

BREITBART

Get News Alerts by Email

ALL U.S. WORLD POLITICS BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT SCI/TECH HEALTH ODD VIDEO IMAGES

AP: Breaking | Alerts | World | US | Politics | Business | Entertainment | Life | Science | Odd | Sports | Tech

Official: Performance czar withdraws candidacy



Feb 3 10:20 AM US/Eastern

By MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN and LIZ SIDOTI

Associated Press Writer

Comments (45) Email to a friend Share on Facebook Tweet this SHARE

BREITBART TV RELATED VIDEO



Flashback: Obama Names Chief Performance Officer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Nancy Killefer, who failed for a year and a half to pay employment taxes on household help, has withdrawn her candidacy to be the first chief performance officer for the federal government, the White House said Tuesday.

Killefer was the second major Obama administration nominee to withdraw and the third to have tax problems complicate their nomination after President Barack Obama announced their selection.

The White House said Obama had accepted Killefer's decision and that the 55-year-old executive with consulting giant McKinsey & Co., would explain her reasons for pulling out later Tuesday.

When her selection was announced by Obama on Jan. 7, The Associated Press disclosed that in 2005 the District of Columbia government had filed a \$946.69 tax lien on her home for failure to pay unemployment compensation tax on household help.

Since then, administration officials have refused to answer questions about the tax error which she resolved five months after the lien was filed.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

WASHINGTON (AP)—An Obama administration official says Nancy Killefer is withdrawing her candidacy to be the first chief performance officer for the federal government.

The official said the 55-year-old executive with consulting giant McKinsey & Co., will detail her reason for pulling out later Tuesday.

When her selection was announced by President Barack Obama on Jan. 7, The Associated Press disclosed that in 2005 the District of Columbia government had filed a more than \$900 tax lien on her home for failure to pay unemployment compensation tax on household help.

Since then, administration officials have refused to answer questions about the tax error which she resolved five months after the lien was filed.

Copyright 2009 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

SHOCKING: 2010 Honda Civic for \$1,732.09

BREAKING NEWS: High ticket items are being auctioned for an incredible 90%... www.ctips.net

Obama Urges Homeowners to Refinance

If you owe under \$729k you probably qualify for Obama's Refi Program www.SeeRefinanceRates.com

Daily Deals NYC

Get Amazing Savings On Restaurants, Spas, Events and More! www.LivingSocial.com

Get Serious Savings

Auto Insurance Quote: Get Discounts & Bonuses to Help You Save Big! www.Allstate.com

Advertisement

TODAYS DEAL: \$21.76 iPads
 Brooklyn : Apple iPads are being auctioned on swipBids for as little as \$21.76! [Learn more](#)

E-Cigarettes Reviewed
 Smokers: Are electronic cigarettes cheaper and better for your health? Can you really smoke indoors? [Learn more](#)

[Add Your Link Here!](#)

BIGPEACE

Secure Freedom Radio: Imam Rauf Is Not a Moderate

Andrea S. Lafferty: Speaker at GZM Rally Witnesses Provocative Behavior from ABC News Staffer

Peter R. Huessy: Reflections on Casa de Maryland Shed Light on Ground Zero Mosque

Frank Gaffney: Why Are We 'Driving Ms. Daisy'? : State Dept. about to Send GZM Imam's Wife to Join Him on Goodwill Mideast Tour

Sun Tzu: Ground Zero 'Man on the Street' Interviews

The Washington Post

The Washington Post



Advertisement

washingtonpost.com > Politics > The Fix



The Fix

Political News & Analysis By Chris Cillizza

Advertisement

About Chris | @The Fix @The Hyper Fix @FixAaron @FixFelicia | Facebook | YouTube | XML RSS

THE FIX NEWSLETTERS

Get the Morning Fix and the new Afternoon Fix delivered to your inbox or mobile device for easy access to the top political stories of the day. All you need is one click to get [Morning Fix](#) and [Afternoon Fix](#)!

THE LIVE FIX

Join the Fix Fridays at 11 a.m. ET to discuss the [latest in campaigns and political news](#).
• Live Q & A
• [Transcripts](#)
• [XML RSS Feed](#)

POLITICS & PINTS

Love political trivia? [Send an email](#) with "Politics and Pints" in the subject line to us and we'll make sure you know about [upcoming "Politics and Pints" events](#).

SEARCH THIS BLOG

How Killefer Hurts Daschle



President Obama's choice for government performance officer Nancy Killefer withdrew her name from consideration, possibly causing problems for HHS nominee Tom Daschle. (Linda Davidson / staff/ The Washington Post)

UPDATE 12:48 p.m.: Tom Daschle has [withdrawn from consideration as the Health and Human Services Secretary designate](#), citing his desire not to be a distraction to the president.

