



# HOW FRESNO SETS ITS ROAD REPAIR PRIORITIES

### April 4, 2019 | David Taub

Fresno Mayor Lee Brand is hitting the reset button on how to distribute \$12 million in SB 1 gas tax funds to repair local city roads. Four council members, whose districts' encompass south and central Fresno, vociferously objected to Brand's original plan. Esmeralda Soria, Miguel Arias, Luis Chavez, and Nelson Esparza felt their dilapidated streets, lack of sidewalks, and

Following their comments, councilmen Steve Brandau and Garry Bredefeld, representing north Fresno districts, objected to their colleagues' objections. The called it "class warfare." history of neglect warranted a larger share of the spending.

Following their comments, councilmen Steve Brandau and Garry Bredefeld, representing north Fresno

districts, objected to their colleagues' objections. The called it "class warfare." After all the back-and-forth arguing, Brand pulled the vote from Thursday's city council agenda.

### **How Brand Set Priorities**

How did the city set its list of 50-plus projects in the first place? The answer can be found in this memo, written by public works director Scott Mozier. Brand says he will bring an updated plan to the council April 11.

### What Does Caprioglio Think?

Every councilmember spoke about the plan publicly except for east-central representative Paul Caprioglio. "I'm the strong silent type. I"m a below the radar guy," he said about the debate. He added he is optimistic the council and mayor will find a resolution.

Related Story: Council Progressives Draw a Hard Line on Gas Tax Dollars —

On a Monday afternoon, Lee Brand and Miguel Arias stood side by side, shoveling dirt at a police station groundbreaking. Hours earlier, Arias was anything but

smiles with Fresno's mayor. He, along with three other council members, criticized Brand's plan on how to spend \$12 million in state funding for improving local roads. If the rift isn't solved by the end of the month, the city risks forfeiting those millions to the state.

Arias, addressing the media at a news conference in southeast Fresno, said enough is enough. "The frustration I've reached already in my third month has been tremendous. Because we've had this conversation with staff privately. We've had it with the mayor privately. And, we expected a better plan that was reflective of a whole city and of south Fresno being made whole. And, we didn't see that. What we saw was business as usual. Divide all the dollars equally and somehow talk about

publicly you're ending the Tale of Two Cities. That is not the case," Arias said.

The city must submit its list to the California Transportation
Commission by May 1 to receive SB 1 funds.
That bill, approved

"If there are not four votes, it could be delayed a week. Ultimately, there is going to have to be an agreement with my administration and the council. But it has got to be a reasonable one. It can't be a 'twist your arm' political blackmail."

— Mayor Lee Brand

in 2017 by the state Legislature, raised gas taxes for road infrastructure projects. If the city fails to meet the deadline, the state could keep the money. Brand's plan, released last Friday (March 29), doesn't distribute the money equally across districts. But each district will receive at least \$1.4 million.

The news conference notwithstanding, Brand said it's not about politics. "We try to balance all those different factors and different categories into a known, proven system that objectively evaluates these funds. Is it a perfect system? No. Is it subject to debate? Yes. But, that's a starting point. If we start down this slippery road of politicizing business decisions, it's going to be a tough one to follow," Brand said. The district where...

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### April 3, 2019 | Bill McEwen

Can I just call in Jack Nicholson to give Steve Brandau and Garry Bredefeld the full "You Can't Handle the Truth" treatment? If anyone deserves a big-league butt-chewing from the fictional Col. Nathan Jessup, it's the north Fresno councilmen who find themselves buffeted by the city's newly liberal political winds.

#### A New Council Majority Calls the Shots

Now that the shoe's on the other foot and their progressive colleagues are calling the shots, Brandau and Bredefeld suddenly are all about equality and staunch opponents of class warfare.

### Related Story: Council Progressives Draw a Hard Line on Gas Tax Dollars

Tell that to south Fresno residents who were abandoned long ago by a City Hall that pointed in one direction — north — and never much concerned itself with figuring out how to pay for parks, sidewalks, roads, sewers, and storm drains — in any

part of town. In the name of affordability (Hey, folks! Fresno is cheaper than everywhere else!) our city chewed through land with nary a look in the rear-view mirror. Meanwhile, Doc Buchanan had figured out that families would pay a lot more to live in a city (Clovis) with really good schools. Toss in Fresno's long history of segregation and decades of failed Fresno Unified leadership and our once friendly farm town morphed into an urban economic train wreck. "Is it right for us to make the citizens of north Fresno to pay for the sins of the past?" asked Brandau on Monday. Well, if not north Fresno residents, then who, Steve-o?

