

The American presidency and the 2020 election



President, world's most powerful person?



Niet volgens de grondwet

Grondwet 1787



Afdeling II: de uitvoerende macht

Section 2. The President shall be **commander in chief** of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may **require the opinion**, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall **have power to grant reprieves and pardons** for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to **make treaties**, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall **nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint** ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

The President shall have power to **fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess** of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session.

Not if you look at the constitution

Constitution 1787



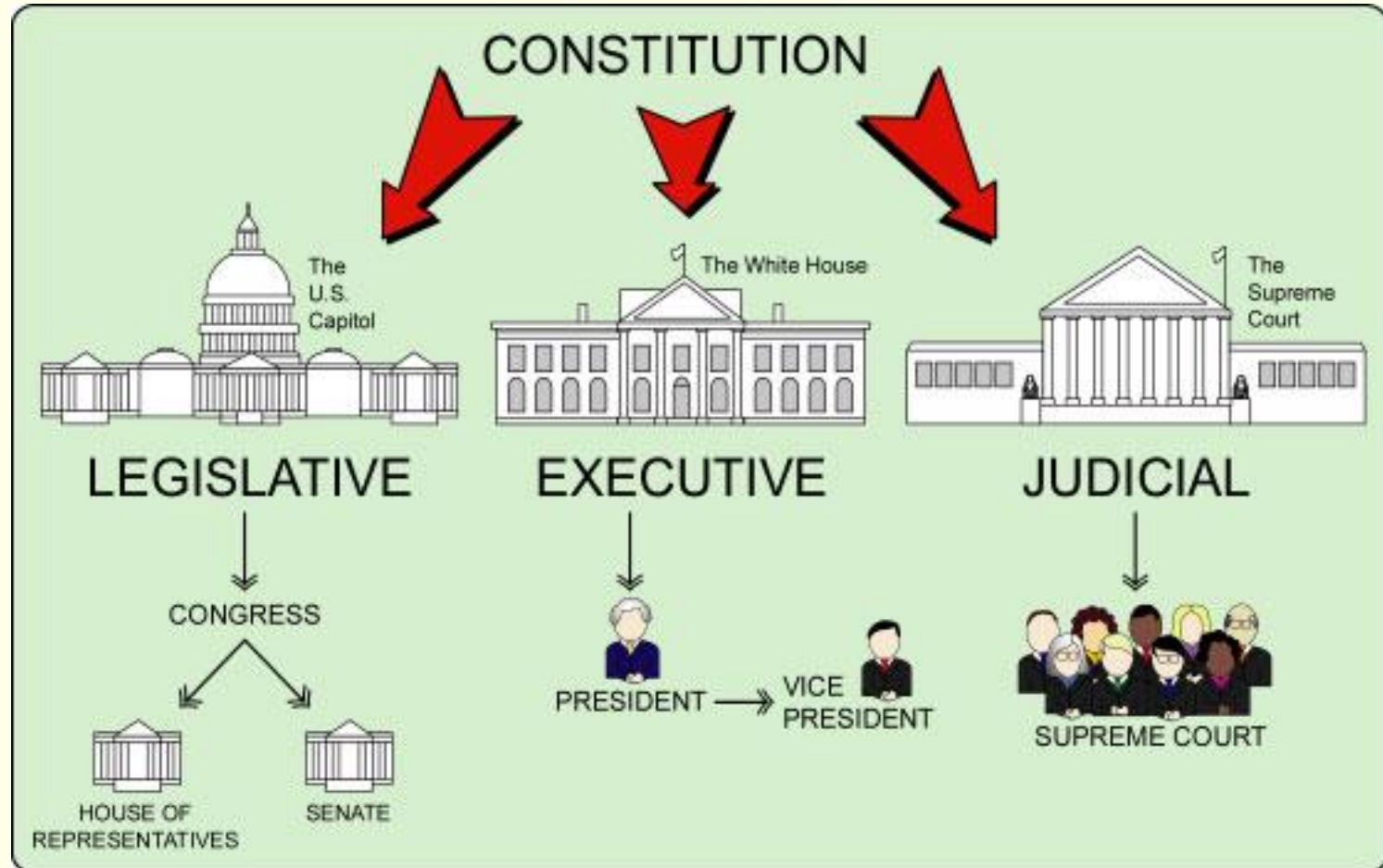
Section II: executive power

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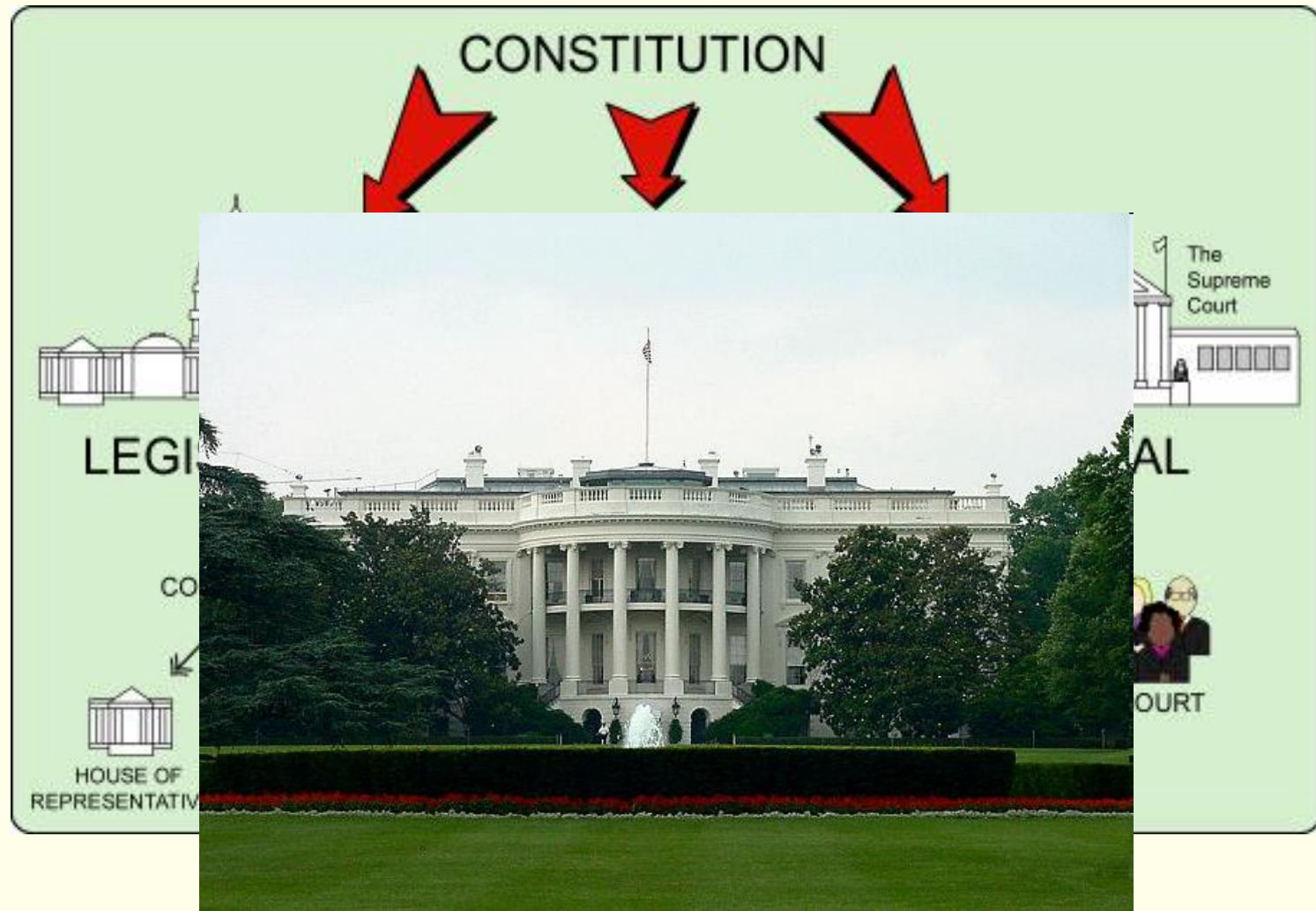
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Separation of powers: trias politica



Executive power



Executive power = president

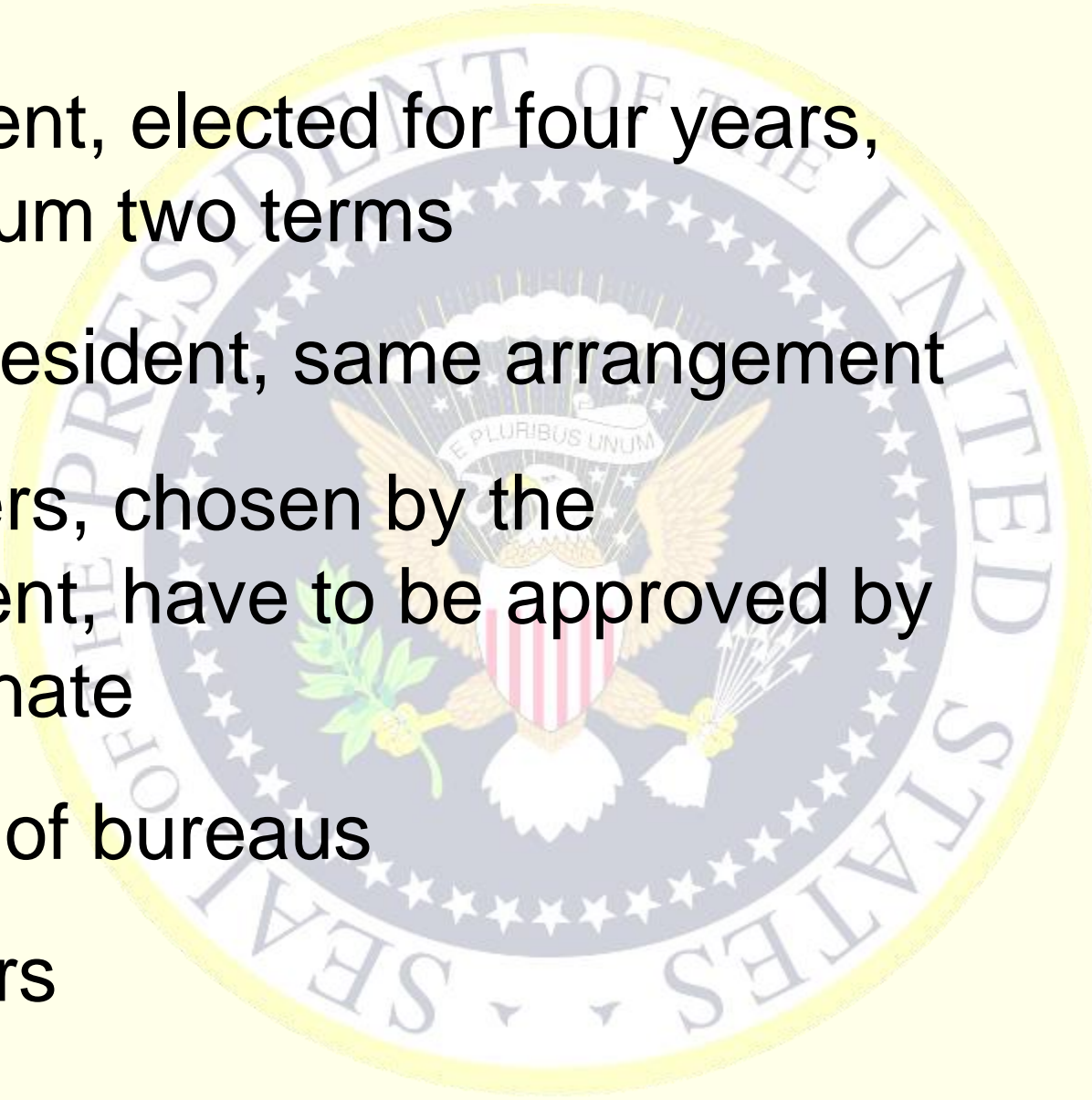
President, elected for four years,
maximum two terms

