

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 1,600 words.

Week ending 12/31/2017 (~1,100 words)

Note: In observance of Christmas, there was no edition of this feature for 12/25/17

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Minneapolis 1/2/18 Edition – As we enter the 2018 bi-election year, impeachment continues to loom as both a campaign issue, and a possibility for 2018, depending partly on what may emerge from the Mueller investigation. The situation is made more complicated by a series of crucial issues and deadlines that cry out for collectively some kind of bi-partisan resolution.

Unfortunately, the possibility of a failure to resolve these issues may provide a recipe for even more divisive politics going forward. At this point, the possible permutations and resolutions are simply too numerous and problematic to warrant a systematic analysis. The situation is likely to become more clear as we move forward – simply because it has to.

2018 polling, betting odds, and impeachment speculation

Heading into the 2018 bi-election year, [CNN reports](#) the polling advantage for Democrats has increased; currently 56% of voters plan to vote for a "generic Democrat" for Congress, compared to 38% who plan to vote for a "generic Republican." That 18% difference is 11% higher than any previous lead any party has held in the December before a bi-election since December 1997. The level of enthusiasm among Democrats is also reported to be significantly higher than for Republicans.

[Newsweek reports](#) the Irish gambling website Paddy Power has President Trump's odds of impeachment in his first term at 4-7, meaning it is almost twice as likely that he will be impeached as that he will not. Note: this refers to House impeachment only, not to Senate conviction. According to Paddy Power, an impeachment in 2018 is the most likely scenario, the odds drop to 7-1 for 2019, and 50-1 for 2020. Predictit, a New Zealand site, allows a 35 cent bet that President Trump will be removed from office before his term ends, and a 65 cent bet that he will not be removed -- their way of asking the question includes Senate conviction. In short, this information indicates there is about a one in three chance that President Trump will be removed before his term ends.

[Newsweek reports](#) that while 41% of Americans now believe there is enough reason for Congress to hold impeachment hearings, only 36% said they would definitely or probably vote for Trump against a "generic" Democrat in 2020 -- 52% said they would definitely or probably vote for "the other party." While 41% strongly or somewhat approve of Trump's performance, 56% strongly or somewhat disapprove. While only 43% of Republicans said they would "definitely" support Trump in 2020, 73% of Democrats said they would "definitely" vote for the "generic" Democrat.

[The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) has been running a regular feature on President Trump's approval/disapproval; however, they appear to not be updating it as regularly. Coverage of this feature may be suspended if they don't update it. There has been virtually no change for the past three weeks of available data; approval and disapproval as of December 18th (most recent data) were 38% and 57% respectively.

Writing for the [New York Post](#), pundit and Trump booster Michael Goodwin speculates the "movement to impeach Trump" is just getting started. Goodwin argues this is in part because in other respects the Democrats lack any other cohesive message that resonates with a significant potential majority of voters. Goodwin perceives many Democrats and some Independents can be persuaded to vote for a Democratic Congress as a way to effect Trump's impeachment and removal from office.

In "[How not to Impeach](#)" -- a NY Times opinion column, Assumption College Political Science Professor Greg Weiner offers this observation: "The campaign atmosphere surrounding the calls for impeachment feeds directly into Mr. Trump's claim that he came to slay the

establishment beast, and the beast responded by seeking to destroy him. The taint on an impeachment arising from such a process would be inescapable." The thrust of Mr. Weiner's article is that, at least for the present, efforts to attempt to impeach President Trump are premature and misguided.

Democrat's Judiciary Committee Leadership election suggest impeachment is coming

In the wake of Rep. John Conyers resignation, Paul Kane reports for [the Washington Post](#) on the implication of selecting Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), a Constitutional Law expert, to replace Rep. Conyers as the ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee. In a lopsided 118 to 72 secret ballot, the Democratic caucus choose Nadler over Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) known primarily as an immigration reform champion and expert. If impeachment emerges as a major issue in the 2018 campaign, and/or in wake of a "2018 wave election" bringing Democrats to power in the House, Nadler's background and expertise on impeachment will serve him well.

Democrat's Sen. Kristen Gillibrand looms as possible 2020 Trump opponent

A [Washington Post article](#) speculates on the likely 2020 presidential candidacy of NY Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. The article features an analysis of Gillibrand's voting history; while she began as a more conservative upstate New York Democrat, since winning statewide she has clearly moved well to the left of her earlier positions, possibly to preempt other candidates who may be seeking support from Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2016 supporters. Among Senators, Gillibrand is among the least supportive of President Trump, voting his way only about 9% of the time. Gillibrand, who led the stampede of Democratic Senators calling successfully for Minnesota Senator Al Franken's resignation, has also called on President Trump to resign over accusations of sexual harassment and abuse.

Mueller Investigation

[Michael Isikoff, writing for Yahoo News](#), concludes the Mueller Investigation is well beyond the "Witch hunt" phase -- if there ever was one. With multiple indictments of cooperating witnesses, the investigation is clearly producing results, and more specifically demonstrating the reality of on-going high level contacts between Russian intermediaries and the Trump campaign. Isikoff concludes the investigation could continue for months or years; any action by President Trump to end it would likely trigger a "constitutional crisis."

[USA Today reports](#) a year-old investigation by Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz of the FBI and Justice Department's investigation of the Clinton e-mail server scandal could result in damage to the credibility of special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of possible collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign. Horowitz has already uncovered FBI e-mails with derogatory statements about Trump, exchanged among agents investigating Trump, who Mueller subsequently removed from the investigations for possible bias against Trump.

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