The American Presidency

An Information-Dense Historical Summary, 1789-2026

Presidents, wars and crises, executive action, landmark legislation, elections, approval, economics, and congressional control

This continuous reference follows every numbered presidency from George Washington through the current administration. It emphasizes causal connections: how war, economic crisis, social conflict, institutional rivalry, and electoral change produced legislation or executive action. Congressional records are organized by the Congress that enacted them, not merely by topic.

Prepared as a historical summary paper

Current through November 9, 2026

Chicago-style footnotes; official and scholarly reference sources

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Coverage. Entries follow numbered administrations. Grover Cleveland (22nd and 24th) and Donald Trump (45th and 47th) therefore appear twice; the work covers 45 individuals but 47 presidencies. Terms, vice presidents, age at accession, and electoral-vote outcomes are compact identifiers rather than full biographies.

Elections. Electoral totals are certified outcomes; contingent elections, faithless electors, and multi-candidate fields are identified where they materially affect interpretation.[1]

Congress. H and S identify the organizing majority in the House and Senate at the opening of each Congress, with coalition or mid-Congress changes noted when decisive. Landmark enactments are selective. A law listed here is not necessarily a presidential proposal or an unqualified success; veto overrides are labeled.[2]

Approval. Gallup presidency averages are shown from Truman forward. Earlier presidents did not face a comparable scientific job-approval series; the label "not measured" is intentional. The second Trump average is the latest value displayed in Gallup's published series at the cutoff date.[3]

Economy. Real GDP is the arithmetic mean of annual percent changes for calendar years overlapping a term, so short or partial presidencies can share a calendar year and should not be read as causal scores. The BEA-derived annual series begins in 1930. Unemployment uses the first and last available monthly BLS observation within the term; that series begins in 1948. Both were retrieved through Federal Reserve Economic Data.[4]

Interpretive rule. Events, wars, and crises are connected to policies when the historical sequence supports the relationship; correlation is not presented as sole causation. Current-administration material is provisional and ends on the date printed above.

[1] National Archives and Records Administration, *Electoral College Results*, accessed November 9, 2026, https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/results.

[2] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, *Party Divisions of the House of Representatives, 1789 to Present*, accessed November 9, 2026, https://history.house.gov/Institution/Party-Divisions/Party-Divisions/; U.S. Senate Historical Office, *Party Division*, accessed November 9, 2026, https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml.

[3] Gallup, *Presidential Job Approval Center* and *Presidential Approval Ratings - Historical Statistics and Trends*, accessed November 9, 2026, https://news.gallup.com/interactives/507569/presidential-job-approval-center.aspx.

[4] U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Real Gross Domestic Product: Percent Change from Preceding Period, series A191RL1A225NBEA; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate, series UNRATE; retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, November 9, 2026, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/.

1. George Washington
1789-1797


source register

Party No formal party (Federalist-aligned administration)

Vice pres. John Adams

Age 57 at accession

Election 1789: 69 electoral votes, unanimous; 1792: 132, unanimous

Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series

Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Founding the executive.** Created the Cabinet, asserted removal and treaty powers, established the two-term precedent, and used the veto sparingly while Hamilton's fiscal program funded the debt and built federal credit.
- **Conflict to policy.** Frontier war produced the Legion of the United States and victory at Fallen Timbers; the Whiskey Rebellion led Washington to invoke the Militia Acts and personally demonstrate federal enforcement. European war prompted the Neutrality Proclamation, Jay Treaty, and a durable warning against permanent alliances.
- **Constitutional stakes.** The Bill of Rights, federal judiciary, capital compromise, First Bank, taxation, and early Native diplomacy converted the new Constitution into an operating government; the administration also enforced slavery through the 1793 fugitive-slave law.[5]

Congressional record by legislative session

1st Congress (1789-1791) - H: Pro-Admin; S: Pro-Admin. Judiciary Act of 1789; tariff and tonnage laws; Funding and Residence Acts (1790); First Bank charter; Bill of Rights proposed.

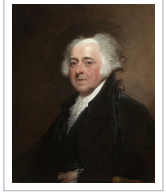
2nd Congress (1791-1793) - H: Pro-Admin; S: Pro-Admin. Coinage Act, Militia Acts, Post Office Act (1792), and Fugitive Slave Act (1793).

3rd Congress (1793-1795) - H: Anti-Admin; S: Pro-Admin. Naval Act and Neutrality Act (1794); naturalization revision (1795).

4th Congress (1795-1797) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Federalist. Jay Treaty implementation; Tennessee statehood; first federal property tax framework.[6]

[5] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "George Washington: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/washington/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

2. John Adams
1797-1801


source register

Party Federalist

Vice pres. Thomas Jefferson

Age 61 at accession

Election 1796: 71 electoral votes to Jefferson's 68

Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series

Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Quasi-War.** The XYZ Affair and undeclared naval war with France drove creation of the Navy Department, enlarged armed forces, direct taxes, and maritime combat; Adams ultimately chose diplomacy and the Convention of 1800 over a full war.
- **Civil liberties.** Federalist fear of foreign subversion produced the Alien and Sedition Acts. Prosecutions of opposition editors and the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions made free speech and state resistance central election issues.
- **Transition.** The 'midnight judges' and Judiciary Act of 1801 sought a lasting Federalist judiciary. Adams accepted defeat and transferred power peacefully after the bitter 1800 contest.[7]

Congressional record by legislative session

5th Congress (1797-1799) - H: Federalist; S: Federalist. Department of the Navy; Alien and Sedition Acts; Direct Tax and Logan Act amid the Quasi-War.

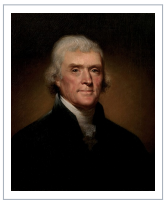
6th Congress (1799-1801) - H: Federalist; S: Federalist. Logan Act enforcement era; Convention of 1800 appropriations; Judiciary Act of 1801 and new circuit courts.[8]

[6] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 1st through 4th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/1st/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/4th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[7] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "John Adams: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/adams/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[8] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 5th through 6th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/5th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/6th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

3. Thomas Jefferson
1801-1809


source register

Party Democratic-Republican
Vice pres. Aaron Burr; George Clinton
Age 57 at accession
Election 1800: 73 electoral votes; House chose Jefferson after tie; 1804: 162-14
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Republican turn.** Reduced internal taxes and the army, pardoned Sedition Act offenders, and reversed the 1801 judicial expansion while retaining core federal institutions.
- **Expansion and war.** The Louisiana Purchase doubled U.S. territory despite Jefferson's constitutional doubts; Lewis and Clark mapped the acquisition. The First Barbary War yielded sustained overseas naval action, while Burr's conspiracy trial tested executive evidence claims.
- **Trade coercion.** British impressment and the Chesapeake-Leopard affair led to the Embargo Act. Its economic damage and widespread evasion forced replacement by non-intercourse, showing the limits of economic warfare.[9]

Congressional record by legislative session

7th Congress (1801-1803) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Judiciary Act repeal, Naturalization Act of 1802, West Point authorization, and Ohio enabling legislation.

8th Congress (1803-1805) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Louisiana Purchase implementation, Twelfth Amendment proposal, and Land Act of 1804.

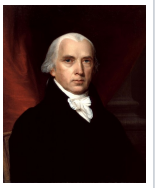
9th Congress (1805-1807) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Non-Importation Act (1806); Lewis and Clark and territorial appropriations.

10th Congress (1807-1809) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Slave-import prohibition effective 1808; Embargo Act (1807); Non-Intercourse Act replaced the embargo (1809).[10]

[9] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Thomas Jefferson: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/jefferson/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[10] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 7th through 10th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/7th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/10th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

4. James Madison
1809-1817


source register

Party Democratic-Republican
Vice pres. George Clinton; Elbridge Gerry; vacant
Age 57 at accession
Election 1808: 122-47; 1812: 128-89
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **War of 1812.** Impressment, maritime restrictions, frontier violence, and congressional War Hawks led Madison to request war against Britain. The capital burned, New England opposition culminated at Hartford, and the Treaty of Ghent restored the status quo before New Orleans transformed public memory.
- **Emergency government.** War exposed weak finance and logistics. Congress imposed internal taxes and expanded forces; after peace Madison accepted a Second Bank, protective tariff, and stronger national defense, while vetoing the Bonus Bill as beyond enumerated powers.
- **Native dispossession.** Tecumseh's confederacy and the Creek War were folded into the wider conflict; treaties after U.S. victories opened vast Indigenous lands to settlement.[11]

Congressional record by legislative session

11th Congress (1809-1811) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Macon's Bill No. 2 (1810) and renewed trade restrictions preceding war.

12th Congress (1811-1813) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Declarations of war against Britain; wartime loans, customs, and army/navy expansion.

13th Congress (1813-1815) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Direct taxes, internal duties, and military finance for the War of 1812.

14th Congress (1815-1817) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican.

