



Lorraine Joseph, right, a student nurse at Broward College, makes a sign as Jenny Ellis, left, looks on, Friday in Pembroke Pines, Fla.

Data breach sets off charges of theft in Democratic race

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic race for president unexpectedly exploded with rancor Friday as Hillary Clinton’s campaign accused rival Bernie Sanders of stealing millions of dollars worth of information about potential voters.

Sanders’ team, meanwhile, accused the Democratic Party of holding his White House bid hostage by temporarily barring it from accessing its own voter data. His campaign filed a lawsuit to get it back and aggressively tried to turn the allegations into a political advantage.

“This information is really key to our campaign and our strategy,” said Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook. “We are particularly disturbed right now that they are using the fact that they stole data as a reason to raise money for their campaign.”

The reaction to the data breach, the depth of which was debated by all involved, tore open an ugly fault line between two camps that had so far engaged in a relatively civil White House campaign.

On the eve of the party’s next presidential debate, it also thrust into the open longstanding suspicions among Sanders and his supporters that the national party is unfairly working to support Clinton’s candidacy.

“Clearly, in this case, they are trying to help the Clinton campaign,” Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver said of the Democratic National Committee.

At issue is an extensive trove of voter information maintained by the DNC. The

campaigns are able to add their own information to the database, information which they use to target voters and anticipate what issues might motivate them to cast ballots.

In Clinton’s case, Mook said, the information stored in the database included “fundamental parts of our strategy.”

DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz said that on Wednesday the Sanders campaign “inappropriately and systematically” accessed Clinton’s data. She rejected Weaver’s effort to blame the breach on a software glitch and the actions of a small group of rogue staffers.

In response, the DNC temporarily turned off Sanders’ access to the database and asked for an accounting of how the information was used and disposed of. Only then will the party make a decision on restoring Sanders’ access, she said.

That decision infuriated Weaver, who said the party had cut Sanders off from the “lifeblood of any campaign.” He added, “It is our information, not the DNC’s.”

Hours later, the Sanders camp filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington seeking an immediate restoration of access to the database. Without it, the lawsuit said, the campaign would lose approximately \$600,000 in donations a day.

“It’s outrageous to suggest that our campaign ‘stole’ any data,” said Sanders spokesman Michael Briggs. “What is true is the data we collected and need to run a winning campaign is now being stolen from us.”

Education, transportation highlight 2015 in Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a chaotic year, when Republicans in the House unseated a speaker, Congress produced a significant amount of bipartisan legislation that affects every American.

It enacted laws recasting federal education policy, restricting government access to bulk phone records, renewing highway and transit programs and even resolving a long-standing problem of how Medicare reimburses doctors. Before leaving town for the year, it sent President Barack Obama bipartisan legislation Friday financing government agencies in 2016 and cutting taxes, mostly by extending dozens of expiring levies.

Here are highlights of an eventful year in Congress:

Budget Deal

A \$1.1 trillion spending bill approved Friday funds the government for the 2016 budget year and extends \$680 billion in tax cuts for businesses and individuals. The deal — a victory for new House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. — avoids a government shutdown, allows crude oil exports for the first time in 40 years and extends a huge variety of tax breaks, including those for college tuition and renewable energy such as solar and wind power.

Education

Obama signed a sweeping overhaul of the No Child Left Behind education law, the biggest education reform since 2002. The bipartisan law ushers in a new approach to accountability, teacher evaluations and the way the most poorly performing schools are pushed to improve. Students will still take federally required statewide reading and math exams, but the law encourages states to limit time spent on testing and diminishes the stakes for underperforming schools.

College loans

Congress extended a federal loan program that provides low-interest money to the neediest college students.

Highways and transit

After years of stymied efforts, Congress approved a bipartisan bill to improve the nation’s aging and congested highways and transit systems. The new law assures states that federal help will be available for major projects, although it does not resolve how to pay for transportation programs in the long term.

Trade promotion authority

Congress approved a bill granting the president trade promotion



From left, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., talk to reporters after the Senate gave sweeping approval to a year-end budget package, at the Capitol in Washington on Friday.

authority. The law allows Congress to ratify or reject trade agreements negotiated by the executive branch, but not change or filibuster them. Obama has not submitted to Congress a recently competed trade agreement with 11 Pacific Rim nations.

Surveillance

Obama signed into law the USA Freedom Act, which extends three expiring surveillance provisions of the USA Patriot Act, passed after the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington. The law overhauls the previous law’s most controversial provision, which had been interpreted to allow bulk collection of U.S. phone records by the National Security Agency. The new law gives private companies more leeway to publicly report information about the number of national security surveillance demands they receive.

Defense

Congress approved a sweeping defense-authorization bill that includes a troop pay raise and prohibits transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to the United States.

Doc fix

Under a bill shepherded by former House Speaker John Boehner and House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, Congress finally approved a bipartisan measure that permanently recasts how Medicare reimburses doctors for treating over 50 million elderly people. The \$214 billion measure prevented a 21-percent cut in physicians’ Medicare fees, preventing a flood of complaints from doctors and senior citizens that lawmakers dearly wanted to avoid.

