



The NATIONAL INTEREST

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[U.S. House of Representatives Votes to Impeach President Trump](#)

President Trump was impeached in the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday evening, with both articles of impeachment being passed. The first article; abuse of power, passed 230-197, and the second article; obstruction of Congress, passed 229-198. Both votes followed the party line, with no Republicans breaking with the President to vote for impeachment. It marks the third time in history a sitting president has been impeached, with Presidents Johnson and Clinton being impeached in the House before being acquitted in the Senate. President Richard Nixon was also the subject of an impeachment inquiry, but he resigned from office before a vote could be held. Trump is accused of breaking his oath of office by abusing his power and obstructing Congress. The impeachment process will now move to the Senate, where the inquiry will likely resume early in the New Year. President Trump declined to present evidence in his defense during the House inquiry, but is expected to change that approach during the trial in the Senate.

President Trump and his Republican allies in Congress decried the impeachment inquiry as a politically-motivated witch hunt, and repeatedly insisted that none of the President's actions were worthy of impeachment. In a strongly worded letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Tuesday evening, President Trump accused the leader of the House of constructing an "illegal coup" that will have repercussions at the ballot box.

Members of Congress gave speeches on the House floor on Wednesday, and there was predictable partisanship throughout. Republican representative Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania compared the impeachment process to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and called the vote something that will live on in infamy, quoting then-President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's speech that addressed the attack. Republican Barry Loudermilk of Georgia also defended the President, and cited biblical stories, comparing Nancy Pelosi to Pontius Pilate, and the President to Jesus Christ.

Democrats predominantly echoed the opening statement given by Speaker Pelosi, in which she called the impeachment vote a somber occurrence. Members focused on the charges against President Trump, and the fact that the House had no choice but to vote for impeachment after the testimony given by officials during committee hearings on the quid pro quo with Ukraine. Democrats also reiterated that they took no joy in voting to impeach the President, but that it was their solemn responsibility to uphold the Constitution and act as a check against the President.

The U.S. Senate is expected to hold a trial on impeachment when Senators return to Washington in the New Year. Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York has already begun piecing together a list of witnesses from the Trump White House he wants to call to testify during the trial. Senator Schumer has intimated that he expects some Republican Senators to break from the party line and back his request for witnesses, although close allies of Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have scoffed at that notion. Senators in swing states facing difficult re-elections are expected to play a key role in the Senate trial, specifically Senators Sinema (D-AZ), Manchin (D-WV), Collins (R-ME), and Jones (D-AL). Presently, it appears difficult for Senator Schumer to reach the requisite two-thirds majority needed to formally remove the President from office, but things can change quickly, as has already been evidenced over the course of the impeachment inquiry.