#### Day of Atonement

That's the problem with sins. It's all fun and games until the Day of Atonement. Fresno is staring into the mouth of a lion. Think about it. The city's unemployment rate has been below double digits for nearly two years. The Trump Economy is booming. The city budget is growing. Yet, the city's roads are in worse shape than they were a decade ago. About \$600 million in repairs are needed. Thanks to the state gas hike...

### COME 2022, FRESNO CC PARKING HASSLES SHOULD EASE FOR ALL

### April 3, 2019 | Myles Barker & Randy Reed

Neighborhoods near Fresno City College are looking forward to some relief from the deluge of cars that overflow daily from the school's parking lots and crowd onto their tree-lined streets. "It is just getting progressively worse," said homeowner Geri Bradley, who has lived across the street from Fresno City for over 40 years. Bradley, whose home doesn't have a driveway, says there are days she can't even park in front of her own house, or anywhere else nearby.

"It doesn't matter that my husband is invalid and we need a place for him to park out front," Bradley said. "Yesterday, the lawn guy couldn't get in because this was all full." Now that State Center trustees approved spending \$15 million Tuesday night to build a five-level parking structure on the central Fresno campus, Bradley has hopes of reclaiming her curb. The proposed 1,000 stall structure would be built near the current district office near Blackstone and Weldon avenues. The new...

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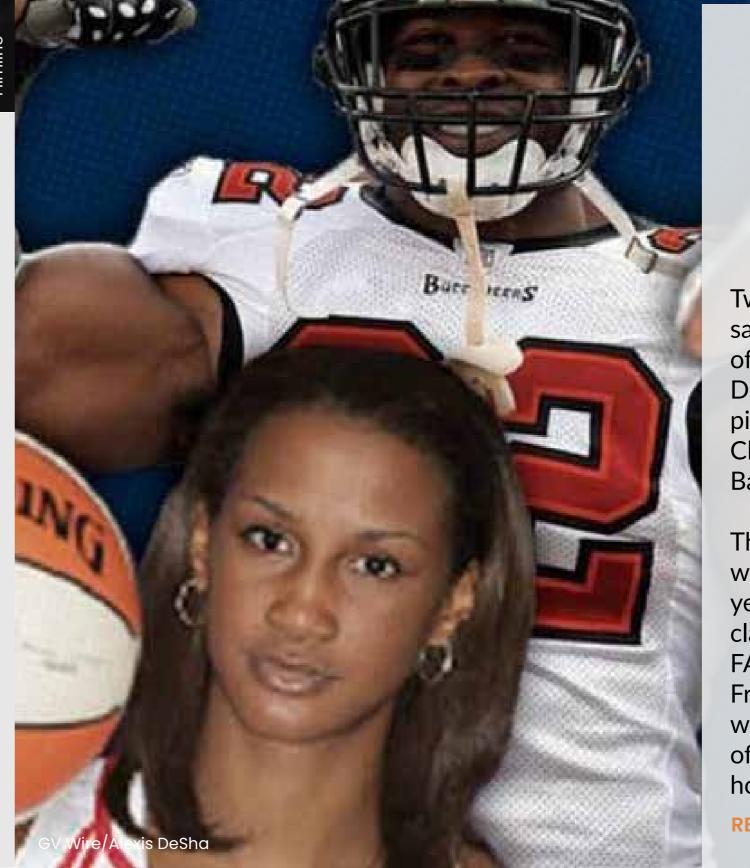
## WHO ARE THE 2019 FRESNO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES?

### April 1, 2019 | GV Wire

Two Super Bowl-winning players, tailback Michael Pittman and safety Matt Giordano, headline this year's Fresno Athletic Hall of Fame inductees. They are joined by softball standout Andrea Duran, a two-time national champion at UCLA and an Olympic silver medalist, and Ardian Williams-Strong, who starred at Clovis West High School before becoming a Women's National Basketball Association All-Star.

