

The Executive Branch



Executive Branch Structure

President & Vice President

Main Function: Lead



Cabinet

Main Function: Advise the President



Regulatory Agencies (i.e EPA)

Main Function: Enforce laws & regulations

Qualifications to be President

Article II of the Constitution sets the qualifications

A natural born citizen of US

At least 35 years old

A resident of the US for 14 years before taking office

Informal Requirements: government experience, education,
money, character

The 22nd in 1951 → set two four-year term limit on presidency

Presidential Powers

Article II: control of armed forces, approves legislation, appoints executive officials, and appoints judges

Executive Order: rules w/ force of law

Executive Agreement: pact between President and foreign head of state

Executive Privilege: refusal to provide info to Congress or a court

Reprieve: postponement of legal punishment

Pardon: release from legal punishment

Amnesty: group pardon to people for an offense against the government

Presidential Roles

Head of State: ceremonial duties

Chief Executive: heads federal offices and agencies that see Congress' laws are carried out

Chief Legislator: propose legislation

Economic Planner: federal budget

Party Leader

Chief Diplomat: directs foreign policy

Commander in Chief: control of armed forces

The Cabinet

The President nominates and the Senate must confirm the nominee.

President will usually reward loyal party members and may often select 1 position from the opposition party.

Secretary of State (1789)

Advises President on foreign policy.

Negotiates treaties with foreign countries.

Office of Passport Services.



Secretary of Treasury(1789)

Produces coins and bills; collects taxes

Enforces alcohol, tobacco and firearms laws.

Borrows money.

IRS and United States Mint.



Attorney General (1789)

Prosecutes those accused of violating federal law.

Provides legal advice for President

Represents US in court

FBI, DEA, ATF, US Marshals.



Secretary of Interior (1849)

Manages public lands, wildlife refuges, and national parks.

US Fish and Wildlife Service.

National Park Service.



Secretary of Agriculture (1889)

Manages national forests.

Inspects food.

Administers food stamp and school lunch programs.

Food and Nutrition Service.



Secretary of Commerce (1903)

Conducts Census.

Grants patents and registers trademarks.

Bureau of the Census.

International Trade Administration.



Secretary of Labor (1913)

Enforces federal law on minimum wages, maximum hours, and safe working conditions.

OSHA, Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Secretary of Defense (1947)

Provides military forces to deter war and protect the nation's security.

Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Departments of Navy, Army and Air Force.



Secretary of Health & Human Services (1953)

Funds health care research programs.

Enforces pure food and drug act.

Medicare and Medicaid.

Food and Drug Admin and CDC.



Secretary of Housing & Urban Development(1953)

Operates home – financing and public housing programs.

Enforces fair housing laws.

Office of Housing.



Secretary of Transportation (1967)

Administers programs to promote and regulate highways, mass transit, railroads and air travel.

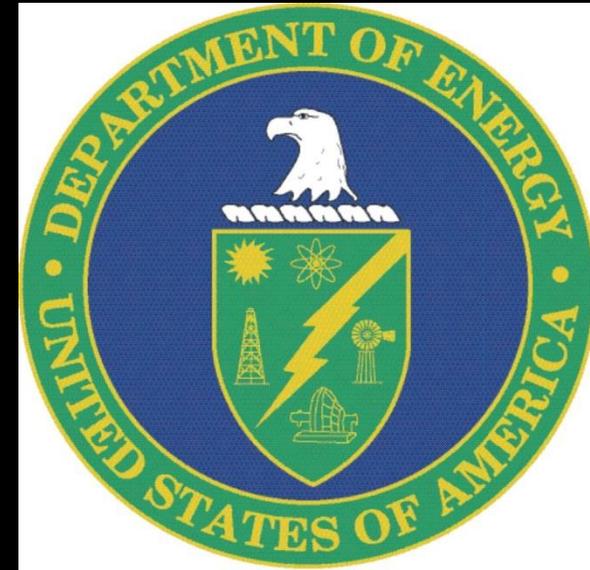
Federal Highway and Aviation Administration.



Secretary of Energy (1977)

Promotes production of renewable energy, fossil fuels, and nuclear energy.

Conducts nuclear weapons research and production.



Secretary of Education (1979)

Administers federal aid to schools and conducts educational research.

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.



Secretary of Veterans Affairs (1989)

Ad ministries benefits, pensions, and medical programs for veterans.

Veteran Benefits Admin.

National Cemetery Admin.



Secretary of Homeland Security (2002)

**Border and transportation security.
Emergency preparedness and response.
Coast Guard, TSA, and immigration services.**

