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WASHINGTON WATCH



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Why Trump Thinks He Won the Midterms

President Donald Trump's news conference after the midterm election was intended to underline the argument that he had vanquished his political opponents, as well as media naysayers.

Read more [here](#).



Energy Policy May Shift as Democrats Take Control of House

Trump administration efforts to roll back regulations likely will face increased scrutiny after Democrats take control of the House in January 2019 following the recent midterm election.

Read more [here](#).



ObamaCare Repeal Off the Table After Democrats Take House

A new Democratic House majority will shield ObamaCare from congressional Republicans who have been trying to eradicate former President Obama's signature law since 2010.

Read more [here](#).



Federal Judge Halts Construction of Keystone XL Oil Pipeline

A federal judge in Montana halted construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline on the grounds that the U.S. government did not complete a full

analysis of the environmental impact of the TransCanada project.

Read more [here](#).



DOJ Investigating Interior Chief Ryan Zinke

The top government watchdog overseeing the Interior Department has referred an investigation into agency head Ryan Zinke to the Justice Department (DOJ) for potential prosecution.

Read more [here](#).



Manufacturers Exhibit Robust Growth, Especially for Jobs and Wages

Economic activity in the manufacturing sector continued to expand strongly in October, according to the Institute for Supply Management.

Read more [here](#).



Workforce Increases by 250,000 in October; Unemployment Rate Remains 3.7 Percent

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that employment rose by 250,000 in October and the unemployment rate remained at 3.7 percent.

Read more [here](#).



White House Won't Talk Trade with China without Concrete Offer

Another tariff deadline is fast approaching, and a meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping may be the last chance for a breakthrough.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Workers See Fastest Wage Increase in a Decade

U.S. workers are seeing the largest nominal wage increase in a decade, the Labor Department recently reported, as companies compete more for employees.

Read more [here](#).



Consumer Confidence Jumps to Highest Level Since September 2000

Consumer confidence jumped to the highest level since September 2000, according to the Conference Board.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Economy Grew at Annual Rate of 3.5 Percent During Third Quarter

The U.S. economy grew at a strong 3.5 percent annual growth rate in the third quarter, posting its best back-to-back quarters in four years.

Read more [here](#).



Construction Spending Continues to Increase

Construction spending hit a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$1.329 trillion and grew 5.5 percent for the first nine months of 2018, according to the AGC of America.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Issues Eight Waivers for Iran Crude Buyers

Despite the recent re-imposition of sanctions on Iran, the U.S. will allow China, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey to continue buying Iranian oil for the next six months.

Read more [here](#).



U.S. Trade Deficit Increases More Than Expected; Now Up 10% for 2018

The U.S. trade deficit increased more than expected in September amid escalating tensions with its global trading partners.

Read more [here](#).



EIA: U.S. Crude Oil Output To Surpass 12 Million Barrels Per Day by Mid 2019

U.S. crude oil production is expected to average 12.06 million barrels per day in 2019 due to surging domestic shale output, the U.S. Energy Information Administration said.

Read more [here](#).



Voters Worried About Trump's Ethanol Plan

Voters are concerned about President Trump's plan to allow gasoline with higher ethanol volumes to be sold year-round, according to a new Harris poll.

Read more [here](#).



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