



UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

January 20, 2009

Information Resources Center, Bogota, Colombia

Inauguration Day was originally set for March 4, giving electors from each state nearly four months after Election Day to cast their ballots for president. In 1937, the day of inauguration was changed by the Twentieth Amendment from March 4 to noon on January 20, beginning with Franklin D. Roosevelt's second term in 1937.

The Swearing-in ceremony takes place on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol with the president-elect being sworn-in by 12 noon on January 20. Amendment XX to the U.S. Constitution states that the term of the President expires at noon on January 20.

Inaugural History



For more than two hundred years America's citizens have witnessed the Inauguration ceremonies of the President and Vice President of the United States. From the first Inauguration of George Washington, in New York City, in 1789, to today, as we prepare for the 56th quadrennial Presidential Inauguration, the swearing-in ceremony represents both national renewal and continuity of leadership. As each president has offered a vision for America's future, we reflect on the heritage of Inaugurations past.

Inauguration Day Events

Morning Worship Service

On March 4, 1933, at 10:15 a.m., prior to his swearing-in ceremony, President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor attended a church service at St. John's Episcopal Church, next to the White House. They did the same at Roosevelt's 1937 and 1941 Inaugurations, and

arranged for a private service at the White House the morning of his fourth Inauguration on January 20, 1945. Roosevelt's Inauguration Day worship service set a precedent that has been followed by Presidents ever since.

Franklin Roosevelt was not the first President to attend church on Inauguration Day, however. In 1789, George Washington attended a service at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City immediately following his swearing-in ceremony. Although this feature of Washington's Inauguration did not set a precedent, religion still played a role in subsequent swearing-in ceremonies. Almost all Presidents since George Washington have placed their hand on a Bible when taking the oath of office. And all Presidents have included some reference to the Almighty in their Inaugural addresses (except George Washington's second address, which was only 135 words).

Procession to the Capitol

On Inauguration Day, after a morning worship service,



the President-elect, Vice President-elect, and their spouses will be escorted to the White House by members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Cere-



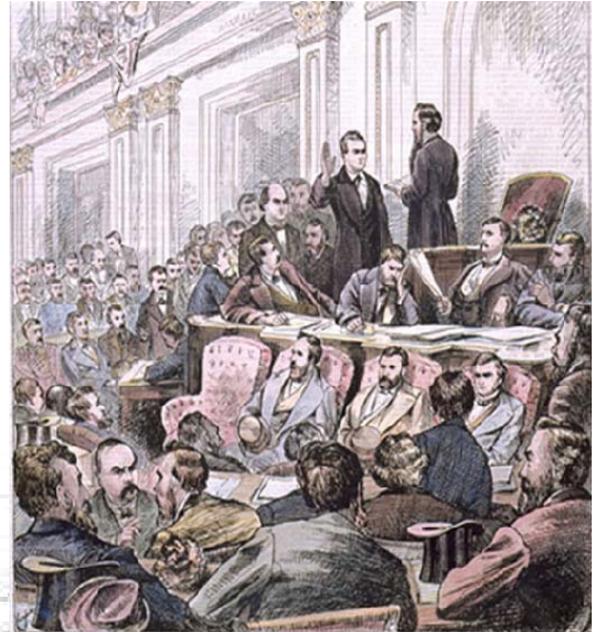
monies. After a brief meeting, the President-elect and the outgoing President will then proceed together to the Capitol for the swearing-in ceremonies. This tradition has endured, with few exceptions, since 1837, when Martin Van Buren and Andrew Jackson rode together in a carriage made from wood taken from the U.S.S. Constitution. The Vice President and Vice President-elect will follow, as will family members, cabinet members, and members of the JCCIC.

Since the first Inauguration of George Washington in 1789, the procession to the Inaugural ceremonies has provided an occasion for much celebration. In fact, the Inaugural parade that now follows the swearing-in ceremony first began as the procession, when military companies, bands, the President's cabinet, elected officials, and friends escorted the President-elect to the Inauguration. Procedures changed in 1873, when President Ulysses S. Grant reviewed the troops from a stand in front of the White House after the swearing-in ceremony. In 1881, a single military division escorted President-elect Garfield to the Capitol, and the full parade occurred after the Inauguration.

Vice President's Swearing-In Ceremony

Just before the President-elect takes the oath of office on Inauguration Day, the Vice President-elect will step forward on the Inaugural platform and repeat the oath of office. Although the United States Constitution specifically sets forth the oath required by the President, it only says that the Vice President and other government officers should take an oath upholding the Constitution. It does not specify the form of that oath.

