



[U.S. House of Representatives Impeaches Outgoing President Trump for the Second Time](#)

As his first and final term nears its official conclusion next Wednesday, President Trump has made the dubious distinction of becoming the first president in American history to be impeached twice. The U.S. House of Representatives moved forward with impeachment after Vice President Mike Pence refused to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove the president from office over his role in inciting the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol last week. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had previously given Vice President Pence an ultimatum to invoke the 25th Amendment, which he rejected, saying that removing the president from office with so little time remaining in his term would only serve to further divide the country. The House voted in favor of impeachment by a margin of 232-197, and 10 Republicans broke with the party to vote alongside Democrats in favor of impeachment. The process will now move to the Senate, where a trial is expected to begin around the time the chamber returns to session on January 19th, but which will not be concluded until after Trump is out of office.

Following the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Democrats and some Republicans demanded that the president either resign or be impeached over his role in inciting the riot. Tens of thousands of President Trump's supporters stormed the American legislative building at his behest which resulted in several deaths and dozens of injuries. Protesting the fallacy of a "stolen election," rioters vandalized the Capitol building, threatened lawmakers and police officers, and attempted to overthrow a legitimate election.

One of the most notable aspects of President Trump's second impeachment is the splintering of the Republican support he enjoyed during the first impeachment. When the president was accused of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress in 2019, the sole Republican to break from the party and vote in favor of impeachment was Senator Mitt Romney. Now, however, Republican leadership isn't whipping votes to defend the president and several GOP representatives, including the number three Republican in the House, Rep. Liz Cheney, have voted in favor of impeachment. Rep. Cheney reportedly called the impeachment vote a "vote of conscience" during a Republican caucus call, encouraging members to vote based on the facts instead of partisanship. Several Republicans, including House Minority Leader Rep. Kevin McCarthy have said they would be in favor of a censure of the president, but that impeachment was going too far and would only serve to further divide the country.

With the Article of Impeachment passing in the House, it will now move to the Senate where a trial will be convened when the body comes back into session next week on January 19th. Most Republican Senators have declined to disclose which way they will be voting, saying only that they would listen to the evidence when it was presented. One pressing concern is the timeline around impeachment, as the Senate will be tasked with presiding over the trial simultaneously with President-elect Biden attempting to pass significant legislation in his first 100 days in office. Biden has said that while he respects the Senate's constitutionally-obligated duty to consider impeachment, he is hopeful that won't distract from his administration's goal of ramping up coronavirus relief.