

[IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY](#)

House leaders unveil two articles of impeachment, accusing Trump of 'high crimes and misdemeanors'

Democrats are expected to move swiftly to hold a committee and floor vote before the holiday break.



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By Allan Smith and Rebecca Shabad

WASHINGTON – House Democrats on Tuesday unveiled articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump about two and a half months after Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., first announced a formal [impeachment inquiry](#) into the president.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., announced that his committee will consider two articles of impeachment – one for abuse of power and the other for obstruction of Congress – charging Trump "with committing high crimes and misdemeanors."

Nadler said the articles of impeachment were being filed in response to Trump allegedly soliciting foreign interference in the 2020 election, compromising national security, threatening the integrity of the upcoming election and concealing evidence from Congress and the American people. Trump, he said, violated his oath of office.



[House Democrats charge Trump with 'high crimes and misdemeanors' in two articles of impeachment](#)

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Democrats released [the draft articles](#) later Tuesday morning. The articles allege that Trump "corruptly solicited the government of Ukraine to publicly announce investigations" into the Bidens and a [conspiracy theory alleging Ukrainian interference](#) in the 2016 election. Trump also "conditioned two official acts on the public announcements that he requested," Democrats wrote, citing nearly \$400 million in military aid and an official White House meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"Wherefore President Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he will remain a threat to national security and the Constitution if allowed to remain in office and has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law," the articles read. "President Trump thus warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States."

The second article, focused on obstructing Congress, states that Trump's conduct violated his oath of office and the Constitution, and that through that alleged obstruction, the president "sought to arrogate to himself the right to determine the propriety, scope, and nature of an impeachment inquiry into his own conduct, as well as the unilateral prerogative to deny any and all information to the" House.

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The articles are expected to be considered in the House Judiciary Committee this week and voted on soon after, which would send them to the floor for a vote on impeachment by the full House, possibly this month. If one or more of the articles pass, the Senate would then hold a trial to consider removing Trump. That would take a vote by at least two thirds of the Senate, most likely some time in January.

Trump, Nadler said, exercised "the powers of his public office to obtain an improper personal benefit" and engaged in "indiscriminate defiance of the impeachment inquiry."



[Trump knocks 'very weak' articles of impeachment](#)

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Trump fired back within an hour of the announcement, [tweeting](#), "WITCH HUNT!"

"Nadler just said that I 'pressured Ukraine to interfere in our 2020 Election,'" Trump [wrote](#). "Ridiculous, and he knows that is not true. Both the President & Foreign Minister of Ukraine said, many times, that there "WAS NO PRESSURE." Nadler and the Dems know this, but refuse to acknowledge!"

He later told reporters again that the White House "did nothing wrong."

"I think it's a disgrace, so people can make impeachment out of nothing. That was a perfect conversation," he told reporters on the south lawn of the White House late Tuesday as he left for a campaign rally in Hershey, Pennsylvania. "They were perfect conversations, there's nothing done wrong and I think it's a disgrace....I think it's an absolute disgrace."

Pelosi and Nadler were flanked by Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters, D-Calif., Ways & Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., Oversight Committee

Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., and Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel, D-N.Y.

"The argument, 'Why don't you just wait?' amounts to this: 'Why don't you just let him cheat in one more election. Why not let him cheat just one more time. Why not let him have foreign help just one more time,'" Schiff said.

"The president's oath of office appears to mean very little to him," Schiff added, citing Trump's chief of staff Mick Mulvaney's October call to "get over it" when asked about whether there was any link between the president's push for Ukrainian investigations and the withholding of nearly \$400 million in military aid to that country. Mulvaney later walked back his comments.

Pointing to Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani's recent trip to Ukraine, Schiff said Trump "still wants Ukraine to interfere" in the 2020 election and boost his campaign.

Trump blasted Schiff on [Twitter](#), calling him a "totally corrupt politician." The president also pointed to the call summary of his July 25 conversation with Zelenskyy, [saying](#) when he asked Zelenskyy to do "us" a favor and probe Democrats, the president was talking about the country and not himself.

Speaking at the Wall Street Journal CEO Council Forum on Tuesday, Mulvaney said the articles of impeachment "should surprise nobody," adding that "politics can and should influence foreign policy and hopefully always will."

The White House, the Trump campaign and their allies swiftly pushed back too. White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham called the articles of impeachment "baseless" and said Trump "will address these false charges in the Senate and expects to be fully exonerated, because he did nothing wrong."

Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager, said in a statement that Democrats "are putting on this political theater because they don't have a viable candidate for 2020 and they know it." Ronna McDaniel, chairwoman of the Republican National Committee, said Pelosi "can invent whatever false charges she wants, but the American people see this for what it is: yet another partisan attempt to overthrow a duly-elected president and rob voters of the chance to re-elect him in 2020."

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, a top Trump ally who sits on the Judiciary and Oversight committees, said in a statement that the articles of impeachment were "the product of a baseless attempt to upend the will of the people less than 11 months before the next election."

"The Democrats' impeachment effort is a miscarriage of the House of Representatives' constitutional obligations and marks a shameful chapter in American history," he added.

The announcement comes a day after the Judiciary Committee held its [second public impeachment hearing](#), in which lawyers for the Democrats and the Republicans took turns summarizing the cases they've built. NBC News [reported](#) Monday night that Democrats had settled on bringing two articles of impeachment against the president.

The impeachment inquiry began after Congress was made aware of a whistleblower complaint alleging that Trump was soliciting foreign interference in 2020. That led to the White House releasing the summary of the July 25 call between Trump and Zelenskyy, which showed Trump asking his counterpart to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter, and a debunked conspiracy about the 2016 election.

Multiple current and former Trump administration officials testified before the impeachment probe, but the administration has so far refused to provide investigators with a trove of documents, as well as allow several firsthand witnesses, such as Mulvaney, to testify.

With Congress slated to leave Washington by the end of next week, Democrats are expected to move swiftly to hold a vote in the Judiciary Committee to adopt and recommend the articles to the House for a floor vote before the holiday break.

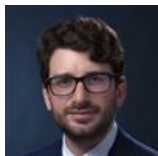
Democrats had been wrestling with whether to make the articles narrow, focusing only on the president's alleged misconduct in Ukraine, or expanding them to include issues such as obstruction of justice, raised in former special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia report, or alleged violations of the emoluments clause of the Constitution.

Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., signaled Tuesday that he was disappointed not to see an article on obstruction of justice.

"I will vote for the two articles of impeachment," he said, though he joked, "But I would also vote for third...It's a matter of public record – I've said, I think one of the articles should be obstruction of justice."

Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., a co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, told reporters Tuesday that she wished Trump had cooperated with the inquiry.

"I wish we had the president testifying," she said. "They keep shouting about process and yet they've engaged not at all. They have not submitted – it's unprecedented the president's obstruction of Congress. They have not given us any documents, he hasn't allowed anybody to come and testify."



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