The team inductees are the 1967 Fresno Volleyball Club that won the National Volleyball Association Championship that year, and the 1960 Roosevelt High American Legion team that claimed the California state championship. The 61st annual FAHOF enshrinement dinner is set for Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Fresno Convention Center's Valdez Hall. "We are thrilled to welcome the class of 2019 into the Fresno County Athletic Hall of Fame," said FAHOF President Gordie Webster Jr. "It is a huge honor to be enshrined alongside such valley legends as Tom...

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# CALIFORNIA EYES RISK POOL AS IT STRUGGLES WITH COSTLY FIRES

### April 3, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Officials were struggling Wednesday to find ways for homeowners to afford insurance in fire-prone areas of California and for utilities to survive liability from devastating wildfires that threaten to worsen with climate change.

One option on the table is the creation of a new state catastrophe fund backed by tens of billions of dollars. Massively expensive wildfires in 2017 and 2018 partly prompted Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. to file for bankruptcy protection and led to the creation of a five-member board that is considering who should pay for increasingly destructive wildfires.

Board members have until July 1 to make their recommendations. Gov. Gavin Newsom plans to outline his plan to address the problem by mid-April. California's

California's recent past
"is fraught with wildfires," Chief Deputy Insurance Commissioner
Joel Laucher told board
members during a meeting in Santa Rosa, where a
working class neighborhood was destroyed by
wildfires in 2017. "This is
the world that insurers are
looking at."

recent past "is fraught with wildfires," Chief Deputy Insurance Commissioner Joel Laucher told board members during a meeting in Santa Rosa, where a working class neighborhood was destroyed by wildfires in 2017. "This is the world that insurers are looking at." The danger is making

it harder for people to get or afford home insurance, frustrating residents who may have moved decades ago to rural areas in search of cheaper housing in a natural setting.

### Help Depends on 'Unresolved Questions'

Courts and regulators have piled the financial burden of the fires on utilities, leading Moody's Investors Service to downgrade credit ratings for California's three big investor-owned utilities. Courts have ruled that utilities are entirely liable for damage caused by their equipment, even if they followed all safety precautions. Regulators, meanwhile, have saddled utility investors with the legal burden for fires caused by mismanagement of electrical equipment.

Related Story: What Happens When the Next Big Wildfire Hits?

Moody's on Wednesday issued a report analyzing several possible remedies, including the creation of a state

it says seems to be the most likely outcome. Creation of a fund "appears to be the reform that is most likely to happen," Moody's said in its analysis. Republican Assemblyman Chad Mayes of Yucca Val-

"We must map out longer-term strategies, not just for the utilities' future, but for California's energy future, to ensure that the cost of climate change doesn't fall on those least able to afford it." – Gov.

Gavin Newsom

ley has proposed a wildfire liability insurance fund. A fund could help stabilize utilities, but the extent of the help depends on "unresolved questions" including the size of the fund and how it addresses wildfire costs, Moody's said.

Negotiators currently appear to be discussing a fund in the range of \$15 billion to \$30 billion, Moody's said, adding a larger fund could protect against more fires but could push higher costs onto customers. Under Mayes' bill, public electric utilities as well as investor-owned utilities such as PG&E could participate by paying in money from customers and shareholders. They would be reimbursed for wildfire costs at levels set by state regulators who could consider the extent to which utilities acted properly. The fund managers could also issue bonds secured by fund contributions to help pay wildfire costs. Rolling the cost to utility...

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### POLICE ARREST MAN THEY SAY KILLED RAPPER NIPSEY HUSSLE

April 3, 2019 | AP News

LOS ANGELES — Police on Tuesday arrested a man they say fatally shot rapper Nipsey Hussle and evaded authorities for two days. Eric Holder, 29, was captured in Bellflower, a Los Angeles-area city about 20 miles southeast of Hussle's clothing store, where the musician was shot Sunday. Hussle and Holder knew each other, and the two had some kind of personal dispute in the hours before the rapper was killed, Police Chief Michel Moore said.

Police released Holder's name and photo Monday night and asked for public's help in finding him. It was not immediately clear how authorities located him. He was detained first by sheriff's deputies until LA police arrived and confirmed that he was wanted in Hussle's slaying, authorities said. The two men had several arguments on Sunday, and Holder returned to the store with a handgun and opened fire on Hussle and two other men, who survived the shooting, police said...

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# CACOURT: OLD POLICE SANGER TO STATISTICS OF THE STATISTICS OF THE

### April 3, 2019 | AP News

SACRAMENTO — Law enforcement agencies in California must release police misconduct records even if the behavior occurred before a new transparency law took effect, a state court of appeals has ruled. The 1st District Court of Appeal's decision released Friday settles for now a debate over whether records created before Jan. 1, when the law took effect, were subject to disclosure.

Many police unions have sued to block the records release, while public information advocates argued the records should be disclosed. The ruling applies to police agencies statewide, including the attorney general's office, unless an-

other appellate court steps in and rules differently, said David Snyder of the First Amendment Coalition. "These records are absolutely essential for the public to be able to see what the police departments are doing with respect to police misdoubt," said Snyder, whose group intervened in the case.

"These agencies have enormous power over Californians and so transparency of those agencies is absolutely essential in order to be able to hold them accountable." At least one agency reversed its prior decision to deny access to old records after the ruling came in. Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones said he would release records dating back five...

## NEWSOM NAMES FORMER SANGER SUPERINTENDENT TO STATE ED BOARD

April 3, 2019 | GV Wire

Gov. Gavin Newsom has appointed Matt Navo of Clovis to the 11-member California Board of Education. Newsom's office announced Navo's appointment, as well as that of early education specialist Kim Pattillo-Brownson of Los Angeles, on March 29. Navo, 48, is director of systems transformation at the Center for Prevention and Early Intervention for San Francisco-based WestED. He joined the nonprofit education collaborative in 2018 after five years as superintendent of the award-winning Sanger Unified School District.

### **Extensive Background Includes Special Education**

Navo has a deep background in education. He has also been a teacher, alternative education director, and special education director. "Navo offers on-the-ground knowledge at a time the board is stressing locally based improvement and district partnerships as the alternative to state-driven reform under the Local Control Funding Formula," analyzed veteran EdSource...

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### 2020 BY THE NUMBERS: DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES POSTING BIG STATS

### April 2, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — How many ways can you measure the first quarter of the year? For Democratic presidential candidates, it's 300-plus events, 26 states and hundreds of voter questions.

The lowa caucus is still 10 months away, but the Democratic primary campaign is already an all-out sprint — passing eye-popping markers for campaign activity and

"Broad picture: This is incredibly good for the Democratic Party." — Jim Messina, who managed Barack Obama's re-election campaign voter engagement. Voters in Florida and Ohio may not see it, but weekends in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina — not to mention a

handful of select states — are a blitz of candidate rallies and local meet-and-greets. For some candidates the frenetic pace is the message, a way of casting themselves as tireless and willing to take every last question. Elizabeth Warren and Beto O'Rourke are trying to make an ambitious schedule and accessibility part of their brands, but Cory Booker and Kirsten Gillibrand have done their parts to keep up with several dozen events each, most in early-voting states. It's far from clear that the candidate who holds the most events, whether leaping onto tables or addressing big rallies, will emerge as the candidate with the most votes. Still, Democrats watching the display from a distance say the engagement, the activity and the enthusiasm bode well. "Broad picture: This is incredibly good for the Democratic Party," said Jim Messina, who managed President Barack Obama's re-election campaign.

The Democrats' contested 2008 primary and the GOP's packed 2016 field showed "that enthusiasm in primaries becomes very important in a general election," Messina said. That's because engaged backers are "more likely to do two things you need them to do" in order to win, he said: donate money and help persuade their social networks to vote.

### Some Things Haven't Changed

For all the recent upheaval in politics, the 2020 campaign so far shows some things haven't changed. Retail campaign stops are still essential to breaking through in early-voting states that will play a central role in choosing the nominee. They are, perhaps, even more important in the social media era. One live-streamed rally that goes viral on social media can reach more voters than dozens of smaller events. Even though no one metric can predict success, a look at the campaigns' tallies of

on-the-ground engagement shows how some of the busiest road warriors are faring at the end of the first quarter.