[11] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "James Madison: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/madison/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

Second Bank charter and Tariff of 1816; postwar army and naval establishment.[12]

5. James Monroe
1817-1825


source register

Party Democratic-Republican
Vice pres. Daniel D. Tompkins
Age 58 at accession
Election 1816: 183-34; 1820: 231-1
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **National consolidation.** The 'Era of Good Feelings' joined one-party politics to the Second Bank, protective tariff, roads, pensions, and western expansion, though the Panic of 1819 exposed credit and land-market instability.
- **Sectional settlement.** Missouri's admission threatened the free/slave balance. The Missouri Compromise admitted Maine free, Missouri slave, and barred slavery north of 36 degrees 30 minutes in the remaining Louisiana territory.
- **Foreign and frontier policy.** Jackson's invasion of Spanish Florida accelerated the Adams-Onis Treaty. The Monroe Doctrine warned European powers against new colonization while disclaiming U.S. involvement in European wars.[13]

Congressional record by legislative session

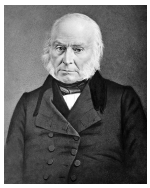
15th Congress (1817-1819) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Flag Act (1818), Revolutionary War pensions, and early federal road appropriations.

16th Congress (1819-1821) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Missouri Compromise and Land Act of 1820; navigation and commerce measures.

17th Congress (1821-1823) - H: Democratic-Republican; S: Democratic-Republican. Cumberland Road support, apportionment after the 1820 census, and territorial government laws.

18th Congress (1823-1825) - H: Fragmented/Adams-Clay plurality; S: Fragmented. General Survey Act and Tariff of 1824; presidential election sent to the House.[14]

6. John Quincy Adams
1825-1829


source register

Party Democratic-Republican / National Republican
Vice pres. John C. Calhoun
Age 57 at accession
Election 1824: 84 electoral votes; House elected Adams although Jackson had 99
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Contested mandate.** The House decision and Clay's appointment as secretary of state fueled the 'corrupt bargain' charge and organized Jacksonian opposition.
- **National program.** Adams proposed roads, canals, a national university, scientific institutions, and uniform weights and measures. Congress funded selected surveys and improvements but rejected much of the program.
- **Tariff backlash.** The 1828 protective tariff aided manufacturers but enraged the South, sharpening nullification arguments and helping defeat Adams.[15]

Congressional record by legislative session

19th Congress (1825-1827) - H: Adams coalition; S: Jacksonian. Internal-improvement appropriations and Panama Congress mission funding after a prolonged dispute.

20th Congress (1827-1829) - H: Jacksonian; S: Jacksonian. Tariff of 1828 ('Tariff of Abominations') and expanded internal-improvement spending.[16]

[12] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 11th through 14th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/11th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/14th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[13] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "James Monroe: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/monroe/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[14] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 15th through 18th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/15th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/18th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[15] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "John Quincy Adams: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/jqadams/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[16] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 19th through 20th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/19th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/20th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

7. Andrew Jackson
1829-1837


source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. John C. Calhoun; Martin Van Buren
Age 61 at accession
Election 1828: 178-83; 1832: 219-49 (Clay; others won 35)
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Executive democracy.** Jackson expanded the veto into a policy weapon, rotated officeholders, and claimed a direct popular mandate. The Bank War produced a veto, removal of deposits, state 'pet banks,' and the Specie Circular.
- **Union and force.** South Carolina nullification of tariffs brought a proclamation defending federal supremacy and the Force Bill; Clay's Compromise Tariff enabled retreat without civil war.
- **Removal and war.** The Indian Removal Act, coercive treaties, and refusal to protect Native sovereignty enabled the Trail of Tears and wars including the Black Hawk and Second Seminole conflicts. Jackson also survived the first assassination attempt on a president.[17]

Congressional record by legislative session

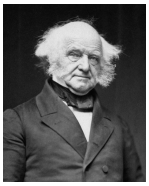
21st Congress (1829-1831) - H: Jacksonian; S: Jacksonian. Indian Removal Act (1830); Maysville Road veto checked federal improvement policy.

22nd Congress (1831-1833) - H: Jacksonian; S: Jacksonian. Tariff of 1832; Bank recharter passed and vetoed; pension expansion.

23rd Congress (1833-1835) - H: Jacksonian; S: Anti-Jacksonian. Force Bill and Compromise Tariff (1833); coinage reform and federal deposit regulation.

24th Congress (1835-1837) - H: Jacksonian; S: Anti-Jacksonian. Deposit Act and Patent Act (1836); Texas recognized; executive Specie Circular shaped credit.[18]

8. Martin Van Buren
1837-1841


source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Richard Mentor Johnson
Age 54 at accession
Election 1836: 170 electoral votes to 124 divided among Whig candidates
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Panic of 1837.** Bank failures, falling cotton prices, specie scarcity, and prior credit policies triggered a long depression. Van Buren resisted direct federal relief and separated Treasury funds from private banks through the Independent Treasury.
- **Removal continued.** Federal forces compelled Cherokee removal; the costly Second Seminole War continued. The administration also resisted annexing Texas, fearing war with Mexico and sectional conflict over slavery.
- **Politics.** Hard-times campaigning and a unified Whig ticket overwhelmed the Democrats in 1840, helping normalize national party conventions and mass campaigning.[19]

Congressional record by legislative session

25th Congress (1837-1839) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Preemption Act (1838); responses to the Panic of 1837; independent-treasury plan initially failed.

26th Congress (1839-1841) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Independent Treasury Act (1840), later repealed by the next Congress.[20]

[17] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Andrew Jackson: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/jackson/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

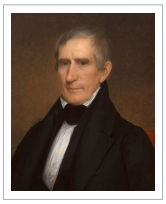
[18] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 21st through 24th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/21st/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/24th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[19] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Martin Van Buren: Presidential Essays," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/vanburen. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[20] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 25th through 26th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/25th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/26th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

9. William Henry Harrison

March 4-April 4, 1841



source register

Party Whig
Vice pres. John Tyler
Age 68 at accession
Election 1840: 234-60
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

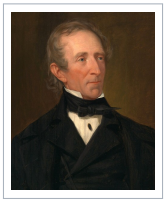
- **Shortest presidency.** Harrison called a special session to address revenue and banking after the Panic era, pledged limits on executive power, and died of illness after 31 days before a program could be enacted.
- **Succession.** Tyler's insistence that he became president rather than merely acting president created the controlling succession precedent later reflected in the Twenty-fifth Amendment.[21]

Congressional record by legislative session

27th Congress (1841-1843) - H: Whig; S: Whig. Independent Treasury repeal; Preemption, Distribution, Tariff, and Bankruptcy Acts (1841-1842); two bank bills vetoed.[22]

10. John Tyler

1841-1845



source register

Party Whig, then unaffiliated
Vice pres. Vacant
Age 51 at accession
Election Succeeded; no presidential election victory
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Party rupture.** Tyler vetoed two national-bank bills and was expelled from the Whig Party; nearly the entire Cabinet resigned. He nevertheless signed a protective tariff, preemption, and bankruptcy legislation.
- **Foreign and expansion policy.** The Webster-Ashburton Treaty settled the Maine boundary; the Treaty of Wanghia opened formal relations with China. Tyler made Texas annexation the centerpiece of his final year and signed the joint resolution just before leaving office.
- **Institutional precedent.** A House committee considered impeachment over veto use, but no full vote followed; the episode reinforced the independence of presidential judgment from party legislators.[23]

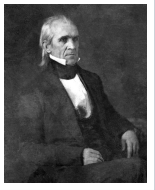
Congressional record by legislative session

27th Congress (1841-1843) - H: Whig; S: Whig. Independent Treasury repeal; Preemption, Distribution, Tariff, and Bankruptcy Acts (1841-1842); two bank bills vetoed.

28th Congress (1843-1845) - H: Democratic; S: Whig. Joint resolution annexing Texas; first federal telegraph appropriation; presidential succession debate.[24]

11. James K. Polk

1845-1849



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. George M. Dallas
Age 49 at accession
Election 1844: 170-105
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Continental expansion.** Polk settled the Oregon boundary with Britain at the 49th parallel, annexed Texas as inherited policy, and pressed disputed claims against Mexico.
- **Mexican-American War.** After troops clashed in the disputed Nueces-Rio Grande zone, Polk asserted that Mexico had shed American blood on American soil and Congress declared war. Victory and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo transferred California and the Southwest, intensifying conflict over slavery in the territories.
- **Domestic program.** He achieved a lower

[21] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "William Henry Harrison: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/harrison/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[22] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, 27th Congress profile, https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/27th/, accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[23] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "John Tyler: Presidential Essays," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/tyler. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[24] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 27th through 28th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/27th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/28th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

Walker Tariff, restored the Independent Treasury, and signed the Smithsonian charter. The Wilmot Proviso failed but reorganized sectional politics around slavery's expansion.[25]

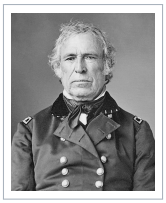
Congressional record by legislative session

29th Congress (1845-1847) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Mexican War declaration and funding; Walker Tariff, Independent Treasury, and Smithsonian Institution Acts (1846).

