Nancy Pelosi set to lead opposition to Trump as Speaker of a House with the most women

WASHINGTON - Some call her a San Francisco latte liberal. But her daughter Alexandra says all you need to know about [Nancy Pelosi](https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/us-house-democrats-nominate-nancy-pelosi-to-be-speaker) is: "She'll cut your head off and you won't even know you're bleeding."

Barring unforeseen circumstances, 78-year-old Nancy Pelosi is set to [be elected Speaker of the House of Representatives](https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/nancy-pelosi-icon-of-female-power-will-reclaim-role-as-speaker-and-seal-a-place) on Thursday (Jan 3) in Washington - and has already found herself toe to toe with President Donald Trump in a showdown over [funding for the border wall with Mexico](https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/white-house-calls-democratic-plan-to-end-shutdown-non-starter) he promised his base.

She will also be wielding the gavel in a House that will have a record number of women - 102, comprising 23.4 per cent of the chamber's voting members. Before the November 2018 midterm elections, the record for women in the House was 19 per cent of seats.