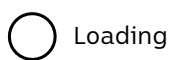


BREAKING NEWS Donald Trump thanks his lawyers and supporters after what he calls "the greatest witch hunt in the history of our country". < 1/5 >

Donald Trump impeachment trial live updates: US Senate acquits former president of inciting insurrection at US Capitol

By [Emily Olson](#) in Washington DC and [Sophie Meixner](#)
 Posted 7h ago, updated 41m ago



Former US president Donald Trump has told supporters he looked "forward to continuing our incredible journey together" after a day of drama on the US Senate floor ended with him being found not guilty of inciting insurrection.

Follow all the action as it happens in our live blog.

Key events

- 1h ago [The Senate votes to acquit Donald Trump](#)
- 59m ago [McConnell based his vote on constitutionality](#)
- 1h ago [Donald Trump issues a statement calling the trial a "witch hunt"](#)
- 3h ago [Here's a summary of what we just saw](#)
- 4h ago [No witnesses will be called](#)
- 6h ago [What happens next?](#)
- 6h ago [The Senate will now debate which witnesses to call](#)
- 6h ago [Senate will hear from witnesses](#)
- 7h ago [House managers request to call one witness](#)
- 7h ago [Here's where to watch](#)
- 7h ago [Mitch McConnell plans to acquit](#)
- 7h ago [Here's what we expect today](#)

LEAVE A COMMENT

Top Stories

[Donald Trump acquitted of incitement of insurrection in second Senate impeachment trial](#)

[Two families, one big secret — how an amateur sleuth solved a century-old mystery](#)

[Live: Victoria's hotel quarantine system under fire after Holiday Inn cluster grows to 14](#)

[Victorian authorities reveal new COVID exposure sites](#)

[The one potential coronavirus clue China would not hand over to the WHO's pandemic investigators](#)

ANALYSIS

[How a junior employee on \\$27,000 helped bring down James Packer's billion-dollar empire](#)

[Is hotel quarantine worth the risk as variants spread? Here are the alternatives](#)

['A freak amongst freaks': New doco unearths the myths about the Frank Zappa](#)

[Greek tennis player tests positive for COVID-19 after leaving Australia following ATP Cup stint](#)

[Sheron is young, fit and devastated she is likely to be](#)

Live updates



By Emily Olson

KEY EVENT PINNED

The Senate votes to acquit Donald Trump

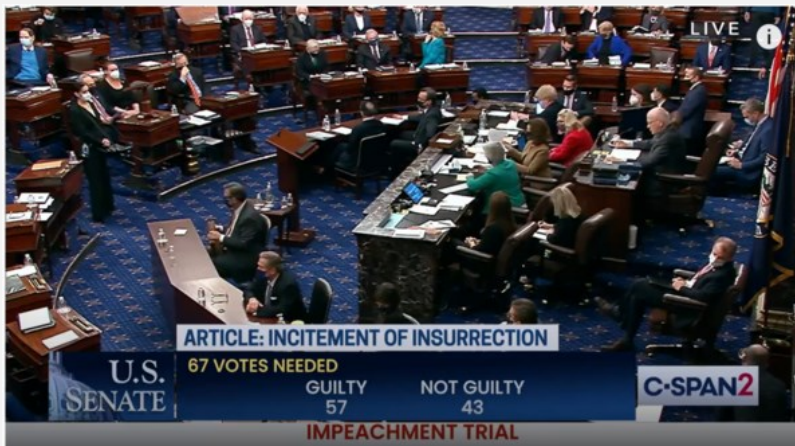
The final margin was 57 to 43, 10 votes short of the 67 needed to convict.

Seven Republican senators sided with the Democrats to vote 'guilty':

- Sen. Richard Burr
- Sen. Ben Cassidy
- Sen. Susan Collins
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski
- Sen. Mitt Romney
- Sen. Ben Sasse
- Sen. Pat Toomey

This represents the highest number of Senators from a President's party to vote against him in an impeachment trial.

As predicted, all Democratic Senators voted to convict.



Screengrab: CSPAN



8m ago
By Emily Olson

Speaker Pelosi says censure is not an option

Pelosi twice tried to leave the room but turned around to answer reporters' questions.

