

The Presidency

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PLSC 1

Road map

- What Does the President Do?
- How is the President Selected?
- What Does the Executive Branch Do?



President's Job

What does the President do?

Collaborate!

President's Job



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/Kn7Z7bvLhng>



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/UnW3xkHxIEQ>



https://www.youtube.com/embed/mIA0W69U2_Y



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/SeVEUNI-Cuo>

The Modern Presidency

- More than patronage
- Bully Pulpit
- Television, Social Media
- Air Force One
- Congress Ceding Power (e.g., War Powers Act)



Figure: Public Domain



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/FFroMQIKiag>

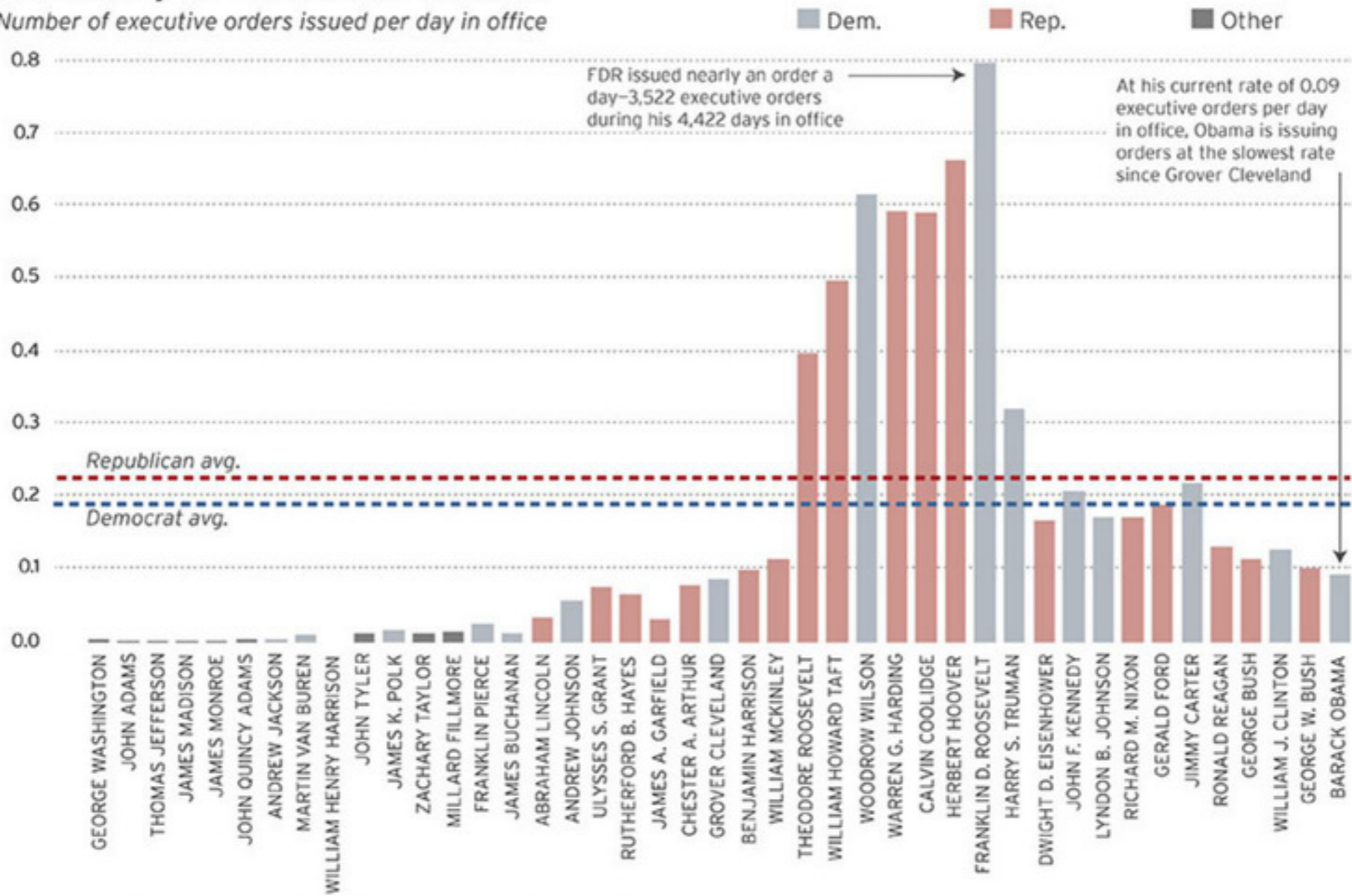


<https://www.youtube.com/embed/JUDSeb2zHQ0>

Executive Orders

A History of Executive Orders

Number of executive orders issued per day in office



Executive order tallies from the American Presidency Project. Days served from Wikipedia.
 Note: Grover Cleveland's two non-consecutive terms were merged together for this chart.
 * This chart includes orders through June 17, 2014.