30th Congress (1847-1849) - H: Whig; S: Democratic. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo implementation; Oregon Territorial Act; Department of the Interior created.[26]

12. Zachary Taylor

1849-July 9, 1850



source register

Party Whig
Vice pres. Millard Fillmore
Age 64 at accession
Election 1848: 163-127
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Sectional crisis.** The Mexican Cession forced decisions about slavery. Taylor urged rapid admission of California and New Mexico as states, resisted a broad congressional compromise, and threatened to enforce federal authority against secessionists.
- **Unfinished administration.** The Clayton-Bulwer Treaty addressed a future Central American canal. Taylor died before the Compromise of 1850; his opposition had helped stall it, whereas Fillmore's support enabled passage.[27]

Congressional record by legislative session

31st Congress (1849-1851) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Compromise of 1850 package: California, Utah/New Mexico territories, Texas boundary, D.C. slave-trade ban, Fugitive Slave Act.[28]

13. Millard Fillmore

1850-1853



source register

Party Whig
Vice pres. Vacant
Age 50 at accession
Election Succeeded; no presidential election victory
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Compromise of 1850.** Fillmore backed the five-bill settlement admitting California, organizing Utah and New Mexico without a slavery restriction, resolving Texas's boundary, ending the D.C. slave trade, and imposing a stronger Fugitive Slave Act.
- **Enforcement and reaction.** Federal enforcement of fugitive rendition radicalized Northern resistance and strengthened abolitionist politics even as the compromise temporarily quieted secession threats.
- **Foreign affairs.** Commodore Perry's mission to Japan began under Fillmore; the administration also confronted filibustering expeditions and resisted European intervention in the Caribbean.[29]

Congressional record by legislative session

31st Congress (1849-1851) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Compromise of 1850 package: California, Utah/New Mexico territories, Texas boundary, D.C. slave-trade ban, Fugitive Slave Act.

32nd Congress (1851-1853) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Land grants for railroads and homesteading debate; no comparably broad settlement of sectional conflict.[30]

[25] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "James K. Polk: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/polk/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[26] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 29th through 30th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/29th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/30th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

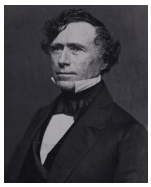
[27] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Zachary Taylor: Presidential Essays," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/taylor. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[28] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, 31st Congress profile, https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/31st/, accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[29] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Millard Fillmore: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/fillmore/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[30] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 31st through 32nd Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/31st/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/32nd/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

14. Franklin Pierce
1853-1857


source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. William R. King; vacant
Age 48 at accession
Election 1852: 254-42
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

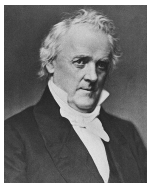
- **Kansas-Nebraska.** Douglas's act organized the territories under popular sovereignty and repealed the Missouri Compromise restriction. Fraudulent elections and armed conflict in 'Bleeding Kansas' destroyed the old party system and accelerated Republican growth.
- **Expansionism.** The Gadsden Purchase completed the contiguous southern boundary. The Ostend Manifesto's suggestion of taking Cuba from Spain discredited expansion as a proslavery project.
- **Executive failure.** Pierce recognized a proslavery Kansas government and deployed federal authority against its opponents, losing Northern Democrats without satisfying Southern leaders.[31]

Congressional record by legislative session

33rd Congress (1853-1855) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854) repealed the Missouri Compromise line; Gadsden Purchase funded.

34th Congress (1855-1857) - H: Opposition coalition; S: Democratic. Topeka statehood bill failed; Tariff of 1857 enacted at the close; sectional paralysis deepened.[32]

15. James Buchanan
1857-1861


source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. John C. Breckinridge
Age 65 at accession
Election 1856: 174 electoral votes (Fremont 114; Fillmore 8)
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Slavery crisis.** Buchanan endorsed the Supreme Court's Dred Scott outcome and pushed Kansas's proslavery Lecompton Constitution, splitting Democrats. He used troops in the Utah expedition and presided over violent sectional polarization.
- **Panic and policy.** The Panic of 1857 weakened federal revenue. Buchanan vetoed homestead and land-grant-college bills on constitutional grounds; the Morrill Tariff became law at the end of his term.
- **Secession.** After Lincoln's election, seven states seceded. Buchanan denied a constitutional right to secede but also denied federal power to coerce a state, leaving forts contested and government divided while compromise efforts failed.[33]

Congressional record by legislative session

35th Congress (1857-1859) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Minnesota and Oregon statehood; homestead and land-grant-college measures passed but were vetoed.

36th Congress (1859-1861) - H: Republican; S: Democratic. Morrill Tariff (1861); secession crisis and failed Crittenden compromise; Pacific railroad and homestead bills stalled.[34]

[31] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Franklin Pierce: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/pierce/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

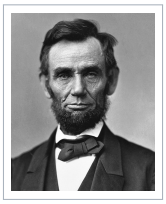
[32] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 33rd through 34th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/33rd/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/34th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[33] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "James Buchanan: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/buchanan/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[34] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 35th through 36th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/35th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/36th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

16. Abraham Lincoln

1861-April 15, 1865



source register

Party Republican / National Union

Vice pres. Hannibal Hamlin; Andrew Johnson

Age 52 at accession

Election 1860: 180 electoral votes; 1864: 212-21

Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series

Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Civil War.** Confederate fire on Fort Sumter brought mobilization, blockade, suspension of habeas corpus in contested areas, conscription, and vast wartime administration. Lincoln framed the conflict first around Union and increasingly around emancipation.
- **Emancipation and rights.** Confiscation laws, D.C. emancipation, Black enlistment, and the Emancipation Proclamation transformed war aims; Lincoln pressed the Thirteenth Amendment through Congress.
- **State-building.** Legal-tender currency, national banking, income and excise taxes, homesteads, land-grant colleges, and a transcontinental railroad expanded federal capacity. Lincoln developed a lenient reconstruction plan but was assassinated before implementation.[35]

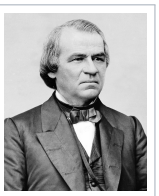
Congressional record by legislative session

37th Congress (1861-1863) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Legal Tender, Homestead, Morrill Land-Grant College, Pacific Railway, tax, D.C. emancipation, and Confiscation Acts.

38th Congress (1863-1865) - H: Republican; S: Republican. National Banking and Enrollment Acts; Yosemite Grant; Thirteenth Amendment sent to the states.[36]

17. Andrew Johnson

1865-1869



source register

Party National Union / Democratic

Vice pres. Vacant

Age 56 at accession

Election Succeeded; no presidential election victory

Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series

Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Reconstruction collision.** Johnson rapidly restored former Confederate states and issued broad pardons. Southern Black Codes and violence prompted Congress to extend the Freedmen's Bureau, enact civil rights over veto, and constitutionalize citizenship and equal protection in the Fourteenth Amendment.
- **Congressional supremacy.** Reconstruction Acts placed the South under military districts and required new constitutions. Johnson's attempted removal of Secretary Stanton under the Tenure of Office Act led to impeachment; the Senate acquitted him by one vote.
- **Foreign affairs.** The United States purchased Alaska and pressured France to withdraw from Mexico while Johnson's domestic authority collapsed.[37]

Congressional record by legislative session

39th Congress (1865-1867) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Civil Rights Act and Freedmen's Bureau extension over veto; Fourteenth Amendment; Reconstruction Acts and Tenure of Office Act.

40th Congress (1867-1869) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Reconstruction enforcement; impeachment proceedings; Fifteenth Amendment proposed.[38]

[35] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Abraham Lincoln: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/lincoln/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[36] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 37th through 38th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/37th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/38th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[37] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Andrew Johnson: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/johnson/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[38] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 39th through 40th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/39th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/40th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

18. Ulysses S. Grant
1869-1877


source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Schuyler Colfax; Henry Wilson; vacant
Age 46 at accession
Election 1868: 214-80; 1872: 286 electoral votes amid post-election scattering
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Reconstruction enforcement.** Grant backed the Fifteenth Amendment, Justice Department, Enforcement Acts, and Ku Klux Klan Act; federal prosecutions broke the first Klan. Enforcement waned as Northern commitment and Republican control weakened.
- **Native and western policy.** A 'Peace Policy' mixed reservations and religious agents with military conquest. The Great Sioux War, destruction of buffalo economies, mining expansion, and reservation coercion accelerated Indigenous dispossession.
- **Economy and scandal.** The Panic of 1873 produced depression and currency conflict; Grant vetoed an inflation bill and supported specie resumption. Credit Mobilier, Whiskey Ring, and patronage scandals damaged the administration despite Grant's personal financial probity.[39]

Congressional record by legislative session

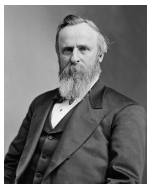
41st Congress (1869-1871) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Enforcement Act (1870), Department of Justice, and readmission legislation; Fifteenth Amendment ratified.

42nd Congress (1871-1873) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Ku Klux Klan Act, Amnesty Act, General Mining Act, and Yellowstone National Park Act.

