

**Solution Manual for Excel Modeling in Corporate Finance
5th Edition by Holden**

ISBN 0205987257 9780205987252

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In post-presidency, Obama finds balancing act in countering Trump

One year after exchanging pleasantries with a newly-inaugurated President Donald Trump and ascending onto Marine One for the final time, former President Barack Obama has remained a central figure across the United States and global political scene.

As his successor has seemed to systematically target key components of his legacy, Obama has been strategic, according to current and former aides, in choosing when and how to speak out.

He's watched the year's political developments closely from Chicago and his home in Washington D.C., which sits just miles up the road from the White House. He's made global excursions to mentor young adults, delivered paid and unpaid speeches and hunkered down to write his post-presidency book, while coordinating the operations of his foundation and presidential library.

The Obama's have spent much time in Chicago where the foundation is located, spending time nurturing young politicians and teaching the importance of civic engagement.

—He has rolled up his sleeves and really worked hard to make sure [the foundation] reflects his values and his priorities,|| former White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett told ABC News. —Civic engagement he thinks its so incredibly important for young people to recognize their responsibilities as citizens and that that should begin at a young age because it should be a lifelong passion and so anything he can do to mobilize that effort is important.||

Despite watching his signature achievements unravel, Obama has been described as —upbeat|| and —optimistic.|| But that positivity doesn't come without some anxiety.

—Of course it causes anxiety just like it does for so many people,|| former White House senior adviser Valerie Jarrett told ABC News. —He's never looked at it from the perspective of him — his legacy — he's looked at it from the perspective of the people whose lives he tried to improve. So if he thinks that people will lose healthcare or that young DACA folks will be at risk and potentially lose their status, sure that's extraordinarily and profoundly troubling to him.||

Just two days before the transfer of power was carried out on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, Obama outlined to reporters in his final news conference the actions a Trump administration could take that might spur him to break with the precedent of polite silence previous presidents typically extended to their successors.

—There's a difference between that normal functioning of politics and certain issues or certain moments where I think our core values may be at stake,|| Obama said.

In a year's span, President Obama spoke out four separate times with vocal objection to a policy being pursued by President Trump and the GOP-led Congress, including twice regarding the Republicans' failed effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, President Trump's announcement of U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement and the administration's rescission of legal protections for nearly 800,000 DREAMers.

But Obama was notably restrained in going after Trump directly regarding several other highly controversial moments in his first year, including the botched rollout of his first travel ban, his response to the white supremacist violence in Charlottesville and his accusation that Obama illegally wiretapped him during the election.

—I think you saw him kind of do that deftly and strategically this past year, one aide said. —When it comes especially to the president's political involvement but certainly all of this other stuff, he's keenly aware that there's nothing more that President Trump would like than to make Obama his foil.

Matthew Dallek, a political historian and associate professor at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, pointed out that Obama wasn't necessarily alone in breaking with the quiet deference that presidential successors typically extend to the acting president.

In October, former President George W. Bush delivered a rare public speech in New York City in which he didn't call Trump out by name, but seemed to make multiple references to his effect on American political discourse.

—Bigotry seems emboldened. Our politics seems more vulnerable to conspiracy theories and outright fabrication,|| Bush said. —We've seen nationalism distorted into nativism.||

—What he said then may have been harsher than anything he said about Barack Obama during the eight years of his presidency,|| Dallek said. —I think it's a bit unusual but I think the sense is among not just Barack Obama that it is incumbent upon them to speak out against Trump when they think it's appropriate.||

Notably, Trump and Obama have not spoken since Inauguration Day, a sharp contrast from past presidents who have at times sought counsel from their predecessors.

Given that Trump has worked to reverse many Obama-era policies, a person close to Obama says it wouldn't have seemed likely that Trump would have relied on his predecessor for any advice beyond their initial hour and a half meeting together in the Oval Office Nov. 2016.

