

# House Says No To Renewed Efforts To Impeach IRS Commissioner

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WASHINGTON, DC - SEPTEMBER 21: Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John Koskinen testifies before the House Judiciary Committee in the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill September 21, 2016, in Washington, DC. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images)

Members of the House failed at another attempt to impeach Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John A. Koskinen this week. Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH) introduced the measure, [H.Res.828](#), which "[r]esolves that John Andrew Koskinen, Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors and that specified articles of impeachment be exhibited to the Senate."

A motion to table the measure failed while a motion to simply refer the matter back to the Judiciary Committee passed with a 342-72 vote. The final tally showed 166 Republicans joining 176 Democrats to vote yes, 72 Republicans voting no, and 19 members who did not vote. You can see how your Representative voted [here](#).

If that sounds like progress, it's not: it's a step backward. Earlier this year, [the House sidestepped](#) a similar resolution introduced by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) to move impeachment proceedings forward; yet another resolution from the fall of 2015 also [failed](#).

Since impeachment is a legal proceeding, while anyone can make a motion to start the process, the Judiciary Committee determines whether there are sufficient grounds for impeachment. With respect to this matter, Judiciary Chair Bob Goodlatte (R-VA) scheduled hearings to investigate the matter: the third was held [in September](#). Following those hearings, the Judiciary Committee did not bring a resolution or recommendation to the floor, and there is no reason to believe that the result will be any different this time.

In fact, this week, Goodlatte indicated that there were differences of opinion in the House regarding the measure to impeach Koskinen. The House would need a majority of votes to impeach the Commissioner and move the measure to the Senate. All 183 Democrats in the House are expected to vote against impeachment, and a number of Republicans will likely follow suit. Earlier this year, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), who has not been a vocal proponent of the impeachment process, [described the matter](#) as "more or less a conscience vote. Something that we all have to decide on our own." That's hardly a ringing endorsement.

The push to impeach Koskinen focuses on allegations that he obstructed Congress' efforts to investigate how conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status were singled out by the IRS beginning as early as 2010. Specifically, Koskinen has been accused by members of the House of purposefully lying to Congress following the tax-exempt organization scandal in 2011 and attempting to cover up former IRS Tax Exempt Organization Director Lois Lerner's 2011 hard drive failure. Koskinen, who was sworn into office in December of 2013, has consistently disagreed with the House Freedom Caucus' characterization of his actions.