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Executive Branch

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES GEORGE W. BUSH

Article II, section 1, of the Constitution provides that ''[t]he executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, . . . together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term . . . .'' In addition to the powers set forth in the Constitution, the statutes have conferred upon the President specific authority and responsibility covering a wide range of matters (United States Code Index).

The President is the administrative head of the executive branch of the Government, which includes numerous agencies, both temporary and permanent, as well as the 15 executive departments.

The Cabinet

The Cabinet, a creation of custom and tradition dating back to George Washington's administration, functions at the pleasure of the President. Its purpose is to advise the President upon any subject, relating to the duties of the respective offices, on which he requests information (pursuant to Article II, section 2, of the Constitution).

The Cabinet is composed of the Vice President and the heads of the 15 executive departments—the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veterans Affairs, and the Attorney General. Additionally, in the Bush administration, Cabinet-level rank has been accorded to: the Chief of Staff to the President; the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; the Director, Office of Management and Budget; the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy; and the U.S. Trade Representative.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

THE VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY

Article II, section I, of the Constitution provides that the President ''shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years . . . together with the Vice President . . . .'' In addition to his role as President of the Senate, the Vice President is empowered