

THE PRESIDENTIAL HATS:

Chief Executive



The Chief Executive wears a fedora. Named after an 1882 play, the fedora was popular for businessmen to wear in the mid-1900s.

State of the Union Address

Article II of the United States Constitution requires the President “from time to time” to give a State of the Union Address to Congress. In this speech, Presidents may discuss current and past events, suggest legislation, or raise awareness of issues they see.

Picture:

President George H.W. Bush works on the State of the Union Address at his desk in the Oval Office on January 25, 1991.





State of the Union Address

The State of the Union address is traditionally delivered in January to both houses of Congress in the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol.

Picture:

President Barack Obama delivers the State of the Union address in the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., January 24, 2012.



Proposing a Budget

It is the President's job to work with his Cabinet members to propose a budget to Congress.

Picture:

President George W. Bush holds up a computer with the E-Budget for the cameras during a Cabinet meeting on February 4, 2008.

Later, the President said, "I submitted the budget today to Congress -- it's on a laptop notebook, an e-budget. It saves paper, saves trees, saves money. I think it's the first budget submitted electronically."



Nominating Supreme Court Justices and Other Officials

The Constitution gives the President the power to appoint judges, ambassadors, and cabinet officials. It states that he “shall commission all Officers of the United States.”

Picture:

President Ronald Reagan and His Supreme Court Justice Nominee Sandra Day O'Connor at the White House, July 15, 1981. Judge O'Connor was the first woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court.



Informing the American People

In addition to the State of the Union Address, Presidents will hold press conferences to tell Americans about events and legislation.

Picture:

Before the television was widely used, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used the radio to communicate with American citizens. On March 12, 1933, President Roosevelt gave the first of his "fireside chats" to the nation.

Air Force One

To help the President, who travels around the world for his duties, the military designated a plane, Air Force One, solely for his use. When he is traveling, the plane becomes the President's mobile office.

Top Picture:

President Reagan meeting with staff in the lounge aboard Air Force One on a return trip to Andrews Air Force base on October 10, 1985.

Bottom Picture:

President William J. Clinton talking on the telephone to Russian President Boris Yeltsin aboard Air Force One, on October 5, 1993.





Presidential Succession

If anything happens to the President during his term and he is unable to continue his duties, the Constitution includes information about who will take his place. Although the list is long, the first person to take office in his absence is the Vice President; second is the Speaker of the House.

Picture:

Following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963, Vice President Lyndon Baines Johnson becomes President, taking the oath of office aboard Air Force One.

Presidential Pardon

One of the powers granted to the President is the ability to pardon prisoners or someone who has committed a crime. When a President issues a pardon, they are forgiving an offense without a punishment.

Document:

Presidential Proclamation 4311 of September 8, 1974, by President Gerald R. Ford granting a full pardon to former President Richard M. Nixon.

President Nixon had resigned when people began calling for his impeachment over the Watergate Scandal. As his Vice President, Ford took over the presidency. America was going through a difficult time and President Ford decided to pardon Nixon over dragging the country through a lengthy court battle.

