Congressman Mike Thompson
& Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
Town Hall
JANUARY 23, 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>232</td>
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<td>Independents</td>
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<td>Vacancies</td>
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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.
<table>
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<th>Senate Inaction</th>
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<td><strong>Protecting and Expanding Health Coverage</strong></td>
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<td>For the People Act</td>
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<td>Bipartisan Backgrounds Check Act</td>
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<td>Enhanced Backgrounds Check Act</td>
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<td>Climate Action Now Act</td>
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<td>Legislation to Secure Our Elections</td>
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<td>VAWA Reauthorization and Debbie Smith Act</td>
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<td>Raise The Wage Act</td>
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<td>Butch Lewis Act</td>
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<td>Save the Internet Act</td>
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<td>Consumers First Act</td>
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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.)
Trump’s Violations

  - 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
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.”
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
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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