BROOKINGS

Figure: Source: Prokop 2014

Checks and Balances

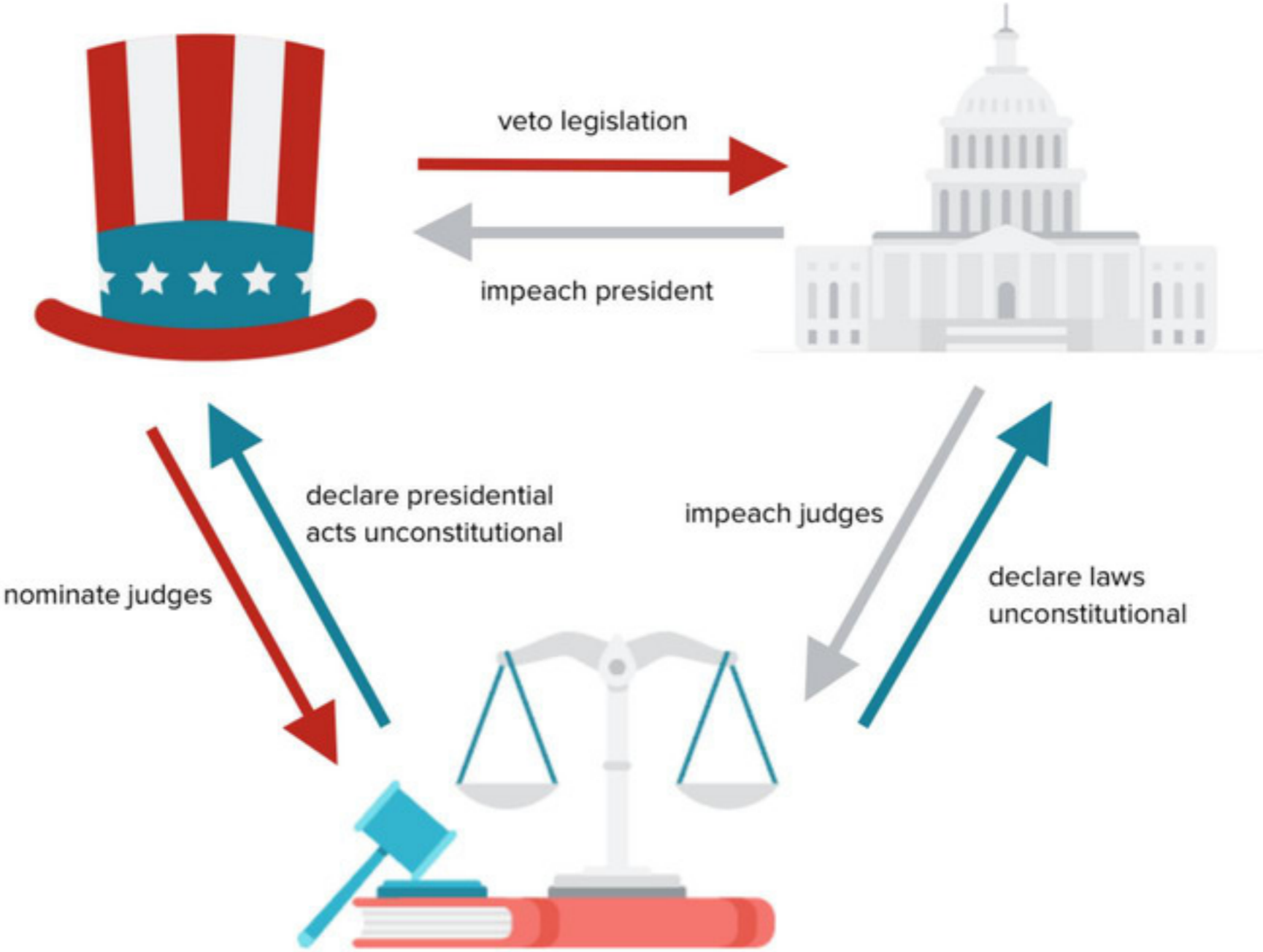


Figure: Khan Academy

Selecting the President

Who Can Serve

- 35 years old
- Natural born citizen
- Lived in US for last 14 years
- No term limits until 22nd Amendment (1951)

Selecting the President

Candidate Selection

Pre-1960

Strong parties, smoke-filled rooms, and multiple ballots

Post-1960

Primary and caucus system (evolved over time), candidate-centered elections, choreographed conventions, weak parties

Selecting the President

The Electoral College

- 270 electoral votes needed (half plus one)
- States get total Senate and House, DC 3
