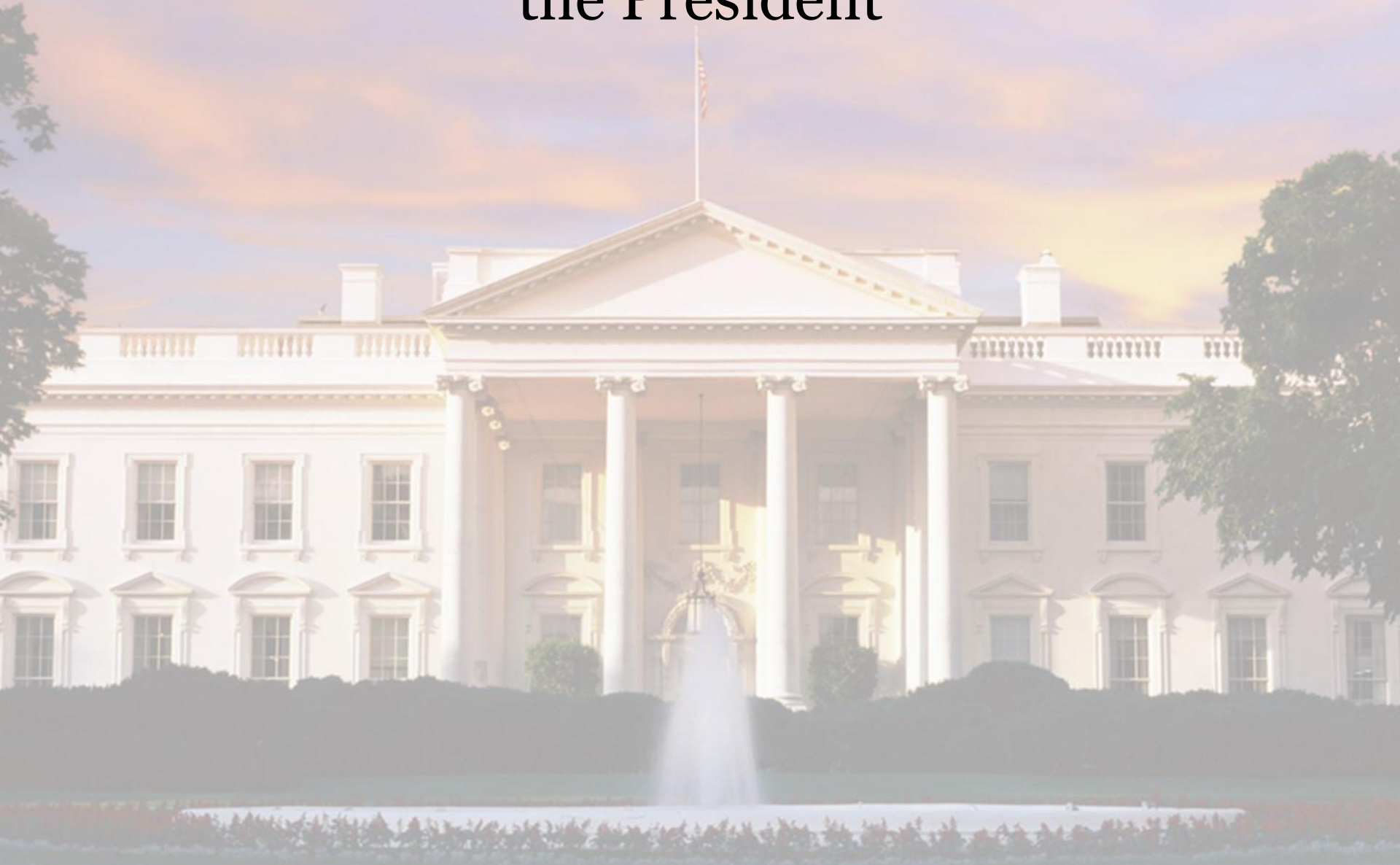


The President, Vice President, and the Roles of the President



Executive Branch

Powers of the executive branch are found in Article II of the U.S. Constitution

-Chief duty is to enforce or EXECUTE (carry out) the laws made by the legislative branch (Congress)

-The executive branch is the largest of the three federal branches with millions of employees