43rd Congress (1873-1875) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Coinage Act (1873), Resumption Act and Civil Rights Act (1875).

44th Congress (1875-1877) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Appropriations clashes over Reconstruction; Electoral Commission Act (1877) resolved the disputed election.[40]

19. Rutherford B. Hayes
1877-1881


source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. William A. Wheeler
Age 54 at accession
Election 1876: 185-184 after Electoral Commission settlement
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Disputed election.** An electoral commission awarded contested returns to Hayes. He withdrew remaining federal troops from South Carolina and Louisiana, effectively ending Reconstruction and abandoning federal protection as white supremacist rule consolidated.
- **Labor and currency.** During the Great Railroad Strike of 1877 Hayes used federal troops after state requests. He vetoed Bland-Allison silver coinage, but Congress overrode him; he defended resumption of gold payments.
- **Reform and immigration.** Hayes challenged patronage in the New York customhouse and vetoed a sweeping Chinese exclusion bill, accepting a narrower treaty revision instead.[41]

Congressional record by legislative session

45th Congress (1877-1879) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Bland-Allison silver coinage over veto; Posse Comitatus Act; anti-Chinese restriction bill vetoed.

46th Congress (1879-1881) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Army appropriations and election-law standoff; U.S. Geological Survey institutionalized.[42]

[39] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Ulysses S. Grant: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/grant/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

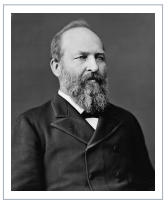
[40] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 41st through 44th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/41st/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/44th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[41] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Rutherford B. Hayes: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/hayes/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[42] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 45th through 46th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/45th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/46th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

20. James A. Garfield

March 4-September 19, 1881



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Chester A. Arthur
Age 49 at accession
Election 1880: 214-155
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

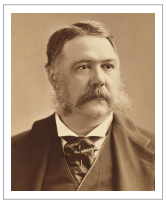
- **Patronage struggle.** Garfield asserted presidential control over appointments against Senator Conkling's machine and began investigations of postal 'Star Route' corruption.
- **Assassination and reform.** A disappointed office seeker shot Garfield in July; he died after prolonged illness and poor medical care. The murder turned civil-service reform into a national demand fulfilled under Arthur.[43]

Congressional record by legislative session

47th Congress (1881-1883) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Chinese Exclusion, Immigration, Edmunds anti-polygamy, and Pendleton Civil Service Reform Acts.[44]

21. Chester A. Arthur

1881-1885



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Vacant
Age 51 at accession
Election Succeeded; no presidential election victory
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Civil service.** Formerly tied to machine politics, Arthur signed the Pendleton Act after Garfield's assassination, creating competitive examinations and protections that began dismantling the spoils system.
- **Exclusion and federal power.** After vetoing a twenty-year ban, Arthur signed the ten-year Chinese Exclusion Act; immigration and anti-polygamy laws expanded federal policing of membership and morality.
- **Modernization.** He backed a steel navy, tariff review, and administrative reform, while vetoing the pork-barrel Rivers and Harbors Act before Congress overrode him.[45]

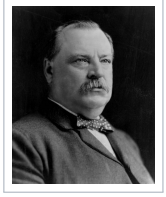
Congressional record by legislative session

47th Congress (1881-1883) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Chinese Exclusion, Immigration, Edmunds anti-polygamy, and Pendleton Civil Service Reform Acts.

48th Congress (1883-1885) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Bureau of Labor created; naval modernization funded; Alien Contract Labor Act completed at the transition.[46]

22. Grover Cleveland

First presidency, 1885-1889



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Thomas A. Hendricks; vacant
Age 47 at accession
Election 1884: 219-182
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Limited-government reform.** Cleveland expanded merit appointments, vetoed hundreds of private pension bills, and resisted subsidies. His tariff-reduction message made revenue reform the central issue of 1888.
- **Regulation and assimilation.** The Interstate Commerce Act created the first federal regulatory commission; the Dawes Act divided tribal lands and caused massive Native land loss. The Electoral Count and succession laws repaired constitutional procedures.
- **Labor and race.** Federal response to labor unrest was restrained compared with later administrations, but exclusion policy hardened through the Scott Act and the Supreme Court

[43] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "James A. Garfield: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/garfield/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[44] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, 47th Congress profile, https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/47th/, accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[45] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Chester A. Arthur: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/arthur/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[46] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 47th through 48th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/47th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/48th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

narrowed Reconstruction-era civil-rights protections.[47]

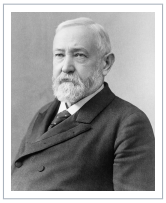
Congressional record by legislative session

49th Congress (1885-1887) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Presidential Succession, Electoral Count, Interstate Commerce, Dawes, and Alien Contract Labor Acts.

50th Congress (1887-1889) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Hatch Act; Departments of Agriculture and Labor; Scott Act; major tariff revision failed.[48]

23. Benjamin Harrison

1889-1893



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Levi P. Morton
Age 55 at accession
Election 1888: 233-168 despite losing the popular vote
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Activist Congress.** Unified Republican government enacted the Sherman Antitrust and Silver Purchase Acts, McKinley Tariff, pensions, and forest reserves while admitting six western states.
- **Foreign and military affairs.** The administration convened the first Pan-American Conference, negotiated reciprocity, modernized the Navy, and faced crises in Chile and Hawaii; annexation of Hawaii remained incomplete when Harrison left office.
- **Civil rights.** Harrison supported federal election protection for Black voters, but the Lodge bill died in the Senate, marking the retreat of national voting-rights enforcement.[49]

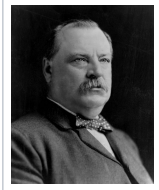
Congressional record by legislative session

51st Congress (1889-1891) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Sherman Antitrust and Silver Purchase Acts; McKinley Tariff; Dependent Pension and Forest Reserve Acts.

52nd Congress (1891-1893) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Geary Chinese-exclusion extension; national-quarantine and immigration administration reforms.[50]

24. Grover Cleveland

Second presidency, 1893-1897



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Adlai E. Stevenson
Age 55 at accession
Election 1892: 277 electoral votes (Harrison 145; Weaver 22)
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Panic of 1893.** Cleveland secured repeal of silver-purchase requirements to defend the gold reserve, used private bond syndicates, and accepted a tariff law whose income tax the Supreme Court invalidated.
- **Labor conflict.** The Pullman Strike disrupted mail and rail traffic; Cleveland obtained an injunction and sent troops over Illinois's objection, strengthening federal anti-strike power.
- **Foreign policy.** He withdrew the Hawaii annexation treaty and investigated the overthrow, then asserted an expansive Monroe Doctrine position in the Venezuela boundary dispute with Britain.[51]

Congressional record by legislative session

53rd Congress (1893-1895) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Sherman Silver Purchase repeal and Wilson-Gorman Tariff; federal income tax later struck down.

54th Congress (1895-1897) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Utah entered the Union; arbitration and immigration measures; limited landmark enactment under divided govern-

[47] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Grover Cleveland: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/cleveland/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[48] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 49th through 50th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/49th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/50th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[49] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Benjamin Harrison: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/bharrison/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[50] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 51st through 52nd Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/51st/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/52nd/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[51] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Grover Cleveland: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/cleveland/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

ment.[52]

25. William McKinley

1897-September 14, 1901



source register

Party Republican

Vice pres. Garret Hobart; vacant; Theodore Roosevelt

Age 54 at accession

Election 1896: 271-176; 1900: 292-155

Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series

Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **War and empire.** Cuban revolt, humanitarian outrage, strategic interests, and the USS Maine explosion preceded war with Spain. Victory brought Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines; annexation of Hawaii and a brutal Philippine-American War made the United States an overseas empire.
- **Trade and money.** The Dingley Tariff restored high protection and the Gold Standard Act ended the central 1890s currency dispute amid rapid recovery and corporate consolidation.
- **China and executive power.** The Open Door notes and intervention during the Boxer uprising expanded U.S. engagement without a formal colonial claim. McKinley's assassination elevated Roosevelt and helped drive later anarchist-exclusion policy.[53]

Congressional record by legislative session

55th Congress (1897-1899) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Dingley Tariff, Spanish-American War resolutions, Newlands annexation of Hawaii, and Bankruptcy Act (1898).

56th Congress (1899-1901) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Gold Standard and Foraker Acts; Army reorganization; Philippine and Puerto Rican governance developed.

57th Congress (1901-1903) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Newlands Reclamation, Philippine Organic, and Spooner canal authorization Acts.[54]

26. Theodore Roosevelt

1901-1909



source register

Party Republican

Vice pres. Vacant; Charles W. Fairbanks

Age 42 at accession

Election Succeeded in 1901; 1904: 336-140

Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series

Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Square Deal.** Coal-strike mediation, railroad-rate regulation, antitrust suits, food and drug inspection, and conservation recast the presidency as steward of the public interest. Roosevelt used the Sherman Act selectively rather than opposing corporate scale itself.
- **Conservation.** Forest reserves, reclamation projects, wildlife refuges, and Antiquities Act monuments placed vast lands under federal management, often restricting Indigenous access.
- **World power.** Roosevelt backed Panama's separation from Colombia and canal construction, added a policing corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, mediated the Russo-Japanese War, and sent the Great White Fleet abroad.[55]

Congressional record by legislative session

57th Congress (1901-1903) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Newlands Reclamation, Philippine Organic, and Spooner canal authorization Acts.