- Winner-take-all (all but NE and ME)
- National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

Pre-1804, VPOTUS second-place finisher

Post-1804 (12th Amend), POTUS and VPOTUS selected separately, electors can't vote for both from same state (2000 election)

Open Ended Question

Should we get Rid of the Electoral College? Why or Why Not?

The Functions of the Executive Branch

Original

- Managing money (revenue, spending, borrowing)
- Maintaining law and order
- Keeping the country safe
- Managing foreign affairs

Over time...

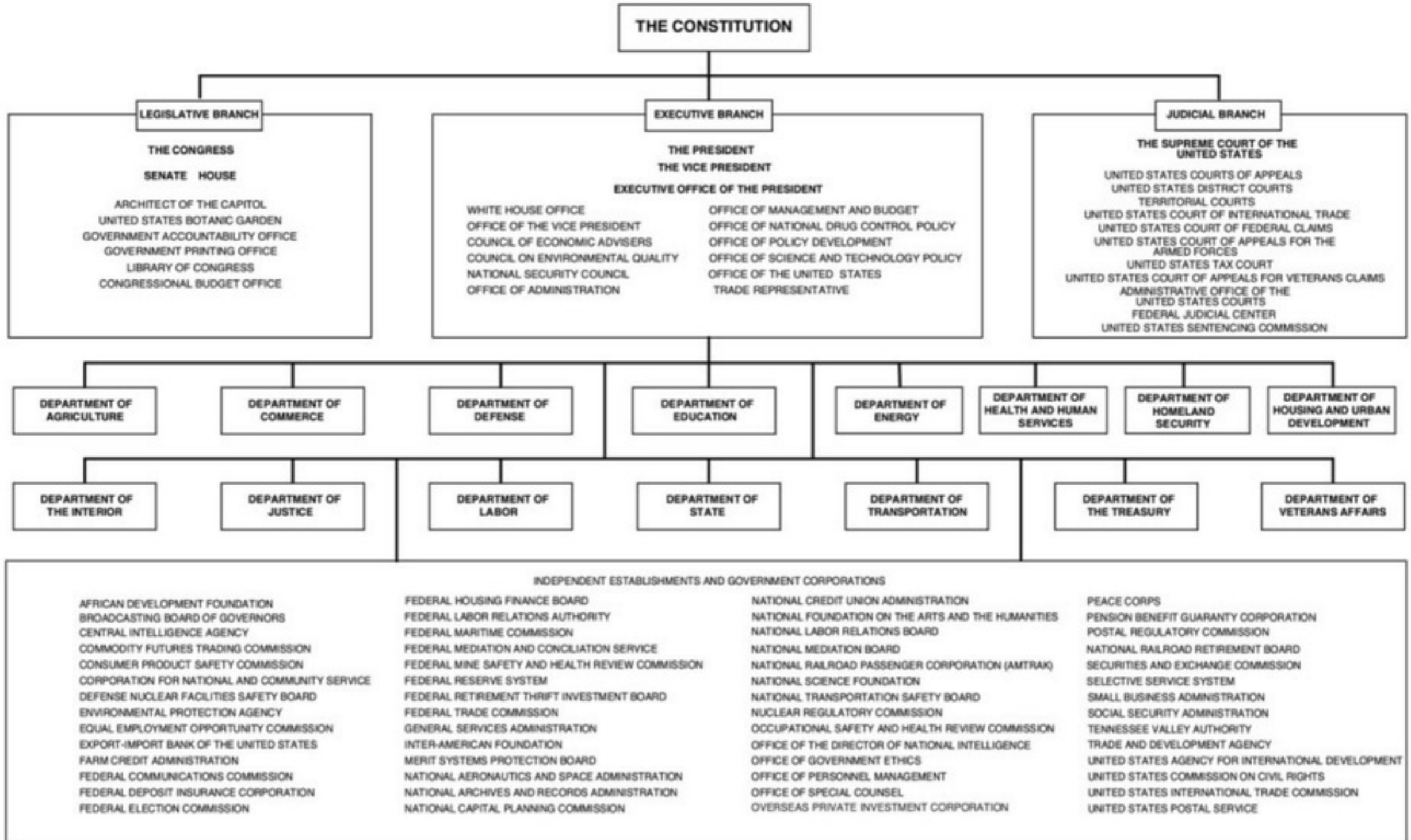
Growing scope of government expanded functions of the White House

