## The President

## Formal Powers of the President

1. Commander in chief of the armed forces
2. Negotiates treaties that are then sent to the Senate
3. Nominates ambassadors with approval of the Senate
4. Gives diplomatic recognition to other governments; receives ambassadors, dignitaries \& heads of state
5. State of the Union Address
6. Drafts and recommends legislation
7. Veto power
8. Administrative power to execute laws
9. Fill administrative vacancies if Congress is in recess
10. Grant pardons and reprieves for federal offenses
11. Nominate federal judges, including Supreme Court justices, who are all later confirmed or not by a Senate majority
12. Appoints administrators/chief administrator/chief executive

## Informal Powers of the President

1. leadership

- should the president follow a majoritarian path?
- president of all the people?

2. persuasion, negotiation \& compromise

- inaugural address

3. chief lobbyist for policy agenda

- work with united/divided government
- executive \& legislative branches may be controlled by differing parties and competing agendas
- gridlock may result from such divisions

4. fundraiser in chief/party leader
5. forge an agenda
6. bully pulpit - platform for the president to push agenda to the public; meet with media; go directly to the people
7. Office of the First Lady/Gentleman-may forward agenda for the president; advocacy

## Terms to Remember...

$\Rightarrow$ frontloading-early state primary or caucus; maximizes impact on presidential race; early states receive more attention from field of candidates
$\Rightarrow$ general election-November election; public opinion through voting helps inform the electors to the Electoral College
$\Rightarrow$ Electoral College-electors chosen from each state based upon the total number of US senators and representatives in each state including 3 electors for D.C.; meeting after the general election to elect the president
$\Rightarrow$ Article II-the executive branch
$\Rightarrow$ impeachment—charging a government official with serious wrongdoing by the US House and voting to remove from office by the US Senate
$\Rightarrow$ line-item veto—president may nullify lines of a spending bill; 1996
$\Rightarrow$ signing statements-president agrees to legislation and indicates how it will be interpreted and enforced

Class Notes...
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S Constitution, Article II

War Powers Resolution (1973)

- president must consult Congress when committing troops to a military engagement
- 48 hour notification process
- 60 day limit for troop committal without Congressional approval for extension or declaration of war by Congress


## Cabinet

The president's advisors-secretaries of state, treasury, defense, justice, interior, agriculture, commerce, labor, health \& human services, housing \& urban development, transportation, energy, education, veterans affairs, and homeland security; each heads a department of the executive branch; also includes US Ambassador to the United Nations
Executive Office of the President (EOP/White House)

Chief of staff; approximately; includes NSC, OMB, Office of Vice President

## National Security Council

Created in 1947 and includes the president, vice president, secretary of state, secretary of defense, and other advisers to formulate a national security plan or formulate policy agenda; National Security Advisor; CIA and NSA advising as required
Office of Management and Budget (OMB) \& Council of Economic Advisors
head of OMB is also part of cabinet; advising president on budgetary matters; policy agenda; oversees budget implementation as well as actions of the executive branch

## Legislative Liaison Staff

facilitate relationship between the president and the Congress

## Presidential Actions...

## Executive Orders

- connected to implementing laws passed by Congress
- connected to powers as Commander-in-Chief
- connected to internal executive branch matters


## Executive Agreement

- discuss constitutional authority (treaties)
- president conducts negotiations with another foreign government
- president makes a pact with another sovereign nation


## Executive Privilege

- president invokes; withholding information from Congress, press, FOIA requests, etc.
- usually confidential information; courts have ruled such power is implicit in constitutional separation of powers


## State Secret

- does it threaten judicial oversight? undermine democratic ideals?
- when disclosure of information is determined to be a threat to national security

