

IMPEACHMENT

IN THE SENATE

THE HOUSE

- Before being handled by the Senate, articles of impeachment must first be voted on and confirmed by the House of Representatives.
- A simple majority of votes in the House of Representatives on an impeachment charge is required to pass it through the House, and impeach a government official.
- Once an article of impeachment is passed, we move on to the transition.

THE TRANSITION

- Once the House approves articles of impeachment, impeachment managers are selected to present the case as approved by the House to the Senate.
- These managers are similar to the prosecution in a law case, arguing for the Senate to pass articles of impeachment.
- Once the Senate is ready to hear the articles of impeachment, it will adopt an order telling the House it is ready to receive the impeachment managers.
- Once the managers present their case to the Senate, they return to the House and tell them what happened.

THE TRIAL - PART I

- Impeachment proceedings in the Senate are formatted like a trial, with both the prosecution and the defense being able to call witnesses and perform cross-examinations.
- The impeachment managers lead the prosecution, while the accused has the right to their own attorneys.
- Senators must take an oath that they will perform their duties honestly.
- Following hearing charges and debate, the Senate will deliberate and discuss in private.

THE TRIAL - PART II

- The Senate usually forms "evidentiary committees," which hear evidence from the managers, compile it, and then present it to the full Senate, who will then consult it, and vote to convict.
- In cases of impeachment for a President, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides over Senate impeachment proceedings, whereas if the official on trial was not the President, the President of the Senate (the Vice President) would preside over impeachment proceedings.
- Following deliberation, the Senate gathers to vote.

THE VOTE

- Once the Senate deliberates over the evidence, they vote to convict or acquit an official.
- The US Constitution states that a two-thirds majority (often called a supermajority, 67 out of 100 Senators) of votes is required to convict an official.

THE RESULT

- Once an official is convicted by the Senate, they are automatically removed from office and are not allowed to hold future office.
- However, Senate impeachment trials are not official trials, and once an official is convicted, the nature of their punishment is given to regular federal or state courts.
- The President may not make any pardons during the course of an impeachment trial, however they may make pardons once the trial is complete and a verdict has been reached.
- Should an official not be convicted, they are acquitted by the Senate of all accused charges, remain in office, and are verified by the law as not guilty.

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