

Impeachment for the People

Every day Donald Trump remains in office is another day he subverts our democracy, endangers our lives, and betrays our country for his personal gain. The Constitution provides the people, through their representatives in Congress, the tools to stop such a lawless, unfit, and dangerous president: impeachment in the House and removal in the Senate.

We, the people, deserve an impeachment and removal process that covers the full range of Trump's abuses of power. It is only through this broad scope that the impeachment and removal process can:

- Defend our democracy and bring us closer to ensuring that its promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness be made real for every person who calls the United States home—no matter their race, gender, sexuality, religion, country of origin or class
- Establish that we are a country where all are equal before the law, and set a precedent for what is acceptable by all those who serve in our nation's highest office
- Protect us, our families, and our communities from this administration's attacks
- Deliver a government that fiercely and bravely represents the people, rather than serves political parties or the powerful

We, the people, know the kind of country we want to live in and the country we want to build for future generations — and we fight for it every day. But far too many of the people who are supposed to represent us have responded to Trump with fear and caution instead of bravery, with complicity and compromise instead of condemnation. Their failure to lead with moral courage has emboldened Trump to commit more abuses of power and normalized his dangerous agenda.

We deserve leaders who will step up with the courage, heart and principled clarity this moment requires. We deserve leaders who will fulfill their constitutional duty to protect our democracy, root out corruption, enforce the rule of law, guard our national security, defend the communities Trump is threatening, and start delivering the promise of our democracy to all their constituents.

Therefore, we are coming together across race, class, gender, party and geography to propose the following articles of impeachment against President Donald John Trump and to ask our Members of Congress to make a choice: will they conduct business as usual or bravely lead with us?

The attached articles of impeachment have been drafted to track the language of relevant legal standards, previous articles of impeachment against other federal officials, and/or other congressional resolutions since 2017 wherever possible. The articles may be summarized into the following categories:

I. Abuse of power to target political adversaries, critics, and the press

Donald Trump has repeatedly abused his power by directing law enforcement and federal agencies to target, investigate, or retaliate against political adversaries and critics, and has repeatedly misused his office and engaged in other conduct that undermines the freedom of the press.

II. Corruption of electoral processes

Donald Trump has engaged in a corrupt course of conduct and abused his power in order to obtain and retain his office by seeking campaign help from foreign entities, by making unlawful hush money payments to influence elections, and by deceiving the American public about this activity.

III. Abuse of office to promote discrimination, hostility, and unlawful violence

Donald Trump has repeatedly engaged in conduct violating the constitutional rights of individuals, misused agencies of the executive branch for improper purposes unrelated to any lawful function of his office, or misused his official position to promote discrimination, hostility, or unlawful violence on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.

IV. Corruption and self-enrichment

Donald Trump has repeatedly misused his office for personal gain by accepting presents or emoluments from foreign governments without the consent of Congress, receiving or expropriating for himself emoluments from the federal and state governments, and otherwise employing the power of his office for personal financial gain.

V. Obstruction of the administration of justice and Congressional inquiries

Donald Trump has engaged in a course of conduct or plan designed to obstruct the investigation of interactions with foreign governments or agents of foreign governments pertaining to the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections; to cover up, conceal and protect those responsible; and to conceal the existence and scope of other covert activities, by interfering or endeavoring to interfere with the conduct of investigations by Congressional Committees, the

Department of Justice, the Special Counsel's Office, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

VI. Misuse of armed forces and abuse of emergency powers

Donald Trump has misused the United States Armed Forces for improper political purposes at the southern border, refused to withdraw them from Yemen after being so directed by Congress, improperly impounded funds appropriated by Congress for military aid to Ukraine, and abused emergency powers to build a border wall against Congressional opposition, all in derogation of the powers of Congress to declare war, to make appropriations, and to raise and support armies.

VII. Omnibus

This article re-states the first six articles in abbreviated form. The value of an omnibus or "catch-all" article (most recently used by Congress in 1989) was famously demonstrated in the 1936 impeachment trial of Judge Halstead Ritter, when the Senate failed to assemble a two-thirds majority to convict on any particular article alleging specific misconduct, but reached two-thirds to convict on the omnibus article.

