

Chapter 1 : 8 Forgotten Capitals of the United States - HISTORY

As the seat of the federal government, Philadelphia consolidated its position as the financial, as well as the political, capital of the United States. Toward the end of the decade new landmarks proclaimed the city's role as a banking center. The largest was the First Bank of the United States, with.

No other name appears in the Constitution, and this is the name that appears on money, in treaties, and in legal cases to which it is a party e. The terms "Government of the United States of America" or "United States Government" are often used in official documents to represent the federal government as distinct from the states collectively. In casual conversation or writing, the term "Federal Government" is often used, and the term "National Government" is sometimes used. The terms "Federal" and "National" in government agency or program names generally indicate affiliation with the federal government Federal Bureau of Investigation , National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration , National Park Service. Because the seat of government is in Washington, D. History The United States government is based on the principles of federalism and republicanism , in which power is shared between the federal government and state governments. The interpretation and execution of these principles, including what powers the federal government should have and how those powers can be exercised, have been debated ever since the adoption of the Constitution. Some make the case for expansive federal powers while others argue for a more limited role for the central government in relation to individuals, the states, or other recognized entities. Since the American Civil War , the powers of the federal government have generally expanded greatly, although there have been periods since that time of legislative branch dominance e. Constitution is the idea of " checks and balances " among the powers and responsibilities of the three branches of American government: For example, while the legislative branch Congress has the power to create law, the executive branch under the president can veto any legislationâ€”an act which, in turn, can be overridden by Congress. The Supreme Court, in turn, can invalidate unconstitutional laws passed by the Congress. These and other examples are examined in more detail in the text below. Legislative branch Main article: United States Congress Seal of the U. Congress The United States Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government. It is bicameral , comprising the House of Representatives and the Senate. Makeup of Congress House of Representatives The seats of the House grouped by state The House currently consists of voting members, each of whom represents a congressional district. All representatives serve a two-year term. Each state receives a minimum of one representative in the House. In order to be elected as a representative, an individual must be at least 25 years of age, must have been a U. There is no limit on the number of terms a representative may serve. In addition to the voting members, there are 6 non-voting members, consisting of 5 delegates and one resident commissioner. There are currently senators 2 from each of the 50 states , who each serve six-year terms. Approximately one-third of the Senate stands for election every two years. Different powers The House and Senate each have particular exclusive powers. For example, the Senate must approve give " advice and consent " to many important presidential appointments, including cabinet officers, federal judges including nominees to the Supreme Court , department secretaries heads of federal executive branch departments , U. All legislative bills for raising revenue must originate in the House of Representatives. The powers of Congress are limited to those enumerated in the Constitution; all other powers are reserved to the states and the people. The Constitution also includes the " Necessary and Proper Clause ", which grants Congress the power to "make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers". Members of the House and Senate are elected by first-past-the-post voting in every state except Louisiana and Georgia , which have runoffs. Impeachment of federal officers Main article: Impeachment in the United States Congress has the power to remove the president, federal judges, and other federal officers from office. The House of Representatives and Senate have separate roles in this process. The House must first vote to "impeach" the official. Then, a trial is held in the Senate to decide whether the official should be removed from office. Although two presidents have been impeached by the House of Representatives Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton , neither of them was removed following trial in the Senate. Congressional procedures Article I,

