



By the Numbers: The Collapse of Senate Confirmations

State of President Trump's Nominees

- 130 nominees confirmed
- 139 nominees on the Senate's Executive Calendar
- 153 nominees in committee
- 786 nominees not yet received
- The most Senate session days and roll calls votes in modern history
- *As of August 2, 2025, excluding judicial nominees*

Historic Obstruction by Senate Democrats

- 1) President Trump is on pace to have 426 nominees confirmed by the end of the 119th Congress – the lowest in history and less than half of other Presidents since 2000.
 - a. Biden had 817 confirmed, and Trump I had 715 confirmed.
- 2) By the end of his term, President Trump is on pace to have 872 nominees confirmed – the first time any President has had less than 1,000.
 - a. Biden had 1,175, Trump I had 1,233, and Obama had 1,489 confirmed.
- 3) Democrats required cloture 360% more in Trump II than Trump I's first 200 days.
 - a. Through the first 200 days of the Administration, 137 nominees were subject to cloture – nearly double of Biden (71).
 - b. Trump I's first 200 days had 38 nominees require cloture. Obama was just 9.
- 4) More than 50% of every President's nominees were confirmed via voice vote or UC until this year. Trump II received 0 confirmations through voice vote or UC.
 - a. Until Trump I shrunk to 65%, every other President confirmed 90% or more of nominees via voice vote or UC.
- 5) In Obama's first 200 days, he had 292 nominees pass *by voice vote*, while Trump has had just 135 confirmed - all via roll call votes.
- 6) The confirmation pace has never been slower.
 - a. On average, it's taken 94 days from nomination to confirmation for Trump, nearly double what he faced in the first term (54).

The following data demonstrates the unprecedented obstruction Senate Democrats have taken in both of President Trump's Administrations. Because of the historic defiance, nearly a quarter of the way through its term, the Trump Administration has less than 12% of total positions confirmed. Despite holding a record number of session days and roll call votes, the Senate has failed to deliver the personnel needed to lead the country.

Civilian Nominees Confirmed by the Senate by Congress				
<i>Years</i>	<i>Congress</i>	<i>Nominees Confirmed</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Majority Leader</i>
2025-2026	119	135	Trump	Thune
2023-2024	118	358	Biden	Schumer
2021-2022	117	817	Biden	Schumer
2019-2020	116	518	Trump	McConnell
2017-2018	115	715	Trump	McConnell
2015-2016	114	264	Obama	McConnell
2013-2014	113	611	Obama	Reid
2011-2012	112	573	Obama	Reid
2009-2010	111	920	Obama	Reid
2007-2008	110	545	W. Bush	Reid
2005-2006	109	740	W. Bush	Frist
2003-2004	108	713	W. Bush	Frist
2001-2002	107	992	W. Bush	Daschle, Lott
1999-2000	106	527	Clinton	Lott
1997-1998	105	682	Clinton	Lott
1995-1996	104	485	Clinton	Dole, Lott
1993-1994	103	1,123	Clinton	Mitchell
1991-1992	102	661	H.W. Bush	Mitchell
1989-1990	101	848	H.W. Bush	Mitchell
1987-1988	100	649	Reagan	Byrd
1985-1986	99	851	Reagan	Dole
1983-1984	98	536	Reagan	Baker
1981-1982	97	1,079	Reagan	Baker

Background: The chart above shows the number of civilian appointees confirmed by the Senate. While comparing overall Administration totals (next page) is useful, it's important to note that the first Congress of each Administration historically has the most nominations confirmed. At the current pace, Trump II would have 426 nominations confirmed in the 119th Congress – just 52% of what Biden received in his first Congress. **Note that Trump I confirmed 715 nominations in his first Congress, nearly double the current pace, despite post-cloture on all nominations being 30 hours – not 2 hours as is current practice. The Senate lowered the post-cloture debate time to 2 hours on April 3, 2019.**



Civilian Nominees Confirmed by Administration	
<i>Administration</i>	<i>Nominees Confirmed</i>
Trump II	135
Biden	1,175
Trump I	1,233
Obama 2nd Term	875
Obama 1st Term	1,493
Obama Total	2,368
Bush 2nd Term	1,285
Bush 1st Term	1,705
Bush Total	2,990
Clinton 2nd Term	1,209
Clinton 1st Term	1,167
Clinton Total	2,376
H.W. Bush	1,509
Reagan 2nd Term	1,500
Reagan 1st Term	1,615
Reagan Total	3,115

Background: The second Trump Administration is on pace to confirm 872 total nominees - the lowest in history and 38% less than other Presidents since 2000.

