Presidential Impeachment Exhibit

Winter 2020

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“...Bribery, and Other High Crimes and Misdemeanors...”
A History of Presidential Impeachment Investigations
What does the U.S. Constitution say about impeachment?

**Article I, Section 2, Clause 5:** The House of Representatives...shall have the sole Power of Impeachment

**Article I, Section 2, Clause 6:** The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two-thirds of the Members present.

**Article I, Section 2, Clause 7:** Judgement in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: buy the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law

**Article II, Section 4:** The President, Vice President and all Civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors

1-5.
How the impeachment process works

As part of its oversight and investigative responsibilities, the House of Representatives has the "sole power of impeachment."

If the House votes to impeach the president, the trial is held in the Senate.

In an impeachment trial, the Chief Justice of the United States presides over the trial, House leaders act as prosecutors, the White House appoints the president's defense team, and the Senate acts as the jury.

At the end of the trial, the Senate (the jury) votes on whether to remove the president from office (a two-thirds majority is required).

If found guilty, the president is removed from office. Any fines or imprisonment for crimes committed while in office are left to civil courts.
U.S. Presidents who have been the subject of formal impeachment proceedings

Andrew Johnson

Richard Nixon

Bill Clinton

Donald Trump

7-8.
What is impeachable?

The writers of the Constitution didn't want to tightly define high crimes and misdemeanors but gave broad examples of what it should include. Legal experts describe it as an offense against the public trust at large, not necessarily a crime defined by law.

James Madison wrote in 1787 that there had to be a way to defend against "incapacity, negligence, or perfidy of the chief executive" because the president might "pervert his administration" or "betray his trust to foreign powers." Alexander Hamilton described the standard in 1788 as "abuse or violation of some public trust."

Legal scholars also stress that this punishment was not intended to be used when Congress disagrees with the president's policy decisions.

— Sarah D. Wise: "Lawmakers are studying 'what's impeachable.' Do you know?"
Select documents related to past impeachment proceedings


13. Statement by the President of the United States of America, August 5, 1974, Box 1, File 33, James O. Eastland Collection, Department of Archives and Special Collections, University of Mississippi, Oxford.
Select documents related to past impeachment proceedings

14. Correspondence from Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski to Senator James Eastland, May 9, 1974, Box 6, File 5, James O. Eastland Collection, Department of Archives and Special Collections, University of Mississippi, Oxford.
15. Impeachment Trial of President William Jefferson Clinton, February 12, 1999, Gary Sisco Collection, Department of Archives and Special Collections, University of Mississippi, Oxford.


Additional Sources Consulted

