

# House Dems make case for conviction

## Trump denies impeachment allegations

By ERIC TUCKER AND MARY CLARE JALONICK  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump endangered the lives of all members of Congress when he aimed a mob of supporters “like a loaded cannon” at the U.S. Capitol, House Democrats said Tuesday in making their most detailed case yet for why the former president should be convicted and permanently barred from office.

Trump denied the allegations through his lawyers and called the trial unconstitutional.

The dueling filings offer the first public glimpse of the arguments that will be presented to the Senate beginning next week. The impeachment trial represents a remarkable reckoning with the violence in the Capitol last month, which the senators witnessed firsthand, and with Trump’s presidency overall.

Held in the very chamber where the insurrectionists stood on Jan. 6, it will pit Democratic demands for a final measure of accountability against the desire of many Republicans to turn the page and move on.

The impeachment trial, Trump’s second, begins in earnest Tuesday.

The Democratic legal brief forcefully linked Trump’s baseless efforts to overturn the results of the presidential election to the deadly riot at the Capitol, saying he bears “unmistakable” blame for actions that threatened the underpinnings of American democracy. It argued that he must be found guilty on a charge of inciting the

siege. And it used evocative language to conjure the day’s chaos, when “terrified members were trapped in the chamber” and called loved ones “for fear they would not survive.”

“His conduct endangered the life of every single member of Congress, jeopardized the peaceful transition of power and line of succession, and compromised our national security,” the Democratic managers of the impeachment case wrote. “This is precisely the sort of constitutional offense that warrants disqualification from federal office.”

The Democrats’ filing made it clear their plan to associate Trump’s words with the resulting violence, tracing his efforts to subvert democracy to when he first said last summer that he would not accept the election results, and then through the November contest and his many failed attempts to challenge the results in court.

When those efforts failed, the Democrats wrote, “he turned to improper and abusive means of staying in power,” specifically by launching a pressure campaign aimed at state election officials, the Justice Department and Congress.

“The only honorable path at that point was for President Trump to accept the results and concede his electoral defeat. Instead, he summoned a mob to Washington, exhorted them into a frenzy, and aimed them like a loaded cannon down Pennsylvania Avenue,” the Democrats wrote in their 77-page brief.

The Democrats cited his unsuccessful efforts to sway Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and former Attorney General William Barr. Trump then became “fixated” on Jan. 6, the managers wrote.

They note that many of his supporters, including the Proud Boys — Trump told them to “stand back and stand by” at a September debate — already were primed for violence.

Trump’s lawyers, David Schoen and Bruce Castor, denied that he had incited the riot by disputing the election results or by exhorting his followers to “fight like hell.” They said he was permitted by the First Amendment to challenge his loss to Democrat Joe Biden as “suspect” and that, in any event, the trial was unconstitutional now that Trump has left the White House.

Lawyers for Trump contested the Democratic characterization of Trump’s remarks and his role in the riot, denying that he incited it or that he ever endangered national security. When he told his followers to fight like hell, they said, he was talking about “election security in general.”

Trump, they said, was not attempting to interfere with the counting of electoral votes, only encouraging members of Congress to engage in the customary process of challenging vote submissions “under a process written into Congressional rules,” as had been done in years past.

“The actions by the House make clear that in their opinion the 45th President does not enjoy the protections of liberty upon which

this great Nation was founded, where free speech, and indeed, free political speech form the backbone of all American liberties,” the defense lawyers wrote in a 14-page brief.

Trump’s legal team also laid out a challenge to the constitutionality of the trial now that Trump has left office. Though that claim might not be resolved any time soon in the courts, it might nonetheless resonate politically.

Republicans have signaled that acquittal is likely, with many saying they think Congress should move on and questioning the constitutionality of an impeachment trial — Trump’s second — now that he has left office. In a test vote in the Senate last week, 45 Republicans, including Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, voted in favor of an effort to dismiss the trial over those constitutional concerns.



