Q44 – Who vetoes bills? *

DOUGLAS GINSBURG, Federal Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit:
The president, can veto a bill that has been passed by the congress, although the Constitution doesn't use the word veto. When a bill has been passed by both chambers of the Congress, it must be sent to the president, who has ten days – excluding Sundays – in which to sign it or not.

If signed, the bill becomes law. The president may return the bill to Congress unsigned – a rejection known as a veto. If two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate approve the bill again, then the president's veto is overridden, and the bill becomes law. Otherwise, the bill dies.
A bill also becomes a law, If the ten days go by and the president neither signs it nor returns it to the congress. Assuming the Congress is in session. If Congress is not in session, there is no one to return the bill to. So, the bill dies in what's known as a pocket veto.
President Washington wielded the first veto – over a bill to reapportion the House of Representatives. Congress didn't override a veto until 1845 under President Tyler.?
A veto is hard to override. The Congress fails more than 93 percent of the time. During George W. Bush's presidency, the Congress voted 36 times to override a veto … and succeeded only once.