Open Ended Question

Take a moment to write down all of the Cabinet-level departments in the Executive Branch.

The Executive Branch

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES



Trade-Off in Independence

Cabinet Departments

Political control is important, but erodes dichotomy

Independent Agencies

Independence intended to insulate them from presidential control and legislative-executive politics

Balance between control and flexibility is difficult for administrators and principals

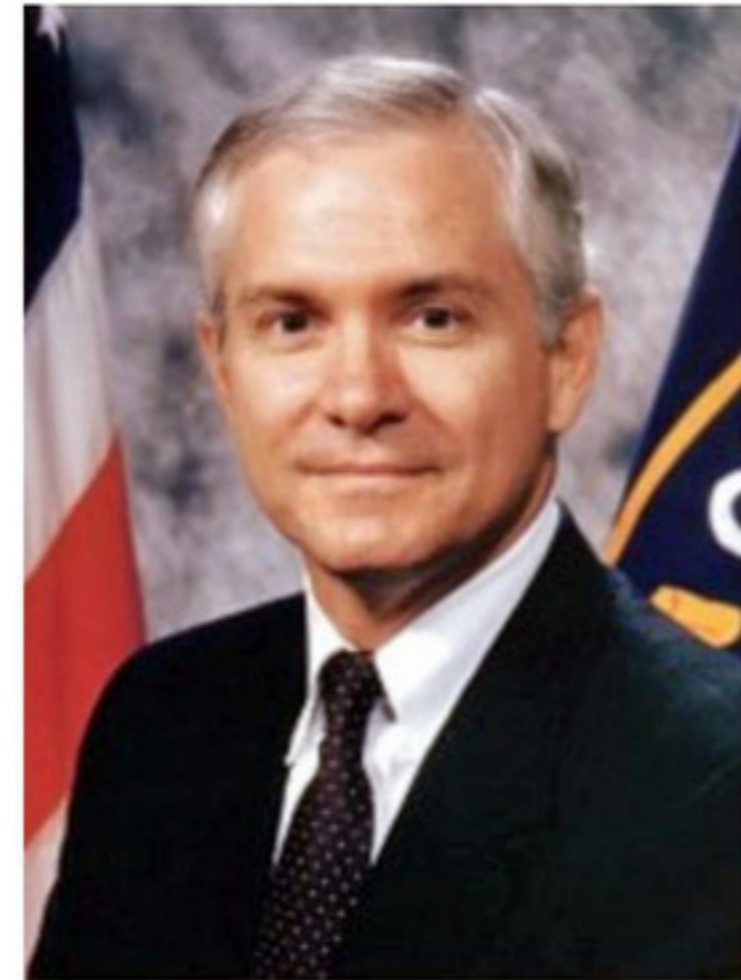
Leadership

Appointee



Arne Duncan (Ed)

Careerist



Robert Gates (CIA)

Limits on Executive Management

- 1 Elected executives (POTUS, Governor, Mayor) selected for electability, not management ability; appointees may not have been executives before
- 2 Brief tenure of appointed officials (< 2 years) and little control over hiring