



JIM LO SCALZO - POOL/GETTY IMAGES

## Campaign Sending Impeachment Guides To Congress Is Hilariously Shady & Super Important

BY [LILLI PETERSEN](#) | SEPT 29 2017 |

Every time President Donald Trump does something outrageous – so, basically, every week – there's a certain segment of the internet that starts thinking longingly of



do about the calls to remove the president. Enter Barbara Radnofsky and her new book, *A Citizen's Guide To Impeachment*, ready to help. And by help, I mean gently troll legislators by [sending members of Congress a guide to impeachment](#).

No, literally. As part of the book's release, publisher Melville House is allowing readers to send a copy to a member of Congress at a discounted cost, with the goal of reaching all 535 members (and all author profits are being donated to flood relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey). I spoke with Radnofsky to get her perspective on the campaign. Within barely a week of the campaign's launch, Melville House had mailed out books to every member of the Senate and started working its way through the House of Representatives. Political shade is the best shade, y'all.

The book is an effort to lay out, in a straightforward way, both what an impeachable offense actually is and what the process to remove someone from office is. While it was written for, well, everyone, once it was done, author Radnofsky couldn't help but think of a specific group that would really appreciate it.



Radnofsky, a Texas-based lawyer who in 2006 was the state's first female Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate, tells me in an interview with Elite Daily that she thought Congress could use a few copies. "I was trying to figure out based on comments and statements, which Congresspeople were very sophisticated in their understanding of impeachment," she says, "and which Congresspeople [weren't]." When she brought up the idea of sending a few copies to the Capitol, D.C.'s shadiest new book club was born.

### **RADNOFSKY SAYS THAT SHE SEES A LOT OF MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT WHAT IMPEACHMENT REALLY IS.**

"I've seen generalized comments such as, 'that's not treason so we won't be able to prove impeachment,'" she says by phone. And while she notes she can't say for sure whether



“I would think so, based on my experience with real people. Real people, very intelligent, well educated people,” she says, citing lawyers and those who have studied to become citizens. “Maybe they don't.”

The most common misconception Radnofsky sees? That an impeachable offense is only the high-level stuff, like bribery or treason. In fact, the only *real* requirement is that an officer of the government, intentionally or not, is causing harm to society. “The whole purpose of impeachment is to remove the officer from office because he's causing, or poses, great harm potential to the country,” she says.

Some possible grounds? Negligence, incompetence, and incapacity, as well as the more exciting options of treason or bribery.

President Trump's recent actions entirely aside, the book is well-timed.

Dozens of Democratic members of Congress have [openly discussed the question of impeachment](#), with some explicitly calling to remove Trump from office. For example, in mid-August, after Trump's disastrous response to a violent white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, Wisconsin Rep. Gwen Moore [posted a statement to Twitter](#) with the hashtag #Impeach45. On Sept. 26, Rep. Al Green of Texas [threatened to force a vote](#) in the House on impeaching the president and announced he would file an impeachment resolution the following week. And that's not to mention internet darling Maxine Waters, who has been pretty darn clear about what she thinks of the president.





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.@MaxineWaters will not back down on Donald Trump:

♡ 243 3:01 PM - Aug 25, 2017

💬 186 people are talking about this



While at the time of the interview, Radnofsky hadn't had any response from members of Congress, she was hopeful that her book would be received well. "I'm hoping that on a bipartisan level, Congress will look at the facts of the situation we have, and start getting ready to take seriously not just the pending efforts on impeachment," she says. "[That they] will begin thinking of how they should draft, how this should be pled, what evidence should be marshaled of harm, and whether it meets the test of history."

And though the book itself is (hopefully) message enough, if she had to send a note along with it?

"I'd say, if you don't have time to read all 88 pages, just read pages 27-30 [on grounds for impeachment,]" she says. "I'm not sending any message, I think that's a little bit presumptuous. But if I did send a message, it would be, if you don't have time, just read 27-30. Because it'll give you lots of examples."

*Editor's Note: An earlier version of this article stated that the publisher would be sending additional copies to members of Congress. However, readers will actually be given the chance to purchase copies for members of Congress, which would then be sent by the publisher. Elite Daily regrets the error.*





## Donald Trump's Tweets About Impeachment Say He's Too Successful For It To Happen

BY [CHELSEA STEWART](#) | 3 WEEKS AGO |

It's happened: Democrats officially have control of the House, which means they finally have the power to start impeachment proceedings against President Trump. Obviously, this is a subject that everyone is talking about, perhaps more than ever, and it looks like those conversations might have the president a little rattled. He weighed in on the matter on Jan. 4 with a lengthy message shared to Twitter, and to summarize: [Donald Trump's](#)



Going on the defense, Trump touted his accomplishments and ratings, claiming he is “the most popular Republican in party history.” (The *Washington Post* notes that per Gallup, Trump's [approval rating among Republicans](#) is lower than George W. Bush's was in 2002.) He also added that he hasn't done anything worthy of impeachment – not even in the [Russia investigation](#) or myriad [alleged sex scandals](#), which he has denied. (More on both of those later). The tweet read:

How do you impeach a president who has won perhaps the greatest election of all time, done nothing wrong (no Collusion with Russia, it was the Dems that Colluded), had the most successful first two years of any president, and is the most popular Republican in party history 93%?

Elite Daily reached out to the White House for further comment on his tweet, but did not hear back by the time of publication.

Is it me, or does someone here sound a bit worried? Sure, he could just be defending himself amid talks about presidential impeachment. But the timing of his comments seem a bit... on the nose.



3). He reportedly [viewed impeachment as a "real possibility"](#) once they reclaimed control. Elite Daily reached out to the White House for further comment on the report, but did not immediately receive a reply.

This came in the wake of a [Dec. 7 filing from prosecutors](#) in the Southern District of New York, stemming from an investigation into Trump's former longtime lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen. The filing alleged that, in 2016, Trump directed his then-lawyer Michael Cohen to make illegal payments to two women who claimed they'd had affairs with him to influence the presidential election. ([Trump has denied the affair claims](#), but [admitted to reimbursing Cohen](#) for the payment.) The president, reportedly [referred to in court filings as "Individual 1,"](#) has garnered some side-eye over a [plan to build a Trump Tower in Moscow](#) which, according to Cohen, continued after Trump secured the Republican nomination. Though the real estate deal was not illegal, it may provide evidence that Trump had interests in Russia while running for the White House. The White House did not reply to Elite Daily's request for comment regarding the plea deal including Cohen's claims.





Trump's tweet also comes after a newly-elected member of Congress, Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, made headlines after she was sworn in on Jan. 3 for telling supporters that **Democrats would impeach** the president. "We're going to go in there and impeach the motherf\*\*\*er," she reportedly said at an event hosted by progressive group MoveOn, according to CNN. The comment was **criticized by a number of fellow Democrats**, who took issue with both Tlaib's language and the "premature" discussion of impeachment. Elite Daily reached out to the White House and attempted to reach representatives of Tlaib for comment, but did not immediately hear back. However, the same day, two other House Democrats, Brad Sherman of California and Al Green of Texas, **reintroduced articles of impeachment** against Trump, per the BBC. Tlaib, for her part, **tweeted on Friday Jan. 4** that she would "always speak truth to power."

It remains to be seen whether Congress will pursue impeachment, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told *USA Today* that **she doesn't intend to seek it unless it's "clearly bipartisan."** While it may seem like an impossibility, she also said that Trump can expect a "different world" now that Democrats have the House, announcing plans to confront him on various fronts. So that's at least something — for now.