

DONALD TRUMP'S SECOND IMPEACHMENT

We start with this riddle: What does Article II, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution have in common with Halley's Comet? Simple answer: Neither of those things is usually seen but once in a human lifetime—maybe twice, depending on what year you were born.

Halley's Comet appeared in 1910 and 1986, so a person born in early 1910, and living at least 76 years, would have "seen" it twice. A person born in the United States in 1789—the year the U.S. Constitution went into effect—and living at least 79 years, through at least mid-1868, would have lived through the first use of Article II, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution—the article that provides for the impeachment of a U.S. President for "high crimes and misdemeanors."

Andrew Johnson, the 17th President of the United States, faced 11 Articles of Impeachment approved by the House, although the Senate voted on only three of them. On each of those three votes, the Senate fell one vote short of convicting Johnson.

It would be another 130 years before the House voted to impeach President Bill Clinton on two Articles of Impeachment; Clinton was acquitted by the Senate.

This is where the comparison of Halley's Comet and Article II, Section 4, ends, as Donald Trump was impeached by the House on two articles, only 21 years after Clinton was impeached; Trump was acquitted by the Senate in early 2020.

Then, just one year later, Donald Trump was impeached as a *former* president on an article of Incitement of Insurrection, in connection with the deadly mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, as the House and Senate, in Joint Session, met as required to certify the Electoral College vote of Joseph R. Biden as the 46th President of the United States.

Deftly and passionately, from Feb. 10 to Feb. 13, the lead House impeachment manager, Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-Md.), and the other eight House impeachment managers, laid out the chronological, electronic evidence directly connecting the former president to incitement of his mob of supporters to storm the Capitol and "fight like hell" to disrupt the certification of the November 2020 Presidential Election, which was won by Biden.

While Trump is the only president to be impeached twice (so far!), he was not convicted by the Senate, even though seven Republican Senators joined the 50 Democrats voting in favor of conviction, in the most bipartisan impeachment vote in U.S. history.

In a Jan. 16 Yahoo News article, several counterterrorism experts warned that the Jan. 6 insurrection, although now in the rearview mirror, was the beginning of an ongoing, well-organized insurgency against the U.S. government. These insurgents include QAnon adherents, White supremacists, anti-Semites and neo-Nazis—with strikingly similarities to such overseas groups as the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan, the Islamic State and al-Qaida in Iraq.

As of this writing, a joint oversight hearing, conducted by the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee and the Senate Rules Committee, is under way to get to the bottom of what led up to the deadly insurrection and assault by the deadly mob on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

The hearing seems to have raised more questions than answers—especially dealing with who, or what body, was responsible for the delayed arrival of National Guard troops to bolster Capitol and D.C. police forces.

There was also the laughable grandstanding by U.S. Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wisc.), who read right-wing conspiracy theories into the record that the rioters were not really Trump supporters, but people *posing* as Trump supporters.

A 9/11-style commission is pending, designed to more thoroughly investigate the insurrection in which six people died, and the lives of members of the Senate, House and staff members were threatened.

Bottom line: The Jan. 6 insurrection might well be only the beginning as Trump and his supporters—who see him as their Messiah—are not going quietly. As 10 more Republican U.S. senators could not develop a spine and vote to convict Trump, this signals the go-ahead for a president or presidential candidate in the future to do the same thing again.

Remember: Trump has not been banned from running for office again, and recent polling indicates that his base believes Trump acted "responsibly" in the wake of the Jan. 6 insurrection that he incited.

In the November 2022 midterm election, 20 Republicans are up for reelection to the U.S. Senate. Most did not vote to convict Trump. Aggressive efforts to defeat these senators are essential as part of the Democratic Party's 2022 strategy.

Covid-19 Update

Generally speaking, the news is good for a change. As of late February, many California counties were reducing their status from purple to red. Many counties were beginning to vaccinate more people, as vaccines are increasingly available and as more shot clinics open.

Health experts and officials continue to advocate a continuation of social distancing, and even wearing not one, but two, masks, along with frequent handwashing.

There is optimism that the \$1.9 trillion relief package will be passed by the House and Senate by mid-March, without the need for Republican votes, through the process of "budget reconciliation." The bill is a multi-phase package, including an increase in the minimum wage to \$15/hour, direct payments of \$1,400 to Americans making less than \$75,000 a year, an extension of \$400 in federal unemployment benefits, more money for struggling small businesses and money to bolster the budgets of state and local governments suffering during the pandemic.

At the state level, California will send money to low-income families and other assistance to struggling small businesses as part of nearly \$7.6 billion in economic stimulus measures Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law in late February.

Under the deal that Newsom negotiated with lawmakers, millions of low-income Californians will receive \$600 payments from the state, on top of the money many already received from the federal government. Small businesses that have been hit hard by the pandemic will be able to apply for a share of \$2 billion in grants.

A budget windfall from California's wealthier taxpayers will fund these programs.

For Fresno County clinics, residents can check their eligibility online at myturn.ca.gov. Eligibility varies from county to county depending on how much vaccine has been allocated.

Assembly District Delegate Election Results

Congratulations to the winners of the recent election of Assembly District delegates to the California Democratic State Central Committee! Here are the results in local Assembly Districts.

Assembly District 23: Alexandros Acedo, Alexandria Benn, Bobby Bliatout, Emily S. Brandt, Patty Cappelluti, Mickey Chacon, Krista De La Torre, Noha Elbaz, Ricardo Franco, Isaac Gudino, James Kratzer, Janet Miller, Camile Williams, Steven M. Williams. Executive Board Representative: Ricardo Franco.

Assembly District 31: Alysia Bonner, Mayra Campa, Myra Coble, Gavin Garza, Jasleen Kaur Gill, Navkaran Singh Gurm, Moises Hernandez, Doug Kessler, Estella Lorona Kessler, Daren Miller, Jaspreet Kaur Nagra, Stephanie Ocampo, Daniel Parra, Randy Villegas. Executive Board Representative: Doug Kessler.

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VOLUNTEER CALL TO ACTION