Vice president, same arrangement

Ministers, chosen by the
president, have to be approved by
the Senate

Heads of bureaus

Advisors

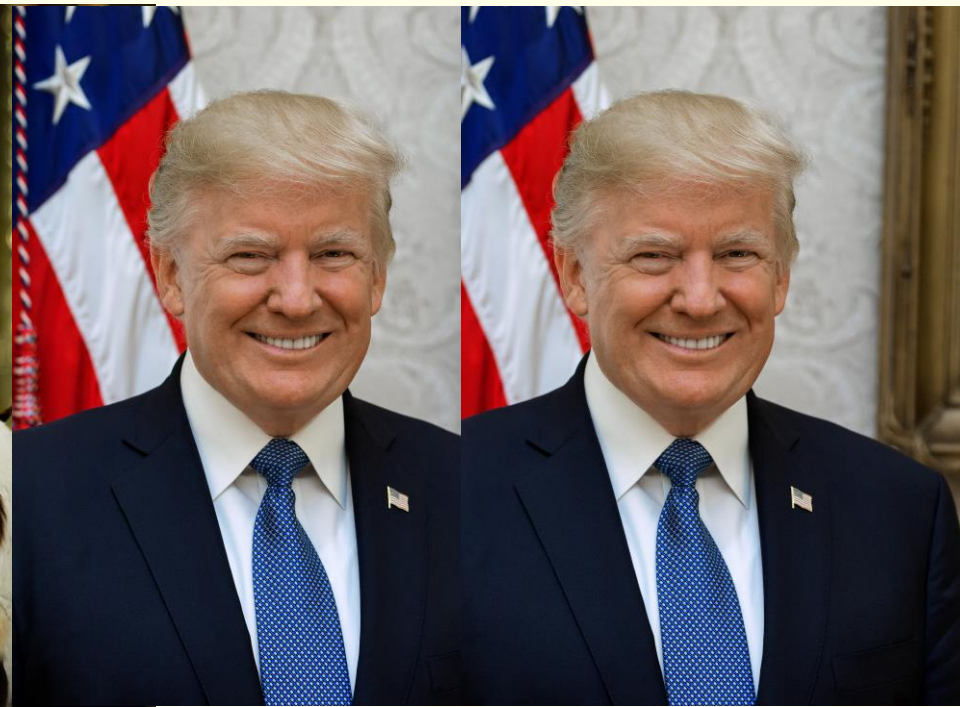