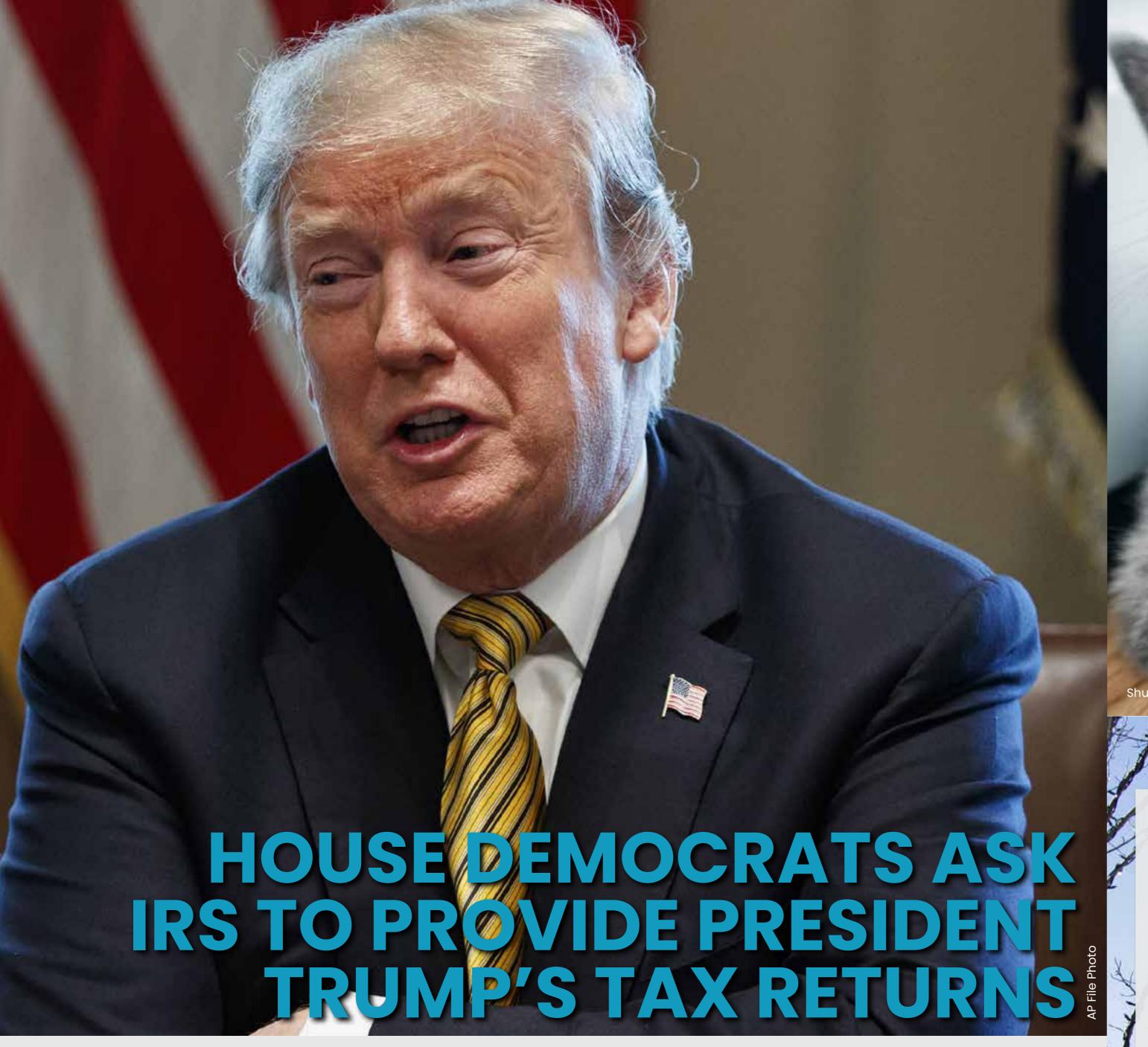
Warren and O'Rourke are logging mileage in areas their party hasn't always traveled to early All of these candidates tend to fall behind Bernie Sanders in early polling of the Democratic field. Sanders, the runner-up in 2016, has held 17 major events in eight states and Washington, D.C., since declaring his candidacy in early March.

on and underscoring their appetite for grassroots interaction, a style Pete Buttigieg is also cultivating. Warren took more than 200 questions from voters and O'Rourke answered more than 350, according to their campaigns' first-quarter estimates.

