

## House Unveils Articles of Impeachment Against President Trump

House Democratic leaders unveiled the two articles of impeachment that they will charge President Trump with, a few days after Speaker Pelosi announced that the House of Representatives would officially move forward with formal impeachment proceedings. The President is charged with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress in relation to the ongoing Ukraine scandal. In the formal paperwork, President Trump is charged with "corruptly soliciting" election help from the government of Ukraine in the form of slandering his political rivals. The President is also accused of obstructing Congressional inquiries on an unprecedented scale, including defying and blocking legally-issued subpoenas.

President Trump has denounced the articles of impeachment facing him, calling the process "flimsy, pathetic, and ridiculous." During a campaign-style rally with his supporters, the President said he was being impeached without having committed any crimes. He also reiterated his frequent claim of the impeachment process being a "witch hunt" orchestrated by "never-Trumpers." Just after House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler announced the articles of impeachment, Speaker Pelosi stated that her party was ready to formally move forward with the USMCA, the updated version of NAFTA. The President has frequently called for Democrats to drop the impeachment inquiry and instead focus on getting the USMCA through Congress, but it appears as if Pelosi has managed to do both.

The next step in the process is for the Judiciary Committee to debate the articles of impeachment. Due to Democratic control of the committee, it is almost certain that the articles will pass through the committee and move to the House floor, where a full vote will most likely happen next week. The White House released a statement regarding this, which said that the President would address the charges should the inquiry move to the Senate. Given that the Senate is controlled by Republicans, the President will likely face a more welcoming audience than had he argued his case in front of the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told reporters that a trial in the Senate would likely occur just after the start of the new year, should the House vote to impeach the President as expected.

The impeachment inquiry process against President Trump marks the fourth time in U.S. history that a sitting president has faced impeachment. Previously, Andrew Johnson, Bill Clinton, and Richard Nixon all faced articles of impeachment. Presidents Johnson and Clinton were both acquitted by the Senate, and President Nixon resigned from office before a vote in the House could take place.