

## CONFRONT TRUMP? NY LAWMAKERS WANT PAY RAISE FIRST

**ALBANY, NY:** While Democratic lawmakers in other states seek to unify against President-elect Donald Trump, those in New York are focused on trying to raise legislative pay to nearly \$100,000 a year. Some pundits say the maneuvering to convene a special session to push the pay raise through either before or just after Christmas is a case study in misplaced priorities and out-of-touch political optics.

"There are a million things they could be doing, and their priority is clearly getting themselves more money," said Doug Kellogg, of the group Reclaim Albany. "It's the holidays and people are busy and focused on other things. Lawmakers know this is unpopular and they're trying to duck accountability."

Members of New York's Assembly and Senate now make \$79,500 for what is technically a part-time job. It's the third-highest legislative salary in the nation, but hasn't been increased in 17 years. One proposal would boost it to \$99,500, which would give New York lawmakers the second-highest salary, just behind No. 1 California at \$100,000. Another would raise it even higher, to \$116,000.

Lawmakers had hoped a state commission would authorize an increase, but the panel balked at the idea last month. That forced the issue back to the Legislature, which must approve a raise by Dec. 31 for it to take effect next year. "People should be paid what they deserve," argued Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, who has led the chamber's Democratic majority in clamoring for the pay raise.

Republicans have been quieter in calling for the increase, with some concerned that in exchange for a bump in their legislative pay they would have to agree to give up the money they make from law firms and other outside employment. The request comes at an especially awkward time for Democrats following a presidential election that handed their party a historic defeat. —AP

# TRUMP KEEPS REVELING IN ELECTION WIN AT PENN RALLY

## ZINKE PICKED AS INTERIOR CHIEF

**HERSHEY, Pa:** Donald Trump's barnstorming tour across the states that won him the White House continues to feature far more taunts of triumph than notes of healing after a bruising election.

Thursday's rally in Hershey, Pennsylvania, found the president-elect calling for the mostly white crowd to cheer for African-Americans who were "smart" to heed his message and therefore "didn't come out to vote" for his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton. "That was the big thing, so thank you to the African-American community," Trump said.

Trump's victory lap continued last night with an event in Orlando, Florida, then wraps up Saturday in Mobile, Alabama. The president-elect boasted to the crowd in Pennsylvania on Thursday that he captured a state that for many Republicans was "the bride that got away." "Everyone leaves Pennsylvania, Republicans, thinking they won Pennsylvania. And they never do. They just don't win Pennsylvania," said Trump. Pennsylvania had not gone for a Republican candidate since 1988. But the Trump campaign staff long thought that the state, rich in white working-class voters, would be receptive to his populist message and not be part of Clinton's hoped-for firewall.

Trump repeatedly campaigned there, drawing some of the largest and loudest



**HERSHEY:** President-elect Donald Trump speaks during a rally at the Giant Center on Thursday in Hershey, Pa. —AP

crowds of the campaign. He won the state by less than 1 percentage point, giving him a vital 20 electoral college votes. The evening rally in Hershey also featured a nearly 20-minute recap of Trump's election night win with the crowd cheering as the president-elect slowly ticked off his victories state by state, mixing in rambling criticisms of incorrect pundits and politicians from both sides of the aisle.

Trump also edged closer Thursday to completing his Cabinet, announcing his choice for interior secretary: Montana Rep Ryan Zinke, who should fit smoothly into an administration favoring more energy

drilling and less regulation. Trump praised Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, as having "built one of the strongest track records on championing regulatory relief, forest management, responsible energy development and public land issues."

Zinke, 55, was an early supporter of the president-elect and publicly expressed his interest in a Cabinet post when Trump visited Montana in May. As with several other Cabinet selections, Zinke has advocated increased drilling and mining on public lands and has expressed skepticism about the urgency of climate change. — AP

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