What is the Presidency?

The Presidency in the Original Constitution

Many scholars believe that the presidency was vaguely defined in the Constitution in order to avoid limiting the president’s power.

“The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America”

Why would the Founders do this?

Who Can be President?

“No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty five years, and been fourteen Years a resident within the United States.”
The Two Term Tradition
Washington’s rejection of a third term became an informal limit on presidential terms.

The 22nd Amendment
Limited the president to two terms.

Replacing the President
John Tyler became the first vice president to become president when William H. Harrison died.
Dubbed “His Accidency” by John Q. Adams, Tyler received letters addressed to “Acting President” or “Vice President acting as President” but returned them marked “Addressee Unknown.”
➢ There are three ways to remove a president that is still alive.
Voluntary transfer of power
The president can transfer his/her duties voluntarily.

Removal by Cabinet
The vice president and a majority of cabinet members can transfer the president's duties if the president is incapacitated.

Presidential Incapacitation
By a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress can transfer the president's duties if a disabled president is unable to do so.
Line of Succession

Vice President
Speaker of the House
President Pro-Tempore of Senate
Cabinet heads
   – Secretary of State
   – Secretary of Treasury
   – Secretary of Defense

Protecting the Line of Succession

The Continuity of Government Division of the Government Preparedness Office monitors individuals in the line of succession in order to insure the orderly transference of power. If everyone in the line of succession is scheduled to be in one place (according to the FEMA Central Locator System) they notify the president who requests one person from the cabinet avoid the event.

The President’s Salary

George W. Bush is the first president to get the raise to $400,000 a year.

*Adjusted for inflation…*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highest Paid</th>
<th>Lowest Paid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Taft</td>
<td>Bill Clinton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Woodrow Wilson</td>
<td>Andrew Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>William McKinley</td>
<td>George HW Bush</td>
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<td>Grover Cleveland</td>
<td>James Madison</td>
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NBA league minimum salary: $400,000
NBA average salary: $4,000,000
The Presidency as an organization

The White House Office

“Looks like Buckingham Palace, but is organized like a college newspaper.”

A Quick History of Presidential Assistants

- Early presidents paid sons, nephews, brothers or sons-in-law out of their own pockets.
- In 1833 Congress provided for a clerk to sign land patents on behalf of the president.
- In 1857 Congress funded a private secretary, a steward and a messenger.
- By 1900 the White House staff had a budget of $48,540 that included about 30 staff members.
- In the 1930s Congress funded the Executive Office of the President (EOP) that makes up the modern White House Staff today.
Functions of WHO

- Provide advice & screen information
- Help control the bureaucracy.
- Manage the president's time
- Act as lightning rods
- Maintain relations with Congress
- Maintain relations with the press
- Maintain relations with the public

The Hub Model

The Pyramid or Hierarchical Model
Key WHO Positions

- Chief of Staff
  - The “President’s SOB”
  - The “Abominable no-man”
- Press Secretary
- National Security Advisor

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- Develops the president’s spending budget.
- Exercises “legislative clearance”
- Oversees executive branch spending

National Security Council (NSC)
Members: President, the Vice President and the Secretaries of State and Defense
Advised by the Director of the Central Intelligence agency and the Head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
Created in 1947.
Staff of about 179
Executive Office
of the President

Other Organizations
- Council of Economic Advisers
- Council of Environmental Quality
- Office of Administration
- Office of National Drug Control Policy
- Office of US Trade Representative
- Office of Science and Technology Policy

The Vice Presidency

“My country has in its wisdom contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived.”

John Adams

The President’s Cabinet

- Composed of the heads of the executive departments
- Origins in George Washington’s presidency
- Has declined in recent decades

Presidential Roles

Chief Executive

Chief of State
President Kennedy signs Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, 07 October 1963

Commander in Chief

Protector of the Peace

Chief Diplomat
Head of Party

World Leader

Voice of the People
The Presidency Today

- Requires playing a variety of difficult roles and meeting a daunting set of demands