

The image features two thick black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned in the top-left corner, and the other is in the bottom-right corner, framing the central text.

**DRAINING THE SWAMP?
PRESIDENT TRUMP'S
TEAM**

The Full(ish) Roster

- **Sec. of State** – Rex Tillerson, CEO ExxonMobil
- **Attorney General** – Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Alabama
- **Education Secretary** – Betsy DeVos, lobbyist and Michigan Republican
- **Sec. of Health and Human Services** – Rep. Tom Price
- **Sec. of Transportation** – Elaine Chao
- **Sec. of Treasury** – Steven Mnuchin
- **Sec. of Commerce** – Wilbur Ross
- **Sec. of Defense** – Gen. James Mattis (Ret.)
- **Sec. of Housing and Urban Development** – Dr. Ben Carson
- **Sec. of Dept. of Homeland Security** – Gen. John Kelly
- **Sec. of the Interior** – Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Mont.
- **Sec. of Energy** – Rick Perry
- **Chief of Staff** – Reince Priebus
- **Admin. Of EPA** – Scott Pruitt
- **Chief Strategist** – Steve Bannon

Secretary of State – Rex Tillerson (confirmed)

- Former ExxonMobil CEO and President of the Boy Scouts
- Has negotiated business deals with countries across the world – including some hostile to the US
- Has some odd ties to Russia – developed oil fields in the Black Sea, was awarded the Order of Friendship in 2013, and opposed the US sanctions of Russia in 2014 after those sanctions halted a deal Exxon was poised to make with Russian oil companies
- Has acknowledged climate change is real and poses a threat, and also advocated for the Boy Scouts to let in gay men



Education Secretary – Betsy Devos (potential 51-50 confirmation)

- Billionaire lobbyist and former Michigan Republican Party chairwoman
- Chair of pro-school choice advocacy group American Federation for Children, which lobbies for policies that would require use of public funds to pay for private school tuition (e.g. vouchers)
- Major force behind spread of charter schools in Michigan, most of which have recorded test scores below the state average
- Has no experience in education, school governance, and appears to know little about standard-setting.



Head of EPA – Scott Pruitt (approved by Senate Committee, likely confirmation)

- Oklahoma attorney general and head of the Republican Attorneys General Association (which relies heavily on donations from conservative groups and oil companies)
- Is currently suing the EPA for its climate-change regulations



Attorney General – Jeff Sessions (approved by Senate Committee, likely confirmation)

- Senator from Alabama for two decades, and one of the first members of Congress to endorse Trump, leading to him advising Trump on most major decisions and policy proposals
- Strictly anti-immigration (both legal and illegal) – opposed almost every immigration bill that included a path to citizenship
- Debt hawk and military hawk (which might conflict with Trump)
- Rejects climate change, hates marijuana, accused of racism in 1986, but is evidently very friendly to other Democratic legislators



Don't Forget These Fellas...

Steve Bannon, Chief Strategist and now-permanent-member of NSC

- Promoted to full membership of the NSC while demoting Director of National Intelligence and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs
- Powerful as an instrument of control – key to shaping White House national security apparatus
- Bannon is the first political operative to have ever been given a permanent seat.

Neil Gorsuch, Supreme Court Nominee

- Federal appellate judge from Colorado
- As, if not more, conservative than Justice Scalia
- If confirmed, would continue the four-four-one balance on the Court
- Strong supporter of religious liberty, separation of powers, strict originalist,

Discussion

- Given President Trump's *general, policy-related* promises (i.e., the things he intends to “get done”), how *effective* will his choices be in implementing those promises?
- *If* this team is effective at implementing Donald Trump's *promised policies*, what will be the outcome? Can those policies be implemented? If so, at what cost?
- Does this team give the impression that Donald Trump will either..
 - *A) Be willing to follow through on his campaign promises...*
 - *B) Actually be able to do so?*
- Ultimately – can you drain the swamp and still run Washington like Washington? What does this tell us about the next few years?