Head of State + Head of Government

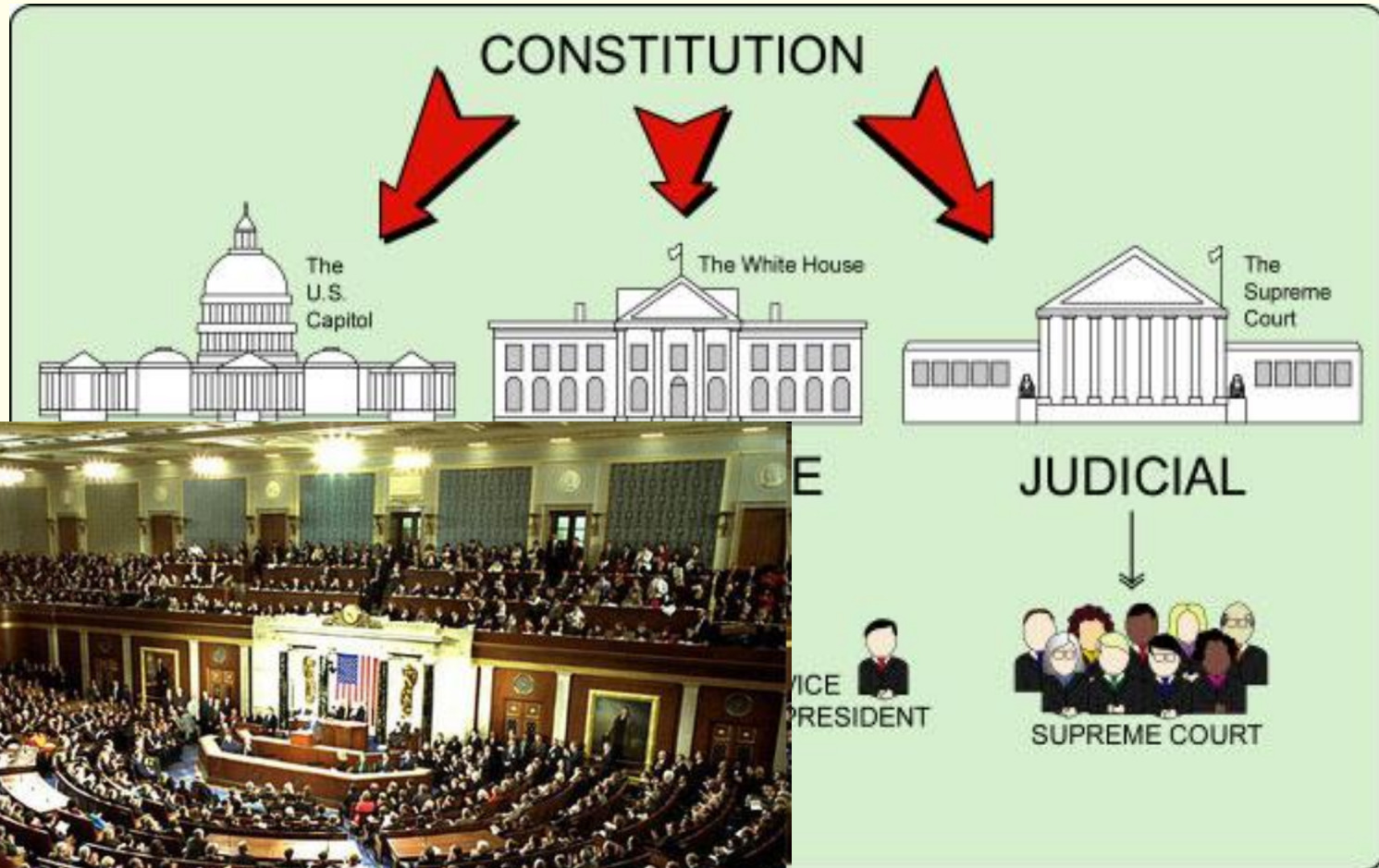
Netherlands



United States



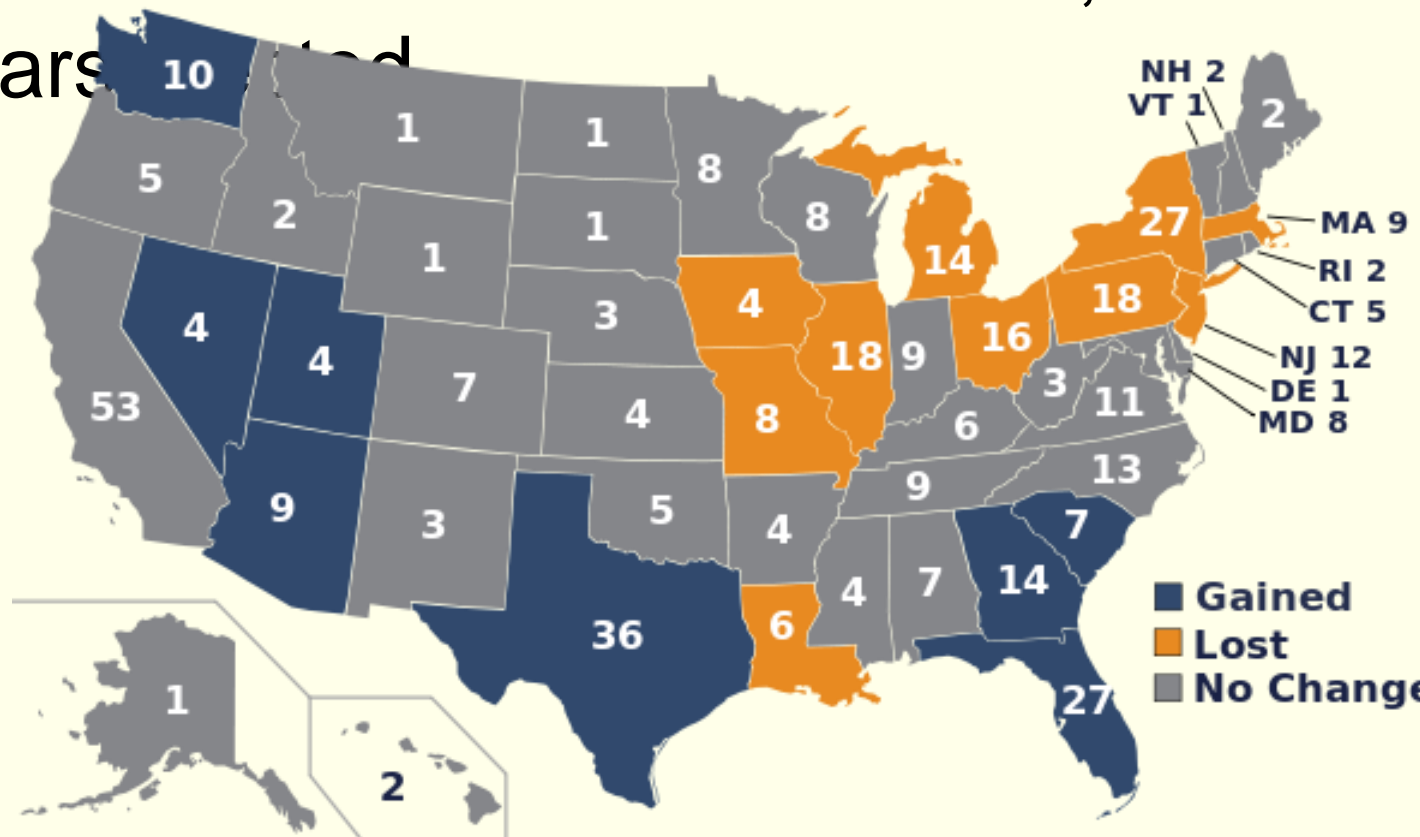
Legislative power



Legislative power = congress

