



The Ability Center

LIST OF U.S. PRESIDENTS WHO LIVED WITH DISABILITY DURING OFFICE

From the [Tampa Mayor's Alliance for Persons with Disabilities](#) – *Famous Persons with Disabilities*

CLINTON William Jefferson, 1946-present, (*hearing impairment*)
42nd President of the United States wears hearing aids.

EISENHOWER Dwight D., 1890-1969, (*learning disability*)
34th President of the United States. Leader of the victorious Allied forces in Europe during World War II.

JEFFERSON Thomas, 1743-1826, (*learning disability*)
Third President of the United States 1801-1809 and author of the Declaration of Independence. Remembered as a great president, a diplomat, political thinker, and founder of the Democratic Party. Reported to have many learning difficulties.

KENNEDY John F., 1917-1963, (*learning disability, chronic pain*)
35th President of the United States. Was the youngest man ever elected President. He was also the youngest ever to die in office. He won world respect as the leader of the Free World.

LINCOLN Abraham, 1809-1865, (*mental disease*)
16th President experienced severe, incapacitating, and occasional suicidal depression. Also, thought to have Marfan Syndrome.

MADISON James, 1751-1836, (*epilepsy*)
4th US President 1809-1817, drafted the Bill of Rights. Often referred to as the Father of the Constitution. Played a leading role in the Constitutional Convention of 1787 where he helped design the checks and balances system that equalizes the roles of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government. He also created the federal system.

REAGAN Ronald, 1911-2004, (*hearing impairment*)
40th President of the United States. 1981-1989. Also served two terms as governor of California. In 1932, he became a radio announcer for WOC in Davenport IA and later WHO in Des Moines IA. In 1937 he signed a contract with Warner Brothers and his first film was Love is on the Air.

ROOSEVELT Franklin Delano, 1882-1945, (*polio*)
The 32nd President of the United States. Promised to create jobs for the unemployed and gave assistance to those in need. In 1921, he contracted polio at 39 and worked very hard to hide the extent of his disability.

WASHINGTON George, 1732-1799, (*learning disability*)
1st President of the United States. Was unable to spell throughout his life and his grammar usage was very poor. Thought to have learning disabilities.

WILSON Woodrow, 1856-1924, (*learning disability*)

28th President of the United States from 1913-1921 who is known to have a (learning disability) (dyslexia). World War I leader awarded Nobel Peace Prize for Versailles Treaty, 1919, domestic reforms included 1914 creation of Federal Reserve.