The first time (I couldn't quite catch the question) prompted her to call McConnell's speech "disingenuous" for the way he'd portrayed the question of constitutionality. "It was just the excuse that he used," she said.

[vaccinated before her grandmother](#)

ANALYSIS

[Albanese has left himself open to the big bad question](#)

[Made in Hong Kong was once favoured by Australian households — but now it's disappearing](#)

['Setting yourself free': Finding strength and healing in the act of forgiveness](#)

[Beyond China: Optimism grows as Australian farmers look to new markets](#)

ANALYSIS

[How high can Australian cattle prices go in the Year of the Ox?](#)

Popular Now

1. [Donald Trump acquitted of incitement of insurrection in second Senate impeachment trial](#)

2. **ANALYSIS**
[How a junior employee on \\$27,000 helped bring down James Packer's billion-dollar empire](#)

3. [Victorian authorities reveal new COVID exposure sites](#)

4. [The one potential](#)

The second time, she said clearly that a vote to censure Trump (a symbolic vote of condemnation) is not on the table because it would let Republicans "off the hook".

"We censure people for using stationery for the wrong purpose. We don't censure people for inciting insurrection," she said.



16m ago
By Emily Olson

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi calls Republicans "cowardly"



Screengrab: CSPAN

The Democratic leader took to the podium at the House managers' press to respond directly to Republican leader Mitch McConnell, she said.

She slammed McConnell for his constitutionality argument, saying that the Senator discouraged moving quickly on the trial, waiting until Trump left office.

"We didn't withhold it. You chose not to receive it. And it doesn't matter. As Jamie [Raskin] and others pointed out, you can have a trial. It's a trivial point of discussion," she said.

"What we saw in that Senate today was a cowardly group of Republicans who apparently have no options, because they were afraid to defend their job, respect the institution in which they serve," she said.



18m ago
By Sophie Meixner

Trump's lawyer criticises the media then says his home was 'attacked' and his family and business are 'under siege'

In a hallway press conference immediately after the acquittal,

[coronavirus clue China would not hand over to the WHO's pandemic investigators](#)

5. [Live: Victoria's hotel quarantine system under fire after Holiday Inn cluster grows to 14](#)

6. [Two families, one big secret — how an amateur sleuth solved a century-old mystery](#)

Trump's attorney Michael van der Veen heaped scorn on members of the media standing in front of him.

"When I watch the news, I watch one channel and it's one world, and I watch another channel and it's a totally different world," he said.

"It's time the media went back to integrity in their reporting, unbiasedness in their coverage, and worked to cool the temperature of this country, instead of always just trying to ratchet it up, and I think it's their obligation to do that, starting right now."

○ Loading

He then immediately made an appearance on Fox News. He was asked to confirm reports his house was graffitied in retaliation for his defence of former President Trump. After what seems like a long, weary, uncomfortable pause, he says:

"Ah, my home was attacked. I'd rather not go into that. To answer your question, my entire family, my business, my law firm are under siege right now. I don't really want to go into that, though. What I'd really like to do is talk about the merits of the case.

"They didn't have a case. They shouldn't have brought this impeachment from the beginning. It really does stem from political hatred."

○ Loading



22m ago
By Emily Olson

House impeachment managers give a press conference



Screengrab: CSPAN

Lead manager, Rep. Jamie Raskin congratulated his team on the most "bipartisan impeachment vote in US history".

Raskin commented directly on McConnell's speech, agreeing that criminal prosecution feels like a likely path forward.

"But that's not my jurisdiction. I don't have anything to say about that. They're going to have to deal with the political ramifications moving forward," he said.

Raskin pointed out that the Republicans who voted to acquit did so for a "legal argument" based on constitutionality.

"We reject that completely. It's completely at odds with our history," he said.

The managers are taking questions now. We'll bring you the juiciest bits.



29m ago
By Sophie Meixner

Mitt Romney releases statement detailing his vote to convict

Republican Senator Mitt Romney voted to convict during Trump's first impeachment trial and he did so again today.