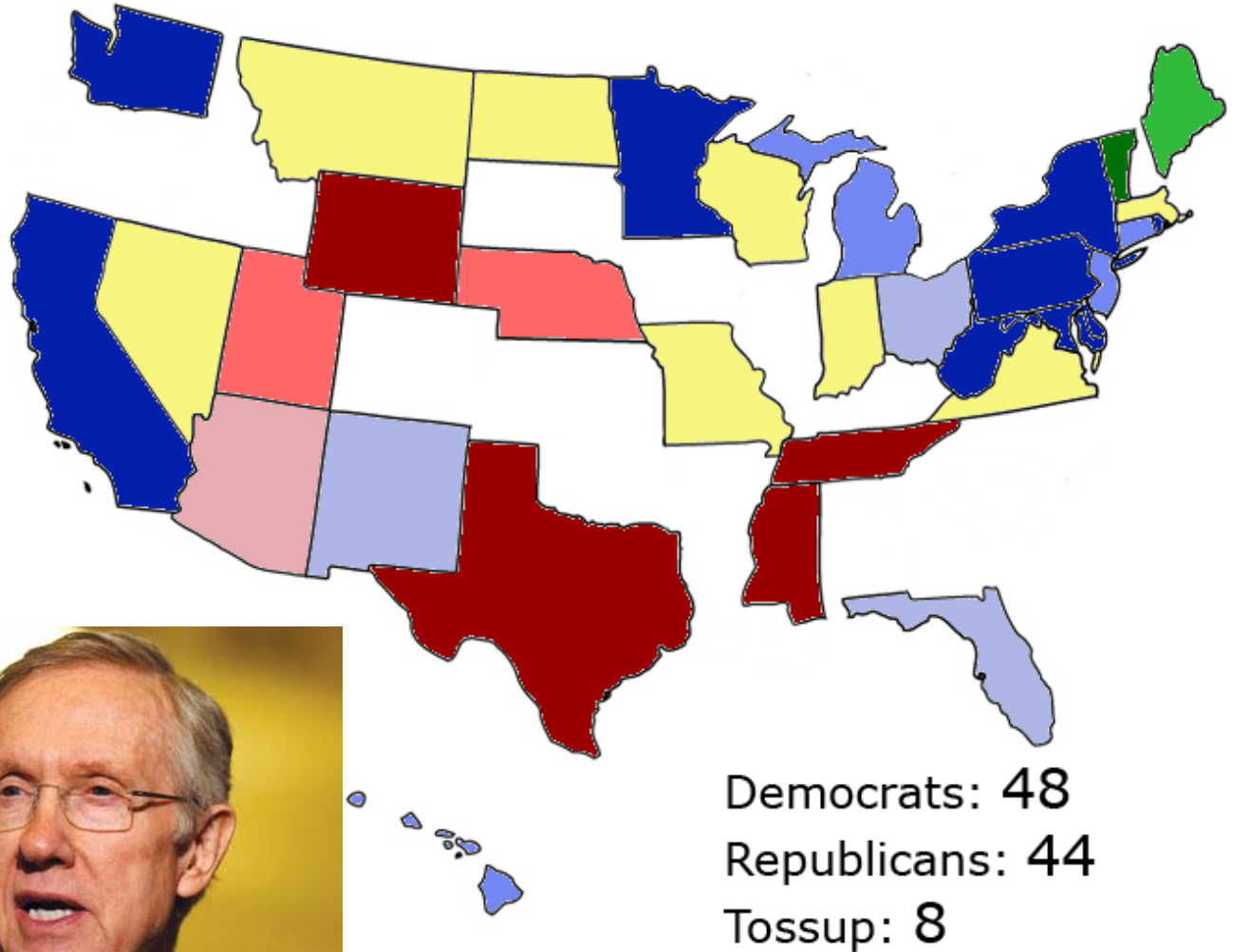
House of Representatives

435 members based on number of citizens =
1 Representative for 693.000 inhabitants;
every two years