Original Post

RECENT POSTS

- [Afternoon Fix: White House: Obama is "a committed Christian"; Donnelly touts anti-Pelosi stance](#)
- [Daily Fix Poll: Why do people think Obama is Muslim?](#)
- [Kendrick Meek: Jeff Greene lacks record, vision](#)
- [Betty Sutton and the Big Spender](#)
- ['Worst Week in Washington': The nominations!](#)

Entries By Category

- [Afternoon Fix](#)
- [Daily Fix Poll](#)
- [Eye on 2012](#)
- [Fix Daily Poll](#)
- [Fix Endorsement Hierarchy](#)
- [Fix Poll](#)
- [Governors](#)
- [Hall of Fame](#)
- [House](#)
- [Live Fix](#)
- [Morning Fix](#)
- [Most Important Number](#)

The [decision of Nancy Killefer to withdraw her name from consideration](#) as President Obama's chief performance officer due to tax questions has the potential to further complicate former Sen. **Tom Daschle's** (S.D.) already rocky confirmation process as secretary of the Health and Human Service Department.

In a [letter of resignation released by the White House](#), Killefer wrote: "I have also come to realize in the current environment that my personal tax issue of D.C. Unemployment tax could be used to create exactly the kind of distraction and delay those duties must avoid."

Killefer is the the third Obama pick to face tax questions; Treasury Secretary **Tim Geithner** was forced to apologize for not paying \$34,000 in Social Security and Medicare taxes but ultimately was confirmed while Daschle continues to fight for his political life amid revelations that he had failed to pay more than \$140,000 in back taxes.

As we wrote this morning, [Daschle faces major problems](#) -- the optics of having not paid taxes on a car and driver provided by a wealthy donor are TERRIBLE -- but will likely be confirmed barring any other revelations.

Killefer's resignation could be those "other" revelations.

While the Killefer resignation is obviously not directly connected to Daschle, it certainly will have an effect on the political environment in which the former South Dakota senator finds himself battling for his nomination.

As any reporter knows, three related events amount to a storyline -- meaning that Obama and his senior aides are now certain to face a barrage of questions (starting with today's press briefing) on whether the

Create dozens of unforgettable *only in DC* experiences.

URBAN EXPLORER weekend itinerary



DOWNLOAD FULL ITINERARY

Peruse fresh foods and crafts from local artists at Eastern Market on Capitol Hill.



Grab a bicycle at Bike and Roll for a powerful tour of the National Mall.

Visit 14th and U Street for dinner at Marvin, then drinks and jazz at Bohemian Caverns.



Take an afterhours tour of the monuments by moonlight. Start with sunset at the Jefferson Memorial.



EXCLUSIVE HOTEL PACKAGES - CLICK or CALL 1-800-422-8644

STAYING POWER

★ Stay 3 nights receive **30% off**

★ Rates starting from **\$99 per night**

WASHINGTON DC WASHINGTON.ORG

Sponsored Links

Mortgage Rates Hit 3.25%

If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for Obamas Refi Program

www.SeeRefinanceRates.com

- [Mouthpiece Theater](#)
- [Senate](#)
- [Short Takes](#)
- [Supreme Court](#)
- [The Line](#)
- [The Rising](#)
- [Wag The Blog](#)
- [What To Watch For](#)
- [White House](#)
- [Winners and Losers](#)
- [Worst Week in Washington](#)
- [Full Category Archive](#)

Entries By Date
 ▪ [Full Weekly Archive](#)

SUBSCRIBE

⊕ [Select ...](#)

HALL OF FAME

Check out the latest inductees [in the Fix's political pantheon](#).

THE BEST STATE BLOGS

The [best of the best of state-based political blogs](#) -- as of April 2009.

THE FIX BLOG ROLL

- [Achenblog](#)
- [Andrew Sullivan](#)
- [The Atlantic Politics Channel](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [CitizenTube](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [First Read](#)
- [Fishbowl DC](#)
- [Fix Best of State Blogs](#)
- [538](#)
- [George Stephanopoulos](#)
- [GOP 12](#)
- [Jake Tapper](#)
- [Mediaite](#)
- [The Page](#)
- [The Scorecard](#)

FROM THE POST

- [Daily Politics Web Chat](#)
- [In The Loop Page](#)
- [Dana Milbank: Washington Sketch](#)
- [David Broder](#)
- [Opinions Section](#)

RELATED LINKS

- [44: Obama Presidency](#)
- [Congressional Votes Database](#)
- [2008 Election Archive](#)

president has a problem with his vetting process for top Cabinet picks. Obama's interviews this afternoon with the top anchors for the major networks will now almost certainly lead off with questions about Killefer, Geithner and Daschle.

Obviously, that is not the narrative the Obama White House wants dominating the news coverage as it tries to sell the economic stimulus plan to a somewhat skeptical Senate.

All of that spells trouble for Daschle -- as does the continued drumbeat on the story, which was kept up this morning by two developments.