Obama, however, is ready and willing to provide his counsel should Trump wish to reach out, the person said.

Trump confidant and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich doesn't anticipate either side mending fences anytime soon.

—Trump can be friendly toward anyone but I doubt if he thinks much about relating to Obama,|| Gingrich told ABC News. —Why would Trump ask advice from someone he thinks is wrong on virtually every issue?||

That's a stark contrast to Vice President Pence who has been in regular communication with his predecessors. He's met in person many times with Dan Quayle and Dick Cheney and spoke with Joe Biden by phone multiple times this past year, seeking counsel primarily before foreign trips and meetings with world leaders, according to a person familiar with the communications.

Though it's unlikely the political animosity between Trump and Obama will dampen with the 2018 midterms fast approaching.

Following his involvement in multiple special elections during 2017, an aide to Obama said he plans to continue assist Democrats up and down the ticket, akin to his involvement in the New Jersey and Virginia gubernatorial races and his robo-call for Democrat Doug Jones in the Alabama special election.

—I do think it's definitely fair to say that way you saw him approach 2017 will be similar in the way that he will do it strategically, he will try to stay above the fray,|| the aide said. —[There's a] recognition that, you know, you wouldn't want to have him out there trying to rally the troops on our side especially when he's been very clear he can't be the resistance leader anymore.||

—He cares a great deal about the midterm elections and I'm sure he will be as helpful as he can, Jarrett said.

This story is part of a weeklong series examining the first year of the Trump administration.

All I know is what I read on the internet. Candidate Donald Trump, Sunday, March 13, 2016.

Interested in Donald Trump?

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President Donald Trump has kept media fact checkers working overtime during his first year in office. Both the Washington Post and New York Times have kept running tallies of the misinformation coming from the president, a form of White House press coverage virtually unseen in modern history.

And it's for good reason.

The president has become known for his inaccurate and/ or misleading statements, often dismissed by his many supporters as "unfiltered" or "real talk." Here's a look at what ABC News has deemed some of the most glaring and objectively false claims put forth by the White House during President Trump's first year in office.

1. "We have signed more legislation than anybody. We broke the record of Harry Truman." — Donald Trump on Wednesday, December 27th, 2017 in an event in West Palm Beach

Not only is that claim false, it's about as far from the truth as it could possibly be – and hence — first on our list. Records show that by year's end Trump had signed 94 bills into law, fewer than any president since Truman.

2. —The overall audience was, I think, the biggest ever to watch an inauguration address, which was a great thing.‡ — Donald Trump, Thursday January 26th, 2016 in an interview with CBN News.

In one of his first presidential acts, Donald Trump called the National Park Service's acting director the morning after his inauguration to express displeasure over a retweet of inauguration crowd photos from the agency's official account, which heavily favored President Barack Obama. All accessible data, from television ratings and digital stream counts, to the crowd photos and official city estimates, show that President Obama did in fact draw a bigger crowd. But that didn't stop the president from instructing his press secretary Sean Spicer to summon reporters to the briefing room that Sunday to excoriate them, without taking questions, about the claim that President Barack Obama drew a larger crowd. It turned into a defining moment for Spicer.

"That was the largest audience to witness an inauguration, period." — Sean Spicer on Saturday, January 21st, 2017 in a press conference

After leaving the White House late last year Spicer acknowledged his claim was inaccurate.

3. —I will be asking for a major investigation on VOTER FRAUD.‖ — Donald Trump tweet, Wednesday January 25th, 2017

In May of 2017 the White House established a voter fraud commission with hopes it might be able to substantiate the myth perpetuated by Donald Trump that he lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton because millions of votes were cast illegally. A year later the president was forced to disband the commission after it was unable to produce results. The White House blamed the states for refusing to participate and said the data they managed to collect would be "destroyed." To date the White House has produced no evidence to support the false claim.