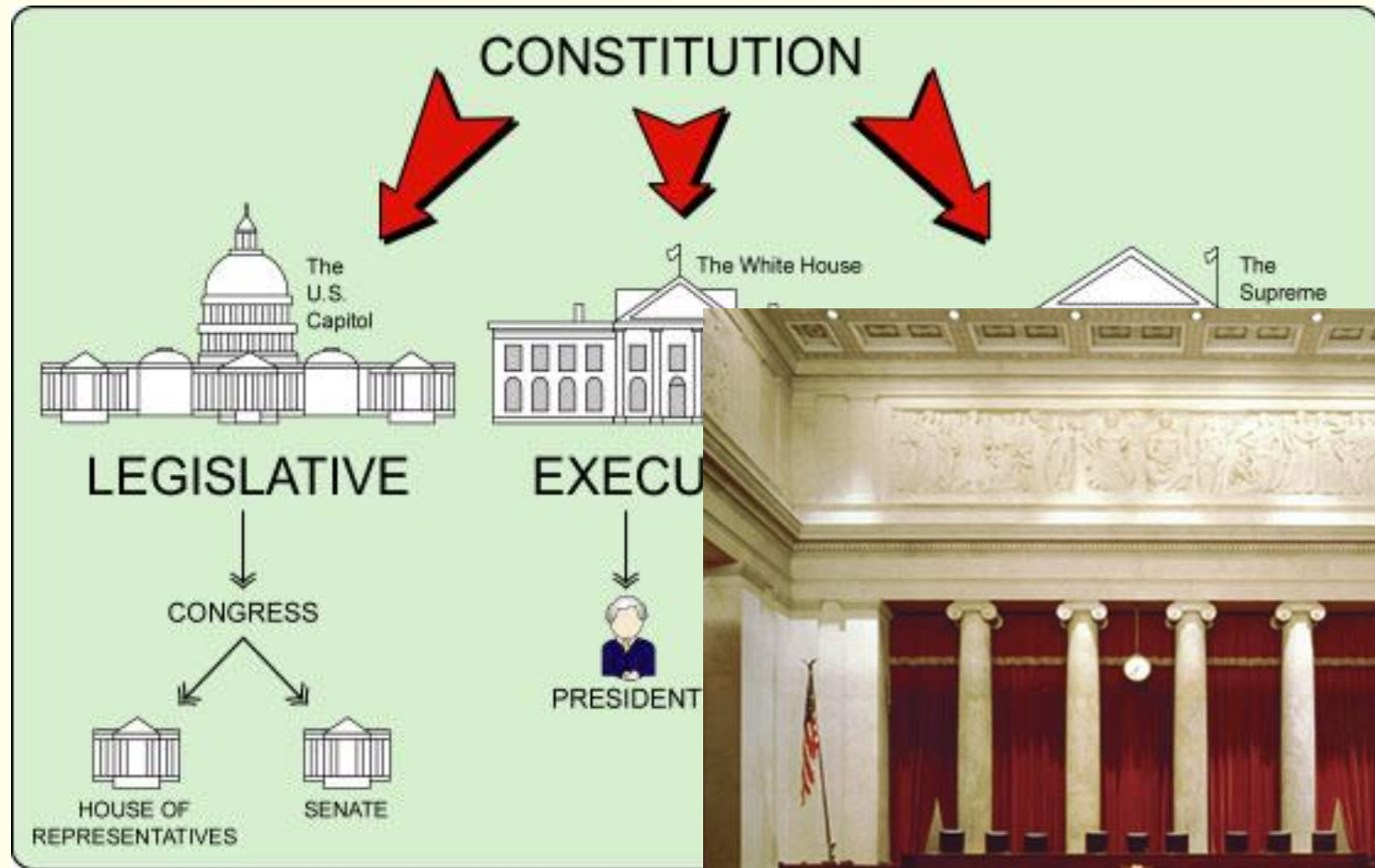


Senate

100 Senators,
2 per state.
Six year terms,
every two
years 1/3 to
be elected.



Judicial power



US Supreme Court

Federal system of courts

Highest court: Supreme Court, 9 judges, appointed for life.
Proposed by president, approval necessary by Senate.



The ideal president

Intelligence?

Experience?

Young?

Energetic?

Gutsy?

Good speaker?

Modest?

Street smart?

Good actor?

Intuition?

Wisdom?



Good organizer?

Has to know a lot about economics?

Willingness to experiment?

Perseverance?

Conceited?

Pushy?

Vision?

Consistency?

Communicative skills?

Sex appeal?

... is a mixture



How to get a president?

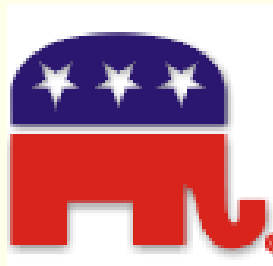


Two major parties

Democrats

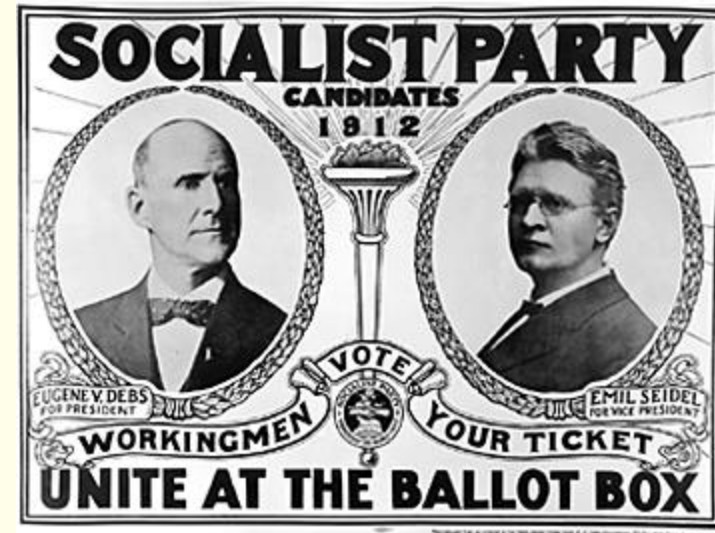


Republicans



Many small parties

- Greens
- Socialist Party
- Libertarian Party



In reality 51 different elections

Electoral Votes Allocated to Each State



Electoral votes

538 electoral votes, in 50 states and Washington DC

- Number of representatives House = 435
- Number of Senators = 100
- Washington DC = 3 electors

