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| Qualifications of the Presidency **1) Age – 35 years old when taking office.**  **2) Citizenship – “Natural born” citizen of the United States.**  **3) Residency – Must live in U.S. for at least 14 years of their life.** |
| President’s Term1) No-third-term tradition – Although it was not required by the Constitution, George Washington set an important precedent when he chose to step down after serving two terms. Over the next century and a half, although a couple (like Grant and Cleveland) tried, no president successfully got elected to a third term. **2) FDR – After being elected in 1932 and re-elected in 1936, he broke the no-third-term tradition when he was elected to a third term in 1940 and a fourth term in 1944. He died in 1945 only a few months into his fourth term, leaving many people questioning whether or not we really want a popular person serving essentially as “president-for-life” only to die while in office.**  **3) 22nd Amendment (1951) – No person may be elected president more than twice. Furthermore, if a president for some reason leaves office in the middle of a term, the person who replaces him/her may only serve as president for a maximum of 10 years.** |
| **Presidential Succession**  **1) 25th Amendment (1967) –**   1. **What happens if the presidency becomes vacant in the middle of a term?**   **The original Constitution only said if the president left office in the middle of a term, the powers of the presidency would “devolve” to the VP. It did not clearly state the VP in this case would become president and would therefore no longer be the VP. Because this language was ambiguous, Congress, after the assassination of JFK, passed the 25th Amendment which clearly states if the president leaves office in the middle of a term, the VP becomes president. Example: Ford became President in 1974 when Nixon resigned.**   1. **What happens if the vice-presidency becomes vacant in the middle of a term?**   **The VP spot can become vacant in the middle of a term if the VP dies, resigns, gets impeached and removed or if he/she replaces a president who leaves office early. The Framers made no provision in the original Const. for replacing VP who leaves office early. Historically whenever the VP spot became vacant in the middle of a term, it was just left vacant until the next election. The 25th Amendment provides for when the VP spot becomes vacant midterm, the president appoints a new VP. This appointment must then be approved by a simple-majority vote in BOTH houses of Congress. Example: When Nixon resigned and Ford became president, he quickly appointed Nelson Rockefeller to replace him as VP.**   1. **What happens if the president becomes incapacitated?**   **If for whatever reason the president becomes incapacitated in the middle of a term and cannot carry out his/her duties, the 25th Amendment says the VP serves as “acting president” holding all of the powers of the presidency until the president is healthy enough to resume his/her job. In this case, the VP does NOT become president and is still officially the VP (one person temporarily doing the two top jobs). Example: In 2002 when George W. Bush had to be put under anesthesia to undergo a colonoscopy, his VP Dick Cheney became “acting president” for two and a half hours.**  **2) Presidential Succession Act of 1947 –**  **a) Purpose – Provides a line of succession to the presidency in case a number of the top leaders of our government are killed at the same time. During the Cold War this was thought to be a very realistic concern. If the Soviet Union were to launch some kind of a devastating attack on our country (like a nuclear assault) they could kill many leaders simultaneously.**  **b) Who is on the list? – There are currently 18 people on the list:**  **1) Vice-president;**  **2) Speaker of the House;**  **3) President *pro tempore* of the Senate;**  **4)-18) the 15 members of the Cabinet in the order their positions were created.** |