**“Glen’s Parallax Perspectives”** is a series of TV programs offering fresh ways for people to see issues such as foreign policy, social and economic justice, governmental functioning, the environment, and so forth. We provide voices and viewpoints that are rarely heard in mainstream media.

**Mainstream media, politicians, and culture see the world in conventional ways. Therefore, in order to solve problems, we need to see things in fresh ways.** Glen Anderson created this TV series to help people see things differently so we can solve problems at all levels from the local to the global.

This series title refers to “***parallax***“ – the view you get by looking from a different perspective. For example, put one finger in front of your nose and another finger farther away. Close one eye. Then open that eye and close the other. Your fingers will seem to move. This is called a “parallax” view. **This TV series invites you to look at issues from fresh perspectives.**

Each program airs three times a week (currently every Monday at 1:30 pm, every Wednesday at 5:00 pm, and every Thursday at 9:00 pm) for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for cable TV subscribers in Thurston County, Washington. TCTV is part of Thurston County Media. You can see their schedule at [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)

**You can also watch the program described below through your computer** at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org). All episodes of “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” are posted on this blog’s “TV Programs” part and also in one or more of the categories listed in the right side of the computer screen. Also, see much information at the issue category headings at [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

🡪 Please invite other people to watch this video and/or read this thorough summary at the “TV Programs” part of [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

🡪 In addition to summarizing what we said during this article, this article also includes some ideas we did not have time to mention or discuss. Explicit notes identify those as such.

**Here is the September 2019 program:**

**“Impeach Trump   
to Protect the Constitution and the Rule of Law”**

by Glen Anderson, the TV series’ producer and host  
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**Glen introduced the viewers to this interview:**

He said that in 1787 when the Constitutional Convention had just ended and Benjamin Franklin was leaving Independence Hall, a woman on the street asked him what kind of government they had created. Franklin replied, “A Republic, if you can keep it.”

This month’s interview on “Glen’s Parallax Perspectives” builds a solid case for protecting our constitutional democracy by activating the part of the Constitution that our founders created in order to correct the kind of crisis our nation is experiencing now.

Two knowledgeable guests discuss what impeachment means, how it works, the compelling reasons for impeaching Trump immediately, and what the American people can do now – instead of waiting for the November 2020 election.

Our nation’s founders wanted to protect us from tyranny, so they created a Constitution with checks and balances to prevent any branch of government from getting too much power. The Constitution also includes impeachment as part of the checks and balances, so we can protect ourselves from an abusive president tyrant who acts like he is above the law.

Two guests – Bonnie Jones and Steve Rubicz – share information and insights with us. Bonnie and Steve know a lot about the issues, and both are active with Puget Sound Communities for Impeachment.

We have more information than we could squeeze into this one-hour interview, so **I encourage people to read and share the document you are reading now**. It thoroughly summarizes what we said during the TV interview and includes much additional information (and links to additional information) that we did not have time to mention during the one-hour interview. This document and the TV interview video are posted to the “TV Programs” and the “Trump and Trumpism” parts of my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org).

We conducted this interview on August 8, 2019, so because the news keeps changing, things might have changed by the time you watch this interview or read this thorough summary on my blog.

**We explained what impeachment is – and why the Constitution’s framers created it to protect the Constitution – and how the impeachment process works:**

Glen said most people probably have heard of impeachment, but many people probably do not understand what impeachment is or why our nation’s founders insisted on writing it into the Constitution.

Steve explained that impeachment is a way to protect the Constitution and the nation. He said it is a way for Congress to remove from office a President between elections if that becomes necessary.

Steve said the process begins in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Constitution specifies that the House is the only governmental body that can begin to impeach a President if the House decides that is necessary. The House conducts a thorough investigation that includes interviewing people and develops the formal charges, which are called “articles of impeachment.” The Constitution specifies that the U.S. Senate is the only governmental body responsible for conducting the trial based on those articles of impeachment.

Bonnie added that the Constitution mentions impeachment eight times. She said two clauses are basic, two clauses mention the impeachment process, two clauses identify “emoluments” (which we discussed later) as impeachable offenses, and two other relevant clauses are mentioned in the constitutional amendments.

She said the Constitution requires each new President to take this explicit oath of office during the inauguration ceremony: “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

She said the Constitution’s Article II contains the basic impeachment clause, which says that the president “shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.”

Glen summarized what Steve and Bonnie had said and added a bit more. The House begins the process by conducting an investigation and developing charges like a prosecutor would do for a trial in court, so the House develops the charges into articles of impeachment. The Senate conducts the trial concerning those articles of impeachment, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court presides over the impeachment trial. Steve said the House actually presents the case to the Senate as if they were prosecutors (the term is “managers”) for a court.

Steve said the House Judiciary Committee is the likeliest body to conduct the investigation. A majority of House members (currently at least 218 of the 435 House members) need to move the case into the Senate.

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

When our nation’s founders developed the Constitution, they created the impeachment process because they were deeply concerned about preventing tyranny. They knew that we might sometime have a President who would refuse to enforce laws – or who would disobey laws. The framers gave to Congress the oversight power to protect our nation from that by having a process for impeaching an abusive President.

When the Senate conducts the trial, the President’s legal defense team argues for the defense. The Constitution requires a 2/3 majority of senators to remove the president.

We taped this TV interview on August 8, 2019. As of that date, 116 House members had publicly called for impeaching Trump. The House Judiciary Committee (chaired by Representative Gerald Nadler) was proceeding with an impeachment “inquiry,” but in early August 2019 he clarified that the Judiciary Committee’s “inquiry” really was working toward articles of impeachment.

**We clarified what impeachment is NOT:**

Glen said that in addition to explaining what impeachment **IS**, we also should clarify what it is **NOT**. For example, it’s **not** a partisan gimmick such as the Republicans used against Bill Clinton. Also, there need to be actual, explicit charges, so you **can’t** impeach somebody just because you don’t like him or you think he’s a jerk. We need to respect the legitimate role and function of impeachment, which is grounded in the Constitution.

Bonnie said she likes a quotation by John Bonifaz, a constitutional scholar who is vigorously organizing to impeach Trump, especially through the non-profit organization “Free Speech for People.” Mr. Bonifaz said that impeachment is not about punishing crime, but it is about preventing tyranny. Bonnie said this distinction is important.

Glen agreed that we must protect the Constitution and honest government and the separation of powers. Steve added that the President was responsible for administering and enforcing laws, but what if he does not want to obey the laws? This is what impeachment was designed to prevent.

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

The public clearly saw that Congress’s Republicans were just playing partisan politics when they impeached Bill Clinton over a trivial matter. The effort to impeach George W. Bush and Dick Cheney was altogether different, because they really did commit impeachable offenses. Trump’s impeachable offenses are much more horrible than those of Bush and Cheney.

After the Civil War ended and Abraham Lincoln’s Vice President Andrew Johnson became President, Johnston tried to roll back the Reconstruction, so Congress impeached him in 1868, and he remained President because the Senate was only one vote short of removing him from office.

**Before discussing Trump’s impeachable offenses, we explained the Constitution’s concept of “high crimes and misdemeanors”:**

Bonnie said that impeachment is not limited to criminal indictments for the kinds of crimes that would be prosecuted in a regular criminal court. She said the Constitution calls for impeaching a president who has committed “high crimes and misdemeanors” – a broader concept. These “high crimes and misdemeanors” could be constitutional violations or anything that the Congress determines is dangerous to the republic, such as “obstruction of justice.” Also, the Constitution does explicitly specify “emoluments” as examples of impeachable offenses, but generally the Constitution was written broadly enough so “high crimes and misdemeanors” can mean many other kinds of things too.

Glen added that the Constitution’s words “high crimes and misdemeanors” were written to be deliberately vague so impeachment would be widely applicable to a variety of situations when needed.

He said there is a principle in legal interpretation that if a law names a few specific things that are illegal, anything beyond that specified list is not prohibited by that law. So the wording “high crimes and misdemeanors” – without listing examples – clearly was chosen in order for impeachment to be used flexibly when needed.

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

Constitutional expert John Bonifaz asked U.S. Representative Gerald Nadler (Chair of the House Judiciary Committee) to look at the information that is already easily available. The article at this link also explains why it is important to proceed with impeachment: [**https://freespeechforpeople.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Letter-to-Nadler-073019-1.pdf**](https://freespeechforpeople.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Letter-to-Nadler-073019-1.pdf)

Trump has committed a huge number and variety of impeachable offenses. Robert Mueller’s investigation was given only a very, very narrow scope of topics (basically, just the Trump campaign’s welcoming of Russian interference in the election), and Mueller’s investigation was constrained from issuing indictments against a sitting president. Trump’s impeachable offenses and outright crimes go far beyond what Mueller’s March 24, 2019, report was able to say.

