Formal Qualifications

- 35 years old
- Natural born citizen (Sorry Ah-nuld) Only federal position to have this qualification
- Lived in the US for 14 years Not sure which 14 years

Same for Vice President

Informal Qualification

- Belongs to a major party
- Male (?)
- Long history of white northern European stock
- Senator or governor
- All protestant, but 1 (JFK)
- College educated
- Upper Middle class
- Comes from a large, pivotal state
Terms of Office

- Elected by Electoral College
- 4 years
- 22nd Amendment limits the office to 2 terms (Republicans did not want another FDR for 4 terms)
- Only 17 of 43 presidents elected to 2 terms
- 25th Amendment Presidential Succession, Vice President vacancy, Presidential disability
- What is the most time a person can serve as president?

Office of the Vice President

- “...the most insignificant office that the invention of man contrived...” John Adams
- “... not worth a warm bucket of spit” Nance Garner
- President of the senate
- Votes only to break ties
- Each President decides how to use the VP

Vice President Selection
A heart beat away

- Balance the ticket
- Geographic Balance
- Attract more voters
Other Constitutional Amendments and the Presidency

- 12th Election of President and Vice President

- 20th Moved commencement of term from March 4th to January 20th “Lame Duck Amendment”

Accidental Presidents

- Polk
- Fillmore
- Johnson
- Arthur
- T. Roosevelt
- Coolidge
- Truman
- LBJ
- Ford

Table 13.2 Incomplete Presidential Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESIDENT</th>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>SUCCEEDED BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Henry Harrison</td>
<td>March 4, 1841-April 4, 1841</td>
<td>John Tyler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zachary Taylor</td>
<td>March 4, 1849-July 9, 1850</td>
<td>Millard Fillmore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abraham Lincoln</td>
<td>March 4, 1861-April 15, 1865</td>
<td>Andrew Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James A. Garfield</td>
<td>March 4, 1861-September 15, 1881</td>
<td>Chester A. Arthur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William McKinley</td>
<td>March 4, 1881-September 14, 1885</td>
<td>Theodore Roosevelt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren G. Harding</td>
<td>March 4, 1921-August 2, 1921</td>
<td>Calvin Coolidge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin D. Roosevelt</td>
<td>January 20, 1945-April 12, 1945</td>
<td>Harry S Truman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Second term.
*Fourth term.
The Roles of the President

Chief of State
- This is a ceremonial role.
- Acts as example for and symbol of the United States
- Represents America at special occasions and ceremonies.
- Kings and Queens are heads of state.
- Example: Greeting foreign leaders
Chief Executive/Administrator

- Acts as the boss of federal government workers in 15 executive departments.
- These departments help the President carry out, enforce, or execute the law.
- The president chooses cabinet members to advise and assist him.
- Example: Holding cabinet meetings

Chief Diplomat

- Directs US foreign policy
  - President gets most up-to-date information from CIA, State Department, Defense Department, and National Security Council
  - Ability to make decisive action – One man at top
  - Ability to make treaties
  - Executive Agreements
  - Recognition of foreign governments (i.e. Cuba)
- Conducts foreign policy by directing the actions of American ambassadors.
- Signs treaties and trade agreements with leaders of other nations.
- Example: Serves as host to other heads of state

Example of Chief Diplomat

Camp David Accord

Menachem Begin (Israeli Prime Minister), Jimmy Carter, and Anwar Sadat (Egyptian President)
Chief Legislator

- Congress has the power to make laws.
- President can propose bills and must sign bills into law.
- Presents his agenda to Congress in the annual State of the Union address.
  - FDR and LBJ had extensive legislative programs (New Deal and Great Society)
- Tools of Presidential Lawmaking
  - Give out political favors for congressional support
  - Veto power Difficult for Congress to override and usually a threat of veto will kill the bill

Tools of Influence

- Issues Executive Orders: rules that have the force of laws
- Makes Appointments – The President appoints about 2,200 top-level federal officials
- Removes officials they have appointed
  - Not always easy if have a lot of support (i.e. J. Edgar Hoover)
- Impoundment: the president sets aside or refuses to spend money that Congress has appropriated for a certain purpose
- Appoints federal judges
- Issues Reprieves: delays punishment
- Issues Pardons: forgiveness of a crime, and the associated punishment
  - Examples: Clinton took a lot of heat for pardoning a bunch of big donors just before leaving office, many of them were relatives.
  - Ford pardoned Nixon, saving the former President from future prosecution
- Amnesty – A group pardon to people for offense against the government
  - Example: Ford and Carter to draft dodgers during Vietnam

