



Congressman Mike Thompson & Congressman Mark DeSaulnier Town Hall

JANUARY 23, 2020





116th Congress House Lineup

197

Republicans

1

Independents

232

Democrats

5 *

Vacancies

House Successes in 2019

Democratic-led House passed over 400 bills, including:

- ▶ **For the People Act (H.R. 1)** - Reforms campaign finance laws to loosen the grip of special interests on our democracy;
- ▶ **Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act (H.R. 3)** - Reduces the cost of prescription drugs for millions of Americans;
- ▶ **Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4)** - Expands voting rights for all Americans;
- ▶ **Equality Act (H.R. 5)** - Protects the civil rights of the LGBTQ+ community;
- ▶ **American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6)** - Creates a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers;
- ▶ **Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)** - Requires commonsense background checks for all gun sales;
- ▶ **Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582)** - Increases the minimum wage for workers across the country;
- ▶ **9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Act (H.R. 1327)** - Permanently funds health care for 9/11 first responders;
- ▶ **Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1585)** - Addresses gender-based violence;
- ▶ **Securing America's Federal Elections Act (H.R. 2722)** - Secures electronic voting systems against cyberattacks and improves access for voters.

Senate Inaction

	PASSED HOUSE	PASSED SENATE		PASSED HOUSE	PASSED SENATE
Protecting and Expanding Health Coverage	✓	✗	Legislation to Support Veterans	✓	✗
For the People Act	✓	✗	Bills Blocking Drilling in Coastal Communities and ANWR	✓	✗
Lower Drug Costs Now Act	✓	✗	Legislation to Protect Public Lands	✓	✗
Voting Rights Advancement Act	✓	✗	Legislation to Respond to the Humanitarian Situation at the Border	✓	✗
Equality Act	✓	✗	FAIR Act	✓	✗
American Dream and Promise Act	✓	✗	Corporate Transparency Act	✓	✗
Paycheck Fairness Act	✓	✗	Insider Trading Prohibition Act	✓	✗
Bipartisan Backgrounds Check Act	✓	✗	Protect Against Conflict by Turkey Act	✓	✗
Enhanced Backgrounds Check Act	✓	✗	NATO Support Act	✓	✗
Climate Action Now Act	✓	✗	Venezuela TPS Act	✓	✗
Legislation to Secure Our Elections	✓	✗	United States - Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act	✓	✗
VAWA Reauthorization and Debbie Smith Act	✓	✗	BURMA Act	✓	✗
Raise The Wage Act	✓	✗	Resolution Opposing the President Abandoning Allies in Syria	✓	✗
Butch Lewis Act	✓	✗	Federal Civilian Workforce Pay Raise Fairness Act	✓	✗
Save the Internet Act	✓	✗	SAFE Banking Act	✓	✗
Consumers First Act	✓	✗	Farm Workforce Modernization Act	✓	✗

Impeachment:

The July 25th Trump-Ukraine Call Summary

- ▶ On July 25, 2019, President Trump spoke with Ukrainian President Zelensky and **sought to blackmail him into influencing our upcoming 2020 election** by investigating his political opponent, Joe Biden

- ▶ **During the July 25th phone call, President Trump reminds Zelensky how good the U.S. has been to Ukraine and alludes to military aid**

(During the time of the phone call, President Trump was withholding \$400 million in Congressionally approved aid to help fend off Russian aggression)

~~(S/NF)~~ The President: Well it's very nice of you to say that. I will say that we do a lot for Ukraine. We spend a lot of effort and a lot of time. Much more than the European countries are doing and they should be helping you more than they are. Germany does almost nothing for you. All they do is talk and I think it's something that you should really ask them about. When I was speaking to Angela Merkel she talks Ukraine, but she doesn't do anything. A lot of the European countries are the same way so I think it's something you want to look at but the United States has been very very good to Ukraine. I wouldn't say that it's reciprocal necessarily because things are happening that are not good but the United States has been very very good to Ukraine.

Trump's Violations

- ▶ **Security of Our Elections:** Foreign leaders and foreign governments cannot interfere in U.S. elections. (52 U.S.C. 30121, 36 U.S.C. 510)
 - ▶ By pressuring the President of Ukraine to interfere in our election, Donald Trump broke federal law. It is illegal to “knowingly solicit, accept, or receive from a foreign national any contribution or donation”
 - ▶ American elections are the beacon of western democracy and actively inviting a foreign power to interfere undermines trust in our democratic institutions
- ▶ **Oath of Office:** President Trump abused the foreign policy powers entrusted to him in Article II of the Constitution by seeking to serve his own political interests rather than the interests of the American people
- ▶ **National Security:** Withholding nearly \$400 million in aid from a country struggling to fight off Russian aggression, keep its citizens safe, and become a democracy undermines American values and delegitimizes the United States on the world stage

Trump Found to Have Broken the Law

- ▶ On January 16th, the non-partisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that by withholding Congressionally approved aid to Ukraine, the President broke the law.
 - ▶ “Faithful execution of the law does not permit the president to substitute his own policy priorities for those that Congress has enacted into law.”

Impeachment Actions

- ▶ On December 18, 2019, the House voted to impeach President Trump
- ▶ On January 15, 2019, the House voted to send the articles of impeachment and appoint 7 managers for the Senate trial including:
 - ▶ Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA)
 - ▶ Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
 - ▶ Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
 - ▶ Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D-TX)
 - ▶ Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
 - ▶ Rep. Val Demmings (D-FL)
 - ▶ Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO)
- ▶ On January 16, 2019, the Chief Justice of the United States, John Roberts, and all Senators were sworn in for the impeachment trial
- ▶ On January 21, 2019, the Senate began the impeachment trial

Trial by the Senate

- ▶ The Senate conducts a trial with witnesses and evidence from both the defendant and prosecution
- ▶ The Chief Justice of the United States presides, members of the House stand as prosecutors, and all 100 Senators act as the jury
- ▶ When arguments are concluded, all Senators meet in a closed session to discuss a verdict
- ▶ If 2/3 of the Senators vote to find the accused guilty, they are removed from office effective immediately, and possibly barred from holding future office
- ▶ An individual removed from office is still subject to potential criminal investigations brought through the Department of Justice or state prosecutors

Panelists

- ▶ **Jodi Short – Professor of Law, UC Hastings School of Law**
 - ▶ Professor Short has taught at Georgetown Law and was a Senior Policy Scholar at the Georgetown Center for Business and Public Policy, at the McDonough School of Business. Her research is on the regulation of business, in particular, the intersection of public and private regulatory regimes and the theory and practice of regulatory reform.
- ▶ **Carlton Larson – Professor of Law, UC Davis School of Law**
 - ▶ Professor Larson is a scholar of American constitutional law and Anglo-American legal history. Professor Larson is one of the nation's leading authorities on the law of treason and is the author of the book *The Trials of Allegiance: Treason, Juries, and the American Revolution* (Oxford University Press).

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