Export-import bank

Congress revived the federal

Export-Import Bank five months after lawmakers allowed it to expire.

Despite those accomplishments, the Republican-controlled Congress failed on a number of fronts:

Iran nuclear deal

GOP lawmakers failed to block a deal involving the United States, Iran and five other world powers that would curb Iran’s nuclear activities in exchange for giving Iran access to billions in frozen assets and oil revenue.

Planned Parenthood

Congress tried but failed to halt federal payments to Planned Parenthood, after secretly recorded videos of Planned Parenthood officials discussing tissue donations fueled an uproar among congressional Republicans and abortion opponents.

“Obamacare”

Lawmakers tweaked the edges of Obama’s health care law but did not overturn it despite repeated votes to repeal all or part of Obama’s 2010 health care law.

Environmental regulations

Congress did not block Obama administration regulations on clean air and water and was unable to stop Obama’s signature environmental accomplishment, a high-profile plan to curb greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Keystone XL

Despite many attempts, Congress again failed to win approval for the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada. Obama finally rejected the pipeline last month after seven years of indecision.

Women are out-earning men in corporate finance

(AP) — Women may be badly outnumbered in the top ranks of corporate America, but at least they aren’t underpaid.

Compensation for female chief financial officers at S&P 500 companies last year outpaced that of their male counterparts, according to an analysis by executive compensation firm Equilar and the Associated Press. It follows a similar trend seen with female CEOs in recent years.

The median pay for female CFOs last year rose nearly 11 percent to \$3.32 million. Male CFO pay rose 7 percent, to \$3.3 million. This follows several years of steady gains for both sexes.

The gains, for both men and women, are in part a result of the expansion of the

CFO role to include far more responsibility and visibility.

“The CFO is no longer a bean counter,” said Josh Crist, managing director at executive search firm Crist Kolder Associates.

Companies and shareholders became more focused on financial security and regulation after the financial crisis, and corporate finance began to play a bigger role in company strategy, according to Gregg Passin, a compensation expert at consulting firm Mercer.

Obama vows active role in 2016 presidential race

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama closed his next-to-last year in office with rare praise for congressional Republican leaders who helped orchestrate a bipartisan

budget deal Friday, then vowed to work hard to beat the GOP and get a fellow Democrat elected to succeed him in the White House.

“I do want to thank Congress for ending the year on a high note,” Obama said in his annual year-end news conference. He singled out former House Speaker John Boehner for kick-starting the budget process shortly before leaving Congress and gave current Speaker Paul Ryan “kudos” for seeing the effort through.

The budget package, which staved off a government shutdown

and extended tax cuts for families and businesses, was finalized shortly before Obama addressed reporters in the White House briefing room Friday afternoon. The president quickly signed the measure into law.

The fiscal agreement capped a year of milestones for the president — including a historic Iranian nuclear accord, a sweeping Asia-Pacific trade pact and a global climate agreement — that have been overshadowed in recent weeks by deadly attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, heightening Americans’

fears of terrorism.

Obama was stopping in San Bernardino late Friday to meet with families of the 14 victims on his way to Hawaii for his annual two-week Christmas vacation in his home state. The California attack by a married couple has raised

concerns about the reach of the Islamic State and other terror groups.

Much of the president’s focus was on outlining plans for his final year in office. The race to succeed him will consume even more attention once primary voting begins in February.

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**Notice of Availability of the
Naval Weapons Systems
Training Facility (NWSTF)
Boardman Final Environmental Impact
Statement (EIS)**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations [40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508]), the U.S. Navy, in cooperation with the National Guard Bureau and Oregon National Guard, has completed a Final EIS to evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with ongoing and proposed military readiness activities within NWSTF Boardman and associated airspace.

Proposed Action:

The Navy and Oregon National Guard propose to:

- Increase the types and the number of certain training activities conducted at NWSTF Boardman
- Develop and enhance training facilities at NWSTF Boardman
- Create additional special use airspace to support existing aircraft training

The Proposed Action is needed to enhance the training environment at NWSTF Boardman – including ranges, training areas, and instrumentation – to better support current and future unit and personnel training requirements.

The Final EIS will be available for public review from **Dec. 18, 2015, to Jan. 19, 2016.**

The document is available online at **www.NWSTFBoardmanEIS.com** and at these locations: Multnomah County Central, Salem Central, West Salem, Oregon Trail Heppner, Oregon Trail Boardman, and the Stafford Hansell Government Center.

For more information:

Visit the project website at **www.NWSTFBoardmanEIS.com** or contact:

Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Northwest
Attn: NWSTF Boardman EIS
Project Manager
1101 Tautog Circle, Suite 203
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

Comments may be submitted by U.S. postal mail to the above address by Jan. 19, 2016.

Public Involvement:

The completion of the Final EIS follows years of research, analysis, and public involvement. The Navy held two public scoping meetings in October 2010 and two public meetings in September 2012 to provide information and receive public comments. The Final EIS includes responses from the Navy and the Oregon National Guard to the public comments received on the Draft EIS. Regulations provide for a 30-day public review and wait period after the Final EIS is published before action may be taken.

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