

Inquiry: Robert Mueller, Special Counsel

Scope	Resources	Activities to Date**	Investigative Authority
<p>The order appointing Mueller states:</p> <p>“The Special Counsel is authorized to conduct the investigation confirmed by then-FBI Director James A. Comey in testimony before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on March 20, 2017, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump; andany matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation; andany other matters within the scope of 28 CFR 600.4(a).”	<p>BUDGET: “A Special Counsel shall be provided all appropriate resources by the Department of Justice.”</p> <p>Within 60 days of appointment, the Special Counsel proposes a budget for the current fiscal year (which ends Sept. 30), which the Attorney General* can review and approve.</p> <p>At the end of the fiscal year, the Attorney General determines whether the investigation should continue. 28 CFR 600.8</p> <p>STAFF: The Special Counsel can request specific DOJ employees be assigned to the investigation. The Special Counsel may also request additional non-DOJ personnel. 28 CFR 600.5</p> <p>NOTE: Mueller must submit a budget for the next fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2017, by July 3rd. Along with the budget request, Mueller provides the Attorney General with a status report. The Attorney General then determines whether the investigation shall continue. 28 CFR 600.8.</p>	<p>The Washington Post reported Mueller has expanded his investigation to include possible obstruction of justice by Trump in his firing of Comey. Mueller is also seeking interviews with top former and current intelligence officials about Trump’s alleged attempts to have them persuade Comey to end his investigation or publicly clear Trump.</p> <p>The New York Times reported that Mueller is also looking at possible money laundering by Trump associates in an effort to hide payments from Russian officials.</p> <p>Mueller is investigating the finances and business dealings of top White House aide and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner, The Washington Post reported.</p> <p>Mueller has hired deputy solicitor general Michael Dreeban who is hailed by both Democrats and Republicans for “his encyclopedic knowledge of criminal law.” Also working for Mueller are a former deputy assistant attorney general and the chief of the Justice Department’s fraud section. Mueller’s team has been described as a “Murderer’s Row of Prosecutors.”</p> <p>Mueller has taken over an ongoing grand jury investigation in the Eastern District of Virginia that is reviewing former Trump National Security Adviser Michael Flynn’s lobbying work for a Turkish businessman. The grand jury has subpoenaed Flynn’s business associates.</p>	<p>The Special Counsel has “the full power and independent authority to exercise all investigative and prosecutorial functions of any United States Attorney.” 28 CFR 600.6. This includes the power to subpoena, to convene a grand jury, and to prosecute criminal charges.</p> <p>The Special Counsel must inform the Attorney General of any “major development” in the investigation or litigation. 28 CFR 600.8 (b)</p> <p>Although the Special Counsel functions quasi-independently, the Attorney General can ask the Special Counsel to explain any investigative or prosecutorial step. The Attorney General can then order the Special Counsel not to take that step. Yet, the Attorney General must explain the decision in a report filed at the end of the investigation with the chairman and ranking minority members of the Judiciary Committees of both houses of Congress. 28 CFR 600.7 and 28 CFR 600.9</p>

Possible Outcomes:

Criminal or civil prosecution. Report to Deputy Attorney General.

*Since Attorney General Jeff Sessions has recused himself from the investigation, all decisions will likely be made by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein.

**All information current as of June 14, 2017.

Inquiry: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

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TWENTY YEARS

Scope

According to a [January press release](#), the committee's inquiry will include, but is not limited to:

- A review of the intelligence that informed the Intelligence Community Assessment, ["Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U.S. Elections."](#)
- Counterintelligence concerns related to Russia and the 2016 U.S. election, including any intelligence regarding links between Russia and individuals associated with political campaigns.
- Russian cyber-activity and other "active measures" directed against the U.S., both as it regards the 2016 election and more broadly.