58th Congress (1903-1905) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Elkins Act; Department of Commerce and Labor; Panama Canal Zone legislation.

59th Congress (1905-1907) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Hepburn, Pure Food and Drug, Meat Inspection, and Antiquities Acts (1906).

60th Congress (1907-1909) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Aldrich-Vreeland emergency currency and Employers' Liability Acts.[56]

[52] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 53rd through 54th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/53rd/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/54th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[53] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "William McKinley: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/mckinley/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[54] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 55th through 57th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/55th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/57th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[55] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Theodore Roosevelt: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/roosevelt/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[56] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 57th through 60th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.

27. William Howard Taft
1909-1913


source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. James S. Sherman; vacant
Age 51 at accession
Election 1908: 321-162
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

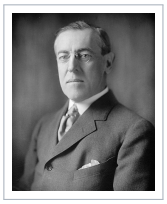
- **Law-centered progressivism.** Taft filed more antitrust cases than Roosevelt, strengthened the Interstate Commerce Commission through Mann-Elkins, supported postal savings and parcel post, and pursued administrative economy.
- **Party split.** The Payne-Aldrich Tariff, Ballinger-Pinchot conservation dispute, and Cannon speakership revolt alienated progressives. Roosevelt's 1912 challenge divided Republicans and enabled Wilson's victory.
- **Constitution and diplomacy.** Congress proposed the income-tax and direct-election amendments. 'Dollar diplomacy' used investment and financial leverage in Latin America and China, with interventions in Nicaragua and elsewhere.[57]

Congressional record by legislative session

61st Congress (1909-1911) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Payne-Aldrich Tariff, Mann-Elkins and Mann Acts; Sixteenth and Seventeenth Amendments proposed.

62nd Congress (1911-1913) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Children's Bureau and parcel post; Sixteenth and Seventeenth Amendments completed ratification process.[58]

28. Woodrow Wilson
1913-1921


source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Thomas R. Marshall
Age 56 at accession
Election 1912: 435 electoral votes (Roosevelt 88; Taft 8); 1916: 277-254
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **New Freedom.** Tariff reduction, a graduated income tax, Federal Reserve, FTC, and Clayton Act reorganized economic governance; farm credit, labor-hour, and child-labor measures broadened reform, though segregation deepened in federal offices.
- **World War I.** Submarine warfare and the Zimmermann Telegram led Wilson to seek war in 1917. Conscription, production boards, food and fuel controls, bonds, and the Espionage and Sedition Acts mobilized society while suppressing dissent.
- **Peace and aftermath.** Wilson promoted Fourteen Points and the League of Nations but refused reservations acceptable to the Senate; the treaty failed. Red Scare raids, racial violence, influenza, Prohibition, and woman suffrage marked the transition.[59]

Congressional record by legislative session

63rd Congress (1913-1915) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Underwood Tariff, Federal Reserve, Federal Trade Commission, and Clayton Antitrust Acts.

64th Congress (1915-1917) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Federal Farm Loan, Adamson, Shipping, National Park Service, and Jones (Philippines) Acts.

65th Congress (1917-1919) - H: Democratic coalition; S: Democratic. War declaration; Selective Service, Espionage, Sedition, Lever, Liberty Bond, and wartime control laws; Eighteenth/Nineteenth Amendments proposed.

66th Congress (1919-1921) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Volstead and Transportation Acts; Nineteenth Amendment ratified; Treaty of Versailles rejected.[60]

house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/57th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/60th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[57] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "William Howard Taft: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/taft/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

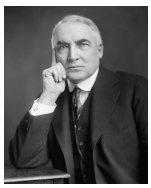
[58] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 61st through 62nd Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/61st/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/62nd/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[59] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Woodrow Wilson: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/wilson/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[60] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional

29. Warren G. Harding

1921-August 2, 1923



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Calvin Coolidge
Age 55 at accession
Election 1920: 404-127
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Normalcy and retrenchment.** Harding cut wartime taxes and spending, created the executive budget system, raised tariffs, established immigration quotas, and supported highways and farm cooperation.
- **Disarmament and peace.** The Washington Naval Conference produced fleet limits and Pacific agreements; separate treaties ended the formal state of war with the Central Powers.
- **Scandal and civil rights.** Teapot Dome and Justice Department corruption emerged from secret leases and patronage. Harding publicly condemned lynching and backed a federal bill, but Senate obstruction killed it.[61]

Congressional record by legislative session

67th Congress (1921-1923) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Budget and Accounting, Emergency Quota, Fordney-McCumber Tariff, Revenue, Highway, and Sheppard-Towner Acts.

68th Congress (1923-1925) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Immigration and Indian Citizenship Acts (1924); veterans' bonus enacted over veto.[62]

30. Calvin Coolidge

1923-1929



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Vacant; Charles G. Dawes
Age 51 at accession
Election Succeeded in 1923; 1924: 382 electoral votes (Davis 136; La Follette 13)
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy comparable annual real-GDP series unavailable; comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Business government.** Coolidge favored tax cuts, limited spending, and restrained regulation during consumer expansion; he repeatedly vetoed McNary-Haugen farm relief as crop prices lagged.
- **Citizenship and exclusion.** The Indian Citizenship Act naturalized Native people without ending tribal status, while the 1924 immigration law imposed national-origins quotas and excluded Asian immigration.
- **Infrastructure and diplomacy.** Air and radio regulation, flood control, and the Boulder Canyon project expanded federal roles. The Dawes Plan and Kellogg-Briand Pact addressed European debts and war without durable enforcement.[63]

Congressional record by legislative session

68th Congress (1923-1925) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Immigration and Indian Citizenship Acts (1924); veterans' bonus enacted over veto.

69th Congress (1925-1927) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Air Commerce, Railway Labor, and Revenue Acts (1926).

70th Congress (1927-1929) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Flood Control and Boulder Canyon Project Acts; Kellogg-Briand Pact ratified.[64]

Profiles, 63rd through 66th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/63rd/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/66th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[61] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Warren G. Harding: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/harding/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[62] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 67th through 68th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/67th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/68th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[63] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Calvin Coolidge: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/coolidge/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[64] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 68th through 70th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/68th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/70th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

31. Herbert Hoover
1929-1933


source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Charles Curtis
Age 54 at accession
Election 1928: 444-87
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy real GDP -7.2% mean annual change (1930-1933); comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Great Depression.** The stock crash became a banking, employment, and deflationary collapse. Hoover promoted voluntary cooperation, public works, farm stabilization, and later the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but resisted direct federal relief to individuals.
- **Policy feedback.** Smoot-Hawley tariffs invited retaliation; the 1932 tax increase defended fiscal balance during contraction. Bank and home-loan measures came late and could not restore confidence.
- **Social conflict.** The Bonus Army's removal from Washington, including military force under MacArthur, symbolized administrative distance from suffering. Hoover nonetheless advanced prison reform, veterans' hospitals, and conservation.[65]

Congressional record by legislative session

71st Congress (1929-1931) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Agricultural Marketing and Smoot-Hawley Tariff Acts; initial Depression responses.

72nd Congress (1931-1933) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Glass-Steagall (1932), Federal Home Loan Bank, Norris-LaGuardia, and emergency-relief laws.[66]

[65] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Herbert Hoover: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/hoover/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[66] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 71st through 72nd Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/71st/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/72nd/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

32. Franklin D. Roosevelt
1933-April 12, 1945


source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. John N. Garner; Henry A. Wallace; Harry S. Truman
Age 51 at accession
Election 1932: 472-59; 1936: 523-8; 1940: 449-82; 1944: 432-99
Approval not measured in a comparable scientific series
Economy real GDP +8.5% mean annual change (1933-1945); comparable unemployment series unavailable

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **New Deal.** Emergency banking action, deposit insurance, securities regulation, farm and industrial programs, relief jobs, public works, housing, electrification, labor rights, Social Security, and wage-hour law built the modern regulatory and welfare state. Courts invalidated early measures; the failed court plan preceded a constitutional shift.
- **Depression limits.** Recovery was substantial but incomplete, with a sharp 1937-1938 relapse. Programs often excluded agricultural and domestic workers and tolerated local racial discrimination.
- **World War II.** Neutrality gave way to aid for the Allies, peacetime conscription, Lend-Lease, and after Pearl Harbor, global war. Executive orders organized production and desegregated defense contracting but also incarcerated Japanese Americans. Allied strategy, the GI Bill, Bretton Woods, and planning for the U.N. shaped the postwar order.[67]

Congressional record by legislative session

73rd Congress (1933-1935) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Emergency Banking, Securities, Glass-Steagall/FDIC, AAA, NIRA, TVA, and Home Owners' Loan Acts; Twenty-first Amendment.

