

IMPEACHMENT

GOVLEARN

WHAT IS IMPEACHMENT?

- **A CHARGE OF MISCONDUCT MADE AGAINST THE HOLDER OF A PUBLIC OFFICE**
- **IMPEACHMENT ISN'T REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, IT IS THE CHARGE MADE THAT CAN LEAD TO REMOVAL**
- **THE CONSTITUTION: "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."**
- **THE IDEA OF IMPEACHMENT DERIVES FROM THE FACT THAT THE KING OF THE UK COULD NOT BE REMOVED, BUT THE FOUNDING FATHERS WANTED A WAY TO HOLD THE EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABLE**

HAVE ANY PRESIDENTS BEEN IMPEACHED?

- **ANDREW JOHNSON - FIRED A CABINET OFFICIAL WITHOUT CONSULTING THE SENATE**
- **BILL CLINTON - PERJURY FOR LYING UNDER OATH**
- **NEITHER OF THESE PRESIDENTS WERE REMOVED FROM OFFICE**

THE PROCESS OF IMPEACHMENT

- **FIRST, A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE HOUSE MUST FILE IMPEACHMENT CHARGES**
- **THE HOUSE MUST INVESTIGATE THIS CHARGE**
- **THE HOUSE MUST VOTE TO IMPEACH**
- **THE SENATE TAKES OVER INVESTIGATIONS**
- **THE SENATE HOLDS AN IMPEACHMENT TRIAL CALLING IN THE PRESIDENT, WITNESSES, ETC.**
- **THE SENATE VOTES THAT THE PRESIDENT IS EITHER GUILTY, NOT GUILTY, OR A CENSURE, WHICH WOULD MEAN THEY WOULD LIKELY FINE THE PRESIDENT BUT HE/SHE WOULD NOT BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE**

IMPEACHABLE OFFENSES

- **BRIBERY**
- **TREASON**
- **CORRUPTION**
- **BETRAYAL OF PUBLIC TRUST**

THE FUTURE OF IMPEACHMENT

- **IMPEACHMENT HAS OFTEN BEEN POLITICIZED AS A WAY TO REMOVE A POLITICAL OPPONENT FROM OFFICE RATHER THAN A LEGAL ISSUE**

"IMPEACHMENT IS NOT A REMEDY FOR PRIVATE WRONGS; IT'S A METHOD OF REMOVING SOMEONE WHOSE CONTINUED PRESENCE IN OFFICE WOULD CAUSE GRAVE DANGER TO THE NATION.

-CHARLES RUFF, FORMER WHITE HOUSE LEGAL COUNSEL