

Schumer: Trump impeachment trial to begin week of Feb. 8

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
AND LISA MASCARO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Opening statements in the Senate impeachment trial for Donald Trump over the Capitol riot will begin the week

of Feb. 8, the first time a former president will face such charges after leaving office.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced the schedule Friday evening after reaching an agreement with Republicans, who had

pushed for a delay to give Trump a chance to organize his legal team and prepare a defense on the sole charge of incitement of insurrection.

The February start date also allows the Senate more time to confirm President Joe Biden's Cabinet nomina-

tions and consider his proposed \$1.9 trillion COVID relief package — top priorities of the new White House agenda that could become stalled during trial proceedings.

"We all want to put this awful chapter in our nation's history behind us,"

Schumer said about the deadly Jan. 6 Capitol siege by a mob of pro-Trump supporters.

"But healing and unity will only come if there is truth and accountability. And that is what this trial will provide."

Seniors

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"I remain committed to vaccinating our seniors quickly," Brown proclaimed Jan. 15. "But this failure by the Trump administration will unfortunately cause a two-week delay in beginning vaccinations for seniors."

Not mentioned as part of Brown's blame-shifting: 45 states dealing with the same vaccine limitations already have or within days will begin inoculating at least some of their oldest and most vulnerable residents based on age groups.

How? Decisions about who to vaccinate first are decided by governors and state health officials, and, among other things, Oregon is one of only two states to buck federal guidance by allowing teachers to go ahead of the elderly.

As a result of Brown's priorities, vaccinations for school employees will begin en masse Monday. Oregonians who are 80 and older won't be eligible for vaccines until Feb. 8. It could be March before all seniors 65 and up are eligible, with state officials now not committing to precise start dates.

That timeline lags more than two months behind some other states such as Texas and Florida. It's six full weeks behind Washington, which made

all seniors ages 65 and older eligible Jan. 18 as teachers must wait until "late winter or early spring."

Brown's decision has spawned harsh criticism and deep praise, with some condemning her for keeping the vaccine from the age group most susceptible to severe or deadly COVID-19 infections, while others commend her for taking steps to get young students back in classrooms.

But there's no guarantee vaccinating teachers sooner will actually lead to a significant return to in-person learning this school year — and in fact many counties do not meet new advisory criteria set by Brown for school reopenings. Final decisions will be made by school districts and teachers' unions.

"Last week's revisions to Oregon's schedule for vaccinating educators and seniors does not reflect valuing one group of Oregonians over the other — it is simply a case of having far less vaccine supplies than the federal government instructed us to prepare for a week ago," spokesman Charles Boyle said in an email responding to written questions.

Boyle didn't dispute that many schools might not open any time soon based on current advisory metrics. But he suggested vaccinating teachers may prompt more Oregonians to double-down on social-dis-

tancing efforts to slow the virus spread and enable schools to reopen.

"Our goal is to put school districts on track to return more students to classrooms as quickly as possible, with a focus on our youngest learners, by February 15," Boyle said in an email. "Oregon's advisory school metrics — particularly the revised metrics for a return to elementary in-person instruction — are attainable if communities work to drive down the spread of COVID-19 over the next three weeks."

Brown sees a payoff

The governor hopes communities realize what's at stake.

"For so many of Oregon's students, their educational, social-emotional well-being, and mental health — and, in too many cases, their safety from abuse and neglect — depends on their in-person connections to school," Boyle said.

Brown is taking a calculated gamble to dedicate vaccines for a relatively small slice of the population — some 105,000 teachers and staff in day cares, preschools and K-12 school districts.

The payoff Brown sees is clear: Fast and orderly vaccinations of educators could be accomplished in only a few weeks, state officials estimate, removing at least one of the barriers to open classrooms that have been shuttered for

10 months. Waiting until after seniors are eligible could delay the prospect of in-person learning by a few months.

Although Oregon more than a month ago opened vaccinations to health care workers and residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities because residents account for about half of all deaths, seniors living out on their own in the community who are part of neither group are still waiting for their turn.

People age 65 and older account for about 84% of COVID-19 deaths in Oregon even though make up 18.2% of the population. Each day vaccine access is delayed to that age group limits the ability to save lives. Oregon's prospects of quickly vaccinating seniors is also saddled in part by what appears to be an abnormally large group that the governor has made eligible for inoculations for the past month.

Before the first vaccines were shipped to states in December, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended all vaccinate their health care workers — because keeping them healthy and on the job is essential to preserving lives. The CDC also recommended immunizing long-term care facility residents because their populations have been disproportionately ravaged by the virus. This entire group is known as Phase 1a.

Oregon's governor followed that advice, agreeing to include an estimated 360,000 Oregonians in health care and long-term care facilities in the initial vaccine rollout. Brown and officials with the Oregon Health Authority, however, have faced criticism for allowing a portion of the people who work in the health care industry and have been able to work from home — including some administrators, accountants, data analysts, IT technicians and marketing employees — to get vaccinated as part of this group.

