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Executive order

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from [Executive order \(United States\)](#))

For other uses, see [Executive order \(disambiguation\)](#).

In the United States, an executive order is an order or directive issued by the head of the executive branch at some level of government. The term *executive order* is most commonly applied to orders issued by the **President**, who is the head of the **executive branch** of the **federal government**. Executive orders may also be issued at the **state** level by a state's **governor** or at the local level by the city's **mayor**.

U.S. Presidents have issued executive orders since 1789, usually to help officers and agencies of the executive branch manage the operations within the federal government itself. **Executive orders have the full force of law,**^[1] since issuances are typically made in pursuance of certain **Acts of Congress**, some of which specifically delegate to the President some degree of discretionary power (**delegated legislation**), or are believed to take authority from a power granted directly to the Executive by the Constitution. However, these perceived justifications cited by Presidents when authoring Executive Orders have come under criticism for exceeding Executive authority; at various times throughout U.S. history, challenges to the legal validity or justification for an order have resulted in legal proceedings.

In other countries, similar edicts may be known as **decrees**, or **orders in council**.

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Basis in US Constitution

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Leland-Boker Authorized Edition of the [Emancipation Proclamation](#), printed in June 1864 with a presidential signature