

Party Government Since 1857

This chart shows the party divisions in both chambers of Congress and the party control of the White House since the advent of the modern party system. When the President's party holds the majority in both chambers, it is considered a unified government.

Since 1857, the government has been unified **48** times, **23** under Democratic control and **25** under Republican control.¹

Congress	House Majority	Senate Majority	Presidency	Party Government
35th (1857–1859)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Buchanan)	Unified
36th (1859–1861)	Republicans	Democrats	Democrat (Buchanan)	Divided
37th (1861–1863)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Lincoln)	Unified
38th (1863–1865)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Lincoln)	Unified
39th (1865–1867)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Lincoln) / Democrat (A. Johnson)	Unified / Divided ²
40th (1867–1869)	Republicans	Republicans	Democrat (A. Johnson)	Divided
41st (1869–1871)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Grant)	Unified
42nd (1871–1873)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Grant)	Unified
43rd (1873–1875)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Grant)	Unified
44th (1875–1877)	Democrats	Republicans	Republican (Grant)	Divided
45th (1877–1879)	Democrats	Republicans	Republican (Hayes)	Divided
46th (1879–1881)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (Hayes)	Divided
47th (1881–1883)	Republicans	Republicans ³	Republican (Garfield / Arthur) ⁴	Unified
48th (1883–1885)	Democrats	Republicans	Republican (Arthur)	Divided
49th (1885–1887)	Democrats	Republicans	Democrat (Cleveland)	Divided

Congress	House Majority	Senate Majority	Presidency	Party Government
50th (1887–1889)	Democrats	Republicans	Democrat (Cleveland)	Divided
51st (1889–1891)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Harrison)	Unified
52nd (1891–1893)	Democrats	Republicans	Republican (Harrison)	Divided
53rd (1893–1895)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Cleveland)	Unified
54th (1895–1897)	Republicans	Republicans	Democrat (Cleveland)	Divided
55th (1897–1899)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (McKinley)	Unified
56th (1899–1901)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (McKinley)	Unified
57th (1901–1903)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (McKinley / T. Roosevelt) ⁵	Unified
58th (1903–1905)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (T. Roosevelt)	Unified
59th (1905–1907)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (T. Roosevelt)	Unified
60th (1907–1909)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (T. Roosevelt)	Unified
61st (1909–1911)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Taft)	Unified
62nd (1911–1913)	Democrats	Republicans	Republican (Taft)	Divided
63rd (1913–1915)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Wilson)	Unified
64th (1915–1917)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Wilson)	Unified
65th (1917–1919)	Democrats ⁶	Democrats	Democrat (Wilson)	Unified
66th (1919–1921)	Republicans	Republicans	Democrat (Wilson)	Divided
67th (1921–1923)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Harding)	Unified
68th (1923–1925)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Harding / Coolidge) ⁷	Unified
69th (1925–1927)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Coolidge)	Unified
70th (1927–1929)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Coolidge)	Unified

Congress	House Majority	Senate Majority	Presidency	Party Government
71st (1929–1931)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Hoover)	Unified
72nd (1931–1933)	Democrats ⁸	Republicans	Republican (Hoover)	Divided
73rd (1933–1935)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (F. Roosevelt)	Unified
74th (1935–1937)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (F. Roosevelt)	Unified
75th (1937–1939)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (F. Roosevelt)	Unified
76th (1939–1941)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (F. Roosevelt)	Unified
77th (1941–1943)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (F. Roosevelt)	Unified
78th (1943–1945)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (F. Roosevelt)	Unified
79th (1945–1947)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (F. Roosevelt / Truman) ⁹	Unified
80th (1947–1949)	Republicans	Republicans	Democrat (Truman)	Divided
81st (1949–1951)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Truman)	Unified
82nd (1951–1953)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Truman)	Unified
83rd (1953–1955)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Eisenhower)	Unified
84th (1955–1957)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (Eisenhower)	Divided
85th (1957–1959)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (Eisenhower)	Divided
86th (1959–1961)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (Eisenhower)	Divided
87th (1961–1963)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Kennedy)	Unified
88th (1963–1965)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Kennedy / L. Johnson) ¹⁰	Unified
89th (1965–1967)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (L. Johnson)	Unified
90th (1967–1969)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (L. Johnson)	Unified
91st (1969–1971)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (Nixon)	Divided

