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## Diverse new Congress gavels in, ready to confront Trump

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) - The 116th Congress gavelled into session Thursday swathed in history, returning the first woman to the House speaker's office and ushering in a diverse class of Democratic freshmen ready to confront President Donald Trump in a new era of divided government.

The new Congress is like none other. There are more women than ever before, and a new generation of Muslims, Latinos, Native Americans and African-Americans in the House is creating what academics call a reflective democracy, more aligned with the population of the United States. The Republican side in the House is still made up mostly of white men, and in the Senate Republicans bolstered their ranks in the majority.

In a nod to the moment, Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader, was broadly pledging to make Congress work for all Americans — addressing kitchen table issues at a time of deep economic churn — even as her party is ready to challenge Trump with investigations and subpoena powers that threaten the White House agenda. It's the first new Congress to convene amid a partial government shutdown, now in its 13th day over Trump's demands for money for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

"This House will be for the people," Pelosi was to say in remarks after winning the gavel, according to excerpts released ahead of time, "to lower health costs and prescription drugs prices, and protect people with pre-existing conditions; to increase paychecks by rebuilding America with green and modern infrastructure -- from sea to shining sea."

Pelosi vowed "to restore integrity to government, so that people can have confidence that government works for the public interest, not the special interests."

The day was unfolding as one of both celebration and impatience. Newly elected lawmakers arrived, often with friends and families in tow, to take the oath of office and pose for ceremonial photos. The Democrats planned to quickly pass legislation to re-open the government, but without the funding Trump is demanding for his promised border wall.

Vice President Mike Pence swore in newly-elected senators, but Senate Republicans under Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had no plans to consider the House bills to fund the government unless Trump agrees to sign them into law. That ensures the shutdown will continue, clouding the first days of the new session.

It's a time of stark national political division that some analysts say is on par with the Civil War era. Battle lines are drawn not just between Democrats and Republicans but within the parties themselves, splintered by their left and right flanks.

Pelosi defied history in returning to the speaker's office after eight years in the minority, overcoming internal opposition from Democrats demanding a new generation of leaders. She will be the first to regain the gavel since legendary Sam Rayburn of Texas in 1955.

Putting Pelosi's name forward for nomination, Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of New York, the incoming Democratic caucus chair, recounted her previous accomplishments -- passing the Affordable Care Act, helping the country out of the Great Recession -- as preludes to her next ones. He called her leadership "unparalleled in modern American history."

As speaker, she'll face an early challenge from the party's robust wing of liberal newcomers, including 29-year-old New Yorker Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who has risen to such prominence she is already known around the Capitol — and on her prolific social media accounts — by the nickname "AOC." She said she'd cast a no vote on a new package of rules to govern the House.

Ocasio-Cortez and other liberals oppose the pay-as-you-go budget provisions in the rules package that would allow restrictive objections to any legislation that would add to federal deficits. They say such restraints would hamstring Democratic efforts to invest in health care, education and develop a Green New Deal of renewable energy infrastructure projects to fight climate change.

Republicans face their own internal battles beyond just the conservative House Freedom Caucus, but as they decide how closely to tie their political fortunes to Trump. GOP leader Kevin McCarthy's name was put into nomination by his party's caucus chair, Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the daughter of the former vice president. She said McCarthy knows "our rights come from God" and "government is not the source of our liberty."

Many GOP senators are up for re-election in 2020 in states, including Colorado and Maine, where voters have mixed views of Trump's performance in the White House.

Trump, whose own bid for 2020 already is underway, faces potential challenges from the ranks of Senate Democrats under Chuck Schumer. Trump had little to say early Thursday as the new Congress was convening, but he did tweet an attack on one of his likely presidential challengers, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, mocking her claim to Native American ancestry.

The halls of the Capitol were bustling with arrivals, children in the arms of many new lawmakers. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, D-Mo., opened the House prayer asking that "a time fraught with tribalism at home and turbulence abroad" that lawmakers "become the architects of a kinder nation."

Overnight, Democratic Rep-elect Ilhan Omar of Minnesota tweeted a picture with her family at the airport. She wrote, "23 years ago, from a refugee camp in Kenya, my father and I arrived at an airport in Washington DC. Today, we return to that same airport on the eve of my swearing in as the first Somali-American in Congress."

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Laurie Kellman in Washington contributed to this report.

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### Former Republican Rep. Mia Love joining CNN as commentator

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - The first black Republican woman in Congress is joining CNN as a commentator after being unseated by a Democratic challenger in November.

Former U.S. Rep. Mia Love of Utah tweeted Monday that she'll offer a "different, principled and unleashed perspective" on the cable news network.