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO  
Donald Trump boards Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington on Jan. 20 — it was the day he left office as president — en route to his Florida resort.

Still, the Constitution specifies that disqualification from office can be a punishment for an impeachment conviction, and Democrats made it clear that they see that as a worthwhile objective in this case.

Though no president has

been tried after departing the White House, Democrats say there is precedent, pointing to an 1876 impeachment of a secretary of war who resigned his office in a last-ditch attempt to avoid an impeachment trial. The Senate held it anyway.

Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
A little afternoon snow High 27° Low 20°	Plenty of sunshine High 32° Low 17°	A bit of morning snow High 36° Low 23°	Partly sunny High 27° Low 11°	Snow possible in the p.m. High 27° Low 16°

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Pittsfield through 3 p.m. yesterday.

**Temperatures**

High	31°
Low	28°
Normal high	30°
Normal low	13°
Last year high	34°
Last year low	27°
Record high	54° (1973)
Record low	-15° (1961)

**Precipitation**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.18"
Month to date	0.28"
Normal month to date	0.16"
Year to date	1.96"
Last year to date	1.29"
Normal year to date	3.08"

**Snowfall**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	7.3"
Month to date	8.5"
Normal month to date	0.9"
Season to date	40.6"
Normal season to date	35.4"

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**REGIONAL CITIES**

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thursday Hi/Lo/W
Amherst	31/24/sf	36/10/s
Boston	35/28/sf	38/25/s
Falmouth	34/28/sf	39/26/s
New Bedford	35/28/sf	40/23/s
Northampton	31/25/c	35/10/s
Provincetown	35/32/sf	38/32/s
Springfield	31/24/c	35/16/s
Albany, NY	28/19/sf	33/16/s
Lake George, NY	29/20/c	33/13/s
Saratoga Springs	31/20/sf	35/14/s
Troy, NY	29/20/sf	32/17/s
Bennington, VT	28/23/sn	31/21/s
Braintree, VT	31/23/c	35/11/s
Rutland, VT	29/22/sn	33/16/s
Hartford, CT	32/24/c	36/16/s
New Canaan, CT	33/24/c	37/23/s
Concord, NH	32/25/sn	36/10/s
Portsmouth, NH	36/28/c	38/18/pc

**NATIONAL FORECAST**

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thursday Hi/Lo/W
Albuquerque	62/37/c	50/25/pc
Atlanta	48/30/s	56/48/c
Boise	43/27/sh	44/34/c
Charleston, SC	52/29/s	56/44/pc
Charleston, WV	34/15/s	47/37/c
Chicago	34/27/pc	37/13/i
Cleveland	29/17/pc	37/30/c
Dallas	68/58/pc	70/36/c
Denver	62/25/pc	38/21/pc
Detroit	33/17/s	34/26/sn
Fairbanks	-13/-19/sn	-17/-28/c
Greensboro	47/25/s	49/39/pc
Honolulu	74/63/r	76/63/pc
Houston	69/61/pc	77/50/c
Las Vegas	67/45/c	58/39/s
Los Angeles	66/48/pc	69/48/s
Memphis	52/42/pc	61/32/sh
Miami	68/46/s	71/57/s
Minneapolis	33/30/c	33/4/sn
Myrtle Beach	49/30/s	50/45/pc
New Orleans	62/49/s	72/59/pc
New York City	35/27/c	38/32/s
Orlando	59/35/s	68/44/pc
Philadelphia	35/25/pc	40/29/pc
Phoenix	77/53/c	70/45/pc
Pittsburgh	31/13/c	36/33/pc
Providence	34/28/sf	40/25/s
St. Louis	45/37/pc	48/24/r
San Diego	64/52/c	64/48/s
San Francisco	55/44/c	57/43/s
Seattle	48/40/c	47/44/r
Tampa	59/42/s	66/50/s
Washington, DC	40/27/pc	44/37/pc
Wichita	56/43/pc	44/24/pc

**Weather(W):** s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

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