



# FACE THE MOMENT

## Executive Orders of the Trump Administration

### Introduction

The president has issued over 100 executive orders covering various policies, some of which faced legal challenges. Executive orders allow the president to direct government actions but cannot override laws passed by Congress. They take effect immediately or require additional steps by government agencies.

Trump's use of executive orders has raised concerns, especially when they undermine civil rights, health equity, and social justice. While executive orders can be useful, they can also cause harm. Courts, Congress, and future presidents can overturn them if they are unconstitutional or against federal law.

### What Is an Executive Order? How Is It Different from a Law?

An executive order is a directive from the president telling the government how to enforce existing laws. It can set priorities, guide federal agencies, and shape policies, but it cannot create new laws or override Congress.

In contrast, laws must be passed by Congress and signed by the president (or passed over a veto). Congress also controls taxation, spending, and major decisions like declaring war.

Think of it this way: Congress sets the rules, and executive orders help determine how those rules are carried out.


### How Can Executive Orders Be Stopped?

Executive orders are powerful tools, but they're not unstoppable. There are three main ways they can be overturned:

- **Congressional Action** – If Congress has the authority, it can pass a law that reverses an executive order.
- **Court Challenges** – If an executive order violates the Constitution or federal law, courts can strike it down.
- **Future Presidents** – A new president can undo or change an existing executive order.

These checks and balances help ensure executive orders align with our laws and democratic principles.

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# Executive Order 14155: Withdrawing the United States from the World Health Organization

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This executive order withdraws the U.S. from the World Health Organization (WHO), citing concerns over its handling of global health crises, lack of reforms, and disproportionate financial burdens on the U.S. The order halts U.S. funding and personnel support for the WHO, revokes previous policies on global health cooperation, and directs officials to find alternative partners for public health initiatives. It also ends U.S. participation in WHO pandemic agreements and establishes new national security measures for biosecurity and public health response.

## **Community Impact**

- **Loss of WHO collaboration could reduce access to global disease surveillance, vaccine distribution, and health research, potentially slowing responses to outbreaks.**
- **Communities relying on WHO-backed health programs may face disruptions, particularly in areas like infectious disease prevention, maternal health, and emergency medical aid.**
- **The withdrawal may impact jobs tied to global health efforts, particularly for U.S. health workers, researchers, and contractors engaged in WHO-related programs.**
- **Cities and states with international health collaborations may have to adjust their own public health strategies without WHO guidance.**