For more information on these grounds, see [*The Constitution Demands It: The Case for the Impeachment of Donald Trump*](#) (published by Melville House, August 2018); the September 2019 report [*When is racist abuse of office an impeachable offense?*](#); and sources cited at freespeechforpeople.org/legalgroundsforimpeachment

Signed By:

By the People
CREDO Action
Free Speech For People
Courage Campaign
Democracy For America
Equal Justice Society
Mainers for Accountable Leadership
March For Truth
Movement School
Presente
Progressive Democrats of America
Revolving Door Project
Women's March.

Enclosure: Proposed articles of impeachment

1 to investigate and prosecute political adversaries and critics,
2 and has repeatedly engaged in a course of conduct that
3 undermines the freedom of the press guaranteed by the First
4 Amendment to the Constitution. In so doing, he has misused or
5 endeavored to misuse the Department of Justice, the Federal
6 Bureau of Investigation, and other executive personnel, in
7 violation or disregard of the constitutional rights of citizens.

8 This conduct has included one or more of the following:

- 9 1. He repeatedly directed law enforcement agencies or
10 personnel to investigate and prosecute specific named
11 private citizens and current or former employees of the
12 United States, for improper purposes unrelated to
13 national security, the enforcement of laws, or any other
14 lawful function of his office.
- 15 2. He repeatedly misused or endeavored to misuse the
16 Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of
17 Justice, the Postal Service, and the Federal
18 Communications Commission, and other executive
19 personnel, in violation or disregard of the constitutional
20 right to freedom of the press, by directing or authorizing
21 such agencies or personnel to take action retaliating for
22 unfavorable news coverage.

1 3. He repeatedly misused his official position to retaliate or
2 endeavor to retaliate against specific private citizens for
3 unfavorable news coverage.

4 4. He repeatedly made and caused to be made false or
5 misleading public statements to systematically
6 undermine the credibility of the press for the purpose of
7 deceiving the people of the United States into disbelieving
8 all unfavorable news coverage of himself or his
9 administration, and undermining public support for the
10 freedom of press, thereby attacking the democratic
11 institutions of the United States.

12 5. He repeatedly, and with reckless or wanton disregard for
13 the risk of death or grievous bodily harm, approved,
14 condoned, acquiesced in, or counseled private parties'
15 harassment and unlawful violence against private
16 citizens. This course of conduct has, as its reasonable and
17 probable consequence, encouraged private acts of
18 unlawful violence and harassment influenced by his
19 counsel, placing persons within the jurisdiction of the
20 United States in peril in deliberate indifference to their
21 safety.

22 In all of this, Donald J. Trump has acted in a manner

1 contrary to his trust as President and subversive of
2 constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause
3 of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of
4 the United States.

5 Wherefore Donald J. Trump, by such conduct, warrants
6 impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

7 ARTICLE II

8 In connection with his campaigns for President of the
9 United States and in his conduct of the office of President of
10 the United States, and in violation of his constitutional oath
11 faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States
12 and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the
13 Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his
14 constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully
15 executed, Donald J. Trump engaged in a corrupt course of
16 conduct and abused his power in order to obtain and retain his
17 office, and demonstrated his unfitness to serve as President of
18 the United States. This conduct has included one or more of
19 the following:

20 1. He unlawfully or improperly delayed, withheld, or
21 impounded funds that Congress had appropriated for
22 aid to Ukraine. Under color of office, and for improper

1 purposes unrelated to national security, the
2 enforcement of laws, or any other lawful function of his
3 office, he withheld and threatened to continue to
4 withhold these funds to pressure, extort, or bribe the
5 government of Ukraine to investigate or make adverse
6 public statements concerning his potential domestic
7 political opponent, for the purpose of influencing the
8 2020 presidential election.

9 2. He counseled the government of the People's Republic
10 of China to investigate his potential domestic political
11 opponent, for the purpose of influencing the 2020
12 presidential election.

13 3. He counseled foreign nationals, including agents of the
14 government of Russia and of WikiLeaks, a foreign
15 entity, to interfere with the 2016 presidential election.

16 4. He approved, condoned, or acquiesced in his close
17 subordinates and agents of the Donald J. Trump for
18 President committee soliciting valuable political
19 intelligence from foreign nationals, including agents of
20 the governments of Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the
21 United Arab Emirates, and of WikiLeaks, a foreign
22 entity.

