

August 5, 2021

Dear Constituent,

Tuesday, the Attorney General reported that the Governor has been found to have violated State and Federal laws. This crisis engulfing the executive office is a distraction from the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic and other urgent issues that affect our state. The Governor is unable to provide the undivided focus New Yorkers deserve, and I believe he must step aside or resign immediately. Failure to do so will inevitably lead to impeachment.

I am still reviewing the Attorney General's report, but it's clear that its findings are devastating. Tuesday afternoon the State Assembly took the action of holding an emergency conference to discuss the report, along with how best to resolve the leadership emergency in our state. This includes the confidential impeachment investigation that has been underway in the Assembly Judiciary Committee for the past several months. I am not on the Judiciary Committee so I cannot speak to their findings as of yet, but they could be wide ranging. I do know that the Judiciary Committee is moving expeditiously with this investigation and the report compiled by the Attorney General to conclude their work, which could produce Articles of Impeachment.

Many constituents have emailed me or called my office in support of immediate impeachment. However, there is a process that the New York State Assembly must follow to comply with constitutional standards and New York State laws.

The Assembly Judiciary Committee will be meeting in executive session on Monday to discuss the Attorney General's report and the direction they will pursue. The Attorney General will be sending the testimony directly to the Judiciary Committee for its review along with the earlier investigation done separately by the Judiciary Committee. Then the Articles of Impeachment will be developed and presented to the full Assembly for majority vote of Assembly members. If the vote is affirmative, the Articles of Impeachment will be sent to the Senate and to the Governor within twenty days. At this point, the Governor will no longer have the title of Governor and the Lieutenant Governor will take over that position. The Senate will then decide if they want to proceed with a trial which would take place thirty to sixty days after the documents are sent to the Governor. If the Governor is convicted the Lieutenant Governor will serve out the remainder of the Governor's term. If the Governor is acquitted, he will resume his duties.

The first and only New York Governor to be impeached was Governor William Sulzer in 1913. He was convicted on two articles of impeachment; the first being two counts of filing false statements of campaign receipts and expenditures, and the second being two counts of suppressing evidence.

I wanted to detail this process which is more complicated and time consuming than many of us might have thought. We must continue to display the level of professionalism and attention to detail exemplified by the Attorney General as we move forward with these proceedings.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact my office at 914-941-1111.

Sincerely,

Sandy Galef