

# THE PERIODIC TABLE OF THE PRESIDENTS™

## The Twenty-Second Amendment

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### Introduction:

Article II of the Constitution states that once elected, a president serves a term of four years. It does not, however, define how many terms a president can serve. George Washington set the precedent that two terms was enough. This unwritten rule was followed until FDR was elected for a third term, and then for a fourth term. Congress decided that an amendment was needed to return to the precedent set by Washington. Now, a president can serve only two terms, or a maximum of ten years.

The text of this amendment begins, “No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of President more than once.”

### Questions:

1. What is the Twenty-Second Amendment?
2. What year was the Twenty-Second Amendment ratified?
3. Who set the precedent for a president serving only two terms?
4. Who broke the precedent and ran for a third, consecutive term?
5. What did Eleanor Roosevelt mean when she said, “This is no ordinary time”?
6. How many times was FDR elected?
7. Today, how many terms can a president serve?
8. How would it be possible for a president to serve a total of ten years?
9. What would be an advantage of Congress appointing a president for life?
10. What would be a disadvantage of Congress appointing a president for life?