

CHECKS ON PRESIDENTIAL POWER

Congress	Supreme Court	Informal Checks
<p><u>Constitutional Checks</u></p> <p>1) <i>Impeachment</i> - High Standard > “Treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanors”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House of Representatives: investigates and brings charges of impeachment (requires simple majority) • Senate: Conduct trials of conviction (requires 2/3 majority to) <p>2) Make laws – to check President Example: War Powers Resolution</p> <p>3) Override presidential veto - requires 2/3 majority of both houses of Congress</p> <p>4) Power of the Purse > can refuse to fund President’s initiatives Example: Nixon and the Vietnam War</p> <p>5) Senate Confirmation of Appointments - can refuse to confirm presidential appointments (ambassadors, cabinet secretaries, federal judges)</p> <p>6) Senate Treaty Ratification – can refuse to ratify a treaty Example: Treaty of Versailles after WW I</p>	<p><i>Judicial Review</i> – declare an action of the president unconstitutional</p> <p>Example: <i>U.S. v. Nixon</i> – the president does have unlimited executive privilege</p>	<p><u>The People</u></p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>1) Elections – Presidents can fail to win re-election or their party may lose majorities in the Midterm Elections</p> <p>2) Public Opinion – Presidents pay attention to public opinion polls and sometimes change their policies accordingly</p> <p><u>The Media</u></p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>1) Media can influence public opinion about the President’s policies and administration</p> <p>2) Media can expose corruption, wrongdoing, scandals in the President’s administration Examples: Nixon and Watergate scandal, Obama and NSA scandal</p>