The Senate will proceed to executive session at 3:00 p.m.

The Senate will proceed to executive session at 3:00 p.m. to resume consideration of the nomination of Mike Pompeo to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m.

The House reconvenes at 2 p.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. Roll call votes will be postponed until 6:30 p.m.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

*NPR* and *Federal News Radio* report on the meeting between OGE’s Director and House Oversight and Government Committee Chairman Chaffetz today. *In U.S. Ethics Chief, An Unlikely Gadfly To Trump: Ethics director, oversight chairman meeting to discuss ‘blurred lines’ of PR and guidance*. In related news, *The Hill* publishes an opinion piece discussing Chairman Chaffetz’s recent criticism of the Director. *Juan Williams: Ethics cloud hangs over Trump*

Multiple outlets report on a lawsuit being filed today by CREW regarding President Trump’s business interests. *Foreign Payments to Trump Firms Violate Constitution, Suit Will Claim (NYT); Ethics Lawyers to Sue Trump Over Continuing Business Interests (NBC News); Ethics Experts File Lawsuit Saying Trump's Overseas Interests Violate Constitution (NPR)*

*Government Executive* and *The Huffington Post* report on a FOIA request filed by the ACLU with OGE and several other executive agencies. *Trump Faces New Legal Complaints on Day One; The ACLU Announces Mass FOIA For Donald Trump’s Business Conflicts*

*Politico* and *The Washington Post* report that the Senate HELP committee has postponed the DeVos hearing “to give each Senator time to review” her financial disclosure report and ethics agreement. *Republicans delay DeVos committee vote by a week; After ethics review, Senate postpones committee vote for Betsy DeVos*


*The Washington Post* publishes an opinion piece by Senator Warren on nominees’ compliance with ethics rules. *Elizabeth Warren: Trump’s nominees are putting us all at risk by ignoring ethics laws*

*Time* publishes an opinion piece by POGO on the fate of the “Ethics Commitments By Executive Branch Personnel” executive order signed by President Obama in 2009. *The Real Ethics Test for Donald Trump Lies in This Little-Known Rule*

*The Huffington Post* reports on ethics issues “plaguing” Cabinet nominees, quoting the OGE Director’s recent comments at the Brookings Institute. *The Ethics Problems Plaguing Trump’s Cabinet Have Sunk Plenty Of Prior Nominees*

*Mother Jones* reports on Steven Mnuchin’s revised financial disclosure form. *Steven Mnuchin*
Forgot $95 Million In His Financial Disclosure Forms


**Federal Agency and Related News**

*Government Executive* reports that the President has issued an executive order freezing federal hiring. [Trump Signs Order to Freeze Federal Hiring](https://www.governmentexecutive.com/politics/345204/trump-signs-order-freeze-federal-hiring)

Next Scheduled Recess:

**House**: January 26-27  
**Senate**: February 20-24
The Senate reconvenes at 12:30 p.m.
The Senate reconvenes at 12:30 p.m., and will be in a period of morning business.

The House reconvened at 12 p.m.
The House reconvened at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 238) that would clarify how the CFTC is to regulate derivatives and swaps and a bill (HR 78) that would require the SEC to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of all new and existing regulations.

Executive Branch Ethics and Related News
Multiple sources report on the OGE Director’s public comments on the President-elect’s conflicts of interest.


Multiple sources report on the President-elect’s conflicts of interest. Trump asks public for blind trust Why Trump's Conflict-of-Interest Plan Won't Prevent Conflicts of Interest Donald Trump hasn’t solved any of his conflicts of interest DONALD TRUMP WON'T GIVE UP HIS BRAND TO BE PRESIDENT Trump Plan to Donate Hotel Profits Doesn't Erase Ethics Concerns: Experts Agree Trump takes a step forward on ethics. Here’s how he could do better. Trump's Conflict of Interest Farce Trump's conflict-of-interest plan is good enough, for now Is Trump’s plan for his company enough to avoid conflicts of interest? Law Professor: Trump's Plan Fails To Adequately Address Conflicts Of Interest

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reports that no Cabinet nominee of President-elect Donald Trump will get a confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee without having a completed review by the Office of Government Ethics first. Murkowski holds firm: Ethics review first, then hearing

The Intercept reports that John Kelly, the retired Marine Corps general nominated by Donald Trump to be secretary of Homeland Security, did not disclose his position as a vice chairman at a lobbying firm called the Spectrum Group on his federal ethics forms made public this week. Homeland


Next Scheduled Recess:
House: January 14-19, 26-27
Senate: January 16, February 20-24

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Follow OGE on Twitter: @OfficeGovEthics
The Senate and House are not in session.

