

*“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.”*

— U.S. Constitution, Article II, section 4

In very simple terms, the impeachment process is as follows:

- First, Congress investigates and decides whether or not they want to pursue impeachment. If after a majority vote the House decides to approve any of the charges, a.k.a. the “Articles of Impeachment,” then the official in question is formally “impeached.”
- Next, the impeached official faces trial in the Senate, which has the final say on the matter.
- Lastly, the Senate must vote on each article separately. Each charge requires two-thirds voting “yes” for conviction. If there are multiple articles of impeachment, it only takes one conviction vote for removal to be automatic.

The Chief Justice is cited in Article I, Section 3, Clause 6 of the United States Constitution as the presiding officer in an impeachment trial of the President.[37] As such, Chief Justice John Roberts assumed that role and was sworn in by Senate President pro tem Chuck Grassley on January 16, 2020. He immediately administered the oath to 99 of the senators in attendance; Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe did not take the oath due to a family emergency

The chief justice of the United States is the chief judge of the Supreme Court of the United States, and as such the highest-ranking officer of the federal judiciary.

The chief justice is appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate and has life tenure.

The incumbent chief justice is John Roberts (since 2005).

Is impeachment like a regular criminal trial?

Impeachment is a noncriminal process, and the most that can happen as a result of impeachment is removal from office. Convicted officials are also barred from holding future office. This doesn’t mean that you can’t be under criminal investigation at the same time as impeachment proceedings. But there’s no possibility of a prison sentence or other criminal consequence as a result of an impeachment conviction.

Does impeachment always end in removal from office?

Impeached officials aren’t always removed from their post at the end of the whole ordeal. Sometimes, an individual will choose to resign before the process is over, or they’ll be acquitted at the conclusion of their trial. For example, President Bill Clinton was acquitted though we still say he was impeached. On the other hand, President Richard Nixon resigned in August 1974, right before the House could vote on articles of impeachment. He was never formally impeached, but the process was underway.