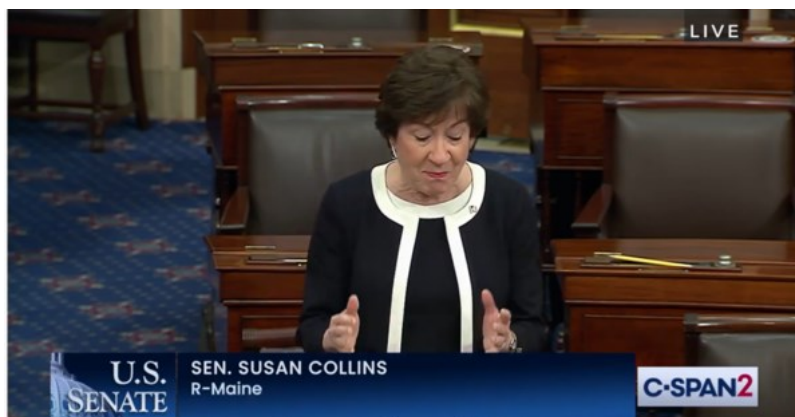
He's released a statement justifying exactly why he voted the way he did. Interestingly, he harks back to the [phone call made by Trump to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger](#) earlier this year pressuring him to "find" votes.

"After careful consideration of the respective counsels' arguments, I have concluded that President Trump is guilty of the charge made by the House of Representatives. **President Trump attempted to corrupt the election by pressuring the Secretary of State of Georgia to falsify the election results in his state. President Trump incited the insurrection against Congress by using the power of his office to summon his supporters to Washington on January 6th and urging them to march on the Capitol during the counting of electoral votes. He did this despite the obvious and well known threats of violence that day.** President Trump also violated his oath of office by **failing to protect the Capitol, the Vice President, and others in the Capitol.** Each and every one of these conclusions compels me to support conviction."



29m ago
By Emily Olson

Susan Collins explains her vote to convict



The Republican senator, one of seven who voted 'guilty', delivered formal remarks from the Senate floor in which she recounted the timeline of January 6 per the House managers' framing.

"Tossing a lit match into a dry pile of leaves is very different than tossing it into a pool of water," she said of Donald Trump's tweet saying his Vice-President Mike Pence 'lacked courage'.

"His actions to interfere with the peaceful transition of power – the hallmark of our constitutional promise of democracy – and mark an abuse of power," she said.

She also commented directly on the defence's due process claims, saying she agreed that the House should have conducted an investigation, but nonetheless "the record was clear".



40m ago
By Sophie Meixner

Lindsey Graham says he fears the model followed in this trial could set a worrying 'norm'

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who voted to acquit, has released a long thread on Twitter.

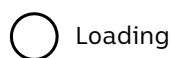
He says the impeachment was "driven by passion and hatred against President Trump". He says the evidence amounted to "hearsay combined with media reports".

He then argues this trial has set a precedent that could amount to a slippery slope in the future: "Using the standard of incitement the House Managers proposed, many politicians could find themselves on the wrong side of impeachments in the future," he said.

"I fear that if this model is followed in the future – impeachment to disqualify one from holding office based on partisan hatred – will become the norm," he said.

"I hope I will be proven wrong, but it seems that impeachment based on partisan differences seems to be becoming the norm, not the exception."

The entire thread starts here:



45m ago
By Emily Olson

McConnell appears to support criminal charges for Trump

I just want to make sure you caught that quote from McConnell because it's likely to emerge as a key talking point in the next few hours.

"This was never meant to be the final forum for American justice. ... he didn't get away with anything yet. We have a criminal justice system in this country. We have civil litigation. Former Presidents are not immune for either one."

It appears that the highest-ranking Republican is on board with punishing Donald Trump through another route. A fairly high-ranking Representative, Liz Cheney, said the same thing after the House impeached Trump with little Republican support. The rest of the party stayed pretty quiet on the measure until now.

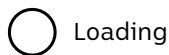
It's only a matter of time until President Joe Biden is asked his stance on the question. His nominee for attorney general, Merrick Garland, has yet to be confirmed by the Senate but would oversee any such matters. Whether or not Garland pursues these routes would likely come down to Biden's view of them.



