# List of presidents of the United States

The president of the United States is the head of state and head of government of the United States, [1] indirectly elected to a four-year term via the Electoral College. [2] The officeholder leads the executive branch of the federal government and is the commander-in-chief of the United States Armed Forces. [3] Since the office was established in 1789, 45 men have served in 46 presidencies. The first president, George Washington, won a unanimous vote of the Electoral College; [4] one, Grover Cleveland, served two non-consecutive terms and is therefore counted as the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, giving rise to the discrepancy between the number of presidencies and the number of persons who have served as president. [5]

The presidency of William Henry Harrison, who died 31 days after taking office in 1841, was the shortest in American history. [6] Franklin D. Roosevelt served the longest, over twelve years, before dying early in his fourth term in 1945. He is the only U.S. president to have served more than two terms. [7] Since the ratification of the Twenty-second Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1951, no person may be elected president more than twice, and no one who has served more than two years of a term to which someone else was elected may be elected more than once. [8]



White House, official residence of the president of the United States, May

Four presidents died in office of natural causes (William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Warren G. Harding, and Franklin D. Roosevelt), four were assassinated (Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley and John F. Kennedy), and one resigned (Richard Nixon, facing impeachment). John Tyler was the first vice president to assume the presidency during a presidential term, and set the precedent that a vice president who does so becomes the fully functioning president with his presidency.

Throughout most of its history, American politics has been dominated by political parties. The Constitution is silent on the issue of political parties, and at the time it came into force in 1789, no organized parties existed. Soon after the 1st Congress convened, factions began rallying around dominant Washington administration officials, such as Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Concerned about the capacity of political parties to destroy the fragile unity holding the nation together, Washington remained unaffiliated with any political faction or party throughout his eight-year presidency. He was, and remains, the only U.S. president never affiliated with a political party.

The incumbent president is <u>Joe Biden</u>. [13] There are five living former presidents: <u>Jimmy Carter</u>, <u>Bill Clinton</u>, <u>George W. Bush</u>, <u>Barack Obama</u>, and Donald Trump. The most recent to die was George H. W. Bush, on November 30, 2018. [14]

# **Contents**

**Presidents** 

See also

Notes

References

Works cited

**External links** 

# **Presidents**

No. <sup>[a]</sup>	Portrait	Name (Birth– Death)	Term <sup>[15]</sup>	Party <sup>[b][16]</sup>	Election	Vice President <sup>[17]</sup>
1		George Washington (1732–1799) [18]	April 30, 1789 – March 4, 1797	Unaffiliated	<u>1788–89</u> <u>1792</u>	<u>J</u> ohn Adams <sup>[C]</sup>
2		John Adams (1735–1826) [20]	March 4, 1797 — March 4, 1801	<u>Federalist</u>	<u>1796</u>	Thomas Jefferson <sup>[d]</sup>
3		Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) [22]	March 4, 1801  March 4, 1809	Democratic- Republican	<u>1800</u> <u>1804</u>	Aaron Burr  George Clinton <sup>[e]</sup>
4		James <u>Madison</u> (1751–1836) [24]	March 4, 1809 – March 4, 1817	Democratic- Republican	<u>1808</u> <u>1812</u>	George Clinton  Vacant after April 20, 1812  Elbridge Gerry  Vacant after November 23, 1814
5		James Monroe (1758–1831) [25]	March 4, 1817 — March 4, 1825	Democratic- Republican	<u>1816</u> <u>1820</u>	Daniel D. Tompkins
<u>6</u>		John Quincy Adams (1767–1848) [26]	March 4, 1825 — March 4, 1829	Democratic- Republican <sup>[f]</sup> National Republican	1824	John C. Calhoun <sup>[g]</sup>

No. <sup>[a]</sup>	Portrait	Name (Birth– Death)	Term <sup>[15]</sup>	Party <sup>[b][16]</sup>	Election	Vice President <sup>[17]</sup>
7		Andrew Jackson (1767–1845) [29]	March 4, 1829 _ March 4, 1837	Democratic	<u>1828</u> <u>1832</u>	John C. Calhoun <sup>[h]</sup> Vacant after December 28, 1832  Martin Van Buren
8		Martin Van Buren (1782–1862) [30]	March 4, 1837 — March 4, 1841	Democratic	<u>1836</u>	Richard Mentor Johnson
9		William Henry Harrison (1773–1841) [31]	March 4, 1841 _ April 4, 1841 <sup>[e]</sup>	Whig	1840	<u>John Tyler</u>
10		John Tyler (1790–1862) [32]	April 4, 1841 <sup>[]</sup>  March 4, 1845	Whig <sup>[j]</sup> Unaffiliated	-	Vacant throughout presidency
11		James K. Polk (1795–1849) [35]	March 4, 1845 _ March 4, 1849	Democratic	1844	George M. Dallas
12		Zachary Taylor (1784–1850) [36]	March 4, 1849 _ July 9, 1850 <sup>[e]</sup>	Whig	<u>1848</u>	Millard Fillmore

No. <sup>[a]</sup>	Portrait	Name (Birth– Death)	Term <sup>[15]</sup>	Party <sup>[b][16]</sup>	Election	Vice President <sup>[17]</sup>
13		Millard Fillmore (1800–1874) [37]	July 9, 1850 <sup>[k]</sup> _ March 4, 1853	Whig	_	Vacant throughout presidency
<u>14</u>		Franklin Pierce (1804–1869) [39]	March 4, 1853 — March 4, 1857	Democratic	<u>1852</u>	William R. King <sup>[e]</sup> Vacant after April 18, 1853
<u>15</u>		James Buchanan (1791–1868) [40]	March 4, 1857 — March 4, 1861	Democratic	<u>1856</u>	John C. Breckinridge
<u>16</u>		Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865) [41]	March 4, 1861 — April 15, 1865 <sup>[e]</sup>	Republican  National Union <sup>[I]</sup>	<u>1860</u> <u>1864</u>	Hannibal Hamlin Andrew Johnson
17		Andrew Johnson (1808–1875) [43]	April 15, 1865 - March 4, 1869	National Union[m]  Democratic	-	Vacant throughout presidency
					1868	Schuyler Colfax
18		Ulysses S. Grant (1822–1885) [44]	March 4, 1869 – March 4, 1877	Republican	<u>1872</u>	Henry Wilson [e]  Vacant after November 22, 1875

No. <sup>[a]</sup>	Portrait	Name (Birth– Death)	Term <sup>[15]</sup>	Party <sup>[b][16]</sup>	Election	Vice President <sup>[17]</sup>
<u>19</u>		Rutherford B. Hayes (1822–1893) [45]	March 4, 1877 — March 4, 1881	Republican	<u>1876</u>	William A. Wheeler
20		James A. Garfield (1831–1881) [46]	March 4, 1881 – September 19, 1881 <sup>[e]</sup>	Republican	<u>1880</u>	Chester A. Arthur
21		Chester A. Arthur (1829–1886) [47]	September 19, 1881 <sup>[n]</sup> — March 4, 1885	Republican	-	Vacant throughout presidency
22		Grover Cleveland (1837–1908) [50]	March 4, 1885 – March 4, 1889	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>1884</u>	Thomas A. Hendricks <sup>[e]</sup> Vacant after  November 25, 1885
23		Benjamin Harrison (1833–1901) [51]	March 4, 1889 — March 4, 1893	Republican	1888	Levi P. Morton
24		Grover Cleveland (1837–1908) [50]	March 4, 1893 _ March 4, 1897	<u>Democratic</u>	1892	Adlai Stevenson I

<u>No.<sup>[a]</sup></u>	Portrait	Name (Birth– Death)	Term <sup>[15]</sup>	Party <sup>[b][16]</sup>	Election	Vice President <sup>[17]</sup>
25		William McKinley (1843–1901) [52]	March 4, 1897  September 14, 1901 <sup>[e]</sup>	Republican	<u>1896</u> <u>1900</u>	Vacant after November 21, 1899  Theodore Roosevelt
26		Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919) [53]	September 14, 1901 — March 4, 1909	Republican	<u>-</u> 1904	Vacant through March 4, 1905  Charles W. Fairbanks
27		William Howard Taft (1857–1930) [54]	March 4, 1909  March 4, 1913	Republican	1908	James S. Sherman <sup>[e]</sup> Vacant after October 30, 1912
28		Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924) [55]	March 4, 1913 – March 4, 1921	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>1912</u> <u>1916</u>	Thomas R. Marshall
<u>29</u>		Warren G. Harding (1865–1923) [56]	March 4, 1921 – August 2, 1923 <sup>[e]</sup>	Republican	<u>1920</u>	Calvin Coolidge
<u>30</u>		Calvin <u>Coolidge</u> (1872–1933) [57]	August 2, 1923 <sup>[0]</sup>  March 4, 1929	Republican	<u>-</u> <u>1924</u>	Vacant through March 4, 1925  Charles G. Dawes

<u>No.<sup>[a]</sup></u>	Portrait	Name (Birth– Death)	Term <sup>[15]</sup>	Party <sup>[b][16]</sup>	Election	Vice President <sup>[17]</sup>
31		Herbert Hoover (1874–1964) [60]	March 4, 1929 — March 4, 1933	Republican	<u>1928</u>	Charles Curtis
32		Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882–1945) [61]	March 4, 1933 – April 12, 1945 <sup>[e]</sup>	<u>Democratic</u>	1932 1936 1940 1944	John Nance Garner  Henry A. Wallace  Harry S. Truman
33		Harry S. <u>Truman</u> (1884–1972) [62]	April 12, 1945 - January 20, 1953	Democratic		Vacant through January 20, 1949 Alben W. Barkley
<u>34</u>		Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890–1969) [63]	January 20, 1953 – January 20, 1961	Republican	<u>1952</u> <u>1956</u>	Richard Nixon
35		John F. Kennedy (1917–1963) [64]	January 20, 1961 – November 22, 1963 <sup>[e]</sup>	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>1960</u>	Lyndon B. Johnson
36		<u>Lyndon B.</u> <u>Johnson</u> (1908–1973) [65]	November 22, 1963 — January 20, 1969	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>-</u> <u>1964</u>	Vacant through January 20, 1965  Hubert Humphrey

No. <sup>[a]</sup>	Portrait	Name (Birth– Death)	Term <sup>[15]</sup>	Party <sup>[b][16]</sup>	Election	Vice President <sup>[17]</sup>
<u>37</u>		Richard Nixon (1913–1994) [66]	January 20, 1969 – August 9, 1974 <sup>[h]</sup>	Republican	<u>1968</u> <u>1972</u>	Spiro Agnew <sup>[h]</sup> Vacant: October 10 – December 6, 1973  Gerald Ford <sup>[p]</sup>
38	***	Gerald Ford (1913–2006) [67]	August 9, 1974 – January 20, 1977	Republican	-	Vacant through December 19, 1974  Nelson Rockefeller <sup>[p]</sup>
39		Jimmy Carter (b. 1924) [68]	January 20, 1977 – January 20, 1981	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>1976</u>	Walter Mondale
<u>40</u>		Ronald Reagan (1911–2004) [69]	January 20, 1981 – January 20, 1989	Republican	<u>1980</u> <u>1984</u>	George H. W. Bush
41		George H.  W. Bush (1924–2018) [70]	January 20, 1989 – January 20, 1993	Republican	<u>1988</u>	Dan Quayle
42		Bill Clinton (b. 1946) [71]	January 20, 1993 – January 20, 2001	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>1992</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>Al Gore</u>

No. <sup>[a]</sup>	Portrait	Name (Birth– Death)	Term <sup>[15]</sup>	Party <sup>[b][16]</sup>	Election	Vice President <sup>[17]</sup>
<u>43</u>		George W.  Bush (b. 1946) [72]	January 20, 2001 – January 20, 2009	<u>Republican</u>	<u>2000</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Dick Cheney</u>
<u>44</u>		Barack Obama (b. 1961) [73]	January 20, 2009 — January 20, 2017	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>2008</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>Joe Biden</u>
<u>45</u>		Donald Trump (b. 1946) [74]	January 20, 2017 _ January 20, 2021	Republican	<u>2016</u>	Mike Pence
<u>46</u>		Joe Biden (b. 1942) [13]	January 20, 2021 – Incumbent	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>2020</u>	Kamala Harris

#### See also

- Acting President of the United States
- Founding Fathers of the United States
- President of the Continental Congress

## **Notes**

- a. Presidents are numbered according to uninterrupted periods served by the same person. For example, George Washington served two consecutive terms and is counted as the first president (not the first and second). Upon the resignation of 37th president, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford became the 38th president even though he simply served out the remainder of Nixon's second term and was never elected to the presidency in his own right. Grover Cleveland was both the 22nd president and the 24th president because his two terms were not consecutive. A vice president who temporarily becomes acting president under the Twenty-fifth Amendment to the Constitution is not counted, because the president remains in office during such a period.
- b. Reflects the president's political party at the start of their presidency. Changes during their time in office are noted. Also reflects the vice president's political party unless otherwise noted beside the individual's name.
- c. Political parties had not been anticipated when the Constitution was drafted, nor did they exist at the time of the first presidential election in 1788–89. When they did develop, during Washington's first term, Adams joined the faction that became the Federalist Party. The elections of 1792 were the first ones in the United States that were contested on anything resembling a partisan basis [19]
- d. The 1796 presidential election was the first contested American presidential election and the only one in which a president and vice president were elected from opposing political parties. Federalist John Adams was elected president, and Jefferson of the Democratic-Republicans was elected vice president. [21]
- e. Died in office[23]

- f. Early during Adams' term the Democratic-Republican Party dissolved; his allies in Congress and at the state-level were referred to as "Adams' Men" during the Adams presidency. When Andrew Jackson became president in 1829, this group became the "Anti-Jackson" opposition, and organized themselves as the National Republican Party. [27]
- g. John Calhoun, formerly a Democratic-Republican, founded the <u>Nullifier Party</u> in 1828 to oppose the <u>Tariff of 1828</u> and advance the cause of <u>states' rights</u>, but was brought on as Andrew Jackson's running mate in the 1828 presidential election in an effort to broaden the democratic coalition led by Jackson. [28]
- h. Resigned from office[23]
- i. John Tyler was sworn in as president on April 6, 1841.[33]
- j. John Tyler was elected vice president on the Whig Party ticket in 1840. His policy priorities as president soon proved to be opposed to most of the Whig agenda, and he was expelled from the party five months in office. [34]

- k. Millard Fillmore was sworn in as president on July 10, 1850. [38]
  - I. When he ran for reelection in 1864, Republican Abraham Lincoln formed a bipartisan <u>electoral alliance</u> with <u>War Democrats</u> by selecting Democrat Andrew Johnson as his running mate, and running on the **National Union Party** ticket. [42]
- m. While president, Johnson tried and failed to build a party of loyalists under the National Union banner. Near the end of his presidency, Johnson rejoined the Democratic Party. [43]
- n. Chester A. Arthur was initially sworn in as president on September 20, 1881, [48] and then again on September 22. [49]
- o. Calvin Coolidge was initially sworn in as president on August 3, 1923, [58] and then again on August 21. [59]
- p. Appointed as vice president under terms of the  $\underline{\text{Twenty-fifth}}$  Amendment, Section 2<sup>[23]</sup>

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- 5. Schaller & Williams (2003), p. 192.
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- 8. Peabody & Gant (1999), p. 565.
- 9. Abbott (2005), pp. 627-644.
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