

# Minuteman Indivisible

## TALKING POINTS



Graphic Source: <https://swalwell.house.gov/issues/russia-trump-his-administration-s-ties>

- **Facts:**
  - The connections between the Trump team and Russia are a tangled web of overlapping interests. The FBI has determined that members of the Trump campaign were in contact with Russia and it has been determined that they have misled the senate about their contact. Russia influenced the primary and election.
  - There are currently 3 investigations underway:
    - Robert Mueller III, is leading the **Justice Department's** investigation on Trump's ties to Russia. This investigation has expanded beyond the election impacts into the Trump organization and the Trump family's connections to Russia – Mueller is "following the money".
    - The **House and Senate Intelligence Committees** are looking at Russian intervention in the 2016 election.

- The **Senate Judiciary Committee** and **House Oversight and Government Reform Committee** are investigating former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn's conduct and have recently expanded their inquiry to the circumstances surrounding the firing of former FBI Director James Comey.
- **Is there any historical background to something like this?**
  - 1968 Vietnam War & Nixon (<http://time.com/4604464/foreign-interference-history/>)
  - <http://www.history.com/news/that-time-a-foreign-government-interfered-in-a-u-s-presidential-election-in-1796>
- **Why does this matter:**
  - We want our President protecting us - not the Russians. This is a blatant conflict of interest and brings into question the administration's loyalties.
  - If people in the campaign colluded with the Russians then the administration is vulnerable to blackmail. We want decisions made based on what is best for America – not a blackmailer.
- **Links to articles / information:**
  - <https://www.google.com/search?q=mueller+investigation&oq=mueller&aqs=chrome..69j57j0l5j3789j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>
  - [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=8&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjLxOW34rPVAhVDNT4KHajx4QFghPMAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtontimes.com%2Fnews%2F2017%2Fjul%2F20%2Frobert-mueller-widens-scope-of-investigation-to-in%2F&usg=AFQjCNGdke1MLdE83ctpz3jBiy\\_q59cjmA](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=8&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjLxOW34rPVAhVDNT4KHajx4QFghPMAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtontimes.com%2Fnews%2F2017%2Fjul%2F20%2Frobert-mueller-widens-scope-of-investigation-to-in%2F&usg=AFQjCNGdke1MLdE83ctpz3jBiy_q59cjmA)
  - <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/26/us/politics/jeff-sessions-trump-mccabe.html>
  - <https://www.indivisibleguide.com/resource/demand-independent-russia-investigation/>
  - [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiF\\_4r2q67TAhVD44MKHRzHC1MQFggjMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.politico.com%2Fmagazine%2Fstory%2F2017%2F03%2Fconnections-trump-putin-russia-ties-chart-flynn-page-manafort-sessions-214868&usg=AFQjCNFlb4aklPx8NQ8CYFK4MZ7HxYpiOg&sig2=XtWg3ju7WBAjvGQGgTx5eQ](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiF_4r2q67TAhVD44MKHRzHC1MQFggjMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.politico.com%2Fmagazine%2Fstory%2F2017%2F03%2Fconnections-trump-putin-russia-ties-chart-flynn-page-manafort-sessions-214868&usg=AFQjCNFlb4aklPx8NQ8CYFK4MZ7HxYpiOg&sig2=XtWg3ju7WBAjvGQGgTx5eQ)
  - <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/05/a-special-prosecutor-is-not-the-answer/526662/http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21721965-was-donald-trump-being-incompetent-or-malign-sacking-james-comey>
  - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2017/05/18/special-counsel-vs-special-prosecutor-difference/329016001/>
- **Related Legislation or lawsuits:**
  - MoCs have been calling for special commission to investigate (like 9/11)
    - HR.356 (Eric Swalwell's bill) has support of 199 Dems and 2 Republicans.
    - S.27 (Bill Cardin's bill) has 26 co-sponsors
- **Potential "allies" for the issue:**
  - The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee has legal authority and the resources to investigate and hold Trump accountable but the new chairman, Trey Gowdy, has gone on record saying that the committee does not plan to investigate Russia's meddling or whether Trump obstructed justice.

- The Office of Government Ethics has received over 40,000 public queries and complaints about the Trump administration. The office does not have any investigative or subpoena power and the director, Walter Shaub, recently resigned.
- The Justice department is led by Jeff Sessions, who recused himself from the investigation. The DOJ investigation is currently lead by Rod Rosenstein who appointed Mueller as a special counsel. A special counsel is narrowly focused on crimes (versus what happened, which we want to know).
  - Of late (July 2017), Trumps has repeatedly attacked Sessions for various issues from his recusal to all things Russia to the current FBI Director.
- The Senate and House Intelligence Committees are extremely partisan and underfunded. The Senate Committee continues to bring people of interest in for testimony.
- The Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a government watchdog group, has filed some lawsuits. See [Citizensforethics.org](http://Citizensforethics.org).
- **Our response / Actions:**
  - Call or visit your MoCs and the Department of Justice (1.202.353.1555 / [justice.gov](http://justice.gov)) and demand an independent law enforcement investigation in addition to the special counsel. For more information, see the [indivisbileguide.com](http://indivisbileguide.com) link above.
  - Support HR.359 and S.27 calling for establishing an independent commission