### Related Story: Beto O'Rourke Says He Raised \$6.1M Online in 1st 24 Hours

That's a notable feat for O'Rourke, who only entered the race last month. The former Texas congressman has logged 55 first-quarter events in nine states where he publicly took voter questions, according to his campaign. Gillibrand held 59 public events in eight states since launching an exploratory committee in January, according to the New York senator's campaign. Buttigieg has held 35 events in 11 states since the South Bend, Indiana, mayor started an exploratory committee that same month. Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar...

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### March 28, 2019 | AP News

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WASHINGTON — A House committee chairman formally asked the IRS to provide six years of President Donald Trump's personal tax returns and the returns for some of his businesses as Democrats try to shed light on his complex financial dealings and potential conflicts of interest.

The request by Massachusetts Rep. Richard Neal, who heads the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, is the first such demand for a sitting president's tax information in 45 years. The unprecedented move is likely to set off a huge legal battle between Democrats controlling the House and

the Trump administration. Neal made the request Wednesday in a letter to IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig, asking for Trump's personal and business returns for 2013 through 2018. He asked for the documents in seven days, setting an April 10 deadline. Trump told reporters Wednesday he "would not be inclined" to provide his tax returns to the committee.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Thursday morning that the White House "is not interested in playing a bunch of political games like the Democrats in Congress...

### **MEOW HEAR THIS: STUDY** SAYS CATS REACT TO **SOUND OF THEIR NAME**

April 4, 2019 | AP News

NEW YORK — Hey Kitty! Yes, you. A new study suggests household cats can respond to the sound of their own names. No surprise to you or most cat owners, right? But Japanese scientists said Thursday that they've provided the first experimental evidence that cats can distinguish between words that we people say.

So you're kind of like dogs, whose communication with people has been studied a lot more, and who've been shown to recognize hundreds of words if they're highly trained. Sorry if the comparison offends you, Kitty. Atsuko Saito of Sophia University in Tokyo says there's no evidence cats actually attach meaning to our words, not even their own names. Instead, they've learned that when they hear their names they often get rewards like food or play, or something bad like a trip to the vet. And they hear their names a lot. So the...

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### MORMONS REPEAL BAN ON **BAPTISMS FOR CHILDREN OF GAY PARENTS**

April 4, 2019 | AP News

SALT LAKE CITY — The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Thursday repealed rules unveiled in 2015 that banned baptisms for children of gay parents and made gay marriage a sin worthy of expulsion. The surprise announcement by the faith widely known as the Mormon church reverses rules that triggered widespread condemnations from LGBTQ members and their allies and marked a jarring shift from the religion's push to carve out a more compassionate stance on LGBTQ issues.

Related Story: Brunei Invokes Laws Allowing Stoning for Gay Sex, Adultery

The rules banned baptisms for children living with gay parents until they turn 18, disavowed same-sex relationships and received approval from global church leaders. With the change, children of gay parents can now be baptized as...

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### HOUSE VOTES TO END SUPPORT FOR YEMEN WAR, REBUFFING TRUMP

April 4, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday voted to end American involvement in the Yemen war, rebuffing the Trump administration's support for the military campaign led by Saudi Arabia. The bill now heads to President Donald Trump, who is expected to veto it. The White House says the measure raises "serious constitutional concerns," and Congress lacks the votes to override him.

By a 247-175 vote, Congress for the first time invoked the decades-old War Powers Resolution to try and stop a foreign conflict. The Senate vote was 54-46 on March

"The president will have to face the reality that Congress is no longer going to ignore its constitutional obligations when it comes to foreign policy."

— Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, chairman of House Foreign Affairs Committee

13. "The president will have to face the reality that Congress is no longer going to ignore its constitutional obligations when it comes to foreign policy," said Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel of New York, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Commit-

tee. He said the humanitarian crisis in Yemen triggered by the war "demands moral leadership." The war in Yemen is in its fifth year. Thousands of people have been killed and millions are on the brink of starvation. The United Nations has called the situation in Yemen the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The top Republican on the committee, Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, acknowledged the dire situation in Yemen for civilians, but spoke out in opposition to the bill, saying it was an abuse of the War Powers Resolution.

