

The First President

Unanimously elected twice, President Washington established many crucial presidential precedents.

In 1789, George Washington became the first president of the United States and enjoyed wide support from both politicians and the public alike. Washington helped shape the office's future role and powers, as well as set both formal and informal precedents for future presidents. Washington believed that it was necessary to strike a delicate balance between making the presidency powerful enough to function effectively in a national government, while also avoiding any image of establishing a monarchy or dictatorship. In the process, Washington significantly influenced the path for the presidency moving forward, setting standards in all aspects, including political power, military practice, and economic policy.

Ten Facts About George Washington's Presidency

- 1** George Washington is the only president to have been unanimously elected by the electoral college.
- 2** Washington was the only president inaugurated in two cities.
- 3** Washington was strapped for cash during his presidency.
- 4** Washington established the tradition of a cabinet of advisors.
- 5** Washington signed into law the first copyright law.
- 6** Washington set precedents for the social life of the president.
- 7** The first Thanksgiving Proclamation was issued by President Washington.
- 8** Washington vetoed only two bills while president.
- 9** Washington's second inaugural address is the shortest ever delivered.
- 10** Washington's Farewell Address is one of the most celebrated speeches in American history.

Courtesy of Mount Vernon Ladies' Association