

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 12/3/2017 (~1,168 words)

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Minneapolis 12/4/17 – This past week saw Gen. Michael Flynn plead guilty to lying to the FBI; Flynn is now cooperating with Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation. Texas Congressman Al Green announced he will trigger the first House impeachment vote next week, the result is likely to be a vote by the Republican House to table his motion, with no action taken. The Senate passed their version of the widely touted Republican legislation characterized as tax reform, although critics claim it didn’t go through the rigor of the Reagan tax reforms. California Democratic billionaire Tom Steyer is continuing his ad and impeachment campaign. A government shutdown is imminent unless a two week extension can be agreed to, it is possible this cannot be avoided with out some votes from Democrats; those votes may not be forthcoming. Several other major issues also have ticking clocks as President Trump’s first year in office winds down. Although it seems likely Republicans will agree on a conference bill for tax reform, that legislation is not certain to pass amid the great uncertainty regarding so many unresolved issues.

Mueller Investigation: Flynn is cooperating; pleads guilty to lying to FBI

In the wake of Gen. Michael Flynn's guilty plea -- lying to the FBI -- [USA Today](#) offers up an analysis of what this might portend for President Trump's possible impeachment. The

article deliberately tacks towards the middle. It emphasizes that some criminal violations (jaywalking) are not serious enough to merit removal, while other acts that are not criminal per se might be "high crimes and misdemeanors" -- Alexander Hamilton's pre-eminent example from The Federalist # 65 is cited: "the abuse or violation of some public trust."

In a [NY Times article](#) updated from a July 2017 version, Charlie Savage reports the focus of Mueller's investigation may be veering towards obstruction of justice. John Dowd, one of Trump's lawyers, said he drafted a recent tweet indicating that Trump knew Flynn had lied to the FBI before he allegedly asked former director James Comey to, in effect, let Flynn go, and not pursue an investigation. Dowd also asserts that a President cannot commit obstruction of justice. Harvard emeritus law professor Alan Dershowitz effectively backed Mr. Dowd up on that point, suggesting if Congress attempted to impeach Trump for firing Comey "we'd have a Constitutional crisis."

In a [National Review article](#), contributing editor Andrew McCarthy asserts the Mueller investigation has now "morphed" -- from a "Russian Interference" probe to a de facto impeachment investigation of obstruction of justice. McCarthy also argues that Mueller probably has a weak case (if any) on collusion -- otherwise McCarthy believes one or more of the cooperating witnesses would have been charged with more serious directly relevant crimes, rather than lying to the FBI. Although McCarthy claims President Trump could not be prosecuted criminally for obstruction, since he had Constitutional power to fire Comey, McCarthy notes there is precedent for using impeachment to drive a President from office based on viewing obstruction of justice as in the category of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

[Politico reports](#) Vice-President Pence has apparently been "absent" or "out of the loop" at many key points on the Mueller investigation timeline; that may not be a bad thing for Mr. Pence. Although he headed the transition team, there is apparently no evidence he knew of illegal activity by Flynn, who in fact misled him, or that he knew of possibly illegal activity of others. If Pence is "clean" while others close to President Trump are not, that could bode ill for President Trump, since a ready alternative to his continued service would be at hand.

Essays and commentaries

In a [Vox essay](#), editor and founder Ezra Klein reveals he's become "obsessed" with this

question: what if our President is not removable according to the Conventional Wisdom requirements for impeachment, or the criteria of the 25th Amendment, but nonetheless turns out to be "...unfit for office — impulsive, conspiratorial, undisciplined, destructive, cruel?" The thrust of Klien's essay is that we have historically erred on the side of caution when it comes to impeachment; but we should give greater weight to the dangers that can be posed by having "the wrong person" in the job.

In a [NY Times essay](#) Daniel Hemel and Eric Posner claim that by his guilty plea, Gen. Michael Flynn has effectively confirmed that a "very senior" person in the in-coming Trump Administration violated the 1799 Logan Act before President Trump took office. It is illegal to "influence the measures or conduct of any foreign government" involved in a dispute with the U.S. "without authority" from the government, which was still headed then by President Obama. The penalty can be up to three years in prison. Hemel and Posner note that if it emerges that either Vice-President-elect Pence or President-elect Trump directed Flynn to violate the Logan Act, either could be impeached.

In a recent [NY Times column](#), Michelle Goldberg offers up a review of a new book by Luke Harding, a former Moscow bureau chief for The Guardian: "Collusion: Secret Meetings, Dirty Money, and How Russia Helped Donald Trump Win." Goldberg argues that substantial evidence shows President Trump is "in thrall to a foreign power" (Russia). Goldberg concludes Harding's book "is invaluable in collating the overwhelming evidence of a web of relationships between the Kremlin, Trump and members of Trump's circle."

In a [NY Times essay](#), Billy Bush refutes reported statements by President Trump saying the voice on the Access Hollywood tape was not his. Bush points out that seven other men were on the bus in addition to Trump and himself; they all heard what Trump said.

First House Impeachment vote announced for next week -- [Newsweek reports](#) Rep. Al Green (D-TX) will force the first House vote on impeachment next week. It appears the most likely result will be a vote to table the motion, meaning to take no action, since the House is controlled by Republicans.

Trump vs. protesting NFL players – week 11 -- The [Baltimore Sun](#) reports tickets for almost every section at Baltimore Ravens games are available on the internet,

including at significant discounts. The NFL has reportedly been facing a challenge, trying to fill stadiums that have often had many empty seats visible at kickoff, after weeks of protests by NFL athletes during the National Anthem.

Approval/Disapproval polls – Impeachment Odds -- [The Telegraph](#), which has been updating a continuing feature, shows results are virtually unchanged for the last week -- currently 57% disapprove of President Trump, while 39% 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 four weeks.

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