



## GOP set for quick work on trillions in tax cuts

2017 law extension, new reductions are the aim if party sweeps Congress

BY JACOB BOGAGE

President-elect Donald Trump is poised to push swiftly for new tax cuts if Republicans win full control of Congress, further slashing corporate rates and extending trillions of dollars of other cuts even as the national debt soars.

Major portions of Trump's 2017 tax law are set to expire next year, and Republicans are aiming to give Trump a major legislative accomplishment within his first 100 days in office.

The GOP won control of the Senate in Tuesday's elections. While control of the House is still uncertain, Republicans are optimistic that results are trending toward maintaining their narrow majority.

As party leaders discuss their plans for the early days of a new Trump administration, the attitude that's emerged on taxes is, "Just go," according to a top conservative lobbyist familiar with the discussions, speaking on the condition of anonymity to describe private talks. "Rip the Band-Aid and run and just plow it through."

"They're going to do this one very early," Grover Norquist, an antitax advocate and informal Trump economic adviser, told The Washington Post. "The House and Senate guys have been working on this together forever."

Trump ran on a promise of extending individual tax cuts — which reduced what taxpayers in every income bracket paid — and a bevy of other expensive new changes. He pledged to exempt tipped wages and overtime pay from taxes, along with Social Security benefits, which could rapidly accelerate the insolvency date for social safety-

SEE TAX CUTS ON A8

**Abortion access:** Trump could limit impact of state ballot initiatives. **A4**



MAANSI SRIVASTAVA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

President Joe Biden on Thursday, when he promised a smooth transition of power and reinforced the legitimacy of the electoral system.

## Pentagon fears upheaval under new administration

BY DAN LAMOTHE, MISSY RYAN AND ALEX HORTON

The Pentagon anticipates major upheaval once President-elect Donald Trump returns to the White House, amid fears that the once and future commander in chief will follow through on vows to deploy the military domestically against American citizens, demand fealty from key leaders and attempt to remake the nonpartisan institution into one explicitly loyal to him.

The trepidation harks back to Trump's first term, when he smashed norms and frequently clashed with senior Pentagon leaders — including several of his own political appointees. He has shown no signs of altering course this time around, stating throughout his campaign an intent to use

military force against the "enemy from within," to fire any military officer associated with the chaotic evacuation from Afghanistan after he left office in 2021, and to reverse what he and his supporters have denounced as "woke" decisions by the Biden administration that include renaming several Army bases that had honored Confederates.

"The greatest danger the military faces" under a second Trump presidency is a "rapid erosion of its professionalism, which would undermine its status and respect from the American people," said Richard Kohn, a professor and military historian at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "Mr. Trump does not have a real understanding of civil-military relations, or the importance of a nonpartisan, nonpolitical

SEE PENTAGON ON A2

**'We have won':** Russians envision new global system with Trump. **A14**

## Biden welcomes to power a man he deemed a threat

BY MATT VISER

President Joe Biden walked into the Rose Garden on Thursday morning to concede his party's defeat, expressing confidence in the American electoral system and vowing to oversee a peaceful transfer of power.

But underlying his remarks was a funeral mood, as Cabinet members and staffers were escorted to their seats, exchanging hugs and sober glances before rising for a standing ovation when the president emerged.

"Setbacks are unavoidable. But giving up is unforgivable," Biden said. "A defeat does not mean we are defeated."

"We lost this battle," he added. "We're going to be okay."

Biden is now forced to welcome and legitimize a man he condemned, a man whose ouster — as

he has said repeatedly over the past five years — was the entire reason he ran for president in the first place, and a man he has called a fascist and an existential threat to democracy.

Biden is now pledging to honor and accept Trump in a way that Trump did not and would not do for him. Biden's fealty to democratic traditions requires him to courteously pave the way for a man who often dismisses them — but whom the voters chose.

"The American experiment endures," the president said.

Staffers for Biden and Trump are working to schedule a meeting between the two leaders, something that did not occur four years ago when it was Trump who was leaving the White House and Biden who was coming in. Biden's aides say he will attend Trump's

SEE BIDEN ON A6

**D.C.:** Leaders to balance defending city, working with administration. **B1**

ELECTION 2024

## Trump makes his first key hire

TOP ADVISER WILES FOR CHIEF OF STAFF

Mar-a-Lago abuzz as allies jockey for jobs

BY HANNAH KNOWLES, JOSH DAWSEY AND MARIANNE LEVINE

President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday announced that Susie Wiles, his campaign manager, would serve as White House chief of staff, as leading contenders emerged for other Cabinet roles such as attorney general in a second Trump administration.