**Trump’s impeachable offenses include kidnapping children and imprisoning people in concentration camps without due process:**

Glen said that most Americans – and many people around the world – are horrified that Trump has targeted the Latino ethnic group, kidnapped thousands of Latino children who wanted to come to the U.S. as immigrants or as refugees, separated these vulnerable children from their families, and imprisoned children and adults in concentration camps without any due process.

Steve said this is definitely several kinds of impeachable offenses. The U.S. has laws that allow people who are seeking asylum to come to the U.S. Trump has been violating that law. Trump is also targeting certain U.S. citizens, so he is refusing to administer laws equally to all people in the U.S. This too is an impeachable offense. When Congress tries to find out what Trump is doing, Trump interferes with Congress’s constitutional right to do that. He is obstructing Congress’s efforts in several ways. This violates the Constitution’s separation of powers, and it obstructs justice.

Glen said his research showed that in June 2018 a federal judge had ordered Trump to stop separating migrant children from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico, but Trump has separated 900 more children since the federal judge had ordered Trump to stop. Trump deliberately and cruelly violated the federal judge’s order.

Steve said that Trump’s behavior against the judicial branch of government violates the Constitution’s separation of powers. This is an impeachable offense.

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

Trump has been violating these victims’ 5th Amendment right to due process. Trump has been violating their 8th Amendment right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment. Trump also has been violating international treaties about fairness for refugees and people seeking asylum. All of these are impeachable offenses.

Some of Trump’s rhetoric and behaviors remind us of Nazi Germany. Although Trump is not killing the people he put into concentration camps, he is doing something that happened there. Trump is targeting a different ethnic group (Latinos instead of Jews) for his concentration camps. One of Hitler’s high-ranking officials was Dr. Mengele, who separated Jewish family members when they arrived at a Nazi concentration camp. He sent some family members to suffer in the camp and sent others to die in the ovens. Trump is separating family members too, but instead of sending some to be killed he is sending them to different detention centers. The Trump administration has lost track of many of them, so many families will never be able to be reunited. The world must denounce Trump’s behavior as a “crime against humanity.”

**Trump’s impeachable offenses include the financial corruption that the Constitution calls “emoluments”:**

The Constitution explicitly specifies “emoluments” as an impeachable offense – both foreign and domestic “emoluments.” Bonnie explained that the word ***emoluments*** is not used much nowadays, but it was used often in the era when the Constitution was written. She said the Constitution prohibits a president from receiving payments or financial benefits (other than salary) from serving as president. Bonnie had explained the term in a document she wrote recently:

There are 2 clauses about emoluments, which are any kind of salary, fee, or profit from holding office. The president is prohibited from receiving any profit, income, or personal financial benefit as the result of being president. This is important in order to keep the office of the president free from compromise, conflict of interest, or corruption that could endanger the country.

Article I contains the foreign emoluments clause. “No title of nobility shall be granted by The United States”; and, without the consent of Congress, the president cannot accept “any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.”

Article II contains the domestic emoluments clause. The president shall receive a compensation for his services, which won’t be increased or diminished during his period of office. Beyond that, he shall not receive “any other emolument from the United States,” or from any of the states.

She explained that Trump has refused to separate himself from his business interests. Other presidents have done that in order to avoid conflicts of interests or emoluments. The arrangements Trump has made are **not** “blind trusts,” so he is still intimately connected with his business interests. He receives foreign emoluments when officials from foreign governments or foreign businesses stay in his hotels. He receives domestic emoluments when American business people and lobbyists stay in his hotels.

Glen added that rich, powerful people know they can gain personal access to Trump by paying to stay at his hotels or his Mar a Lago resort in Florida. This is how to manipulate the U.S. government to get special favors for your nation or your business. You have to pay Trump to get access to him. This is blatant corruption – “emoluments” – impeachable offenses.

Bonnie said Trump accepts various kinds of subsidies and tax benefits. Steve added that the taxpayers are paying for Trump’s security services in Trump Tower and at Mar a Lago. Every time Trump goes to one place or the other, the taxpayers pay him a lot of money to provide housing and meals for his huge entourage. Steve added that the only financial support he should receive is his salary. Glen added that the more times Trump goes to Florida to play golf, the more money (emoluments) he receives from providing rooms and meals for his Secret Service security staff and his entourage.

Bonnie added that Trump has business interests in other countries and receives emoluments from them too. Glen added that he had heard about Trump’s corrupt manipulation of federal policy in order to serve his own business dealings. He said that if he remembered correctly, a federal rule protected the U.S.’s citrus fruit growers by preventing importing citrus fruits grown in other nations. But Trump wanted to solicit an Argentine billionaire for making business deals with him, so Trump exempted only Argentina from the U.S. rule because that billionaire wanted to export citrus fruits from his plantations to the U.S., and Trump misused his presidential power in order to advance his own personal business with that Argentine billionaire. Trump is running the U.S. government as a front to enrich himself from foreign and domestic business dealings.

Bonnie wrote a well-informed document about impeachment. It includes these two paragraphs:

“From day one of his presidency, Trump has been in violation of both of the Emoluments clauses of the Constitution. Trump campaigned as a businessman, and he has never adequately separated himself from his private business interests, both foreign and domestic, while serving as president. He continues to own companies that do extensive business with foreign governments, state and local governments, and corporate lobbies.

“Just a few of many examples of the illegal emoluments he receives are: foreign payments to his hotels, credit from foreign state-owned banks, personal profits from domestic government travel, actions of the executive branch to promote his businesses, and subsidies, tax breaks, and other government payments to his businesses.”

**Trump’s impeachable offenses include other kinds of extreme corruption:**

Glen said Trump had campaigned that if he were President he would “drain the swamp.” Instead, he has made the federal government swampier than ever. Trump’s administration is widely seen as the most corrupt in U.S. history –the most blatantly, extremely and shamelessly corrupt.

Steve said the Constitution would consider Trump’s pervasive corruption to be an impeachable offense. For example, Trump has corrupted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is not enforcing laws to protect the environment. He has appointed grossly inappropriate people to run the EPA and other federal agencies and serve on federal boards and commissions. Those people are not qualified to serve in their roles, and many have extremely serious conflicts of interest. Some of Trump’s appointees promptly did things that caused legal problems for themselves.

Glen said that for the long period of time when Robert Mueller was conducting his investigation about Trump’s collaboration with Russia to distort the 2016 presidential election, some people were saying we should not impeach Trump yet because we should wait for the Mueller report to eventually come out. Glen said the scope of Mueller’s investigation was very, very narrow – just a few percent of Trump’s impeachable offenses – so there was no legitimate reason to avoid proceeding with impeachment before that report eventually came out (sort of) in late March 2019. Glen said people who wanted to wait for the report were really just trying to avoid grappling with the problems that the three of us here are discussing. All of the other blatant corruption and blatantly impeachable offenses were already known, but they were being ignored.

Steve said one reason why Trump’s impeachable offenses were being ignored was that the Republicans had a majority in the House of Representatives until the November 2018 election brought the Democrats into a majority starting in January 2019. Steve said the Republicans should have “honored their duty as House members,” but they did not provide the oversight function that they should have done. They wanted to support Trump and pass Republicans’ laws.

Bonnie said the impeachment movement has been frustrated that the progress has been so slow, but she said anxiety has been a big factor – “anxiety in facing the seriousness of the situation” and also “anxiety in facing the necessity of doing something as difficult and big as impeachment.”

She said emoluments were the first grounds for impeachment – ever since Trump’s first day in office – but people kept waiting for the Mueller report (and she agreed with Glen that the report was not necessary for starting to impeach), and then people kept waiting for Mueller’s 7-hour testimony to Congress. She said that when Mueller finally spoke to Congress, this really galvanized public opinion and galvanized many Congressional Democrats’ intentions to call for impeaching Trump.

Glen said Mueller’s investigation and report established the fact that Trump had indeed obstructed justice. Trump has been obstructing justice in many ways, not limited to those laid out in Mueller’s report. Trump had repeatedly tried to shut down the Mueller investigation – and that is another obstruction of justice that cries out for impeachment. Trump has been preventing his appointees from testifying to Congressional hearings, refusing to submit documents that Congress has demanded, and so forth.