The announcement references her fiery concession speech, where she blasted Republicans for failing to truly embrace minority voters.

She also pushed back on President Donald Trump's quip that "She gave me no love, and she lost."

CNN tweeted that it was "thrilled" to welcome Love and newly retired Democratic Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois to the network.

Love was first elected in 2014 and served two terms in a suburban Salt Lake City district before her narrow loss.



JUSTICE ANITA EARLS

### Anita Earls sworn in on North Carolina Supreme Court

RALEIGH (AP) - A civil rights attorney elected to North Carolina's highest court is taking office.

Anita Earls was sworn into office as a state Supreme Court associate justice on Jan. 3. The Democrat defeated Republican incumbent Justice Barbara Jackson in November.

Earls founded and led the Durham-based Southern Coalition for Social Justice. She was a deputy assistant attorney general for civil rights at the U.S. Justice Department during the Clinton administration. Earls also served the state-elections board and taught at Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Maryland.

She earned her law degree from Yale

### Durham Civil Rights Works Reunion Set for Jan. 21 at St. Joseph

#### SAVE THE DATE --

The Durham Civil Rights Workers' Reunion Committee will host its 32nd annual MLK, Jr. celebration on Monday January 21, 2019 at 1:00pm at the St. Joseph's AME Church, 2521 Fayetteville Street. The theme for this Occasion is "Shifting the Atmosphere: Promoting Safety in our schools, homes and world. Taking it to the next level — Making all Lives Matter". The guest Speaker will be Brother Marshall Thompson, a native of the Durham Community. Brother Thompson is a graduate of Hillside High School, the former Durham Technical Institute, and North Carolina Central University. He served four Years in the United States Marine Corps. Marshall is a longtime member of the St. Joseph's AME Church of Durham, and served on the Durham Police Department for twenty years. Music will be rendered by the Anointed Hillside High School Alumni Choir of Durham, North Carolina, Sister Mary H. Scott, founder and Sister Valerie H. Murphy, pianist. This will be an enlightening, educational and a spiritual event.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Sylvia Knuckles-Rebenson, chair

Durham Civil Rights Workers' Reunion Committee  
919-641-5758

### Sheriff: Vandals targeted teen for interracial relationship

GOLDSBORO (AP) - A North Carolina sheriff says the vandalism of two vehicles is being investigated as a hate crime stemming from an interracial relationship between two teens.

A release from the Wayne County Sheriff's Office says that on Dec. 27 a white family's minivan was found spray-painted with a swastika and several racial slurs, while another vehicle was set on fire.

The sheriff's office believes the family was targeted because their 14-year-old daughter was in a relationship with a black teen.

The girl's mother, Amanda Miller, tells news outlets the couple met in church. She says they've since amicably broken up, and the boy's parents have been supportive following the vandalism.

Miller says her daughter previously dated a black student in middle school, and has received threatening messages on social media.



MAHERSHALA ALI

### 'Green Book' A Golden Globe Winner

#### Complete list of winners at 76th Golden

#### Globe Awards

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) - Complete list of winners at the 76th annual Golden Globe Awards, presented Sunday in Beverly Hills, California, by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association:

#### FILM

Drama: "Bohemian Rhapsody"

Actress, Drama: Glenn Close, "The Wife"

Actor, Drama: Rami Malek, "Bohemian Rhapsody"

Comedy or Musical: "Green Book"

Actor, Comedy or Musical: Christian Bale, "Vice"

Actress, Comedy or Musical: Olivia Colman, "The Favourite"

Actress-Supporting Role: Regina King, "If Beale Street Could Talk"

Actor-Supporting Role: Mahershala Ali, "Green Book"

Foreign Language Film: "Roma"

Best Director: Alfonso Cuaron, "Roma"

Screenplay: Nick Vallelonga, Brian Currie, Peter Farrelly, "Green Book"

Animated: "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"

Original Score: Justin Hurwitz, "First Man"

Original Song: "Shallow," "A Star Is Born"

#### TELEVISION

Drama: "The Americans"

Actress, Drama: Sandra Oh, "Killing Eve"

Actor, Drama: Richard Madden, "Bodyguard"

Musical or Comedy: "The Kominsky Method"

Actress, Musical or Comedy: Rachel Brosnahan, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"

Actor, Musical or Comedy: Michael Douglas, "The Kominsky Method"

Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"

Actress, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: Patricia Arquette, "Escape at Dannemora"

Actor, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: Darren Criss, "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"

Actress, Supporting Role, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: Patricia Clarkson, "Sharp Objects"

Actor, Supporting Role, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: Ben Whishaw, "A Very English Scandal"

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