

# POLITICO

VOL. 12 • NO. 117 | THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019 | POLITICO.COM

## Gillibrand's path: 'Women are pissed off and they're fired up'

The New York Democrat is poised to put gender at the heart of her pitch to voters in the 2020 presidential race.

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## King punished?

House Dem leaders reject harsher punishment for Iovan.

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## Beto skips town while his brain trust sketches 2020 plans

A decentralized, Bernie Sanders-style presidential campaign model is being discussed.

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## Matt Wuerker

The cartoonist's daily take on the world of politics.

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## Bipartisan Senate effort to end the shutdown hits wall

Senators fell short in their effort to break the impasse and jump-start negotiations

BY BURGESS EVERETT

A bipartisan effort to dig the government out of a shutdown hit a major snag on Wednesday, as Democrats accused the Trump administration of beating back GOP support for a letter to President Donald Trump committing to work on a border security package.

By the end of the day, the signers of the letter were stalled far short of the 20 senators in both parties that supporters were trying to ac-

crue. Many Republicans wanted more of a commitment from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) to move forward, and others thought it was pointless to endorse it if there was no signal from Trump that he might accept it. Senators had hoped to set up a meeting with Vice President Mike Pence on Wednesday afternoon, though the meeting never occurred.

Trump has rejected similar pro-

SHUTDOWN on page 10

## Group aligned with AOC prepares to take out Dems



NICHOLAS KAMM/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The Justice Democrats orchestrated Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's House bid last year.

BY LAURA BARRÓN-LÓPEZ AND HEATHER CAYGLE

Justice Democrats, the liberal group that engineered Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's meteoric rise — hijacking the Democratic Party in the process — is ready to go to war.

The opening salvo? An eight-minute video released Wednesday starring Ocasio-Cortez and calling for a new crop of activists and community organizers to run against the Democratic machine.

JUSTICE DEMOCRATS on page 11

## Republicans buck Trump but hold steady on the wall

BY BURGESS EVERETT AND ZACHARY WARMBRODT

Senate Republicans are hunkered down and refusing to cross President Donald Trump on the border wall. But the GOP is more than willing to challenge the administration on foreign policy and national security.

On Wednesday, 11 GOP senators crossed party lines to vote against lifting sanctions on Russia. The effort failed under the Senate's 60-vote threshold. But the defection

was far larger than the Trump administration has experienced on anything related to the shutdown. And it continues a theme of Republican unease with the president's international policies reaching back more than a year.

The Republican complaints range from disdain over Trump's tariffs to disgust over the U.S. withdrawal from Syria to a repudiation of the administration's refusal to implicate Saudi Crown

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TWITTER.COM/SPEAKERPELOSI

Writing to President Donald Trump on Thursday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi pointed to "security concerns" in disinviting Trump from delivering the State of the Union address.

## 'She's satin and steel': Pelosi wages war on Trump

The speaker's move to derail Trump's State of the Union address underscores her aggressive challenge to the president

BY JOHN BRESNAHAN, HEATHER CAYGLE AND RACHAEL BADE

Donald Trump may have finally met his match in Nancy Pelosi.

As the partial government shutdown grinds on with no end in sight, the struggle between the president and the House speaker is becoming an unprecedented

political fight — with the fallout likely to extend far beyond this episode.

Pelosi privately refers to Trump as the "whiner in chief." She's questioned his manhood. She calls out Trump's lies to his face and openly wonders whether he's fit for the job. She mocks Trump for his privileged upbringing and

his lack of empathy for the less fortunate. She jokes with other senior Democrats that if the American public saw how Trump acts in private, they'd "want to make a citizen's arrest."

And in effectively rescinding Trump's invitation to address Congress for the annual State

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# THANK YOU, CONGRESS

*for getting this  
train moving.*

The members of the Rail Customer Coalition, and the companies they represent, applaud the Senate for confirming Patrick Fuchs and Martin Oberman, President Trump's nominees to fill long-standing vacancies at the Surface Transportation Board (STB). A functioning Board will help ensure that American businesses and consumers benefit from a healthy, affordable, and dependable freight rail system.

As the largest users of freight rail, we commend the Senate for giving the STB Commissioners the support they need to get to work on long overdue regulatory reforms that would increase access to competitive and reliable freight rail service.

We thank the Senate again for delivering this bipartisan achievement, and we urge the White House to fill the remaining vacancies at the STB by renominating Deb Miller and Michelle Schultz as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we look forward to working with the STB on adopting freight rail reforms that will support growth across the country and throughout the U.S. economy.

With gratitude,

**The Rail Customer Coalition**  
*Representing America's manufacturing,  
agriculture, and energy sectors*

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