The first: a [New York Times editorial](#) calling for Daschle to step aside.

"Mr. Daschle is another in a long line of politicians who move cozily between government and industry," reads the editorial. "We don't know that his industry ties would influence his judgments on health issues, but they could potentially throw a cloud over health care reform. Mr. Daschle could clear the atmosphere by withdrawing his name."

The second is an [old Daschle campaign ad](#) circulating among the Washington chattering class this morning that -- irony of ironies -- shows Daschle driving around in a beat-up Pontiac (and driving by a chauffeured limousine).

In politics, the context in which any given event happens and the way in which said event is perceived are absolutely critical when analyzing the outcome. Until this morning, Daschle looked like he would make it through the nomination fight -- battered but confirmed. The Killefer revelations badly cloud Daschle's prospects and make the next 24 to 48 hours even more critical.

By Chris Cillizza | February 3, 2009; 11:05 AM ET
 Categories: [The Cabinet](#) , [White House](#)

[Recommend](#) You recommend this. Be the first of your friends to recommend this. · [Admin Page](#) · [Error](#) · [Unlike](#)

Save & Share:

Previous: [White House Cheat Sheet: Daschle, Damaged](#)
 Next: [Twittering the Briefing: Managing the Tax Crisis](#)

Sponsored Links

[Mortgage Rates Hit 3.25%](#)
 If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for Obamas Refi Program
[www.SeeRefinanceRates.com](#)

[Buy a link here](#)

Sponsored Links

[Mortgage Rates Hit 3.25%](#)
 If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for Obamas Refi Program
[www.SeeRefinanceRates.com](#)

[Bose® Official Store](#)
 Shop award-winning products from the most respected name in sound.
[www.Bose.com](#)

[Get NYC Deals](#)
 Amazing Daily Deals 50-90% Off Restaurants, Spas, Events and More!
[www.LivingSocial.com](#)

[Buy a link here](#)

Sponsored Links

[Mortgage Rates Hit 3.25%](#)
 If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for Obamas Refi Program
[www.SeeRefinanceRates.com](#)

Bose® Official Store

Shop award-winning products from the most respected name in sound.
[www.Bose.com](#)

[Buy a link here](#)

Sponsored Links

[Mortgage Rates Hit 3.25%](#)
 If you owe less than \$729k you probably qualify for Obamas Refi Program
[www.SeeRefinanceRates.com](#)

Bose® Official Store

Shop award-winning products from the most respected name in sound.
[www.Bose.com](#)

[Buy a link here](#)

Network News MY PROFILE

Friends' Activity

You need to be logged into Facebook to see your friends' activity

No recent activity to display.

[China's massive traffic jam could last for weeks](#)
 454 people shared this.

[Richard Cohen - No compromise on religious freedom](#)
 724 people shared this.

[Far from Ground Zero, other plans for mosques run into vehement opposition](#)
 3,418 people shared this.

[Sales of existing homes plunge to 15-year-low](#)
 167 people shared this.

[Study: Petroleum-eating microbes significantly reduced gulf oil plume](#)
 150 people shared this.

[No parole for Ala. dog torturer; victim wags tail](#)
 132 people shared this.

[View More Activity](#)

Los Angeles Times | NATION

LOCAL **U.S.** WORLD BUSINESS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT HEALTH LIVING TRAVEL OPINION MORE

WASHINGTON D.C. NOW TOP OF THE TICKET SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT OBITUARIES

 The secret to finding hidden grant money	 The Asian secret to strong, lush hair	 Why 2010 may be the best time to go to college
Advertising by: ARAllifestyle.com		

Top of the Ticket

POLITICS AND COMMENTARY, COAST TO COAST, FROM THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

« Previous Post | Top of the Ticket Home | Next Post »

Another Obama official bites dust with tax problems

February 3, 2009 | 8:01 am



Nancy Killefer, named by [President Obama](#) as his chief performance expert at the Office of Management and Budget, has withdrawn her nomination on account of -- among other things -- tax problems!

The 55-year-old executive tapped to serve as the watchdog on wasteful government spending had a \$900 tax lien on her home in 2005 for failing to pay unemployment compensation tax on household help, according to the Associated Press. Killefer works for the consulting giant McKinsey & Co. (See video down below.)

She is the third Obama official to run into tax troubles.

Former Senate Majority Leader [Tom Daschle](#)'s nomination to be secretary of Health and Human

Stay connected:

 RSS [twitter](#) [facebook](#)

advertisement

Services is at a tipping point over his failure to pay \$146,000 in back taxes, some of it on a limousine and driver he used in his personal life. And Treasury Secretary **Timothy Geithner** was confirmed after confessing that he, now the nominal head of the Internal Revenue Service, had failed to pay Social Security and Medicare taxes while an employee at the International Monetary Fund. After calling for a "new era of responsibility" in his inaugural speech, Obama is coming under increased fire for seemingly applying a double standard. The Boston Globe's Peter Canellos noted this morning that the president seems to have [rigorous rules for Wall Street fat cats but looser ones for his top advisors](#).

