

# HOW TO FIX THE PRESIDENCY

Presidents have become more powerful. They also are more prone to failure.

Presidential powers have expanded over time for several reasons—growth in the size of government, legislative gridlock, and the political demands of both parties for the president to act unilaterally.

But more powers doesn't mean more popular. Recent presidents have struggled to earn more than a 50% approval rating. Presidents of both parties are held responsible for governmental failures. And when they deliver for their base of supporters, they often leave moderates and opponents feeling left out.

The Miller Center is partnering with a bipartisan group of experts and organizations to advance five promising areas to develop a more responsible and effective presidency.

## SHARING POWERS: THE PRESIDENCY AND CONGRESS



Presidents increasingly rely on executive actions and other unilateral powers instead of legislation. The Miller Center is developing ways to encourage bipartisanship and collaboration between the executive and legislative branches.

## DEMOCRACY AND BUREAUCRACY: EXECUTIVE BRANCH REFORM



The Miller Center's network of scholars and practitioners brings deep expertise on management of the federal government, especially during presidential transitions. Our experts are highlighting best practices, especially as the role and responsibilities of the executive branch are being litigated in the courts.

## HOLDING PRESIDENTS ACCOUNTABLE



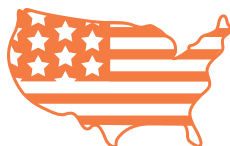
The Center is considering potential uses and abuses of presidential emergency powers. Miller Center scholars are also examining the recent Supreme Court ruling granting broad presidential immunity from criminal prosecutions, as well as President Biden's proposals for constitutional and Supreme Court reforms.

## SELECTING RESPONSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE PRESIDENTS



The Center will explore reforms to the presidential selection process heading into the 2028 election to provide voters with choices that prioritize governing experience and incentivize efforts to unify the country.

## PRESIDENTS AS NATIONAL UNIFIERS



Shaping "we the people" into "a more perfect union" has been a challenge for presidents going back to our founding. Miller Center experts and civic leaders will examine how presidents can help unite Americans across divisions of party, region, race, religion, gender, and economic status.

FIFTY



YEARS

1975-2025

# THE MILLER CENTER IS CLEARING THE WAY FOR **EXECUTIVE BRANCH REFORM**

The Miller Center, an affiliate of the University of Virginia, is a nonpartisan think tank dedicated to presidential scholarship and public policy research. Our mission since 1975 has been to provide policymakers and the public with unbiased, historically rich analysis of the American presidency and the nation's complex governance challenges.

At a time when American citizens are increasingly questioning key institutions in government and society, the Miller Center is committed to civil discourse and serves as a national meeting place for scholars, experts, government leaders, and private citizens from across the political spectrum.

In fall 2023, the Miller Center convened more than 70 experts on politics and the presidency—senior officials from Democratic



and Republican administrations, top scholars, and journalists—to discuss ideas about a more responsible and effective American presidency. Conference participants expressed deep concern about the state of American institutions and the polarization that divides the country, as well as fears that the presidency itself, as currently designed and managed, is contributing to that division.

Building on conference insights, the Miller Center has developed a multi-year work plan to promote and accelerate the five most promising areas for executive branch reform. In each practice area, a working group will develop solutions and engage with a wider group of committed citizens and organizations.



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