#### **Lawmakers Have Scrutinized U.S.-Saudi Ties**

"This radical interpretation has implications far beyond Saudi Arabia," McCaul said. He warned that the measure could "disrupt U.S. security cooperation agreements with more than 100 counties." Democrats overcame a GOP attempt to divide the majority party through a

procedural motion involving Israel just minutes before the Yemen vote. Republicans wanted to amend the Yemen bill with language condemning the international boycott movement and efforts to delegitimize Israel. Democrats argued the amendment would kill the Yemen resolution, and most of them voted against the

Israel measure. "This is about politics, this is about trying to drive a wedge into this caucus where it does not belong," said Rep.

"This is about politics, this is about trying to drive a wedge into this caucus where it does not belong."

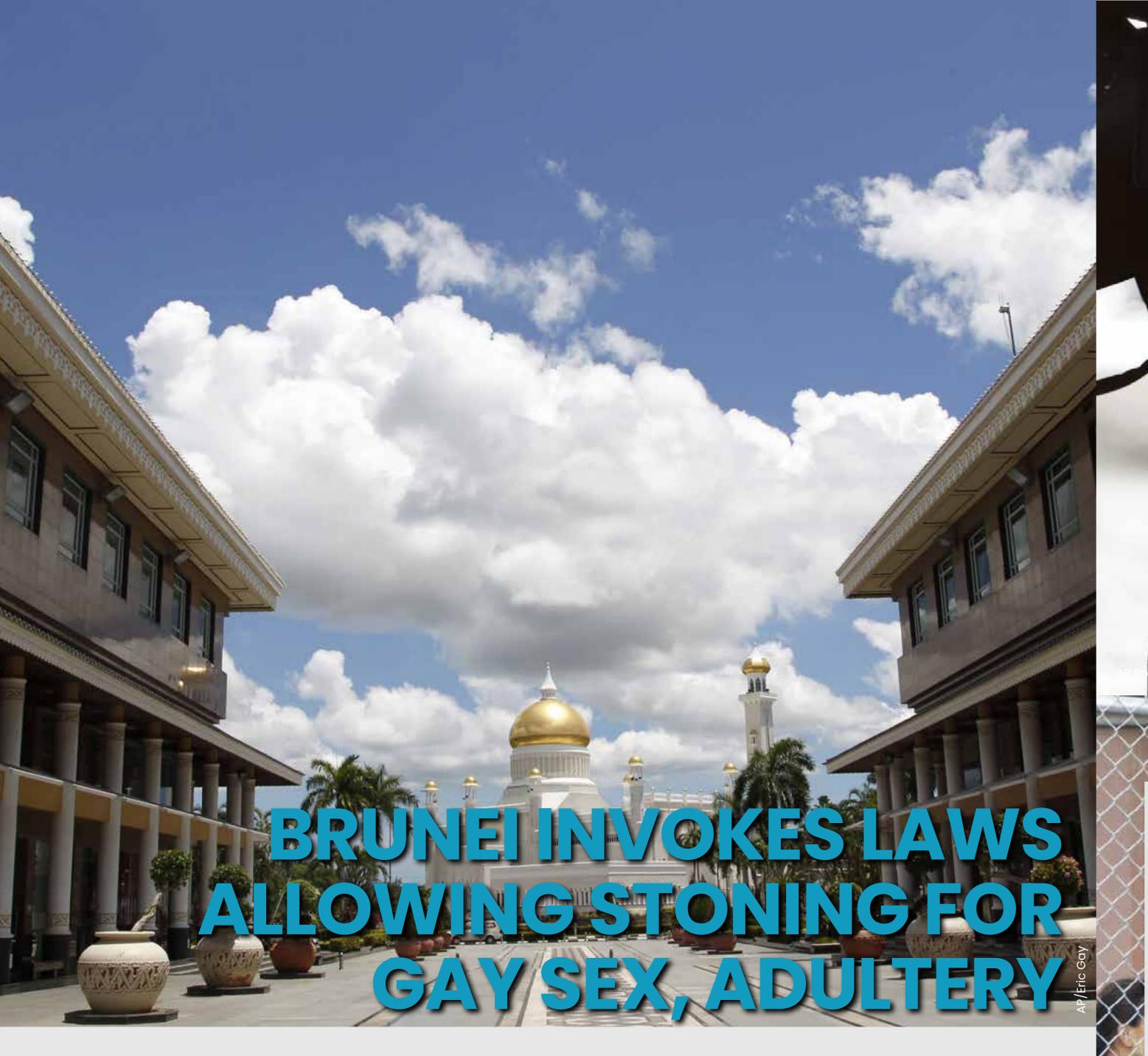
— Rep. Ted Deutch

Ted Deutch, D-Fla., said to applause from Democrats. Deutch described the boycott movement as "economic warfare," but called on lawmakers to vote against the amendment.

"The Jewish community also has a history of standing up against atrocities like the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. My colleagues are trying to block us from standing in support of human rights," he said. Opposition to the Saudi-led war in Yemen gathered support last year in the aftermath of the killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The Washington Post columnist was killed in October by agents of the kingdom, a close U.S. partner, while he was in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. U.S. intelligence agencies and lawmakers believe that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman ordered the murder of Khashoggi, who had written articles critical of the kingdom.

### Related Story: Yemeni Mom Overcomes Travel Ban to Finally Hold Dying Son

Lawmakers from both parties have scrutinized U.S.-Saudi ties and criticized Trump for not condemning Saudi Arabia strongly enough.



### April 3, 2019 | AP News

SINGAPORE — New Islamic criminal laws that took effect in Brunei on Wednesday, punishing gay sex and adultery by stoning offenders to death, have triggered an outcry from countries, rights groups and celebrities far beyond the tiny Southeast Asian nation's shores. The penalties were provided for under new sections of Brunei's Shariah Penal Code.

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah instituted the code in 2014 to bolster the influence of Islam in the oil-rich monarchy of around 430,000 people, two-thirds of whom are Muslim. The monarchy's residents are mostly Sunnis of Malay origin who follow the Shafi school of Islamic law. Even before 2014, ho-