The committee's probe is ["widely considered the premier inquiry, the one with the necessary jurisdiction and the best chance of producing a credible outcome."](#)

Resources

The panel has [reportedly](#) secured an additional \$1.2 million for the probe.

Any further funding would have to come from a special request to the Senate Rules Committee, which could tap the Senate's reserve fund.

[As of late April](#), seven staffers were working part-time on the investigation, although two more staffers were being added.

Activities to Date*

The committee has held four public hearings:

- January 10, 2017, ["Russian Intelligence Activities."](#)
- March 30, 2017, ["Open Hearing: Disinformation: A Primer in Russian Active Measures and Influence Campaigns"](#)
- June 8, 2017, Testimony of former FBI Director James Comey. Full [opening statement](#). Hearing [video and transcript](#).
- June 13, 2017, Testimony of Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Full [opening statement](#). Hearing [transcript](#).

The committee has also subpoenaed Flynn. After initially resisting the request, a [compromise](#) was reached. He will now turn over documents from two of his businesses and some personal records.

Investigative Authority

[According to committee rules](#), subpoenas can be issued by either the chairman (Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C.) or vice chairman (Mark Warner, D-Va.).

Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, received an inquiry from the committee, but refused to cooperate, in part because there is nothing ["linking me to this fake Russian conspiracy."](#) In the wake of Cohen's rebuff, the committee voted unanimously June 1 to give Burr and Warner [blanket authority](#) to issue subpoenas as they deem necessary.

Possible Outcomes:

Public and/or closed hearings. Public and/or classified reports. Legislative proposals. Referrals for prosecution.

Inquiry: Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism

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TWENTY YEARS

Scope

The chairman of the subcommittee is Sen. Lindsey Graham, (R-S.C.). Among other things, the panel has jurisdiction over the FBI. [In March](#), Graham said the subcommittee's investigation would focus "on what laws may have been broken by the Russians and if we don't have laws to protect from this kind of stuff, we're going to need to create some."

- [The Judiciary Committee](#) has asked the FBI for all memos by former FBI Director James Comey about his contacts with President Trump, President Obama, or other high-ranking officials about Trump associates' alleged connections with Russia, as well as his memos on similar discussions about the Hillary Clinton email investigation.
- Comey has rejected [a request](#) to appear before the Judiciary Committee. His first Congressional testimony will be before the [Senate Intelligence Committee](#).
- Subcommittee chairman Graham [in early March](#) asked the Justice Department for all warrant applications or court orders related to wiretaps of President Trump, the Trump campaign or Trump Tower.

Resources

BUDGET: It does not appear the panel has received any additional funds.

Any additional funding would have to come from a special request to the Senate Rules Committee, which could tap the Senate's reserve fund.

STAFF: [No special staff](#) have been hired.

Activities to Date*

The committee has held the following public hearings:

- March 15, 2017, ["The Modus Operandi and Toolbox of Russia and Other Autocracies for Undermining Democracies Throughout the World"](#)
- May 8, 2017, ["Russian Interference in the 2016 United States Election"](#)

Investigative Authority

[According to Judiciary Committee rules](#), the subcommittee does not have subpoena power. The full Judiciary Committee can issue a subpoena by majority vote, or by agreement between the chairman (Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa) and ranking minority member (Dianne Feinstein, D-Cal.).

Possible Outcomes:

Public and/or closed hearings. Public and/or classified report. Legislative proposals. Referrals for prosecution.

Inquiry: House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

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TWENTY YEARS

Scope

According to a [March press release](#), the committee will focus on four questions:

- What Russian cyber-activity and other active measures were directed against the United States and its allies?
- Did the Russian active measures include links between Russia and individuals associated with political campaigns or any other U.S. persons?
- What was the U.S. government's response to these Russian active measures and what do we need to do to protect ourselves and our allies in the future?
- What possible leaks of classified information took place related to the [Intelligence Community Assessment](#) of these matters?

Resources

After months of [complaining](#) by the committee's top Democrat and Republican, the panel was granted [additional resources](#) in June.