74th Congress (1935-1937) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Social Security, Wagner/NLRA, Banking, Rural Electrification, and Public Utility Holding Company Acts.

75th Congress (1937-1939) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Fair Labor Standards, Housing, and Agricultural Adjustment Acts; court-expansion plan failed.

76th Congress (1939-1941) - H: Demo-

[67] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Franklin D. Roosevelt: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/fdroosevelt/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

cratic; S: Democratic. Neutrality Act revision and first peacetime Selective Training and Service Act.

77th Congress (1941-1943) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Lend-Lease; war declarations; First and Second War Powers Acts; wartime tax expansion.

78th Congress (1943-1945) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. GI Bill, Smith-Connally, Stabilization Extension, and Public Health Service Acts.

79th Congress (1945-1947) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Employment, Atomic Energy, Legislative Reorganization, and U.N. Participation Acts; Bretton Woods implementation.[68]

33. Harry S. Truman

1945-1953



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Vacant; Alben W. Barkley
Age 60 at accession
Election Succeeded in 1945; 1948: 303 electoral votes (Dewey 189; Thurmond 39)
Approval 45.4% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +1.7% mean annual change (1945-1953); unemployment 3.4% (Jan 1948) to 2.9% (Jan 1953)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **War's end.** Truman authorized atomic bombs against Hiroshima and Nagasaki, accepted Japan's surrender, and managed demobilization, inflation, strikes, and conversion to a peacetime economy.
- **Cold War state.** The Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, Berlin airlift, NATO, recognition of Israel, National Security Act, and NSC-68 created permanent security institutions and containment policy. The undeclared Korean War prompted U.N.-backed intervention; Truman fired MacArthur to preserve civilian control.
- **Fair Deal and rights.** The Employment Act and housing/minimum-wage laws passed, but much of the Fair Deal failed. Executive orders desegregated the armed forces and federal employment; loyalty screening and the Red Scare constrained civil liberties.[69]

Congressional record by legislative session

79th Congress (1945-1947) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Employment, Atomic Energy, Legislative Reorganization, and U.N. Participation Acts; Bretton Woods implementation.

80th Congress (1947-1949) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Taft-Hartley over veto, National Security Act, Marshall Plan, and Presidential Succession Act; Twenty-second Amendment proposed.

81st Congress (1949-1951) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Housing Act (1949), minimum-wage expansion, McCarran Internal Security Act over veto; NATO ratified.

82nd Congress (1951-1953) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Mutual Security Act; Immigration and Nationality Act (1952) over veto; Twenty-second Amendment ratified.[70]

34. Dwight D. Eisenhower

1953-1961



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Richard Nixon
Age 62 at accession
Election 1952: 442-89; 1956: 457-73
Approval 65.0% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +3.0% mean annual change (1953-1961); unemployment 2.6% (Feb 1953) to 6.6% (Jan 1961)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Modern Republicanism.** Eisenhower preserved core New Deal programs, expanded Social Security, balanced budgets intermittently, and built the Interstate Highway System, linking defense, commerce, suburbanization, and displacement.
- **Cold War.** Nuclear deterrence, covert operations in Iran and Guatemala, alliances, and the Eisenhower Doctrine limited direct war while deepening global commitments. He ended active fighting in Korea and warned finally against the military-industrial complex.
- **Civil rights and science.** He enforced school desegregation at Little Rock with federal troops; the 1957 and 1960 civil-rights laws restored a federal voting-rights role. Sputnik led to NASA, defense education, and reorganized research.[71]

[68] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 73rd through 79th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/73rd/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/79th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[69] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Harry S. Truman: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/truman/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[70] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 79th through 82nd Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/79th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/82nd/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[71] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Dwight D. Eisenhower: Key Events," accessed

Congressional record by legislative session

83rd Congress (1953-1955) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Refugee Relief, Atomic Energy (1954), and Communist Control Acts.

84th Congress (1955-1957) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Federal-Aid Highway Act (1956), Social Security disability insurance, and water-pollution control.

85th Congress (1957-1959) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Civil Rights Act (1957), National Defense Education and NASA Acts, defense reorganization; Alaska statehood.

86th Congress (1959-1961) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Civil Rights Act (1960), Landrum-Griffin labor law; Hawaii statehood.[72]

35. John F. Kennedy

1961-November 22, 1963



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Lyndon B. Johnson
Age 43 at accession
Election 1960: 303 electoral votes (Nixon 219; unpledged electors 15)
Approval 70.1% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +4.4% mean annual change (1961-1963); unemployment 6.9% (Feb 1961) to 5.7% (Nov 1963)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Cold War crises.** The failed Bay of Pigs invasion, Berlin confrontation, and Cuban Missile Crisis brought nuclear danger; a quarantine and secret trade helped remove Soviet missiles. The Limited Test Ban Treaty followed.
- **Flexible response.** Kennedy expanded conventional forces, special operations, foreign aid, and advisers in Vietnam; the Peace Corps and Alliance for Progress paired development with containment.
- **Domestic agenda.** Congress passed economic-development, training, trade, equal-pay, and mental-health laws but stalled broad tax and civil-rights bills. Birmingham, the March on Washington, and federal enforcement at universities pushed Kennedy toward comprehensive civil-rights legislation before his assassination.[73]

Congressional record by legislative session

87th Congress (1961-1963) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Peace Corps, Area Redevelopment, Manpower Development and Training, and Trade Expansion Acts.

88th Congress (1963-1965) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Equal Pay, Civil Rights, Economic Opportunity, Food Stamp, Wilderness, and Community Mental Health Acts; Twenty-fourth Amendment.[74]

36. Lyndon B. Johnson

1963-1969



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Vacant; Hubert Humphrey
Age 55 at accession
Election Succeeded in 1963; 1964: 486-52
Approval 55.1% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +4.9% mean annual change (1963-1969); unemployment 5.5% (Dec 1963) to 3.4% (Jan 1969)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Great Society.** Johnson converted grief and electoral power into civil-rights and voting protections, Medicare and Medicaid, antipoverty programs, federal aid to schools and colleges, immigration reform, food assistance, environmental laws, public broadcasting, and consumer protections.
- **Vietnam War.** The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution enabled escalation without a declaration of war. Troop levels and bombing rose dramatically; Tet, casualties, fiscal pressure, and protest fractured the coalition and led Johnson to limit bombing and forgo reelection.
- **Rights and disorder.** Federal law attacked segregation, disfranchisement, and housing discrimination, while urban uprisings and political assassinations drove crime and gun-control laws and exposed the limits of economic reform.[75]

November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/eisenhower/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[72] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 83rd through 86th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/83rd/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/86th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[73] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "John F. Kennedy: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/kennedy/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[74] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 87th through 88th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/87th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/88th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[75] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Lyndon B. Johnson: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/lbjohnson/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

Congressional record by legislative session

88th Congress (1963-1965) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Equal Pay, Civil Rights, Economic Opportunity, Food Stamp, Wilderness, and Community Mental Health Acts; Twenty-fourth Amendment.

89th Congress (1965-1967) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Voting Rights; Medicare/Medicaid; immigration reform; elementary, secondary, and higher education; HUD and environmental laws.

90th Congress (1967-1969) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Fair Housing/Civil Rights (1968), Gun Control, Public Broadcasting, Age Discrimination, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Acts; Twenty-fifth Amendment.[76]

37. Richard Nixon

1969-August 9, 1974



source register

Party Republican

Vice pres. Spiro Agnew; vacant; Gerald Ford

Age 56 at accession

Election 1968: 301 electoral votes (Humphrey 191; Wallace 46); 1972: 520-17

Approval 49.0% Gallup average

Economy real GDP +2.8% mean annual change (1969-1974); unemployment 3.4% (Feb 1969) to 5.5% (Aug 1974)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Vietnam and diplomacy.** Nixon pursued Vietnamization while expanding bombing into Cambodia and Laos; the Paris agreement preceded U.S. withdrawal. Opening relations with China, detente, and SALT I reshaped the Cold War.
- **Domestic reordering.** Revenue sharing, wage-price controls, the Philadelphia Plan, EPA reorganization, NEPA, Clean Air, OSHA, drug control, cancer research, and school-desegregation enforcement mixed activism with conservative politics.
- **Watergate and constitutional repair.** The cover-up of the campaign break-in, enemies-list abuses, impoundment, and secret war produced Senate hearings, court orders, the War Powers and Budget Acts, and House impeachment articles. Nixon resigned after tapes destroyed his support.[77]

[76] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 88th through 90th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/88th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/90th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[77] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Richard Nixon: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/nixon/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

Congressional record by legislative session

91st Congress (1969-1971) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. NEPA, Clean Air, OSHA, Controlled Substances, and Organized Crime Control Acts.

92nd Congress (1971-1973) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Clean Water Act over veto; Title IX education amendments, National Cancer Act, and revenue sharing.

