

The President & The Executive Branch



Qualifications for President

- According to Article II of the Constitution the president must:
 - Be at least 35 years old
 - A native-born citizen
 - Resident of the U.S. for at least 14 years
- Unofficial qualifications?
 - All presidents but one have been white and Protestant
 - Most come from states with large populations



Term of Office

- Presidents serve 4 year terms and are limited to 2 terms by the 22nd Amendment
- President receives \$400,000 a year plus travel expenses
- President lives in the White House
 - Includes a private movie theater, a small gym, a bowling alley, and a heated pool



Term of Office

- President commands a fleet of cars, helicopters & air planes
- On long trips the president flies aboard Air Force One



The Vice President

- Qualifications are the same as for the president
- Constitution says Vice President presides over the Senate and can cast a tie-breaking vote
- Usually less visible than the President, but they are next-in-line to presidency
- 9 Vice Presidents have assumed the presidency



The President's Job

- The primary job of the president is to execute (enforce) the laws
- However, the president takes on numerous other roles in American life
- What are some expectations we have of the president? Who do we *want* him to be? What do we *want* him to do?
- Are these expectations reasonable?
- Is the job of president possible?

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?



- Chief Executive
 - The president's most important job is carrying out laws passed by Congress
- Other executive powers:
 - Executive Order → Rule or command having the force of law
 - Pardon → Declaration of forgiveness & freedom from punishment
 - Reprieve → Order to delay punishment
 - Amnesty → Pardon toward a group of people

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?



- Chief Diplomat
 - The president directs our foreign policy, making key decisions toward other countries in the world

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?



- Commander-in-Chief
 - The president is the leader of the armed forces
- Congress & the president share war powers
 - Congress declares war, but only the president can commit troops)
 - 1973: Congress passed the War Powers Resolution
 - President must notify Congress within 48 hrs. of sending troops and must be brought home after 60 days without Congressional approval

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?



- Legislative Leader
 - Presidents have legislative agendas (bills they want to see passed in Congress – tax cuts, healthcare reform, etc.) that they promote to the people
 - Because they serve different term lengths, Congress and the president often disagree over how fast to move
 - Sometimes the President's agenda isn't accomplished

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?



- Head of State
 - The president is the living symbol of the nation
 - Greets visiting kings, prime ministers, etc.
 - Carries out ceremonial functions (lighting the White House Christmas tree)

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?



- Economic Leader
 - People expect the president to care for the country's economic prosperity
 - Each year the president plans the federal budget and submits it for Congress to approve

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?



- Party Leader
 - The president is generally considered the leader of their political party
 - Party members work hard to get a president elected & he gives speeches to support them & raise money