

Structure of power in Iran

While the president has significant influence over domestic policy and foreign affairs, his powers are limited by the constitution, which subordinates his role to the Supreme Leader



Supreme Leader
Ayatollah
Ali Khamenei
(Since 1989)

Highest political and religious authority, appointed for life. Can dismiss senior government officials

Appointed or approved
Directly elected

Vetting procedure

Armed forces
Revolutionary Guard and army commanders

National Security Council
Guides foreign and nuclear policy

Expediency Council
Advisory body to Supreme Leader

Judiciary
Top authority on Islamic law

Guardian Council
12 jurists – six chosen by Supreme Leader, and six nominated by judiciary and approved by Parliament. Can block parliament's laws and bar candidates from standing in elections

Cabinet
21 ministers

President
Elected for four years, may serve only two consecutive terms

Parliament
290 members elected for four years

Assembly of Experts
Conservative body of 88 clerics elected for eight years. Selects and can dismiss Supreme Leader, but has never been known to challenge any of his decisions

ELECTORATE

Jun 28: New elections.
Vice president holds power in interim



Ebrahim Raisi
(Killed in helicopter crash, May 20)