53m ago
By Sophie Meixner

The Louisiana Republican Party has already hit out at Cassidy

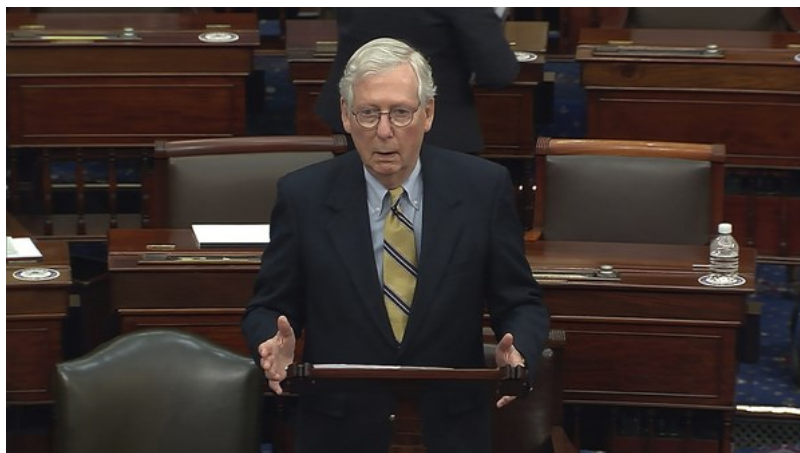
Louisiana Republican Senator Bill Cassidy issued Trump with a surprise conviction vote, becoming one of seven Republican Senators to do so. The Louisiana Republican Party is already signalling its displeasure at Cassidy's decision.



59m ago
By Emily Olson

KEY EVENT

McConnell based his vote on constitutionality



AP

The highest-ranking Republican official spoke for more than 10 minutes.

His speech offered a powerful rebuke of Trump's actions, blaming him for the rally, consistent with the way he framed the then-President's actions immediately following the riot.

McConnell was quiet throughout the trial, saying he'd reserve judgment.

He says now he couldn't vote to convict because of the same constitutional question that the Senate voted 'yes' on during day one of the trial: Whether it's constitutional to try an official who's already left office. McConnell was one of 44 Republicans voted 'no' on that question.

"The text is intentionally ambiguous. I respect my colleagues who voted on either side of that question," he says of the impeachment provisions in the US Constitution.

His critics will likely zero in on the fact that McConnell discouraged a swift move to the trial while Trump was still in office.

"This was never meant to be the final forum for American justice. ... he didn't get away with anything yet. We have a criminal justice system in this country. We have civil litigation. Former Presidents are not immune for either one."



1h ago
By Emily Olson

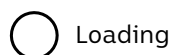
A pattern among the Republicans who voted to convict

It's pretty hard to call it a coincidence: **All but one of the Republican senators who voted 'guilty' are not facing re-election anytime soon.**

Two of them -- Richard Burr and Pat Toomey -- previously announced they would not seek re-election.

Three of them -- Bill Cassidy, Susan Collins and Ben Sasse -- aren't facing re-election again until 2026.

The remaining two -- Mitt Romney and Lisa Murkowski -- are reliable moderates, known for crossing the aisle from time to time. Romney is facing re-election in 2024. Murkowski is the only one who'll face a test from voters in the upcoming 2022 midterm elections.



Loading



1h ago
By Sophie Meixner

Mitch McConnell strongly condemns Trump's actions, despite voting to acquit

McConnell starts with a forceful rebuke of Trump's actions, a rather stark contrast given he voted to acquit. These really are the most scathing words against Trump we've heard from McConnell, who

was the Senate Majority Leader at the time of the riots. He's now the Minority Leader after the two Georgia Senators were sworn in.

He calls Trump "practically and morally responsible for provoking" the siege on January 6 and says Trump committed a "disgraceful, disgraceful dereliction of duty"

"He spent weeks thundering that shadowy forces were stealing our contrary, and then feigned surprise when people believe him and do reckless things," he said.

The "criminals" were carrying Trump flags, he says. It was clear only Trump could end it. "The President did not act swiftly. He did not do his job...instead he watched television happily, happily, as the chaos unfolded".

Loading

Loading

Loading



Th ago
By Emily Olson

Toomey, Cassidy and Burr speak to reporters

The three Republican Senators voted with Democrats to convict.

Sen. Richard Burr was among today's biggest surprise votes. Notably, he is retiring after his term expires.

