

Democrats to deliver impeachment articles against Trump to Senate on historic day

The three-step process expected to play out over the day on Capitol Hill on Wednesday

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In another dramatic day in Washington as the Trump impeachment process builds to a climax, Democrats plan to deliver the articles of impeachment against the president to the Senate on Wednesday.

Democrats voted to impeach Trump last month on charges of obstruction and abuse of power, but the House has held the articles while leaders hashed out how the Senate would handle conducting a trial, as required by the US Constitution.

The three-step process expected to play out over the day on Capitol Hill on Wednesday will see the House Democrats naming from among their number the so-called managers, who will act as the prosecutors of the case against the president at trial, in the morning.

Then a vote is expected at midday to send the articles to the Senate, then a formal procession to walk the physical articles of impeachment in a box to the Senate in the early evening.

"The President and the Senators will be held accountable," Pelosi said in a statement. "The American people deserve the truth, and the Constitution demands a trial." Trump is only the third president to face an impeachment trial in the Senate.

The Senate will transform into an impeachment court as early as Thursday, with the chief justice of the supreme court, John Roberts, presiding over senators, who serve as jurors.

Trump was impeached last month by the Democrat-led House for withholding critical military aide to <u>Ukraine</u>, in an effort to push the country to announce an investigation into former vice president Joe Biden, his potential adversary in the coming general election. He was also impeached for impeding Congress's investigation into the matter.

As the articles are sent to the Senate, the debate will move to whether senators should call witnesses to the trial. Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell has said he does not have the votes to simply dismiss the impeachment charges, as the president has suggested, but also has not committed to further testimony.

Trump and other Republicans have promoted the conspiracy theory that Ukraine, not Russia, interfered in the 2016 US presidential election. American intelligence officials have called the president's continued assertions false and misleading.