Who leads if U.S. president is incapacitated?

The shooting at the White House Correspondents' Dinner has raised urgent questions about who would take charge had the gunman succeeded in targeting top administration officials



1 **Donald Trump**
U.S. President

Attended White House Correspondents' Dinner



2 **JD Vance**
Vice President

If president dies or is unable to perform duties, vice president takes over and serves remainder of Trump's term, ending in Jan 2029



3 **Mike Johnson**
House of Representatives Speaker



4 **Chuck Grassley**
President Pro Tempore of Senate

Largely ceremonial post typically held by longest-serving member from majority party, currently, Senator ***Grassley***, aged 92



8 **Todd Blanche***
Attorney General



7 **Pete Hegseth**
Defence Secretary



6 **Scott Bessent**
Treasury Secretary



5 **Marco Rubio**
Secretary of State

After congressional leaders, succession continues through Cabinet members, in order their departments were established

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

... list goes on with Secretaries of following departments: Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Labour, Health, Housing, Transportation, Energy, Education, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security



Designated Survivor
To ensure at least one leader survives catastrophic event, presidents select one Cabinet member to skip major gatherings. Trump's choice is Veterans Affairs Secretary ***Doug Collins*** (above)

ELIGIBILITY: Anyone in line of succession must meet constitutional requirements to be president

- ✓ **Be at least 35 years old**
- ✓ **Be natural-born U.S. citizen**
- ✓ **U.S. resident for at least 14 years**

**Not clear whether he would qualify, as he has not been Senate-confirmed*

Sources: U.S. Government, Reuters Pictures: Getty Images, Newscom © GRAPHIC NEWS