

*Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.*

***The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.***

*Section 3 – The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.*

*Immediately after they shall be assembled*

**MeetToImpeach.com**

## **FEATURE:**

# **Impeachment: week in review**

A Monday one paragraph summary report and analysis, followed by recaps (with links) of representative on-line articles and essays – typically 800 to 1,000 words.

**Week ending 11/19/2017 (~960 words)**

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**Minneapolis 11/20/17** – Impeachment news was displaced this week by more allegations of sexual harassment, this time involving Minnesota Senator Al Franken, who was accused of inappropriate kissing of a co-host on a 2006 USO tour before his Senate career; a photo also surfaced of him appearing to grope the breasts of his sleeping co-host on their return flight home aboard a military plane. However, there was some impeachment action this week: six Democratic House members introduced five Articles of Impeachment, and requested hearings; no action is expected from the Republican-controlled House. California billionaire Tom Steyer continued his ad and petition campaign, spending about \$20 million so far, and obtaining about two million signatures. Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi continues to oppose impeachment efforts, as a “waste of time and energy.” Two NY Times columnists (Dowd and Douthat) engaged in some rethinking of President Clinton’s abuses, and the “partisan pass” he received. The NFL player protests appear to be receding as an on-going news story – however, President Trump did Tweet a blast at Oakland Raider Marshawn Lynch, who only stood for the Mexican national anthem during an NFL game in Mexico City. Congress faces many challenges as the year winds down; the fate of a Republican tax cut effort is uncertain.

### **Articles of Impeachment introduced by six Democrats**

[USA Today](#) reports Rep. Steve Cohen, the top-ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, and five other House Democrats filed five

Articles of Impeachment against President Trump. According to the report: "The five articles of impeachment accuse Trump of obstruction of justice, violating the Constitution's emoluments clause against taking gifts from foreign leaders without congressional approval and undermining the independence of the federal judiciary and the freedom of the press." The other five co-sponsors are: Al Green (D-TX), Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Marcia Fudge (D-OH), Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) and John Yarmuth (D-KY).

An essay by national affairs correspondent John Nichols of [The Nation](#) offers a more detailed analysis of the five Articles of Impeachment introduced. As Congressman Gutierrez described the situation: "Congress has the power of impeachment when behavior by the President puts the nation and our laws at risk and I think we are at that point, despite the ongoing, important investigations." Main points are as follows:

- Obstruction of Justice -- President Trump "demanded" personal loyalty from former FBI Director James Comey, and admitted on television the Russian investigation was "on his mind" when he fired Comey.
- Foreign Emoluments Clause (Art. I, Sec. 9) -- "Donald J. Trump has accepted, without the consent of Congress, emoluments from foreign states."
- Domestic Emoluments Clause (Art. II, Sec. 1) -- "Donald J. Trump refused to divest or place his assets into a blind trust, refused to release his tax returns, and has caused the US government to spend money at businesses in which Donald J. Trump has an ownership interest."
- Undermining the Federal Judiciary: "Donald J. Trump has engaged in a pattern of conduct designed to undermine the authority of the federal judiciary, including: Calling a US District Court judge a 'so-called judge,' and pardoning former Sheriff Joe Arpaio for criminal contempt of court."
- Undermining Freedom of the Press: "Donald J. Trump has engaged in a pattern of conduct designed to undermine the freedom of the press guaranteed by the First Amendment, including: Repeatedly calling press organizations 'fake news,' circulating a video of himself violently wrestling a man covered by the CNN logo, and personally attacking members of the press."

## **Impeachment Campaign – Democrats response is mixed**

[Time Magazine reports](#) House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi believes impeaching President Trump would be a waste of time and energy. "Republicans would love for us to make

our campaigns about the impeachment of Trump,” she said. “That’s not what it’s about. It’s about the well-being of American families.” Pelosi has consistently poured cold water on various impeachment initiatives, including an ad and petition campaign by California Democrat and billionaire Tom Steyer.

The [Sacramento Bee reports](#) Steyer's campaign has now spent \$20 million, and has obtained about two million signatures. President Trump has responded on Twitter, calling Steyer "wacky and totally unhinged."

**Trump’s presidency prompts rethinking President Clinton’s alleged abuses** – Two NY Times columnists – Maureen Dowd and Ross Douthat – opine separately on this topic. [Dowd recounts](#) anger at the idea of a White House occupied by someone with President Trump’s history of alleged abuse may be driving what really amounts to a recent national uprising by women. [Douthat](#) joins Dowd in wondering if we’re paying the price for a de facto “partisan pass” President Clinton received in 1998-99. Dowd summed it up: “The stench of hypocrisy overpowered the perfume of justice.” The implications of this line of thinking don’t bode well for President Trump.

**Trump vs. protesting NFL players – week 9** -- As one measure of the trend line for this story, this Monday's [DrudgeReport](#) page was notable by the absence of any article on the NFL player protests. A recent Trump tweet criticized Oakland Raider Marshall Lynch, but this story appears to be winding down.

**Approval/Disapproval polls – Impeachment Odds** -- [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) -- which has been updating a continuing feature, shows for the last week very slight unfavorable trend for President Trump -- currently 58% disapprove of him, while 38% approve. Most recently, a 40% chance is reported that he will not complete his first term -- which could be the result of impeachment -- this has been steady for two weeks.

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