Serving at the pleasure of the President...

The Cabinet and The West Wing
What is the Presidential Cabinet?

- Formal authority established by Pres. Washington
- Currently includes the Vice President and the heads of 15 executive departments (Congress decides)
- Members are given the title of “Secretary” with the exception of the Justice Department
- Seniority of department (when it was established) determines rank in the line of succession
- Can be fired by the President or impeached/removed from office by Congress
Requirements?

- Congress decides whether to elevate, create or remove an executive department to cabinet level.
- If created during the current term, a current member of Congress cannot serve as Secretary.
- Cannot serve in both Congress and as Secretary.
- President cannot name a family member to the Cabinet (or Cabinet level) post.
- If not meeting the requirements set in Article 2, a Secretary cannot serve as President.
What do they do?

- Advise the President
- Run executive branch departments
  - “Execute” the laws passed by Congress
  - Prosecute the President’s agenda
  - Controls the hiring and firing of employees
- Majority of Cabinet can remove President from office temporarily (25th amendment)
- Could become President, if qualified and need arises (designated survivor)
State Department

- **Created:** 1789 (Jefferson)
- **Secretary of State:** Hillary Clinton
- Serves as a principal adviser to the President in the determination and execution of U.S. foreign policy and in recent decades has become responsible for overall direction, coordination, and supervision of interdepartmental activities of the U.S. Government overseas, except for certain military activities
- Embassies and consulates report to the Secretary
- 37 Agencies under its purview (30,266 workers)
- **Budget:** $35.1 Billion
- 6 Presidents / 12 ran for office
Treasury Department

- **Created:** 1789 (Hamilton)
- **Secretary of the Treasury:** Timothy Geithner
- Finance minister of the United States, who is concerned with finance and monetary matters – including economic direction, taxes, and minting money.
- The National Mint, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and IRS are under this jurisdiction.
- 38 Agencies under its purview (116,000 workers)
- **Budget:** $11.1 Billion
Defense Department

- **Created:** 1789* (Knox)
- **Secretary of Defense (SecDef):** Robert Gates
- Civilian concerned with the armed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines) and military matters (planning) of the United States.
- Joint Chiefs of Staff, NSA, U.S. missile command, and all military branch secretaries report to the secretary.
- 37 Agencies under its purview (700,000 workers, 2.3 million service personnel)
- **Budget:** $515.4 Billion
- Formally three departments: Army, Navy and War (combined in 1947)
Justice Department

- **Created:** 1789* (Randolph)
- **Attorney General:** Eric Holder
- Person concerned with the legal affairs of the United States and is the chief law enforcement officer of the United States government. Department is also in charge of prosecuting crimes against the government.
- The FBI, ATF and DEA are under this jurisdiction.
- 35 Agencies under its purview (113,000 workers)
- **Budget:** $43.5 Billion
- Became a cabinet level post in 1870.
Interior Department

- Created: 1849 (Ewing)
- Secretary of the Interior: Ken Salazar
- Person responsible for management and conservation of federal land and programs related to indigenous peoples
- Land Management, Indian Affairs, Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife, NPS under this jurisdiction
- 10 Agencies under its purview (72,000 workers)
- **Budget:** $10.7 Billion
Agriculture Department

- **Created:** 1889 (Coleman)
- **Secretary of Agriculture:** Tom Vilsack
- **Person concerned with policy on farming, agriculture and food – including protections, safety, and farmer outreach**
- **Forest service, Rural Utilities, Federal Crop Insurance Program, Food Safety and Inspection Service under this jurisdiction**
- **20 Agencies under its purview (106,000 workers)**
- **Budget:** $95 Billion
Commerce Department

- Created: 1903 (Redfield)
- Secretary of Commerce: Gary Locke
- Person concerned with the business and industry of the United States.
- The Patent Office, Census and NOAA are under this jurisdiction
- 15 Agencies under its purview (36,000 workers)
- Budget: $6.2 Billion
Labor Department

