Robert Mueller will not be our savior. While his report no doubt will unearth incriminating and unethical behavior by President Trump, some of which we don’t already know, keep in mind:

First, it is unlikely Mueller’s report will conclusively document coordination among the President, his campaign and Russia’s efforts to influence the outcome of the 2016 election.

Second, the White House and Trump have spent significant time and energy in the past nearly two years rhetorically undermining the Department of Justice and the investigation of alleged collusion with the Russia—and they are gearing up to wage a vigorous rhetorical rebuttal of the eventual Mueller report.

Third, whatever additional information Michael Cohen reveals in his forthcoming testimony before the House, at best it will reaffirm what we already know, namely, that Trump paid hush money to two women — something that technically constitutes a violation of campaign finance laws, yet seems not to bother most Republican voters or GOP members of Congress."
Fourth, Americans seem fatigued by the constant—almost daily—barrage of media stories about whether Trump obstructed justice, engaged in conspiracy or, most recently, whether he is an agent of the Russian government.

As a result, short of prima facie evidence proving collusion, coordination or significant legal violations, the final Mueller report may not have the impact many desire. The only viable and realistic check on President Donald Trump is the voting public—and for that we may have to wait until 2020.

Rick Cherwitz
Austin, TX

The writer is a professor at the Moody College of Communication at the University of Texas at Austin.