"When this process started, I believed that it was unconstitutional to impeach a president who was no longer in office. I still believe that to be the case. However, the Senate is an institution based on precedent, and given that the majority in the Senate voted to proceed with this trial, the question of constitutionality is now established precedent," he said.

Sen. Bill Cassidy was less of a surprise, having sided with the Democrats on an earlier question about constitutionality. His office issued this statement:

"Our Constitution and our country is more important than any one person. I voted to convict President Trump because he is guilty," he said.

Sen. Pat Toomey, rushing past reporters in the hallway, said his vote was the "right thing to do," but he didn't immediately elaborate.



1h ago
By Sophie Meixner

Schumer labels the events of January 6 as Trump's 'final, terrible legacy'

Senate Majority leader Chuck Schumer is directing some scathing remarks at the Republican Senators who voted to acquit.

He said the events of January 6 would not have happened "but for the actions of Donald Trump", calling the riots "the final, terrible legacy of the 45th President of the United States".

"If President Trump hadn't implored them to come to Washington on January 6 and repeatedly lied to them the election was stolen, the attack could not have happened," he said.

He invokes the words of former Senate Majority Republican leader Mitch McConnell saying Trump "provoked" the rioters.

"You want another word for provoke? How about incite?" Schumer said.

He condemns the majority of Republicans who voted to quit, including McConnell.

"The failure to convict Donald Trump will live as a vote of infamy in the history of the US Senate," he said.

"Look at what Republicans have chosen to forgive.

"The most despicable act any President has committed and the majority of Republicans can't summon the courage or morality to defend it.

"43 Republican members chose Trump. It should be a weight on their conscience today and it should be a weight on their conscience in the future."



1h ago
By Emily Olson

KEY EVENT

Donald Trump issues a statement calling the trial a "witch hunt"

The office of the former President immediately issued a statement, saying, "this has been yet another phase of the greatest witch hunt in the history of our Country".

"It is a sad commentary on our times that one political party in America is given a free pass to denigrate the rule of law, defame law enforcement, cheer mobs, excuse rioters, and transform justice into a tool of political vengeance, and persecute, blacklist, cancel and suppress all people and viewpoints with whom or which they disagree. I always have, and always will, be a champion for the unwavering rule of law, the heroes of law enforcement, and the right of Americans to peacefully and honorably debate the issues of the day without malice and without hate."



DONALD J. TRUMP

- February 13, 2021 -

Statement by Donald J. Trump, 45th President of the United States of America

I want to first thank my team of dedicated lawyers and others for their tireless work upholding justice and defending truth.

My deepest thanks as well to all of the United States Senators and Members of Congress who stood proudly for the Constitution we all revere and for the sacred legal principles at the heart of our country.

Our cherished Constitutional Republic was founded on the impartial rule of law, the indispensable safeguard for our liberties, our rights and our freedoms.

It is a sad commentary on our times that one political party in America is given a free pass to denigrate the rule of law, defame law enforcement, cheer mobs, excuse rioters, and transform justice into a tool of political vengeance, and persecute, blacklist, cancel and suppress all people and viewpoints with whom or which they disagree. I always have, and always will, be a champion for the unwavering rule of law, the heroes of law enforcement, and the right of Americans to peacefully and honorably debate the issues of the day without malice and without hate.

This has been yet another phase of the greatest witch hunt in the history of our Country. No president has ever gone through anything like it, and it continues because our opponents cannot forget the almost 75 million people, the highest number ever for a sitting president, who voted for us just a few short months ago.

I also want to convey my gratitude to the millions of decent, hardworking, law-abiding, God-and-Country loving citizens who have bravely supported these important principles in these very difficult and challenging times.

Our historic, patriotic and beautiful movement to Make America Great Again has only just begun. In the months ahead I have much to share with you, and I look forward to continuing our incredible journey together to achieve American greatness for all of our people. There has never been anything like it!

We have so much work ahead of us, and soon we will emerge with a vision for a bright, radiant, and limitless American future.

Together there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

We remain one People, one family, and one glorious nation under God, and it's our responsibility to preserve this magnificent inheritance for our children and for generations of Americans to come.

May God bless all of you, and may God forever bless the United States of America.