And some are starting to question the vetting process or decision-making abilities of the once-vaunted Obama machine. Sen. **Charles Grassley** of Iowa, the ranking Republican on the Finance Committee [hearing Daschle's explanations](#), told CNN:

What bothers me is a president who wanted to get his administration off and running even before he's sworn in. What's wrong with the vetting process? It shows a little bit of shortcoming for someone who otherwise is a genius, you know, about management capability.

Her letter of resignation is posted below.

-- Johanna Neuman

Speaking of important messages, [register here for cellphone alerts](#) on each new Ticket item. [RSS feeds are also available here](#). And we're now on Amazon's Kindle as well.

Photo: Getty Images

February 3, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

I recognize that your agenda and the duties facing your Chief Performance Officer are urgent. I have also come to realize in the current environment that my personal tax issue of D.C. Unemployment tax could be used to create exactly the kind of distraction and delay those duties must avoid. Because of this I must reluctantly ask you to withdraw my name from consideration.

I am deeply honored to have been selected by you and you have my deep appreciation for your confidence in me. You have my heartfelt support and best wishes for success in all your endeavors.

Respectfully yours,

Nancy Killefer

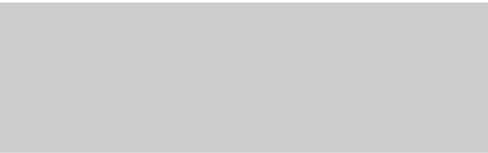
 [Twitter: @LATimestot](#)
 [Facebook: latimestot](#)

More in: [Cabinet-New](#), [Economy](#), [First 100 Days](#), [President Obama](#), [Taxes](#), [Twitter](#), [Video](#), [West Virginia](#)

Read Later | Comments (16) | ShareThis | 0 tweet | 0 tweet
 Like |  You like thisBe the first of your friends to like this. - Admin

The Brown Bailout... ADS BY GOOGLE
Why Is Congress Playing Favorites? And How Does This Impact You?
[BrownBailout.com](#)
Official Obama Website
Support Barack Obama by Joining Organizing for America. Act Now!
[www.BarackObama.com](#)

The Brown Bailout... ADS BY GOOGLE
Why Is Congress Playing Favorites? And How Does This Impact You?
[BrownBailout.com](#)
Fight Sarah Palin
Stop Sarah Palin from "Bearing" Down on Us. Fight Back w/ the DSCC!
[DSCC.org](#)



About the Bloggers

Andrew Malcolm

Recent Posts

Now, trouble in California? Obama jumps into the governor's race to help Jerry Brown vs. Meg Whitman | [August 24, 2010, 2:50 pm](#) »

John Boehner calls for firing of Obama's entire economic team; time 'to put grownups in charge' | [August 24, 2010, 7:24 am](#) »

Ah, Washington. Democrats and the GOP spar over a John Boehner speech that hasn't even been given yet | [August 24, 2010, 3:16 am](#) »

Joe Biden update: No 'Mission Accomplished' claim on Iraq, but no 'victory' either | [August 23, 2010, 4:44 pm](#) »

Americans coming to dislike Harry Reid almost as much as they dislike fellow Democrat Nancy Pelosi | [August 23, 2010, 5:38 am](#) »

Recent Comments

RE: At Ramadan Iftar dinner, Obama supports new mosque on private property near Ground Zero | [comment by Maria](#)

RE: John Boehner calls for firing of Obama's entire economic team; time 'to put grownups in charge' | [comment by Combat Marine Veteran](#)

RE: Perry vs. White in Texas governor's race: New poll says it's close | [comment by Johnny B. Goode](#)

RE: Barack Obama's birth certificate revealed here | [comment by Jonathan Pincus](#)

RE: At Ramadan Iftar dinner, Obama supports new mosque on private property near Ground Zero | [comment by Combat Marine Veteran](#)

RE: John Boehner calls for firing of Obama's entire economic team; time 'to put grownups in charge' | [comment by Tom](#)

Categories

2010 2012 abortion acorn ads advertising afghanistan aides aids alaska andrew malcolm arizona arnold schwarzenegger autos banks bernard madoff bipartisan blagojevich blogging books budget bundler cabinet-new california california elections campaign attacks

campaign gaffes **campaigning** canada cancer candidate character candidate foibles candidate spouses caucus celebrities cellphones census chicago politics china civil rights cold weather condoleezza rice congress conservative groups corruption craig howie current affairs debates deficit delegates democratic

democratic politics national convention diplomacy diversity dnc dogs domestic policy dreams drugs illegal economy education electoral college electoral