

President Barack Obama's Duties

President Barack Obama Signs an Executive Order on the Employment of Veterans



President Barack Obama with King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia



President Barack Obama's Duties *(continued)*

State of the Union



First Cabinet of President Barack Obama in the White House East Room



Executive Branch Chart

Position	Responsibility
President	Leader of the Executive Branch
Vice President	Second-in-Command of the Executive Branch
Department of State	Responsible for managing our nation's relationship with foreign countries.
Department of the Treasury	In charge of the country's money; coins United States currency and collects federal taxes.
Department of Defense	Provides for the military that defends our country: Navy, Army, Air Force, and Marines.
Department of Justice	Works to enforce the law and protect public safety.
Department of the Interior	Works to preserve and protect our lands, wildlife, and natural resources.
Department of Agriculture	Oversees farming and food; ensures that food is grown and prepared safely.
Department of Commerce	Promotes the nation's economy; issues patents and trademarks; runs our country's telecommunications systems.
Department of Labor	Ensures that the nation has a strong workforce. It works to fight discrimination in the workplace, ensure safe and fair working conditions, and assist with job training. Also provides for unemployment benefits.
Department of Health and Human Services	Helps to keep Americans healthy. Administers Medicaid and Medicare.
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Works on national housing needs and provides housing benefits to Americans in need.
Department of Transportation	Ensures fast and safe transportation for Americans; manages federal highways and the Federal Aviation Administration.
Department of Energy	Works to provide the nation with energy and helps to find new sources of clean energy through scientific research and innovation.
Department of Education	Promotes our nation's education system and ensures that our graduates are ready to compete with the international community; provides financial aid and help to university students where needed.
Department of Veterans Affairs	Administers benefits programs for our veterans of our armed forces.
Department of Homeland Security	New department formed in 2002; its purpose is to prevent and stop terrorist activities and attacks in the nation.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: The information in the chart can be used to create a slideshow demonstrating the responsibilities of the president's Cabinet members. Images can be added of each of the current members of the administration as well as images depicting their department in action (for example, Department of Agriculture: an image showing a sell-by date on a package of meat).



Job Posting: The President of the United States of America

(Sample for Teacher Use)

Departmental Overview

The power of the Executive Branch is vested in the president of the United States, who also acts as head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. The president is responsible for implementing and enforcing the laws written by Congress and, to that end, appoints the heads of the federal agencies, including the Cabinet. The vice president is also part of the Executive Branch, ready to assume the presidency should the need arise.

The Cabinet and independent federal agencies are responsible for the day-to-day enforcement and administration of federal laws. These departments and agencies have missions and responsibilities as widely divergent as those of the Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency, the Social Security Administration, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Including members of the armed forces, the Executive Branch employs more than four million Americans.

Job Posting

The President of the United States of America

Responsibilities:

- Chief of State: you will serve as the living symbol of our nation and participate in activities such as awarding outstanding Americans or making speeches on national holidays
- Execution and enforcement of the laws passed by the Legislative Branch
- Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the United States of America
- Chief Diplomat: you will meet and correspond with the leaders of other countries
- Chief Legislator: you will suggest laws to Congress and sign or veto bills that have been passed by Congress
- Chief of Party: you will serve as the leader of your political party
- Chief Guardian of the Economy: you will ensure that our economy is stable and meet with advisers to discuss ways to improve our financial systems

Required Qualifications:

- Must be a native-born U.S. citizen
- Must be at least 35 years of age
- Must have been living in the United States for the past 14 years

Job Duration:

- You will be elected to a four-year term, with the possibility of reelection if the American people feel that you did a good job

Preferred Qualifications and Skills:

- Completed higher education (Master's or professional degrees preferred)
- Several years of Congressional or gubernatorial experience
- Exceptional verbal and written skills
- Military experience

Salary and Benefits:

- Your base salary will be \$400,000 per year, as well as \$50,000 per year for expenses related to your job functions, and \$100,000 per year for travel expenses
- You will be awarded a pension for your services
- You will be provided with free room and board for yourself and your family in the White House in Washington D.C.
- At the White House, you will have access to the private residential areas as well as office areas; you will also have the ability to use historic formal living areas to entertain guests
- In addition to these areas, you will have access to several recreational facilities including: a golf green, swimming pool, movie theater, bowling alley, jogging track, billiard room, basketball courts, and tennis courts
- Access to the luxurious presidential jet, Air Force One
- 24-hour security provided by the Secret Service for you and your family

United States Constitution

Article II

Section. 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows

Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector.

The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But

in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. In every Case, after the Choice of the President, the Person having the greatest Number of Votes of the Electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall choose from them by Ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States.

In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

United States Constitution *(continued)*

Article II

The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—”I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

Section. 2.

The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.

He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of

the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.

Section. 3.

He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.

Section. 4.

The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.