

# **The Presidency**



**What do we expect from  
the President?**

# Constitutional Basis of Presidential Power

- The president would not be beholden to the whims of the people
  - The Electoral College
- The president would not be beholden to larger states
  - Representation in the Electoral College
- The president would check other branches
- The president would be checked by the other branches
- The president would take a main role in foreign policy and the military

# Enumerated Powers

- Power to execute/enforce the law
- Power over the military
- Power to pardon
- Power of diplomacy
- Power to veto
- Power of appointment

# The Evolving Presidency

- Partisan Presidency
  - Relying on the party; divided / unified government
  - **The veto threat** --- A public statement issued by the president declaring if a law is passed by Congress that the president will not sign it

## House votes to reopen government despite Trump veto threat



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) Photo: Tom Williams/CQ Roll Call via Getty Images

The House passed a short-term spending package Thursday night that would reopen ei [www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) ies through September and the Department of Homeland Security through February, but which does not include funding for President Trump's border wall.

**Why it matters:** The White House [issued a statement](#) Thursday formally threatening to veto the Democrats' proposed spending package if it passed. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the Senate won't take up any House spending bill that Trump won't sign.

[GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN >](#)



# The Evolving Presidency

- Partisan Presidency
  - Relying on the party; divided / unified government
  - **The veto threat** --- A public statement issued by the president declaring if a law is passed by Congress that the president will not sign it
  - **President as Head of Party**



## Percentage of straight-ticket vs. split-ticket states in presidential cycles



# The Evolving Presidency

- Partisan Presidency
  - Relying on the party; divided / unified government
  - **The veto threat** --- A public statement issued by the president declaring if a law is passed by Congress that the president will not sign it
  - **President as Head of Party**
- Using the Power of the presidency
  - **“Going Public”** --- action taken by the president to communicate directly with the people, usually through press conferences, radio broadcasts, or televised speeches
  - **“The Bully Pulpit”** --- a high profile, highly visible position that gives someone the platform to speak out and be listened to



# The Evolving Presidency

- Partisan Presidency
  - Relying on the party; divided / unified government
  - **The veto threat** --- A public statement issued by the president declaring if a law is passed by Congress that the president will not sign it
- Using the Power of the presidency
  - **“Going Public”** --- action taken by the president to communicate directly with the people, usually through press conferences, radio broadcasts, or televised speeches
  - **“The Bully Pulpit”** --- a high profile, highly visible position that gives someone the platform to speak out and be listened to
- Going to War
  - Tension between “Commander-in-Chief” and Congress’ power “to declare war”
  - **War Powers Resolution**



# The Evolving Presidency

- Taking control of policy-making
  - **Executive Orders** --- An official means by which the president can instruct federal agencies on how to execute the laws passed by Congress



# The Evolving Presidency

- Taking control of policy-making
  - **Executive Orders** --- An official means by which the president can instruct federal agencies on how to execute the laws passed by Congress
  - **Executive Agreements** --- An agreement between the United States and one or more other countries, because it is not a formal treaty the Senate does not need to approve of it



# The Evolving Presidency

- Taking control of policy-making
  - **Executive Orders** --- An official means by which the president can instruct federal agencies on how to execute the laws passed by Congress
  - **Executive Agreements** --- An agreement between the United States and one or more other countries, because it is not a formal treaty the Senate does not need to approve of it
  - **Signing Statements** --- A public statement written by the president and attached to a particular bill to outline his or her interpretation of the legislation

Statement on Signing the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002  
October 16, 2002