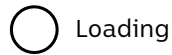


1h ago
By Sophie Meixner

Ben Sasse, who voted to convict, has released this statement

He says his conscience forced him to vote to convict. The Republican says both parties have been blinded by "tribalism" by voting along party lines: "If we were talking about a Democratic president, most Republicans and most Democrats would simply swap sides".

"The answer to an ugly double standard cannot be the elimination of all standards. If we allow tribalism to repeatedly blind us against defending our institutions, we will lose them."



1h ago
By Emily Olson

Senators now have a chance to speak on the Senate floor

They're entering formal statements into the record, representing their thoughts on the subject. We'll also hear from Senators addressing reporters in the halls outside the Senate Chamber.

We expect Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to be among the first to speak formally in the Senate – stay tuned.



1h ago
By Sophie Meixner

The Senate, sitting as a court of impeachment, has been adjourned

The Senate impeachment trial of Donald J. Trump has ended in an acquittal and is adjourned. The Senators are leaving the chamber now.

Senator Pat Leahy announces Trump has been found not guilty in the Senate and is hereby acquitted.

In the end, a conviction was **ten votes short**.



1h ago
By Emily Olson

The Senate is about to vote

The article of impeachment, which charges Donald Trump with inciting an insurrection against the US government, is being read aloud on the floor now.

The Senate will proceed straight into a vote.

Remember: A two-thirds majority – 67 'guilty' votes – is required to convict the former President.

We expect anywhere from 1 to 6 Republicans to join the 50 Democrats in voting yes, **resulting in an acquittal**.

SHOW MORE POSTS

Posted 7h ago, updated 41m ago



Share



More on:

UNITED STATES

DONALD TRUMP

US ELECTIONS

WORLD POLITICS

Top Stories

Donald Trump acquitted of incitement of insurrection in second Senate impeachment trial

Two families, one big secret — how an amateur sleuth solved a century-old mystery

Live: Victoria's hotel quarantine system under fire after Holiday Inn cluster grows to 14

Victorian authorities reveal new COVID exposure sites

The one potential coronavirus clue China would not hand over to the WHO's pandemic investigators

ANALYSIS

How a junior employee on \$27,000 helped bring down James Packer's billion-dollar empire

Is hotel quarantine worth the risk as variants spread? Here are the alternatives

'A freak amongst freaks': New doco unearths the myths about the Frank Zappa

Greek tennis player tests positive for COVID-19 after leaving Australia following ATP Cup stint

Just In

Brisbane teenagers secure lucrative scholarships to play American football

Posted 15m ago

Welcome to Dawesville, WA, where a just-appointed party leader faces the fight of his life

Posted 16m ago

After a firestorm razed their idyllic bush lifestyle, residents must decide where their future lies

Posted 16m ago

ANALYSIS

Palaszczuk admits COVID-19 plans caused internal rumblings ahead of election

Posted 19m ago

'It's getting harder now': Grief still overwhelming for parents of Hannah Clarke one year on from horrific murders

Posted 22m ago

Live: Victoria's hotel quarantine system under fire after Holiday Inn cluster grows to 14

Posted 30m ago

[More Just In →](#)

[Back to top ↑](#)

[More From ABC NEWS](#) →

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn, and work.

SECTIONS

[ABC NEWS](#)

[CORONAVIRUS](#)

[POLITICS](#)

[BUSINESS](#)

[SPORT](#)

[HEALTH](#)

[FACT CHECK](#)

[JUST IN](#)

[WATCH LIVE](#)

[WORLD](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[SCIENCE](#)

[ARTS](#)

[OTHER](#)

NEWS IN LANGUAGE

[中文](#)

[BERITA BAHASA INDONESIA](#)

[TOK PISIN](#)

CONNECT WITH ABC NEWS

[FACEBOOK](#)

[MESSENGER](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[INSTAGRAM](#)

[YOUTUBE](#)

[APPLE NEWS](#)

MORE FROM ABC NEWS

[Contact ABC NEWS](#)

This service may include material from Agence France-Presse (AFP), APTN, Reuters, AAP, CNN and the BBC World Service which is copyright and cannot be reproduced.

AEST = Australian Eastern Standard Time which is 10 hours ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time)

[Editorial Policies](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Help](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[About the ABC](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

© 2021 ABC

