



---

## HUD Descends Into Supervisory Chaos

With the nation six months into the Trump presidency, HUD is still functioning under guidelines set down by the Obama administration. The nomination of the principal HUD operations executive, the deputy secretary, has been in limbo for a month since the Senate Banking Committee approved Pamela Patenaude for the position and moved her nomination to the Senate floor.

Without Patenaude confirmed -- there is no Senate timetable to vote on her confirmation -- none of HUD's principal functions have leadership in place. The absence of such leaders has created tension among HUD's pre-Obama administration employees who seek a return to the department's traditional functions of program administration and oversight and employees hired during the eight years of the Obama administration, career people who have stepped into acting supervisory roles and continue to operate under that administration's transformation guidelines.

While Trump is well behind in making nominations to build his administration, the handful of HUD nominations remain in limbo awaiting even committee approval. Senate Democrats have applied obscure parliamentary procedure to force delays, including repeated invoking of the cloture process.

*HAL* sources explain Trump's lag in providing nominees for the vacancies indicates his view of a diminished role for the department, a position reinforced by his proposed \$6 billion cut for HUD programs

Obama administration holdovers manage all but one of the temporary leadership positions. Only Matthew Hunter, assistant deputy secretary for Field Policy and Management, is the lone Trump administration hire.

Key vacant positions include the General Counsel, assistant secretary for the Office of Housing/FHA Commissioner, assistant secretary for the Office of Public & Indian Housing, assistant secretary for the Office of Community Planning & Development, assistant secretary for Policy Development & Research, assistant secretary for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity, assistant secretary for Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations, and Inspector General.

Nominees have been submitted for three of those positions -- J. Paul Compton for general counsel, Anna Maria Farias for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity, and Neal Rackleff for

Community Planning & Development. While their nominations are up for Senate Banking Committee review, they are expected to be sidelined for weeks following committee approval.

Added to the morass is the administration's position on HUD's regional office leadership. Seven of the 10 regional offices continue to be managed by career employees hired by the Obama administration.

The Trump administration's view of the role of regional offices became apparent with its first three choices for executive directors, all of which have no housing administrative experience -- the Region 2 choice is a wedding planner, the Region 3 choice is a recent college football player and GOP functionary, and the Region 6 choice is former mayor of Irving, TX, a Dallas suburb.

7/13/17 4:37 PM