93rd Congress (1973-1975) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. War Powers Resolution over veto; Endangered Species, Rehabilitation, Budget and Impoundment Control, Privacy, and Trade Acts.[78]

38. Gerald Ford

1974-1977



source register

Party Republican

Vice pres. Vacant; Nelson Rockefeller

Age 61 at accession

Election Succeeded; no presidential election victory

Approval 47.2% Gallup average

Economy real GDP +2.3% mean annual change (1974-1977); unemployment 5.9% (Sep 1974) to 7.5% (Jan 1977)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Post-Watergate presidency.** Ford pardoned Nixon, a decision that damaged trust but ended criminal uncertainty. Privacy, campaign-finance, intelligence oversight, and open-government reforms responded to executive abuse.
- **Economy and energy.** Stagflation, recession, and oil shocks produced voluntary anti-inflation efforts, tax rebates, fuel-economy standards, strategic petroleum reserves, and an eventual recovery; Ford repeatedly vetoed spending bills.
- **Foreign affairs.** Saigon fell and refugees were evacuated; Congress restricted Indochina intervention. The Helsinki Accords recognized borders while elevating human rights, and the Mayaguez rescue exposed both resolve and operational cost.[79]

[78] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 91st through 93rd Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/91st/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/93rd/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[79] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Gerald Ford: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/ford/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

Congressional record by legislative session

93rd Congress (1973-1975) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. War Powers Resolution over veto; Endangered Species, Rehabilitation, Budget and Impoundment Control, Privacy, and Trade Acts.

94th Congress (1975-1977) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Energy Policy and Conservation; Education for All Handicapped Children; Magnuson-Stevens; Toxic Substances and Sunshine Acts.[80]

39. Jimmy Carter

1977-1981



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Walter Mondale
Age 52 at accession
Election 1976: 297-240
Approval 45.5% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +3.1% mean annual change (1977-1981); unemployment 7.6% (Feb 1977) to 7.5% (Jan 1981)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Energy and economy.** Oil shocks, inflation, and slow growth led to energy conservation, decontrol, windfall-profit taxation, and creation of the Energy Department. Airline, trucking, rail, and financial deregulation changed market governance; the Federal Reserve's anti-inflation turn caused recession.
- **Human rights and peace.** The Camp David Accords and Egypt-Israel treaty were signature achievements; Panama Canal treaties and China normalization altered relationships. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan brought sanctions, a defense buildup, and Olympic boycott.
- **Iran hostage crisis.** The revolution and 444-day embassy seizure dominated the final year; a failed rescue damaged confidence. Carter also signed FISA, ethics reform, refugee law, Superfund, and sweeping Alaska conservation.[81]

Congressional record by legislative session

95th Congress (1977-1979) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Energy Department, Clean Air, Humphrey-Hawkins, FISA, Ethics in Government, and airline-deregulation laws.

96th Congress (1979-1981) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Education Department, Superfund, Staggers rail deregulation, Refugee, banking-deregulation, and Alaska lands Acts.[82]

40. Ronald Reagan

1981-1989



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. George H. W. Bush
Age 69 at accession
Election 1980: 489-49; 1984: 525-13
Approval 52.8% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +3.5% mean annual change (1981-1989); unemployment 7.4% (Feb 1981) to 5.4% (Jan 1989)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Reaganomics.** Large tax cuts, deregulation, defense growth, and domestic-spending restraint combined with tight money. A severe recession broke inflation; a long expansion followed, alongside higher deficits, inequality, and deindustrialization. The 1986 reform broadened the tax base and lowered rates.
- **Cold War.** Reagan escalated arms competition and aid to anti-communist forces, invaded Grenada, and later negotiated the INF Treaty with Gorbachev as Soviet reform changed the strategic environment.
- **Conflict and law.** The administration backed Contras despite statutory limits, secretly sold arms to Iran, and diverted funds, producing Iran-Contra investigations. Immigration legalization, military command reform, drug penalties, AIDS-policy controversy, and appointments that shifted the judiciary left durable effects.[83]

Congressional record by legislative session

97th Congress (1981-1983) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Economic Recovery Tax and budget reconciliation; Garn-St Germain; TEFRA; Voting Rights extension.

98th Congress (1983-1985) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Social Security Amendments (1983), deficit reduction, and Cable Communications Act.

[80] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 93rd through 94th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/93rd/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/94th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[81] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Jimmy Carter: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/carter/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[82] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 95th through 96th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/95th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/96th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[83] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Ronald Reagan: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/reagan/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

99th Congress (1985-1987) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. Tax Reform, Goldwater-Nichols, Immigration Reform and Control, Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, and Anti-Drug Abuse Acts.

100th Congress (1987-1989) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Civil Liberties and Stafford Acts; Anti-Drug Abuse and WARN Acts; INF Treaty ratified.[84]

41. George H. W. Bush

1989-1993



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Dan Quayle
Age 64 at accession
Election 1988: 426-111
Approval 60.9% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +2.3% mean annual change (1989-1993); unemployment 5.2% (Feb 1989) to 7.3% (Jan 1993)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Cold War transition.** Bush managed German reunification, Soviet collapse, arms reductions, and interventions in Panama and Somalia. After Iraq invaded Kuwait, a U.N.-authorized coalition liberated Kuwait in the Gulf War while leaving Saddam Hussein in power.
- **Domestic compromise.** The Americans with Disabilities Act, strengthened Clean Air Act, immigration expansion, banking cleanup, and civil-rights law passed with bipartisan coalitions.
- **Recession and budget.** A slowing economy, savings-and-loan costs, and deficits led Bush to break his 'no new taxes' pledge in the 1990 budget agreement, contributing to a primary challenge and defeat despite foreign-policy success.[85]

Congressional record by legislative session

101st Congress (1989-1991) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Americans with Disabilities, Clean Air (1990), Immigration, Oil Pollution, and Budget Enforcement laws.

102nd Congress (1991-1993) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Civil Rights Act (1991), FDIC Improvement, and intermodal transportation; START ratified; family-leave bill vetoed.[86]

42. Bill Clinton

1993-2001



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Al Gore
Age 46 at accession
Election 1992: 370-168; 1996: 379-159
Approval 55.1% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +3.6% mean annual change (1993-2001); unemployment 7.1% (Feb 1993) to 4.2% (Jan 2001)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **New Democrat statecraft.** Deficit reduction, NAFTA, family leave, national service, gun regulation, the 1994 crime law, welfare replacement, telecommunications deregulation, children's health insurance, and financial deregulation defined a centrist record; universal health reform failed.
- **Growth and globalization.** Technology-led expansion, low unemployment, and budget surpluses accompanied rising inequality and trade dislocation. China PNTR and WTO policy deepened integration.
- **Conflict and impeachment.** NATO interventions in Bosnia and Kosovo, diplomacy in Northern Ireland and the Middle East, sanctions and strikes against Iraq, and responses to al-Qaeda attacks expanded post-Cold War commitments. A relationship and sworn testimony led to House impeachment; the Senate acquitted him.[87]

Congressional record by legislative session

103rd Congress (1993-1995) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Family and Medical Leave, Brady, NAFTA implementation, 1993 budget, 1994 crime/VAWA, and GATT implementation.

104th Congress (1995-1997) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Welfare overhaul, Telecommunications, antiterrorism, DOMA, Congressional Review, and line-item-veto laws.

105th Congress (1997-1999) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Balanced Budget and

[84] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 97th through 100th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/97th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/100th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[85] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "George H. W. Bush: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/bush/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[86] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 101st through 102nd Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/101st/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/102nd/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[87] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Bill Clinton: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/clinton/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

Taxpayer Relief Acts; Children's Health Insurance Program; DMCA and Iraq Liberation Act.

106th Congress (1999-2001) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Gramm-Leach-Bliley, Commodity Futures Modernization, China PNTR, trafficking-victims, and E-SIGN laws.[88]

43. George W. Bush

2001-2009



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Dick Cheney
Age 54 at accession
Election 2000: 271-266 after Florida litigation; 2004: 286-251
Approval 49.4% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +1.7% mean annual change (2001-2009); unemployment 4.2% (Feb 2001) to 7.8% (Jan 2009)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **September 11 and Afghanistan.** The attacks produced an AUMF, invasion of Afghanistan, PATRIOT Act, Homeland Security Department, detention and surveillance programs, and a worldwide counterterrorism campaign. Legal challenges forced revisions but executive secrecy and coercive interrogation scarred the response.
- **Iraq War.** Claims about weapons and terrorism supported a separate authorization and 2003 invasion. No stockpiles were found; occupation, insurgency, sectarian war, and the later surge imposed enormous costs and reshaped regional politics.
- **Domestic policy and crash.** Tax cuts, No Child Left Behind, Medicare Part D, faith-based initiatives, and conservative judicial appointments preceded Hurricane Katrina failures. Housing and financial collapse triggered the 2008 stimulus, housing rescue, Federal Reserve emergency action, and TARP.[89]

Congressional record by legislative session

107th Congress (2001-2003) - H: Republican; S: Republican to Democratic. 2001 tax cut, AUMF, USA PATRIOT, No Child Left Behind, Sarbanes-Oxley, campaign-finance, and Homeland Security Acts.