Formal powers of the president

Category	Powers
Executive	Take care that the laws be faithfully executed
	Nominate officials (with Senate confirmation)
	Request written opinions from administrative officials
	Fill administrative vacancies during congressional recesses
Foreign policy	Act as Commander in Chief of the armed forces
	Make treaties (with Senate ratification)
	Nominate ambassadors (with Senate confirmation)
	Receive ambassadors
	Confer diplomatic recognition on other governments
	Grant reprieves and pardons for federal offenses (except impeachment)
Judicial	Nominate federal judges (with Senate confirmation)
Legislative	Recommend legislation to Congress
	Present information on the State of the Union to Congress
	Convene Congress on extraordinary occasions
	Adjourn Congress if House and Senate cannot agree
	Veto legislation (Congress may overrule with supermajority)

President

- Considered the figurehead of leadership in the United States – has been referred to as the “leader of the free world”
- Can not run the nation alone → those at the Constitutional Convention knew this; Washington used the language in Article II to create what James Madison would first refer to as the “President’s Cabinet”



Article II, Section 1, Clause 1 of the Constitution should vest “all executive power” exclusively in the president and authorize—but not order the president to “require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices.”



Now we have 15 Executive Department – evidence that our country has evolved and grown in size, population, and need

Qualifications

3 requirements

1. 35 years or older
2. Native-born citizen
3. Resident of the U.S. for at least 14 years



Characteristics (not requirements, but most all have been):

- Male
- Christian; two have been Catholic (all others Protestant) →
- Most are college-educated
- Many have early experience in law
- Many have gained experience as a member of Congress
- Many have come from states with large populations



Electoral College and Presidential Terms

-Electoral College system: indirect method of electing the president and vice president

Each state is assigned a number of electors in the Electoral College

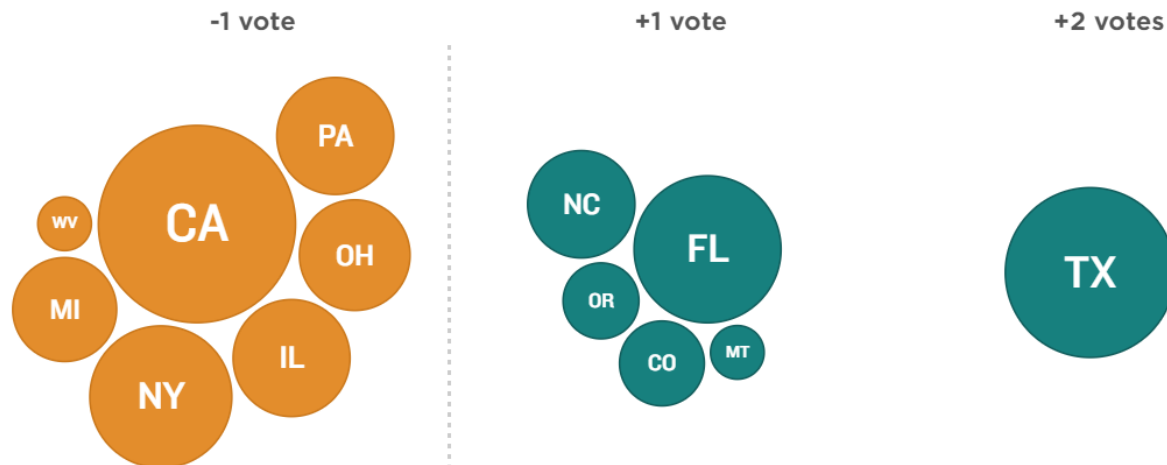
-Number of electoral votes each state has:

House of Representative members + their 2 Senators = Electoral College members (voters)

(total of 538 Electoral College members → need 270 to win the election for the new president)

Which States Gained Or Lost Electoral College Votes?

The size of each circle represents a state's new total number of Electoral College votes, which is determined by adding its number of House seats to its two Senate seats.



Notes

The 538 votes in the Electoral College are made up of 435 votes allocated to states based on their number of House seats and 100 votes based on their Senate seats, plus three votes for the District of Columbia because of the 23rd Amendment.