GRANTING PARDON TO RICHARD NIXON

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

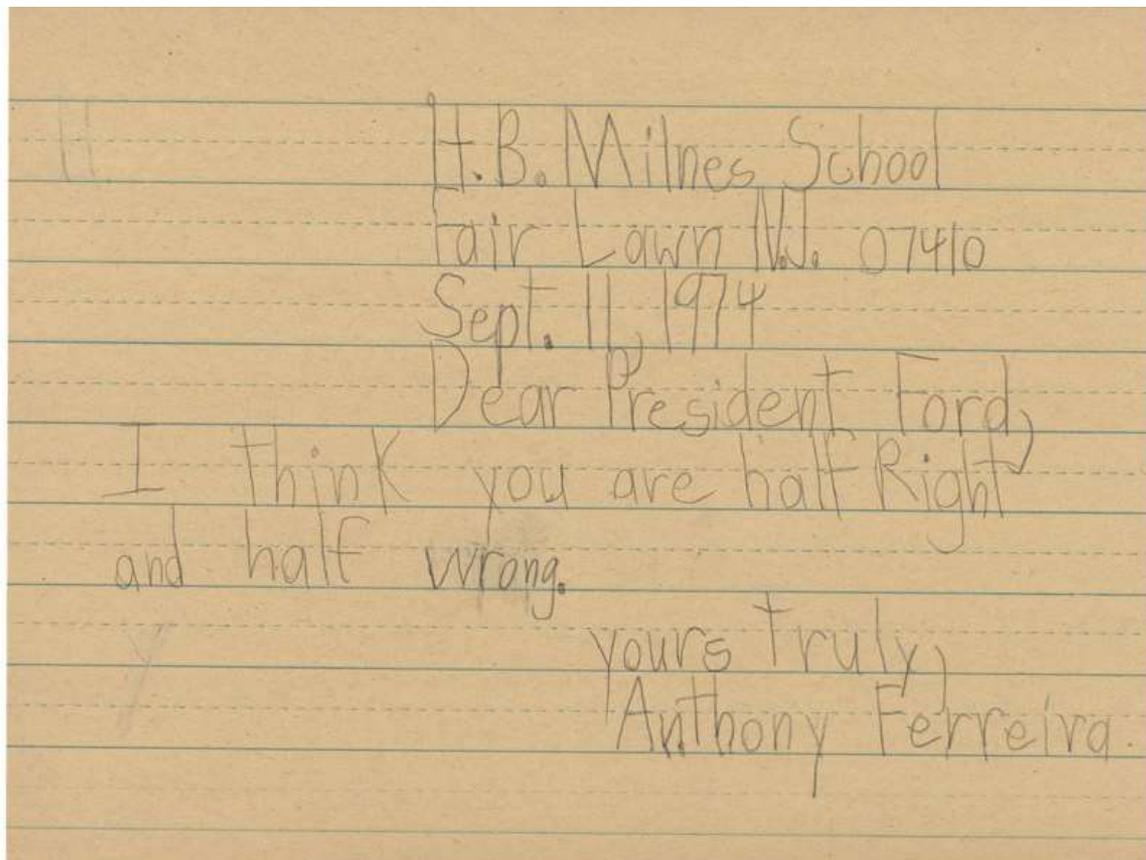
Richard Nixon became the thirty-seventh President of the United States on January 20, 1969 and was reelected in 1972 for a second term by the electors of forty-nine of the fifty states. His term in office continued until his resignation on August 9, 1974.

Pursuant to resolutions of the House of Representatives, its Committee on the Judiciary conducted an inquiry and investigation on the impeachment of the President extending over more than eight months. The hearings of the Committee and its deliberations, which received wide national publicity over television, radio, and in printed media, resulted in votes adverse to Richard Nixon on recommended Articles of Impeachment.

As a result of certain acts or omissions occurring before his resignation from the Office of President, Richard Nixon has become liable to possible indictment and trial for offenses against the United States. Whether or not he shall be so prosecuted depends on findings of the appropriate grand jury and on the discretion of the authorized prosecutor. Should an indictment ensue, the accused shall then be entitled to a fair trial by an impartial jury, as guaranteed to every individual by the Constitution.

It is believed that a trial of Richard Nixon, if it became necessary, could not fairly begin until a year or more has elapsed. In the meantime, the tranquility to which this nation has been restored by the events of recent weeks could be irreparably lost by the prospects of bringing to trial a former President of the United States. The prospects of such





Public Opinion and Response

When a Presidential decision is controversial, Americans are allowed to let the President know what they think. We are able to do this because we live in a democracy and are granted freedom of speech.

Document:

September 11, 1974 letter to President Gerald Ford from Anthony Ferreira, a third grader at Henry B. Milnes School. Anthony is expressing his opinion about President Ford's decision to pardon President Nixon.

Article II, Section 1

- Article II, Section I of the United States Constitution establishes the office of the President.
- Article II, Section I states that the President:
 - Will “hold his Office” for a “term of four years”
 - Must “be elected” with the Vice President for the same term
 - Must be “a natural born Citizen” of the United States
 - Must be “the age of thirty five years”
 - Must have been a resident of the United States for “fourteen years”
- Article II, Section I also lists the oath of office, “I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

Article II

- Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution names the power of the President.
- In Article II, Section 2 the President is given the power to:
 - Grant “pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment”
 - Appoint “Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States”

Article II

- Article II, Section 3 of the United States Constitution establishes the duties of the President.
- In Article II, Section 3, the President is given the following duties
 - “He shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the State of the Union”
 - “He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed”