

Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency

Presidential Succession Act

- Following World War II, a new **Presidential Succession Act of 1947** was passed
- Placed the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate behind the vice president
- The line of succession then extended to the executive department heads in the order in which their agencies were created.

Presidential Succession



Speaker of the House
Nancy Pelosi



President Pro Tempore
Charles Grassley



Secretary of State
Mike Pompeo



Secretary of the Treasury
Steve Mnuchin



Secretary of Defense
Jim Mattis



Attorney General
William Barr

Order of Succession

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Vice President | 11) Secretary of Labor |
| 2) Speaker of the House | 12) Secretary of Health and Human Services |
| 3) President Pro Tempore of the Senate | 13) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development |
| 4) Secretary of State | 14) Secretary of Transportation |
| 5) Secretary of the Treasury | 15) Secretary of Energy |
| 6) Secretary of Defense | 16) Secretary of Education |
| 7) Attorney General | 17) Secretary of Veteran Affairs |
| 8) Secretary of the Interior | 18) Secretary of Homeland Security |
| 9) Secretary of Agriculture | |
| 10) Secretary of Commerce | |

“Acting President”

- The Vice President becomes “Acting President” if
 - A. The President tells Congress he cannot do his job.
 - B. The Vice President and a majority of the President’s cabinet tell Congress that the President cannot do his job.

25TH AMENDMENT

- The Vice President becomes President if the President dies, resigns, or is removed from office.
- In case the President becomes disabled, the Vice President becomes “Acting President”
- If there is a vacancy in the Vice Presidency, then the President appoints a new V.P. and both houses of Congress must approve him.

(1967)

25th Amendment

Procedures dealing with Presidential Disability

1. Vice President becomes President if the President resigns, is removed or dies.
2. If there is a vacancy in the Vice Presidency, then the President appoints a new V.P. and both houses of Congress must approve him.
3. The Vice President becomes acting President if the President is unable to serve temporarily.
4. The President becomes acting President as soon as he declares himself fit, unless the Vice President, a majority of the Cabinet and 2/3rds of the Congress declare him still unfit. Then the Vice President will remain the acting President until it is determined that the President is fit.

The Presidency in Action

Powers of the President

The President's Constitutional Powers

1. Approve or veto acts of Congress
2. Make treaties with other countries
3. Appoint diplomat to foreign countries
4. Appoint Supreme Court justices and federal judges
5. Appoint other government officials
6. Command the nation's armed services
7. Grant pardons for federal crimes

Diplomatic and Military Powers

1. Treaty: a formal agreement between two or more nations; requires Senate approval
2. Recognition: a practice in which one government acknowledges the legal existence of another
3. Executive Agreement: an agreement between the chief executives of two nations; does not require senatorial approval



War Powers Act

- Congress has the power to declare war, while president can "make" war.
- War Powers Act (1973)
 1. Within 48 hours after sending American forces into combat, the President must make a full report to Congress.
 2. American involvement must end within 60 days unless Congress authorizes a longer period.
 3. Congress may end the use of American combat forces at any time by passing a concurrent resolution.

War Powers Act

- More than 200 times, Presidents have sent U.S. forces into combat without declaring war.
- Korean War (1950-1953)
- Vietnam War (1965-1973)
- Persian Gulf War I (1990-1991)
- Persian Gulf War II (2003)

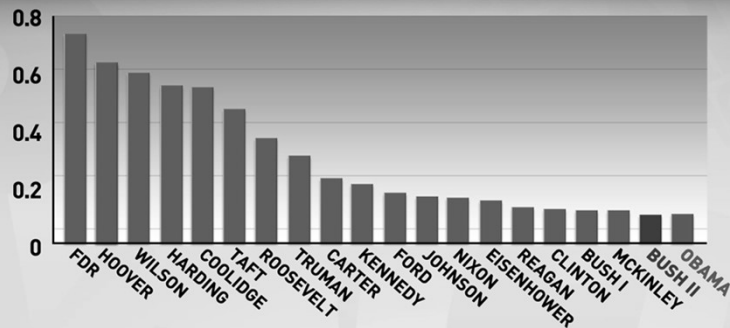
Legislative Powers

- Once Congress passes a law, the president has several choices and 10 days to make a decision
1. Sign the bill and it can become a law.
 2. He may veto the bill.
 3. The bill can become law after 10 days with no presidential action.
 4. pocket veto



Executive Orders

PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDERS ISSUED PER DAY IN OFFICE



SOURCE: NEW YORK MAGAZINE

MaddowBlog.com

Judicial Powers

- These powers focus on forgiving persons who have committed federal crimes against the United States
1. Pardon - release from legal punishment.
 2. Reprieve - postponement of legal punishment.
 3. Commutation - reduction of a legal punishment.
 4. Amnesty - group pardon

Independent Regulatory Agencies

They regulate, or make rules for, large industries and businesses.

The president appoints commissioners; however they do not report to him nor can he fire them.

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- Federal Reserve System (the FED)
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

Government Corporations

These are independent agencies that directly serve the public.

Examples:

- United States Postal Service (USPS)
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
- Amtrak
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting (PBS)

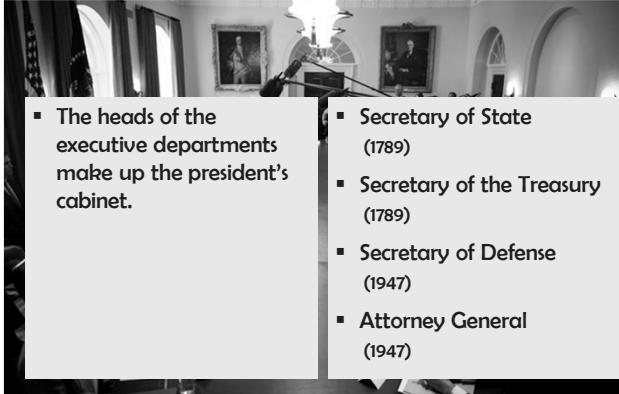
Executive Agencies

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Social Security Administration
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Civil Rights Commission
- Selective Service System
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Peace Corps

The President's Advisors

- The Executive Office of the President
 - White House Office
 - National Security Council
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Homeland Security Council
 - Council of Economic Advisors

The President's Cabinet



- The heads of the executive departments make up the president's cabinet.
- Secretary of State (1789)
- Secretary of the Treasury (1789)
- Secretary of Defense (1947)
- Attorney General (1947)

The President's Advisors

Department of State	Department of Treasury	Department of Defense
Department of Justice	Department of the Interior	Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce	Department of Labor	Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Department of Transportation	Department of Energy
Department of Education	Department of Veterans Affairs	Department of Homeland Security