Example of Chief Legislator

President Bush issued the first veto of his five-year-old administration yesterday, rejecting Congress’s bid to lift funding restrictions on human embryonic stem cell research and underscoring his party’s split on an emotional issue in the 2004 fall elections.
Chief of Party

- Presidents help members of their party get elected or appointed to office.
- They make campaign speeches needed for re-election.
- Head of fund-raising for the party.
- Selects party’s national chairperson
- Political patronage – rewards, with jobs and contracts, those who support president and party during election

Commander in Chief

- **In charge of US Armed Forces.**
- President decides where armed forces are to be stationed, weapons to be used.

Examples of Commander in chief

- Power to make war
- Military operations and strategy
  - Presidents from military backgrounds
- Power to use nuclear weapons –
  - Truman is the only one who has, while others have considered the option (Nixon – tactical nukes in N. Vietnam)
- Control problems within the country
Chief Citizen

- To Bring the nation together in times of crisis
- “Rally around the Flag”

Implied Powers

- **Executive orders** - force of law and tied to President’s constitutional powers
- ex FDR and Japanese internment camps, Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation; Bush saying federal tax dollars not to be spent on abortion

Implied Powers

- **Executive agreements** - pact between President and foreign head, does not need Senate approval, but must relate to previous treaty and used extensively to fight the war in Vietnam
Executive Privilege

- President can withhold information from Congressional committee and the courts
- Must be linked to national security
- Exception to privilege: US v Nixon; Bill Clinton’s women problems

Expansion of Presidential Power
The Imperial Presidency

- Energy
- Changing Public Expectations
- Vague constitutional Provisions
- Expansion of Presidential Power
- Congressional delegation of power and authority

Perspectives on Presidential Power

- During the 1950’s and 1960’s people favored a powerful president.
- By the 1970’s, presidential power was checked and distrusted by the public.
President’s Limited Power

- Power to persuade-
  “bully pulpit”
  State of the Union Address
- Public approval ratings
- Power to recommend
  initiates debate and sets the political agenda
- Power checked by Congress
- Honeymoon period “First 100 days”
- Signing Statements

Signing Statements

- A “Signing Statement” is a written comment issued by a President at the time of signing legislation. Statements involve claims by presidents that they believe some part of the legislation is unconstitutional and therefore they intend to ignore it or to implement it only in ways they believe is constitutional.

- Does this violate “faithfully execute the laws?”

Presidential Approval Ratings

![Graph showing presidential approval ratings over time.](image)
Why does it fluctuate?

![Graph showing fluctuating data]

Presidential Support Staff

- EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PREZ
  - White House Office/White House Staff
  - OMB (Office of Management and Budget) prepares annual budget and reviews federal programs
  - NSC (National Security Council)
  - CEA (Council of Economic Advisors)
  - Cabinet

White House Staff

- Immediate staff of the President (close proximity to the Prez.)
- Power is wielded by people in the room where decisions are made
- Jockey for influence
- Appointments usually do not require Senate approval
- Presidents seek people who will be loyal
Executive Office of the President

Forms of Organization

- Circular Method (FDR/JFK): Prez is the hub and assistants are the spokes
  - Allows more access but at the expense of efficiency (Prez is overwhelmed)
- Pyramid Method (Reagan): Assistants report through a hierarchy
  - Presidents are more efficient but often kept in the dark.

Cabinet

- Cabinet’s role has not expanded:
  - Divided loyalties of Cabinet members
  - Conflicting goals of Prez and Cabinet
  - Limited influence of Prez over Cabinet (90% of people w/in depts. are Civil Service employees)
• Cabinet
  • Heads of Cabinet Depts. (15) And 5 others who hold “cabinet rank” - OMB Director, CIA Director, WH Counselor, UN Ambassador, US trade Representative
  • Appointed by Prez w/ Senate consent

National Security Council

• The National Security Council is the President’s principal forum for considering national security and foreign policy matters with his senior national security advisors, Joint Chief of Staff and cabinet officials.

Council of Economic Advisors

• to gather information concerning economic developments and economic trends
• To develop national programs to promote free enterprise
Office of Management and Budget

- Helps to prepare the President’s budget to send to Congress
- Works with agencies to determine their budget needs in keeping with President’s goals