

# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 417 What's in Play When We Reverse a Position?

House speaker Nancy Pelosi has reversed her decision about pursuing the impeachment of President Donald Trump. I'm Jerry Roberts and today, let's look at what goes into the thought process when we change our mind on an important issue. That's next up, on The Extra Point.

Nancy Pelosi had been firm in her decision to not support the opening of an inquiry which could lead to the ultimate impeachment of the president. She resisted the efforts of many in her party to get that going. She said it would be bad for America. Now, she's changed her mind and wheels are in motion for that inquiry.

If you ask why she would do that the first answer you get is that Pelosi always intended to run this political play, but she waited until the 2020 election period was underway. While the Democrats are struggling to get any kind of traction for a challenger to Trump, it would be to their advantage to put the president in the worst possible position to run his re-election campaign. It's hard to argue with the strategy if that's what her intent was all along.

Now let's take the politics out of it and strip it down to the basics. Leaders change positions all the time. What goes into such a decision? How do they come to the conclusion they're doing the right thing? I caught an article in Forbes magazine that dealt with this and let's break the components.

1. New information. The first reason people change positions is they come across new facts that cause them to reconsider their decision. This would have to include some compelling evidence for why we need to open up this issue and look again, because the human mind tends to defend what it already believes.

2. The source of the information. Could this source have an underlying purpose for providing

it and if I switch directions, could I be furthering someone's agenda without realizing it?

3. Comparing standards and values. We all play by a certain set of standards and values. You might call it our operating system, or OS. Ray operates under the RayOS, I'm doing what I do under the JerryOS, and you've got yours. If you made the first decision based on your standards or set of values in your OS, how does the new decision play out when compared to the same factors?

Is this important? I think so. When we make a decision that exists outside of what we claim our standards and values are, we're asking for trouble. When leaders do this, it often winds up in the headlines with them charged for a conflict of interest, or abuse of power.

4. The final part of this process was not a part of the article, but I feel it's critical. How could the new decision change the course of future events? No, we can't predict the future and know everything that will happen. That said, we can make some educated guesses. What jobs might be gained or lost? What lives could be changed for the better — or worse? Am I ready...are we ready for the consequences of this new decision?

The best decisions are those made using a deliberate process that takes several factors into consideration, allowing us to be confident we've made a good and fair choice.

That's The Extra Point. Get out there and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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