Cohen’s Testimony Won’t Move the Needle

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I doubt that Wednesday’s testimony by Michael Cohen moved the needle. From a legal standpoint, it probably won’t provide prima facie evidence to place the President in jeopardy, even if a sitting president could be indicted; Trump’s attorneys made sure his written answers to Robert Mueller left sufficient ambiguity to avoid perjury.

From a rhetorical perspective, I can’t envision Cohen’s testimony significantly reducing support for the President or causing Republicans in Congress suddenly to develop a spine. The country seems locked in and the President and his public relations team for months have systematically undermined what Cohen and others might say.

I am not suggesting that Wednesday’s hearing is unimportant. To the contrary. It is an essential part of government oversight. What I am suggesting, however, is that an ongoing debate over Cohen, fueled by the media and political pundits,
should not dominate the 2020 campaign. If it does, that will not help the Democrats put forward a unified message capable of persuading Independents and open minded Republicans.

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