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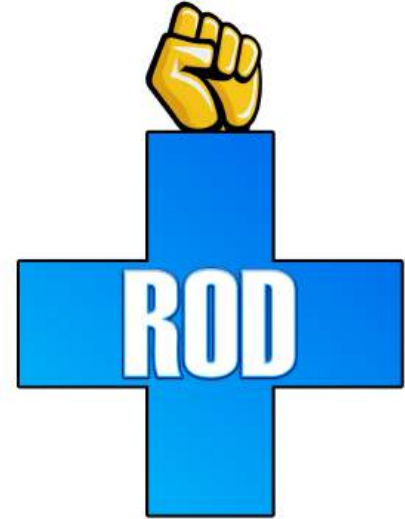
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Presents

What Are Executive Orders & How Are They Used?

A Plain-Language Guide to Presidential Power

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What Is an Executive Order?



An executive order is a written command from the President. It tells parts of the government what to do.

These orders have the power of law, but only for how the government works.

➡ Think of it like a boss giving directions to employees.

Where Does This Power Come From?

- Executive orders are allowed by the U.S. Constitution.
- Specifically, they come from the President's job to "faithfully execute" the laws.
- They're also supported by laws passed by Congress.

➡ The President can't create new laws—but can direct how to carry out existing ones.



What Executive Orders *Can* Do



- ✓ Set rules for federal workers
 - ✓ Create task forces
 - ✓ Respond quickly to emergencies
 - ✓ Enforce laws already passed
 - ✓ Set priorities for law enforcement
- ➔ Example: Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was an executive order.

What Executive Orders *Cannot* Do

- ✗ They cannot create new laws
 - ✗ They cannot spend money Congress hasn't approved
 - ✗ They cannot override the Constitution
 - ✗ They can be undone by future presidents or blocked by courts
- ➡ Checks and balances matter—no one is above the law.



Real-Life Examples



 **FDR:** Ordered the internment of Japanese Americans (1942)

 **Truman:** Integrated the military (1948)

 **Eisenhower:** Sent troops to enforce school desegregation (1957)

 **Obama:** Protected Dreamers from deportation (2012, DACA)



 **Biden:** Rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement (2021)

Can Executive Orders Be Stopped?

Yes. Here's how:

- ✓ Congress can pass a law to override it
(*President can veto, though*)

- ✓ Courts can rule it unconstitutional

- ✓ Future presidents can cancel or replace it

➔ Example: Trump ended some of Obama's orders; Biden reversed many of Trump's.



Why Do Executive Orders Matter?



- They shape how our government runs—fast.
- But they must still follow the Constitution and laws passed by Congress.
- Understanding them helps us see how much power the President really has—and where the limits are.

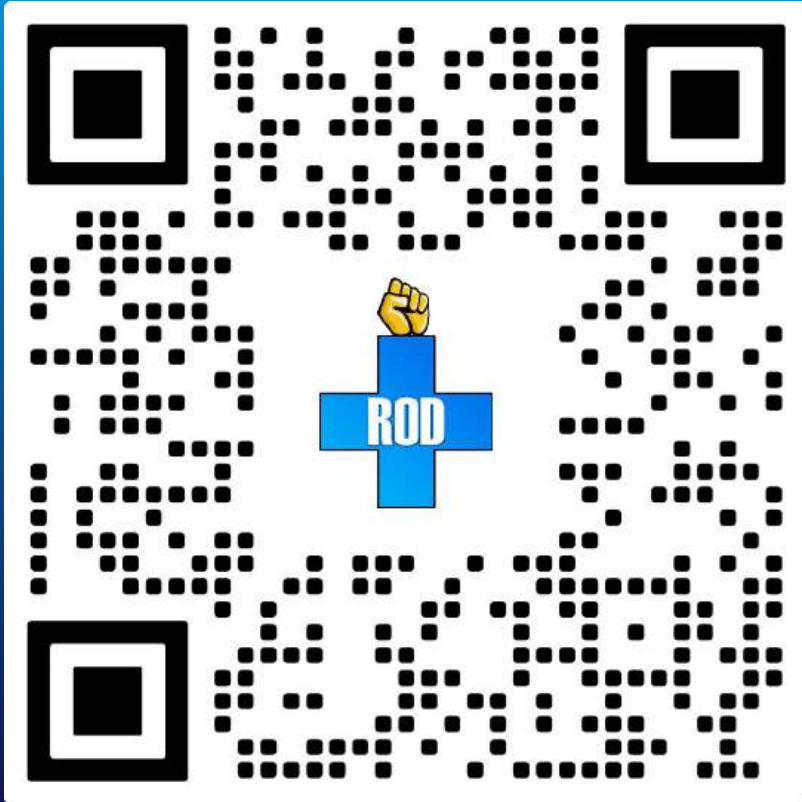
Final Thoughts

- Executive orders are powerful—but *not unlimited*.
- They're part of how presidents get things done.
- And they show why it matters *who we elect*.

➔ Learn more. Speak up. Stay informed.



Thank you!



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