



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.

be well Health and Wellness Initiative
The Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities
7350 East 29th Avenue, 300
Denver, CO 80238
Staff contact: Samuel Valeriano, Health Policy Manager
Svaleriano@FSUCommunities.org



Executive Order 14163: Realigning the United States Refugee Admissions Program

**January 20
2025**

This executive order halts the U.S. refugee program, citing security concerns, resource limits, and assimilation challenges. It suspends refugee admissions standards until the government decides they align with U.S. interests. The order requires the Department of Homeland Security to stop processing refugee applications indefinitely. It allows only a small number of refugees to be admitted on a case-by-case basis if deemed safe and in the national interest. The order allows state and local governments to have a bigger role in deciding where refugees can settle. It requires the policy to be reviewed every 90 days to determine if admissions should resume and revokes a prior order that expanded refugee resettlement.

Community Impact:

- **Refugees fleeing war or persecution face uncertainty and may have to seek asylum elsewhere. Family separations could increase as refugees lose access to reunification programs.**
- **Nonprofits and religious groups that assist refugees may lose funding and face disruptions. Industries like healthcare, agriculture, and manufacturing rely on refugee workers; fewer arrivals could worsen labor shortages.**
- **Economic contributions from refugees (entrepreneurship, workforce participation) may decline, affecting local economies.**