IMPEACHED

STAGE SET FOR PRESIDENT’S SENATE TRIAL

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 the nation and bringing a momentous reckoning to a proceeding that will determine whether he faces trial in the Senate — a key step in an effort to remove him from office.

Democrats declared that Trump’s unorthodox presidency, which they said has crumbled into a circus and endangered national security, warranted removing him from office.

The Democratic-controlled House voted along party lines, 230-197, to impeach the president for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who declined to vote, read the statement of former Vice President Joe Biden, a potential 2020 Democratic opponent.

The Senate could begin a trial of Trump’s presidency, 10 years after the lower chamber voted to impeach him, as the trial begins in the hands of Chief Justice John Roberts presiding. A two-thirds vote would be required to convict the president and remove him from office — only the third time in its history.

By PHILIP RUCKER and FELICIA SONMEZ • Washington Post

Questions over what’s next

Democrats see setback in split vote

Democrats expected a vote of roughly 230-197, with most Republicans voting to uphold the president. Under the rules of the U.S. Senate, a simple majority is needed for confirmation, so there are no further consultations with the House about witnesses.

The House vote widened the growing rift between Democrats and Republicans over Trump’s conduct.

The Senate has 100 seats, so 51 Republicans would have to vote against Trump for him to be removed from office. With 41 senators from the Republican Party opposed to conviction, Trump would likely win.

Democrats have long bemoaned their inability to make progress in the Senate.

Washington Post

House vote widens the growing rift

By TORY VAN OOT • toryoot@startribune.com

WHAT’S NEXT?

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