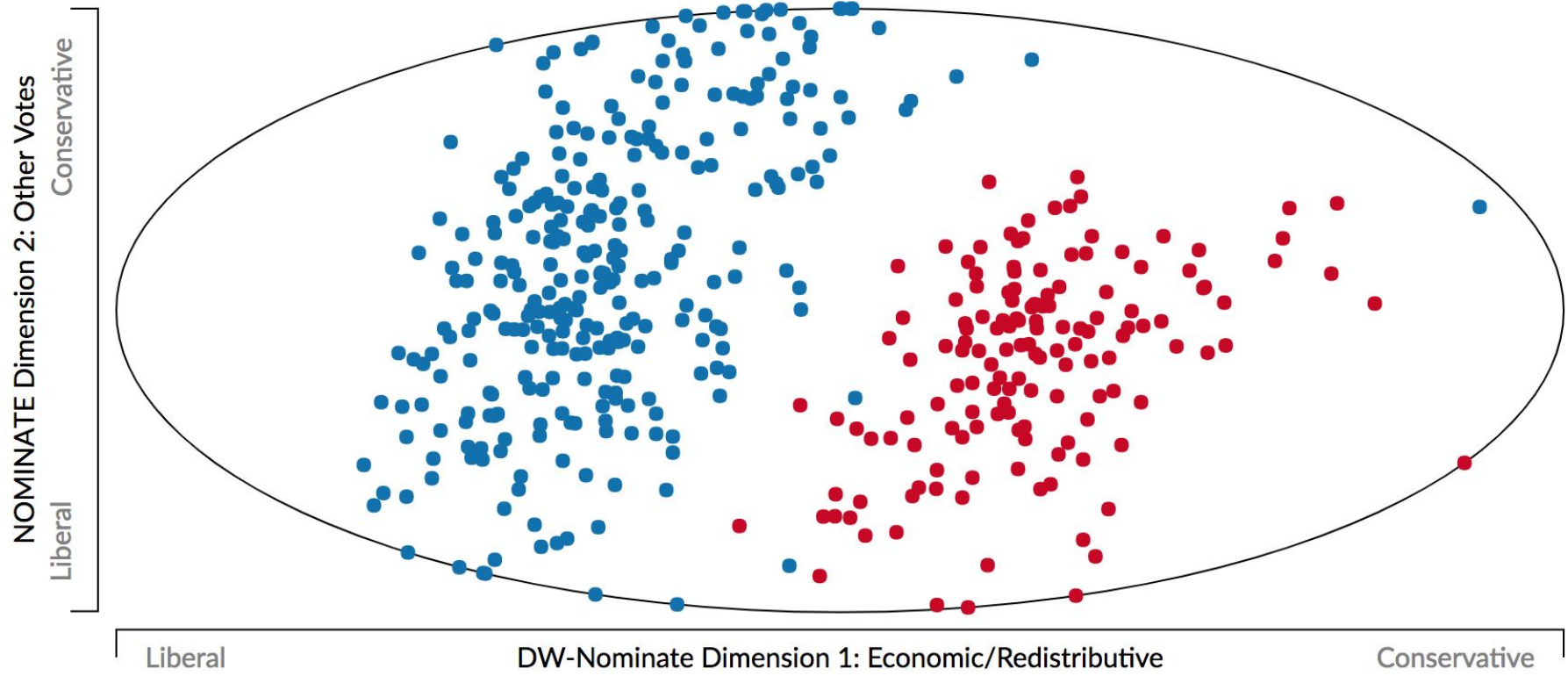
Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 114, a resolution “To authorize the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq.” By passing H.J. Res. 114, the Congress has demonstrated that the United States speaks with one voice on the threat to international peace and security posed by Iraq...The debate over this resolution in the Congress was in the finest traditions of American democracy. There is no social or political force greater than a free people united in a common and compelling objective. It is for that reason that I sought an additional resolution of support from the Congress to use force against Iraq, should force become necessary. While I appreciate receiving that support, my request for it did not, and my signing this resolution does not, constitute any change in the long-standing positions of the executive branch on either the President’s constitutional authority to use force to deter, prevent, or respond to aggression or other threats to U.S. interests or on the constitutionality of the War Powers Resolution. On the important question of the threat posed by Iraq, however, the views and goals of the Congress, as expressed in H.J. Res. 114 and previous congressional resolutions and enactments, and those of the President are the same. Throughout the past months, I have had extensive consultations with the Congress, and I look forward to continuing close consultation in the months ahead. In addition, in accordance with section 4 of H.J. Res. 114, I intend to submit written reports to the Congress on matters relevant to this resolution every 60 days. To the extent possible, I intend to consolidate information in these reports with the information concerning Iraq submitted to the Congress pursuant to previous, related resolutions. The United States is committed to a world in which the people of all nations can live in freedom, peace, and security. Enactment of H.J. Res. 114 is an important step on the road toward such a world.

George W. Bush

**What *should* we expect  
from the President?**







**What is President Trump  
doing differently?**