

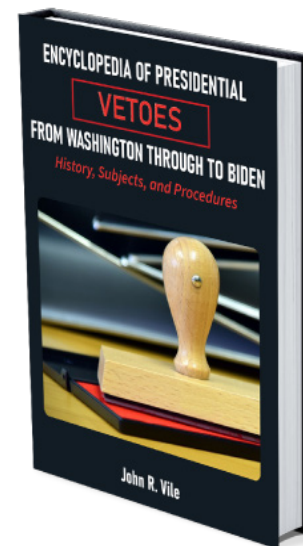
Encyclopedia of Presidential Vetoes from Washington through to Biden: *History, Subjects, and Procedures*

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*The ONLY modern, comprehensive encyclopedia on
the exercise of the presidential veto in U.S. history.*

- **More than 150 entries** organized by an Alphabetical Listing and Topical Table of Contents
- Features a **timeline of key events and publications** related to presidential vetoes
- Includes a **Glossary** and **more than 400 bibliographic entries** of books, articles, and reports to encourage further research
- An ideal resource for historians, political scientists, law professors, and high school and college students



About This Title

The presidential veto stands as a potent force in U.S. government. With its nuanced application, the veto wields influence beyond its written mandate. Even when overridden, Congress bends to accommodate the president's stance, underscoring the gravity of executive power.

In this encyclopedia, researchers will find themselves exploring how each U.S. president has utilized this power, the major policy areas implicated by different vetoes, essays on leading theorists and designers of veto power, Supreme Court decisions that have discussed the veto process, and leading debates and proposed changes to the veto power. It is an indispensable aid to presidential scholars at a time when the president and Congress are often at odds on constitutional and policy issues. Plus early every entry contains further reading suggestions to expand the reader's research.

Topics Include:

Types of Vetoes

- Blame Game Vetoes
- Legislative Veto
- Pocket Vetoes
- Qualified vs Absolute Veto
- And more

Miscellaneous

- Democracy
- Federalism
- Negative Power
- Presidential Powers
- Public Opinion
- And more

Precedents

- British and Colonial Precedents
- Constitutional Convention of 1787
- And more

Procedural Issues

- Legislative Riders
- Signing Legislation
- Ten Days
- Veto Overrides
- Veto Threats
- And more

Subjects of Veto

- Abortion
- Civil Rights and Liberties
- Foreign Policy
- Native American Indian Affairs
- And more

Supreme Court & Other Decisions

- *Clinton v. City of New York* (1998)
- *Wright v. United States* (1938)
- And more

Theorists & Statesmen

- John C. Calhoun
- Henry Clay
- Frederick Douglass
- Alexander Hamilton
- And more

U.S. Presidents

- Includes sections on every U.S. president, including those who didn't utilize their veto power while in office

A Timely Topic Since the Republic of Rome *Includes a complete history from 1688 to 2023*

Sample of the timeline:

TIMELINE OF VETOES

568 B.C.

The Roman Republic was established. It allowed two executive patrician consuls, or magistrates, to veto one another, a power that was later extended to plebian "tribunes."

1688–1792

1688

The Trial of Seven Bishops provided that the British monarch could not suspend the laws without the consent of parliament.

1696

The British Parliament declares that any laws adopted by the colonies that were "repugnant" to the Navigation Acts or its other laws would be "illegal, null, and void."

Example Entries

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILLS

Although Congress declares wars, the Constitution designates the President as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Presidents have been quite wary of sharing this power over day-to-day operations of the military.

Every year since 1961, Congress has adopted an annual defense authorization bill. Although presidents have vetoed eight of them, in seven cases, they subsequently signed redrawn bills that responded to their concerns, and in an eighth, they overturned the veto. Lyndon B. Johnson became the first to veto such a bill, which, at the time, prevented presidential base and other military facility closures without the consent of congressional committees. Johnson thought that this legislative veto interfered with his executive powers. President Gerald R. Ford offered a similar rationale for the veto of such a bill in 1976. The next president to veto such a bill was Jimmy Carter, who in 1978 vetoed a bill that attempted to authorize an expensive nuclear-aircraft carrier that Carter thought was unnecessary.

In 1988, President Reagan vetoed a bill that reduced budget requests in a manner that Reagan thought would weaken his hand in negotiating arms control with the Soviet Union. In vetoing the first fiscal year 1996 defense authorization bill, President Bill Clinton cited a provision for a ballistic missile defense system that he thought was inconsistent with the U.S.-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and might provide an excuse for the Soviets to abandon it.

