

Chapter 10 Civics: The Presidency

Section One: The President and the Vice-President

- Cabinet- a group made up of the heads of the executive departments, the Vice President, and other important officials.

The President

- The Constitution lists 3 requirements to become President of the United States: the President must be a native-born citizen of this country (2) he/she must be at least 35 years old; (3) he/she must have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years.

Salary and Benefits

- The President earns \$400,000 per year plus \$50,000 per year for expenses.
- Free housing in the White House and free use of Camp David.
- Medical coverage and secret service protection.

Election and Terms of Office

- Elections take place every 4 years.
- Originally, there were no term limits.
- George Washington established the tradition of serving no more than 2 four-year terms (8 Years total)

The Vice President

- The only vice-presidential duty stated in the Constitution is to serve as president of the Senate.
- The Vice President gets the following benefits: free lodging, a large staff, and money for expenses.
- Salary \$202,900 per year plus \$10,000 for expenses.
- Originally, the Vice President was originally the second place winner in the Electoral College.

The Vice President

- The Vice-President is allowed to hold office for an unlimited number of terms.
- The decision to have a Vice President take over the presidential duties after the President dies was first made by Vice President John Tyler.
- The method of choosing a Vice President was changed because it was too difficult for any candidate to win a majority of the Electoral College votes.

Succession

- According to the Presidential Succession Act, if both the President and Vice President die or leave office, then the Speaker of the House becomes President.
- If a Vice President takes over as President, he/she chooses a new Vice President.
- Presidential Succession: Vice President, Speaker of the House, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Defense, Attorney General, and Secretaries of other Executive Departments.

Section Two: The Major Roles of the President

- **Bureaucracy** is a large network of government employees and agencies.
- **Executive order** is a rule issued by the President that has the force of law.
- An **ambassador** is an official representative of a country's government.
- A **treaty** is a formal agreement between two or more countries.
- **Executive agreement** is an agreement between the President and the leader of another country.

The Role of Chief Executive

- The Constitution holds one person responsible for carrying out the duties of the executive branch –The President. The most important job of the President is to carry out the laws passed by Congress.
- As chief executive, the President is in charge of many federal agencies.
- After Congress enacts new laws, it is up to the Executive Branch of government to put these laws into effect.

Chief Executive

- The difference between an executive order and a law is that the President issues executive orders.
- Decisions made by the executive branch have the force of law.
- The President can remove from office MOST officials that he appoints with the exception of judges.

The Role of Chief Diplomat

- In the role of chief diplomat, the President appoints ambassadors and makes treaties.
- American ambassadors are sent to countries the United States government recognizes.
- The difference between a treaty and an executive agreement is that a treaty requires the consent of the Senate.
- Most appointments made by the President must be approved by the Senate.

The Role of Commander-in-Chief

- The responsibility for sending U.S. troops into battle belongs to the President.

- The War Powers Act was passed in order to limit the President's authority to wage war.

Section Three: The President's Other Roles

- The President can **pardon** – a declaration of forgiveness and freedom from punishment for an individual.
- He/She can also grant a **reprieve** –an order to delay a person's punishment.
- Finally, he/she can grant **amnesty** –a declaration of forgiveness and freedom from punishment for a group of people.

Legislative Leader

- If the President wants a bill introduced in Congress, he or she may ask a senator or representative to introduce it.
- To encourage support for a bill, the President often will do the following: meet with members of Congress at the White House; make promises about other legislation to members of Congress; appeal to the nation on television.
- The State of the Union address is a speech made to Congress annually. In it, the President presents the administration's goals for the coming year. This can also influence legislation.

Party Leader

- The President makes speeches to help candidates from his/her own party.
- When a new President takes office, he/she appoints members from his/her own political party to government positions.

Judicial Leader

- By appointing Supreme Court justices whose views are similar to their own, Presidents can continue to influence decisions after they have left office.
- Supreme Court justices usually hold their positions for life –or until they (the Justice) resign.

Chief of State

- The role of Chief of State is mostly symbolic.
- When the President honors a famous artist, throws out the first pitch at a baseball game, or greets a hero, he/she is acting as chief of state.

Section Four: The Executive Office

- The President's appointees and advisors in the executive branch make up the **administration**.
- Matters that affect only policies or affairs within a country are **domestic** affairs.

The Executive Office of the President

- The Executive Office of the President consists of several offices, including the White House Office, that advise and help the President.

The White House Office

- The White House Office consists of the President's closest advisors and personal staff.
- The official who decides who will see the President and which matters will be brought to his or her attention is the **chief of staff**. He/she is the most powerful official in the White House Office, after the President.
- The **press secretary** provides reporters with news and statements from the President.

The Office of Management and Budget

- The Office of Management and Budget prepares the budget the President submits to Congress.

The National Security Council

- One responsibility of the National Security Council is to supervise the Central Intelligence Agency. The C.I.A. is responsible for gathering information about other governments.
- Its members include the Vice-President (Cheney), secretary of state (Condoleezza Rice), and secretary of Defense (Donald Rumsfeld).

Other Offices Within the E.O.P.

- The Council of Economic Advisors helps the President make decisions about taxes, inflation, and foreign trade (Domestic Policy).

The Executive Departments

- The heads of each executive department make up the President's cabinet.
- The purpose of the Executive Office of the President is to serve and advise the President.