

Magruder's American Government

THE PRESIDENT

Section 1 – The Presidents job description



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The Presidency

SECTION 1 The President's Job Description

SECTION 2 Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency

SECTION 3 Presidential Selection: The Framers' Plan

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The President's Job Description

- What are the President's many roles?
- What are the formal qualifications necessary to become President?
- What issues have arisen involving the length of the President's term?
- How is the President compensated?



The President's Roles

Chief of State

- The President is **chief of state**. This means he is the ceremonial head of the government of the United States, the symbol of all the people of the nation.

Chief Executive

- The Constitution vests the President with the executive power of the United States, making him or her the nation's **chief executive**.

Chief Administrator

- The President is the **chief administrator**, or director, of the United States government.

Chief Diplomat

- As the nation's **chief diplomat**, the President is the main architect of American foreign policy and chief spokesperson to the rest of the world.



More Roles of the President

Commander in Chief

- The Constitution makes the President the **commander in chief**, giving him or her complete control of the nation's armed forces.

Chief Legislator

- The President is the **chief legislator**, the main architect of the nation's public policies.

Chief of Party

- The President acts as the **chief of party**, the acknowledged leader of the political party that controls the executive branch.

Chief Citizen

- The President is expected to be “the representative of all the people.”



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Qualifications for President

Article II, Section 1, Clause 5, of the Constitution says that the President must:

1. Be “a natural born citizen.”

A person must be born a citizen of the United States to be able to become President.

2. Be at least 35 years of age.

John F. Kennedy at age 43 was the youngest person to be elected President.

3. Have lived in the United States for at least 14 years.

Informal qualifications, such as intelligence and character, are also important considerations.

The President's Term

- Until 1951, the Constitution placed no limit on the number of terms a President might serve.
- Traditionally, Presidents limited the number of terms served to two. This tradition was broken by Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940 when he ran for and won a third term in office. He then went on to be elected to a fourth term in 1944.
- The 22nd Amendment placed limits on presidential terms. A President now may not be elected more than twice or only once if they became President due to succession.



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Pay and Benefits

Congress determines the President's salary, and this salary cannot be changed during a presidential term.

- The President's pay was first set at \$25,000 a year. Currently, the President is paid \$400,000 a year.
- Congress has also approved an expense allowance for the President, which is currently \$50,000 a year.
- Besides monetary benefits, the President gets to live in the 132-room mansion that we call the White House.
- The President is also granted other benefits, including a large suite of offices, a staff, the use of *Air Force One*, and many other fringe benefits.



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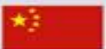









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Comparative Governments: Other Heads of State

Heads of State in Selected Countries

Country	Title	Name	Date Acquired Office	Previous Profession/Title
 Poland	President	Aleksander Kwasniewski	December 23, 1995	Former communist official
 China	State President	Jiang Zemin	March 27, 1993	General Secretary, Communist Party
 Panama	President	Mireya Moscoso	September 1, 1999	Businesswoman, civil servant
 South Africa	President	Thabo Mbeki	June 16, 1999	Deputy President
 Canada	Governor-General	Adrienne Clarkson	October 7, 1999	Writer and producer
 Spain	King	Juan Carlos I	November 22, 1975	Crown Prince
 Mexico	President	Vicente Fox	December 1, 2000	Governor, businessman
 Jordan	King	Abdullah II	August 20, 1998	Crown Prince
 Japan	Emperor	Akihito	January 7, 1989	Crown Prince
 Philippines	President	Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo	January 20, 2001	Vice President
 United States	President	George W. Bush	January 20, 2001	Governor

SOURCE: CIA Publications



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Thank you for your attention!

President Ronald Reagan



He won the Cold War and saved the world from communism



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