Massive Phase 1a group

On top of that, Brown also decided to prioritize an additional 140,000 Oregonians as part of Phase 1a — and among them are employees of veterinary clinics that treat pets or livestock, anyone who enters a jail or prison for work including correctional officers and criminal defense attorneys, police, firefighters and people who live or work in group homes for the developmentally disabled. Although a CDC advisory committee said many of these people were essential workers and crucial to society's functions, the committee also said they should be prioritized in the next wave of vaccinations known as Phase 1b.

That's the same phase the committee placed teachers and other school educators. The committee also initially

placed elderly Americans in this phase, before CDC leaders moved them up the line this month because of their higher risk of death.

Oregon's massive Phase 1a group — 500,000 people — accounts for about 12% of its residents. That's a far larger group than its neighbors: Washington and Nevada each included about 6% of their populations in their first wave of inoculations. California and Idaho included about 8%.

The extra 140,000 Oregonians that the state has obligated itself to vaccinate now means a longer wait for future groups — first and foremost, seniors.

Boyle, the governor's office spokesman, said strictly following the CDC advisory committee's recommendations for Phase 1a "would have left many vulnerable Oregonians without access to vaccines."

Boyle said even if the governor hadn't made this group of 140,000 eligible for vaccinations in the first wave, it wouldn't have saved enough vaccine for all of Oregon's elderly.

The doses that would not have been earmarked, however, comes close to enough to immunize every Oregonian who's 80 and older. There are about 167,000 of them.

— Brad Schmidt, Andrew Theen, Rob Davis and Fedor Zarkhin contributed to this story.


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Evening Worship - 6:00pm

Wednesday
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Bible Study and Prayer - 7:00pm

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Torah Service: Parsha Bo
Thu, Jan 28, 9 AM
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Fri, Jan 29, 7 PM
Erev Shabbat Service

Active Torah Study group
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Due to COVID-19, most events have been moved to Zoom.
Visit www.JCCOBend.com for more information about joining these and other upcoming events.
Or call (541) 668-6887 or email Secretary@JCCOBend.com

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Rabbi Johanna Hershenson

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Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00 pm – Hamsa Course, Jewish Environmentalism
Friday, January 29 at 7:00 pm – Tu B'Shevat Shirah, Music and Poetry
Sunday, January 31 at 10:15 am – Tikun Olam, A Do-the-Work-Group

All Events meet via Zoom
To join a specific event, please email templebethtikvah@gmail.com.
541-388-8826
www.bethtikvahbend.org

Lutheran

Concordia Lutheran Mission (LCMS)
"The mission of the Church is to forgive sins through the Gospel and thereby grant eternal life. St. John 20:21-23, The Augsburg Confession, Article XXVIII.8-9, 10."

Sunday the 24th
"The Gospel, the Power of God unto Salvation, Converted the Metropolis of Nineveh." Jonah 3:10

Because Governor Brown has approved Deschutes County entering Phase II of the reopening, allowing faith gatherings of 25 or less, Public Services have resumed. Only the Divine Service at 11 AM will be offered. There will be no Sunday School, other Services, or refreshments served until further notice.

The Rev. Willis C. Jensen, Pastor
8286 11th Street, Terrebonne.
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Rev. Jose Thomas Mudakodiyil, Pastor
Rev. Steve Garza, Parochial Vicar
541-382-3631

Church Locations
Historic Church:
Corner of Franklin and Lava
Main Church & Office:
2450 NE 27th Street

Weekend Masses:
All Weekend Masses are at Main Church
Saturday-Vigil: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m. & 10 a.m., 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 12:30 p.m. Misa en Español

Weekday Masses (M-F)
7 a.m.; Main Church
12:15 p.m.; Historic Church
8 a.m.; Saturday; Main Church

Eucharistic Adoration (M-F)
7:30 a.m.-12 noon; Main Church
12:45 p.m.-6 p.m.; Historic Church

Reconciliation: Main Church
Tuesday: 7:30 a.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m.
Saturday: 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Parish
Rev. Paul Antao, Pastor
www.holyredeemerparish.net
Parish Office: 541-536-3571
HOLY REDEEMER ROMAN CATHOLIC, LA PINE
16137 Burgess Rd.
Mass: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:00 am & Sun. 10:00 am
HOLY TRINITY ROMAN CATHOLIC SUNRIVER
18143 Cottonwood Rd.
Mass: Thurs. 9:30 am
Sat. 5:30 pm Sun. 8:00 am
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Mass: Sun. 12:30 pm
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Redmond, Oregon 97756
541-923-3390

Father Todd Unger, Pastor

Mass Schedule:
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Wednesday 6:00 pm
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
First Saturday 8:00 am (English)
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am (English)
12:00 noon (Spanish)

Confessions on Wednesdays From 5:00 to 5:45 pm and on Saturdays From 3:00 to 4:30 pm

Roman Catholic

St. Edward the Martyr Roman Catholic Church
123 N. Trinity Way
PO Box 489
Sisters, OR. 97759
stedward@bendbroadband.com
541-549-9391
Father Sibi Poulose

Mass Schedule:
Weekdays 8:00 am
Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am

Adoration
First Friday of the month
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Reconciliation
Saturday
4:30 pm – 5:00 pm
or by appointment

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Please check our website (www.unitycentraloregon.org) for on-line groups and upcoming classes.

One World Center
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