

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 241

Impeaching John James McConnell Jr., Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2025

Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. CRANE, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MILLS, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, and Mr. BURLISON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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# RESOLUTION

Impeaching John James McConnell Jr., Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

1       *Resolved*, That John James McConnell Jr., Chief  
2 Judge of the United States District Court for the District  
3 of Rhode Island, is impeached for high crimes and mis-  
4 demeanors and that the following articles of impeachment  
5 be exhibited to the United States Senate:

6       Articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of  
7 Representatives of the United States of America in the  
8 name of itself and of the people of the United States of

1 America, against John James McConnell Jr., Chief Judge  
2 of the United States District Court for the District of  
3 Rhode Island, in maintenance and support of its impeach-  
4 ment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

5 ARTICLE I: ABUSE OF POWER

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7 Rather than adhering to the oath he took to uphold  
8 the Constitution when he was sworn as Chief Judge of  
9 the District Court of Rhode Island, Chief Judge John  
10 James McConnell Jr. knowingly politicized and  
11 weaponized his judicial position to advance his own polit-  
12 ical views and beliefs.

13 The Constitution provides that the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives “shall have the sole Power of Impeachment”  
15 and that “civil Officers of the United States”, including  
16 Federal judges, are subject to impeachment and removal.

17 The separation of powers under the Constitution  
18 grants the President broad authority over the Executive  
19 Branch, including direct control and access to depart-  
20 ments, as part of his role in ensuring the faithful adminis-  
21 tration of the laws and policies of the United States.

22 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. engaged in  
23 actions that prioritized his own political views and beliefs  
24 over his duty of impartiality owed and deserved to litigants  
25 and the public in his handling of State of New York et

1 al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al., No. 1:25-cv-39 (JJM)  
2 (PAS) (D.R.I.).

3 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. has spent his  
4 entire professional career displaying his political views and  
5 beliefs in his financial contributions as well as public com-  
6 ments. The Code of Conduct for United States Judges  
7 states under Canon 5 that “A Judge Should Refrain from  
8 Political Activity.”.

9 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. served as the  
10 director of the Rhode Island branch of Planned Parent-  
11 hood, and Chief Judge John McConnell Jr. and his wife  
12 contributed almost \$700,000 in political donations to  
13 Democratic committees, causes, and campaigns.

14 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. has allowed  
15 his personal, political opinions to influence his decisions  
16 and rulings. Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. has  
17 made an array of public comments clearly demonstrating  
18 a bias that would warp his decision in State of New York  
19 et al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al., No. 1:25-cv-39 (JJM)  
20 (PAS) (D.R.I.).

21 In January 2021, Chief Judge John James McCon-  
22 nell Jr. made public comments stating, “we fall back on  
23 kind of a stereotypical comment that judges should have  
24 no opinions and what not. And that’s just not true.”.

1 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. made public  
2 comments in January 2021, that equated President Don-  
3 ald J. Trump’s first term as President to the Civil War  
4 and Jim Crow laws, and likened him to a tyrant.

5 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. made public  
6 comments in January 2021, that when sentencing, the  
7 “law applies to them where they are” for criminals who  
8 are “women, black, or transgender.”.

9 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. made public  
10 comments in January 2021, stating, “When you’re sen-  
11 tencing someone that you have to take a moment and real-  
12 ize that this you know middle class, white, male privileged  
13 person needs to understand the human being who comes  
14 before us that may be a woman or may be black maybe  
15 be transgender maybe poor maybe rich maybe whatever  
16 may had experiences but not yours and may have to walk  
17 in their shoes and understand that the law applies to them  
18 where they are um and then you have to apply the law  
19 accordingly.”.

20 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. made public  
21 comments in January 2021, stating, “we have formed a  
22 committee to look at race in our court, have we given dis-  
23 parate sentences between blacks and whites about hiring  
24 practices.”.

1 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr.'s financial  
2 contributions and overt public comments clearly dem-  
3 onstrate a political bias that would impair his ability to  
4 make a fair judgement regarding President Trump and  
5 his Administration's actions.

6 Wherefore, Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr.  
7 is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and should be  
8 removed from office.

9 ARTICLE II: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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11 While serving as a Chief Judge for the United States  
12 District Court of Rhode Island, John James McConnell  
13 Jr. had a major conflict of interest that prevented him  
14 from being impartial in the matter of State of New York  
15 et al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al., No. 1:25-cv-39 (JJM)  
16 (PAS) (D.R.I.).

17 There is substantial evidence that Chief Judge John  
18 James McConnell Jr. serves on the Board of Directors for  
19 the non-profit organization, Crossroads Rhode Island, and  
20 previously served as the Chair of the Board from 2011  
21 to 2021.

22 According to Crossroads Rhode Island's tax filings,  
23 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. has appeared  
24 every year as a director of the organization since he took  
25 the Federal bench.

1       According to Crossroads Rhode Island’s tax filings  
2 for 2023, its total revenue was \$30,664,778, of which  
3 \$18,616,874 came from an array of government entities  
4 including the Government of Rhode Island.

5       In fiscal year 2025, Crossroads Rhode Island has al-  
6 ready received \$2,897,630.41 in funds from the State gov-  
7 ernment of Rhode Island.

8       The State Government of Rhode Island is a named  
9 plaintiff in the lawsuit against President Donald J. Trump  
10 and his Administration over which Chief Judge John  
11 James McConnell Jr. presided.

12       Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. stated that  
13 “All the States rely on federal funds to provide and main-  
14 tain vital programs and services. . . .” Mem. Op. at 7,  
15 State of New York et al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al., No.  
16 1:25–cv–39 (JJM) (PAS) (D.R.I. Jan. 31, 2025) (ECF  
17 No. 50).

18       There is a clear conflict of interest given that Chief  
19 Judge John James McConnell Jr. presided over and made  
20 a decision regarding a case which significantly impacts the  
21 funding of an organization in which he serves as a director  
22 of and as a fiduciary.

23       The Code of Conduct for United States Judges states  
24 under Canon 2A that “A judge must avoid all impropriety  
25 and appearance of impropriety. This prohibition applies

1 to both professional and personal conduct. A judge must  
2 expect to be the subject of constant public scrutiny and  
3 accept freely and willingly restrictions that might be  
4 viewed as burdensome by the ordinary citizen.”.

5 Section 455 of title 28, United States Code, requires  
6 that “Any justice, judge, or magistrate judge of the  
7 United States shall disqualify himself in any proceeding  
8 in which his impartiality might reasonably be ques-  
9 tioned.”.

10 Moreover, section 455 of title 28, United States Code,  
11 requires that judges must disqualify themselves from a  
12 proceeding when “He knows that he, individually or as  
13 a fiduciary, or his spouse or minor child residing in his  
14 household, has a financial interest in the subject matter  
15 in controversy or in a party to the proceeding, or any other  
16 interest that could be substantially affected by the out-  
17 come of the proceeding”.

18 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. had a signifi-  
19 cant conflict of interest in presiding over State of New  
20 York et al. v. Donald J. Trump, et al., No. 1:25-cv-39  
21 (JJM) (PAS) (D.R.I.) due to his simultaneous role as a  
22 director of Crossroads Rhode Island. This conflict of inter-  
23 est made it impossible for him to be impartial in this pro-  
24 ceeding.

1 Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr. should have  
2 immediately recused himself from presiding over this pro-  
3 ceeding, but instead continued to oversee it knowing he  
4 was violating the duty of impartiality owed under Federal  
5 law.

6 Wherefore, Chief Judge John James McConnell Jr.  
7 is guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors and should be  
8 removed from office.

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