

The Presidency

Powers of the President

Powers of the President Alone:

- Commander in Chief of the armed forces
- Commission officers of the armed forces
- Grant reprieves and pardons for federal offenses (except impeachment)
- Convene Congress in special sessions
- Receive ambassadors
- Take care that the laws be faithfully executed
- Wield the “executive power”
- Appoint officials to lesser offices

Powers shared with the Senate

- Make treaties
- Appoint ambassadors, judges, high officials

Shared with Congress as a whole

- Approve legislation

The President: Qualifications and Benefits

Qualifications:

- A natural-born citizen
- Thirty-five years of age
- A resident of the United States for at least fourteen years (but not necessarily the fourteen years preceding the election)

Benefits

- A nice house
- \$400,000 per year
- \$50,000 per year expense account
- \$100,000 per year travel expense account
- A pension, on retirement, equal to the pay of a cabinet member
- Staff support and Secret Service protection on leaving the presidency
- A White House staff of 400-500
- A place in the country – Camp David
- A personal airplane – Air Force One
- A fine chef

The U.S. Cabinet and Responsibilities of Each Executive Department

<i>Department Head</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Date of Creation</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
Secretary of State	Department of State	1789	Responsible for the making of foreign policy, including treaty negotiation.
Secretary of the Treasury	Department of the Treasury	1789	Responsible for government funds and regulation of alcohol, firearms, and tobacco
Secretary of Defense	Department of Defense	1789	Responsible for national defense: current department created by consolidating the former Departments of War, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force in 1947
Attorney General	Department of Justice	1870	Represents the U.S. government in all federal courts, investigates and prosecutes violations of federal law.
Secretary of the Interior	Department of the Interior	1849	Manages the nation's natural resources, including wildlife and public lands.
Secretary of Agriculture	Department of Agriculture	1889	Assists the nation's farmers, oversees food-quality programs, and administers food stamp and school lunch programs.
Secretary of Commerce	Department of Commerce	1903	Aids businesses and conducts the U.S. Census (originally the Department of Commerce and Labor)
Secretary of Labor	Department of Labor	1913	Runs labor programs, keeps labor statistics, aids labor through the enforcement of laws.
Secretary of Health and Human Services	Department of Health and Human Services	1953	Runs health, welfare, and Social Security programs, created as the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (lost its education function in 1979)
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Department of Housing and Urban Development	1965	Responsible for urban and housing programs
Secretary of Transportation	Department of Transportation	1966	Responsible for mass transportation and highway programs
Secretary of Energy	Department of Energy	1977	Responsible for energy policy and research, including atomic energy
Secretary of Education	Department of Education	1979	Responsible for federal government's education programs
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	Department of Veterans Affairs	1989	Responsible for programs aiding veterans
Secretary of Homeland Security	Department of Homeland Security	2002	Responsible for all issues pertaining to homeland security