4. —If you look at President Obama and other presidents, most of them didn't make calls.‖ — Donald Trump, Monday October 16th, 2017.

That was President Trump falsely asserting that his predecessors did not place consolation calls to the families of fallen soldiers, as he had done.

What's most glaring about this falsehood is the nerve the President managed to strike on such a sacred and somber subject matter by turning the combat death of an American soldier into an unprompted political pot shot on President Barack Obama. —This is an outrageous and disrespectful lie even by Trump standards," President Obama's former deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, tweeted in response.

5. —Obamacare has been repealed in this bill.‖ — Donald Trump, Wednesday December 20, 2017

After Congressional Republicans spent much of the legislative year trying (and failing) to kill Obamacare, President Trump attempted to sneak a political-fast one when he repeatedly claimed his end-of-year tax bill victory —essentially repealed Obamacare.‖ Yes, the tax bill eliminated Obamacare's individual mandate (which funds a small percentage of the health plans) but the law is still very much intact.

6. —Whether it's a real video, the threat is real and that is what the president is talking about...‖ — White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, Thursday November 30th, 2017

Setting aside the fact that the president chose to retweet a series of anti-Muslim videos from a fringe British Nationalist Group (at least one of which was proven to be fake) his defense for spreading that false propaganda was particularly egregious. His press secretary Sarah Sanders argued that the voracity of videos, one of which falsely claims to show a "Muslim migrant" beating up a "Dutch boy on crutches," ought not distract from the president's belief that "the threat is real." A reminder that President Trump has hurled the "fake news" insult at the media 186 times on Twitter alone during his first year.

7. —We're the highest taxed nation in the developed world, and I think the undeveloped world too.‖ — Donald Trump, Tuesday September 26, 2017

The Washington Post reports the President has made this claim at least 55 times year, but according to Pew Research Center, using 2014 data, taxes on Americans are below average for developed countries.

This story is part of a weeklong series examining the first year of the Trump administration.

Sunday on [_This Week](#): White House Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short, Sen. Dick Durbin, Rep. Mark Meadows, and Rep. Luis Gutiérrez

After the Senate fails to reach a deal to keep the government open, George Stephanopoulos goes one-on-one with White House Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short and Senate Minority Whip Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., Sunday on [—This Week](#).

Plus Congressional Hispanic Caucus member Rep. Luis Gutiérrez, D-Ill., and House Freedom Caucus chair Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., discuss the shutdown and the debate over immigration.

And the Powerhouse Roundtable debates the week in politics, with ABC News political analyst Matthew Dowd, Democratic strategist and former Clinton campaign spokesperson Karen Finney, former press secretary to Vice President Pence Marc Lotter, co-host of [—The View](#) Meghan McCain, and Associated Press Washington bureau chief Julie Pace.

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Thousands take to streets in Women's March on anniversary of Trump's 1st year

By AMANDA MAILE MORGAN WINSOR Jan 20, 2018, 1:12 PM ET

PHOTO: People take part in the Womens March in New York City, Jan. 20, 2018. Eduardo Munoz/Reuters

People take part in the Women's March in New York City, Jan. 20, 2018.

Email

From New York City to Los Angeles and many cities in between, thousands of women and their allies took to the streets Saturday, vowing to show up at the polls this year for midterm elections amid outrage over President Donald Trump's agenda.

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The main event for the 2018 Women's March, entitled "Power to the Polls," will take place Sunday in Las Vegas, where organizers will launch a national voter registration and mobilization initiative. Hundreds of other anniversary marches and events will be held elsewhere in the nation -- and around the world -- on both Saturday and Sunday.

Joyce Pleva and her two adult daughters, Elizabeth and Jamie, were among those marching in New York City. The family participated in the Women's March last year in Washington, D.C., where a sea of women wearing pink "pussy hats" gathered to protest a day after Trump was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States.