1 5. He repeatedly made or caused to be made false or
2 misleading public statements for the purpose of
3 deceiving the people of the United States about his
4 close subordinates and agents' negotiations on his
5 behalf with representatives of the government of
6 Russia regarding his privately owned businesses and
7 regarding efforts to obtain political intelligence in the
8 2016 presidential election.

9 6. He approved, directed, made, and caused to be made
10 the surreptitious and unlawful payment of substantial
11 sums of money for the purpose of obtaining the silence
12 of persons with unfavorable information about him in
13 order to influence the 2016 election.

14 7. Beginning in January 2018, he repeatedly made or
15 caused to be made false or misleading public
16 statements for the purpose of deceiving the people of
17 the United States about his knowledge of the
18 payments, the reasons for them, and the sources of the
19 funds.

20 Accordingly, Donald J. Trump has engaged in conduct so
21 utterly lacking in honesty and integrity that he is unfit to hold
22 the office of President, is guilty of high crimes and

1 misdemeanors, and has acted in a manner contrary to his trust
2 as President and subversive of constitutional government, to
3 the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice and to the
4 manifest injury of the people of the United States.

5 Wherefore Donald J. Trump, by such conduct, warrants
6 impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

7 ARTICLE III

8 In his conduct of the office of President of the United
9 States, Donald J. Trump, in violation of his constitutional oath
10 faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States
11 and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the
12 Constitution of the United States, in violation of his
13 constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully
14 executed, and unmindful of the high duties of his oath of office
15 and of the requirements of the Constitution, has repeatedly
16 engaged in conduct violating the constitutional rights of
17 individuals, misused agencies of the executive branch for
18 improper purposes unrelated to any lawful function of his
19 office, or misused his official position to promote
20 discrimination, hostility, or unlawful violence on the basis of
21 race, color, religion, or national origin. This conduct has
22 included one or more of the following:

- 1 1. He repeatedly, and for purposes unrelated to any lawful
2 function of his office, misused his official position to
3 disseminate false or misleading public statements for
4 the purpose or with the reasonable and probable
5 consequence of sowing, legitimizing, inflaming, or
6 inciting discrimination, hostility, or violence on the
7 basis of race, color, religion, or national origin.
- 8 2. He repeatedly approved, condoned, or counseled acts of
9 unlawful violence by law enforcement officers or
10 members of the United States Armed Forces against
11 persons in their custody or control.
- 12 3. He repeatedly approved, condoned, counseled, or gave
13 aid and comfort to private parties engaging or planning
14 to engage in harassment or unlawful violence on the
15 basis of race, color, religion, or national origin, placing
16 persons within the jurisdiction of the United States in
17 peril in deliberate indifference to their safety.
- 18 4. He granted a full pardon to a former government
19 official convicted of criminal contempt of court for
20 willfully disobeying a duly issued judicial injunction to
21 cease a pattern and practice of violating individuals'
22 constitutional rights, and publicly condoned those

1 constitutional violations.

2 5. He approved, condoned, acquiesced in, or counseled a
3 course of conduct or plan to limit immigration without
4 regard for the laws and Constitution of the United
5 States. The means used to implement this course of
6 conduct or plan included one or more of the following:
7 unlawfully restricting entry into the United States with
8 a purpose to disfavor a particular religion; separating
9 children from their families, detaining children under
10 cruel and unconstitutional conditions, failing to take
11 care that children could be reunited with their parents,
12 and acquiescing in the placement of children for
13 adoption in violation or disregard of the constitutional
14 rights of parents and children; or counseling employees
15 of the United States to violate federal criminal law if
16 needed to implement his policies, and endeavoring to
17 cause them to expect clemency for any such crimes.

18 In all of this, Donald J. Trump has acted in a manner
19 contrary to his trust as President and subversive of
20 constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause
21 of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of
22 the United States.

1 and from various foreign and private interests.