Nominees confirmed through the first August of a Presidential administration¹:

- W. Bush - 301 confirmed
 - 276 by voice vote (92%)
- Obama - 313 confirmed
 - 292 by voice vote (93%)
- Trump I - 133 confirmed
 - 78 by voice vote (59%)
- Biden - 150 confirmed
 - 76 by voice vote (51%)
- Trump II - 135 confirmed
 - 0 by voice vote (0%)

¹ *Congress.gov.*

Nominees Subject to Cloture During First 200 Days of a Presidential Administration²:

- Clinton (103rd Congress) 0
- W. Bush (107th Congress) 0
- Obama (111th Congress) 9
- Trump I (115th Congress) 38
- Biden (117th Congress) 71
- Trump II (119th Congress) 137 (as of August 2, 2026)

Background: While cloture has been increasingly used against nominees in recent history, the Senate traditionally provides greater deference to a new Administration in its first 200 days. This practice to slow down onboarding of a new Administration sharply increased in both Trump Administrations.

Nominees Subject to Cloture Vote by Congress³:

Nominees Subject to Cloture by Congress						
Congress	President	Majority Leader	Noms Subject to Cloture	Noms Subject to Cloture Vote	Cloture reached via UC	Withdrawn/Expired Noms
103	Clinton	Mitchell	26	12	12	2
104	Clinton	Dole, Lott	2	2	0	0
105	Clinton	Lott	2	2	0	0
106	Clinton	Lott	3	3	0	0
107	W. Bush	Daschle, Lott	5	4	1	0
108	W. Bush	Frist	26	22	4	0
109	W. Bush	Frist	18	11	7	0
110	W. Bush	Reid	0	0	0	0
111	Obama	Reid	22	12	10	0
112	Obama	Reid	33	10	23	0
113*	Obama	Reid	176	145	30	1
114	Obama	McConnell	2	2	0	0
115	Trump	McConnell	147	126	21	0
116	Trump	McConnell	266	243	23	0
117	Biden	Schumer	278	243	34	1
118	Biden	Schumer	226	210	14	2
119	Trump II	Thune	137	130	6	1

**On November 21, 2013, the Senate went nuclear on nominees, lowering the vote threshold from 60 to 51.*

² *Cloture Motions*, U.S. SENATE, (last accessed Aug. 17, 2025), <https://www.senate.gov/legislative/cloture/clotureCounts.htm>.

³ *Id.*



Totals Nominees Subject to Cloture by Administration			
President	Noms Subject to Cloture	Cloture Invoked by Roll Call Vote	Cloture Invoked by UC
Clinton	33	19	12
W. Bush	49	37	12
Obama	233	169	63
Trump I	413	369	44
Biden	641	583	54
Trump II	137	130	6

Background: The charts above show a sharp increase in nominees subject to cloture when a Republican is in the White House. Cloture first started being popularized in 2003 when Democrats used it to block Miguel Estrada from the D.C. Circuit.⁴ When Obama took the White House, Republicans maintained a pace similar to the number of Bush-nominees Democrats previously blocked. The modern, frequent use of cloture began in 2013 after Harry Reid nuked the filibuster, lowering the vote threshold from 60 to 51. Note that cloture also was commonly reached by UC, thus only requiring a single confirmation vote. Less than 5% of cloture votes have passed by UC for Trump II, the lowest in history. This means more than 95% of Trump’s nominees require two separate roll call votes.

