

## The Executive Branch



The second branch of the United States government is the executive branch. The executive branch includes the President and Vice President. The main job of the executive branch is to enforce the laws. Article II of the Constitution discusses the powers of the president. The president serves as chief executive of the nation – enforcing the laws that Congress makes. If the president does not agree with a particular law that Congress has proposed (a bill), the Constitution gives the president the power to veto the bill. This is an important part of the system of checks and balances that guarantees that no one branch of government abuses its power.

As well, the president has the power to issue executive orders, which are decisions that have the force of law. Executive orders do not have to be approved by Congress although the U.S. Supreme Court may find them to be unconstitutional and strike them down. For example, an executive order signed by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1942 allowed for the forced internment of U.S. citizens of Japanese descent during World War II.

Additionally, the president has the power to nominate people to serve in different government positions. These are known as presidential appointments. Examples of presidential appointments include the president's cabinet, justices to the U.S. Supreme Court and ambassadors to different countries. As a part of the checks and balances system, the presidential appointments must be approved and confirmed by the Senate in order for them to take effect. This prevents the president from nominating or appointing people to these very important positions who may have been appointed for the wrong reason and may lack qualifications

### Powers of the Executive Branch

Article II – Executive Branch	<p>The <b>executive branch</b> is made up of the <b>President</b> and Vice President. The president enforces the laws that Congress makes.</p> <p>Article II of the Constitution describes the powers of the President. The president is fulfilling his Article II responsibilities when fulfilling these roles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The power to enforce the laws (Chief Executive; "he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed")</li><li>2. The power to send troops into combat (Commander in Chief; "The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States")</li><li>3. The power to make <b>treaties</b> and with leaders of other nations</li><li>4. The power to nominate people to serve in the Cabinet, in the Supreme Court and to other high government positions</li><li>5. The power to grant <b>pardons</b>, except in cases of impeachment</li></ol>
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