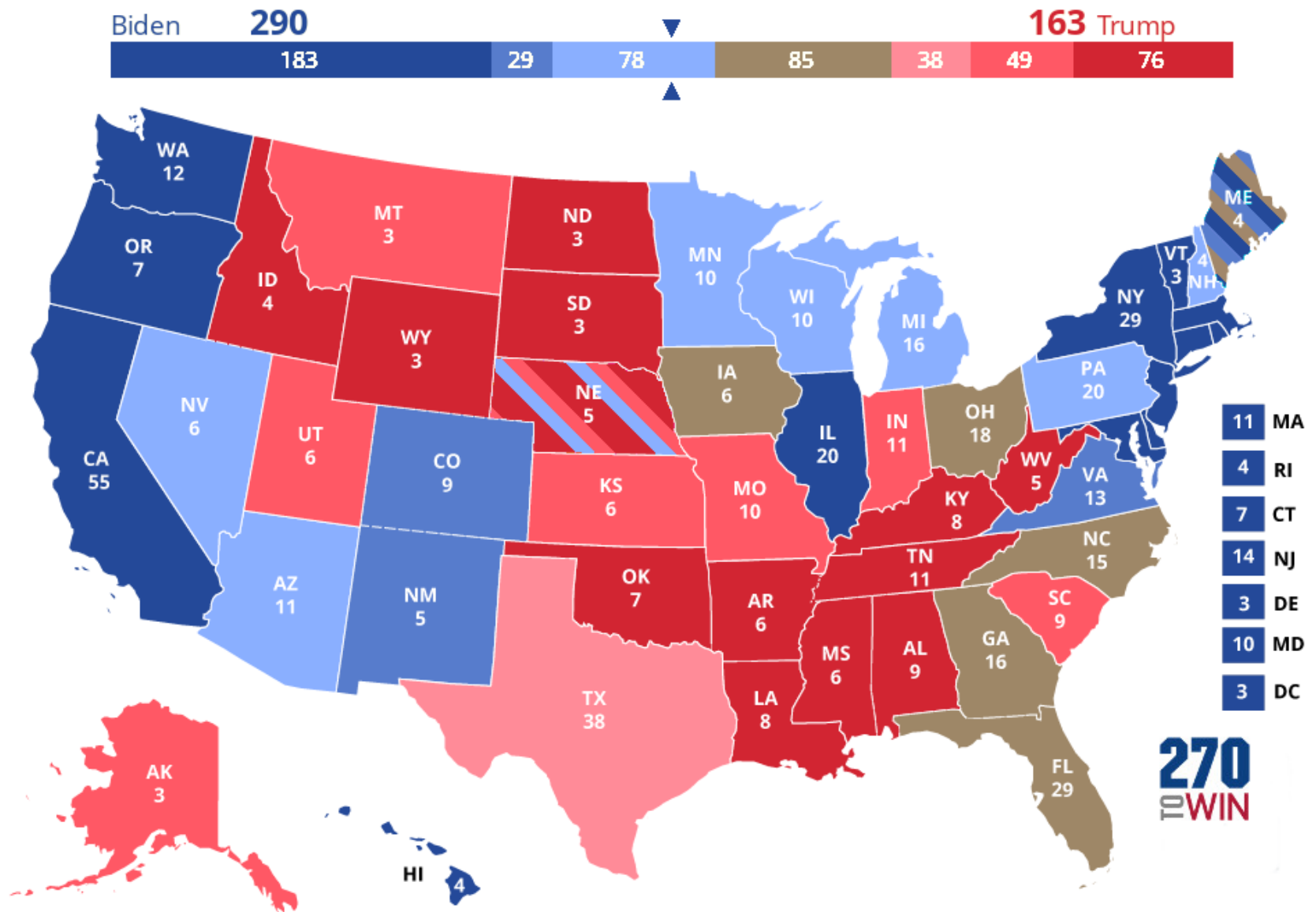
Every state has electoral votes as many as is has Representatives and Senators