The First Congress passed an oath act on June 1, 1789, authorizing only senators to administer the oath to the Vice President (who serves as the president of the Senate). Later that year, legislation passed that allowed courts to administer all oaths and affirmations. Since 1789, the oath has been changed several times by Congress. The present oath repeated by the Vice President of the United States, Senators, Representatives, and other government officers has been in use since 1884. The oath reads:



U.S. Senate Collection
Vice-President Wheeler Taking the Oath of Office in the Senate Chamber

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

Presidential Swearing-In Ceremony

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) 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."

- Presidential oath of office, Article II, Section 1, United States Constitution

Proceedings associated with the Presidential elections and Inaugurations, almost routine after two centuries, were entirely new and untried following the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The Constitution provides that the President be elected through an electoral college, with membership equal to the number of Senators and Representatives from each state. It authorizes Congress



Library of Congress

Abraham Lincoln's Second Inauguration, march 4, 1865

to determine when elections are held, when the Electoral College meets, and when the new President takes the oath of office.

The Constitution also requires that the President must be a native born citizen of the United States, have lived in this country for at least fourteen years, and have attained the age of thirty-five. It even specifies the oath of office that the new President should swear or affirm. Beyond that, the Constitution says nothing about the Inaugural ceremony.

The first Inauguration of George Washington occurred on April 30, 1789, in front of New York's Federal Hall. Our nation's first President took the oath of office on a balcony overlooking Wall Street. With the ceremony complete, the crowd below let out three big cheers and President Washington returned to the Senate chamber to deliver his brief Inaugural address. He called upon "That Almighty Being who rules over the universe" to assist the American people in finding "liberties and happiness" under "a government instituted by themselves."

Inaugural Address

The custom of delivering an address on Inauguration Day started with the very first Inauguration -George Washington's -on April 30, 1789. After taking his oath of o-

ffice on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City, Washington, proceeded to the Senate chamber where he read a speech before members of Congress and other dignitaries. His second Inauguration took place in Philadelphia on March 4, 1793, in the Senate chamber of Congress Hall. There, Washington gave the shortest Inaugural address on record -just 135 words- before repeating the



Library of Congress

Theodore Roosevelt delivers his Inaugural address, 1905.

oath of office.

Every President since Washington has delivered an Inaugural address. While many of the early Presidents read their addresses before taking the oath, current custom dictates that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court administer the oath first, followed by the President's speech.

William Henry Harrison delivered the longest Inaugural address, at 8,445 words, on March 4, 1841 -a bitterly cold, wet day. He died one month later of pneumonia, believed to have been brought on by prolonged exposure



to the elements on his Inauguration Day. John Adams' Inaugural address, which totaled 2,308 words, contained the longest sentence, at 737 words. After Washington's second Inaugural address, the next shortest was Franklin D. Roosevelt's fourth address on January 20, 1945, at just 559 words. Roosevelt had chosen to have a simple Inauguration at the White House in light of the nation's involvement in World War II.

Departure of the Outgoing President

Following the inaugural ceremony on the west front of



noted that onlookers paid more attention to Washington than to Adams. With few exceptions, subsequent departing presidents followed Washington's example, and in 1837, President-elect Martin Van Buren and outgoing President Andrew Jackson began the tradition of riding together to the Capitol for the ceremonies.

In recent years, the newly installed President and Vice President have escorted their predecessors out of the Capitol after the swearing-in ceremony. The members of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies gather on the stairs on the east front of the Capitol Building. The new Vice President escorts the outgoing Vice President and his spouse out of the Capitol through a military cordon. Then, the new President escorts the outgoing President and his spouse through the military cordon. Since Gerald Ford's departure in 1977, the former President and First Lady have left the Capitol grounds by helicopter (weather permitting).

The new President and Vice President then return to the Capitol Building for the inaugural luncheon hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies.

Inaugural Luncheon

Often featuring cuisine reflecting the home states of the new President and Vice President, as well as the theme of the Inauguration, the Luncheon program includes speeches, gift presentations from the JCCIC, and toasts to the new administration.



the U.S. Capitol, the outgoing President and First Lady leave the Capitol to begin their post-presidential lives.

Traditionally, the President's departure takes place with little ceremony. An 1889 "Handbook of Official and Social Etiquette and Public Ceremonies at Washington," described the outgoing President's departure this way: His departure from the Capital is attended with no ceremony, other than the presence of the members of his late Cabinet and a few officials and personal friends. The President leaves the Capital as soon as practicable after the inauguration of his successor.