mosexuality was already punishable in Brunei by a jail term of up to 10 years. The first stage of the Shariah Penal Code included fines or jail for offenses such as pregnancy out of wedlock or failing to pray on Fridays.

But under the new laws — which also apply to children and foreigners, even if they are not Muslim — those found guilty of gay sex can be stoned to death or whipped. Adulterers risk death by stoning too, while thieves face amputation of a right hand on their first offense and a left foot on their second. "Living in Brunei, we already knew that our sexual identity is taboo and should not be expressed. We already felt...

TRUMP EASES UP ON BORDER SHUTDOWN THREAT

### April 3, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump eased up Tuesday on his threats to shut the southern border this week as officials across his administration explored half-measures that might satisfy the president's urge for action, like stopping only foot traffic at certain crossings. Facing a surge of Central American migrants trying to enter the U.S., Trump last week threatened to seal the border this week if Mexico did not immediately halt all illegal immigration into the U.S., a move that would have enormous economic consequences on both sides of the border.

While Trump on Tuesday did not back off the idea completely, he said he was pleased with steps Mexico had taken in recent days and renewed his calls for Congress to make changes he contends would solve the problem. "Let's see if they keep it done," he said of Mexico. "Now, if they don't, or if we don't make a deal with Congress, the border's going to be closed, 100%." He also said that he might only close...

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### BORDER IS OVERWHELMED, RESULTING IN QUICK RELEASE OF FAMILIES

March 29, 2019 | AP News

WASHINGTON — The number of migrant families and children entering the U.S. from Mexico is so high that Border Patrol is immediately releasing them instead of transferring them to the agency responsible for their release, forcing local governments to help coordinate their housing, meals and travel. "We need to work toward a clean sweep," Border Patrol Deputy Chief of Operations Richard Hudson said in a letter obtained by The Associated Press sent to sector chiefs Thursday.

"This should be our daily battle rhythm." Agents are still doing medical screenings and criminal checks, but the decision means thousands of families will be released without first going through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which manages their deportation cases. The Del Rio and Rio Grande Valley sectors in Texas and the Yuma, Arizona, sector earlier announced that agents would begin to release...

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