

Why is it so difficult to remove a President through impeachment?
Public opinion, media, majority party, support. Both houses.

When looking at why it is difficult to remove a president through impeachment there are a number of important factors to take into consideration. Perhaps the most important influence is that of the media. The media in the USA has a far more important role in politics due to the open and transparent government system. As such the media plays a vital role in the success of an attempt at impeachment. This was most evident in the case of Clinton. Whilst the republican party attempted to remove him from office the media did not back them instead they seemed to portray the president as an almost innocent party in the affair! Clinton also managed to use the media to his advantage most obviously with his spin team and as such this good relationship made an attempt at impeachment very hard.

Another important factor when examining why it is so hard to remove a president through impeachment is that of public opinion. It is the public after all that elect both their senators representatives and indeed the president. If the public do not fully support an impeachment attempt it is very unlikely to be of any success. In the case of Clinton the public widely saw the impeachment as a Republican witch hunt that dragged on and became quite a boring and laborious affair.

It can also be hard to remove a president through impeachment if the same party is in control of both the white house and congress. Whilst Clinton appeared to treat congress as more of an adversary than partner there may be a reluctance to remove a president if he is from the same party and as such any vote brought before the representatives may fail to gain enough support. As we can see through the co-operation of Bush and congress in his first term, when the same party controls both the white house and congress there can be a severe lack of scrutiny. Whilst it is almost impossible to make an authoritative claim (which is an inevitable result of so few impeachments) it is almost certainly the case that a republican congress would be far more reluctant to attempt to impeach a republican president than a democrat controlled congress would be.

Another important factor is the need for the co-operation of both the senate and the house of representatives. With the house first calling the impeachment the president is then tried in the senate. Ultimately then there is a need for both the Senate and House of Representatives to agree which, which although may appear simple, is often an impossible task at the best of times. With congress often locked in gridlock over issues such as the budget it seems unlikely that both chambers would be able to see clearly on such an important issue .

Outline the major differences in the functions of the Senate and House of Representatives

Represent states - national out look

Elect vice president 1824

Supreme court

Explain, with examples, why it is difficult to amend the US Constitution.