Chapter Eleven: The President
1. Identify the types of people who typically undertake serious campaigns for the presidency.

2. Distinguish some of the major roles of the president, including head of state, chief executive, commander in chief, chief diplomat, and chief legislator.
3. Discuss the president’s role as a politician and party chief, as well as the importance of public approval of the president.

4. Describe some of the special powers of the president, and tell how a president can be removed from office.
5. Explain the organization of the executive branch and, in particular, the executive office of the president.

6. Evaluate the role of the vice president, and describe what happens if the presidency becomes vacant.
Who Can Become President?

- Requirements
  - Natural born citizen
  - Minimum 35 years old
  - Residency for 14 years
Who Can Become President?

- Presidential characteristics
  - Often lawyers, wealthy, with average age of 54
  - Demographic bias
Who Can Become President?

- The Process of Becoming President
  - Candidates nominated at national conventions
  - Voters select electors
  - Electoral College chooses
  - Twelfth Amendment
The Many Roles of the President

- Head of state
- Chief executive
  - Enforces acts of Congress, federal courts and treaties
  - Powers of appointment and removal
  - Power to grant reprieves and pardons
## Table 11-1: Total Civilian Positions in Cabinet Departments Available for Political Appointment by the President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Department</th>
<th>Total Number of Employees</th>
<th>Political Appointments Available</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>92,217</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce</td>
<td>45,737</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>0.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>657,347</td>
<td>695</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4,642</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>6.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>16,140</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human Services</td>
<td>85,257</td>
<td>475</td>
<td>0.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeland Security</td>
<td>198,658</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing and Urban Development</td>
<td>9,459</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>1.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior</td>
<td>69,866</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice</td>
<td>115,746</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td>16,366</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>1.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>12,588</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>4.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>57,324</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasury</td>
<td>105,612</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>317,620</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Many Roles of the President

- Commander in chief
  - Wartime powers: ultimate decision maker
  - Power over National Guard
  - War Powers Resolution (1973)
- Chief diplomat
  - Diplomatic recognition
  - Negotiate treaties
  - Executive agreements
The Many Roles of the President
The Many Roles of the President

- Chief legislator
  - Creates congressional agenda
  - State of the Union
  - Works to pass legislation
  - Veto powers
The President as Party Chief and Superpolitician

- President as chief of party
  - Political power through patronage
  - Fundraiser
  - Influencing Congress

- Constituencies and public approval
  - Public
  - Party and opposing party
  - Washington community
Presidential Powers

Expressed Powers
- Constitutional
- Statutory

Inherent Powers
- Emergency powers
- Executive orders
- Executive privilege
- Signing statements
Presidential Powers

- Emergency powers
  - FDR and weapons embargo
  - Lincoln suspending civil liberties
  - Truman and nationalization of steel plants

- Executive orders have force of law
  - Enforce statutes
  - Enforce Constitution or treaties
  - Establish or modify agency practices
Presidential Powers

- Executive privilege: right to withhold information or refuse to appear before Congress or courts
  - Limits first tested during Watergate events
    - United States v. Nixon
Presidential Powers

- Signing statements
  - Written declaration by president when signing bill into law
  - Extensive use by Bush
- Abuses of executive power & impeachment
  - Andrew Johnson
  - Richard Nixon
  - Bill Clinton
- The Cabinet
  - Attorney general and fourteen department secretaries
  - Selected by president, not mandated
  - “Kitchen cabinet”
The Executive Organization

- Executive Office of the President
  - White House Office
  - Office of Administration
  - Office of Management and Budget
  - Office of National Drug Control Policy
  - National Security Staff
  - Office of Science and Technology Policy
  - Council of Economic Advisers
  - Office of the Vice President
  - Council on Environmental Quality
The Vice Presidency

- Constitutional duty to preside over Senate
- Other roles:
  - Strengthens presidential ticket
  - Supports the president
The Vice Presidency

- Presidential succession
  - Eight vice presidents have become president upon death of president
  - Twenty-fifth Amendment
  - Succession Act of 1947
# Line of Succession to the Presidency of the United States

**Table 11-3** Line of Succession to the Presidency of the United States

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Speaker of the House of Representatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Senate President Pro Tempore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Secretary of the Treasury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Secretary of Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Attorney General (head of the Justice Department)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Secretary of the Interior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Secretary of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Secretary of Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Secretary of Labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Secretary of Health and Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Secretary of Housing and Urban Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Secretary of Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Secretary of Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Secretary of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Secretary of Veterans Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Secretary of Homeland Security</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
James Madison believed that elected officials should be above public opinion and popular trends. If we instituted the recall for national office, will our national agenda be a legislative popularity contest?
Is the impeachment process an indirect version of the recall? If so, why doesn’t Congress implement it more frequently when the public opposes the president?
If the requirements to be president are easily attainable for most Americans, why don’t more individuals run for president? Based on previous elections, what additional requirements would you add to the list?
Questions for Critical Thinking

★ What are some of the qualities you look for in a president?
★ In your opinion, who are the top five presidents and why?
Is the Electoral College relevant today? If the Electoral College has failed in the past, why do we keep using the procedure? Is there a better way to prevent cases where the popular vote is opposite of the electoral vote?
How do you feel about splitting the Electoral College vote in proportion to the percentage totals of the popular vote? One state already has this system in place. Would it make more sense to split the vote than a winner-take-all system?
In your opinion, which of the five presidential roles is the most important in the United States? If you could eliminate one role, which role would it be and why?
The use of executive agreements by presidents have provided an opportunity to negotiate freely among heads of state. Do you feel that it is a violation of separation of powers for presidents to negotiate agreements without advice and consent of Congress?
In your opinion, are presidents more successful during divided or united government?
Should presidents be concerned with falling approval numbers? Why or why not?