“Winner take all” system: whoever wins the popular vote in each state receives ALL of their EC votes

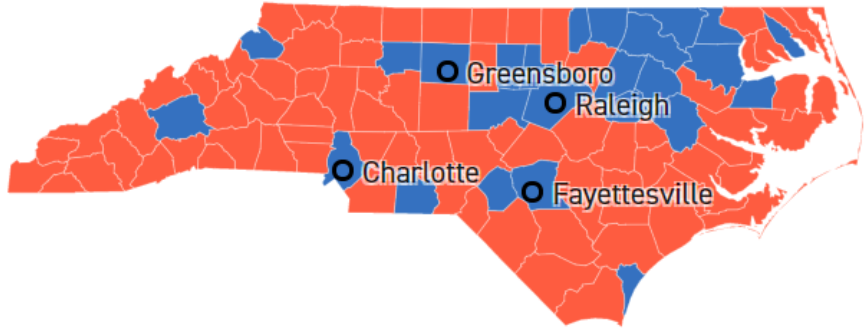
-Can serve two 4-year terms (22nd Amendment in 1951, prior to that it was only a precedent set by Washington)

Incumbent: official who is currently in office and is running for reelection; statistically has more chance to win the election (“The devil you know is better than the devil you don’t”)

NORTH CAROLINA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS 🇺🇸

Last updated Jan. 6, 2021, 4:41 p.m. EST

CANDIDATE	VOTES	PCT.
Donald Trump* GOP ✓	2,758,773	50.1% ■
Joe Biden DEM	2,684,292	48.7% ■
100% of expected vote in		*Incumbent



Win Lead

Democrats	■ 	 Tied
Republicans	■ 	 No results yet
Others	■ 	

Pennsylvania: Results compared with 2016

2016

CLINTON

47.5

TRUMP

48.2

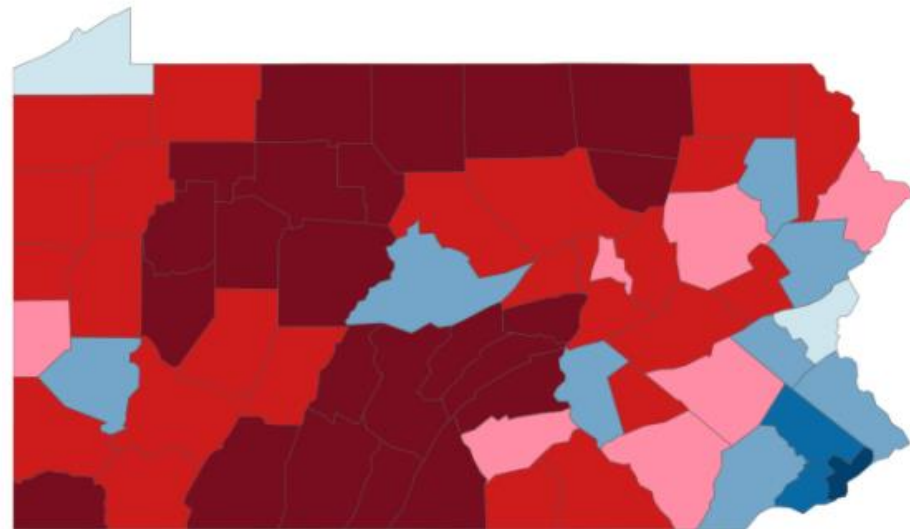
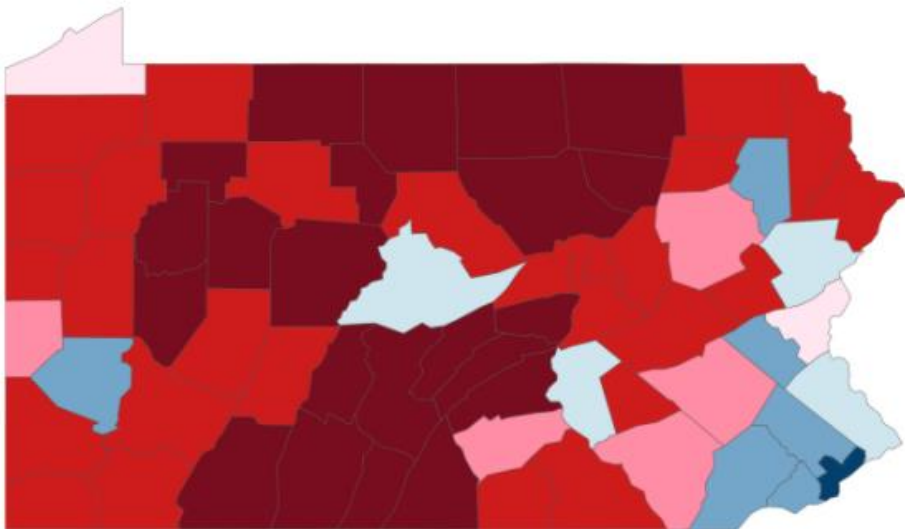
2020

