

The Impeachment Process

Frequently Asked Questions



How can there be a fair trial without documents and witnesses?

As a Senator, it is my Constitutional duty to be an impartial juror and make a decision on whether we should remove the President from the office he was duly elected to. It is one of the most difficult decisions I will make as a Senator and I do not take this decision lightly. To make this decision, I think it is important that I have all of the facts in front of me which includes witnesses and documents. That is why I voted to subpoena additional documents from the White House, State Department, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Defense and testimony from individuals on Tuesday night. Unfortunately, these votes failed on a partisan basis.

Why are members allowed to leave the room and not be present during the trial?

At the beginning of the trial, each member received decorum guidelines that are in place for the duration of the trial. While there may be Senators who have departed from the Senate chamber to use the restroom or stretch their legs, the vast majority of my colleagues have adhered to these guidelines and have been intently listening to the information presented so that we can make an informed decision.

Do you believe the House of Representatives did their job correctly?

Whether or not you agree with the outcome, it is the House of Representatives' responsibility to conduct an investigation. During their investigation, they held a series of hearings and concluded that President Trump committed two impeachable offenses. The House of Representatives voted as a body to send the articles of impeachment to the Senate where we must now uphold our own Constitutional obligation by holding a trial. The job of the Senate is to review the information that is presented by the House Managers and President Trump's legal team to determine if the evidence warrants the removal of the President from office. I appreciate the work the House of Representatives has done and I will weigh the information presented by the House Managers and the President's legal team throughout this trial.

What crime is the House of Representatives claiming the President committed?

The House of Representatives passed two articles of impeachment against President Trump. The first article alleges that the President withheld foreign military aid to our ally, Ukraine, in exchange for actions that could influence the 2020 U.S. Presidential election. The second article alleges President Trump obstructed Congress by directing Executive branch agencies, offices, and officials to not comply with subpoenas from the House of Representatives in relation to the impeachment investigation.

What is the best way to get an accurate summary of the impeachment each day?

The print and news media are great sources to receive immediate reactions and updates to what is occurring within the Senate chamber. CSPAN's website, <https://www.c-span.org/>, has a live webcast of the Senate chamber. And, as always, you can reach out to my offices if you have any questions regarding what has occurred during the trial.

Will you vote to subpoena witnesses in the Senate impeachment trial?

Yes. I have been very clear that we cannot have a legitimate trial without witnesses and documents. Before this trial began, I took an oath to be an impartial juror and as a Senator it is my Constitutional duty to make a decision on whether we should remove President Trump from the office he was duly elected to. This is one of the most difficult decisions I will make as a Senator, and something I do not take lightly.