

The President of the USA

The President of the USA is the chief executive of the Federal Government and is elected, together with the Vice-President, by the people.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS

According to the American Constitution, all natural-born citizens of the USA who have lived in the country for at least 14 years and are 35 or over may stand for president. Presidential elections occur every four years and each president may serve up to a maximum of two terms. Presidential candidates are chosen by their political parties in the months before the General Election. The election takes place on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. The newly-elected President is inaugurated on January 20th.

The President is the most powerful and important office-holder in the country.

Although he has no vote in Congress, he proposes a lot of the legislation that becomes law. He is also the principal maker of foreign policy and one of the world's most important leaders in international affairs.

Despite their wide-ranging authority, US presidents have limits on their power. Congress can check presidential power by refusing to fund presidential initiatives, either at home or abroad. It can also refuse to confirm presidential appointees, such as ambassadors or Supreme Court justices. And ultimately only Congress can write and pass the laws that the executive branch is constitutionally obliged to implement.

The US President lives and works in the White House in Washington DC.



Warm up

1 Answer the questions.

- 1 Who is the present President of the USA?
- 2 When was he elected?

Reading

2 Read this page and complete the table.

The US President

Elected on:	¹ every	²
Inaugurated on:		³
Can serve:		⁴
Eligibility to stand for president:		⁵

3 Tick (✓) the statements true (T) or false (F). Correct any false statements.

- 1 The US President is elected by his party. T F
- 2 The US President can vote in Congress. T F
- 3 The President writes and passes laws. T F
- 4 Congress can restrict a president's power. T F