Section 2, paragraph 2 of the U. Constitution gives each chamber the power to "determine the rules of its proceedings". From this provision were created congressional committees , which do the work of drafting legislation and conducting congressional investigations into national matters. The th Congress " had 19 standing committees in the House and 17 in the Senate, plus 4 joint permanent committees with members from both houses overseeing the Library of Congress , printing, taxation, and the economy. In addition, each house may name special, or select, committees to study specific problems. Today, much of the congressional workload is borne by the subcommittees, of which there are around The Constitution grants numerous powers to Congress. Enumerated in Article I, Section 8, these include the powers to levy and collect taxes ; to coin money and regulate its value; provide for punishment for counterfeiting; establish post offices and roads, issue patents, create federal courts inferior to the Supreme Court , combat piracies and felonies , declare war , raise and support armies , provide and maintain a navy , make rules for the regulation of land and naval forces, provide for, arm and discipline the militia , exercise exclusive legislation in the District of Columbia , and to make laws necessary to properly execute powers. Over the two centuries since the United States was formed, many disputes have arisen over the limits on the powers of the federal government. These disputes have often been the subject of lawsuits that have ultimately been decided by the United States Supreme Court. Congressional oversight Main article: Congressional oversight Congressional oversight is intended to prevent waste and fraud, protect civil liberties and individual rights, ensure executive compliance with the law, gather information for making laws and educating the public, and evaluate executive performance. Committee inquiries and hearings Formal consultations with and reports from the president Senate advice and consent for presidential nominations and for treaties House impeachment proceedings and subsequent Senate trials House and Senate proceedings under the 25th Amendment in the event that the president becomes disabled or the office of the vice president falls vacant Informal meetings between legislators and executive officials Congressional membership: Each state is allocated two senators regardless of its population. Executive branch See also: Article Two of the United States Constitution and List of United States federal executive orders The executive power in the federal government is vested in the President of the United States, [7] although power is often delegated to the Cabinet members and other officials. The president is both the head of state and government , as well as the military commander-in-chief and chief diplomat. The president, according to the Constitution, must "take care that the laws be faithfully executed", and "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution". The president presides over the executive branch of the federal government, an organization numbering about 5 million people, including 1 million active-duty military personnel and , postal service employees. The president may sign legislation passed by Congress into law or may veto it, preventing it from becoming law unless two-thirds of both houses of Congress vote to override the veto. The president may unilaterally sign treaties with foreign nations. However, ratification of international treaties requires a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate. The president may be impeached by a majority in the House and removed from office by a two-thirds majority in the Senate for " treason , bribery , or other high crimes and misdemeanors ". The president may not dissolve Congress or call special elections but does have the power to pardon or release criminals convicted of offenses against the federal government except in cases of impeachment , enact executive orders , and with the consent of the Senate appoint Supreme Court justices and federal judges. Vice president Main article: Vice President of the United States Seal of the Vice President of the United States The vice president is the second-highest official in rank of the federal government. In that capacity, the vice president has the authority ex officio , for they are not an elected member of the Senate to cast a tie-breaking vote. Pursuant to the Twelfth Amendment , the vice president presides over the joint session of Congress when it convenes to count the vote of the Electoral College. As first in the U. Lastly, in the case of a Twenty-fifth Amendment succession event, the vice president would become acting president, assuming all of the powers and duties of president, except being designated as president. Accordingly, by circumstances, the Constitution designates the vice president as routinely in the legislative branch, or succeeding to the executive branch as president, or possibly being in both as acting president pursuant to the Twenty-fifth Amendment. Because of circumstances, the overlapping nature of the duties and powers attributed to the office, the title of the office and other matters, such has generated a spirited scholarly dispute

regarding attaching an exclusive branch designation to the office of vice president. Cabinet of the United States , United States federal executive departments , and List of federal agencies in the United States The day-to-day enforcement and administration of federal laws is in the hands of the various federal executive departments , created by Congress to deal with specific areas of national and international affairs. The heads of the 15 departments, chosen by the president and approved with the "advice and consent" of the U. Once confirmed, these "cabinet officers" serve at the pleasure of the president. In addition to departments, a number of staff organizations are grouped into the Executive Office of the President. The employees in these United States government agencies are called federal civil servants.

Chapter 2 : Article II - The United States Constitution

Permanent seat of Government All that part of the territory of the United States included within the present limits of the District of Columbia shall be the permanent seat of government of the United States.

