

## The Executive Branch

### Qualifications for President

#### Official

35 years old

14 year resident of U.S.

natural born citizen

Vice President held to the same standards

#### Unofficial

White, Anglo-Saxon, Protestant, male, wealthy, moderate, married w/kids

### Presidential Perks

\$400,000.00/year salary

\$180,000.00/year expense account

The White House rent free

w/pool, putting green, tennis court, exercise room, jogging track

bowling alley, movie theater, 132 rooms, 32 bathrooms, 42,840 sq. ft.

Air Force One

converted Boeing 767 w/100 meals, 84 phones, 19TV's, 11 VCR's

designed to run country during crisis

Custom built bullet proof limousine

Secret Service Protection for life

Camp David

Presidential retreat in Maryland

Residential staff

maid, cook, barber, etc.

Free health care

Free box seats at the Kennedy Center

15,000 gifts a year

only get to keep one

Pension

\$143,800.00/year \$90,000/year for office help

free office space and use of the mails

Unfortunately you are limited to two terms or 10 years. ☺

22<sup>nd</sup> amendment

### Presidential Roles & Powers

#### Head of State

spiritual leader of the nation

“rally events”

delivers State of the Union Address

#### Chief Executive

enforces the law

## Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces

commissions all military officers

ensures that all Congressional laws are “faithfully executed”

issues executive orders

power of law as long as not contradicted by Congress or Court

appoints and fires ambassadors, judges, Cabinet members, top officials

Impoundment

may refuse to spend money Congress allocates for programs

issues reprieves & pardons to federal prisoners

can grant a general amnesty

## Chief Legislator

the President will design a legislative program every year

budget & State of the Union

veto Power

line item veto

can call Congress into special session

## Chief Diplomat

meet with foreign dignitaries & heads of state

recognition of leaders provides them with prestige

negotiates treaties (subject to Senate confirmation)

Executive Agreements

agreements reached by executive order (see above)

## Party Leader

patronage

the President controls thousands of federal jobs

coattails

how much influence the President has over other elections

long vs. short coattails

## Informal Powers of the Presidency

acquire new territory

Thomas Jefferson & Louisiana

suspend Civil Rights

Abraham Lincoln & the Civil War

conduct war without a declaration of war

Lyndon Johnson & the Gulf of Tonkin

use of media to influence policy

Theodore Roosevelt & the Bully Pulpit

## Limitations of the President's power

Congress

only Congress can introduce legislation (new laws)

- Congress can override Presidential vetoes
- Impeachment
  - Congress can remove a president for “high crimes & misdemeanors”
    - House of Representatives impeaches(indicts)
    - Senate conducts trial to remove

#### Federal Courts

- can order the President to take certain actions
- can strike down executive orders

#### Public Opinion

- unpopular Presidents have difficulty working in government

#### Federal bureaucracy

- thousands of workers may drag their feet implementing changes

#### Presidential Succession

- eight Presidents were former Vice-Presidents

- 25th Amendment

- President appoints new Vice President if that office is vacant

- Nixon – Agnew – Ford – Rockefeller

#### Order of Succession

- Vice President

- Speaker of the House

- President Pro Tempore of the Senate

- Historical Cabinet

- Secretary of State -> Secretary of Homeland Defense

#### Presidential Disability

- President informs Congress of disability

- OR

- Vice-President & half of the Cabinet recommend

- 2/3 Congressional approval necessary

#### Vice-Presidential Duties

- preside over Senate

- vote in case of a tie

- succession

- Vice-President’s have other duties as assigned by President

- Harry Truman vs. Al Gore/Dick Cheney

#### The Cabinet

- a group of presidential advisors who each head an executive department

- Secretary of State runs State Department, etc.

- there are now 15 executive departments

- departments can be added/eliminated

- selection of Cabinet members

- nominated by President

- Senate confirms

- Informal Cabinets

Kitchen Cabinet – Andrew Jackson

Brain Trust – FDR

Limitations

loyalty and secrecy of Cabinet members can be a problem

Executive Office of the President

established by FDR in 1939

consists of extremely large & diverse staff

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

reviews annual budgets

analyzes economic impact of different bills

The Council of Economic Advisors

advise the President on the economy

The National Security Council (NSC)

est. in 1947

consists of President, Vice-President, Sec. of State, Sec. of Defense, NSC director; others (military, FBI, CIA, Justice dept) invited as necessary

NSC has potential conflicts with executive departments

Nixon & Kissinger vs. State Department

The White House Staff

personal staff of the President

secretaries, advisors, residential staff

Chief of Staff runs staff

these people have direct access to the President

control access of others to the President

relations with staff has large influence over day to day operations

Executive privilege

concept that conversations between President and staff are privileged

similar to doctor/patient or attorney/client

Nixon v. United States

Clinton v. United States