide whether to undo a C.I.A. “modernization” plan put in place this year by Director John O. Brennan, and how to proceed if the president-elect orders a resumption of harsh interrogation tactics — critics have described the tactics as torture — for terrorism suspects. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

Mr. Trump [has selected](#) Mr. Pompeo, representative of Kansas and a former Army officer, as his nominee. Mr. Pompeo is a member of the House Intelligence Committee and was a sharp critic of Hillary Clinton during the congressional investigation into the 2012 attack on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

POLICIES & NYS LAWS:

OPPORTUNITY:

Requires Senate confirmation.

Attorney General: Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL)

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The nation's top law enforcement official will have the authority for carrying out Mr. Trump's “law and order” platform. The nominee can change how civil rights laws are enforced. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

Mr. Trump [has selected](#) Senator Sessions, of Alabama, as his nominee. Mr. Sessions is a strong

proponent of strict immigration enforcement, reduced spending and tough-on-crime measures. His nomination for a federal judgeship in 1986 was rejected because of racially charged comments and actions, which are [very likely to become an issue](#) as he faces another set of Senate confirmation hearings. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:

POLICIES & NYS LAWS:

OPPORTUNITY:

Requires Senate confirmation.

National Security Adviser:

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The national security adviser, although not a member of the cabinet, is a critical gatekeeper for policy proposals from the State Department, the Pentagon and other agencies, a function that takes on more importance given Mr. Trump's lack of experience in elective office. This is an appointed position. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:**POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:****White House Chief of Staff: Reince Priebus, former Chairman of the Republican National Committee**

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The chief of staff manages the work and personnel of the West Wing, steering the president's agenda and tending to important relationships. The role will take on outsized importance in a White House run by Mr. Trump, who has no experience in policy making and little in the way of connections to critical players in Washington. This is an appointed position. (NYT)

What is Trump's motivation? [Mr. Trump announced on Nov. 13](#) that he had chosen Mr. Priebus, the chairman of the Republican National Committee. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:**POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Chief Strategist: Stephen K. Bannon, former Chairman of Trump’s Campaign; former Executive Chairman of Breitbart News

NATIONAL CONTEXT: Stephen K. Bannon was also considered for chief of staff, but Mr. Trump instead named him chief strategist and senior counselor in the White House, saying that he and Mr. Priebus would be “working as equal partners” in the administration. This is an appointed position. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

Also on Nov. 13, Mr. Trump announced the appointment of Mr. Bannon, [a right-wing media executive](#) and the chairman of the president-elect’s campaign. [Many have denounced the move](#), warning that Mr. Bannon represents racist views. (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:**POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**Director of National Intelligence

- **Michael S. Rogers** Navy admiral and director of the National Security Agency. Choosing Mr. Rogers may be complicated because the Obama administration is considering removing him after frustrations over the speed at which he moved to combat the Islamic State. (NYT)
- **David H. Petraeus** Former four-star Army general and director of the Central Intelligence Agency (NYT)
- **Frances Townsend** Homeland security adviser under George W. Bush (NYT)

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The person who holds this post is the president's principal adviser on intelligence and oversees the entire military and civilian intelligence apparatus. The coordination between the intelligence agencies of the military and civilian wings will be vital for the war on the Islamic State. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?

SEE ABOVE.

LOCAL INITIATIVES:**RELATED ARTICLES:****POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:****POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Requires Senate confirmation.

Agriculture Secretary

- **Sam Brownback** Kansas governor
- **Chuck Conner** Chief executive officer of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
- **Heidi Heitkamp** Democratic Senator from North Dakota
- **Sid Miller** Commissioner of agriculture for Texas
- **Kristi Noem** Representative from South Dakota
- **Sonny Perdue** Former governor of Georgia

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The agriculture secretary oversees America's farming industry, inspects food quality and provides income-based food assistance. The department also helps develop international markets for American products, giving the next secretary partial responsibility to carry out Mr. Trump's positions on trade. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?**LOCAL INITIATIVES:****RELATED ARTICLES:**

HARVEST PUBLIC MEDIA: *“Agriculture Secretary lone Trump Cabinet post without a nominee”*

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:**POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Requires Senate confirmation.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs: **David Shulkin, Undersecretary for Health at the Veterans Administration**

NATIONAL CONTEXT:

“The secretary will face the task of improving the image of a department Mr. Trump has widely criticized. Mr. Trump repeatedly argued that the Obama administration neglected the country's veterans, and he said that improving their care was one of his top priorities.” (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration’s motivation?

LOCAL INITIATIVES:**RELATED ARTICLES:**

[NPR](#): *“Trump Announces David Shulkin As Pick For Secretary Of Veterans Affairs”*

POLICIES & LOCAL LAWS:**POLICIES & NYS LAWS:****OPPORTUNITY:**

Requires Senate confirmation.

U.S. Trade Representative: **Dan DiMicco, Chairman Emeritus of Nucor Corporation**

NATIONAL CONTEXT: The president's chief trade negotiator will have the odd role of opposing new trade deals, trying to rewrite old ones and bolstering the enforcement of what Mr. Trump sees as unfair trade, especially with China. (NYT)

What is the Trump Administration's motivation?

Former chief executive of the Nucor Corporation, a steel production company, and a critic of Chinese trade practices (NYT)

LOCAL INITIATIVES:

RELATED ARTICLES:

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OPPORTUNITY:

Requires Senate confirmation.