BIDEN

49.7

TRUMP

49.0



Vice President

- Main responsibility is to be ready to replace the president
- Officially, the head of the Senate (mostly a figurehead role); BUT will cast a tie-breaking vote in the Senate
- Usually heavily involved in the policies pursued by the president
- Must meet same qualifications as president



VP has lived at the United States Naval Observatory (Number One Observatory Circle) since the Carter Administration (1977-1981)

In referring to the position of VP of the United States, John Adams said: "My country has contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived."

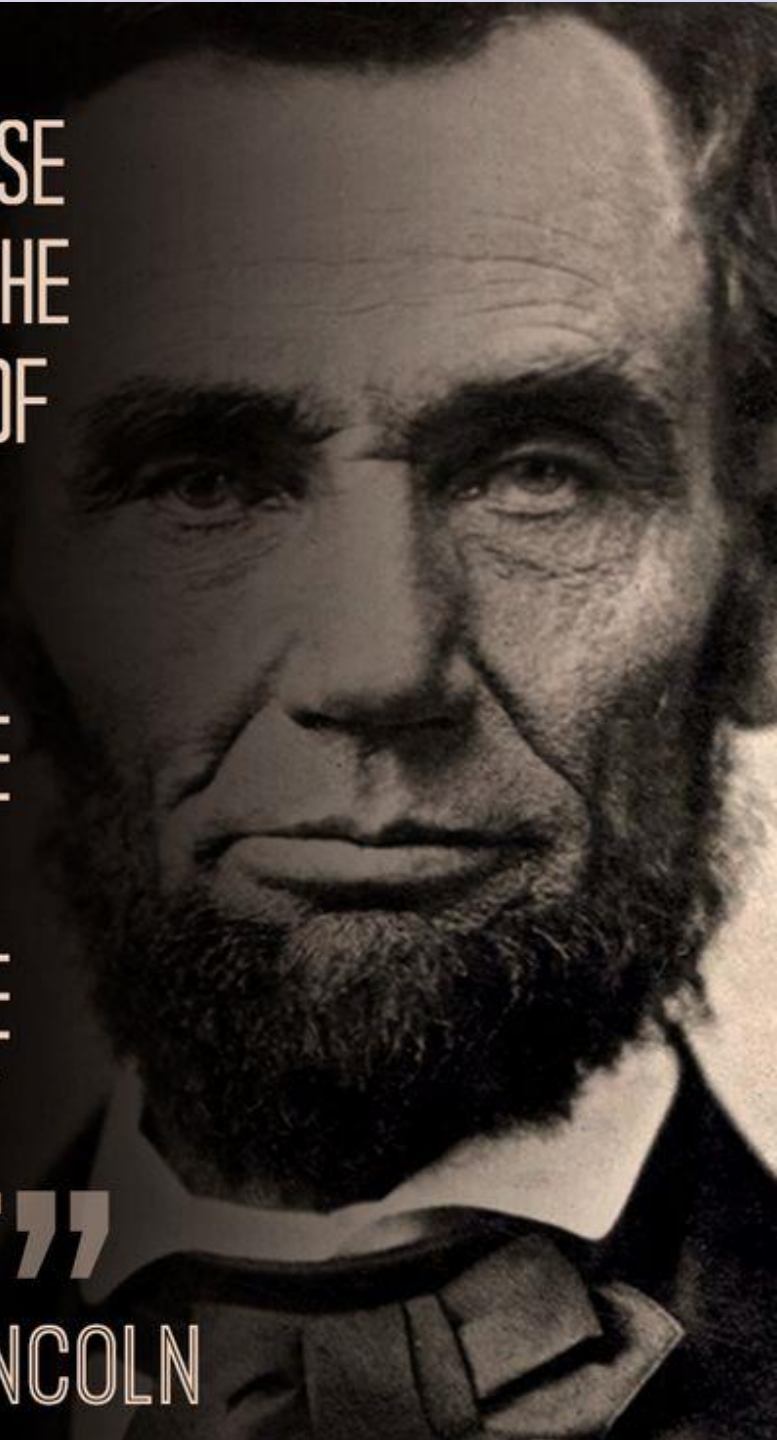
Taking the Oath on Inauguration Day

Around noon, the president-elect recites the following oath, in accordance with Article II, Section I of the U.S. Constitution:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

“THE PEOPLE OF THESE UNITED STATES ARE THE RIGHTFUL MASTERS OF BOTH CONGRESSES AND COURTS, NOT TO OVERTHROW THE CONSTITUTION, BUT TO OVERTHROW THE MEN WHO PERVERT THE CONSTITUTION.” ”

-ABRAHAM LINCOLN



The vice-president-elect is sworn in first, and repeats the same oath of office, in use since 1884, as all other federal employees:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."



Presidential Succession

Line of Presidential Succession

- ★ Vice President
- ★ Speaker of the House
- ★ President *pro tempore* of the Senate
- ★ Secretary of State
- ★ Secretary of the Treasury
- ★ Secretary of Defense
- ★ Attorney General
- ★ Secretary of the Interior
- ★ Secretary of Agriculture
- ★ Secretary of Commerce
- ★ Secretary of Labor
- ★ Secretary of Health and Human Services
- ★ Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- ★ Secretary of Transportation
- ★ Secretary of Energy
- ★ Secretary of Education
- ★ Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- ★ Secretary of Homeland Security*

*The order of this position may change, pending congressional legislation.

Source: thomas.loc.gov.

-Presidential Succession Act (1947):
indicates the line of succession after the
VP

Speaker of the House

President Pro-Tempore

Secretary of State

-The rest of the president's cabinet
members follow in the order the
department was formed

-25th Amendment (1967): remaining
questions about presidential succession
answered

-VP decides if the president is unfit to