Steve said another impeachable offense is promising to pardon his attorneys and appointees (Paul Manafort, Michael Cohen, and others) if they were convicted of crimes Trump had ordered them to commit on his behalf. On August 25, 2017, Trump actually did pardon Joe Arpaio, the notoriously cruel and racist sheriff from Arizona who had been convicted of criminal contempt of court because Arpaio persisted in disobeying a federal judge’s order to stop racially profiling Latino people while he was sheriff.

Bonnie said the Arpaio case was Trump’s first abuse of the pardon power, and Glen said Trump has abused it several times since then that showed blatant contempt for human rights and the law.

Bonnie pointed out that the Mueller report laid out ten actual cases of obstruction of justice. (See the document linked on page 15 of the document you are reading now.) She said this is one of the Mueller report’s most important conclusions.

Glen said that the scope of the assignment for Mueller to investigate was a very, very narrow scope that prevented him from looking at Trump’s many other impeachable offenses. Also, Mueller was given very limited authority. “But the stuff is in the report, and everybody pretends that it’s not there.”

Steve stated that Trump’s Justice Department has a policy that a sitting president cannot be indicted for any federal offense. [NOTE: Earlier in this interview Bonnie had distinguished impeachable offenses as more broad than specific criminal offenses. Some people are talking about indicting Trump for certain crimes after he leaves office.]

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

Besides appointing people who are incompetent to serve in their powerful positions in federal agencies, boards and commissions, Trump also has appointed some people who have histories of horrible antagonism to those agencies (*e.g*., people who had sued those agencies to prevent them from protecting the public from big businesses’ abuses, and people who had vigorously urged for the agencies to be abolished).

Trump’s failure to fill vacant governmental positions – and his attempts to weaken federal agencies – comes not only from his corruption and his incompetence but also from Republican dogma that goes back to Reagan (1980) and Goldwater (1964). Many Republicans have been hostile to allowing government to help people, protect the environment, and perform other useful functions. Grover Norquist famously said he wants to shrink government so small that they could “drown it in a bathtub.”

Rather than appoint competent people, Trump’s narcissism and psychological insecurity have caused his top criterion is to appoint people who are absolutely loyal to him.

Trump’s corruption is so extreme that it really is an impeachable offense. This article explains it: [**https://prospect.org/article/democrats-must-reframe-2020-around-trumps-corruption**](https://prospect.org/article/democrats-must-reframe-2020-around-trumps-corruption)

**This article’s first paragraph says:**

The path to defeating Donald Trump next November, in my opinion, does not lie in foreboding warnings of an imminent economic washout. It lies in connecting the corruption at the heart of the family occupying the White House to the broader economy, and showing how this rigged system confines the spoils of growth to those wealthy and connected enough to get in line for the payoff, while everyone else treads water.

**Soon after that, another paragraph says:**

The Trump Organization has made its money through penny-ante scams: a [**fake university**](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jun/02/donald-trump-university-lawsuit-new-york-attorney-general-fraud) that ripped off students, a [**tax fraud**](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/10/02/us/politics/donald-trump-tax-schemes-fred-trump.html) family patriarch Fred Trump used to stake his kids while boosting rents on tenants, a [**multilevel marketing schem**e](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-07-24/trump-must-face-suit-over-alleged-multilevel-marketing-fraud) that fleeced aspiring real-estate wheeler-dealers. Trump’s signature interaction with the working class prior to becoming president involved [**stiffing contractors**](https://www.cnn.com/2016/06/10/politics/donald-trump-unpaid-bills-reports/index.html) for work done on his hotels and resorts.

Trump’s personal corruption only continued in office: Trump has made [**mutually beneficial**](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/20/business/dealbook/saudi-arabia-to-invest-20-billion-in-infrastructure-mostly-in-us.html?module=inline)[**deals**](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/under-trump-arms-deal-high-tech-u-s-bombs-be-n1015346) with Saudi Arabia while [**vetoing bipartisan attempts**](https://www.npr.org/2019/07/25/745200244/trump-vetoes-bills-intended-to-block-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia) to stop them. The approval of the appalling Sprint/T-Mobile merger could have something to do with T-Mobile executives spending lots of time staying in [**Trump-branded hotel**s](https://www.vox.com/2019/3/5/18251675/t-mobile-trump-international-hotel-merger-spending). Trump’s campaign rents [**high-priced Trump Tower office space**](https://www.yahoo.com/news/gop-donors-paying-top-dollar-191802423.html), transferring donations directly to Trump’s pockets.

Likewise, we did not have time for Bonnie to say what she had written in her well-researched article:

“Trying to prosecute political opponents. Trump has repeatedly directed or attempted to direct law enforcement agencies, including the Dept. of Justice and FBI, to prosecute his political adversaries for improper purposes not justified by his office.

“Advocating illegal violence. Trump publicly gives aid and comfort to white supremacists and neo-Nazis, undermining equal protection under the law.”

While we were preparing for this interview Steve provided more information about an impeachable offense that he mentioned only briefly during our interview. Steve said Trump misused his campaign funds in ways that violated campaign finance law. Trump had had affairs with women and ordered his attorney Michael Cohen to use campaign funds to pay them off so they would be quiet. This happened while news came out of his recorded admission about grabbing women’s private parts. Michael Cohen was convicted and sent to prison for 3 years. He testified that Trump had ordered him to do that and lie about it.

**Trump’s impeachable offenses include obstruction of justice:**

The section above addresses some of the ways in which Trump has obstructed justice. Obstruction of justice is a federal crime that many millions of people have identified as an impeachable offense.

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

A legitimate investigation into a president’s behavior has the right to proceed, but in several ways Trump tried to obstruct and interfere with the Mueller investigation. For example, he ordered White House Counsel McGahn to interfere.

Trump forced his Attorney General Jeff Sessions to resign because Sessions refused to do enough to interfere with the Mueller investigation, which was under the direction of the Department of Justice (and hence the Attorney General).

Trump replaced Sessions with a different Attorney General, William Barr. Barr has a long history of covering up the crimes of crooked Republicans, and he continued this career for Trump. Barr prevented the public, the media, and even the Congress from reading the actual Mueller report. The report was more than 300 pages long, but Barr cherry-picked only a few things that did not criticize Trump much and released a very brief “redacted” report that turned out to be grossly inaccurate – radically different from the actual report. Barr and Trump deceived the media for a long time before the truth came out, and Trump claimed he was totally exonerated. The actual report said he was not, and when Mueller finally spoke to Congress he said Trump was not exonerated.

Specifically regarding Trump’s many efforts to stop or interfere with Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election – including firing James Comey, the head of the FBI – Trump told America it’s OK for a president to obstruct justice.

At a larger scale, Trump has obstructed justice by “privatizing” the roles of high-level governmental officials to serve Trump’s personal interests instead of truth or justice or the well-being of the nation. By directing the attorney general, the Justice Department, the FBI and the secretary of the Treasury to act in Trump’s own personal interest rather than in the interests of the American people, Trump is saying that presidents can run government for their own private benefit.

William Barr is not an ethical, impartial Attorney General. He is part of Trump’s radical power grab and violations of federal law and violations of the Constitution. This means that when Trump puts his personal interests above the law and above the Constitution, our nation’s Attorney General and his Department of Justice will not hold Trump accountable. This means our only path to accountability is to impeach Trump immediately.

Do not wait for the 2020 election (which Republicans are trying to steal in various ways – and which Trump said he might not obey if he loses). The Constitution’s framers recognized the need to keep the President accountable to the rule of law and the Constitution. The framers wanted to protect our nation from tyranny, so they created impeachment as an important check-and-balance in the Constitution.

**Trump’s impeachable offenses include VIOLATING THE CONSTITUTION’S separation of powers and ACTING LIKE A dictator over Congress:**

We had already touched on the separation of powers during this interview, and now we explored it further. Glen said our nation’s founders had experienced tyranny in European governments, so when they devised our Constitution, they carefully designed our nation’s government to separate its powers into three distinct – and co-equal – branches: an executive branch, a legislative branch, and a judicial branch. They carefully designed the Constitution to specify each branch’s different powers – and also to create checks and balances so each branch could restrain the other branches from abusing their powers.

Now we discussed how Trump has trampled over the Constitution’s separation of powers – and especially acted like a dictator over Congress. Steve said that Trump unconstitutionally shut down the government down for 35 days [December 22, 2018, to January 25, 2019]. Steve and Glen explained that Trump did this in order to bully Congress into providing money for his wall on the Mexican border. During that 35-day period, Trump unconstitutionally refused to administer the government or enforce the laws that Congress has passed, while he was trying to overrule Congress’s constitutional authority to decide how to spend money. Glen said “this was a blatant violation of the separation of powers. It’s unconstitutional.” Bonnie added, “It’s tyranny.”

