

*Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies.*

***The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment.***

*Section 3 – The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.*

*Immediately after they shall be assembled*

**MeetToImpeach.com**

## **FEATURE:** **Impeachment: week in review**

A weekly one paragraph summary report and analysis, followed by recaps (with links) of representative on-line articles and essays – typically 800 to 1,600 words.

**Week ending 2/11/2018 (~1,270 words)**

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**Minneapolis 2/14/18 Edition** – There’s nothing like 1,000-point swings in the stock market to make members of both parties in Congress think long and hard about the priority both financial markets and a wide majority of Americans assign to having a Federal government that doesn’t careen through an obstacle course of shutdown threats due to the lack of a budget, a looming debt ceiling limit, and other issues. Last week’s news was dominated by a sudden burst of bi-partisanship at least in the sense that both sides acquiesced in huge federal spending increases for opposition priorities in return for huge spending increases for their own priorities. Infrastructure spending and any serious effort to control the deficit both remain out of reach in the short term – and the fate of 1.8 million Dreamers remains to be resolved, although there seems at least a prospect of resolution. Both sides seem to be settling in on their 2018 strategy for approaching the impeachment question. Trump’s supporters are doggedly pursuing their claim that a “Deep State” anti-Trump conspiracy is afoot – seeking with some apparent success to stabilize their base around this position -- and pitching a good economy towards the political middle – such as it is -- as the main selling point for holding their Congressional majorities in the 2018 elections. Democrats are hammering on what they see as an across-the-board GOP acceptance of abusive behavior towards women – led by President Trump. Whether they will bring forth a 2018 economic agenda sufficiently appealing to many disaffected voters who shifted to or towards or Trump in 2016 remains an open question.

## **The Mueller Investigation**

[Politico reports](#) FBI monitoring of former Trump campaign advisor Carter Page may have picked up a conversation with former White House advisor Steve Bannon, based on earlier reports that a conversation took place. More generally, it appears that concern among Trump supporters and the White House likely has more to do with the possibility that such monitored conversations may trigger further follow up by the Mueller investigation, implicating both high campaign and White House officials, and possibly President Trump himself.

Multiple Constitutional experts suggest in a [NY Times op-ed](#) that the House Intelligence Committee chaired by Devin Nunes (R-CA) may itself be guilty of obstruction of justice. That claim is founded on Chair Nunes refusal to say that committee staff did not coordinate their activity with the staff at the White House. Obstruction of Justice is one of the possible charges the Mueller investigation is believed to be considering.

### **Trump and White House reaction to recent staff sexual abuse charges is criticized --**

President Trump's reaction to recent allegations of sexual abuse, including assault, includes questioning those who are bringing the accusations. On February 10th, Trump tweeted: "Peoples lives are being shattered and destroyed by a mere allegation. Some are true and some are false. Some are old and some are new. There is no recovery for someone falsely accused - life and career are gone. Is there no such thing any longer as Due Process?" Jennie Willoughby, an ex-wife of Trump's former White House Secretary Rob Porter, responded in a [Time Magazine essay](#): "Society as a whole has a fear of addressing our worst secrets. (Just ask any African-American citizen). It's as if we have a societal blind spot that creates an obstacle to understanding. Society as a whole doesn't acknowledge the reality of abuse... Rather than embarrass an abuser, society is subconsciously trained to question a victim of abuse. I would call it an ignorant denial based on the residual, puritan, collective agreement that abuse is uncomfortable to talk about." Willoughby's essay makes the case that it is important if not essential to explicitly come forward with ugly accusations, to counter this society-wide tendency.

**Senate begins debate on Dreamers --** The Senate began a rare open-ended debate on immigration, but prospects were unclear to dim. [CBS News reports](#): "The Tuesday Trump versus the Thursday Trump, after the base gets to him, is how Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a proponent of compromise, describes the president and the impact conservative voters and his hard-right

advisers have on him. 'I don't know how far he'll go, but I do think he'd like to fix it.'" Many are skeptical that President Trump's plan can pass the Senate; however, the Senate is also unlikely to pass a bill if it is widely believed to be doomed to failure in the House, or a veto.

**Alternative Analytic perspective: a “Deep State” anti-Trump conspiracy -- [The Hill](#)** offers up an opinion piece by Monica Crowley, consolidating claims raised by "Deep State" conspiracy theorists, and arguing President Obama either guided much of the activity, or was at least aware of it. Crowley writes: "These kinds of abuses of power were nothing new, given the Obama team's long history of this type of misconduct on everything from the Benghazi terror attack to the political misuse of the IRS. They weaponized the most fearsome government agencies to target, monitor and presumably illegally unmask political opponents, including members of Congress, journalists reporting unfavorable stories, Trump allies and average Americans." Crowley seeks to frame this within a larger narrative: "But something else, something more profound, drove their efforts: their urgency to preserve what Obama once called “the fundamental transformation of the nation” — a grand project much bigger than Obama himself or any other single figure. He largely fulfilled the long-held progressive ambition of changing the nation's course, only to see Trump threaten to change it once again: not to return it to where it was pre-Obama, but to smash the corrupt existing order that had made their progressive advances possible."

**Counterpoint to Alternative Analytic perspective: a “Deep State” anti-Trump conspiracy -- [NY Times](#)** columnist Charles Blow takes an equally broad but counter-narrative view to Monica Crowley, writing: "But while we are focusing on Trump and what he has wrought, it would behoove us to also focus on the titanic moves by the right to literally realign society for the long haul: stacking the courts with virulent conservatives, suppressing voter access, reducing the inflow of immigrants who might lean Democratic, gerrymandering districts, punishing states that lean Democratic in presidential elections and returning to a failed drug policy that disproportionately jails black and brown people. In short, conservatives are using every possible means to permanently lock in power, wealth and influence for the existing, predominantly white and predominantly male power structure."

**Tom Steyer's “Need to Impeach” campaign -- [NTK Network](#)** reports that California Democratic activist and hedge fund billionaire Tom Steyer has hired a staff of fifty people to

work on his "Need to Impeachment" movement. Steyer has reportedly spent over \$20 million on the project, including significant buys of TV ads, and is reported to be prepared to spend a total of \$40 million. He is seen as a potential Democratic candidate for President in 2020.

**GOP eyes impeachment as a remedy to “activist” State Supreme Courts – [The NY Times](#)** reports Republicans in multiple states are increasingly looking to impeachment as a possible remedy to state Supreme Court judges who they believe are assuming a political activist role in requiring Congressional and State Legislative districts to be re-drawn; in some cases, Courts supervise the map revisions directly. State Constitutions also include impeachment powers for State Legislatures – some state Supreme Court judges are elected.

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