serve; gets to choose their own VP with
Congressional approval

The Many Hats of the President



Chief of State: Ceremonial head of the government

- Greets and entertains foreign officials
- Attends festivities of historic or national importance
- Tosses the first baseball of the season
- Presents medals and other awards for national service



Chief Executive: Head of the executive branch of government

- Enforces/carries out laws passed by Congress and rulings by the Supreme Court
- Manages the executive branch
- Appoints cabinet members, federal judges and justices, and other federal officials
- Grants pardons (forgives crimes)
- Develops federal policies called executive orders



Chief Legislator: Proposer of the legislative agenda

- Proposes legislation during the State of the Union speech to Congress
- Signs or vetoes a bill
- Speaks to Congress about matters of national importance (State of the Union Address)



Commander-in-Chief: Head of the nation's armed forces

- Commander of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines (and in times of emergency can also take control of the U.S. Coast Guard)
- Can send troops into action overseas
- Keeps the nation safe and defended at all times



Chief Diplomat: Architect of American foreign policy

- Power to make treaties with other nations
- Decides foreign policy (how U.S. will act toward other countries)
- Meets with foreign leaders, decides whether to recognize new foreign governments, and proposes military aide to other countries



Chief of Party: Leader of the political party that controls the executive branch

- Plays major role in deciding his/her party's stand on major issues
- Campaigns for party members running for political office
- Appears at fundraisers and other political functions



Chief Citizen: Representative of all of the people

- Makes sure the people's voice is heard
- Sets an example of a good citizen
- Works for the public interest

AKA: the roles of the president

President's Job

-As the nation has grown, so has the job of being president

-Examples

-The U.S. Constitution makes the president Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces →

President George Washington had a militia of 15,000 volunteer militiamen →

NOW the president oversees the five branches of the military and has their troops deployed all over the world



