

## How a U.S. President Leaves Office

Here are the ways that a U.S. president leaves office:

1. End of term
  - a. Either they have served the maximum allowed years, or they did not win re-election
2. Impeached and removed from office
  - a. Only the House of Representatives can impeach a president (or other federal official). This can be done with a simple majority vote.
    - i. Impeachment does not mean removal
    - ii. Three U.S. presidents have been impeached, none removed from office.
      1. Andrew Johnson
      2. Bill Clinton
      3. Donald Trump (twice) – term ended before the second trial
  - b. Only the U.S. Senate can remove a president (or other official) from office. The Senate holds a trial; conviction requires a 2/3 vote.
3. 25<sup>th</sup> Amendment procedure if president is unfit
  - a. This amendment also includes a provision for replacing the vice president if the office becomes vacant.
4. Resignation
  - a. One president has resigned: Richard Nixon in 1974
5. Death
  - a. Natural Causes:
    - i. William Henry Harrison, 1841
    - ii. Zachary Taylor, 1850
    - iii. Warren Harding, 1923
    - iv. Franklin Roosevelt, 1945
  - b. Assassination:
    - i. Abraham Lincoln, 1865
    - ii. James Garfield, 1881
    - iii. William McKinley, 1901
    - iv. John Kennedy, 1963

Many states, including California, have provisions for the people to remove the top executive (and other elected state officials) before the end of their term through a special election: the process is called a recall. This is not possible for representatives in the national government.