

Cabinet picks get mixed reception from Connecticut senators

FROM A1

Senate Democrats have staged several overnight speeches on the Senate floor to voice their opposition to some of Trump’s nominees and to prolong their confirmations, most recently Pruitt’s. They had called for delaying Pruitt’s nomination until he releases thousands of emails, exchanged between him and fossil-fuel companies while he was attorney general, that he has refused to hand over. Democratic lawmakers said the emails likely would show Pruitt’s conflicts of interest in taking the EPA job.

Blumenthal said in a written statement that Pruitt’s “record of protecting companies that pollute our air and water and harm our health is antithetical to the purpose of this agency and the priorities of Connecticut families.”

As for Kelly, Blumenthal voted against him “despite my consummate respect and admiration for him as a dedicated and courageous military veteran.”

His no vote, he said, was to emphasize the need for comprehensive immigration reform, particularly for so-called “dreamers,” those who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

“He failed to guarantee that the personal information that they submitted to government in good faith would not be used against them in deportation proceedings,” Blumenthal said.

Murphy released a statement explaining his yes votes

HOW THEY VOTED

“As a Connecticut businesswoman and entrepreneur, Linda McMahon knows that small businesses are our country’s most vibrant and vital job creators.”

— Sen. Blumenthal

“I can’t imagine anything more reckless than putting someone in charge of the EPA who believes that climate change is a hoax.”

— Sen. Murphy

DeVos
Education
51-50*

McMahon
SBA
81-19

Sessions
Atty Genl
52-47

Kelly
DHS
88-11

Price
Health
52-47

Chao
DOT
93-6

Mnuchin
Treasury
53-47

Haley
U.N.
96-4

Tillerson
State
56-43

Mattis
Defense
98-1

Pompeo
CIA
66-32**

Shulkin
Veterans
100-0

Pruitt
EPA
52-46

Mulvaney
OMB
51-49

*Vice President Pence cast the tie-breaking vote

**Both senators opposed Pompeo, but missed vote due to weather

Voted against Voted in favor

SCOTT RITTER/THE DAY

for Kelly and for James Mattis as defense secretary. While he expects to have strong differences with the Trump administration on foreign policy issues and keeping the country safe, he said, “we’d be even worse off without people like Generals Mattis and Kelly in the room.”

Murphy hopes their experience will “inject a level of seriousness into President Trump’s administration,” he said in the statement.

Both senators voted to confirm McMahon despite her two heated Senate bids against them. McMahon lost to Blumenthal in 2010 and Murphy

in 2012. She was approved as SBA administrator by an 81-19 vote. The SBA provides government-backed loans to small businesses and helps advocate for them on Capitol Hill.

McMahon, of Greenwich, founded Stamford-based World Wrestling Entertainment with her husband, Vince. During her Senate hearing, where she was introduced by Blumenthal and Murphy, she described tough decisions she had to make in the company’s early days, such as whether to continue to lease a typewriter or if she could afford to buy one. The company, which she stepped away from in 2009 to

run for Senate, now has more than 800 employees. She said during the hearing that she’ll fight government regulations that are overly burdensome to businesses.

Blumenthal: DeVos ‘unquestionably unqualified’

The senators both voted against Betsy DeVos to run the Department of Education due to what they see as her complete inexperience for the job.

Blumenthal called her “unquestionably unqualified, unknowledgeable and unprepared,” whereas Murphy voted no because “people in Connecticut couldn’t understand

why a person who has fought so hard to undermine public schools would be put in charge of them.”

Murphy was not immediately available to comment Friday on the remaining Trump nominees requiring Senate approval.

Blumenthal said Thursday that he likely would vote against former Texas Gov. Rick Perry to run the Department of Energy because he “may well pursue a fossil-fuel agenda that would be antithetical to environmental and energy-efficiency concerns.”

While he hasn’t reached a final decision, Blumenthal

said he remained “deeply concerned” about comments Perry made during his Senate hearing “that indicate a lack of knowledge as well as bias in favor of oil and gas interests.”

Blumenthal said he also likely would vote against Ben Carson to run the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He said he needed more time to research R. Alexander Acosta, who Trump nominated Thursday to be labor secretary after his first choice, fast-food executive Andrew Puzder, withdrew his nomination amid growing opposition from Senate Republicans.

j.bergman@theday.com

Hundreds of Texans may have voted improperly even though registered

By DAVID SALEH RAUF
Associated Press

Austin, Texas — Texas election officials have acknowledged that hundreds of people were allowed to bypass the state’s toughest-in-the-nation voter ID law and improperly cast ballots in the November presidential election by signing a sworn statement instead of showing a photo ID.