To win you need absolute majority = 270

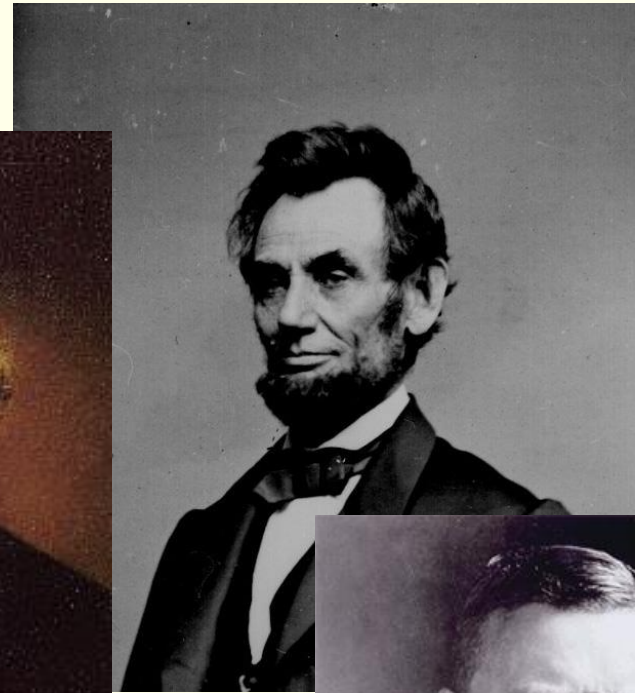
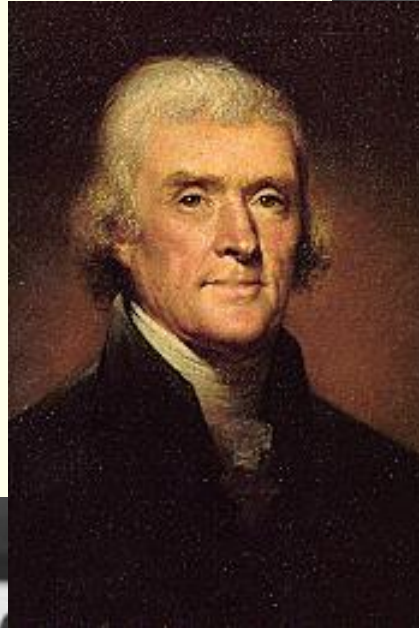
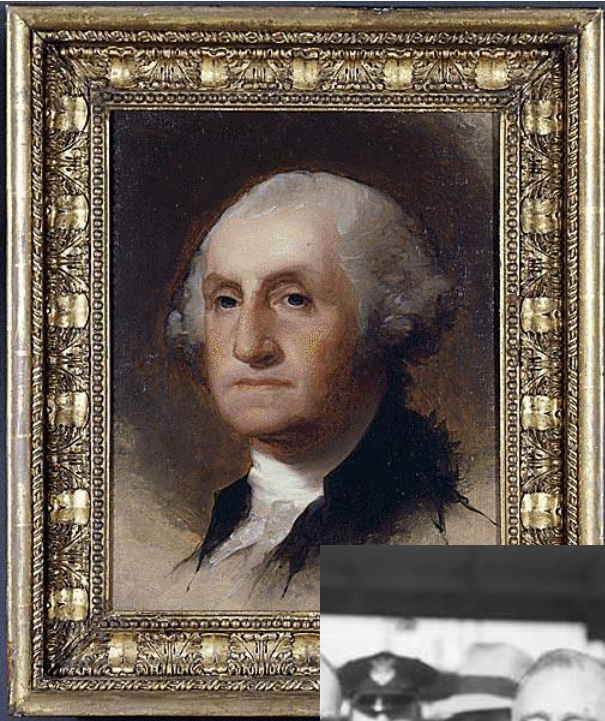


In practice: overrepresentation of rural states with few people

Swing states



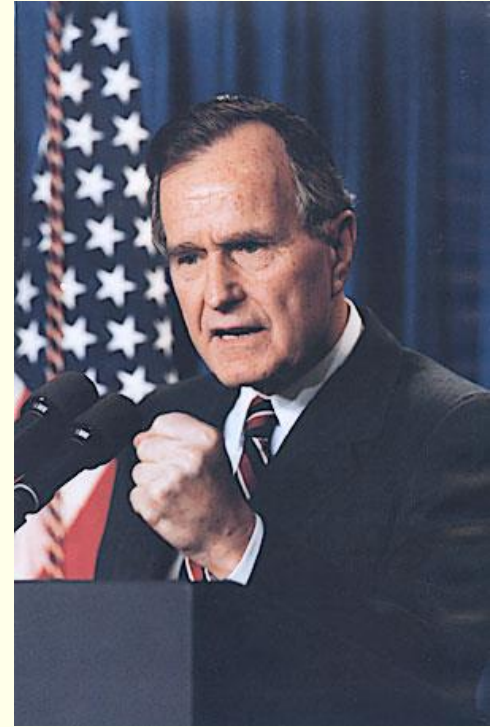
Beste presidents



Worst presidents



Average



Alle presidenten, gerangschikt volgens meest recente peiling onder historici op een 0-100 schaal, met 0 = mislukking, 50 = gemiddeld en 100 = great.

1. Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)	95	24. Grover Cleveland (1885-1889; 1893-1897)	51
2. George Washington (1789-1797)	93	25. Gerald R. Ford (1974-1977)	47
3. Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945)	89	26. Jimmy Carter (1977-1981)	45
4. Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)	81	27. Martin Van Buren (1837-1841)	44
5. Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809)	80	28. Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929)	42
6. Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)	75	29. Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881)	42
7. Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)	74	30. George W. Bush (2001-2009)	40
8. Barack H. Obama (2009-2017)	71	31. Chester A. Arthur (1881-1885)	40
9. Ronald Reagan (1981-1989)	69	32. Benjamin Harrison (1889-1893)	38
10. Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969)	69	33. Richard M. Nixon (1969-1974)	37
11. Woodrow Wilson (1913-1921)	67	34. James A. Garfield (1881)	37
12. James Madison (1809-1817)	64	35. Zachary Taylor (1849-1850)	33
13. Bill Clinton (1993-2001)	64	36. Herbert Hoover (1929-1933)	33
14. John Adams (1797-1801)	63	37. John Tyler (1841-1845)	31
15. Andrew Jackson (1829-1837)	62	38. Millard Fillmore (1850-1853)	28
16. John F. Kennedy (1961-1963)	62	39. Warren G. Harding (1921-1923)	25
17. George H. W. Bush (1989-1993)	61	40. Andrew Johnson (1865-1869)	25
18. James Monroe (1817-1825)	61	41. Franklin Pierce (1853-1857)	23
19. William McKinley (1897-1901)	55	42. William H. Harrison (1841)	19
20. James K. Polk (1841-1849)	54	43. James Buchanan (1857-1861)	15
21. Ulysses S. Grant (1869-1877)	53	44. Donald J. Trump (2017-heden)	12
22. William H. Taft (1909-1913)	52		
23. John Quincy Adams (1825-1829)	52		



Bye, bye