

The Executive Branch



The Executive Branch

- Enforces the laws
- Head of Executive Branch is the President
 - Can make quick decisions in crucial situations
 - Both Congress and courts take time to get things done





The President

- Article II of the Constitution
 - “take care that the laws be faithfully executed”
 - “preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States”
- No titles of nobility
 - “Mr. President”
- \$400,000 per year



Qualifications for the President



- Article II, Section 1
 - Must be 35 years old
 - Must be a “natural born citizen”
 - Must have been a resident of the US for at least 14 years

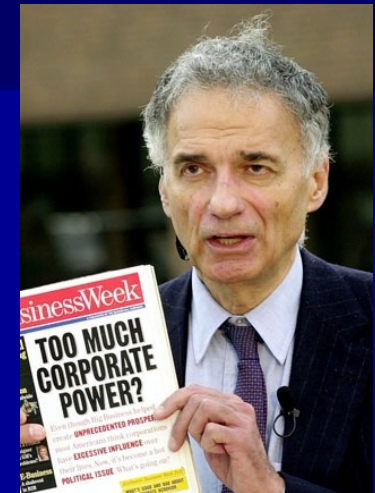
Vice President



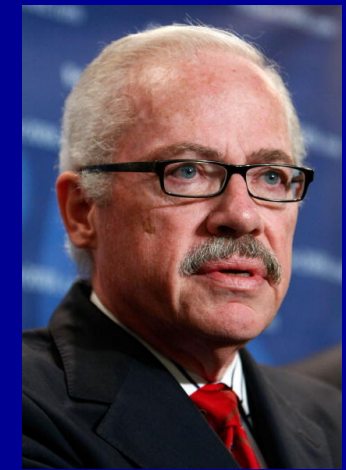
- Same qualifications as President
- No term limits
- The Constitution called for the 2nd place finisher in the electoral college to become VP
 - Changed by 12th amendment
- Specific Duties enumerated in the Constitution
 - Successor to Presidency, Presides over Senate
- Other duties (not listed)
 - Advisor to the President
 - Spokesman for the Administration
- Most feel that it is a thankless and powerless role
 - John Adams – “most insignificant office...ever...conceived...”
 - John Nance Garner – “The Vice Presidency is not worth a bucket of warm spit”

Electing a President – Primary Elections

- Each political party selects one candidate to run
- Each party holds Primary Elections to determine who their candidate will be
 - Candidates try to win states and collect delegates to represent them at the Party's nominating convention
- In 2008 the Democrats chose Barack Obama; the Republicans chose John McCain; Bob Barr and Ralph Nader ran as third party candidates.
 - Sometimes there may be over 20 candidates for president from various parties, independents, and write-in candidates .