2 This conduct has included one or more of the following:

- 3 1. He received substantial sums of money from expenditures
4 by foreign governments, including those of China, Kuwait,
5 Malaysia, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey,
6 and the United Arab Emirates, at or on his privately
7 owned properties located in New York, New York;
8 Potomac Falls, Virginia; and Washington, D.C.
- 9 2. He received substantial valuable benefits for his foreign
10 business interests, including trademarks, government
11 permits and approvals, and financial support for building
12 projects, from foreign governments, including those of
13 China, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Mexico,
14 Panama, the Philippines, and the United Arab Emirates.
- 15 3. He unlawfully accepted or received compensation in
16 excess of the compensation provided by law, in the form of
17 federal and state expenditures at or on his privately
18 owned properties located in or near Palm Beach, Florida;
19 Bedminster, New Jersey; Washington, D.C.; Las Vegas,
20 Nevada; Miami, Florida; Panama City, Panama; and
21 Ayrshire, Scotland; in the form of executive branch
22 forbearance benefiting his privately owned property

1 located in Washington, D.C.; and in the form of state
2 subsidies and other expenditures benefiting his privately
3 owned properties located in or near New York, New York
4 and Cleveland, Mississippi.

- 5 4. He repeatedly misused his office to promote his privately
6 owned businesses and solicit business from foreign and
7 private interests, including from individuals and entities
8 seeking favors from the United States government, and
9 personally profited thereby, thus betraying the trust of
10 the people of the United States and bringing disrepute on
11 his office.

12 In all of this, Donald J. Trump has acted in a manner
13 contrary to his trust as President and subversive of
14 constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause
15 of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of
16 the United States.

17 Wherefore Donald J. Trump, by such conduct, warrants
18 impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

19 ARTICLE V

20 In his conduct of the office of President of the United
21 States, Donald J. Trump, in violation of his constitutional oath
22 faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States

1 and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the
2 Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his
3 constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully
4 executed, has prevented, obstructed, and impeded the
5 administration of justice and Congressional inquiries, in that:

6 Donald J. Trump, using the powers of his high office,
7 engaged personally and through his close subordinates and
8 agents, in a course of conduct or plan designed to delay,
9 impede, and obstruct the investigation of interactions with
10 foreign governments or agents of foreign governments
11 pertaining to the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections; to cover
12 up, conceal and protect those responsible; and to conceal the
13 existence and scope of other covert activities, by interfering or
14 endeavoring to interfere with the conduct of investigations by
15 Congressional Committees, the Department of Justice, the
16 Special Counsel's Office, and the Federal Bureau of
17 Investigation.

18 The means used to implement this course of conduct or
19 plan included one or more of the following:

- 20 1. He directed or counseled the Director of the Federal
21 Bureau of Investigation to give favored treatment to
22 the former National Security Advisor, and to refrain

- 1 from investigating his conduct.
- 2 2. He fired the Director of the Federal Bureau of
3 Investigation on pretextual grounds and made false or
4 misleading public statements for the purpose of
5 deceiving the people of the United States about the true
6 reason for this action.
- 7 3. He endeavored to fire the Special Counsel, including by
8 directing the White House Counsel to direct the Deputy
9 Attorney General to fire the Special Counsel on false
10 grounds.
- 11 4. He directed or counseled the Attorney General,
12 including by asking a private citizen to lobby the
13 Attorney General on the President's behalf, to curtail
14 the scope of the Special Counsel's investigation.
- 15 5. He repeatedly made or caused to be made false or
16 misleading public statements for the purpose of
17 deceiving the people of the United States about his
18 close subordinates and agents' negotiations on his
19 behalf with representatives of the government of
20 Russia regarding his privately owned businesses and
21 regarding efforts to obtain political intelligence in the
22 2016 presidential election.

- 1 6. He directed the Attorney General, who had recused
2 himself from supervising investigations related to the
3 2016 election, to assert control over the Special
4 Counsel's investigation.
- 5 7. He directed the White House Counsel to make false
6 public statements and create a false written record
7 denying that the President had ordered the White
8 House Counsel to fire the Special Counsel.
- 9 8. He endeavored to cause his former campaign chairman
10 to expect favored treatment and consideration,
11 including clemency, in return for his silence, false
12 testimony, or cessation of cooperation with the
13 Department of Justice in ongoing investigations.
- 14 9. He endeavored to prevent his former personal attorney
15 from cooperating with the Department of Justice or
16 Congressional Committees, first by counseling him not
17 to do so, then later by endeavoring to intimidate and
18 discredit him for the purpose of preventing, influencing,
19 or discrediting his testimony to lawfully authorized
20 investigative officers or in duly instituted judicial or
21 Congressional proceedings.
- 22 10. He fired and replaced the Attorney General for the

1 purpose of asserting control over the Special Counsel's
2 investigation, other Department of Justice
3 investigations relating to the 2016 election and to
4 misconduct of the President and his associates, and the
5 Department of Justice's responses to lawful inquiries
6 by Congressional Committees regarding those
7 investigations.