The chief election officers

in two of the state’s largest counties are now considering whether to refer cases to local prosecutors for potential perjury charges or violations of election law. Officials in many other areas say they will simply let the mistakes go, citing widespread confusion among poll workers and voters.

The Texas law requires voters to show one of seven approved forms of identification

to cast ballots.

It was softened in August to allow people without a driver’s license or other photo ID to sign an affidavit declaring that they have an impediment to obtaining required identification.

Even after the affidavits were introduced, voters who possess an acceptable photo ID were still required to show it at the polls.

The revelations come as President Donald Trump makes frequent claims that the nation’s voting systems are vulnerable to fraud.

The president has repeatedly said, without citing any evidence, that he would have won the popular vote if not for 3 million to 5 million immigrants in the country illegally who voted for his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton.

An Associated Press analysis of roughly 13,500 affidavits submitted in Texas’ largest counties found at least 500 instances in which voters were allowed to get around the law by signing an affidavit and never showing a photo ID, despite indicating that they possessed one.

In Fort Bend County, a suburb of Houston, more than 15 percent of voters who submitted 313 affidavits said they

possessed a photo ID, but they were not required to show it.

Under a court order issued last year, election officials were not allowed to question a voter’s reason for signing an affidavit.

The cases do not amount to voter fraud because people still had to be registered to vote to qualify for an affidavit, said John Oldham, Fort Bend County’s elections chief.

Taste of Italian New York

Sunday March 12th
\$69 per person

Visit three of New Yorks famous Italian food “Hot Spots”
Mulberry Street in New York City
Arthur Avenue in the Bronx
Zabars in the Upper West Side

A local guide will be onboard to give you tips on what and where to buy. Bring your cooler and experience the Best Italian Foods on the East Coast. Food purchases are not included in the cost of the trip. Call 860-437-2385 to Register. Limited Spaces.

Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous Long Island, New York Tour

April 25-27

Depart aboard a Deluxe Motorcoach headed for the Gold Coast of Long Island where New York’s Elite built mansions and gardens. Tour the Vanderbilt mansion, Hamptons, Oheka Castle and a guided tour of Old Westbury Gardens and Mansion. Cost includes transportation, 2 nights accommodations at the Hilton Garden Inn, 2 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners, Sightseeing and admissions. Cost \$534 pp double / \$684 Single. Deposit of \$200 due by February 24th.

Ireland – October 13-20, 2017

Tour Presentation | March 30th | Three Shaw’s Cove | 6:30 p.m.

Come hear the wonderful details of this trip to the Emerald Isle... Light refreshments will be served

Culture on Wheels Travel Program

NEW LONDON
ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

New London Adult and Continuing Education
WINTER / SPRING 2017

With Anne Dwyer
English as a Second Language Classes
College Prep Courses
Advanced Placement Courses
Spanish and French
Business Administration Courses
Creative Writing Program
College and Career Planning Program

West Point Dress Parade

Saturday April 29
\$107 per person

View the famous Dress Parade on the Parade Grounds. Cadets march in full uniform in cadence with military music. Lunch at the West Point Club and a guided tour of West Point. Valid photo ID required to enter the grounds.

New York on Your Own

Saturday April 22
\$59 per person

Spend the day exploring New York, see a show, visit Central Park, experience the San Geron Festival. So much to do... Depart Shaws Cove Three at 7:30, depart New York 7:30pm.

Atlantic City - May 22-25 - \$320 pp/dbl

Includes \$40 slot play, \$10 food credit, 3-\$20 meal credits, 3 nights at Resorts on the Boardwalk, Transportation

Jonah - Sight & Sound Theater June 26-28 - \$448 pp dbl

Includes transportation, 2 nights Hotel, 2 Dinners, 2 Breakfasts, Sightseeing & Admissions

Register Today! Call 860-437-2385 Visit our website to see more exciting 2017 tours – newlondonadulthood.org

“Weight” No Longer LLC.

Weight Management & Wellness Center

The Ideal Protein Clinic Preferred by Local Physicians

133,200 LBS Lost Since 2011

Jane Buglione MSN, RN, CNL

Registered Nurses, Registered Dietitian, Certified Health Coaches
Where We Provide One-on-One Personal Care

Seminars: Tuesdays 12 & 7pm
Saturday, March 11 at 9am

NO TRANSFER FEES for Active IP Clients
Now Offering Lipotropic/B12 shots

BRING THIS AD FOR ONE FREE MONTH

Jeff G. Lost 47.8 lbs/23.25 inches in 14 Weeks!

BEFORE

AFTER

1

Ideal Protein ranked the MOST POPULAR DIET OF 2015

Niantic Professional Center | 8 West Main St., Niantic, CT | (860)739-0471 | www.weightnolongerllc.com