Roles & Responsibilities of the President of the United States



Article II of the Constitution

Qualifications:

- Minimum of 35 years old
- 14 year resident
- Natural born citizen:
- *14th Amendment defines a "citizen" ="All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."*

What does this mean? (don't need to copy this part)

- Anyone born inside the United States
- Any Indian or Eskimo born in the United States, provided being a citizen of the U.S. does not impair the person's status as a citizen of the tribe
- Any one born outside the United States, both of whose parents are citizens of the U.S., as long as one parent has lived in the U.S.
- Any one born outside the United States, if one parent is a citizen and lived in the U.S. for at least one year and the other parent is a U.S. national
- Any one born in a U.S. possession, if one parent is a citizen and lived in the U.S. for at least one year
- Any one found in the U.S. under the age of five, whose parentage cannot be determined, as long as proof of non-citizenship is not provided by age 21
- Any one born outside the United States, if one parent is an alien and as long as the other parent is a citizen of the U.S. who lived in the U.S. for at least five years (with military and diplomatic service included in this time)

Roles of POTUS

- The job of President has changed tremendously over the years
- Expansion of power
- We look to POTUS for leadership in so many areas
- Many areas that the Founding Fathers would never have imagined
- Federalist No. 70—Hamilton:
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm7uZYYiX9I



Head of State

- Acts as the example for and symbol of the United States
- Represents the US at special occasions and ceremonies
- Fills the role of a monarch (other countries)





Chief Executive

- CEO for the American Gov't
- The boss of federal workers who work in many different departments
- Departments are responsible for carrying out the law
- Chooses cabinet members and numerous other positions
- White House Staff
- Chief of Staff—Jeff Zients





Chief Diplomat

- Conducts foreign policy by directing the actions of American ambassadors
- Negotiates and signs treaties & trade agreements (Senate approval)
- Works with the United Nations & other international groups
- Secretary of State = Antony Blinken
- UN Ambassador = Linda Thomas-Greenfield







Commander-in-Chief

- In charge of the military
- President decides where the armed forces will be stationed, weapons that will be used
- Gives the order to attack, control of nuclear capabilities
- Sec. of Defense Lloyd Austin
- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the top military commander under the president (Gen. Charles Q. Brown, Jr.)
- War Powers Resolution ~ 1973





Chief Legislator

- Even though Congress has the power to make the laws, in recent years the president has set the legislative agenda
- He will oftentimes work with members of Congress to promote his/her agenda
- Presents his agenda to Congress in the annual State of the Union address
- This role has expanded with time: Teddy Roosevelt, FDR, LBJ & Obama (health care reform)



Bush speaking to Congress during his final State of the Union address



Chief of the Party

- By default, the president becomes the spokesperson for his political party
- Presidents help members of their party get elected or appointed
- Leads the fund-raising effort for his political party
- Gets to choose the party's chairperson (Jaime Harrison—DNC)





Chief Guardian of the Economy

Monitors the economic health of the country:

- Unemployment
- Inflation, taxation, business
- The general welfare of the union
- Seen as the active manager of the economy
- Lots of debate about how much can the president really do to affect the economy



Things to think about

- Impact of TV, 24 hr news cycle, social media, internet, etc.
- White House Press Sec. Karine Jean-Pierre (deals with the media)
- Relationship with the V.P. has changed
- Every time there is a crisis, we see an expansion of Presidential power
- POTUS & their families give up privacy
- POTUS is NOT a king or dictator
- Checks & Balances
- POTUS cannot control events







