

SENATE VOTES TO ACQUIT TRUMP, 7 GOP SENATORS VOTE TO CONVICT

THE 2ND TRUMP IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

It was no surprise, to some, that the vote went along mostly party lines. But what is fascinating is that there was a breaking of ranks within the GOP on what the outcome should be for former President Trump. Roughly 14% of the Republican members of the Senate voted to convict.



Richard Burr of North Carolina, Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, Susan Collins of Maine, Mitt Romney of Utah, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, Ben Sasse of Nebraska.

Do they see something the rest don't or are they not as bound to their party? Do they have another agenda or do they sincerely believe that the former president has to be held accountable and did take actions that were unconstitutional?

The defense spent almost all of their time trying to attack the legitimacy of the proceedings, seemingly leaving out any real defense for the former President's actions. Did he really do anything wrong?

Richard Burr laid out the case for his vote: "The President promoted unfounded conspiracy theories to cast doubt on the integrity of a free and fair election because he did not like the results. As Congress met to certify the election results, the President directed his supporters to go to the Capitol to disrupt the lawful proceedings required by the Constitution. When the crowd became violent, the President used his office to first inflame the situation instead of immediately calling for an end to the assault."

Bill Cassidy said: "Our Constitution and our country is more important than any one person. I voted to convict President Trump because he is guilty."

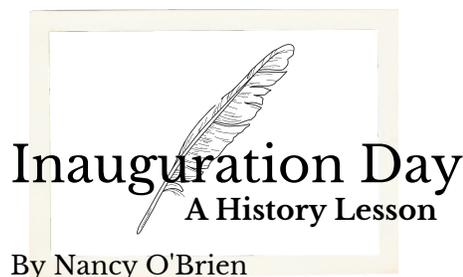
Seeing that the president had stepped over the boundary of his massive powers, Ben Sasse felt a duty to his constituents and stated:

"On election night 2014, I promised Nebraskans I'd always vote my conscience even if it was against the partisan stream. In my first speech here in the Senate in November 2015, I promised to speak out when a president -- even of my own party -- exceeds his or her powers. I cannot go back on my word, and Congress cannot lower our standards on such a grave matter, simply because it is politically convenient. I must vote to convict." What are we to make of all this as Democrats?

Former President Trump spoke out shortly after the vote to proclaim that, this is only the beginning of the movement and for his loyal followers to look forward to much more to come. He is emboldened by this win. In this context and with this man, Donald Trump, it sounds more like a threat than an inspirational drumbeat.

Maybe we should be comforted with this show of logic and reason by select GOP members. That would be, after all, the optimistic way to go about moving forward? I think the GOP senators' presence in the YES column shows that this is in fact just the beginning and they know it. That is why they were driven. They have seen and digested enough to say: This is not okay and it's not the Pandora's box we should open.

Editorial by Damian Sanderson



Typically, March is a time of beginnings. Snows lessen, green grass starts to appear, the first day of Spring arrives, buds pop on trees, and Inauguration Day, the ceremony that marks the new

four-year term of the American president, is scheduled. Yes, except for the first Inauguration Day for George Washington held on April 30, Inauguration Day was planned for March 4.

This tradition continued until 1933, by legislative action, when it was switched to our current date, January 20, at noon. At times when March 4 or January 20 have fallen on a Sunday, a private ceremony takes place to swear in the president, and then a public ceremony is held the next day, Monday.

The Constitution established Inauguration Day originally as March 4 in order to allow enough time after Election Day to gather election returns. It also allowed the newly elected President time to wrap up unfinished business and move to the capital.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt became the first president to be sworn into office on January 20, 1937. It was his second of four terms. With the advances in communication and transportation, the lengthy time was not necessary between the two dates. The date of Inauguration Day was changed to January 20 with the passage of the Twentieth Amendment, also known as the "Lame Duck" Amendment. This shorter time has served as a bonus for opposition parties, lessening the power of the "Lame Duck" administration.

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