

# Magruder's American Government

## CHAPTER 13 SECTION 2

### *Presidential Succession and the Vice President*

# 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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# Presidential Succession and the Vice Presidency

- How does the Constitution provide for presidential succession?
- What are the constitutional provisions for presidential disability?
- What is the role of the Vice President?



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# The Constitution and Succession

- **Presidential succession** is the plan by which a presidential vacancy is filled.
- The 25th Amendment, ratified in 1967, made it clear that the Vice President will become President if the President is removed from office.
- The **Presidential Succession Act of 1947** set the order of succession following the Vice President.

Presidential Succession	
1	Vice President
2	Speaker of the House
3	President <i>pro tempore</i> of the Senate
4	Secretary of State
5	Secretary of the Treasury
6	Secretary of Defense
7	Attorney General
8	Secretary of the Interior
9	Secretary of Agriculture
10	Secretary of Commerce
11	Secretary of Labor
12	Secretary of Health and Human Services
13	Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
14	Secretary of Transportation
15	Secretary of Energy
16	Secretary of Education
17	Secretary of Veterans Affairs



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# Presidential Disability

- Sections 3 and 4 of the 25th Amendment provide procedures to follow when the President is disabled.
- The Vice President is to become acting President if
  - (1) the President informs Congress, in writing, “that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office,” or
  - (2) the Vice President and a majority of the members of the Cabinet inform Congress, in writing, that the President is thus incapacitated.



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# The Vice Presidency

- The Constitution only gives the Vice President two duties besides becoming President if the President is removed from office:
  - 1) to preside over the Senate, and
  - 2) to help decide the question of presidential disability.
- If the office of Vice President becomes vacant, the President nominates a new Vice President subject to the approval of Congress.
- Today, the Vice President often performs diplomatic and political chores for the President.



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# Into the Oval Office

## Vice Presidents Who Succeeded to the Presidency

Successor	Reason for Succession
John Tyler	Death (pneumonia) of William Henry Harrison, April 4, 1841
Millard Fillmore	Death (gastroenteritis) of Zachary Taylor, July 9, 1850
Andrew Johnson	Death (assassination) of Abraham Lincoln, April 15, 1865
Chester A. Arthur	Death (assassination) of James A. Garfield, September 19, 1881
Theodore Roosevelt	Death (assassination) of William McKinley, September 14, 1901
Calvin Coolidge	Death (undisclosed illness) of Warren G. Harding, August 2, 1923
Harry S Truman	Death (cerebral hemorrhage) of Franklin D. Roosevelt, April 12, 1945
Lyndon B. Johnson	Death (assassination) of John F. Kennedy, November 22, 1963
Gerald R. Ford	Resignation of Richard M. Nixon, August 9, 1974

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*After all these years I still feel a deep sadness when I think of that day.*

**Vice President Johnson being sworn in as President after the assassination of President Kennedy**



Frank Schneemann, BVHS

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