108th Congress (2003-2005) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Medicare Part D, 2003 tax cut, PROTECT, PREA, and partial-birth-abortion laws.

109th Congress (2005-2007) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Energy Policy, bankruptcy, REAL ID, Detainee Treatment, PATRIOT renewal, and Military Commissions Acts.

110th Congress (2007-2009) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Energy Independence, stimulus, housing rescue, TARP/EESA, and FISA Amendments Acts.[90]

44. Barack Obama

2009-2017



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Joe Biden
Age 47 at accession
Election 2008: 365-173; 2012: 332-206
Approval 47.9% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +1.8% mean annual change (2009-2017); unemployment 8.3% (Feb 2009) to 4.7% (Jan 2017)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Recovery and health reform.** Stimulus, auto rescue, financial stress measures, Dodd-Frank, and consumer protection stabilized the post-crash economy. The Affordable Care Act expanded coverage through marketplaces, subsidies, Medicaid, and insurance rules amid litigation and partisan resistance.
- **Rights and executive policy.** Lilly Ledbetter, hate-crimes law, DADT repeal, and later marriage equality through the Court advanced civil rights. Gridlock brought executive actions on immigration, climate, labor, and guns, many narrowed by courts or successors.
- **War and diplomacy.** Obama ended the main Iraq deployment, surged then reduced forces in Afghanistan, authorized the bin Laden raid and extensive drone operations, intervened in Libya, fought ISIS, negotiated the Iran nuclear agreement, restored Cuba relations, and joined the Paris climate accord.[91]

[88] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 103rd through 106th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/103rd/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/106th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[89] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "George W. Bush: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/gwbush/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[90] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 107th through 110th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/107th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/110th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[91] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Barack Obama: Presidential Essays," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/obama. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

Congressional record by legislative session

111th Congress (2009-2011) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic. Recovery Act, Affordable Care Act, Dodd-Frank, Lilly Ledbetter, CARD, hate-crimes law, and DADT repeal.

112th Congress (2011-2013) - H: Republican; S: Democratic. Budget Control, America Invents, JOBS, payroll-tax relief, and FAA modernization Acts.

113th Congress (2013-2015) - H: Republican; S: Democratic. VAWA renewal, Bipartisan Budget, Workforce Innovation, and 2014 Farm Bill.

114th Congress (2015-2017) - H: Republican; S: Republican. USA FREEDOM, Every Student Succeeds, FAST, Medicare-access, and 21st Century Cures Acts.[92]

45. Donald Trump

First presidency, 2017-2021



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. Mike Pence
Age 70 at accession
Election 2016: 304 certified electoral votes to 227; lost 2020, 232-306
Approval 41.1% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +2.5% mean annual change (2017-2021); unemployment 4.6% (Feb 2017) to 6.4% (Jan 2021)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Nationalist domestic program.** Tax cuts, deregulation, conservative judicial appointments, immigration restrictions, border construction, withdrawal from Paris, and rollback of environmental and labor rules defined the term. The First Step Act modestly reduced some federal sentences.
- **Trade, alliance, and war powers.** Tariffs on China and partners, USMCA, pressure on NATO allies, Abraham Accords, withdrawal from the Iran deal, and strikes on Syria and Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani mixed retrenchment rhetoric with coercion.
- **Impeachment, pandemic, and transfer.** The House impeached Trump over Ukraine pressure; the Senate acquitted. COVID-19 brought travel limits, emergency declarations, Operation Warp Speed, relief laws, recession, and conflict over public health. After losing reelection, false fraud claims culminated in January 6; a second impeachment ended in acquittal after he left office.[93]

Congressional record by legislative session

115th Congress (2017-2019) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Tax Cuts and Jobs, First Step, VA MISSION, and Right to Try Acts.

116th Congress (2019-2021) - H: Democratic; S: Republican. CARES and Families First pandemic laws; USMCA implementation, SECURE, and Great American Outdoors Acts.[94]

46. Joe Biden

2021-2025



source register

Party Democratic
Vice pres. Kamala Harris
Age 78 at accession
Election 2020: 306-232
Approval 42.2% Gallup average
Economy real GDP +3.4% mean annual change (2021-2025); unemployment 6.2% (Feb 2021) to 4.0% (Jan 2025)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Pandemic recovery and industrial policy.** Vaccination, the American Rescue Plan, infrastructure law, semiconductor subsidies, climate and health incentives, veterans' toxic-exposure benefits, and competition policy paired social spending with domestic investment; inflation and high interest rates dominated public reaction.
- **Rights and administration.** Marriage equality, gun-safety and electoral-count reforms passed; student-debt relief and immigration actions faced courts. Biden appointed the first Black woman justice and emphasized labor, antitrust, and climate rules.
- **Foreign wars.** The Afghanistan withdrawal ended the longest U.S. war amid a rapid Taliban takeover. Biden organized aid and sanctions after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and armed Israel after October 7 while Gaza's destruction produced humanitarian and political crisis. Age concerns ended his 2024

[92] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 111th through 114th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/111th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/114th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[93] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Donald Trump: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/trump/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[94] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 115th through 116th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/115th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/116th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

campaign; Harris lost to Trump.[95]

Congressional record by legislative session

117th Congress (2021-2023) - H: Democratic; S: Democratic (VP tie). American Rescue Plan; infrastructure, CHIPS and Science, Inflation Reduction, PACT, gun-safety, marriage, and electoral-count reforms.

118th Congress (2023-2025) - H: Republican; S: Democratic coalition. Fiscal Responsibility Act; 2024 security supplemental (including TikTok divest-or-ban); FAA reauthorization and ADVANCE nuclear law.[96]

47. Donald Trump

Second presidency, 2025-present



source register

Party Republican
Vice pres. JD Vance
Age 78 at accession
Election 2024: 312-226
Approval 41% Gallup average through latest published series
Economy real GDP +2.3% mean annual change (2025); unemployment 4.2% (Feb 2025) to 4.1% (Oct 2026)

Events, war, legislation, and executive action

- **Executive reconstruction.** A rapid order-and-removal program reshaped immigration enforcement, civil service, diversity policy, energy regulation, education, and independent agencies; large-scale deportation and federal enforcement produced extensive litigation and public conflict. A government-efficiency drive cut agencies and staffing while courts and Congress contested authority.
- **Taxes, benefits, and trade.** The 2025 reconciliation law extended and revised tax policy, increased immigration and defense resources, and reduced future health and nutrition spending. Broad emergency tariffs began in 2025; the administration ended the listed IEEPA duties in February 2026 while retaining other trade authorities and negotiated sector and country arrangements.
- **War, diplomacy, and politics.** U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in 2025 were followed by major 2026 combat operations and a June U.S.-Iran memorandum. The administration pursued settlements in Gaza and other conflicts while Russia's war continued. Democrats won both chambers in the November 2026 midterms for the incoming 120th Congress; the 119th remains Republican-controlled through January 3, 2027.[97]

Congressional record by legislative session

119th Congress (2025-2027) - H: Republican; S: Republican. Laken Riley Act; FY2025 reconciliation (P.L. 119-21); FY2026 consolidated appropriations; TAKE IT DOWN and Russia-Iran sanctions laws.[98]

Portrait source register

Portraits are compact identification aids. Files were retrieved through Wikimedia's page-image interface; most historical paintings and U.S. government photographs are public domain, but the linked file page is the controlling source for creator and rights information. **George Washington**: Gilbert_Stuart_Williamstown_Portrait_of_George_Washington.jpg
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Theodore Roosevelt: Theodore_Roosevelt_by_the_Pach_Bros_(4x5_cropped)_(3).jpg

[95] Miller Center, University of Virginia, "Joe Biden: Key Events," accessed November 9, 2026, https://millercenter.org/president/biden/key-events. The synthesis also draws on the linked administration essays.

[96] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, Congressional Profiles, 117th through 118th Congresses (range endpoints: https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/117th/ and https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/118th/), accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

[97] The White House, "Ending Certain Tariff Actions," February 20, 2026, https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/02/ending-certain-tariff-actions/; U.S. Congress, Public Law 119-21, July 4, 2025, https://www.congress.gov/119/plaws/publ21/PLAW-119publ21.pdf; and Associated Press, "Congress Returns to a Changed Washington after GOP's Election Wipeout," November 9, 2026, https://apnews.com/article/231d18d536141d9c19ac7e8cfca66eec. Accessed November 9, 2026; current events are provisional.

[98] U.S. House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives, 119th Congress profile, https://history.house.gov/Congressional-Overview/Profiles/119th/, accessed November 9, 2026; U.S. Senate Historical Office, "Party Division," https://www.senate.gov/about/parties-leadership/party-division.shtml. The list is selective, not every public law enacted.

William Howard Taft: William_Howard_Taft_by_Pach_Brothers_(3x4_ropped)_(cropped).jpg
Woodrow Wilson: President_Woodrow_Wilson_Harris_&_Ewing_(3x4_cropped_b).jpg
Warren G. Harding: Warren_G._Harding_1920s_portrait_(3x4_cropped).jpg
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