The Legislature The duty of the Legislative Branch is to make the laws of the nation. It consists of two houses, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Members of either house are referred to as Congressmen, Congresswomen, or Congresspeople. Often, Congressperson is used as a synonym for Representative; this is not quite proper usage, however, as a Senator may properly be called a Congressperson, too. The House is made up of members called Representatives. The qualifications for House members are spelled out in Article 1, Section 2: Each state has a number of Representatives proportionate to the population of that state. Each state has at least one Representative, even if its population would not warrant one. This number has been fixed by law, however, at This number was set in , and in current law, does not change even upon admission of new states though the number can temporarily increase to accommodate new states until the next census. These seats are divided among the states every ten years, following the Constitutionally-mandated decennial census. For details about how seats are apportioned, see the U. Representatives serve for two years at a time, with new elections coming every second November. The entire House can theoretically be replaced each election. Representatives are chosen by the people in a direct election. The Constitution mandates that the House choose a Speaker for itself. The Speaker presides over the proceedings of the House and is the highest position in the House leadership. The Minority Leader would generally be the Speaker if his party were the majority. The whips act as an interface between the leadership and the rank-and-file members. The current leadership of the House th Congress, as of January 5, The House also has its own website. The Senate is the Upper House. Its members are called Senators. The qualifications for Senators are spelled out in Article 1, Section 3: Originally, Senators were appointed by the state legislatures. This method was chosen to allow the Senate to better offset the House, which the Framers felt would be impetuous, it being elected by the people. Senators are now chosen by the people in direct election; this provision was changed by the 17th Amendment. Each state has two Senators, regardless of the size of the state. Currently, there are Senators. A Senatorial term lasts six years; every second November, one third of the Senate comes up for reelection, leaving an experienced two-thirds in the Senate each time through the election cycle. He is a non-voting member unless a vote of the Senate ends in a tie, in which case the Vice President casts the deciding vote. The Constitution understands that the Vice President will not always be available and provides for a President pro tempore literally, a temporary president. In the Senate, the whips are officially known as the Assistant Leader. The current leadership of the Senate th Congress, as of January 5, Joseph Biden President Pro Tem: The Senate also has its own website. The branch is headed by the President. The Constitution sets out the qualifications for the President in Article 2, Section 1: First, the definition of "natural-born" is a matter of law, and, hence, interpretation. For example, the child of American citizens who happened to be overseas when the child was born is considered natural-born. A child born in an acquired U. Virgin Islands is considered a citizen at birth as determined by law. To be safe, a person is eligible to be President if that person was born in a state after the date of statehood. If a person was born in a territory or overseas, one should check the U. Code Title 8 to be sure. Next, there is no clarity on the 14 year requirement. Few think that it means 14 consecutive years inside the United States, as that would likely disqualify many citizens who traveled abroad or who lived in military bases. Some think it should mean 14 accumulated years from birth, including time in U. It may take a Supreme Court decision to set the rule in stone. Note that there is no restriction in terms of gender, race, class, social standing, or any other classification, for President or Vice President. The other Constitutional members of the Executive are the Vice President, who, by virtue of the 12th Amendment must have the exact same qualifications as the President in order to be VP; the Executive Departments see The Cabinet Topic.

Chapter 3 : Federal government of the United States - Wikipedia

The Federal Government of the United States (U.S. Federal Government) is the national government of the United States, a federal republic in North America, composed of 50 states, a federal district, five major self-governing territories, and several island possessions.

The City of Brotherly Love became the ex-capital for several reasons: The problems started with some rowdy actions in by Continental soldiers. Important decisions were made there, and it was equally accessible from the North and the South. The Continental Congress was meeting in Philadelphia in June at what we now call Independence Hall, operating under the Articles of Confederation. However, there were problems afoot. The federal government had issues paying the soldiers who fought in the war against the British for their service. The Pennsylvania Mutiny of 1783 was a crisis that forced the Congress to focus on its safety and pitted the federal government in its weakened form against the state of Pennsylvania. Unpaid federal troops from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, marched to Philadelphia to meet with their brothers-in-arms. A group of about 2,000 soldiers then proceeded to Congress, blocked the doors to the building, and demanded their money. They also controlled some weapons storage areas. Congress sent out one of its youngest, quick-talking delegates to negotiate with the troops: Alexander Hamilton, a former soldier. Hamilton convinced the soldiers to free Congress so the lawmakers could meet quickly and reach a deal about repaying the troops. Delegates agreed to return to Philadelphia in to draw up the current U. S. Constitution. Part of the new Constitution addressed the concerns caused by the Pennsylvania Mutiny of 1783. However, Hamilton became part of a grand bargain to move the capital to an undeveloped area that encompassed parts of Virginia and Maryland, receiving some help from Thomas Jefferson along the way. The Residence Act put the capital in current-day Washington. But a twist in the deal was negotiated by Robert Morris: Until the new capital was built on the Potomac, the capital would be in Philadelphia for 10 years, giving the Pennsylvanians a chance to convince Congress that life was better there than in an undeveloped region of the Potomac. During the following decade, Philadelphians lobbied hard for the capital to stay in Pennsylvania. They offered President Washington an elaborate mansion as an incentive to stay. Instead, he and his successor, John Adams, lived in a more modest house in Philadelphia near Congress. Also, a yellow fever epidemic hit Philadelphia in 1793, raising doubts about the safety of the area. And native Virginians like Washington, Madison, and Jefferson were actively planning for a capital near their home. So on May 15, 1790, Congress ended its business in Philadelphia and started the move to the new Federal District. Does the Constitution Require Birthright Citizenship?

Chapter 4 : Residence Act - Wikipedia

Get this from a library! Centennial of the permanent seat of government of the United States.. [Samuel C Busey].

