

MR. POGREBA, PARKER SCHOOL

UNIT 3: THE PRESIDENT

Part II

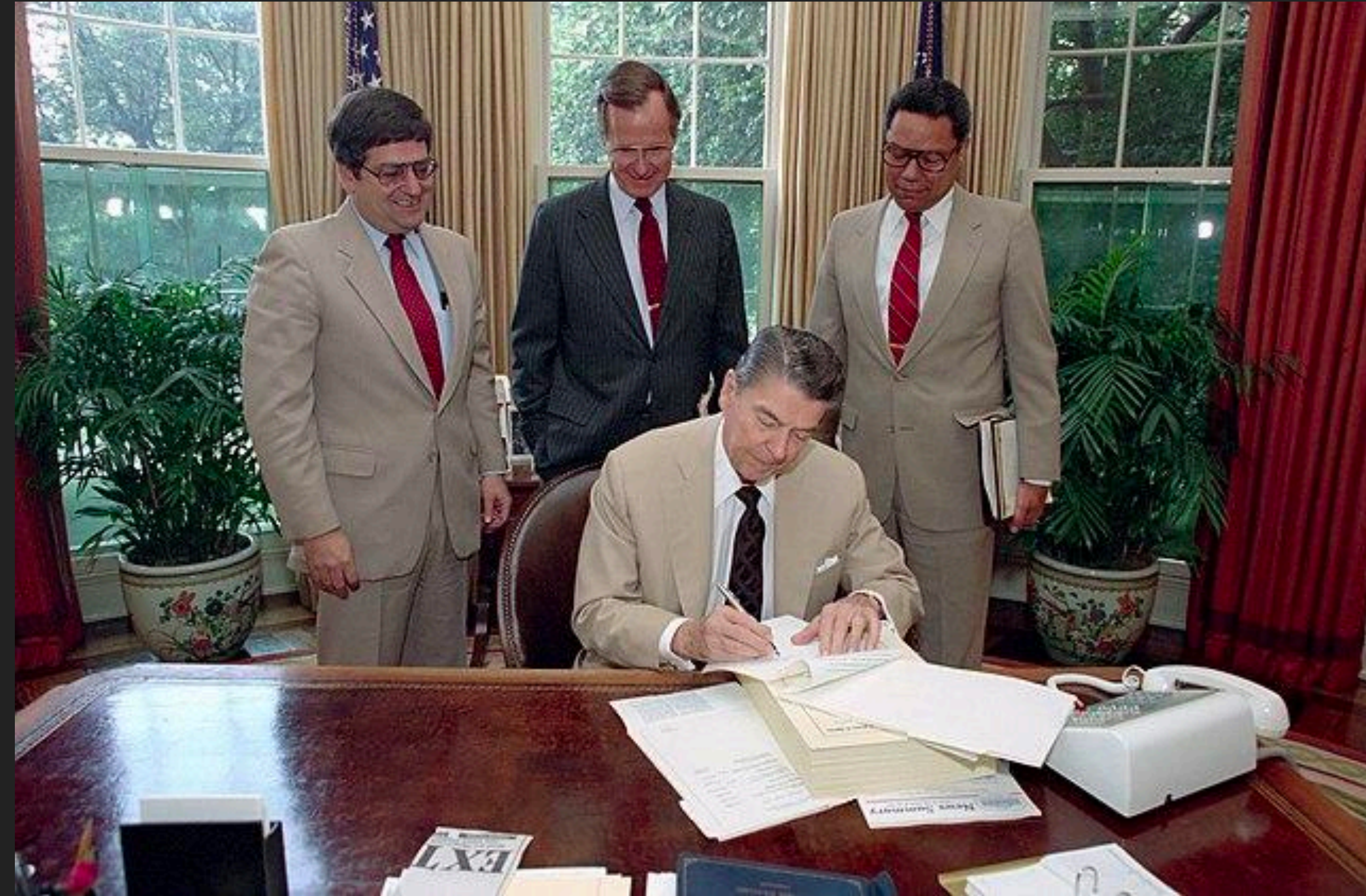




CHECKS ON PRESIDENTIAL POWER

FORMAL CHECKS ON PRESIDENTIAL POWER

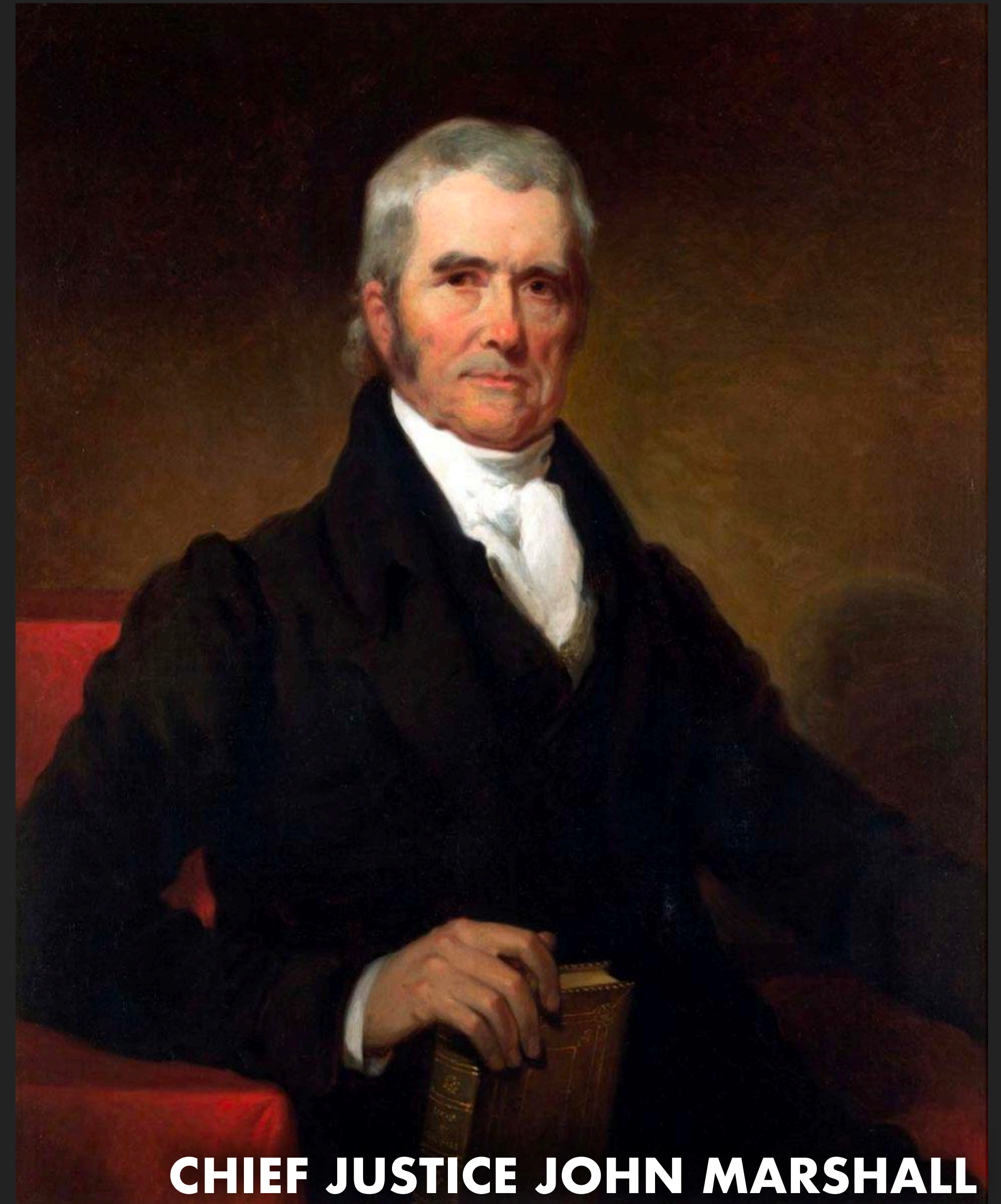
- ▶ Congress has the ultimate constitutional authority to make laws.
- ▶ **Impeachment Power:** what are the roles for the House and Senate?
- ▶ **Overriding Vetoes**
 - ▶ **Line item veto reform proposal**
- ▶ Power to declare war/control the budget
- ▶ **Congressional oversight/investigation**
 - ▶ Iran/Contra, January 6 inquiry/Whitewater



RONALD REAGAN VETOES A BILL

FORMAL CHECKS ON PRESIDENTIAL POWER

- ▶ The Supreme Court has the power of **judicial review**.
- ▶ Senate approval for key offices, from Cabinet to judges.
- ▶ President is not directly elected, but chosen through the **Electoral College**.
- ▶ The **filibuster**.
- ▶ Congress can make rules for every part of government, from military to bureaucracy.



CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL

INFORMAL CHECKS ON PRESIDENTIAL POWER

- 1. Public Opinion:** while the President can use the **bully pulpit** to persuade the public, he is susceptible to public opinion.
- 2. The Media:** the media plays a critical role in shaping public opinion. Why has this role perhaps changed in the last 20 years?
- 3. Partisan Politics:** the two-party system imposes a check on Presidential power even when the minority power doesn't hold a branch of government. How?



OBAMA'S FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE

INFORMAL CHECKS ON PRESIDENTIAL POWER

- 4. Interest groups:** by monitoring and reporting on Presidential action, interest groups can drive public opinion and reporting.
- 5. Money:** interest groups, corporate donors, and the elite drive Presidential politics today more than any time in American history.
- 6. Divided Government:** 40 of the last 60 years have seen a President of one party and a Congress of the other.



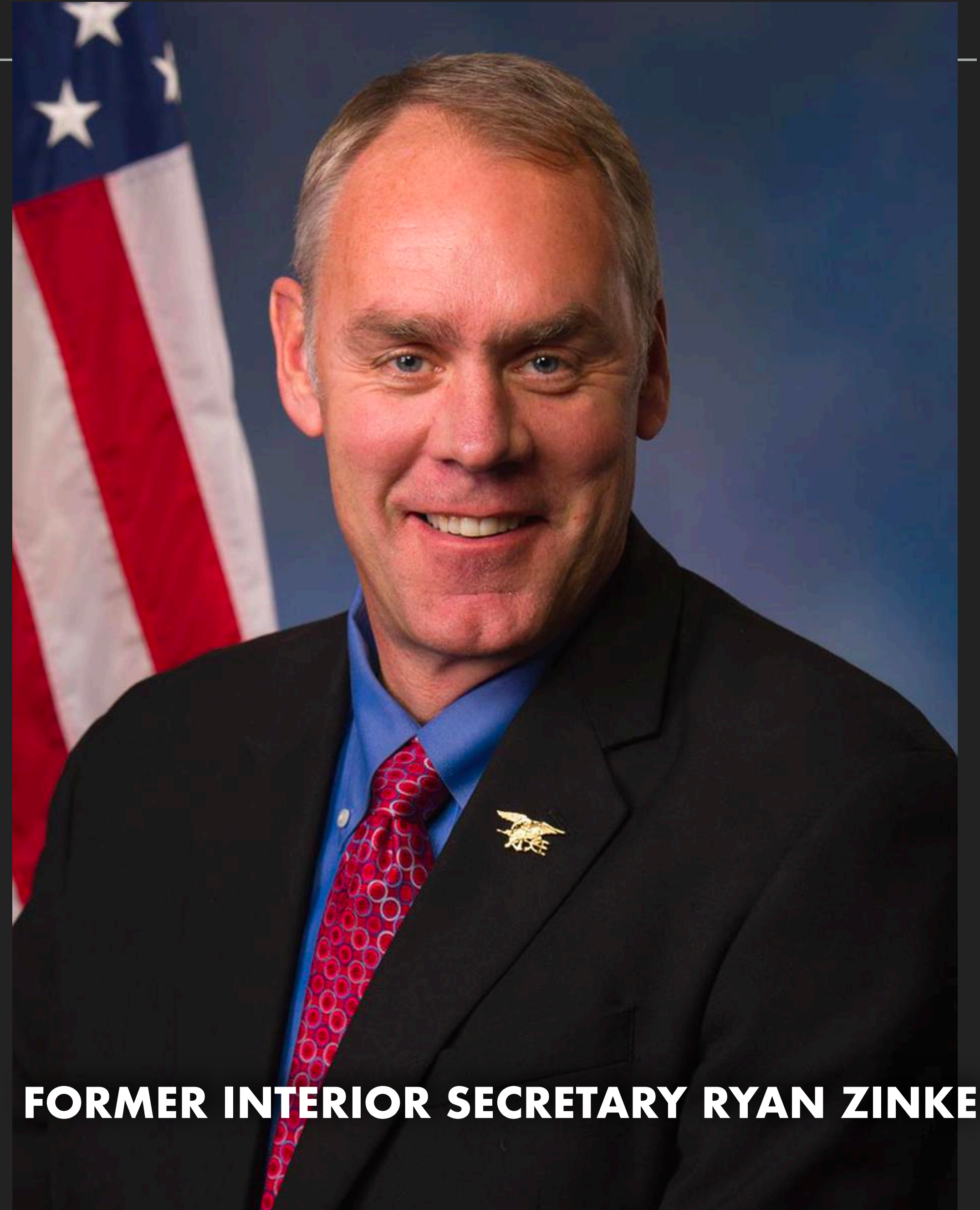
CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM, 1994



PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS

THE CABINET

- ▶ George Washington instituted the first Presidential **cabinet**, leading advisors who oversee the departments of the presidency.
- ▶ Washington had 4 members; today the President has **15 cabinet members**.
- ▶ Congress approves them and their offices are created by the Congress.
- ▶ They exist as advisors and oversee departments ranging from oversight of 3.1 million people to 5,000.



FORMER INTERIOR SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE

THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET

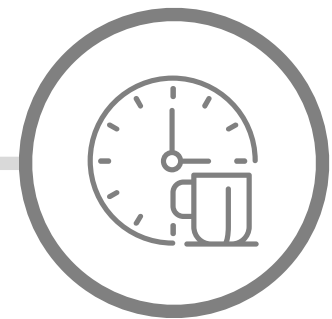
ORIGINAL 4

- State (1789)
- Treasury (1789)
- War/Defense (1789)
- Attorney General/Dept. of Justice (1789)

1800s

- Interior (1849)
- Agriculture (1862)

WHAT DOES THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OVERSEE?



USE AND CONSERVATION OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS

PROGRESSIVE ERA

- Commerce (1913)
- Labor (1913)

MODERN

- Health and Human Services (1953)
- Housing and Urban Development (1965)
- Transportation (1966)
- Energy (1977)
- Education (1979)
- Veterans' Affairs (1989)
- Homeland Security (2002)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (EOP)

- ▶ During the Depression, FDR created the **Executive Office of the President**, a more direct body than the often political cabinet.
- ▶ It includes the:
 - ▶ **Office of Budget and Management**
 - ▶ **National Security Council**
 - ▶ **Council of Economic Advisors**
 - ▶ **National Economic Council**
- ▶ This group is the core of the **President's policymaking.**



THE NSC DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF

- ▶ Working in the **West Wing**, the Executive Staff is personally responsible to the President.
 - ▶ How does this differ from Cabinet and EOP?
- ▶ It includes:
 - ▶ **Chief of Staff**
 - ▶ **Press Secretary**
 - ▶ **White House Counsel**



WHY DOES THE PRESIDENT TEND TO VALUE STAFF MORE?

1. Personal Loyalty
2. Cabinet secretaries have **divided loyalty**: president, agency, politics
3. Most WH Staff are not approved by Senate.
4. **Congress can oversee Cabinet.**
5. WH Staff has the President's political and policy in mind. **Hatch Act** prevents Cabinet officials from overt politics.



TRUMP AND CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN KELLY



GETTING THINGS DONE

PRESIDENTIAL AGENDA

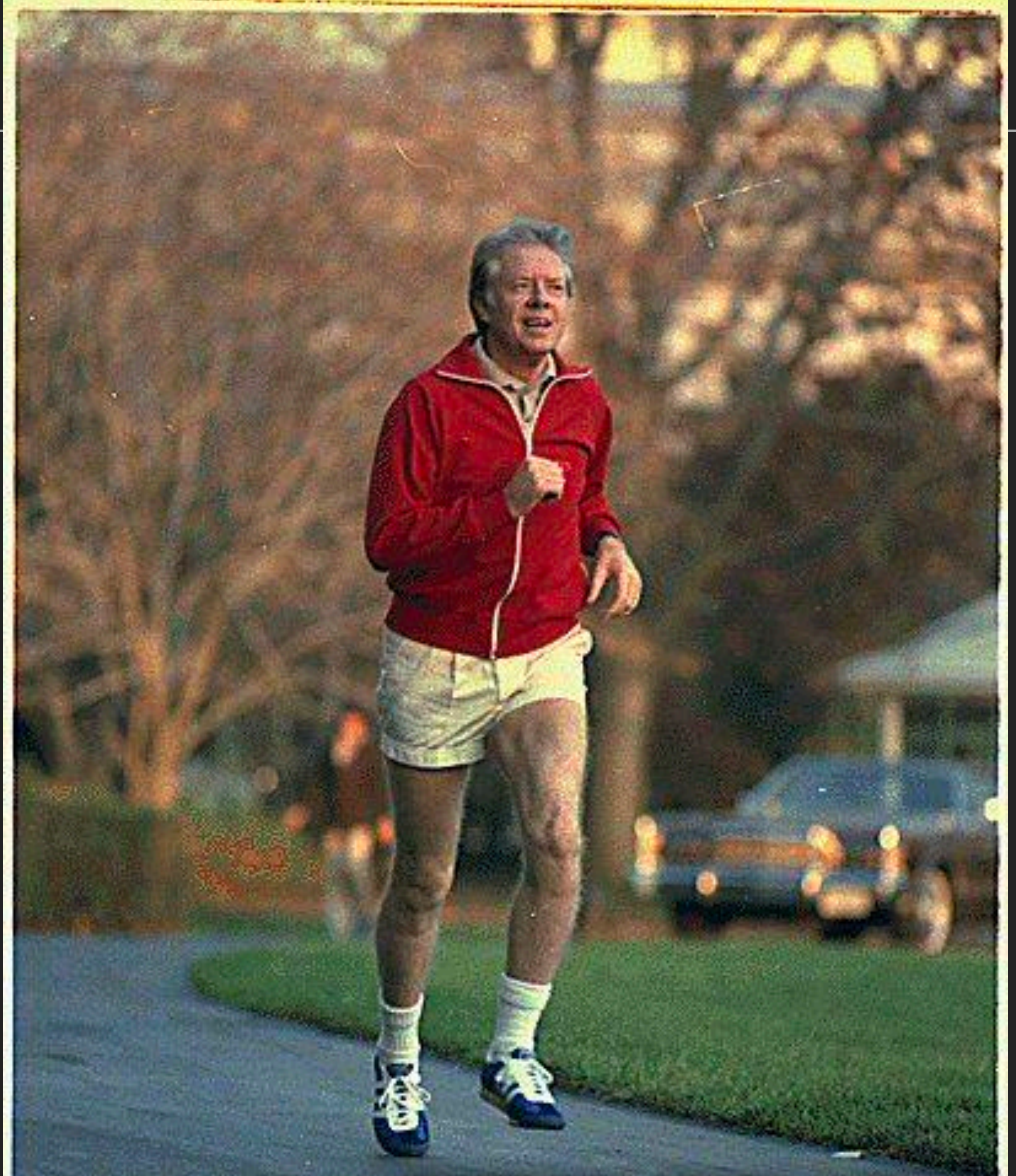
- ▶ Political scientists and the media talk about the president's **agenda**, his plan for the nation.
- ▶ Some Presidents, like Reagan and Trump, rest their agenda on implementation of a **political philosophy**.
- ▶ Others, like President Clinton and Obama, rest their agenda on a lengthy set of **policy proposals**.
- ▶ What are the the political and pragmatic benefits and drawbacks of each?



THE BIDEN AGENDA

HOW DO PRESIDENTS GET THINGS DONE?

- ▶ There are generally three ways that Presidents organize their administrations:
 - ▶ **pyramid structure:** The President's team reports to him through a formal chain of command.
 - ▶ **circular structure:** the President has a team of close advisors who report to him.
 - ▶ **ad hoc structure:** several Cabinet members, EOP members, and committees report to the President directly.



PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

LIMITS ON PRESIDENTIAL POWER

- ▶ **Time and attention span:** The demands of the modern Presidency are almost unimaginable: Congress, public events, political obligations, foreign affairs, and more lead to 90+ hour work weeks.
- ▶ **Unexpected crises** can dominate the President's attention and distract him from his agenda.
- ▶ **The static nature of federal programs and budgets** limits the amount of change a President can make.





THE POWER TO PERSUADE

THE THREE AUDIENCES

- ▶ Given limited explicit Constitutional authority, Presidents have long been seen as the **persuader-in-chief**, using their power to sway the nation from the **bully pulpit**.
- ▶ Political scientists say this means three audiences:
 - ▶ The **D.C. Beltway** of influential political and media leaders.
 - ▶ **Party activists and officeholders** outside D.C.
 - ▶ **The multiple publics**
- ▶ How can tension between these three audiences affect the President's agenda?



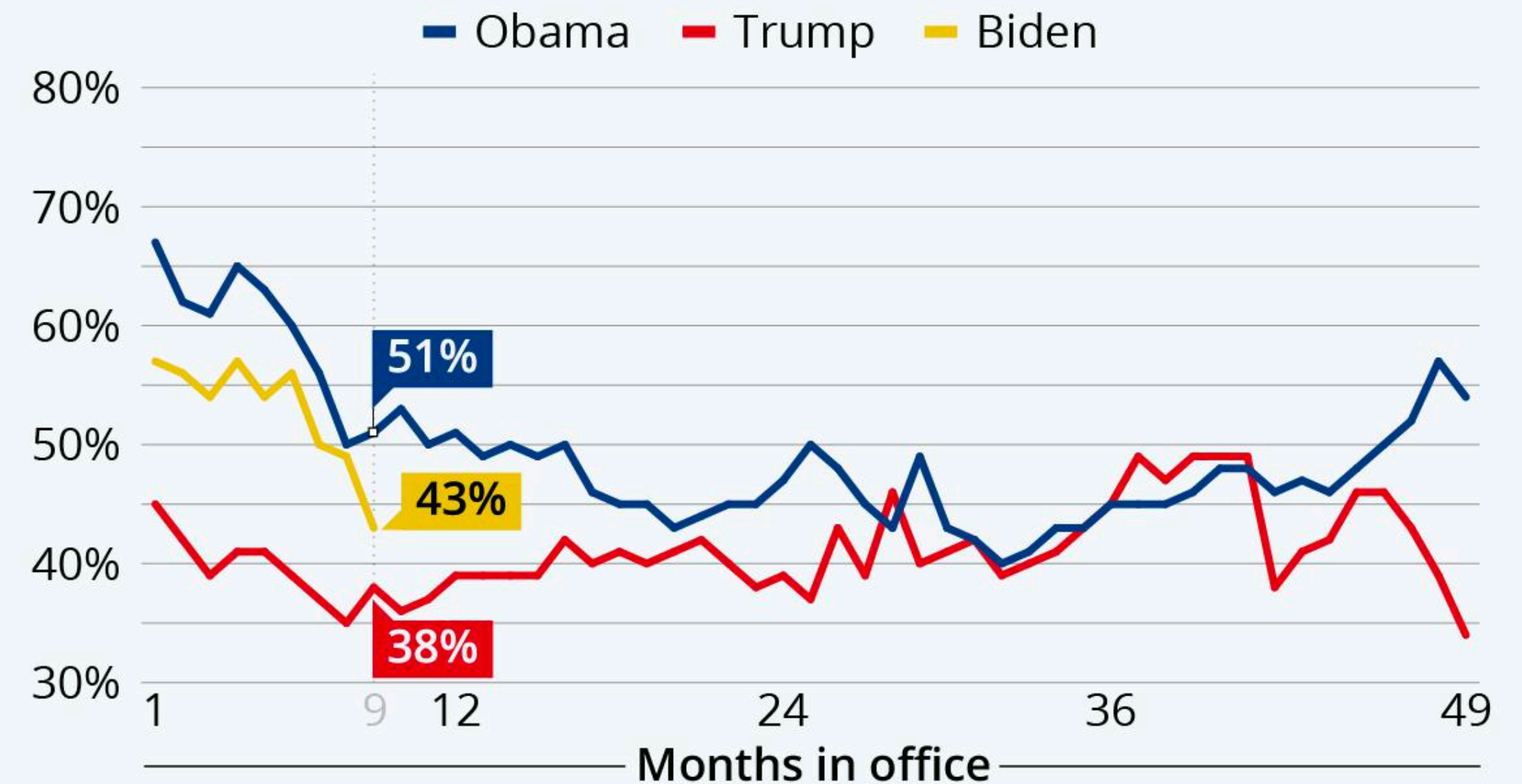
PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

IMPACT OF PRESIDENTIAL POPULARITY

- ▶ Presidential popularity (called **approval rating**) matters. As approval of the President's policies grows, so does his **political capital** to get his agenda accomplished.
- ▶ Presidents increase their popularity by passing parts of their agenda, avoiding controversial positions, or shifting blame to Congress for **gridlock**.
- ▶ Presidential popularity tends to **peak at the start of their terms and fade over time**.
 - ▶ That puts enormous pressure on the first year of a Presidency.
- ▶ Presidential popularity is **very unpredictable** and often **rests on factors outside the President's control**.