8 11. He approved, condoned, acquiesced in, or counseled
9 the new Attorney General with respect to impeding and
10 frustrating lawful inquiries by Congressional
11 Committees regarding the Special Counsel's
12 investigation, and making false or misleading public
13 statements for the purpose of deceiving the people of
14 the United States into believing that the Special
15 Counsel's investigation had concluded that there was
16 no misconduct by the President of the United States.

17 12. Without lawful cause or excuse, he directed,
18 counseled, or endeavored to compel agencies and
19 personnel of the executive branch, former personnel of
20 the executive branch, and private citizens or businesses
21 to refuse to produce materials required by
22 Congressional Committees pursuant to lawful

1 authority, appear or testify before Congressional
2 Committees, or otherwise cooperate with Congressional
3 inquiries. These materials and witnesses were deemed
4 necessary or useful by the Committees in order to
5 resolve by direct evidence fundamental, factual
6 questions relating to Presidential direction, knowledge
7 or approval of actions demonstrated by other evidence
8 to be substantial grounds for impeachment of the
9 President. In so doing, Donald J. Trump, substituting
10 his judgment as to what materials were necessary for
11 the inquiry, interposed the powers of the Presidency
12 against the lawful subpoenas of the House of
13 Representatives, thereby assuming to himself functions
14 and judgments necessary to the exercise of the sole
15 power of impeachment vested by the Constitution in
16 the House of Representatives.

17 In all of this, Donald J. Trump has acted in a manner
18 contrary to his trust as President and subversive of
19 constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause
20 of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of
21 the United States.

22 Wherefore Donald J. Trump, by such conduct, warrants

1 impeachment and trial, and removal from office.

2 ARTICLE VI

3 In his conduct of the office of President of the United
4 States, Donald J. Trump, in violation of his constitutional oath
5 faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States
6 and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the
7 Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his
8 constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully
9 executed, misused the United States Armed Forces and abused
10 emergency powers in derogation of the powers of Congress to
11 declare war, to make appropriations, and to raise and support
12 armies.

13 This conduct has included one or more of the following:

- 14 1. He misused the United States Armed Forces by ordering
15 their deployment to the southern border for improper
16 purposes unrelated to national security, the enforcement
17 of laws, or any other lawful function of his office.
- 18 2. He made or caused to be made false or misleading public
19 statements for the purpose of deceiving the people of the
20 United States into believing the existence of an urgent
21 national security threat at the southern border.
- 22 3. He abused emergency powers by declaring a national

1 emergency at the southern border where no condition of
2 sudden, unforeseen emergency requiring immediate
3 action existed or could reasonably be believed to exist, in
4 order to fund construction of a barrier along the border,
5 contrary to the appropriations made by law and in
6 derogation of the powers of Congress.

7 4. On and after May 5, 2019, after Congress had directed
8 him to remove the United States Armed Forces from
9 certain hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen
10 Congress, he continued to authorize, order, and ratify the
11 continued involvement of the United States Armed Forces
12 in those hostilities.

13 5. He unlawfully or improperly delayed, withheld, or
14 impounded funds that Congress had appropriated for
15 military aid to Ukraine to assist in its defense against
16 Russia, for improper purposes unrelated to national
17 security, the enforcement of laws, or any other lawful
18 function of his office.

19 In all of this, Donald J. Trump has acted in a manner
20 contrary to his trust as President and subversive of
21 constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause
22 of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of

1 3. He misused his office to promote discrimination,
2 hostility, or unlawful violence on the basis of race,
3 color, religion, or national origin.

4 4. He misused his office for personal gain, and accepted or
5 expropriated for himself unconstitutional emoluments
6 from foreign powers, from the United States and from
7 the several States.

8 5. He obstructed the administration of justice and
9 Congressional inquiries.

10 6. He misused the United States Armed Forces and
11 abused emergency powers in derogation of the powers
12 of Congress to declare war, to make appropriations, and
13 to raise and support armies.

14 In all of this, Donald J. Trump has acted in a manner
15 contrary to his trust as President and subversive of
16 constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause
17 of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of
18 the United States.

19 Wherefore Donald J. Trump, by such conduct, warrants
20 impeachment and trial, and removal from office.