

Political System in the United States

Reading

The United States of America is a federal republic consisting of 50 states. Each of these states has its own government which is called "the state government". The rules for the structure of the federal government are outlined in the American Constitution proclaimed in 1787 in Philadelphia. The government is divided into three branches, each of which can check and balance the others.

The Executive Branch is headed by the President who, together with the Vice President, is elected every four years. The president has many responsibilities. He suggests bills to Congress, serves as Commander-in-Chief of the military, shapes foreign policy and appoints many officials (for example federal judges or ambassadors). He also appoints the members of the Cabinet, who function as the directors of the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, Commerce... etc. Only a person who is at least 35 years old and is a natural-born citizen of the United States may be elected President.

The second branch of the American political system is the Legislative Branch. The main legislative body is Congress which consists of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. As far as the House of Representatives is concerned, it has 435 members elected to represent the citizens of each state. They are responsible for making and passing laws. However, both houses must first approve a bill for it to become law. Still, the President has the right to veto it and it must be again approved by two-thirds of the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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