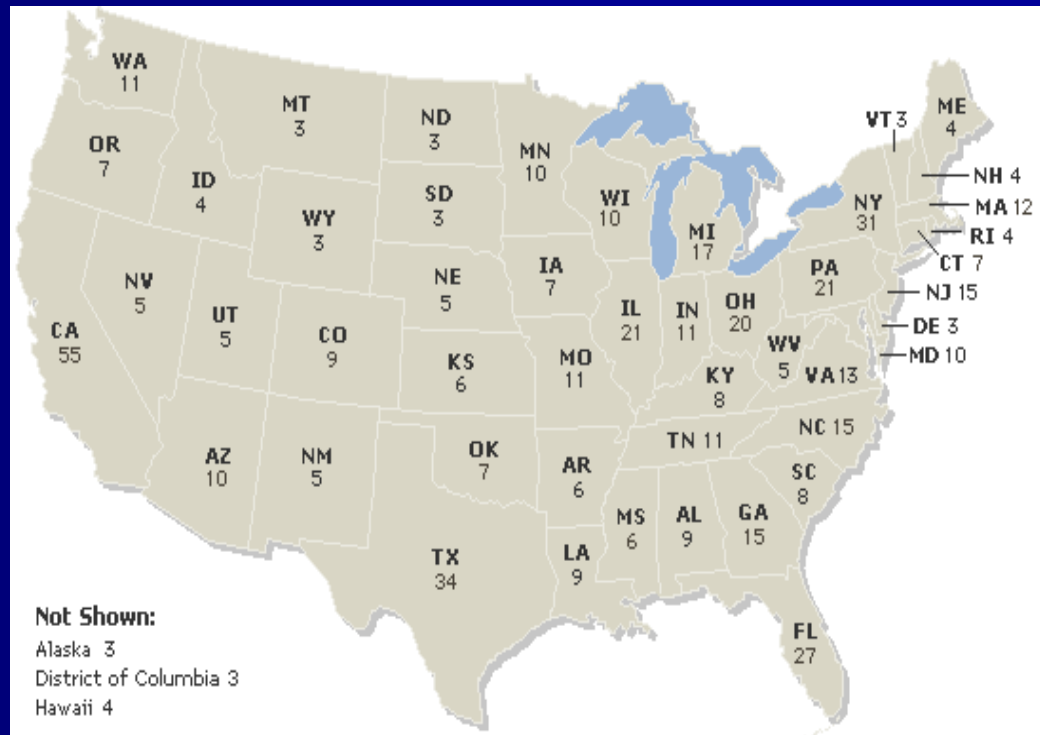
Ralph Nader



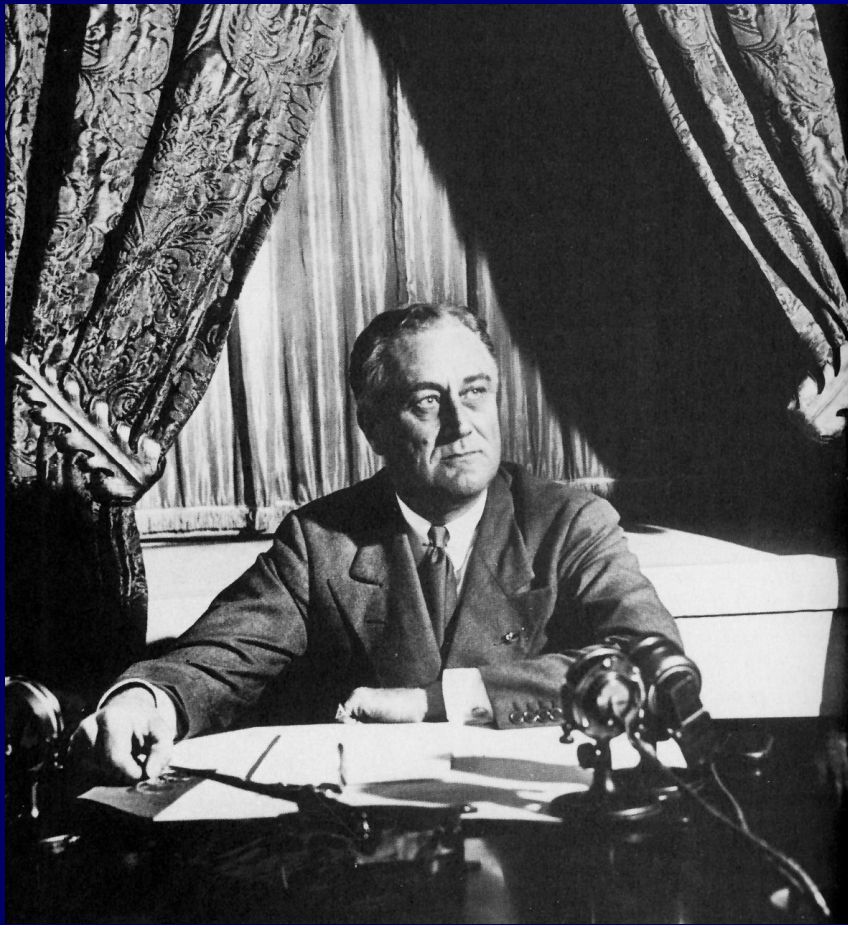
Bob Barr

The Electoral College

- Article II, Sec. 1
- Each STATE votes for president
 - the people in each state vote to determine who will get their electoral votes
 - Vote for electors pledged to vote for a certain candidate
- Each state's number of electors is the total number of Senators and Representatives from each state
- A candidate needs 270 electoral votes to win (a majority)
 - 538 total electors



Term Limits



- Elected to a 4 year term
- FDR is the only president to serve more than 2 terms (4 from 1933-45)
- Two term limit as of 1951
 - 22nd amendment
- Can serve 10 years total (no more than 2 years of another's term)

Roles of The President



- Also Known As...
 - The Leader of the Free World
 - Head of State
 - Chief Executive
 - Commander in Chief
 - Chief Diplomat
- Derived from Article II, Sections 2-4



Head of State

- Awards medals & honors, makes speeches
 - Usually does not write or memorize his own speeches
 - Employs staff speech writers whom he directs, advises, and revises
- The most visible part of government
- Official Representative of the United States at functions or ceremonies



Commander in Chief

- Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces
- Commands over 1 million military personnel
- Authorizes the use of troops overseas
- Authorizes the use of the National Guard to keep the peace/enforce the laws in the U.S.





