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# San Antonio Express-News

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Partly cloudy: High 60, Low 46

HISTORY IN THE CAPITOL

## HOUSE IMPEACHES TRUMP

Republican now  
is third president  
to stand accused

By Philip Rucker  
and Felicia Sonmez  
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The House of Representatives voted late Wednesday to impeach President Donald Trump on charges that he abused his office and obstructed Congress, with Democrats declaring him a threat to nation and branding an indelible mark on the most turbulent presidency of modern times.

After 11 hours of fierce argument on the House floor between Democrats and Republicans over Trump's conduct with Ukraine, lawmakers voted almost entirely along party lines to impeach him.

Trump becomes the third president in U.S. history to face trial in the Senate — a proceeding that will determine whether he's removed from office less than one year before he stands for re-election.

On Trump's 1,062nd day in office, Congress brought a momentous reckoning to an unorthodox president who has tested America's institutions.

The Democratic-controlled House passed two articles of impeachment against Trump — abuse of power and obstruction of Congress — related to the president's attempts to withhold military aid to Ukraine and pressure its government to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a potential 2020 Democratic opponent.

The House voted 230-197 to approve the article charging abuse of power. On the obstruction of Congress vote, which followed soon after, the tally was 229-198.

All Republicans voted against both articles. Among Democrats, two voted no on the first article and three on the second, with one — Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii — voting “present” both times.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., framed the day's proceedings through the long lens of **Impeach continues on A15**

» Trump punches back at proceedings at Michigan rally. **A13**

» State legislators avoid the subject at 2020 election looms. **A13**

» A look at what comes next in the Senate. **A13**



Saul Loeb / Getty Images

Speaker Nancy Pelosi presides over the vote on Resolution 755, Articles of Impeachment Against President Donald J. Trump.



Pete Marovich / New York Times

President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally at Kellogg Arena in Battle Creek, Mich.

### S.A. residents are mixed about vote

By Brian Chasnoff,  
Bruce Selcraig  
and Silvia Foster-Frau  
STAFF WRITERS

Donn Walker, a diehard supporter of President Donald Trump, viewed the president's impeachment Wednesday with disdain.

Nonetheless, the 69-year-old retiree from Bulverde said he had no opinion about whether the allegations against the president — that he abused his power and obstructed Congress — were true.

“There's no way I'd know,” Walker said before digging into his breakfast plate at a Cracker Barrel Old Country Store on the North Side. “I don't see how I could know. I'm just an outsider looking in.”

Walker hadn't read the reconstructed transcript of Trump's phone conversation with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the center of the impeach-

ment vote. His detachment toward the facts surrounding the president's impeachment was driven by his belief that both Democrats and Republicans are corrupt: “I think there's larceny on both sides,” he said.

On Wednesday, as lawmakers in the House argued along sharply partisan lines in the battle to force Trump from office, residents across San Antonio — from Hemisfair to the far South Side, from Ingram Park Mall to Beacon Hill — shared their thoughts on the angry spectacle unfolding in the nation's capital.

Guillermo Velasquez, another local retiree, echoed Walker's assessment.

An independent, he voted for former President Barack Obama in 2008, but voted for Trump in 2016 and will be voting for him again in 2020, he said.

“They may say it's not political.” **Residents continues on A14**

### Texas reps stay with their parties

By Benjamin Wermund  
WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Texans in Congress stuck to party lines when voting Wednesday to impeach a president for just the third time in American history.

Now, they hold their breath and wait less than a year to see whether their votes will backfire in what could be the most consequential elections in a generation in Texas — with President Donald Trump almost certain to be at the top of the Republican ticket.

While the political consequenc-

es of impeachment remain unclear, many Republican lawmakers in state government are skirting the issue, perhaps sensing the divisiveness of it — even in long-red Texas.

Gov. Greg Abbott, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Attorney General Ken Paxton and General Land Commissioner George P. Bush — who won't face re-election until 2022 — didn't respond to questions Wednesday about whether Congress should impeach Trump.

During a radio interview last week, Patrick — chairman of Trump's campaign in Texas —

called the impeachment a “sham” and said that despite it all, Trump continues to move forward on trade negotiations and building the border wall he promised.

But for the most part, “candidates don't want to risk polarizing a group of voters that they might be able to win over with other issues,” said Brandon Rottinghaus, a political science professor at the University of Houston.

“The minute you start to feed information to people who are not attentive to impeachment might be the moment they start to think **Texas continues on A15**



Bob Owen / Staff photographer

Retiree Guillermo Velasquez, who was against the impeachment, gets a haircut from Mary Chuy Soto.

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