

# EXECUTIVE BRANCH



# Seven Roles of the President

## 1. Chief of State

**Roles:** This role requires a president to be an inspiring example for the American people. In some nations, the chief of state is a king or a queen who wears a crown on special occasions, celebrates national holidays, and stands for the highest values and ideals of the country. As the American Chief of State, the president is a living symbol of the nation. It is considered a great honor for any citizen to shake the president's hand.

### **Examples of Behavior in Roles:**

- ❑ Awarding medals to the winners of college scholarships.
- ❑ Congratulating astronauts on their journey into space.
- ❑ Greeting visitors to the White House.
- ❑ Making a patriotic speech on the Fourth of July.

## 2. Chief Executive

**Roles:** The president is "boss" for millions of government workers in the Executive Branch, deciding how the laws of the United States are to be enforced and choosing officials and advisers to help run the Executive Branch. As chief executive, the president executes, or carries out, the laws passed by Congress. Sometimes, the president issues executive orders to make sure laws are carried out. The president has the power to appoint federal judges and to grant pardons. Pardons allow people to avoid punishment for crimes they committed. The president also grants reprieves and amnesty. A reprieve delays punishment. Amnesty is a pardon for a group of people.

### **Examples of Behavior in Roles:**

- Appointing someone to serve as head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).
- Holding a Cabinet meeting to discuss government business.
- Reading reports about problems of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

# 3. Chief Diplomat

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**Roles:** The president decides what American diplomats and ambassadors shall say to foreign governments. With the help of advisers, the president makes the foreign policy of the United States.

## **Examples of Behavior in Roles:**

- Traveling to London to meet with British leaders.
- Entertaining Japanese diplomats in the White House.
- Writing a message or a letter to the leaders of the Russia.

# 4. Commander-In-Chief

Roles: The president is in charge of the U.S. armed forces: the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. The president decides where troops shall be stationed, where ships shall be sent, and how weapons shall be used. All military generals and admirals take their orders from the President.

## **Examples of Behavior in Roles:**

- Inspecting a Navy yard.
- Deciding, in wartime, whether to bomb foreign cities.
- Calling out troops to stop a riot.

# 5. Legislative Leader

Roles: Only Congress has the actual power to make laws. But the Constitution gives the president power to influence Congress in its lawmaking. Presidents may urge Congress to pass new laws or veto bills that they do not favor.

## **Examples of Behavior in Roles:**

- Inviting members of Congress to lunch in the White House.
- Signing a bill of Congress.
- Making a speech in Congress.

# 6. Party Leader

**Roles:** In this role, the president helps members of his political party get elected or appointed to office. The president campaigns for those members who have supported his policies while he was president. At the end of a term the president may campaign for reelection.

## **Examples of Behavior in Roles:**

- ❑ Choosing leading party members to serve in the Cabinet.
- ❑ Traveling to California to speak at a rally for a party nominee to the U.S. Senate.

# 7. Economic Leader

**Roles:** In this role, the president is concerned with such things as unemployment, high prices, taxes, business profits, and the general prosperity of the country. The president does not control the economy, but is expected to help it run smoothly.

## **Examples of Behavior in Roles:**

- Meeting with economic advisers to discuss ways to reduce unemployment.
- Meeting with business and labor leaders to discuss their needs and problems.



# Vice President

- The primary responsibility of the Vice President of the United States is to be ready to assume the Presidency if the President is unable to perform his duties.
  - President's death
  - resignation
  - Temporary incapacitation
  - Vice President and a majority of the Cabinet judge that the President is no longer able to discharge the duties of the presidency.

# Vice President



- The Vice President is elected along with the President by the Electoral College
  - Before the 12th Amendment in 1804, electors only voted for President, and the person who received the second greatest number of votes became Vice President

# Vice President



- The Vice President is President of the United States Senate,
  - ▣ casts the deciding vote in the case of a tie.
    - Except in the case of tiebreaking votes, the Vice President rarely presides over Senate.
    - Junior members of the majority party preside over the Senate each day.

# Vice President

- The duties of the Vice President, outside of those enumerated in the Constitution, are at the discretion of the current President.
- Each Vice President approaches role differently
  - a specific policies only
  - a top adviser to the President.

# Vice President

- The Vice President has an office in the West Wing of the White House, as well as in Eisenhower Executive Office Building.
  
- Official residence since 1974: United States Naval Observatory
  - previously, Vice Presidents had lived in their own private residences.
  - The Vice President also has his own limousine, operated by the United States Secret Service,
  - Uses same aircraft as President
    - but when the Vice President is aboard alone , the craft are referred to as Air Force Two (plane) and Marine Two (helicopter).

# The Cabinet

- Advisory body
- 15 executive departments.
- Appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, the members of the Cabinet are President's closest advisors.
- Run major federal agencies
- Presidential line of succession
  - after the Vice President, Speaker of the House, and Senate President pro tempore, the line of succession continues with the Cabinet offices in the order in which the departments were created.
- All the members of the Cabinet take the title Secretary, excepting the head of the Justice Department, who is titled Attorney General.

# Line of Succession

1 Vice President of the United States- Joe Biden (D)

2 Speaker of the House - John Boehner (R)

3 President pro tempore of the Senate - Patrick Leahy(D)

4 Secretary of State - John Kerry (D)

5 Secretary of the Treasury - Jacob Lew (D)

6 Secretary of Defense - Chuck Hagel (R)

7 Attorney General - Eric Holder (D)

— Secretary of the Interior - [Sally Jewell](#) (D) (Born in the UK – NOT a “Natural Born Citizen)

8 Secretary of Agriculture [Tom Vilsack](#) (D)

9 Secretary of Commerce [Penny Pritzker](#) (D)

10 Secretary of Labor [Thomas Perez](#) (D)

11 Secretary of Health and Human Services [Kathleen Sebelius](#) (D)

12 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development [Shaun Donovan](#) (D)

13 Secretary of Transportation [Anthony Foxx](#) (D)

14 Secretary of Energy [Ernest Moniz](#) (D)

15 Secretary of Education [Arne Duncan](#) (D)

16 Secretary of Veterans Affairs [Eric Shinseki](#) (I)

17 Secretary of Homeland Security [Jeh Johnson](#) (D)

# 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment

## Section 1: Presidential succession.

- When a President is removed from office, dies, or resigns, the Vice President immediately becomes President.

## Section 2: Vice Presidential vacancy

- Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of Vice President, the President nominates a successor who becomes Vice President if confirmed by a majority vote of both Houses of the Congress.
  - Gerald Ford (became President after Richard Nixon's resignation)
  - Nelson Rockefeller (chosen as Ford's Vice President).

## Section 3: Presidential declaration

- President writes to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, saying he can't do job
- Until he sends another statement declaring himself able to resume discharging those powers and duties, the Vice President serves as Acting President.

## Section 4: Vice Presidential–Cabinet declaration

- Section 4 is the only part of the amendment that has never been invoked.
- Vice President along with the Cabinet or of "such other body as Congress may by law provide", to declare the President disabled by submitting a written declaration to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Vice President would become Acting President.
- Section 4 is meant to be invoked if the President can't write the statement. The President may resume office by sending a written declaration to the President pro tempore and the Speaker of the House.