

## The ~~President~~ and the Executive Branch

### I. The President's Job

The job of the President of the United States is often considered the most important job in the world.

- Must be at least 35 years old
- Must be a NATIVE American citizen
- Must be a U.S. resident for at least 14 years
- Until 2008, every other U.S. president has been a white man.
- With only one exception, all have also been Christian.
- Most also have a college degree, have been a lawyer and are from states with a large pop.

### II. Electing the President

- Presidential elections take place every four years
- These years are all divisible by the number by four
- Presidents are NOT elected by popular vote
- They are actually elected indirectly by the Electoral College
- Voters vote in the Presidential election but this is just to indicate their preferences to the Electors - people appointed to vote in presidential for
- Each state gets the same amount of electors as they have representing them in Congress. major candidates
- The Electoral Voters are determined by the number of Representatives and Senators in each state.
- There are a total of 538 Electors who vote (435 Representatives and 100 Senators in Congress = 535)
- Washington D.C. is also given three (3) electors. (23<sup>rd</sup> Amendment)
- Grand total = 538
- In most states, it is a winner takes all system.
- If the candidate wins the popular vote of that state, they normally get all the electoral votes as well
- Candidates need to win at least 270 electoral votes (out of the 538)
- The Electoral College system makes it difficult for Third parties to win the presidency.

### III. Presidential Terms

- Presidents serve four years
- Most early Presidents followed George Washington example and served only two terms (8 years)
- Only Franklin D. Roosevelt served more than two (2) terms (1932-1945).
- Today, the 22nd Amendment limits the President to only two terms in office.
- There is a maximum of ten years in office.
- The President of the United States earns an annual salary of 1400,000 (plus benefits and expenses).

### IV. Role of the Vice-President

- The Constitutional qualifications for Vice President are identical to that of the President
- The only real role of the Vice President is to preside over the US senate
- The most important role is to assume the job of the Prez if necessary (9 times in our history)
- In 1947, the Presidential Succession Act established the official presidential succession (and the order of who takes over)..... But we still felt that we more direction.....
- The 25 Amendment sets up Presidential Succession and states that the Vice President who assumes (becomes) the role of President may select their new Vice president
- This amendment also gives the Vice President some authority to determine if the prez is disabled or unable to do the job
- This amendment has only been used 3 times (1973, 1974, & 1985)
- The speaker of the House follows the Vice President, followed by the President Pro Tempore the Senate.

**CHAPTER 8 | The Executive Branch**

**LESSON 1 | THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT**



**ACTIVE NOTE-TAKING ACTIVITY**

<b>Office of the President</b>	
<b>Guiding Question: How does a citizen become president?</b>	
<b>1. What characteristics have most presidents shared?</b> pp. 226-227	College educated, white, christian, male.
<b>2. Explain how a president is elected.</b> pp. 227-228	Every 4 years a president is elected by the electoral college. Each States has a certain amount of electoral votes based on population.
<b>3. What does it mean to be a "winner take all" state?</b> p. 228	Winner takes all means that one party would win the total electoral votes for any States. The state votes won't be split.
<b>4. What is the term of office for a president? Which amendment formally established the term limit?</b> pp. 228-229	A president can have a maximum of 2 four year terms. The 22nd amendment established the term limit.
<b>5. What is the president's salary? What are the benefits?</b> pp. 229	The president's salary is \$400,000 per year. Some benefits are money for personal cost and travel.
<b>6. What are the vice president's responsibilities?</b> p. 229	Some of the vice president's responsibilities are to oversee the Senate and to become president in case something happened to prez.
<b>Presidential Succession</b>	
<b>Guiding Question: What happens if the president must step down from office?</b>	
<b>7. Who was the first president to die while in office? Then what happened?</b> p. 230	William Henry Harrison; vice president John Tyler declared himself president and took oath of office.
<b>8. What is the Presidential Succession Act of 1947?</b> p. 230	The line of succession after the vice president
<b>9. What does the 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment clarify? How many times has it been used?</b> p. 231	It clarified that if the president dies or leaves office, the vice president becomes president. It has been used twice.