Visit Website The six justices handed down their first decision on August 3, 1791—just one day after the court heard arguments for the case—*West v. Barnes*, an unremarkable case involving a financial dispute between a farmer and a family he owed debt to. For more than years after the foundation of the Supreme Court, the justices were required to hold circuit court twice a year in each judicial circuit—a grueling duty given the primitive travel methods at the time that Congress formally abolished in 1801. The chief justice is required to sit on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. The chief justice also presides over trials of impeachment against the President of the United States in the U.S. In 1789, Congress set the number of seats to nine, where it has remained until today. As of April 2013, 114 Justices have served on the Supreme Court. Chief justice John Marshall, for instance, is widely regarded as one of the influential chief justices, in part for having defined the relationship between the judiciary and the rest of government. Marshall was the fourth chief justice and served in the position for more than 34 years, the longest term of any chief justice. In the 1840s, chief justice Charles Evans Hughes presided over the court as it transitioned from being the protector of property rights to the protector of civil liberties. Notably, he wrote landmark opinions on the freedom of speech and press. And chief justice Earl Warren, in the 1950s and 1960s, issued numerous landmark decisions, including ones that banned school segregation *Brown v. Board of Education*, and abolished interracial marriage prohibitions *Loving v. Virginia*, upheld state segregation laws in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Of course, the courts weighed in on more than just civil rights issues. And in 1963, it found that defendants who cannot afford legal representation must be provided it without charge *Gideon v. Wainwright*. Others important cases include: *Roe v. Wade*, which ruled that women have a right to an abortion during the first two trimesters *U.S. v. Nixon*, which found that the President cannot use his or her power to withhold evidence in criminal trials *Lawrence v. Texas*, which struck down state anti-sodomy laws *United States v. Windsor*, which revoked the U.S. *Hodges*, which legalized same-sex marriage across all 50 states Sources:

Chapter 5 : [USC10] FLAG AND SEAL, SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, AND THE STATES

On this date, President George Washington signed into law the Permanent Seat of Government Act, which established the location of the federal city. On July 9, the House approved the relocation of the federal government by a vote of 32 to

On account of British military actions, the Congress was forced to relocate to Baltimore , Lancaster, Pennsylvania , and then York, Pennsylvania for a time before returning to Philadelphia. Congress did not remain in the city long however, for in June , a mob of angry soldiers converged upon Independence Hall demanding payment for their service during the war. Congress requested that John Dickinson , the governor of Pennsylvania , call up the militia to defend Congress from attacks by the protesters. In what became known as the Pennsylvania Mutiny of , Dickinson sympathized with the protesters and refused to remove them from Philadelphia. The Southern states refused to accept a capital in the North, and vice versa. Another suggestion was for there to be two capitals, one in the North and one in the South. During the debate, two sites became serious contenders: The House and Senate were not able to reconcile their two bills. The selection of a location for the capital resurfaced in the summer of . At the same time, Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton was pushing for Congress to pass a financial plan. Northern states had accumulated a huge amount of debt during the war, amounting to . The Southern states, whose citizens would effectively be forced to pay a portion of this debt if the Federal Government assumed it, balked at this proposal. Some states, including Virginia, had paid almost half of their debts, and felt that their taxpayers should not be assessed again to bail out the less provident. Further, they argued that the plan exceeded the scope of the new Constitutional government. James Madison , then a representative from Virginia, led a group of legislators from the south in blocking the provision and preventing the plan from gaining approval. Subsequently, a compromise was reached, in which the northern delegates would agree to the southerly Potomac River site, and in return, the federal government would assume debts accumulated by the states during the American Revolutionary War. Jefferson wrote a letter to James Monroe explaining the compromise. Jefferson was able to get the Virginia delegates to support the bill, with the debt provisions, while Hamilton convinced the New York delegates to agree to the Potomac site for the capital. The bill was approved by the Senate by a vote of 14 to 12 on July 1, , and by the House of Representatives by a vote of 31 to 29 on July 9, . The Act gave President George Washington the authority to decide the exact location and hire a surveyor. The President was required to have suitable buildings ready for Congress and other government offices by the first Monday in December Monday, December 1, . The federal government would provide financing for all public buildings. Upon assuming control of the federal district in , Congress would have full authority over local matters within the District of Columbia. This led to the decision to designate Philadelphia as the temporary capital city of the United States federal government for a period of ten years, until the permanent capital was ready. History of Washington, D. He, along with Thomas Jefferson , personally oversaw the process as plans were developed and implemented. Washington began scouting the area to the southeast of Georgetown, near the Anacostia River Eastern Branch. Some of the property owners expressed to the President that they were willing to sell land for the capital. Washington also looked at other sites along the Potomac. He decided that a few sites should be surveyed to provide specific details about the land and its ownership. Washington returned to Philadelphia in late November to meet with Jefferson. At this time, the decision was reached to locate the capital at or adjacent to Georgetown, [2] which was a short distance below the Fall Line and the farthest inland point for navigation. First page of the proclamation issued by President George Washington on March 30, , specifying the boundaries of the proposed Federal city In January , the President proceeded to appoint, in accordance with the Residence Act, a three-member commission, consisting of Daniel Carroll , Thomas Johnson , and David Stuart , to oversee the surveying of the federal district, and appointed Andrew Ellicott as surveyor. Washington informed Congress of the site selection on January 24, and suggested that Congress amend the Act to allow the capital to encompass areas to the south of the Eastern Branch, including Alexandria, Virginia. Congress agreed with this suggestion, passing an amendment to the Act that Washington approved on March 3, . However, consistent with language in the

