

The Executive Branch

1. The President
 1. Qualifications
 1. Must be a natural-born citizen
 2. Must have lived in the U. S. for 14 years (may be non-consecutive)
 3. Must be at least 35 years old
 2. Constitutional powers
 1. Commander in chief.
 2. Makes treaties with foreign nations
 3. Appoints ambassadors
 4. Can veto legislation
 3. White House Office Staff
 1. Appointed by the president without Senate confirmation and may be fired at will.
 2. Pyramid structure: most assistants reporting through a hierarchy to a chief of staff (Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Bush administrations)
 3. Circular structure: many cabinet secretaries and assistants reporting directly to the president
 4. Ad hoc structure: task forces, committees, and informal groups of friends and advisers dealing directly with the president (Clinton administration)
 4. Executive Office of the President
 1. Agencies that report directly to the president and perform staff services for him.
 1. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), CIA, National Economic Council, Office of Personnel Management, Office of the U. S. Trade Representative.
 2. President appoints the top positions but they must be confirmed by the Senate.
2. Vice President
 1. Qualifications
 1. As to citizenship, age, and residency, the 12th Amendment (1804) states that “no person constitutionally ineligible to the office of President shall be eligible to that of Vice-President of the United States.”
 2. Constitutional powers
 1. Presides over the Senate but may only vote in case of a tie.
 2. To help decide the question of presidential disability as provided in the 25th Amendment (1967).
3. Cabinet
 1. Are heads of the fourteen major departments.

2. They are ordered in seniority by the order of their creation:
 1. Department of State (founded in 1789)
 2. Department of Treasury (founded in 1789)
 3. Department of Defense (created in 1947, replaced the Department of War which was founded in 1789)
 4. Department of Justice (created in 1870 to serve the attorney general, a position created by George Washington in 1789)
 5. Department of the Interior (created in 1849)
 6. Department of Agriculture (created in 1862)
 7. Department of Commerce (created in 1903 as the Department of Commerce and Labor)
 8. Department of Labor (separated from the Department of commerce in 1913)
 9. Department of Health and Human Services (created as the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1953)
 10. Department of Housing and Urban Development (created in 1966)
 11. Department of Transportation (created in 1966)
 12. Department of Energy (created in 1977)
 13. Department of Education (separated from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare in 1979)
 14. Department of Veterans Affairs (created in 1988)
 15. Department of Homeland Security (created in 2002)
3. Each of the fourteen cabinet departments is headed by a secretary, except for the Department of Justice which is headed by the attorney general.
4. All of the heads are chosen by the president and approved by the Senate.
4. Independent Regulatory Agencies
 1. Enforce rules designed to protect the public interest and judge disputes over these rules.
 2. Governed by small commissions of five to ten members appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate.
 1. Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC): founded in 1887, this agency regulates interstate commerce, trucking, and railroads.
 2. Federal Trade Commission (FTC): regulates business practices and controls monopolies.
 3. National Labor Relations Board (NLRB): regulates labor-management relations.
 4. Federal Reserve Board (FRB): governs banks and regulates the supply of money in the economy.
 5. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC): polices the stock market.
5. Government Corporations
 1. Blend of private corporation and government agency, created to allow more freedom and flexibility than exists in regular government agencies.

2. Have control over their budgets and have the right to decide how to use their own earnings.
3. Controlled ultimately by the government.
 1. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting
 2. The Tennessee Valley Authority
 3. U. S. Postal Service
 4. Amtrak
6. Independent Executive Agencies
 1. Main function is not to regulate but to fulfill other responsibilities
 1. General Services Administration (GSA): operates and maintains federal properties, handling buildings, supplies, and purchasing.
 2. National Science Foundation (NSF): supports scientific research.
 3. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): administers the U. S. space program, financing ventures into space since 1958.