

Presidential Roles



Chief Diplomat

In his role as chief diplomat, the president directs the foreign policy of the nation by making decisions regarding U.S. relations with foreign nations.



Commander-in-Chief

As head of the U.S. armed forces, the president has significant powers.

All military officers, during war or peace, take their orders from the president. The president does not lead troops into battle, but is in constant contact with military leaders.

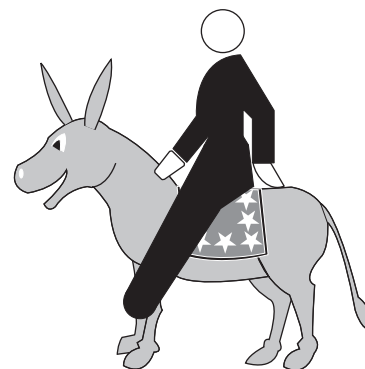
He can commit troops to battle for 60 days, but he cannot declare war; only Congress has that power.



Chief Economic Planner

Although not outlined in the Constitution, this role has grown since the passage of the Employment Act of 1946, which required presidents to submit an annual economic report to Congress.

The president must also submit an annual proposed federal budget to Congress.



Chief of Party

Political parties expect the president to be faithful to his party. Thus, the president may:

- Campaign on behalf of party members
- Attend fundraisers
- Appoint members of his party to federal jobs

The president also selects his party's national chairperson.