

Chapter 8 Notes- The Presidency: Our Executive Branch

Lesson 1- President and Vice President:

1. Qualifications:
 - a. Be at least 35 years old
 - b. Natural- Born Citizen (Law of Blood and Law of Soil)
 - c. Live in the US for 14 or more years
2. Informal Qualifications:
 - a. College Educated
 - b. Most have worked in law or business
 - c. From states with large population
3. Electing a President:
 - a. Elections held every 4 years
 - i. First Tuesday after the first Monday in November on even number years
 - b. President not directly elected by the people but instead by the Electoral College
 - i. Electoral College- a group of individuals called electors
 - ii. 538 total members of the Electoral College- equal to the number of representatives each state has in the Senate and House of Representatives
 - iii. 270 to win the presidency
 - iv. Most states winner-takes-all
 1. Maine and Nebraska only two that are not winner-takes-all
 - v. If no candidate has majority of electoral votes, the House of Representatives chooses the President
 - vi. Electoral Votes determine by state popular vote
4. Presidential Terms:
 - a. Presidents serve a 4 year term
 - i. 22nd Amendment limits a president to 2 elected terms in office
5. The Vice President:
 - a. Meets same basic qualifications as the president
 - b. Granted little power under the Constitution
 - c. Presides over the Senate- votes as a tie breaker
 - d. Becomes president if the president dies, is removed from office, falls ill, or resigns
6. Presidential Succession:
 - a. Presidential Succession Act (1947)- lists the line of people who takes over if the president is unable to fulfill term
 - i. (1) Vice president (2) Speaker of the House (3) President Pro Tempore
 - b. 25th Amendment (1967)- makes it clear that if the president dies or leaves office, the vice president becomes president
 - i. Allows new president to choose a new vice president, w/ the help of Congress
 1. Senate and House of Representatives must vote to approve choice
 - ii. VP has a say in determining if the president can fulfill office

Lesson 2- The President's Powers and Roles:

1. Presidential Powers:
 - a. Basic power is to execute, or carry out the laws
 - b. Vetoing, or reject bills passed in Congress
 - c. Call Congress into a Special Session

- d. Serves as commander in chief of the armed forces
 - e. Receives leaders and other officials of foreign countries
 - f. Negotiates treaties with other countries (Senate approval)
 - g. Appoints government officials (Senate approval)
 - h. Grant pardons or reduce penalties for those who have committed crimes
 - i. Address Congress on the "State of the Union"
 - i. Discuss the nation's most important issues and how to solve them
2. Presidential Roles:
- a. Chief Executive
 - i. Holds executive power- carry out the laws passed by Congress
 - ii. In charge of the entire federal government
 - 1. Appoints 15 cabinet members- head of executive departments
 - b. Chief Diplomat
 - i. Leads foreign policy of the US
 - c. Head of State
 - i. Symbol of the nation (not in formal role)
 - ii. Build goodwill with visiting foreign countries
 - iii. Represent all Americans at ceremonial events
 - d. Commander in Chief
 - i. Controls armed forces
 - 1. Congress declares war
 - ii. Final authority over US military operations
 - iii. Advised by Joint Chiefs of Staff
 - e. Legislative Leader
 - i. Can propose new legislation (Congress, though, must introduce them to the legislative process)
 - ii. Bully Pulpit- national focus on the president gives him/her a great opportunity to speak out on an issue
 - iii. Recommends legislation in the State of the Union address
 - f. Economic Leader
 - i. Plans the federal government's budget and meets with budget officials
 - g. Party Leader
 - i. Regarded as the leader of their party
 - ii. Helps the party raise money
 - iii. Give speeches to help fellow party members running for office
 - iv. Pressure party members to vote with the party in Congress