Chief Diplomat

- Makes treaties with other nations
 - The Senate must approve any treaty before it becomes official
- Nominates ambassadors
 - Needs Senate approval
- Receives ambassadors from other nations
- May make executive agreements (like a treaty) that function as law without congressional consent
 - Congress can nullify it by passing legislation of its own



**George W. Bush with former
Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro
Koizumi**

Chief Executive

- Enforces federal laws
- Presents his agenda in the State of the Union address to Congress
- Recommends legislation to Congress
 - Cannot introduce a bill
- Convenes both houses of Congress in special joint session
- Approves laws passed by Congress

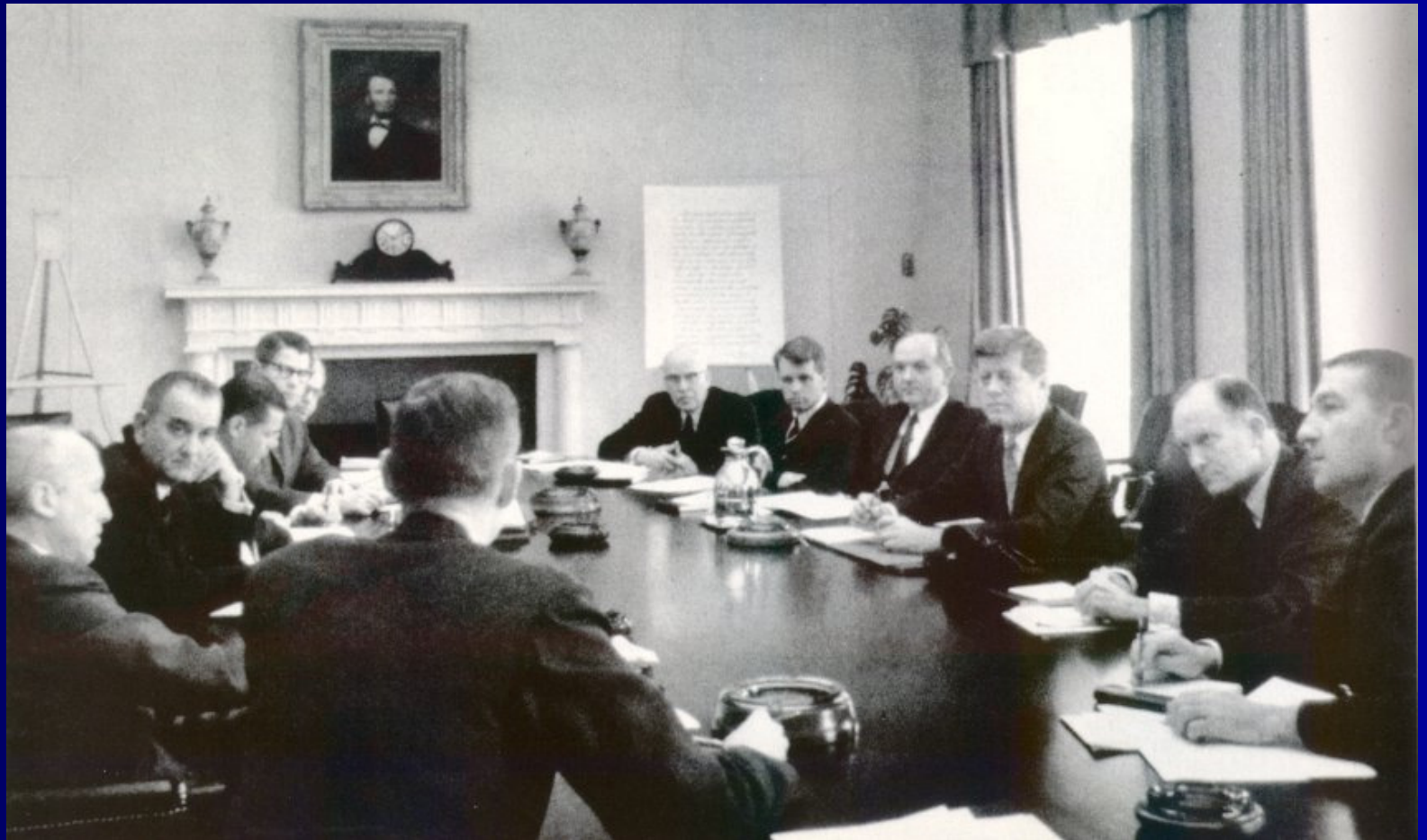


Economic Planner

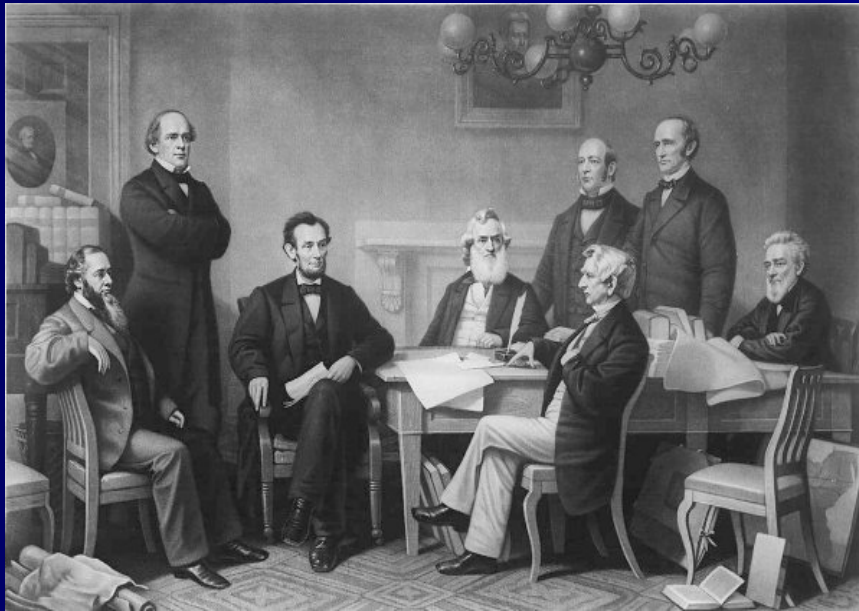
- Gets credit/blame for the economy, but... does not control the economy
- Reacts to/promotes economy
 - Some of his proposed legislation can help or hurt the economy
 - Monitors unemployment, taxation, business, and general economic welfare of the US



The Presidential Cabinet



The Presidential Cabinet



- *Lincoln and his Team of Rivals: This engraving depicts the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation before President Abraham Lincoln's cabinet in 1862.*

(Library of Congress)

- Comprised of heads of each executive department
- Other advisors
- Advise and work with the President
- Not outlined in Constitution
