

Trump impeached

Historic vote in House sets up probable Senate acquittal for president early in 2020



PAUL SANCYA, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump leads a rally of supporters Wednesday night in Battle Creek, Mich. Trump opened his speech by saying, "It doesn't really feel like we're being impeached."

House votes split along party lines

LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump was impeached by the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday night, becoming only the third American chief executive to be formally charged under the Constitution's ultimate remedy for high crimes and misdemeanors.

The historic vote split along party lines, much the way it has divided the nation, over a charge that the 45th president abused the power of his office by enlisting a foreign government to investigate a political rival ahead of the 2020 election. The House then approved a second charge, that he obstructed Congress in its investigation.

The articles of impeachment, the political equivalent of an indictment, now go to the Senate for trial. If Trump is acquitted by the Republican-led chamber, as expected, he still would have to run for reelection carrying the enduring stain of impeachment on his purposely disruptive presidency.

"The president is impeached," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared after the vote. She called it "great day for the Constitution



PATRICK SEMANSKY, ASSOCIATED PRESS House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., announces the passage of article II of impeachment against President Donald Trump on Wednesday at the Capitol in Washington.

of the United States, a sad one for America that the president's reckless activities necessitated us having to introduce articles of impeachment."

Trump, who began Wednesday tweeting his anger at the proceedings, pumped his fist before an evening rally in Battle Creek, Michigan, boasting

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Impeachments in US history

Andrew Johnson
Johnson's impeachment in 1868 was the culmination of a dispute between the president and the Republican-controlled House over Reconstruction following the Civil War. The House voted to impeach Johnson in February 1868. The Senate convened a formal impeachment trial in March. In May, the Senate failed to convict Johnson on any of the articles of impeachment, and the trial was adjourned May 26.

Johnson

Bill Clinton
The Republican-controlled House voted in October 1998 to begin impeachment proceedings against Clinton after months of controversy over his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Clinton was impeached on Dec. 19, 1998, on the grounds of perjury to a grand jury and obstruction of justice.

Clinton

A Senate trial against Clinton commenced on Jan. 7, 1999, and unfolded over four weeks. On Feb. 12, the Senate voted to acquit Clinton on both charges — falling far short of the 67 votes needed to convict.

— Associated Press

■ **Historic pages:** See how the State Journal reported those impeachments. **A10**

Vulnerable Kind votes to impeach

Rep from La Crosse left position unknown

MITCHELL SCHMIDT mschmidt@madison.com

Wisconsin's House members hewed to party lines Wednesday to impeach President Donald Trump, with U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, whose district is the most narrowly divided among the state's congressional districts, finally breaking his silence during the historic vote.

Reps. Mark Pocan, D-Black Earth, Gwen Moore, D-Milwaukee, and Kind voted in favor of the charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. Reps. Bryan Steil, R-Janesville, Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Menomonee Falls, Glenn Grothman, R-Glenbeulah, and Mike Gallagher, R-Green Bay, voted against both articles of impeachment.

Kind, D-La Crosse, was the only Wisconsin congressman to not indicate how he intended to vote ahead of Wednesday's impeachment. That also made him the only Democrat representing a district Trump won in 2016 who

How they voted

Impeachment of President Donald Trump for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Yes: U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan, D-Black Earth; Ron Kind, D-La Crosse; Gwen Moore, D-Milwaukee

No: U.S. Reps. Bryan Steil, R-Janesville; Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Menomonee Falls; Glenn Grothman, R-Glenbeulah; Mike Gallagher, R-Green Bay

didn't reveal his position ahead of time, according to a tally by The Washington Post.

"I've reviewed the evidence and followed the hearings. It's clear the President's actions were a flagrant abuse of constitutional power; it was unlawful, and it jeopardized our national security," Kind said in a statement. "Some have argued to let the voters in the next election decide. But how can we trust an election that the President is trying to corrupt?"

With Trump winning Kind's district in western Wisconsin by four points in 2016, breaking a streak of Democratic presidential candidate victories, the congressman's Wednesday

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The gift: Wrapping paper

Festive Mendota Marsh characters **PAGES A8 & A9**



Badgers in the spotlight

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W. BASKETBALL

Friday, December 20 | 7:00pm
vs. Prairie View A&M | Kohl Center

Tickets, \$5 in concession credit and more.
Packages start at \$28.

M. BASKETBALL

Saturday, December 21 | 4:00pm
vs. Milwaukee | Kohl Center