original Act, the amendment specifically prohibited the "erection of the public buildings otherwise than on the Maryland side of the river Potomac". Hallet proceeded to make alterations to the design, against the wishes of Washington and Jefferson, and was subsequently dismissed. However, few were interested in purchasing lots. A shortage of funds further contributed to the delays and problems in building the Capitol and other federal buildings in Washington. Amid the "raw and unfinished" cityscape, the president found the public buildings "in a much greater forwardness of completion than expected. First Lady Abigail Adams arrived a few weeks later. Nonetheless, the House of Representatives began meeting there in

Chapter 6 : Why Does the US Still Have So Few Women in Office? | The Nation

Amendment XXIII Section 1. The District constituting the seat of government of the United States shall appoint in such manner as the Congress may direct.

After many votes, the House of Representatives chose Jefferson, and soon thereafter the amendment was speedily approved. The 25th amendment superseded this clause regarding presidential disability, vacancy of the office, and methods of succession Section 1 The 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, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows: Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: The Electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by Ballot for two Persons, of whom one at least shall not be an Inhabitant of the same State with themselves. And they shall make a List of all the Persons voted for, and of the Number of Votes for each; which List they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the Seat of the Government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the Presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the Certificates, and the Votes shall then be counted. The Person having the greatest Number of Votes shall be the President, if such Number be a Majority of the whole Number of Electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such Majority, and have an equal Number of Votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately chuse by Ballot one of them for President; and if no Person have a Majority, then from the five highest on the List the said House shall in like Manner chuse the President. But in chusing the President, the Votes shall be taken by States, the Representation from each State having one Vote; A quorum for this Purpose shall consist of a Member or Members from two thirds of the States, and a Majority of all the States shall be necessary to a Choice. But if there should remain two or more who have equal Votes, the Senate shall chuse from them by Ballot the Vice President. The Congress may determine the Time of chusing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States. No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States. In Case of the Removal of the President from Office, or of his Death, Resignation, or Inability to discharge the Powers and Duties of the said Office, the Same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by Law provide for the Case of Removal, Death, Resignation or Inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what Officer shall then act as President, and such Officer shall act accordingly, until the Disability be removed, or a President shall be elected. The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them. Before he enter on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation: 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: 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. Section 3 He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United

