**Qualifications Needed to become President of the United States**

**Formal Qualifications \*\* This mean is required and written in the Constitution**

Age- Minimum age 35

Citizenship- Natural born citizen (this includes people born on US territory/military bases)

Residence- 14 years in the United States

Term Length- 4 years

Number of Terms- 2 terms (4 years each)

Total Number of Years in Office- 10 years possible; this can happen if the Vice Pres takes over and serves less than half (less than 2 years) of the former President’s term and then he can still run for 2 terms

If the VP takes over for Pres and serves more than half of the former President’s term then the VP can only run 1 more term

**Informal Qualifications \*\* This is NOT required but has been common among past presidents**

Age- approx. 50-60 year old

Race- white

Gender- male

Religion- Christian

Military Experience- more than half of past Presidents have served in the military (not as common now as it once was)

Political Experience- No political exp is required, but it is common for Presidents to have served as governors or senators

Salary- $400,000 annually

Benefits/perks- pension, healthcare, travel budget, entertainment budget, staff of over 300 people, chefs, secret service (bodyguard/protection) for 10 years after terms ends

House- White House- President lives here with family (they also get $100,000 to redecorate)

Plane- Air Force One (this is not actually the name of the plane-it’s a radio call for any plane that is carrying the Pres) plane has ability to refuel mid-flight