

Georgia Forensic Coaches Association

# Congressional Debate

*State Championship*



## **2017 Final Round Legislation**

Topic Area: The Impeachment Process of  
the President of the United States

# The Scenario

We have created a scenario for the Final Round of Congressional Debate that rips stories from the headlines and has our chambers answer and emulate serious concerns about the new President of the United States. Each chamber (House and Senate) will emulate real world duties of the Impeachment Process. The legislative session in each chamber should dedicate the entire session to this discussion. **This is a serious matter that has more argument ground than just "Trump Good" vs. "Trump Bad". Questions concerning our democracy should be discussed. Questions concerning our line of succession should be addressed.**

The House of Representatives has a resolution attached where they are asked to decide whether or not we should impeach POTUS. The articles of impeachment, for the sake of Student Congress, are written as lines of the resolution. The debate can be limited to these, or representatives can add other examples for reasons to impeach – it is up to the congressional debaters. Prior to voting on impeachment, the resolution also asks students to recommend a post-impeachment process to the Senate. Should the United States continue with Vice President Pence, or should they hold a special election, since Pence was not ever elected to hold the position and therefore does not have the people's mandate? The vote on the resolution is based on a simple majority.

The Senate will act as if the House of Representatives has already voted to impeach President Trump. The Senate will hold a trial to answer "Will President Trump be removed from office?" For this session, the Presiding Officer will emulate the role of Chief Justice Roberts of the Supreme Court – who oversees and acts as judge and rules on admissibility of evidence. The senators in the chamber will emulate the House Judiciary Committee and Trump's lawyers to present prosecution and defense against President Trump. Based on the debate, the senators in the committee will vote to remove Trump from office or acquit Trump. The Senate requires a 2/3 vote to remove President Trump from office.

# House of Representatives State Championship Legislation **A Resolution to Impeach President Donald J. Trump**

**WHEREAS**, the first three weeks of the Trump Administration have done irreparable damage to the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, President Trump has violated the constitution through the Foreign Gifts Clause, which states, “Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution says that “no person holding any office of profit or trust under [the United States government], shall, without the consent of the Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state” by not separating himself from his overseas assets in places like Istanbul; and,

**WHEREAS**, President Trump has violated the constitution through an explicit clause in the General Services Administration lease contract which states: No ... elected official of the Government of the United States ... shall be admitted to any share or part of this Lease, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; and,

**WHEREAS**, more than 400,000 people have signed a petition organized by the Free Speech for the People organization; and,

**WHEREAS**, President Trump has an alliance with Russian President Vladimir Putin bordering on treason; and,

**WHEREAS**, The United States has fallen to a “flawed” democracy in the Global Democracy Index; and,

**WHEREAS**, The United States is losing alliances around the world as a result of President Trump’s actions; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That Donald John Trump, President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and shall be removed from office. In his conduct while President of the United States, Donald J. Trump, in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has committed the aforementioned abuses of power; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Congress here assembled create a special election to elect a new President of the United States in an election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Vice President Mike Pence will serve as interim President until the new election is complete.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by the Georgia Forensic Coaches Association.*

# **Senate State Championship Legislation**

## **The Articles of Impeachment for Donald J. Trump**

Resolved, that Donald John Trump, President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the United States Senate:

Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

### **Article I**

In his conduct while President of the United States, Donald John Trump, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has willfully corrupted the democratic process for his personal gain and exonerated, impeding the administration of justice, in that:

(1) Trump's business partner in Trump Tower Century City (Manila, Philippines) is Century Properties.

(Trump is not the developer; he has a brand licensing contract.) The head of Century Properties is Jose Antonio, who was just named special envoy to the United States by the president of the Philippines.

Payments from a company owned by a foreign government official are foreign emoluments.

(2) China's state-owned Industrial and Commercial Bank of China is the largest tenant in Trump Tower. It is also a major lender to Trump. Both its regular rent payments, and its ongoing extension of credit, are foreign emoluments.

(3) Foreign diplomats have already begun shifting their D.C. hotel and event reservations to Trump

International Hotel, to curry favor or at least avoid insulting the president. Indeed, the Embassy of

Kuwait was reportedly pressured by the Trump Organization to change an existing reservation and

reschedule the event at the Trump International. Payments by foreign diplomats for lodging, meeting space, or food at the hotel are foreign emoluments.

In doing this, Donald John Trump, has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President, and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States.

## **Article II**

In his conduct while President of the United States, Donald John Trump, in violation of his constitutional oath faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed, has willfully corrupted the democratic process of the United States for his personal gain and exonerated, impeding the administration of justice, in that:

- (1) President Trump's ongoing lease of Washington, D.C.'s Old Post Office, in which the Trump International Hotel is located, violates an explicit clause in the General Services Administration lease contract providing: "No . . . elected official of the Government of the United States . . . shall be admitted to any share or part of this Lease, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom . . ." In late November 2016, members of Congress wrote the GSA requesting information about the "imminent breach-of-lease and conflict of interest issues created by President-elect Donald Trump's lease with the U.S. Government for the Trump International Hotel building in Washington, D.C."

In doing this, Donald John Trump, has undermined the integrity of his office, has brought disrepute on the Presidency, has betrayed his trust as President, and has acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law and justice, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, and removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States.