"Last year, there was a feeling of fear and objection to the election," Elizabeth Pleva told ABC News, while waiting for the march to commence on Manhattan's Upper West Side. "This year, there are so many more reasons we are here. DACA, the ACA, the environment and [President Trump's] inability to govern."

Throughout his first year in office, Trump has tried to unravel the ACA, or the Affordable Care Act, which was his predecessor's signature health care reform law.

Obamacare, as it's also known, was critical to the Pleva family while Elizabeth and Jamie's other sister battled breast cancer. She recently died from the illness.

"We are especially concerned about the ACA ... I have the gene that leads to breast cancer," Jamie Pleva said. "What would I do without the preexisting condition [coverage]?"

PHOTO: People take part in the Womens March in Manhattan in New York, Jan. 20, 2018. Eduardo Munoz/Reuters

People take part in the Women's March in Manhattan in New York, Jan. 20, 2018.

Jamie Williams, originally from Alabama, brought her 7-year-old son, James, to march with her in Manhattan.

"I want him to be exposed to this," Williams told ABC News. "I also bring him with me every time I vote, so the vote counts for both of us."

Williams said she participated in the Women's March in Birmingham, Alabama, last year.

"I think it's really important to march last year and this year," she said. "We're not backing down after Trump was elected."

Women's March returns this weekend, with hundreds of events planned worldwide

PHOTO: People participate in the second annual Womens March in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2018. Leah Millis/Reuters

People participate in the second annual Women's March in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2018.

The anniversary marches in New York City and Washington, D.C., are expected to be among the largest Saturday. The march in New York City starts at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time from Central Park West and 72nd Street, following a pre-march rally at Central Park West and 61st/62nd Streets at 11:30 a.m. The march in D.C. starts at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool at 11 a.m. Eastern Time.

There are also marches and events planned in dozens of cities abroad, including Buenos Aires, Kampala, London, Bangkok, Beijing and Sydney.

Organizers chose Nevada to host the main event this year because it "was rocked by the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, recent sexual assault allegations against elected officials and has become a battleground state that will shape the Senate in 2018," according to the Women's March website.

"Women's March has created a powerful movement that has ignited thousands of activists and new leaders," Tamika Mallory, co-president of Women's March, said in a statement ahead of Sunday. "In 2018, we must turn our work into action ahead of the midterms. This new initiative will address voter registration and voter suppression head on. We marched for

justice in D.C., we created our plan in Detroit and now we're bringing the power of the polls to Nevada."

S

Lawmakers are back on Capitol Hill Saturday after a dramatic showdown led to a federal government shutdown shortly after midnight on the one-year anniversary of President Donald Trump's inauguration.

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Government Shutdown Add Interest

It is the first time in recent history when government operations shut down while Republicans control both the White House and Congress.

Trump's director of the Office of Management and Budget, Mick Mulvaney, issued a memo to the leaders of federal agencies and executive departments Saturday, telling them to prepare for the possibility of the shutdown continuing into the start of the work week on Monday, saying there is no "clear indication that the Congress will act in time" to fund the government before Sunday night.

Immigration came into sharp focus as one of the topics dividing the two parties in the days, hours and even minutes leading up to the shutdown. Democrats are accusing Republicans of ignoring the topic, as well as others including public health and veterans issues, in proposed resolutions. Conservatives have portrayed the stalemate as a case of Democratic obstruction.

As government shutdown begins, so does finger-pointing

Americans more likely to blame Trump, Republicans if government shuts down: Poll

At the Capitol on Saturday, Republican leaders including House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., focused their ire on top officials across the aisle, particularly Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

McCarthy said he believed there was bipartisan agreement to eventually negotiate on four key immigration issues, including protections for persons formally covered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy, but said characterized the shutdown as "irresponsible" in the midst of "meeting [and] making progress" on the immigration details.

The White House said Saturday that Trump has been on the phone with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, R-Wis. but, "will not negotiate on immigration reform until Democrats stop playing games and reopen the