1. Chief of State

- The president holds the highest ranked position in a state and has the vested or implied powers to act as the chief public representative of a sovereign state
- Symbolic leader of the nation; the ceremonial “figurehead” of the U.S.
(e.g., mostly symbolic gestures: lighting the national Christmas tree, awarding medals to heroes)
- Greets and entertains foreign leaders: kings, queens, prime ministers, other leaders, etc.
- State of the Union Address: speech given by the president each year to describes the situation of the nation; required by the U.S. Constitution

Throwing the first pitch for Opening Day has been a tradition since the Taft Administration in 1910 (Wilson shown pitching) →



2. Chief Executive

- Head of the executive branch which includes:
- The federal bureaucracy
- 15 executive departments and 3 million civilians who work for the federal government

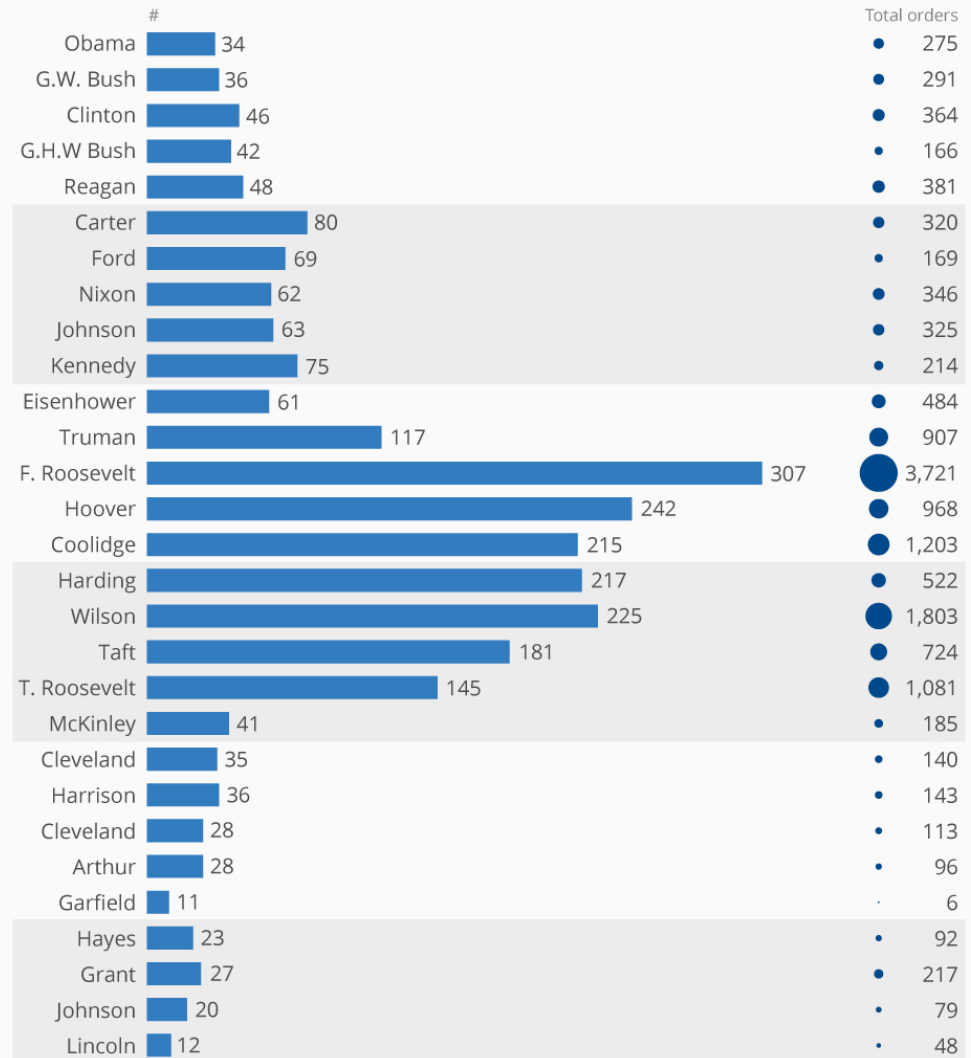
As Chief Executive the president can: implement policy, supervise the executive branch of government, prepare an executive budget for submission to congress, and appoint and remove executive officials

-Issues executive orders: rules or commands given by the president in order to carry out his duties as Chief Executive that have the same force as law

-Presidential appointments (with Senate approval)

By Order of the President

Number of executive orders issued on average per year by U.S. presidents*



Figures for Obama as of Jan. 13, 2017. Presidents prior to Lincoln not shown. They issued 143 orders in total.