Steve said, “We have an impeachment investigation happening now, and so far Trump has been refusing … to have any of his people answer the subpoenas” that the House has been issuing. He said, “the House has now started an impeachment process in order to give them higher judicial standing to demand that the subpoenas be enforced.”

Glen added another of Trump’s abuses related to the wall. He said that although Congress has the constitutional authority to decide how to spend money, Trump has taken soldiers away from the jobs Congress had funded them to do and reassigned them to build his wall at the border. Trump has hijacked employees from that federal agency and used them for a different purpose that Congress had decided not to fund. This is another of Trump’s abuses of the constitutionally required separation of powers.

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

When Trump issued a blanket refusal to respond to any congressional subpoena, he was clearly denying Congress’s constitutional authority to oversee the executive branch. His blanket refusal told America that Congress is a subordinate branch of government – subordinate to him personally – rather than a co-equal branch, as the Constitution requires.

He also acts like a dictator over Congress and violates the Constitution’s “checks and balances” when he spends money on his wall that Congress had explicitly refused to authorize. This violates Congress’s constitutional authority over spending.

Again, when Trump shut down the federal government in order to try to bully Congress, he was telling us he personally could choose not to execute the laws whenever it suits him – again, in violation of the Constitution.

Don’t let the media or anyone else pretend that Trump’s 35-day shutdown or his other attempts to act like a dictator over Congress are “just politics.” They are a constitutional crisis, and people who care about our nation must vigorously push back and impeach Trump in order to protect the Constitution and the rule of law.

**Trump’s impeachable offenses include violations of THE CONSTITUTION’S First Amendment and other impeachable offenses:**

When we were preparing for this interview, both Bonnie and Steve identified some additional impeachable offenses.

Bonnie said Trump has been violating the Constitution’s First Amendment, which protects freedom of speech and freedom of the press. She said, “Trump has repeatedly – and often – undermined the freedom of the press” by saying that when a journalist says something critical of Trump it’s only “fake news.” Trump has endangered the safety of reporters in other countries too. Glen added that Trump has actually threatened to punish news outlets that have disagreed with him. Bonnie said Trump has claimed the power to fire people who work there.

Steve said that because the Washington ***Post*** has sometimes reported unfavorably on Trump, Trump threatened to make the U.S. Postal Service increase the postal rates on Amazon, because both businesses are owned by Jeff Bezos, so this is Trump’s way to retaliate against journalism he does not like. Steve said this example shows how wide-ranging is Trump’s concept of how he is entitled to abuse the powers of his political office.

Steve agrees with U.S. Representative Al Green, who filed an article of impeachment based on Trump’s blatant and repeated acts of racism and promotion of violence that violate the goals of “domestic tranquility” and the “general welfare” that are parts of our nation’s founding documents. Steve explained that Rep. Green had introduced that article of impeachment while the Republicans controlled the U.S. House, so it did not go anywhere, but in 2019 he introduced it again in the new Congress, so the House Judiciary Committee can consider it. [NOTE: In mid-July 2019, 137 House Democrats joined with Republicans to oppose Rep. Green’s article of impeachment: [**https://www.nationofchange.org/2019/07/19/just-hours-before-trump-unleashed-more-racist-attacks-at-rally-137-house-democrats-joined-gop-to-kill-articles-of-impeachment/**](https://www.nationofchange.org/2019/07/19/just-hours-before-trump-unleashed-more-racist-attacks-at-rally-137-house-democrats-joined-gop-to-kill-articles-of-impeachment/)]

Steve said that Rep. Green used some of the same wording (“a high misdemeanor”) that had been used after the Civil War when President Andrew Johnson was impeached for trying to roll back the Reconstruction. (Andrew Johnson succeeded Abraham Lincoln after Lincoln’s assassination, but Johnson was hostile toward rights for African-Americans.) Steve said Johnson was a Democrat, while Lincoln was a Republican, and they had run together on the same ticket.

Bonnie said one of the articles of impeachment against President Andrew Johnson was that he had used inflammatory language against members of Congress. She said Trump has been doing that now against four Congresswomen of color. Trump told them to go back where they came from, even though three were born in the U.S. and one came here at the age of ten as a refugee from a nation that was having very serious problems. Glen said, “This is the American Dream, but Trump picks on four women of color” who had been elected to Congress.

Glen said that even during Trump’s 2016 campaign he was urging his supports to commit violence against people who disagreed with Trump, and Trump has been continuing that cruel behavior.

He said if we had more time we could identify many, many other impeachable offenses for which Trump should be held accountable. We had discussed some examples when we were preparing for this interview.

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

Trump has publicly supported racists, white supremacists and Nazis who advocate and commit violence against targeted people. Trump is violating the constitutional requirement for equal protection under the law.

Trump has threatened nuclear war. This is reckless endangerment.

Trump has actually been escalating his cruelty – and escalating the number of lies he is telling. This is a dangerous trend that likely means (1) his psychological problems (narcissism, megalomania, sociopathic tendencies) are getting worse, especially as his administration fails in so many ways and people are pushing back at him; and/or (2) he is actively campaigning for 2020 re-election and feels that racism and other kinds of cruelty will energize his political base.

Trump has escalated his attacks on immigrants – from cruel but legal steps to blatantly illegal steps.

What’s dangerous for people with out-of-control psychological or psychiatric problems is that they will continue to escalate their cruel and dangerous behaviors until somebody stops them. Historians have drawn comparisons with how in Nazi Germany things escalated step-by-step from the early 1930s until truly horrible tragedies occurred.

It is a tragedy that so many Americans nowadays – members of the general public, members of the media, and members of Congress – are denying how serious this crisis is. Decades ago Glen knew several persons who had escaped from Germany in the 1930s. They saw what was starting to happen, but nobody would believe them. Their fellow Germans said, “No, that would never happen here. Germany is a civilized nation. We are a nation of musicians and philosophers and scientists.” Nowadays the American people and our institutions are denying the extreme seriousness of Trump’s crisis.

**Trump repeatedly violates his constitutionally required oath of office by violating the Constitution instead of protecting it:**

Glen said that if we had more time we could certainly cite many additional impeachable offenses. He said he has seen a number of persuasive lists of impeachable offenses. We hope Congress will list many when they formalize their articles of impeachment.

He mentioned another violation that he does not see listed very often. Article II of the Constitution specifies that the President must publicly commit to this Oath of Office: **“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”**

When he was sworn into office in January 2017 he publicly committed himself to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.” But both of our guests have been providing information throughout this interview that Trump has been violating the Constitution instead of protecting it. Glen said that Trump’s repeated and persistent violations of the Constitutions show that he is also blatantly violating his oath of office. That is another impeachable offense.

**Similarities with Nixon’s case include: (1) Abuse of presidential powers. (2) “Obstruction of justice.” (2) Impeachment hearings informed the public and media, along with Congress:**

Glen said Trump’s case has some similarities with Nixon’s case – especially about abusing Presidential powers in order to screw over his political opponents – and especially about “obstruction of justice,” which is a federal crime.

Glen mentioned the 1973-74 efforts to impeach President Nixon for the crimes he committed related to the Watergate scandal. Nixon had hired people to commit the crime of breaking into Democratic Party’s national office at the Watergate Hotel in Washington DC. Then Nixon did many other crimes – obstructions of justice – to cover up his initial crime.

Bonnie said that obstruction of justice is a major reason for impeaching both Nixon and Trump. Nixon’s obstruction of justice is an important precedent for impeaching Trump now. Steve added that there was one article of impeachment against Nixon, but the Mueller Report identified ten examples of Trump’s obstruction of justice.

Steve said that after the Mueller Report came out in late March 2019, more than 1,000 former federal prosecutors (both Democrats and Republicans) signed a letter that stated that if Trump were any other person he would have been indicted for many of his crimes. Glen mentioned that the Department of Justice has a policy of not indicting a sitting president. He and Steve agreed that “this is his only out,” and Steve said that Trump could be charged after he is no longer president. Bonnie added that when Mueller testified to Congress he was asked whether Trump could be indicted after leaving office, and Mueller said, “Yes.” Glen said Mueller’s meaning was clear when he gave that one-word answer: “Yes.”

Bonnie also added that House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler asked Mueller whether the report exonerated Trump, and Mueller gave the one-word answer: “No.”