Two new staffers were hired: a new general counsel and a senior counsel for investigations. Both have national security and investigative experience.

Activities to Date*

The committee has held the following public hearings:

- March 20, 2017, "[Open Hearing on Russian Active Measures Investigation](#)"
- May 23, 2017, "[Open and Closed Hearings for Russia Investigation Task Force](#)"

On May 31, the committee issued seven subpoenas. [Four of the subpoenas](#) involve Russia's role in the 2016 campaign. Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and one of his businesses was subpoenaed, as was Trump's longtime personal lawyer Michael Cohen, and his firm.

Committee Republicans are also interested in requests by Obama administration officials to "unmask" the names of Trump associates appearing in intelligence intercepts during the transition. [The panel subpoenaed](#) the CIA, the FBI and the National Security Agency to pursue this line of inquiry.

Carter Page, a Trump campaign foreign policy adviser with longstanding ties to Russia, [has announced](#) he will testify before the committee sometime in June.

Investigative Authority

[According to committee rules](#), subpoenas can be issued by the committee's chair, Devin Nunes (R-Cal), in consultation with the ranking minority member, Adam Schiff (D-Cal.), or by a vote of the entire committee.

But Nunes is no longer [leading the investigation](#). He has stepped aside because he is under investigation by the House Ethics Committee for disclosing classified information he reviewed at the White House that allegedly showed intelligence agencies may have "[incidentally intercepted](#)" communications of Trump transition team members.

Nunes [has been replaced](#) by the committee's second-ranking Republican, Mike Conaway (Tex.). Despite the recusal, Nunes has acted on his own in issuing subpoenas. Nunes [reportedly issued the subpoenas](#) to the three intelligence agencies without first discussing it with Schiff or other committee Democrats.

Possible Outcomes:

Public and/or closed hearings. Public and/or classified report. Legislative proposals. Referrals for prosecution.

Inquiry: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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FOR JUSTICE
TWENTY YEARS

Scope

The nature of the panel's investigation is unclear because the committee's chairman, Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), [will resign from the House](#) June 30.

So far, it appears the committee is probing three subjects:

- Whether former Trump National Security Adviser Michael Flynn disclosed his payments from foreign sources when applying for a security clearance.
- Whether Trump tried to influence or impede the FBI Flynn investigation.
- How and to what degree the Trump Organization is complying with its promise to ["voluntarily donate all profits from foreign government payments made to \[Trump's\] hotel\[s\] to the United States Treasury."](#)

Resources

BUDGET: The committee received a negligible one percent budget increase to \$18.3 million this Congress, but it does not appear the panel has received any additional funds for the Trump probe.

Any additional funding would have to come from a special request to the House Administration Committee, which would tap the House's reserve fund.

STAFF: It is unknown if additional staff has been hired.

Activities to Date*

All the committee has done so far is send letters requesting information.

- On the matter of Flynn's security clearance, letters have been sent to the [Department of Defense](#), the [Director of National Intelligence](#), and the [White House](#). The White House replied it does not have some of the requested material and is ["unable to accommodate"](#) others.
- On Trump trying to influence the FBI investigation of Flynn, the committee [asked the FBI](#) for all records of communications between former FBI Director James Comey and Trump. The FBI replied that it was evaluating ["all relevant interests implicated by your request"](#) because of the Special Counsel appointment.
- With respect to the Trump's Organization's promise to donate profits from foreign governments to the U.S. Treasury, the company sent the committee [a nine-page pamphlet](#) for employees on how to determine those profits. The ranking Democrat on the committee, Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), [called the answer "meager"](#) and sought more information.

Investigative Authority

[Committee rules](#) give the chairman sole discretion to issue subpoenas. There is no provision for issuing subpoenas by majority committee vote.

Possible Outcomes:

Public and/or closed hearings. Public and/or classified report. Legislative proposals. Referrals for prosecution.