



### [House Transmits Articles of Impeachment to the Senate](#)

On Wednesday of this week, the House voted 228-193 to approve a resolution to name impeachment managers and transmit the articles of impeachment against President Trump to the Senate. This is the final step necessary before the Senate impeachment trial can begin, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated that he expects it to get underway next week on January 21st. As a part of this House-approved resolution to send over the articles, seven impeachment managers have been appointed to present the lower chamber's case in the upcoming Senate impeachment trial. The House voted to impeach President Trump on two separate charges – abuse of power and obstruction of Congress – back on December 18th and the matter now formally moves over to the Senate for them to convict or acquit him.

The seven impeachment managers were chosen by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and a commonality between all of them is a background in law. The managers are Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Schiff; Chairman of the Judiciary Committee Rep. Jerry Nadler; Rep. Zoe Lofgren of California; Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus Rep. Hakeem Jeffries; Former Orlando police chief Rep. Val Demings; former Army captain Rep. Jason Crow; and former Houston judge Rep. Sylvia Garcia. The role of the impeachment managers is to explain to the Senate why the House voted to impeach the president, and to make the case for impeachment. Observers have noted that this could be why Speaker Pelosi elected to go with members of the House who have a background in law, as the Senate will be acting as a jury in deciding whether or not President Trump is guilty.

Prior to the Senate's trial beginning, groundbreaking news regarding the president's associates in Ukraine has recently come to light. In documents released by the government, text messages between the president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, his associate Lev Parnas, and Connecticut Congressional hopeful Robert Hyde appear to show a campaign of surveillance against the United States' Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch. In the released text messages, Hyde gives updates to Parnas about the ambassador's movements and the status of her personal electronic devices, such as her cell phone and computer. Hyde also makes a dark reference to people close to the ambassador in Ukraine being able to notify him of her destinations, saying "you can do anything in Ukraine with money." These messages were sent around the time that President Trump was disparaging Ms. Yovanovitch on Twitter, and looking for a way to force her out of her position.

In order for the president to be removed from office, the Senate will need to vote to convict by a two-thirds margin. Most senators have not yet made a public declaration on how they will vote, but it is expected at this point most senators will comply with party lines. The release of the Parnas documents comes at an interesting time, as senators will have to decide whether they will take the new information into account, or make their decision based on the information and documentation used in the House inquiry. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said that the trial will begin on or around January 21st, so a decision on whether or not to use the new evidence will likely come soon.