President George W. Bush vetoed a defense authorization bill in 2007 that would have diverted money from assets held by the Iraqi government to rebuild to those whom Saddam Hussein had victimized.

Obama cast such a veto in 2015 on the basis that the bill bypassed a defense spending cap previously set by the Budget Control Act of 2011. It also impeded the closing the base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where the U.S. was detaining terrorist suspects and which Obama wanted to close.

Trump's veto of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 was based on objections to its failure to change the Communications Decency Act to rein in disinformation by foreign government; to provisions providing for renaming military bases designated by the names of Confederate Generals, and for forbidding him from spending defense appropriations for the wall between the United States and Mexico.

In 2015, a report summarized authorization and appropriations bills from 1970 to 2015 (DeBruyne 2015).

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Encyclopedia of Presidential Vetoes

See also Legislative Veto; Separation of Powers

Further Reading

Towell, Pat. October 1, 2015. "Presidential Vetoes of Annual Defense Authorization Bills." Congressional Research Services. HeinOnline.

ENGROSSMENT, ENROLLMENT, AND PRESENTATION OF LEGISLATION

Although the process of presenting, signing, or vetoing bills is relatively straightforward, the terminology can be confusing.

Once it becomes time for a house of Congress to vote on a bill, it is engrossed, meaning simply that it is reprinted in the form on which it will be voted. This responsibility rests with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate, who must respectively sign the measures, which are printed by the House on white paper and the Senate on blue (Petersen 2008, 1).

In order to become law, bills must be passed in identical versions by both houses. Such a bill, when printed on parchment or paper, and signed by the presiding officers, is

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considered to have been "enrolled" so that it may be "presented" to the President. Although they are stamped to mark the day and time that they arrived, this presentation need not take place immediately, and delivery may be stalled if the president is abroad (Petersen 2008, 2). On July 13, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt thus signed a bill 23 days after Congress had adjourned (Corwin 1940, 186).

See also Congressional Procedures for Overriding Presidential Vetoes

Further Reading

Corwin, Edward S. 1940. *The President Office and Power: History and Analysis of Practice and Opinion*. New York: New York University Press.

Petersen, R. Eric. March 24, 2008. Engrossment, Enrollment, and Presentation of Legislation. Congressional Research Service. https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20080324_98-26_f07bd347d0f71188fc60646100881a21ce21366e.pdf. Accessed January 6, 2023.

KENNEDY, JOHN F. (1917–1963)

John F. Kennedy served as the 35th president of the United States from 1961–1963. Born in Massachusetts, he was the youngest person ever elected to the office but was cut down by an assassin's bullet after about 1000 days in office and was succeeded by Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. A World War II navy veteran, Kennedy served in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate and participated in the first televised debates in winning the 1960 election over Richard M. Nixon.

The beginning of Kennedy's term saw the failure of a U.S. invasion at the Bay of Pigs in Cuba that had been designed to overthrow the communist government of Fidel Castro. In 1962, Kennedy subsequently faced down the Soviet Union in a naval blockade that forced them to abandon the continuation of a program to place nuclear missiles in that country.

Kennedy was a charismatic individual and an activist president, whose youth was in stark contrast to his presidential predecessor, Dwight D. Eisenhower. In a speech to the National Press Club on January 14, 1960, then Senator Kennedy observed that the central issue of the campaign "is not the farm problem or defense or India. It is the presidency itself." Arguing that the last year had been lacking in "initiative and follow-through," Kennedy repudiated a passive role for the presidency. Seeking to emulate the presidencies of Jackson, Lincoln, the two Roosevelts, and Wilson, Kennedy said that the nation could not "afford a Chief Executive who is praised primarily for what he did not do, the disasters he prevented, the bills he vetoed" but needed "a Chief Executive who is the vital center of action in our whole scheme of Government." Citing his own 14 years of service in Congress, Kennedy said that he disfavored neither legislative nor executive domination but stressed that "it is the President alone who must make the major decisions of our foreign policy." Moreover, he said that a president "must be prepared to use all the resources of his office to ensure the enactment of . . . legislation—even when conflict is the result."

