

Attorney General Jeff Sessions spoke with the Russian ambassador to the US twice during the presidential election

Timeline of the Jeff Sessions and Russia controversy

- July 18th ○ **Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak approached Sessions at the Republican National Convention**
The Heritage Foundation hosted an event attended by about 50 ambassadors during the Republican National Convention. Kislyak and a small group of ambassadors approached Sessions as he was leaving the podium after the event. Sessions spoke individually to a few of the ambassadors, including Kislyak.
- Sept. 8 ○ **Then-Senator Jeff Sessions met with Ambassador Kislyak in his Capitol Hill office**
At the time, US intelligence officials were in the middle of an investigation regarding Russia's cyber interference in the presidential election. Sessions holds he met with Kislyak in his capacity as a senior member of the Armed Services Committee. None of the other 26 members of the 2016 Senate Armed Services Committee met with the ambassador in 2016.
- Jan. 10 ○ **Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) asked Sessions during his confirmation hearing if he or anyone affiliated with the Trump campaign communicated with the Russian government during the campaign**
Sessions said he was unaware of any communications with the Russians adding, "I have been called a surrogate at a time or two in that campaign and I did not have communications with the Russians."
- March 1 ○ **Sessions released a statement saying, "I never met with any Russian officials to discuss the issues of the campaign."**
- March 2 ○ **In response to resounding criticism, Sessions recused himself from any current or future investigation of Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election**
Congressional Republicans and Democrats called for Sessions to recuse himself from the DOJ Russia probe. Some Democrats, including House minority leader Nancy Pelosi, have called for Sessions to step down as attorney general.

Attorney General



Jeff Sessions

Former Republican
Senator from Alabama

Source: Adam Entous, Ellen Nakashima and Greg Miller, "Sessions met with Russian envoy twice last year, encounters he later did not disclose," Washington Post, March 1, 2017; Eric Lichtblau, Michael Shear and Charlie Savage, "Jeff Sessions recuses himself from Russia inquiry," NY Times, March 2, 107.