At this part of the interview Glen briefly mentioned some information about William Barr, whom Trump had hired to be the U.S. Attorney General (and the boss over the Department of Justice and the FBI), but actually Barr has **not** been neutral advocate of justice and truth as the A.G. role requires. Instead, he has been acting as if he were Trump’s personal attorney trying to cover up his crimes. Glen said that Barr has a history of being brought into positions of great power when some very powerful Republican needs a massive cover-up. See information about this above in the section about obstruction of justice (page 7).

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

Bonnie has written a thoughtful, well-informed article that said this:

“Trump’s impeachable offenses are more comparable to President Richard Nixon’s offenses of obstructing justice and trying to prosecute his political opponents, both of which fall under the Constitutional category of “high crimes and misdemeanors.” Nixon resigned because it was clear that the Senate would convict him on Articles of Impeachment from the House. However, the number and severity of Trump’s offenses extend beyond Nixon’s as well.”

And this:

“Obstruction of justice is at the top of the list of Trump’s impeachable offenses, just as it was at the top of Nixon’s. The Mueller Report, followed by Robert Mueller’s 7-hour testimony before the Judiciary Committee and the House Intelligence Committee on July 24th, found 10 charges of obstruction against Trump in connection with Mueller’s investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.”

Nixon should have been impeached for hiring people to commit the felony burglary at the Democratic headquarters, but it was his lying and obstruction of justice and cover-up that really moved the public and Congress to oppose Nixon. The impeachment process is what forced Nixon to resign. Obstruction of justice and cover-up turned everybody against Nixon.

On August 2, 2019, Robert Kuttner wrote this article –[**https://prospect.org/article/inevitability-impeachment**](https://prospect.org/article/inevitability-impeachment) – which includes these quotations:

“In Watergate, only 19 percent of Americans supported impeaching Richard Nixon in June 1973, well after most of the facts had been established. Even in February 1974, after the Saturday Night Massacre in which Nixon tried and failed to shut down the special prosecutor, support for impeachment was just 38 percent. As late as July, a month before Nixon was forced to resign, it was only 46 percent.

“Even more than Mueller's report, an impeachment digs deep into the president’s crimes and steadily builds support for his removal. It embarrasses his Republican apologists, keeps the spotlight on Trump’s outrages rather than on Democratic infighting, and makes it harder for Trump to divert attention with his racism. Even if the Senate fails to oust him, impeachment makes it more likely that the voters will.

“Contrary to the naysayers, impeachment is good politics, as well as the right thing to do. It’s time to go forward.”

Glen believes that Trump is vastly more crooked and vastly more dangerous than Nixon.

**More information supporting impeaching Trump:**

***We did not have time during the interview for this additional information about impeaching Trump:***

The Constitution allows for impeachment for a wide range of offenses, not limited to crimes that could lead to criminal indictments.

Robert Mueller has been a lifelong conservative Republican. President George W. Bush had appointed him to head the FBI. He is not a hatchet man doing partisan dirty work for Democrats. That allegation is just Trump’s propagandistic blustering.

Actually, Mueller went very easy on Trump. He restrained his investigation very narrowly and avoided taking hard positions. But he was explicit if you pay attention to his report’s careful wording.

Constitutional expert John Bonifaz asked Jerrold Nadler (Chair of the House Judiciary Committee) to look at the readily available information. See more information about the importance and urgency of impeaching Trump at this link: [**https://freespeechforpeople.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Letter-to-Nadler-073019-1.pdf**](https://freespeechforpeople.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Letter-to-Nadler-073019-1.pdf)

Bonnie has spoken and written about what she calls “the moral imperative to impeach.” She says, “Impeaching Trump is the right thing to do.” Our nation’s founders wrote the Constitution to provide for impeachment when necessary to protect the U.S. from tyranny.

For a long time, very few members of the U.S. Congress were calling for impeachment, but in the summer of 2019 those numbers have grown significantly, so now more than half of House Democrats favor impeachment.

As we said earlier, impeachment is a two-step process involving both houses of Congress. First the U.S. House of Representatives investigates and – if appropriate – brings charges. Then the U.S. Senate conducts the trial.

Unfortunately many in Congress – especially House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi – do not yet want to impeach. This also happened more than a decade ago when Nancy Pelosi became House Speaker in January 2007 after Democrats won a House majority in November 2006. Although many people wanted to impeach George W. Bush and Dick Cheney – immediately after the 2006 election Pelosi said impeaching Bush was “off the table.” Now here we are again with another president who has committed even more impeachable offenses, but Pelosi is failing to take the constitutionally necessary action and violating her own oath of office to protect the Constitution.

Bonnie said she hopes Nancy Pelosi will come around and support impeachment. Pelosi did sign something to help Rep. Jerrold Nadler move ahead with his impeachment investigation.

Bonnie wants people to contact Nancy Pelosi: Her phone is (202) 225-4965. Her website says she does not reply to e-mails from outside of her district, but here is the possibility: [**https://pelosi.house.gov/contact-me**](https://pelosi.house.gov/contact-me)

The question is not where Pelosi stands, but rather where the American people stand. What do the American people think about impeachment? How can we move public opinion forward? Glen likes this insight: “When the people lead, the leaders will follow.”

**Thoughtful people must question Trump’s claims of innocence:**

* **If Trump is innocent, why did he order so many of his high-ranking employees to tell lies on his behalf?**
* **If Trump is innocent, why did he keep trying to shut down Mueller’s investigation?**
* **If Trump is innocent, why did he and his Attorney General refuse to publicly release the Mueller Report?**
* **If Trump is innocent, why does he keep refusing to let Congress see documents or hear testimony from his high-ranking employees?**

**We countered the arguments against impeachment and Congress’ reluctance to impeach:**

Even though public opinion has been strongly shifting toward impeachment, during most of Trump’s term many people argued against impeachment. Glen asked Bonnie and Steve how they handle the objections some people make when they oppose impeachment. For example, some people say:

1. Impeachment would be divisive in our nation.

2. It’s useless for the House to adopt articles of impeachment because the Senate is dominated by Republicans, so the Senate will not convict and remove him.

3. We don’t have enough evidence.

4. Impeachment would motivate Trump’s voting base to vote for him in November 2020.

5. We should just wait and vote him out in Nov. 2020.

Bonnie said that U.S. Representative Elizabeth Holtzman served on the House Judiciary Committee when it was impeaching President Nixon. Bonnie said Holtzman has said that the country was very much divided over that issue: public opinion was divided, and Congress was divided. Many people were afraid that impeaching a president would divide the nation, but what actually happened was that impeaching Nixon united the country.

Glen said public opinion polls were not showing a lot of support for impeachment until the impeachment process got underway and the investigations and hearings exposed a lot of evidence that moved the public and moved the Congress to impeach Nixon. Starting the impeachment process was necessary in order to make that progress, and the evidence caused more and more Republicans to turn against Nixon.

Glen said we need to do that regarding Trump now. If the House would move boldly to impeach Trump, much evidence would be unearthed and would be hot news every day, and most of the public would unite to proceed through the House and the Senate.

He said as soon as Trump started his presidential campaign in June 2015 he began incessant tweets and speeches full of ignorance, lies, cruelty, and recklessness. These entertaining outrages made Trump the top news item every day. He put himself in charge of each day’s news cycle, and he decided what each day’s news would be.

Impeachment hearings will **REVERSE** Trump’s media advantage, so each day’s top news stories would be: “Here is yet one more way in which Trump violated the Constitution” and “Here is yet one more way in which Trump broke the law.” The **TRUTH** will become the top news item and will put Trump on the defensive. This will cause his electoral defeat in November 2020 even if the Senate fails to convict him.

Impeachment will expose the truth and cause Senators and other Republicans to peel away from Trump, just as they did during the Nixon impeachment hearings, which significantly informed, engaged and converted the public, even though Nixon had only recently won landslide re-election less than two years before in November 1972. During the impeachment hearings Nixon’s popularity plummeted as more and more Republicans peeled away and recognized that Nixon was indefensible.

Bonnie said that Trump’s Attorney General William Barr has redacted so much of Mueller’s report that Congress has been prevented from reading the evidence that Mueller’s investigation had discovered. She said Representative Jerrold Nadler (Chair of the House Judiciary Committee) is trying to get access to the grand jury testimonies and much other information that Barr has prevented from coming to light, so Congress and the public can know the truth.

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

Trump has huge power over his political base in a way that frightens Democrats. He is such a manipulator that we must not yield to this self-fulfilling prophecy in which the bully does indeed conquer Democrats. We must do the right thing. We absolutely must protect the Constitution and the rule of law. Our Republic is in severe danger of being lost, so we can’t wait until the 2020 and vote him out. He has said he might not leave office, and his loyal supporters might cause violence in order to keep Trump in power regardless of the election results.