 - George Washington created the first cabinet comprised of Departments of War, State, Treasury, and Justice--Attorney General

Executive Departments

- President Obama has 15 departments including Homeland Security, Labor, Education, Defense, Agriculture, etc.
- Help the President carry out, enforce, or execute the laws
- Keep the President informed on matters in their jurisdiction
- Can suggest legislation to President
- Administrative arms of the President



Executive Powers

- Appoints ambassadors, judges, cabinet members
- Can request written opinions and reports from executive officials
- Execute laws
 - Use of National Guard if necessary
- Decision making



Checks and Balances

- On the Legislative Branch (Congress)
 - Can Veto Bills proposed by Congress
 - Can convene special sessions of Congress



Checks and Balances

- On the Judiciary (Courts)
 - Appoints Federal/Supreme Court judges
 - Must be approved by Congress
 - Grant pardons for federal crimes (except impeachments)



Federalism

State of Indiana

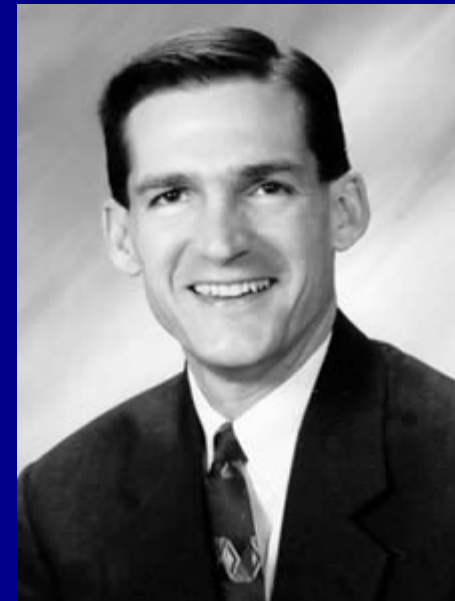
- Chief executive is called the Governor
- State police are the most visible arm of the executive branch
 - Enforce Indiana laws



Federalism

City of Valparaiso

- Chief executive for local government is called the Mayor
- Valparaiso Police Dept., the Street Dept., the Park Dept.



The White House

- Interactive Tour of the White House
 - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/interactive-tour>
- White House Rooms
- Protecting the White House
 - Uniformed Secret Service
 - Marine Sentries