- **Created:** 1913 (Wilson)
- **Secretary of Labor:** Hilda Solis
- **Person responsible for**
  occupational safety, wage and hour
  standards, unemployment
  insurance benefits, re-employment services, and some economic statistics.
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics**
  under its authority
- **13 Agencies under its purview**
  (17,000 workers)
- **Budget:** $59.7 Billion
Department of Health and Human Services

- Created: 1979 (Harris)
- Secretary of Health and Human Services: Kathleen Sebeluis
- Person with the goal of protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services.
- NIH, FDA and CDC are under this jurisdiction.
- 17 Agencies under its purview (67,000 workers)
- Budget: $640 Billion
- Formally part of a larger department including education
Department of Housing and Urban Development

- Created: 1965 (Weaver)
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development: Shaun Donovan
- Person in charge of developing and executing policy on housing and cities
- Federal Housing Administration under its authority
- 11 Agencies under its purview (11,000 workers)
- Budget: $28.5 Billion
Department of Transportation

- **Created:** 1966 (Boyd)
- **Secretary of Transportation:** Ray LaHood
- Person in charge of a fast, safe, efficient, accessible and convenient transportation system that meets our vital national interests.
- FTA, FAA, and NHWA are under this jurisdiction
- 14 Agencies under its purview (58,000 workers)
- **Budget:** $59 Billion
Department of Energy

- **Created:** 1977 (Schlesinger)
- **Secretary of Energy:** Steven Chu
- Person in charge of energy production and regulation. In charge of nuclear energy/weapons production and national labs.
- Los Alamos, Oak Ridge are some of the labs under this jurisdiction
- 38 Agencies under its purview (116,000 workers)
- **Budget:** $23.4 Billion
Education Department

- Created: 1979 (Hufstedler)
- Secretary of Education: Arne Duncan
- Person in charge of education policy, including No Child Left Behind and Student Aid programs
- 23 Agencies under its purview (5,000 workers)
- **Budget:** $70 Billion
Department of Veterans Affairs

- **Created:** 1989 (Derwinski)
- **Secretary of Veterans Affairs:** Eric Shinseki
- Person responsible for administering programs of veterans benefits for veterans, their families, and survivors.
- **11 Agencies under its purview** (235,000 workers)
- **Budget:** $90.1 Billion
Department of Homeland Security

- **Created:** 2002 (Ridge)
- **Secretary of Transportation:** Janet Napolitano
- Person with the responsibility of protecting the territory of the US from terrorist attacks and responding to natural disasters
- Coast Guard, Immigration and Customs, FEMA, and the Secret Service are under this jurisdiction
- 31 Agencies under its purview (208,000 workers)
- **Budget:** $52 Billion
- Created after the 9-11 attacks
Cabinet Level Officers

The following positions are not part of the cabinet, but have cabinet-level rank, meaning that these individuals are permitted to attend and participate in cabinet meetings:

- Vice President of the United States
- White House Chief of Staff
- U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations
- Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency
- Director of the Office of Management and Budget
- U.S. Trade Representative
- Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy
- Chair of the Council of Economic Advisors
Non-cabinet Officers – Foreign Policy

People who advise the President but are not members of the Cabinet

- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Director of National Intelligence
- Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
- Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Special Envoy to the Middle East
- Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan
Non-cabinet Officers – Domestic Policy

- People who advise the President but are not members of the Cabinet
  - Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
  - Director of NASA
  - Administrator of NOAA
  - Chairman of the SEC
  - Administrator of FEMA
  - Surgeon General
  - Solicitor General
West Wing Officers

- Run the day-to-day operations in the White House and report directly to the President (do not have to be confirmed by the Senate)

- Chief of Staff
- Communications Director (and deputies)
- Press Secretary
- White House Counsel
- National Security Adviser
- Director of the National Economic Council
- Director of the Domestic Policy Council
- Assistant to the President for legislative affairs