In 1798, George Washington attended the inauguration of his successor, John Adams, and several observers



On January 20, after the newly elected President has taken the oath of office and delivered his Inaugural address, he will be escorted to Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol for the traditional Inaugural luncheon, hosted by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC). While this tradition dates as far back as 1897, when the Senate Committee on Arrangements gave a luncheon for President McKinley and several other guests at the U.S. Capitol, it did not begin in its current form until 1953. That year, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Mrs. Eisenhower, and fifty other guests of the JCCIC dined on creamed chicken, baked ham, and potato puffs in the now-restored Old Senate Chamber.

As the twentieth century progressed, the White House luncheons became more and more elaborate. In 1945, President and Mrs. Roosevelt played host to over two thousand guests in what would be the last White House post-inaugural luncheon. In 1949, Secretary of the Senate Leslie Biffle hosted a small lunch for President Truman in his Capitol reception room. They dined on South Carolina turkey, Smithfield Ham, potato salad, and pumpkin pie. And in 1953, the JCCIC began its current tradition of hosting a luncheon for the President, Vice President and their spouses, Senate leaders, the JCCIC members, and other

invited guests.

Since then, the JCCIC has organized a luncheon celebration at eight Presidential Inaugurations.

Inaugural Parade



When the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies has concluded its luncheon, the guests of honor—the newly sworn President and Vice President—will make their way down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House, leading a procession of ceremonial military regiments, citizens' groups, marching bands, and floats. The President, Vice President, their wives, and special guests will then review the parade as it passes in front of a specially built reviewing stand. The Inaugural parade is a celebrated and much anticipated event for millions of Americans across the country.

Today, the parade is organized by the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee, and participants are selected by the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

Inaugural Ball

On May 7, 1789, one week after the Inauguration of George Washington in New York City, sponsors held a ball to honor the new President. It was not until 1809, however, after the Inauguration of James Madison at the Capitol in Washington, D.C., that the tradition of the Inaugural ball began. That night, First Lady Dolley Madison hosted the gala at Long's Hotel. Four hundred tickets sold for \$4 each. In 1833 two balls were staged for Presi



U.S. Senate Collection

The Inauguration Ball: Arrival of the President's Party, March 4, 1873

dent Andrew Jackson, one at Carusi's Assembly Rooms, and the other at Central Masonic Hall. William Henry Ha-

rison attended all three of the 1841 Inaugural balls held in his honor.

The Inaugural ball quickly turned into an anticipated highlight of Washington society, and its location became a prime topic of discussion and angst. Organizers wanted a building that could accommodate large numbers of guests. A temporary wooden building was erected in the city's Judiciary Square in 1849 for one of Zachary Taylor's Inaugural balls. By the time of James Buchanan's Inauguration in 1857, the idea of multiple balls was abandoned for one grand ball that could accommodate thousands of guests. Again, a temporary ballroom was built in Judiciary Square for the occasion.

Today, the official Inaugural balls are planned by the Presidential Inaugural Committee

<http://inaugural.senate.gov/2009/ceremony.cfm>





Transition to a New Presidential Administration

General transition information



At the beginning of a new Presidential Administration, the incoming President makes personnel changes, including selecting new Cabinet secretaries and agency heads. These new appointees may appoint a number of officials on the basis of their support for the President's goals and policies. These are the officials who are responsible for formulating, advocating, and directing administration policies and programs, or are those who serve such officials in a close and confidential relationship. Most executive branch positions are in the "competitive service," or in a separate but similar competitive merit system. Government wide, there are relatively few positions whose incumbents are subject to change during periods of transition. Employees in positions that traditionally change when Presidential Administrations change are not part of the competitive civil service. Rather, they are excepted from competitive service requirements and protections by law, executive order, or regulation.

Incumbents of these discretionary positions customarily resign at the request of the new incoming Administration officials or before a new agency head takes office. It is also common for an incoming Administration to ask certain persons to remain in their jobs during the transition

to ensure needed continuity during the initial period of staffing.

Positions or individuals subject to change

There are four broad categories of individuals or positions that may be changed during transition:

- Presidential appointments made with the advice and consent of the Senate (PAS) to positions in which the incumbent serves at the pleasure of the President;
- Other Presidential appointments (PA) to positions in which the incumbent serves at the pleasure of the President;
- Noncareer Senior Executive Service (SES) appointments; and
- Appointments to other positions in which the incumbent serves at the pleasure of the agency head. These positions are excepted from the competitive service by law, by Executive order, or by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) based on their responsibility for determining or advocating agency policy or their confidential character (commonly known as "Schedule C" positions).



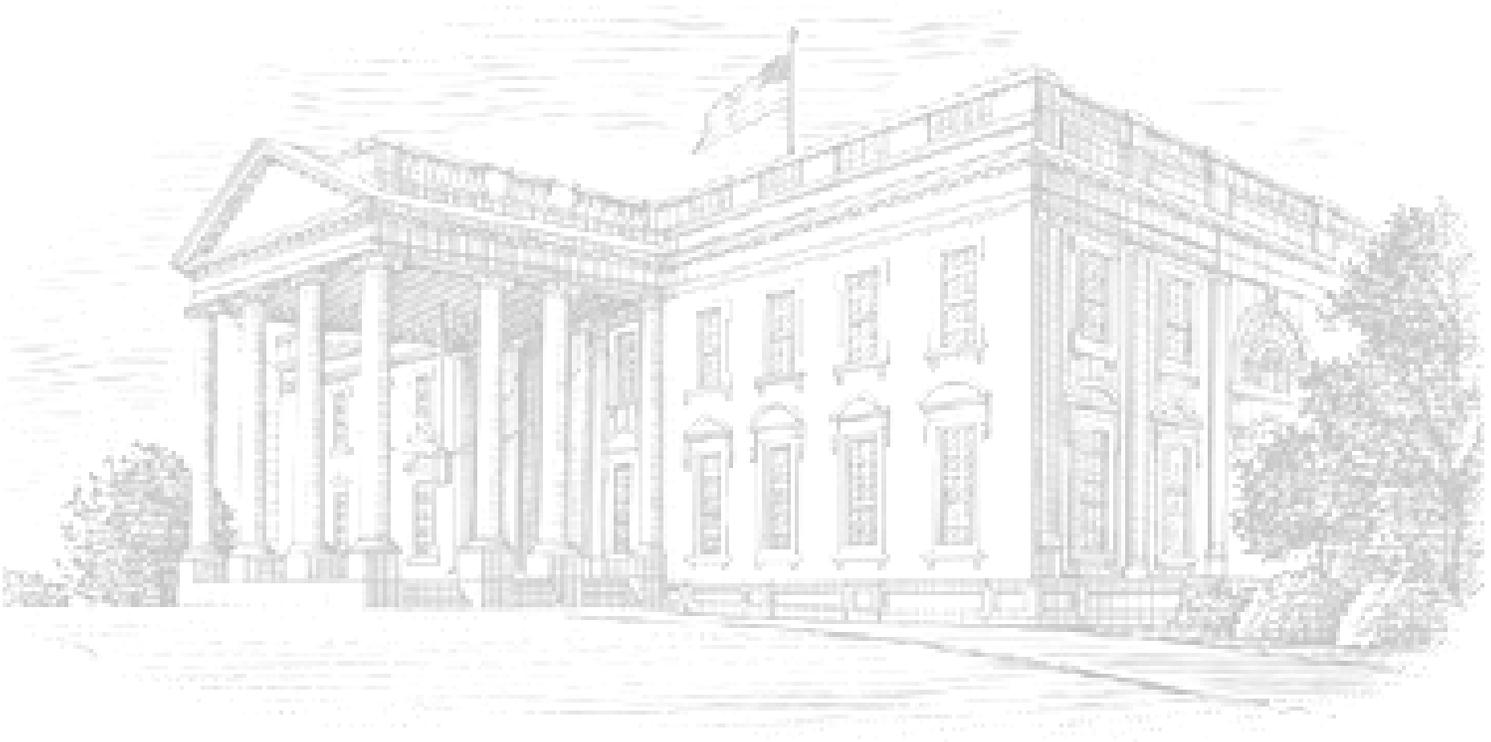
Positions in these four categories normally include Cabinet Officers and heads of other executive branch agencies; Under Secretaries; Assistant Secretaries; Directors of Bureaus and Services; and Chairpersons and Members of



Boards, Commissions, and Committees. Positions in all four categories above are often authorized by specific provisions of law.

In the past, the first two categories above included most of the positions in Level I (Cabinet level) through Level V of the Executive Schedule. Now, however, Level IV and Level V positions that are managerial and do not require Senate confirmation are in the Senior Executive Service, although their titles may continue to be listed in sections 5315 and 5316 of title 5, U.S. Code.

Positions that are generally subject to change during transitions are listed in a document called, *United States Government Policy and Supporting Positions*, commonly known as the Plum Book. OPM prepares this document every four years at the request of Congress. It was published immediately after the election in November, and it is available on OPM's website: <http://www.opm.gov/transition/TRANS20R-Ch1.htm> (Office of Personnel Management)



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