



President-elect Donald Trump promised to “drain the swamp” during his campaign, but his cabinet picks represent a who’s who of billionaires, conservatives, and Wall Street insiders.

ALTOONA, WI - America’s president-elect famously promised to “drain the swamp.” Surrounding himself with alligators is a curious way of going about making good on that promise. Alligators like swamps.

Donald Trump hasn’t made all of his appointments yet, but the cast of characters he’s pulled together so far has [more wealth between them than the poorest one-third of American households](#). That’s 17 men and women who have more money than 43 million families combined.

There’s oil tycoon Rex Tillerson. Trump wants Exxon Mobil’s chief executive in charge of international diplomacy as Secretary of State.

The “king of bankruptcy” Wilbur Ross is being put in line to become Commerce secretary. If Trump gets his way, Ross’s deputy at Commerce will be Todd Ricketts, the billionaire son of the billionaire founder of the brokerage firm Ameritrade.

Linda McMahon, the billionaire co-founder of the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) is being tabbed to head the Small Business Administration. McMahon is Trump’s [biggest single political donor](#), having given \$7.5 million to a pro-Trump super PAC, which was more than a third of the money collected by the political action committee.

Betsy DeVos, the daughter-in-law of the founder of the home care and beauty product

Blue Jean Nation "Gators don't drain swamps"

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distributor Amway Corporation (since renamed "Quixtar"), is Trump's choice for Secretary of Education. DeVos's brother, [Erik Prince](#), started the shadowy soldier-for-hire company known as Blackwater. Her qualifications to oversee the nation's schools pretty much begin and end with her family's lavish spending to push taxpayer-funded subsidies for private and religious schools. Anyone paying careful attention to elections in Wisconsin should be familiar with DeVos's political handiwork. Her front group known as the [American Federation for Children](#) has poured more than \$5 million into Wisconsin just since 2010 to sway state legislative races and cement legislative majorities favoring privatization of education.

Then there's Goldman Sachs.

Trump told South Carolina voters "I know the guys at Goldman Sachs" when he was trying to talk them out of supporting Texas Senator Ted Cruz. "They have total, total control over him. Just like they have total control over Hillary Clinton."

That was then. This is now. Trump picked Goldman Sachs president Gary Cohn to head up his White House National Economic Council. His choice for Treasury secretary, Steven Mnuchin, spent 17 years working at Goldman Sachs. Trump's chief strategist and White House counselor, Steve Bannon, started his career at Goldman Sachs as an investment banker.

Quite a crew being put to work draining the swamp. Alligators all of them.