Percentage of Nominees Confirmed by Unanimous Consent or Voice Vote in First Term⁵:

- H.W. Bush 98%
- Clinton 98%
- W. Bush 90%
- Obama 90%
- Trump I 65%
- Biden 57%
- Trump II 0%

⁴ *An Infuriating Success: Schumer Draws Fire for Tactics Blocking Judicial Nominees*, Raymond Hernandez (November 1, 2003), *New York Times*, <https://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/01/nyregion/an-infuriating-success-schumer-draws-fire-for-tactics-blocking-judicial-nominees.html>.

⁵ *Five Charts That Explain What is Happening With Nominees in the Senate*, Sen. John Thune (July 29, 2025), <https://www.republicanleader.senate.gov/newsroom/research/five-charts-that-explain-what-is-happening-with-nominees-in-the-senate>.



Average Number of Days Between Nomination and Confirmation⁶:

- Reagan 25
- H.W. Bush 32
- Clinton 30
- W. Bush 36
- Obama 41
- Trump I 54
- Biden 70
- Trump II 94

Number of Days the Senate Met During First 200 Days of a Presidential Administration:

- W. Bush⁷ 111
- Obama⁸ 121
- Trump I⁹ 121
- Biden¹⁰ 121
- Trump II¹¹ 126

Number of Nominees Never Acted on by End of a Presidential Administration

- H.W. Bush 202
- Clinton 224
- W. Bush 202
- Obama 253
- Trump I 268
- Biden 307

Background: At the end of each Congress, nominees not confirmed or rejected by the Senate are returned to the President. The data above shows that vacancies at the end of a presidential term have climbed in recent history.

⁶ *All the president's nominations: Taking stock at the 200-day mark*, Chris Piper, BROOKINGS INST. (Aug. 11, 2025), <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/all-the-presidents-nominations-taking-stock-at-the-200-day-mark/>.

⁷ *One Hundred Seventh Congress Calendar of Business*, U.S. SENATE (last accessed Aug. 17, 2025), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CCAL-107scal-S2/pdf/CCAL-107scal-S2.pdf>.

⁸ *One Hundred Eleventh Congress Calendar of Business*, U.S. SENATE (last accessed Aug. 17, 2025), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CCAL-111scal-S1/pdf/CCAL-111scal-S1.pdf>.

⁹ *One Hundred Fifteenth Congress Calendar of Business*, U.S. SENATE (last accessed Aug. 17, 2025), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CCAL-115scal-S1/pdf/CCAL-115scal-S1-pt0.pdf>.

¹⁰ *One Hundred Seventeenth Congress Calendar of Business*, U.S. SENATE (last accessed Aug. 17, 2025), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CCAL-117scal-S1/pdf/CCAL-117scal-S1-pt0.pdf>.

¹¹ *One Hundred Nineteenth Congress Calendar of Business*, U.S. SENATE (last accessed Aug. 17, 2025), <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CCAL-119scal-2025-08-19/pdf/CCAL-119scal-2025-08-19.pdf>.

Number of Nominees in the Plum Book	
<i>Year</i>	<i>Senate-confirmed Nominees</i>
2025	1,205
2024	936
2020	1,118
2016	1,242
2012	1,217
2008	1,141
2004	1,137
2000	1,203
1996	1,151
1992	1,163
1980	1,072
1972	914
1960	874
1797	232

Background: Another problem is the sheer volume of positions that require Senate confirmation. It has grown over the years, spreading both Administration and Senate resources thin. Furthermore, there is no conclusive list of Senate-confirmed positions. The most dependable resource is the Plum Book published by GPO every four years, which lists each political appointee in the federal government, including Senate-confirmed positions. Traditionally this list excludes most ambassadors and judicial appointments. The Plum Book is based on *self-reported* data by federal agencies to OPM so the number can vary greatly by year. Note the unexplained drop in what the Biden Administration reported in 2024. While the Plum Book was not published until 1952, the end of George Washington’s Administration is included to show the drastic increase in the number of Senate-confirmed positions