Trump’s federal crimes and constitutional violations are much worse than Nixon’s. Impeachment hearings will finish Trump off. Even if the Senate does not convict him, the impeachment hearings will cause voters to massively reject him at the ballot box. Republicans are currently absolutely loyal to him, no matter how cruel and crazy and reckless and destructive he is. Impeachment news will peel away some of his Republican supporters, and impeachment news will seriously hurt the Republican Party and candidates facing election in 2020 – all the way from the federal level to the local level. Impeachment can move swing voters our way.

**We watched a compelling 4-minute video about the need to impeach Trump. You can watch it through this link:**

We watched Robert Reich’s 4-minute video, which makes a compelling case for impeaching Trump because of Trump’s serious abuses of the Constitution. Robert Reich was the Secretary of the Department of Labor in a previous administration, and he has continued working on important public policy issues.

You can watch the video at this link: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FpTrkSN-xc&feature=youtu.be**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FpTrkSN-xc&feature=youtu.be)

**We are making progress – especially recently. As of August 1, 2019, 116 House Democrats wanted to impeach Trump. By August 26 the number had risen to 130:**

***We did not have time during the interview for this additional information about impeaching Trump:***

Progress in the impeachment movement has been slow and steady. Impeachment became more possible after Democrats won a House majority in the November 2018 midterm election. Although the Mueller Report addressed only a tiny fraction of Trump’s crimes, its release in late March 2019 generated discussion and progress toward impeachment. Mueller’s July 2019 testimony to Congress moved many more people to support impeachment.

By early August 2019 all seven of the House Democrats representing Washington State had supported impeachment. Pramila Jayapal was the first. The U.S. Representative from the Olympia area, Denny Heck, has said “the rule of law is at stake.” Senator Patty Murray and another powerful senator have called for impeachment. So have some of the Democratic presidential candidates. As of August 16, 2019, the New York Times list showed 124 House members urging an impeachment inquiry: [**https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/05/31/us/politics/trump-impeachment-congress-list.html**](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/05/31/us/politics/trump-impeachment-congress-list.html) By August 26 the number increased to 130.

In this Congress and the previous Congress, several relevant House Resolutions and other congressional matters have been introduced. This pressure is mounting and increasing.

But Congress – even when Democrats control it – won’t pursue impeachment without strong public pressure. Even when Nixon’s crimes became known, the public needed to pressure Congress to begin impeachment proceedings. We must mobilize public opinion and urge Congress to act.

**The Constitution’s 25th Amendment is highly relevant, but less likely to be used:**

Glen said that in addition to impeachment – which the Constitution created so it could be used in a case such as this – the Constitution’s recent 25th Amendment provides for another remedy when high level federal officials determine that a president is physically or mentally unfit to continue in office.

Many psychologists and psychiatrists have publicly stated that Trump has serious psychological or psychiatric problems that make him too dangerous or too unfit to be president. Fortunately, the 25th Amendment is available.

President Kennedy’s 1963 assassination caused people to worry that we might sometime have a president who is too disabled to continue in office, so a constitutional amendment was developed. In 1967 the 25th Amendment went into effect. It provides a way for high-level federal officials to remove (not impeach) a president. The vice president and a majority of other principal officers give the Speaker of the House a written declaration that the president is “unable to discharge the powers and duties of this office.” Congress can decide the matter by a two-thirds vote in the House and a two-thirds vote in the Senate.

Our nation experienced rapidly changing successions during the Nixon era. Nixon’s Vice President Spiro Agnew was convicted of serious corruption and forced out of office. Gerald Ford, an experienced House member, was appointed Vice President to replace Agnew. Then when Nixon was forced out of the presidency, VP Ford ascended to fill the presidential vacancy, and Nelson Rockefeller was brought in to fill the vacant VP position. It is possible to have some vacancies and replacements in a smooth series of successions. Many people oppose letting VP Mike Pence become President, but he is far less dangerous than Trump. Pence will not get mad at somebody at 3 a.m. and launch nuclear weapons at them. Pence will not promote racist violence as Trump has been doing.

Section 4 of the 25th Amendment says:

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President.

***We did not have time during the interview to say this information about the 25th Amendment:***

Unfortunately, the 25th Amendment is not likely to be used for removing Trump because it would rely on Vice President Pence and cabinet members who are strongly loyal Trump. We might urge it, but impeachment is more likely.

In 2017 Denny Heck co-sponsored something related to Trump’s incapacity to serve as President (*e.g*., a possible path to remove Trump from office for mental reasons)

Glen’s blog includes several posts linking to articles that document Trump’s serious psychiatric problems that make him unfit to serve as President. See these blog posts:

* [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/blog-trump-has-severe-psychiatric-disabilities-here-are-links-to-several-articles**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/blog-trump-has-severe-psychiatric-disabilities-here-are-links-to-several-articles)
* [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/solid-info-smart-insights-psychoanalyst-says-trumps-mental-pathology-means-he-hates-reality**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/solid-info-smart-insights-psychoanalyst-says-trumps-mental-pathology-means-he-hates-reality)
* [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/truly-alarming-comparisons-between-how-trump-and-hitler-gained-power**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/truly-alarming-comparisons-between-how-trump-and-hitler-gained-power)
* [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/trump-is-psychiatrically-unfit-so-lets-use-25th-amendment-to-remove-trump**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/trump-is-psychiatrically-unfit-so-lets-use-25th-amendment-to-remove-trump)
* [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/even-more-evidence-that-trump-is-far-far-too-crazy-to-be-president**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/even-more-evidence-that-trump-is-far-far-too-crazy-to-be-president)
* [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/thom-hartmanns-10-minute-video-says-trump-is-seriously-mentally-ill**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/thom-hartmanns-10-minute-video-says-trump-is-seriously-mentally-ill)
* [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/trump-is-incompetent-he-can-only-barely-read-he-cannot-think-clearly**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/trump-is-incompetent-he-can-only-barely-read-he-cannot-think-clearly)

**We absolutely need to build a strong grassroots movement to impeach Trump:**

Glen said that even now in 2019 when Democrats control the House, Congress will not pursue impeachment without **strong public pressure** because politicians tend to be inherently cautious. Even when Nixon’s crimes became known, the public needed to pressure Congress to begin impeachment proceedings. The House’s impeachment efforts and the Senate’s growing likelihood of convicting and removing Nixon forced Nixon to resign before the Senate could take action against him. Now regarding Trump – who is vastly more dangerous than Nixon – the public absolutely must mobilize strong public opinion to make Congress take necessary actions.

He expressed appreciation for the work Bonnie has been doing locally and Steve in his local community – and both through Puget Sound Communities for Impeachment.

Bonnie said our representatives need to hear from their constituents – that’s us – so they can represent us. She said Steve’s representative, Pramila Jayapal, was the first U.S. House member from Washington State to call for impeachment. Steve said he had talked with her before the 2018 election, so her Democratic Party was still in the minority. She was on the House Judiciary Committee, and Steve told her that 70% of Democrats want to impeach Trump, but she said that the minority party was not able to do much. She seemed sympathetic but would need a House majority in order to push ahead with impeachment. After the Democrats won a majority of House seats in 2018, Pramila Jayapal was one of the first Representatives to call for impeachment.

Glen said she was the first representative from Washington State, followed by Adam Smith, and Bonnie said Rick Larson was next. She said only after Mueller’s testimony to the House did the other four Representatives from Washington State also call for impeachment. All seven of our state’s Democratic House members now want to impeach Trump. Bonnie said she and other advocates for impeachment worked hard to convince her Representative Denny Heck (10th Cong. Dist.), because he had been very reluctant. Steve added that Senator Patty Murray also wants to impeach Trump. Bonnie said more than half of the House Democrats have called for impeachment.

The regional group in which Bonnie and Steve are active has e-mail address: [**pscforimpeachment@earthlink.net**](mailto:pscforimpeachment@earthlink.net) Facebook users can connect at: **pugetsoundcommunities4impeachment**

***In addition to the information typed above, we did not have time during the interview to add this information relevant to this interview topic:***

In 2017 Puget Sound Communities for Impeachment convinced the Olympia City Council to call for an impeachment inquiry. On June 15, 2019, they and Olympia’s Indivisible group and other people turned out 168 participants for a rally and march in Olympia.

In the Nixon era the Republican Party was willing to recognize constitutional norms, but now the Party is quiet about Trump’s constitutional issues. Nixon knew he would be removed by the Senate, but that’s not the case now.

Ordinary people need to step up and take action to protect democracy and freedom and to prevent the drift toward dictatorship and fascism. Nobody else will come to save us, so ordinary people must take responsibility. Congress will not save us unless we pressure Congress to take strong actions.