Kennedy's three predecessors had respectively cast the first, third, and fourth most vetoes of any presidents before them (Cleveland had been second). Partly because he served for a far shorter period and partly because his party held majorities in Congress, Kennedy came nowhere near their use of the veto. He cast only 12 regular vetoes, none of which were overridden, and nine pocket vetoes. Moreover, 11 of these were private bills, for which Kennedy could find no reason to extend special treatment to the named individual or company. Kennedy and his aides generally preferred to work behind the scenes than to veto a bill, particularly if he thought that Congress might override it (Spitzer 1988, 84).

Most of Kennedy's vetoes and veto rationales were in line with those of his predecessors. On September 22, 1961, he thus vetoed a bill increasing the annuities of certain former members of the D.C. police, fire department and Secret Service employees, whom he thought were already treated more generously than other D.C. annuitants, and on December 3, 1961, he vetoed a bill increasing longevity step increases for postal employees on the basis that Congress had not raised taxes to support it. On October 19, 1962, he vetoed another bill

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for the District of Columbia attempting to crack down on indecent publications, with a search and seizure provision similar to one that the Supreme Court had invalidated in *Marcus v. Search Warrant* (1961). Kennedy vetoed another bill related to appropriations for a D.C. hospital on the basis that another law had already addressed the problem; a bill authorizing the construction of railroad siding in the District for an area where a freeway was anticipated; and an amendment of the Life Insurance Act within the District that he thought did not grant the purchaser adequate voice in the control of the company.

Kennedy's most consequential veto may have been his veto of October 22, 1962, in which he opposed an increase in tariffs on imported lightweight bicycles, which he thought would hinder American efforts to expand trade into foreign markets. Kennedy did not provide his reasons for a pocket veto of a bill providing for a long-range coordinated oceanographic program by the Office of Science and Technology in the Executive Office of the President.

See also District of Columbia; Eisenhower, Dwight D.; Tariffs and Trade

Further Reading

"Kennedy Vetoes Eight Bills in 1961." CQ Almanac 1961. 17th ed. <https://library.cqpress.com/cqalmanac/document.php?id=cqal61-879-29200-1371477>.

"Kennedy Vetoes Twelve Bills in 1962." CQ Almanac 1963. 19th ed. <https://library.cqpress.com/cqalmanac/document.php?id=cqal62-878-28126-1324193>.

Kennedy, John F. January 14, 1960. "'The Presidency in 1960,' Address by Senator John F. Kennedy, January 14, 1960." National Press Club, Washington, D.C. <https://www.jfklibrary.org/archives/other-resources/john-f-kennedy-speeches/presidency-in-1960-19600114>.

Marcus v. Search Warrant, 367 U.S. 717 (1961).

Spitzer, Robert J. 1988. *The Presidential Veto: Touchstone of the American Presidency*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

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About the Author



John R. Vile earned his bachelor's degree in Government from the College of William and Mary and his Ph.D. in the same subject from the University of Virginia. He taught for 12 years at McNeese State University, during the last eight years of which he headed the Department of Social Science. Vile then served for 19 years as chair of the Department of Political Science at Middle Tennessee State University and has been Dean of the Honors College since 2008. He has been named as the Phi Kappa Phi Scholar for 2020-2022.

Vile has published numerous articles, book reviews, and dozens of books, most focusing on the U.S. Founding Period, the U.S. Constitutional Convention of 1787, the U.S. Constitution and its interpretation, the U.S. Supreme Court, and American symbols. Some of Vile's recent titles include:

- *The Bald Eagle and Its Legacy: An Encyclopedia of a High-Flying American Icon in U.S. History, Nature, Law, and Culture* (2022)
- *America's National Anthem: "The Star-Spangled Banner" in U.S. History, Culture, and Law* (2021)
- *The Bible in American Law and Politics: A Reference Guide* (2020)
- *The Liberty Bell and Its Legacy: An Encyclopedia of an American Icon in U.S. History and Culture* (2019)
- *The Declaration of Independence: America's First Founding Document in U.S. History and Culture* (2019)
- *The American Flag: An Encyclopedia of the Stars and Stripes in U.S. History, Culture, and Law* (2018)

Encyclopedia of Presidential Vetoes from George Washington through to Joseph Biden: History, Subjects, and Procedures

Author: John R. Vile

Item #: 1007462

ISBN: 978-0-8377-4298-4

Pages: xv, 363p.

1 Volume (paper).....\$125.00

Published: Getzville; William S. Hein & Co., Inc.; 2024

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