

Presidents in the Hot Seat Description of Roles

President of the United States

The power of the Executive Branch is vested in the President of the United States, who also acts as head of state and Chief Guardian of the Economy. The president is often required to make decisions, on behalf of the American people, that potentially can impact their lives dramatically.

Due to the complexity of the position, and potential political consequences that can result from making an improper comment, the President of the United States must also exercise a fair amount of discretion when addressing the American public.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is the president's chief foreign affairs adviser. The Secretary carries out the president's foreign policies through the State Department and the Foreign Service of the United States.

Secretary of Labor

As the head of the Department of Labor, the secretary of labor is charged with overseeing and managing the functions of the Department of Labor collectively with regard to laws affecting the workplace, unions, and issues pertaining to business-to-employee relationships.

Secretary of Commerce

The Secretary of Commerce is responsible for representing U.S. businesses within the President's Cabinet, interacting with communities, businesses, universities, and American workers, and promoting economic growth, job creation, and balanced economic development.

Secretary of the Treasury

The Secretary of the Treasury is responsible for formulating and recommending domestic and international financial, economic, and tax policy, participating in the formulation of broad fiscal policies that have general significance for the economy, and managing the public debt.