States. For instance, the authority to negotiate treaties has been assigned to the President alone as part of a general authority to control diplomatic communications. Thus, since the early Republic, the Clause has not been interpreted to give the Senate a constitutionally mandated role in advising the President before the conclusion of the treaty. Also of substantial vintage is the practice by which the Senate puts reservations on treaties, in which it modifies or excludes the legal effect of the treaty. The President then has the choice, as with all treaties to which the Senate has assented, to ratify the treaty or not, as he sees fit. The question of whether the President may terminate treaties without Senate consent is more contested. In *Goldwater v. Carter*, President Carter gave notice to Taiwan of the termination of our mutual defense treaty. The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia held that the President did have authority to terminate the treaty, but the Supreme Court in *Goldwater v. Carter*, vacated the judgment without reaching the merits. The treaty termination in *Goldwater* accorded with the terms of the treaty itself. *Holland* suggests that the Treaty Clause permits treaties to be made on subjects that would go beyond the powers otherwise enumerated for the federal government in the Constitution. *Covert*, however, the Court held that treaties may not violate the individual rights provisions of the Constitution. A still-debated question is the extent to which the Treaty Clause is the sole permissible mechanism for making substantial agreements with other nations. In fact, the majority of U. The Supreme Court has endorsed unilateral executive agreements by the President in some limited circumstances. For instance, in *United States v. Belmont*, the Court upheld an agreement to settle property claims of the government and U. The Court has never made clear the exact scope of executive agreements, but permissible ones appear to include one-shot claim settlements and agreements attendant to diplomatic recognition. With so-called congressional-executive agreements, Congress has also on occasion enacted legislation that authorizes agreements with other nations. It is sometimes argued in favor of the substantial interchangeability of treaties with so-called congressional-executive agreements that Congress enjoys enumerated powers that touch on foreign affairs, like the authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations. But, unlike legislation, international agreements establish binding agreements with foreign nations, potentially setting up entanglements that mere legislation does not. *Neilson*, the Supreme Court has distinguished between treaties that are now called self-executing and treaties that are non-self-executing. Self-executing treaties have domestic force in U. Non-self-executing treaties require additional legislation before the treaty has such domestic force. *Texas*, the Court suggested there may be a presumption against finding treaties self-executing unless the treaty text in which the Senate concurred clearly indicated its self-executing status. Appointments

The remainder of Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article II deals with the subject of official appointments. With regard to diplomatic officials, judges and other officers of the United States, Article II lays out four modes of appointment. The text, however, raises the questions: *Chadha*, may implicitly have given the Buckley formulation more substance. Distinguishing inferior from principal officers has also sometimes proved puzzling. Perhaps the greatest source of controversy regarding the Appointments Clause, however, surrounds its implications, if any, for the removal of federal officers. *United States*, and, indeed, may not reserve for itself any direct role in the removal of officers other than through impeachment, *Bowsher v. The Court* has since held, in that vein, that officers of the United States may not be shielded from presidential removal by multiple layers of restrictions on removal. Thus, inferior officers appointed by heads of departments who are not themselves removable at will by the President must be removable at will by the officers who appoint them. *Free Enterprise Fund v. Accounting Oversight Board*

The Recess Appointments Clause was included in Article II in the apparent anticipation that government must operate year-round, but Congress would typically be away from the capital for months at a time. Over the ensuing decades—and extending to modern times when Congress itself sits nearly year-round—the somewhat awkward wording of the Clause seemed to pose two issues that the Supreme Court decided for the first time in *First*, does the power of recess appointments extend to vacancies that initially occurred while the Senate was not in recess? As a result, in the particular case, the Court ruled against the President, because the relevant recess was too short. *Davis and Jacob E. McGinnis*

The practice and jurisprudence of the Treaty and Appointments Clauses err when they depart, as they too often do, from the original meaning of the Constitution. *Shane*

Article II of the U. Constitution is plainly critical to establishing two fundamental institutional relationships:

Chapter 7 : The Story Behind the Creation of Independence National Historical Park

Title Plan of the city intended for the permanent seat of the government of t[he] United States: projected agreeable to the direction of the President of the United States, in pursuance of an act of Congress passed the sixteenth day of July, MDCCXC, "establishing the permanent seat on the bank of the Potowmac": [Washington D.C.].

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election methods only needs changes in applicable laws. But she says the power of incumbency and the old boys network is strong and very resistant to structural change. We need more Democratic and Republican leaders to step up and help solve this problem. But the male-dominated networks, even among Democrats, stand in the way of changes like requiring that 50 percent of candidates be female, or using fairer voting methods. Training a thousand women candidates is indeed a great accomplishment, but that achievement also reveals the limitations of current approaches. The fact is there are more than 7, state legislative races, and over 6, will be contested in The future of the nation is at stake. Steven Hill Steven Hill [www. A columnist and political professional based in the United States with two decades of experience in politics. Hill has been widely published and quoted in media around the world. He writes a monthly column for Social Europe Journal. He is a co-founder of FairVote and former director of the political reform program at the New America Foundation. To submit a correction for our consideration, click here. For Reprints and Permissions, click here.](http://www.stevenhill.com)

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This title has been made positive law by section 1 of act July 30, , ch. , 61 Stat. , which provided in part that: "title 4 of the United States Code, entitled 'Flag and seal, Seat of Government, and the States', is codified and enacted into positive law and may be cited as '4 U. S. C., Â§â€™' ".

Chapter 9 : 4 U.S. Code Â§ 71 - Permanent seat of Government | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute

The 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, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows.