










Republican Party (United States)

"GOP" redirects here. For other uses, see [GOP \(disambiguation\)](#).

Republican Party

Abbreviation	GOP
Chairperson	Michael Whatley
Governing body	Republican National Committee
Co-Chair	Lara Trump
U.S. President-elect	Donald Trump
Senate Minority Leader	Mitch McConnell
House Majority Leader	Steve Scalise
Speaker of the House	Mike Johnson Alvan E. Bovay ^[1] Henry J. Raymond ^[2] <i>... and others</i>
Founders	Horace Greeley John C. Frémont Francis P. Blair Edwin D. Morgan Amos Tuck Salmon P. Chase
Founded	March 20, 1854; 170 years ago Ripon, Wisconsin , U.S.
Merger of	Whig Party ^{[3][4][5][6]} Free Soil Party ^[7] Anti-Nebraska movement ^[8]
Headquarters	310 First Street SE, Washington, D.C. , U.S.
Student wing	College Republicans High School Republican National Federation
Youth wing	Young Republicans Teen Age Republicans
Women's wing	National Federation of Republican Women
Overseas wing	Republicans Overseas
Ideology	Majority: Conservatism ^[9]

	<u>Factions:</u>
	Centrism ^[10]
	Christian right ^[11]
	Libertarianism ^[12]
	Right-wing populism ^[13]
<u>Political position</u>	Center-right ^[14] to right-wing ^[15]
	International Democracy Union ^[16]
<u>International affiliation</u>	Asia Pacific Democracy Union ^[17]
	European Conservatives and Reformists Party (global partner) ^[18]
	Problem Solvers Caucus
	Republican Governance Group
<u>Caucuses</u>	Republican Main Street Caucus
	Republican Study Committee
	Freedom Caucus
<u>Colors</u>	 Red
<u>Senate</u>	49 / 100 
<u>House of Representatives</u>	220 / 435 
<u>State Governors</u>	27 / 50 
<u>State upper chambers</u>	1,110 / 1,973 
<u>State lower chambers</u>	2,948 / 5,413 
<u>Territorial Governors</u>	0 / 5 
<u>Territorial upper chambers</u>	12 / 97 
<u>Territorial lower chambers</u>	9 / 91 
<u>Website</u>	gop.com Edit this at Wikidata

The **United States Republican Party**, also known as the **GOP** (**Grand Old Party**) is one of the [two biggest political parties in the United States](#). Since the mid-1850's, the party's main opponent has been the [Democratic Party](#). Both political parties have controlled American politics ever since.

The party sits at the [right-wing](#) of the [American political spectrum](#), with the Democratic Party being positioned to their [left](#). However, there also factions of the Republican Party that are [center-right](#) to [far-right](#).

Ideologically, Republicans favor fiscal and social conservatism.^[19] It opposes [abortion](#),^[20] [euthanasia](#), [labor unions](#), [affirmative action](#),^[21] [marijuana legalization](#), and a high [minimum wage](#).^[22] It advocates for [low taxes](#),^[23] [limited government](#),^[24] [gun rights](#),^[25] [free markets](#), and [free trade](#).^[26] It did, however, hold [protectionist](#) opinions during its early days,^[27] for example during [Theodore Roosevelt](#)'s presidency. It also held anti-free trade opinions during Donald Trump's presidency.^[28]

The symbol of the Republican party is the [elephant](#). This symbol was first used in 1874 in a political cartoon by [Thomas Nast](#).^[29]

The [Republican National Committee](#), or the RNC, is the main organization for the Republican Party in all 50 states. The Republican Party is not the same political party as the [Democratic-Republican Party](#). A state where most voters vote for Republican politicians is called a [red state](#).

History

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1874 cartoon in *Harpers Weekly*, first use of the elephant as symbol for the Republican party.

The Republican Party was founded in [Ripon, Wisconsin](#) in 1853,^[30] with the help of [Francis Preston Blair](#). The Republican Party was formed by people who did not like the [Kansas-Nebraska Act](#) of 1854, which would let each territory allow [slavery](#). The Republican Party was founded by past members of the [Free Soil Party](#) and the [Whig Party](#) who wanted to stop the expansion of slavery. The founders of the Republican Party wanted to stop the expansion of slavery because they believed it was against the ideals of the [Constitution](#) and [Declaration of Independence](#). Some founders of the Republican Party wanted to [abolish slavery](#) everywhere in the United States. The Republican Party's first candidate for president of the United States was [John C. Frémont](#) in 1856.

As the Whig Party collapsed, the Republicans became one of two major political parties in the United States (the Democratic Party was the other major political party). In 1860 [Abraham Lincoln](#), the first Republican president, was [elected](#). For the rest of the second half of the [19th century](#), the country had mostly Republican presidents. From 1860 until 1912 the Republicans lost the presidential election just twice (non-consecutively to Democrat [Grover Cleveland](#) in 1884 and 1892).

Republicans believed in [protectionism](#) (the belief that raising [taxes](#) on trades with other countries would protect the [economy](#)) during the second half of the 19th century and during the early half of the [20th century](#).

After [World War I](#), the [1920s](#) had three Republican presidents: [Warren Harding](#), [Calvin Coolidge](#), and [Herbert Hoover](#). It was called the Republican Decade for that reason. Harding and Coolidge made a plan for the economy which lowered taxes, made the [government](#) spend less [money](#), and got rid of rules and [laws](#) that affected the economy.

Near the end of the 1920s, the [stock market crashed](#) and the [Great Depression](#) began. During the Great Depression, the Republican Party became less popular. No Republicans were president between 1933 and 1953, when [Dwight Eisenhower](#) began his first of two consecutive terms as president (he was [re-elected](#) in 1956). [Richard Nixon](#) lost the [election](#) in 1960, but was [elected](#) president on the Republican ticket in 1968 and [again](#) in 1972.

[Ronald Reagan](#), an [actor](#) and conservative [political activist](#), was [elected](#) as president in 1980. Ronald Reagan became the first Republican president who was a former member of the [Democratic Party](#). Ronald Reagan served two terms and his successor [George H.W. Bush](#) served one term. Reagan wanted fewer laws to affect the economy, and wanted the [military](#) to be stronger.

[Bill Clinton](#) (a Democrat) was [elected](#) president in 1992, and [re-elected](#) in 1996. However, a new [Congress](#) was elected in [1994](#), and Republicans gained control of both the [House of Representatives](#) and the [Senate](#). They voted against many of Clinton's ideas and proposed ideas of their own such as a [line-item veto](#) and a [balanced budget amendment](#). In [2000](#), [George W. Bush](#) was elected president, defeating [Al Gore](#) in a very close election. Bush was re-elected in [2004](#).

After elections held in 2006, Republicans lost control of Congress. Democrat [Barack Obama](#) was [elected](#) in 2008 and [re-elected](#) in 2012. Republican [John Boehner](#) was elected the [Speaker of the House of Representatives](#) in 2010 and re-elected in 2012. In 2014, Republicans gained control of the Senate and the House. Boehner resigned in early October 2015 and was eventually succeeded by [Paul Ryan](#) of [Wisconsin](#) on October 29, 2015. On November 9, 2016, [Donald Trump](#) was [elected](#) president, defeating Democrat [Hillary Clinton](#) in the [Electoral College](#). Trump was the first Republican to take office as president since January 20, 2001, when [George W. Bush](#) was inaugurated. The Republicans lost the House and won the Senate in 2018. Paul Ryan retired in 2019 and was succeeded by [Nancy Pelosi](#), who is a member of the Democratic Party.

In [2020](#), the Republicans lost the presidency when [Joe Biden](#) defeated Donald Trump. In 2022, they were able to get control back of the House of Representatives, but not the Senate.

Republican beliefs

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Currently, the Republican Party is identified by [classical liberalism](#), [conservatism](#), and [right-wing](#) policies.





Not all Republicans believe in the same things, but generally, these are the things many Republicans support in all:

- Small government
- [Federalism](#) and [subsidiarity](#)
- [Capitalism](#), [laissez-faire](#), and [supply-side economics](#)
- Reduced government spending
- Aiding the State of Israel, the United States' allies, and defending American interests in the Middle East.
- Lower taxes
- A strong military and strong national defense with increased military spending
- The [2nd Amendment](#) and allowing people to own guns
- Educational choice, e.g. a voucher system such as the [D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program](#).
- Oppose [illegal immigration](#) and support of deportation
- Oppose government-run [health care](#)
- Oppose letting students go to [college](#) or [university](#) for free
- Oppose declaring [Washington D.C.](#) an official state.
- Oppose [abortion](#)^[31]

Most supporters for the Republican Party come from states in the [Southern](#), [Deep South](#), parts of the Midwest, and the rural Northeast areas of the US, as well as from [Montana](#); though they come from all over the United States, including the northern portion of California.

List of republican presidents

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#	President	Portrait	State	Term start	Term end	Years in office
16	Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865)		Illinois	March 4, 1861	April 15, 1865 ^[a]	4 years, 42 days
18	Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885)		Ohio	March 4, 1869	March 4, 1877	8 years, 0 days
19	Rutherford B. Hayes (1822–1893)		Ohio	March 4, 1877	March 4, 1881	4 years, 0 days
20	James A. Garfield (1831–1881)		Ohio	March 4, 1881	September 19, 1881 ^[a]	199 days

21	Chester A. Arthur (1829–1886)	New York	September 19, 1881	March 4, 1885	3 years, 166 days
23	Benjamin Harrison (1833–1901)	Indiana	March 4, 1889	March 4, 1893	4 years, 0 days
25	William McKinley (1843–1901)	Ohio	March 4, 1897	September 14, 1901 ^[a]	4 years, 194 days
26	Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919)	New York	September 14, 1901	March 4, 1909	7 years, 171 days
27	William Howard Taft (1857–1930)	Ohio	March 4, 1909	March 4, 1913	4 years, 0 days
29	Warren G. Harding (1865–1923)	Ohio	March 4, 1921	August 2, 1923 ^[a]	2 years, 151 days
30	Calvin Coolidge (1872–1933)	Massachusetts	August 2, 1923	March 4, 1929	5 years, 214 days
31	Herbert Hoover (1874–1964)	California	March 4, 1929	March 4, 1933	4 years, 0 days
34	Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890–1969)	Texas	January 20, 1953	January 20, 1961	8 years, 0 days
37	Richard Nixon (1913–1994)	California	January 20, 1969	August 9, 1974 ^[b]	5 years, 201 days
38	Gerald Ford (1913–2006)	Michigan	August 9, 1974	January 20, 1977	2 years, 164 days
40	Ronald Reagan (1911–2004)	California	January 20, 1981	January 20, 1989	8 years, 0 days
41	George H. W. Bush (1924–2018)	Texas	January 20, 1989	January 20, 1993	4 years, 0 days
43	George W. Bush (born 1946)	Texas	January 20, 2001	January 20, 2009	8 years, 0 days
45	Donald Trump (born 1946)	New York	January 20, 2017	January 20, 2021	4 years, 0 days
Elect	Donald Trump (born 1946)	Florida	January 20, 2025		–54 days

List of famous Republicans

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- [Buzz Aldrin](#) (US astronaut)
- [Susan B. Anthony](#) (women's rights activist, abolitionist activist)
- [Clara Barton](#) (Union Army Civil War nurse, humanitarian, Red Cross founder)
- [Jeb Bush](#) (Former governor of Florida, son of Former President George H. W. Bush and brother of Former President George W. Bush)
- [Jan Brewer](#) (Former governor of Arizona)
- [Dr. Ben Carson](#) (U.S. Secretary of HUD under President Trump, retired neurosurgeon)
- [Dick Cheney](#) (Vice President under President George W. Bush)
- [Chris Christie](#) (Former Governor of New Jersey)
- [Bing Crosby](#) (American singer and actor)
- [Thomas Dewey](#) (Presidential candidate in 1944 and 1948)
- [Bob Dole](#) (presidential candidate in 1996, former Senator from Kansas)
- [Elizabeth Dole](#) (former Senator from North Carolina, former U.S. Secretary of Labor under President George Bush, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation under President Reagan)
- [John Ford](#) (American film director and producer)
- [Newt Gingrich](#) (former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives)
- [Rudy Giuliani](#) (former mayor of New York City, former presidential candidate, former US attorney)
- [Barry Goldwater](#) (presidential candidate in 1964, former Senator from Arizona)
- [Chuck Hagel](#) (a former senator from Nebraska, former U.S. Secretary of Defense)
- [Nikki Haley](#) (UN Ambassador, former Governor of South Carolina)
- [Sean Hannity](#) (a well-known talk show host on Fox News)
- [Dennis Hastert](#) (former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives)
- [Orrin Hatch](#) (former President Pro-tempore of the Senate)
- [Jack Kemp](#) (vice-presidential candidate in 1996)
- [Jeane Kirkpatrick](#) (former UN Ambassador, professor)
- [Henry Kissinger](#) (former U.S. Secretary of State)
- [Rush Limbaugh](#) (a radio talk show host)
- [Richard Lugar](#) (former senator from Indiana)
- [John McCain](#) (presidential candidate in 2008, former Senator from Arizona)
- [Mitch McConnell](#) (Senate Majority Leader)
- [Sarah Palin](#) (vice presidential candidate in 2008, former Governor of Alaska)
- [Dr. Rand Paul](#) (Senator from Kentucky, physician)
- [Dr. Ron Paul](#) (former U.S. Congressman from Texas, physician, author)
- [Colin Powell](#) (general during Persian Gulf War, Secretary of State)
- [Paul Robeson](#) (American singer, actor, and Civil Rights activist)
- [Nelson Rockefeller](#) (Vice President under President Gerald Ford, former Governor of New York)
- [Mitt Romney](#) (former Governor of Massachusetts, presidential candidate in 2012, Senator from Utah)

- [Paul Ryan](#) (former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, vice presidential candidate in 2012, U.S. Congressman)
- [Condoleezza Rice](#) (former U.S. Secretary of State)
- [Karl Rove](#) (former strategist to President George W. Bush)
- [Donald Rumsfeld](#) (U.S. Secretary of Defense under President George W. Bush)
- [Mark Sanford](#) (Governor of South Carolina)
- [Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) (American actor, former governor of California)
- [Elizabeth Cady Stanton](#) (abolitionist activist, women's rights activist)
- [Kenneth Starr](#) (U.S. prosecutor of Democrat Bill Clinton)
- [Michael Steele](#) (Former chairman of the Republican National Committee)
- [Ted Stevens](#) (Former Senator from Alaska)
- [Dr. Mary Edwards Walker](#) (Union Army Civil War doctor and surgeon, abolitionist activist, women's rights activist)
- [John Wayne](#) (American actor)

Notes

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- ↑ [1.0](#) [1.1](#) [1.2](#) [1.3](#) Died in office.
- ↑ Resigned from office.

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