

Impeachment FAQ

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What is Impeachment?

Impeachment is literally an official investigation of the conduct of the President and Vice President. It is a Constitutional responsibility given to Congress to prevent the abuse of Executive power. The Constitution recognizes Impeachment as the only means for Congress to maintain a system of checks and balances in the face of gross abuses.

Does Impeachment mean removal from office?

No. Impeachment is a formal filing of charges. It does not mean removal from office. The Judiciary Committee investigates the misconduct and sends a report to the House of Representatives, with specific articles of Impeachment. A vote in the House in favor of the Articles of Impeachment is similar to the process of indictment. The person impeached would then be subject to a trial in the US Senate. It takes a two-thirds vote in the Senate for conviction. Removal occurs only upon conviction.

Why did I choose to submit articles of Impeachment against the President now?

As you know, I have been working for years to make the President and Vice President accountable for their misconduct which took us into war against Iraq. I first entered Articles of Impeachment (H.Res 333) regarding the Vice President in 2007. It was more than a year ago, as a candidate for President that I called for impeachment. As a member of Congress I have worked inside the House to push for these proceedings and to overturn the statement that 'Impeachment is off the table' by putting the Constitution squarely back on the table.

Whether Congress steps up to its Constitutional responsibility or not, I have been determined to put crimes committed by the executive on the official record, for the purposes of an historical account, for possible action by Congress, to facilitate future law enforcement activities, as a reminder to future Administrations of necessity of adherence to law and, finally, to avert another looming illegal war - - this time against Iran. As you can see there are far-reaching implications to your involvement. I want to provide you with an official opportunity to stand up for our country in the way I am able to do in Congress. This is our moment to unite to turn the tide.

H.Res 1345 outlines the top 35 impeachable offenses committed by the President. It took extensive time to research. H.Res 1258 focuses primarily on the President's misconduct in precipitating the Iraq war.

With an election right around the corner, isn't this a waste of time? Shouldn't we just forget about it?

If we allow this administration to 'get away with it', we are openly saying that their type of conduct is permissible in future administrations, which of course would be a disaster for our nation. In reaffirming the rule of law we correct our nation's course away from disaster.

Why is September 10 such a key date?

We remember a time, September 10, 2001, when we viewed the world in a different way, a world of opportunity, a world which reaches out with a hand of friendship to the United States; a time when we knew we could change the world for the better. 9/11 brought a tragedy which was compounded by the Bush Administration's casting blame upon Iraq, inciting war against it, attacking it, occupying it at great cost to the people of Iraq and to our nation as well.

The Bush Administration deliberately misled America by connecting Iraq and 9-11, a demonstrably false excuse to wage an illegal war against a nation who had nothing to do with 9-11. Likewise, Iraq had no connection to Al Qaeda's role in 9-11 and had no means or intention of attacking the United States. The Bush Administration has used the anxiety our nation felt in the wake of 9-11 to disempower the people of our nation with a campaign of lies and fear. Our nation was born out of vision and courage, it is time to reclaim our great nation from the clutches of numbing fear and deceit and lead ourselves to a new time of social evolution and truth by remembering who we were the day before 9-11 and reclaiming our strengths, our dreams, our ambitions, our calling.

Is it too late to make a difference?

January 20, 2009, the day a new President is inaugurated, is by no means a magic date. The Articles of Impeachment have entered against both the President and the Vice President put the Administration's crimes officially on record and to hold the individuals accountable under domestic and international law, even after they leave office. Time should give them no respite. These Articles of Impeachment and your declared support provide greater power for action to be brought forward now, and, if necessary, in the future.

Why should you support impeachment and sign the online petition at www.Kucinich.us and get your friends to do the same?

It is essential that we look to the future. That we each do what we can to uphold our constitution and show the rest of the world that America is open to the truth and open to the restoration of the rule of law. We must work to clear our reputation and begin a process of TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION. By openly and officially declaring your support for impeachment by signing the online petition and inviting all your friends and family to do so, you add strength to my voice in Congress and we can work together to forge new possibilities for a brighter future.

Will your efforts help?

Because you and hundreds of thousands of others have worked to uphold the value of our Constitution and supported my personal efforts in Congress, impeachment is now being spoken of openly in Congress. As a result of our efforts, Chairman John Conyers held a lengthy and in-depth hearing on 'The Imperial Presidency' in which 20 members of Congress were present, four, including myself testified, and 11 members spoke strongly in favor of pushing for impeachment hearings. The ball is now in motion! This was an incredible moment for our nation.

What next?

Congress is now on recess until the beginning of September, but we must be vigilant in upholding democracy and recording the People of America's support to hold the administration accountable for their offenses against the Constitution of the United States of America and the people of Iraq.

September 2008 will mark the seventh anniversary of 9-11 an event which the Administration used to pursue a preplanned agenda against Iraq, in its illegal quest for oil and the acquisition of a frontier in the Middle East. Let us take this opportunity to rally around a new vision for America, one of Strength through Peace and a process of Truth and Reconciliation which starts with holding this administration accountable for its illegal conduct.

September 10 : The day before the world changed – The day to change the world!

Ask all your friends and family to sign the online impeachment petition at www.Kucinich.us so that I can deliver over 1 million signatures on September 10th. It's time to reclaim our nation.