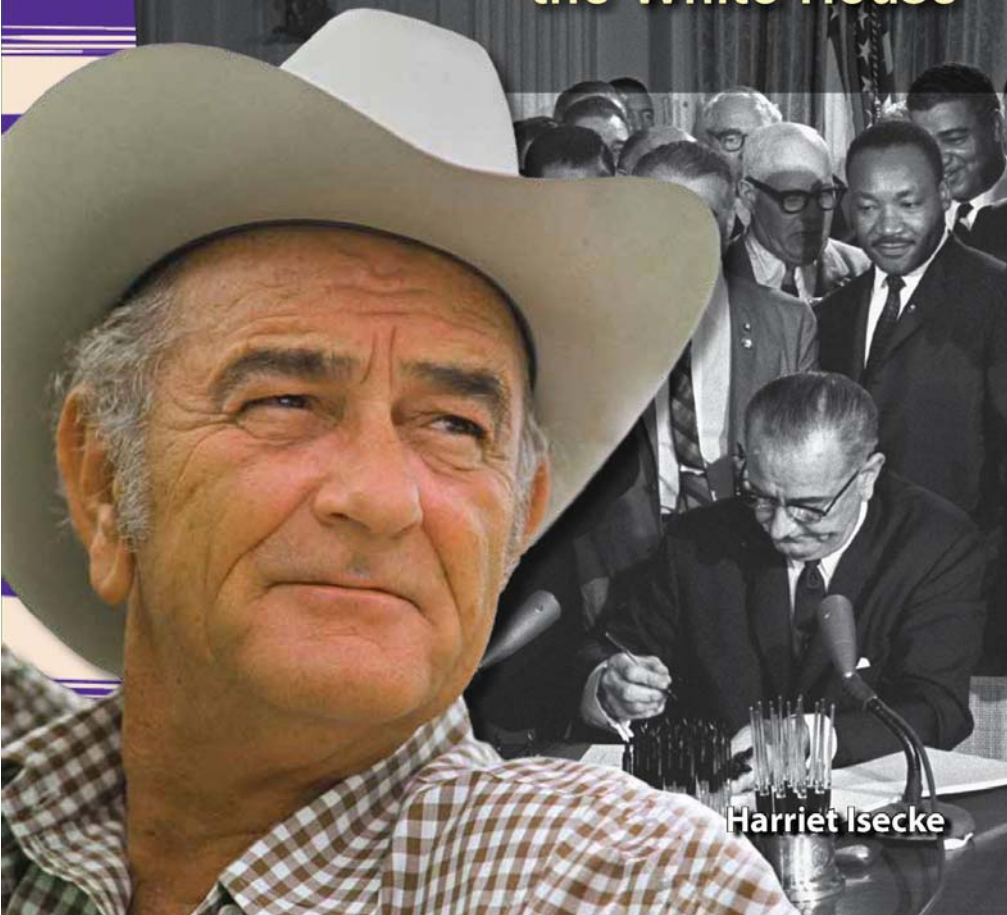


# LYNDON B. JOHNSON

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A Texan in  
the White House



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# Life of a Leader

Lyndon Baines (LIN-duhn Beynz) Johnson was born in Texas in 1908. His family did not have much money. He worked hard to pay his own way through college. After graduating, he became a teacher. The children he taught were poor. They inspired Johnson to enter politics. He wanted to help those who could not help themselves.

In politics, the public called Johnson by his initials, LBJ. Like most Texans at the time, Johnson was a **Democrat**. He represented Texas in the U.S. Congress from 1937 to 1961. For the first 12 years, he was a **representative**. For the next 12 years, he was a **senator**.



Lyndon B. Johnson,  
1915



campaign button,  
1960

In 1961, Johnson became vice president under President John F. Kennedy. But in 1963, Kennedy was shot and killed. That day, Johnson was sworn in as the 36th president of the United States. Johnson was a strong leader and a gifted speaker. He dedicated his life to helping others and his country.



President Johnson,  
1964

## The Lawmakers

The legislative (LEJ-is-ley-tiv) branch of the government is called **Congress**. Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The Senate has two members from every state. The number of representatives in the House is based on the number of people in each state.

## Two-Party System

There are two main political parties in America. Democrats think there should be a strong central government that uses taxes to help people. Republicans believe that a smaller government is better for the country. They think it helps people and businesses more if they do not have to pay high taxes.

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