@StatistaCharts

Sources: Pew Research Center, American Presidency Project



-As Chief Executive, they are the head of the law enforcement system

-Power to appoint federal judges and Supreme Court Justices (with approval of the Senate)

-Has certain judicial powers to grant:

Immunity: limits the ability for legal prosecution

Pardons: declaration of forgiveness and end of sentence

Reprieve: order to delay a person's punishment until a higher court can hear the case

Commutation: reducing a person's sentence

Amnesty: legal term for granting a pardon to a group of people



PRESIDENTIAL FORGIVENESS

Presidents and number of pardons and commutations they granted since the end of World War II:

- Pardon: Forgiveness of crime
- Commutation: Reduction of sentence

Barack Obama



George W. Bush



Bill Clinton



George H.W. Bush



Ronald Reagan



Jimmy Carter



Gerald Ford



Richard Nixon



Lyndon Johnson



John F. Kennedy



Dwight Eisenhower



Harry Truman



SOURCE Department of Justice
George Petras, USA TODAY

3. Chief Legislator

- Suggests, requests, and insists that Congress enact laws he believes are needed; should support legislation that is beneficial to citizens (but also their political party)
- Every president has a “legislative program”, or changes they want to make with cooperation from Congress to make the laws needed to achieve goals
- Signs bills into law (or uses the power of the veto to halt legislation)
- Economic leader in their legislative role (proposing the budget)
- Gives the State of the Union Address to Congress
- Uses the media to gain support for legislative program



Ineligibility Clause: prevents the president from simultaneously being a member of Congress, therefore, the president cannot directly introduce legislative proposals for consideration in Congress



“Pushback” on Presidential Power

- In 1996, Congress enhanced the president’s veto power with the Line-Item Veto Act, empowering the president to sign any spending bill into law while simultaneously striking certain spending items within the bill, particularly any new spending, any amount of discretionary spending, or any new limited tax benefit
- Once a president uses the LIV, Congress could pass that particular item again as its own piece of legislation; if the president then vetoed the new legislation, Congress could use the power to override the veto
- Clinton v. City of New York* (1998): U.S. Supreme Court ruled this type of a legislative alteration of the veto power to be unconstitutional (many states give their governor this power)

President Clinton striking 38 projects totaling \$287 million from a military construction appropriations bill →



4. Commander-in-Chief

-Head of the armed forces: role gives the president the ability to back up their foreign policy with force if necessary

Duties:

-Command troops: Congress has the power to declare war, but the president sends troops

War Powers Act (1973): the president must notify Congress within 48 hours of troops being sent; troops must be brought home after 60 days unless Congress gives its approval to remain longer or declares war

-There is no requirement of military service for the president (some presidents take a more active role in conflict than others)

-Appoints the Secretary of Defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (principal military adviser to the president, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council)