Legislative Branch and Related News


Executive Branch Ethics and Related News

*CNN* reports on OGE tweets. [Ethics office tweets in middle of Tom Price hearing](https://www.cnn.com/2017/01/18/politics/tom-price-ethics-hearing/index.html)

*Federal News Radio* reports that the director of the Office of Government Ethics is asking the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to hold a public hearing so he can answer questions about his organization’s role. [Ethics director calls for an open meeting about Trump’s divestiture plans](https://www.federalfnews.com/articles/2017/01/19/ethics-director-calls-for-an-open-meeting-about-trumps-divestiture-plans/)

*The Huffington Post* reports that Rep. Chaffetz missed a meeting with OGE’s Director in December. [Chaffetz Skipped Meeting With Ethics Chief He Threatened To Subpoena, Emails Show](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/chaffetz-skipped-ethics-meeting_n_5867842)

*The Washington Post* runs a piece by Elizabeth Warren about the ethics of the nominations process and *the Hill* reports on it. [Elizabeth Warren: Trump’s nominees are putting us all at risk by ignoring ethics laws](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/ethics-director-calls-for-an-open-meeting-about-trumps-divestiture-plans/) [Warren: GOP ‘ignored’ ethical requirements for Cabinet picks](https://thehill.com/policy/ethics/284167-warren-gop-ignored-ethical-requirements-for-cabinet-picks)

*The National Law Journal* reports that President-elect Donald Trump’s transition team confirmed Tuesday that Puzder has submitted financial disclosure forms to the U.S. Office of Government Ethics. [What Labor Lawyers Want to Know About Andrew Puzder](https://www.nationallawjournal.com/labor-law/what-labor-lawyers-want-know-about-andrew-puzder?cid=NLJ%3A20161223%3AL0281572941%3A210)

*Buzzfeed* reports that Donald Trump’s choice to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, declined to commit to recusing himself from any of the eight ongoing lawsuits he filed against the agency he is set to head. [EPA Pick Refuses To Recuse Himself From Lawsuits He Has Filed Against The Agency](https://www.buzzfeed.com/davidpense/epa-pick-refuses-to-recuse-himself-from-lawsuits-he-has-filed-against-the-agency)

*Common Dreams* reports that Americans for Tax Fairness estimates that Steven T. Mnuchin, President-elect Donald Trump’s nominee for U.S. Treasury Secretary, could cut his personal tax bill by up to roughly $3.3 million a year should Trump’s tax plan become law. [Trump’s Proposed Treasury Secretary Could Get $3.3 Million Tax Cut Annually from Trump Tax Plan](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2017/01/17/trumps-proposed-treasury-secretary-could-get-3-3-million-tax-cut-annually-from-trumps-tax-plan)

*Breitbart* reports that Elaine Chao, Donald Trump’s nominee to head the Department of Transportation, could collect up to $5 million in Wells Fargo preferred stock after assuming her new role in the Trump administration. [Trump’s Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao Could Collect Millions From Wells Fargo For Taking Government Job](https://www.breitbart.com/economics/2017/01/17/trumps-transportation-secretary-elaine-chao-could-collect-millions-from-wells-fargo-for-taking-government-job/)

*Gant News* reports that Donald Trump’s nominee to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, Rep. Tom Price, defended himself from accusations of inappropriate financial investments Wednesday. [Under fire, HHS nominee Tom Price says financial dealings were legal](https://www.gantnews.com/trumps-dhhs-nominee-tom-price-defends-himself-against-accusations-of-inappropriate-financial-investments/)

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**From:** Kelsey D. Phipps  
**To:** Agency Wide: News Clippings  
**Subject:** Legislative Update for Thursday, January 19, 2017  
**Date:** Thursday, January 19, 2017 10:52:13 AM
Multiple sources report on the President-elect’s conflicts of interest. Trump's Washington Hotel Draws Protesters — And Ethics Concerns Trump plans for Scottish golf course expansion spark ethics concerns

Next Scheduled Recess:

**House:** January 26-27  
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