

House impeaches Trump for abuse of power and obstruction in historic rebuke

- *The House of Representatives voted to approve both articles of impeachment against President Trump.*
 - *Mr. Trump, who was on stage at a rally in Michigan as the votes were counted, is just the third president in American history to be impeached.*
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Washington — The House of Representatives voted to impeach President Trump for high crimes and misdemeanors, accusing him of betraying the country for his own political benefit and obstructing a congressional investigation into his actions.

Democratic lawmakers handed down the severest form of punishment available to the House under the Constitution, approving two articles of impeachment after a marathon debate on Wednesday. Article I passed by a vote of 230-197-1, with one member voting “present.” The second article passed by a margin of 229-198-1.

Mr. Trump becomes just the third president in the 231-year history of the republic to be impeached, joining Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton, both of whom were acquitted in subsequent Senate trials. Mr. Trump appears headed for the same fate, with Republicans in the upper chamber eager to clear him of wrongdoing when Congress returns in the new year.

The impeachment votes are the culmination of months of investigation by House Democrats into the president’s efforts to pressure the government of Ukraine to pursue investigations that would benefit him politically, including a probe into a company that employed the son of former Vice President Joe Biden, one of the president’s chief potential rivals in his 2020 reelection bid.

The White House refused to cooperate with the inquiry in any capacity, a position

that formed the basis for the second article of impeachment.

The process has laid bare deep divisions between the parties and among the American electorate as a whole, with the president and Republicans staunchly defending his actions and accusing the Democrats of a partisan witch hunt to remove him from office. Democrats have portrayed the president as an urgent threat who is actively seeking foreign assistance to benefit his own reelection.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi opened the day of debate by saying the president brought impeachment on himself, describing him as a threat to the Constitution whose conduct must not go unpunished.

“It is tragic that the president’s reckless actions make impeachment necessary. He gave us no choice,” she said on the House floor. — *Stefan Becket*

Pelosi unclear on when she’ll send articles of impeachment to Senate

The speaker said she would not select impeachment managers for the Senate trial until she sees a “fair” Senate trial process. But it’s unclear when that might be.

“So far, we have not seen anything that looks fair to us,” Pelosi told reporters in a news conference after the vote.

Pelosi sidestepped the question when a reporter asked if she might never send the articles to the Senate.

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NEWS: @SpeakerPelosi says she will not name impeachment managers until she sees what the process will be in the Senate. “So far we have not seen anything that looks fair to us,” she said. Articles will not be sent to the Senate until she names the managers to present the trial.

“That would have been our intention, but we’ll see,” Pelosi said, asked if she will guarantee that she will send the articles to the Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham have said they don’t consider themselves to be impartial in any Senate trial. — *Rebecca Kaplan and Kathryn Watson*

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