Overall, ordinary people need hands-on involvement in running of our democracy, or else we will lose our democracy. (Hence this advice: “Democracy: Use it or lose it.”) We need to know what our elected officials (local, state, national) are doing, what the bills are, and what we want them to do. Do NOT give them a free pass to do things without our participation or consent.

**Pages 15-17 provide some great sources of information, including a variety of organizations:**

A large and growing number of nationwide organizations are pushing to impeach Trump. The viewers will recognize some organizations’ names. Several organizations have been collecting signatures of Americans wanting to impeach Trump, and recently they submitted **ten million signatures** to Congress.

During the interview we did not have time to list the informational resources that are listed on the next few pages below, and even this list is not exhaustive, but it is a good start.

The link for watching the one-hour TV interview featuring Bonnie, Steve and Glen – and the link for reading the document you are reading now (thoroughly summarizing what we said) – are listed at Glen’s blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) Click either **the “TV Programs” link** or **the “Trump and Trumpism” link** to see the blog post that provides both links. Please share this blog post and the following list with your friends.

* A book calling for impeachment was delivered to every member of Congress and is well worth reading. Ron Fein, John Bonifaz and Ben Clements wrote ***The Constitution Demands It: The Case for the Impeachment of Donald Trump*** (c) 2018.
* A simple one-page flyer gives reasons and two resources. Read and/or print copies: [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/impeach-trump-this-1-page-flyer-gives-reasons-and-two-resources**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/impeach-trump-this-1-page-flyer-gives-reasons-and-two-resources)
* Bonnie says that every person who has helped in any way – no matter how small – has moved the impeachment movement move ahead, so **THANKS!**
* “By the People” offers this impeachment guide:[**https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-up-now-learn-how-you-can-join-the-movement-to-impeach-trump/**](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-up-now-learn-how-you-can-join-the-movement-to-impeach-trump/)
* “Common Defense” is an organization of military veterans working for good purposes. They want to impeach Trump. [**www.commondefense.us**](http://www.commondefense.us)
* “Common Dreams” provides news articles every day on a wide variety of issues. It has done a good job of encouraging impeachment. [**www.commondreams.org**](http://www.commondreams.org)
* Constitutional expert John Bonifaz asked Rep. Jerrold Nadler (Chair of the House Judiciary Committee) to look at the readily available information: [**https://freespeechforpeople.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Letter-to-Nadler-073019-1.pdf**](https://freespeechforpeople.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Letter-to-Nadler-073019-1.pdf)
* CREDO Action ([**www.credoaction.com**](http://www.credoaction.com)) sends action alerts on a wide variety of topics, including impeachment.
* “Democracy for America” urges people to sign this petition because Trump is not above the law: [**That’s why I’m asking you to stand up for American democracy and sign here if you agree that President Trump should not be above the law!**](https://act.democracyforamerica.com/sign/protect-democrats-investigation-president-trump_copy?t=2&refcode=g-nadler0821.d-20190821.m-17960.s-79191&akid=17960%2E2917727%2EoH5DG8)
* “Free Speech for People” is a non-profit organization that has been working very vigorously to impeach Trump. They offer informational updates, many resources, an organizers’ toolkit, action items to take online, and much more. I recommend them highly: [**www.freespeechforpeople.org**](http://www.freespeechforpeople.org)
* Glen Anderson has posted much information (including some about impeachment) and will continue posting more information to the **“Trump and Trumpism”** part of his blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)
* Glen wrote this simple one-page flyer urging impeachment, so it’s easy to print multiple copies to serve as handouts: [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/impeach-trump-this-1-page-flyer-gives-reasons-and-two-resources**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/impeach-trump-this-1-page-flyer-gives-reasons-and-two-resources)
* “Impeach Trump Now” has this website: [**www.impeachdonaldtrumpnow.org**](http://www.impeachdonaldtrumpnow.org)
* Impeachment University: Several organizations working for impeachment (Free Speech for People, MoveOn, Need to Impeach, Indivisible, By the People, and March for Truth) started a new initiative called Impeachment University. The project is a series of weekly webinars designed to educate and engage ordinary people for impeaching Trump. Weekly webinars started in August 2019. See [**www.impeachmentuniversity.com/**](http://www.impeachmentuniversity.com/)
* “Indivisible” is a nationwide non-profit organization working to reform the government in progressive ways. Its many local parts include Indivisible Olympia, which is active on a range of issues. The national Indivisible group and Indivisible Olympia are urging impeachment. The national website invites people to join their movement to impeach: [**https://www.impeachmentaugust.org/?source=indivisible**](https://www.impeachmentaugust.org/?source=indivisible)
* “Move On” ([**www.moveon.org**](http://www.moveon.org)) works on a variety of politically progressive issues, including impeachment.
* Mueller Report was read for eight hours on Saturday August 24 from 1:00 to 9:00 pm on the Main Stage of the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, 512 Washington Street SE, in downtown Olympia. It will be televised by Thurston County Media. See TCM’s website for dates and times when it will air on local cable TV: [**www.tcmedia.org**](http://www.tcmedia.org)
* Mueller Report: See two summaries of Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Volume I is the “**Conspiracy**” document, and Volume II is the “**Obstruction of Justice”** document. I posted both documents to my blog at this link: [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/mueller-report-two-documents**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/mueller-report-two-documents)
* Nancy Pelosi’s failure to support impeachment is wrong for several reasons. The article titled “Here Are 11 Crucial Things Nancy Pelosi Gets Wrong about Impeachment” provides smart information and insights about why the House should impeach Trump now: [**https://www.alternet.org/2019/06/here-are-11-crucial-things-nancy-pelosi-gets-wrong-about-impeachment/?utm\_source=&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=307**](https://www.alternet.org/2019/06/here-are-11-crucial-things-nancy-pelosi-gets-wrong-about-impeachment/?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=307)
* On August 21, 2019, House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler wrote this brief information for the public in order to clarify what the Judiciary Committee is doing – and to offer an impeachment for people to sign: [**https://act.democracyforamerica.com/sign/protect-democrats-investigation-president-trump\_copy?t=2&refcode=g-nadler0821.d-20190821.m-17960.s-79191&akid=17960%2E2917727%2EoH5DG8**](https://act.democracyforamerica.com/sign/protect-democrats-investigation-president-trump_copy?t=2&refcode=g-nadler0821.d-20190821.m-17960.s-79191&akid=17960%2E2917727%2EoH5DG8)
* “Progressive Democrats of America” works on impeachment along with other issues: [**www.pdamerica.org**](http://www.pdamerica.org)
* “Puget Sound Communities for Impeachment” organizes in Olympia and several other communities (Vashon Island, Seattle, Whidbey Island, etc.) in the Puget Sound area. This group is small but smart. It relies more on its Facebook page (**pugetsoundcommunities4impeachment**) than on its e-mail address ([**pscforimpeachment@earthlink.net**](mailto:pscforimpeachment@earthlink.net)).
* Robert Kuttner’s good article on Aug 2, 2019, is says, “Mueller's lackluster performance actually increased Democratic support for a full investigation of Trump.” See [**https://prospect.org/article/inevitability-impeachment**](https://prospect.org/article/inevitability-impeachment)
* Robert Reich’s July 30, 2019, article [**https://prospect.org/article/real-reason-impeachmen**t](https://prospect.org/article/real-reason-impeachment) makes a very strong case for impeaching Trump. It explains how his reckless and dictatorial behavior has been abusing our Constitution, our democracy, and our freedom.
* “Roots Action” has been supporting impeachment through its action alerts, etc.: [**www.RootsAction.org**](http://www.RootsAction.org)
* The “Trump and Trumpism” part of my blog **--** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) **--** provides a lot of information. The direct link to that part is [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/trump-and-trumpism**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/trump-and-trumpism)
* The delegates to the NAACP National Annual Convention voted unanimously on July 22, 2019, to support an emergency resolution calling for impeachment proceedings against Trump. Specifically, the resolution cited that Trump’s racist, xenophobic, and homophobic words and actions have “brought the high office of the President of the United States in contempt, ridicule, disgrace, and disrepute,” and he “has sown seeds of discord among the people of the United States,” and finally that he “has demonstrated that he is unfit to be President.” The NAACP urges people to contact Congress to urge impeachment. See this: [**https://live-naacp-site.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/IMPEACH-TRUMP.pdf**](https://live-naacp-site.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/IMPEACH-TRUMP.pdf)
* This report summarizes Trump’s 2,000 conflicts of interest: [**https://www.citizensforethics.org/2000-trump-conflicts-of-interest-counting/?link\_id=1&can\_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-who-is-trump-working-for&email\_referrer=email\_598252&email\_subject=who-is-trump-working-for**](https://www.citizensforethics.org/2000-trump-conflicts-of-interest-counting/?link_id=1&can_id=1d662460c0abb8939c5044c82927552b&source=email-who-is-trump-working-for&email_referrer=email_598252&email_subject=who-is-trump-working-for)
* This smart article explains why the House should impeach Trump now: “Here Are 11 Crucial Things Nancy Pelosi Gets Wrong about Impeachment.” [**https://www.alternet.org/2019/06/here-are-11-crucial-things-nancy-pelosi-gets-wrong-about-impeachment/?utm\_source=&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=307**](https://www.alternet.org/2019/06/here-are-11-crucial-things-nancy-pelosi-gets-wrong-about-impeachment/?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=307)
* Trump’s corruption is so extreme that it is an impeachable offense! This article explains it: [**https://prospect.org/article/democrats-must-reframe-2020-around-trumps-corruption**](https://prospect.org/article/democrats-must-reframe-2020-around-trumps-corruption)
* Trump’s psychiatric problems are so severe that he is unfit to hold office. While some of his psychiatric problems are relevant to his impeachable offenses, many of them cry out for using the Constitution’s 25th Amendment to remove him from office. See page 13 of this document for links to articles about that.
* U.S. Constitution and amendments: [**https://constitutionus.com/**](https://constitutionus.com/) and [**http://leg.wa.gov/LIC/Documents/EducationAndInformation/U.S.%20Constitution.pdf**](http://leg.wa.gov/LIC/Documents/EducationAndInformation/U.S.%20Constitution.pdf)
* VIDEO featuring journalist Mehdi Hasan from April 7, 2019: In 3 min. 20 sec. this journalist destroys the argument by Trump’s lawyers that Mueller’s report totally exonerates Trump: [**https://crooksandliars.com/2019/04/al-jazeeras-mehdi-hasan-shreds-trump**](https://crooksandliars.com/2019/04/al-jazeeras-mehdi-hasan-shreds-trump)
* VIDEO: “Need to Impeach” [**www.needtoimpeach.com**](http://www.needtoimpeach.com) was founded by billionaire Tom Steyer. His short (92-second) video for the 4th of July 2019 is titled, “Veterans for Impeachment.” It is supported also by [**www.commondefense.us**](http://www.commondefense.us), a veterans’ organization that supports peace and impeachment. Watch the short video at this link: [**https://www.needtoimpeach.com/veterans-impeachment/**](https://www.needtoimpeach.com/veterans-impeachment/)
* VIDEO: Bonnie Jones videotaped impeachment volunteer Robert Marino talking to Denny Heck before Tumwater’s July 4 2019 parade. While Heck was supportive of Robert’s concerns about Trump, he would not commit to calling for Trump’s impeachment before the August recess. (Later in July2019 Denny Heck did call for impeachment.) You can see the July 4 video here: [**https://www.facebook.com/moonstone.river.3/videos/2310539409212342**](https://www.facebook.com/moonstone.river.3/videos/2310539409212342)
* VIDEO: In this short video U.S. Representative Katie Porter calls for impeaching Trump: [**https://www.facebook.com/CREDO/videos/343029663057844**](https://www.facebook.com/CREDO/videos/343029663057844)
* VIDEO: This 4 ½ minute video by Robert Reich makes a compelling case. **We showed this in our TV interview program.** Robert Reich explains that Trump’s abuse of the Constitution is why we must impeach him now: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FpTrkSN-xc&feature=youtu.be**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FpTrkSN-xc&feature=youtu.be)
* VIDEO: This informative and witty 2-minute video uses the metaphor of pizza to show how the Mueller Report is only a very tiny slice of the extra-large pizza representing Trump’s many, many crimes. Watch it at this link: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-CCxLmkn-w**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-CCxLmkn-w)
* VIDEO: This is a 32-second impeachment ad about Mueller's testimony: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CD-Y2YxQzo0**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CD-Y2YxQzo0)
* VIDEO: This witty song by the folk singers “Emma’s Revolution” is called “So Impeachable. It provides new words to a familiar tune: [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2DZpzM0GtU**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K2DZpzM0GtU)
* VIDEO: This video (more than 2 minutes) uses info from Mueller’s report to say we must impeach: [**https://www.facebook.com/StandUpAmerica/videos/447717056042344/**](https://www.facebook.com/StandUpAmerica/videos/447717056042344/)

