

# APGOVPOL

## Chapter 13: The Presidency

### Key Words and Terms, Defined

**cabinet:** a group of presidential advisors not mentioned in the Constitution, although every president has had one; today, the cabinet is composed of fifteen members – 14 secretaries and the attorney general

**Council of Economic Advisors:** a three-member body appointed by the president to advise the president on economic policy

**crisis:** a sudden, unpredictable, and potentially dangerous event requiring the president to play the role of crisis manager

**impeachment:** the political equivalent of an indictment in criminal law, prescribed by the Constitution; the House of Representatives may impeach a president by a majority vote for “Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors”

**legislative veto:** the ability of the Congress to override a presidential decision; although the War Powers Resolution asserts this authority, there is reason to believe that, if it was challenged in court, the Supreme Court would find the legislative veto in violation of the doctrine of separation of powers

**National Security Council:** an office created in 1947 to coordinate the president’s foreign and military policy advisors; its formal members are the president, vice president, secretary of state, and secretary of defense, and it is managed by the president’s national security advisor

**Office of Management and Budget:** an office that grew out of the Bureau of the Budget, created in 1921, consisting of a handful of political appointees and hundreds of skilled professionals; the OMB performs both managerial and budgetary functions, and although the president is its boss, the director and staff have considerable independence in the budgetary process (see also Congressional Budget Office)

**pocket veto:** a presidential veto taking place when Congress adjourns within ten days of having submitted a bill to the president, who simply lets it die by neither signing nor vetoing it (see also veto)

**presidential approval:** an evaluation of the president based on many factors, but especially on the predisposition of many people to support the president; one such measure is provided by public opinion polling companies such as the Gallup Organization

**presidential coattails:** the situation occurring when voters cast their ballots for congressional candidates of the president’s party because they support the president; recent studies show that few races are won this way

**press secretary:** the person on the White House staff who most often deals directly with the press, serving as a conduit of information; press secretaries conduct daily press briefings

**Twenty-fifth Amendment:** passed in 1967, the amendment that permits the vice president to become acting president if both the vice president and the president’s cabinet determine that the president is disabled; the amendment also outlines how a recuperated president can reclaim the job

**Twenty-second Amendment:** passed in 1951, the amendment that limits presidents to two terms (or no more than a total of ten years) in office

**veto:** the constitutional power of the president to send a bill back to Congress with reasons for rejecting it; a two-thirds vote in each house of Congress can override it (see also legislative veto and pocket veto)

War Powers Resolution: a law passed in 1973 in reaction to American fighting in Vietnam and Cambodia, requiring presidents to consult with Congress whenever possible prior to using military force and to withdraw forces after 60 days unless Congress declares war or grants an extension; presidents regard the resolution as unconstitutional (see also legislative veto)

Watergate: the events and scandal surrounding a break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in 1972 and the subsequent cover-up of White House involvement, leading to the eventual resignation of President Richard Nixon under the threat of impeachment