Biden Approval Continues to Dip

Approval ratings of U.S. Presidents Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden from start of first term in office

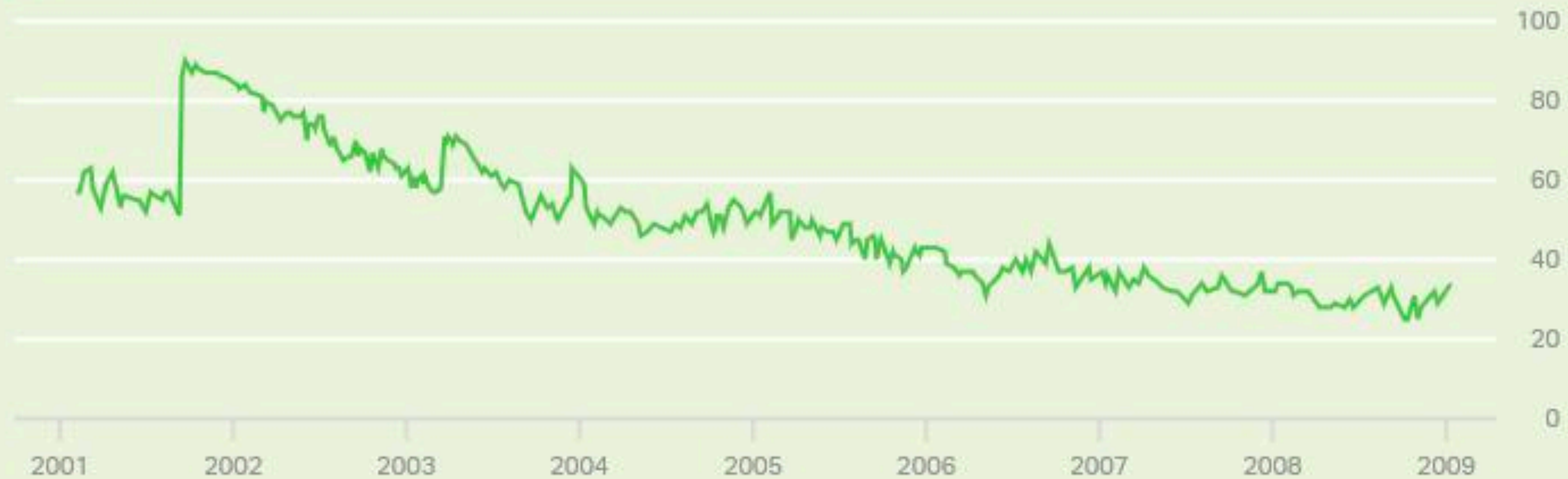


Representative survey among U.S. adults
Source: Gallup



George W. Bush's Job Approval Ratings Trend

■ % Approve



GALLUP

- ▶ What would explain the approval ratings for President Bush?



THE VICE PRESIDENT

THE VICE PRESIDENT

- ▶ **Role**
 - ▶ **Successor the the President**
 - ▶ **Tie Breaker in the Senate**
 - ▶ **Occasionally given a policy portfolio**
- ▶ **But...**



VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS

**“My country has in its wisdom contrived for me the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his imagination conceived.”
—John Adams**

“Once there were two brothers. One ran away to sea; the other was elected vice president of the United States. And nothing was heard of either of them again.” —Thomas Marshall

**“Look at all the Vice Presidents in history. Where are they? They were about as useful as a cow's fifth teat.”
—Harry Truman**

**“The vice presidency is not worth a bucket of warm piss.”
—John Garner**

ESSENTIAL IDEAS



TEST OVERVIEW

- ▶ If I were to prepare for a test over this unit, I would know broad truths and specific details about these concepts:
 - ▶ Explain how the president can implement a **policy agenda** and get things done, as well as the **limits of his power**.
 - ▶ Explain the **primary roles of the President**.
 - ▶ Explain how the president's agenda can create **tension and frequent confrontations with Congress**.
 - ▶ Explain how presidents have interpreted and justified their use of **formal and informal powers**.
 - ▶ Explain how the President's **power has expanded beyond its constitutional and historical role**.
 - ▶ Understand the **qualifications to be President and the process of removing one**.