**Ordinary people can do several things to build the movement to successfully impeach Trump:**

***We did not have time during the interview to say this information about how ordinary people can help.***

* Remember – and tell other people – that we are doing this in order to protect American democracy, the Constitution and the rule of law.
* It’s OK if working to impeach Trump is beyond your comfort zone. Do it anyway, because it is so extremely important.
* Read and inform yourself. Become able to explain briefly (in an “elevator speech”) why we must impeach Trump now and not merely wait until the 2020 election and hope to win (in an election that Republicans are rigging through various vote suppression scams). Develop enough knowledge about the Constitution’s process for impeachment and Trump’s impeachable offenses, so you can carry on a thoughtful conversation with someone who is not yet convinced,
* Look for public opportunities when you could speak up for impeachment. Talk with people you know. Write letters to editors. Speak up at political gatherings. Provide information at public events (*e.g*., the Sept 20-27 nationwide week of actions for the climate), and so forth. Show how impeaching Trump will be good for the other issues we care about (*e.g*., the environment, human rights, women’s rights, immigrants’ rights, peace, alternative energy, honest government, and so forth).
* Keep urging our U.S. representatives to **push hard now for prompt and thorough** impeachment investigations and strong, competent articles of impeachment. Urge our U.S. senators to use their power to encourage the House to proceed and to be receptive when articles of impeachment reach the Senate.
* Contact Nancy Pelosi: Her phone is (202) 225-4965. Her website says she does not reply to e-mails from outside of her district, but here is the possibility: [**https://pelosi.house.gov/contact-me**](https://pelosi.house.gov/contact-me)
* Print copies and share this simple one-page flyer: [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/impeach-trump-this-1-page-flyer-gives-reasons-and-two-resources**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/impeach-trump-this-1-page-flyer-gives-reasons-and-two-resources)
* This smart article explains why the House should impeach Trump now: “Here Are 11 Crucial Things Nancy Pelosi Gets Wrong about Impeachment.” See this article here: [**https://www.alternet.org/2019/06/here-are-11-crucial-things-nancy-pelosi-gets-wrong-about-impeachment/?utm\_source=&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=307**](https://www.alternet.org/2019/06/here-are-11-crucial-things-nancy-pelosi-gets-wrong-about-impeachment/?utm_source=&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=307)
* The “Trump and Trumpism” part of my blog **--** [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org) **--** provides much information. The direct link is [**http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/trump-and-trumpism**](http://parallaxperspectives.org/category/trump-and-trumpism)

**Glen offered some closing encouragement:**

Glen thanked Bonnie Jones and Steve Rubicz for sharing their information and insights with us during this hour, and he thanked everybody who has watched this interview.

He reminded us that Abraham Lincoln said our government should be “of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Long before Lincoln’s affirmation, our nation’s founders had wanted to protect freedom and democracy, so they created a Constitution with checks and balances to prevent any branch of government from getting too much power.

They created a Constitution that allows us to remove from office a president who abuses power and commits “high crimes and misdemeanors.” Impeachment is the Constitution’s way to preserve our system of checks and balances – indeed, to preserve our nation as one governed by laws and not by powerful persons abusing their power. Impeachment exists so we can protect the U.S. from tyranny.

It should NOT be boxed into a merely partisan context. It is more basic and more important than mere partisanship.

In a free and democratic society, protecting our freedom and our democracy is everyone’s responsibility. Ordinary people need to stand up, inform themselves, organize, and demand impeachment.

Trump used to have a TV program that ended each episode by having him tell someone, “You’re fired.” Now in order to protect America, America must tell Trump, "YOU'RE FIRED!"

You can get information about a wide variety of issues related to peace, social justice and nonviolence through my blog, [**www.parallaxperspectives.org**](http://www.parallaxperspectives.org)or by phoning me at   
(360) 491-9093 or e-mailing me at [**glenanderson@integra.net**](mailto:glenanderson@integra.net)

I end each TV program with this encouragement:

**We're all one human family, and we all share one planet.**

**We can create a better world, but we all have to work at it.**

**The world needs whatever you can do to help!**