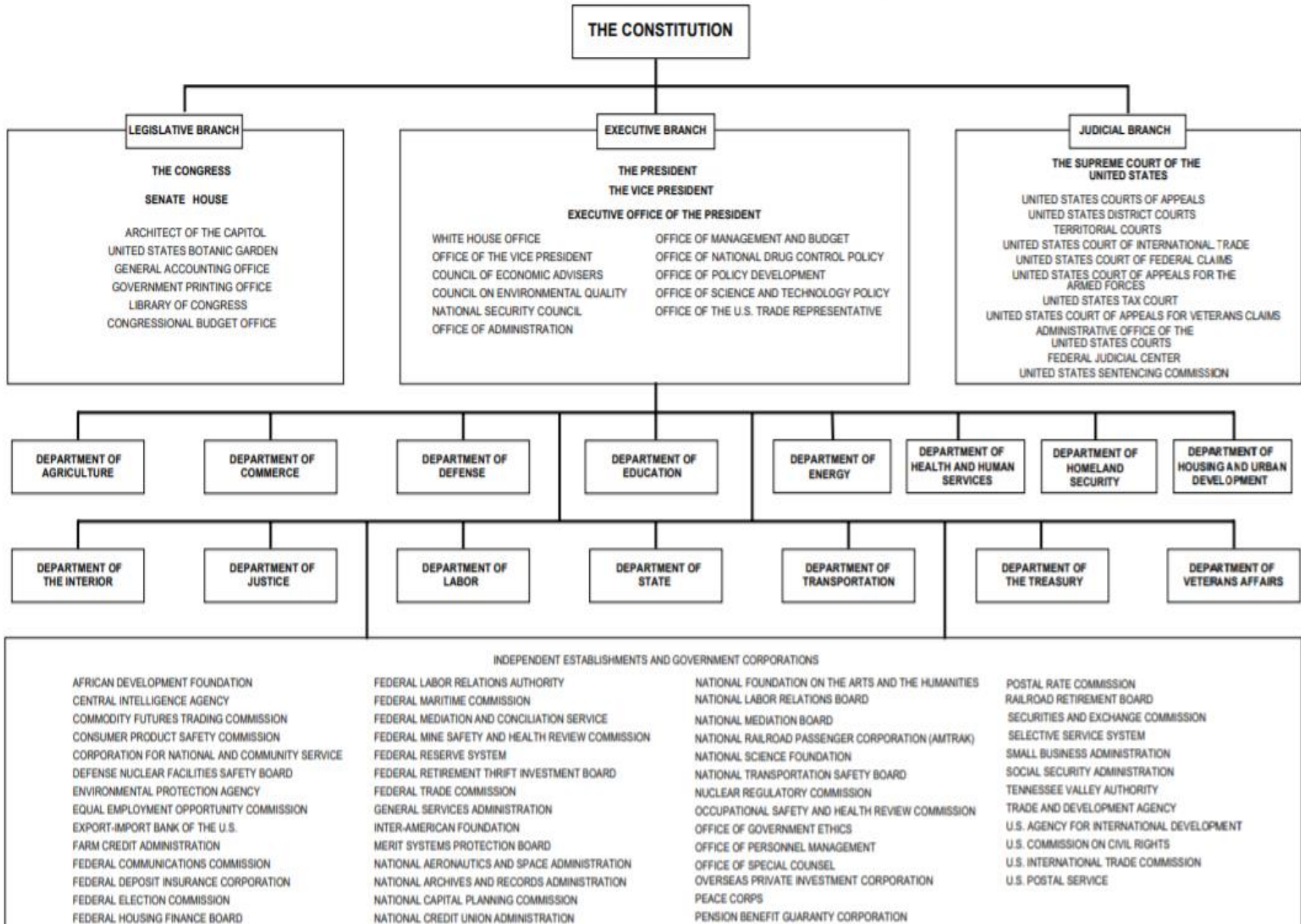


5. Chief Diplomat

- Diplomacy: the art and practice of conducting negotiations between representatives of groups or states
- Duties:
- Appoints ambassadors (with Senate approval): diplomatic officials sent by one country to another as its live-in representative
- Presidents also sometimes employ “executive agreements” in foreign relations (this has caused controversy over the course of American History)
- Acts as mediator between nations → former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and (to a lesser extent) Clinton and by the former Israeli diplomat and minister Yossi Beilin



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES



6. Chief of Party

- The visible leader of their political party; pursues policies favorable to their party goals
- Helps their party raise money
- Uses the patronage system: giving government positions to people who gave support to them as a candidate (it becomes the “Spoils System” when those people are not qualified for the job) →
- Endorses party nominees in other campaigns
- Can draft legislation that their political party wants and then ask Congressional party members to introduce these drafts to Congress



7. Chief Citizen

- The president represents all citizens and sets an example for civic behavior in times of peace and crisis
 - Representative of all the American people and makes sure their voice is heard
- e.g., during WWI, Wilson kept sheep on the White House lawn to donate wool to the Red Cross; it served as a highly visible symbol of home front support → he hoped to encourage Americans to give to the war effort in whatever way they could