"Susie Wiles just helped me achieve one of the greatest political victories in American history, and was an integral part of both my 2016 and 2020 successful campaigns," Trump said in a statement Thursday that called Wiles "universally admired and respected."

She would be the first female White House chief of staff.

Wiles, 67, has led Trump's operation since 2021 — when he was widely viewed as a pariah after the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol by a mob of his supporters. Unlike some advisers, she has rarely battled with him and has maintained a close rapport.

The announcement from Trump is the first key appointment as his transition team considers candidates for jobs in his second administration that begins Jan. 20. Trump's team has zeroed in on some candidates for other roles after vetting thousands of names and seeking to ensure they are loyal to the former president.

Mark Paoletta, who served as general counsel in the Office of Management and Budget in

SEE TRUMP ON A6

**Michigan:** One state official's road to restore the electorate's faith. **C1**

## As job market slows, Fed cuts interest rates again

BY ANDREW ACKERMAN AND RACHEL SIEGEL

The Federal Reserve lowered interest rates Thursday by a quarter of a percentage point as inflation continues to cool, but a cloudy economic outlook after Donald Trump was elected again could make the pace of future cuts uncertain.

The unanimous decision to cut rates for the second consecutive Fed meeting signals that officials are paying more attention to warnings of a softening job market. In September, the Fed reduced its benchmark interest rate for the first time in more than four years by a larger-than-usual half-percentage point.

Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell said in a news conference after the meeting that inflation has "eased significantly over the past two years" and that he was confident it would continue to do so with an "appropriate recalibration"

SEE INTEREST RATES ON A16

## Already struggling, Cuba is battered by another storm



RAMON ESPINOSA/AP

Children waded through a flooded street in Batabano, Cuba, in the aftermath of Hurricane Rafael on Thursday. The storm — the fifth major hurricane to form in the Atlantic Ocean this season — made landfall on Wednesday afternoon, damaging buildings and plunging millions of people into darkness. **Story, A12**

## The truth of Pompeii, revealed through DNA

Long-standing beliefs are shattered about who exactly was buried in volcanic ash

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

Plaster casts of Pompeii's victims preserve moments of human connection as the A.D. 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius buried the city in ash. There's a family of four — including a mother holding a child on her hip. Two sisters are caught in an eternal embrace. The poignant figures, frozen in time, humanize an ancient natural disaster.

But a provocative new study published Thursday in Current Biology reveals that long-standing interpretations of these scenes are wrong.

The long-presumed family buried at one house turn out to be four unrelated males. And one of the two sisters locked in a hug turns out to be a male.

Scientists analyzed ancient DNA extracted from skeletal remains and pieced together fragments of five people's identities, rewriting the romantic stories of

who they were and how they were related.

Their ancestry could be traced, leading scientists to conclude that they were recent immigrants from the eastern Mediterranean or North Africa and offering more detail about migration at the time.

"It shows you how little is known about some of these events," said David Reich, a geneticist who specializes in ancient DNA at Harvard University and one of the leaders of the study. "When you take this new scientific tool, you see things that are quite, quite different than reconstructions. It tells you the past is, as the cliché goes, an undiscovered country, and it's really foreign and really different. Sometimes, what you think you see is not what it is."

When Mount Vesuvius erupted in Italy in the year 79, a hail of pumice stones rained down.

SEE POMPEII ON A2

## IN THE NEWS

**Reflections on the election** Voters across the United States talked to Post journalists about this consequential moment. **A10-11**

**Congressman's diagnosis** Rep. Gerry Connolly of Virginia, a longtime Democratic lawmaker, said he has esophageal cancer but will continue to work while being treated. **B1**

**THE NATION** **Florida fell short** of approving a measure to legalize recreational marijuana, a victory for Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis, who has called it a risk to public health. **A3**

**THE WORLD** **China** is expecting possible tensions over trade and Taiwan as Donald Trump returns to the White House, but also opportunities for a bigger role on the global stage. **A13**

**THE REGION** **A medical worker** who leaked Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's hospital records was sentenced to two years in prison. **B1** **Each party** was projected to win a House race in Virginia's two key battleground districts. **B1**

**STYLE** **Delaware voters** made history by backing Sarah McBride, who will be the first transgender member of Congress. **C1**

**WEEKEND** **Recommendations** for the best restaurants in Georgetown, from the fancy to the French to the subterranean.

**SPORTS** **Juan Soto's** free agency is the biggest story of this baseball offseason, and suitors have already begun lining up. **D1** **Alex Ovechkin** is chasing Wayne Gretzky's all-time goals record, one of the most hallowed marks in hockey, and he's off to a hot start. **D1**

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