

Gerald R. Ford

One term in Office: 1974-1977

He was not elected because he was automatically president after Nixon Resigned in the wake of the Watergate Scandal on August 9, 1974. He was the first person appointed to the vice presidency under the terms of the 25th Amendment. Upon succession to the presidency, Ford became the only person to hold that office without having been elected either President or Vice President. The election of 1976 was in favor of Democrat Jimmy Carter, therefore President Ford only served two years.

After taking oath of office in 1974 he recognized his “non-election” process by saying, “I am actually aware that you have not elected me as your president by your ballots, and so I ask you to confirm me as your president with your prayers.”

- Ideas or acts passed
 - Tax Reduction Act of 1975
 - Education for all Handicapped Children Act of 1975
 - On September 8, 1974, Ford gave Nixon a full and unconditional pardon for any crimes he may have committed
 - Privacy Act of 1974
- Problems Encountered
 - Faced a Foreign Policy crisis with the Mayaguez incident
 - His dramatic reorganization of his cabinet in the fall of 1975 has been referred to by political commentators as the Halloween Massacre
- Trivia
 - Ford became longest-lived president at age of 93
 - He was last serving member of the Warren Commission