Congress	House Majority	Senate Majority	Presidency	Party Government
92nd (1971–1973)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (Nixon)	Divided
93rd (1973–1975)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (Nixon / Ford) ¹¹	Divided
94th (1975–1977)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (Ford)	Divided
95th (1977–1979)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Carter)	Unified
96th (1979–1981)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Carter)	Unified
97th (1981–1983)	Democrats	Republicans	Republican (Reagan)	Divided
98th (1983–1985)	Democrats	Republicans	Republican (Reagan)	Divided
99th (1985–1987)	Democrats	Republicans	Republican (Reagan)	Divided
100th (1987–1989)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (Reagan)	Divided
101st (1989–1991)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (G.H.W. Bush)	Divided
102nd (1991–1993)	Democrats	Democrats	Republican (G.H.W. Bush)	Divided
103rd (1993–1995)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Clinton)	Unified
104th (1995–1997)	Republicans	Republicans	Democrat (Clinton)	Divided
105th (1997–1999)	Republicans	Republicans	Democrat (Clinton)	Divided
106th (1999–2001)	Republicans	Republicans	Democrat (Clinton)	Divided
107th (2001–2003)	Republicans	Republicans / Democrats ¹²	Republican (G.W. Bush)	Unified / Divided
108th (2003–2005)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (G.W. Bush)	Unified
109th (2005–2007)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (G.W. Bush)	Unified
110th (2007–2009)	Democrats	Democrats ¹³	Republican (G.W. Bush)	Divided
111th (2009–2011)	Democrats	Democrats	Democrat (Obama)	Unified
112th (2011–2013)	Republicans	Democrats	Democrat (Obama)	Divided

Congress	House Majority	Senate Majority	Presidency	Party Government
113th (2013–2015)	Republicans	Democrats	Democrat (Obama)	Divided
114th (2015–2017)	Republicans	Republicans	Democrat (Obama)	Divided
115th (2017–2019)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Trump)	Unified
116th (2019–2021)	Democrats	Republicans	Republican (Trump)	Divided
117th (2021–2023)	Democrats	Democrats ¹⁴	Democrat (Biden)	Unified
118th (2023–2025)	Republicans	Democrats	Democrat (Biden)	Divided
119th (2025–2027)	Republicans	Republicans	Republican (Trump)	Unified

Footnotes

¹ The data sources for this chart are the House of Representatives [Party Divisions \(/Institution/Party-Divisions/Party-Divisions/\)](#), the Senate Historical Office's [Party Division webpage \(https://www.senate.gov/history/partydiv.htm\)](#), and the [Biographical Directory of the United States Congress \(https://bioguide.congress.gov/\)](#). Party divisions are based on Election Day results unless otherwise indicated.

² When Republican President Abraham Lincoln died on April 15, 1865, then-Vice President Andrew Johnson, a Democrat, became President for the remainder of the 39th Congress.

³ The Senate was evenly divided in the 47th Congress, resulting in a split in power. United States Senate, "The Great Senate Deadlock of 1881," available http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/Senate_Deadlock_1881.htm.

⁴ When Republican President James Garfield died on July 2, 1881, then-Vice President Chester Arthur, a Republican, became President for the remainder of the 47th Congress.

⁵ When Republican President William McKinley died on September 14, 1901, then-Vice President Theodore Roosevelt, a Republican, became President for the remainder of the 57th Congress.

⁶ Though more Republicans were elected than Democrats to the House in 1916, third party Members of the 65th Congress (1917–1919) caucused with the Democrats to re-elect Speaker James Beauchamp “Champ” Clark.

⁷ When Republican President Warren Harding died on August 2, 1923, then-Vice President Calvin Coolidge, a Republican, became President for the remainder of the 68th Congress.

⁸ Elections in the fall of 1930 had provided Republicans with a slim majority in the chamber. But between Election Day 1930 and the opening of the new Congress 13 months later, 14 Representatives-elect died. In the subsequent special elections to fill those vacancies, Democrats won enough seats to recapture the majority. On opening day, Democrats organized the chamber with several Members from third parties. Office of the Historian, "[The Opening of the 72nd Congress \(/HistoricalHighlight/Detail/35436\)](#)."

⁹ When Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, then-Vice President Harry Truman, a Democrat, became President for the remainder of the 79th Congress.

¹⁰ When Democratic President John Kennedy died on November 22, 1963, then-Vice President Lyndon Johnson, a Democrat, became President for the remainder of the 88th Congress.

¹¹ When Republican President Richard Nixon resigned on August 9, 1974, then-Vice President Gerald Ford, a Republican, became President for the remainder of the 93rd Congress.

¹² Control of the U.S. Senate changed hands several times in the 107th Congress. From January 3–20, 2001, the Senate was evenly divided between the two parties, the Democrats held the majority due to the deciding vote of outgoing Democratic Vice President Al Gore. After the inauguration of Republican President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard Cheney—with Cheney holding the deciding vote—Senate Republicans assumed the majority. In June 2001, Senator James Jeffords of Vermont switched from being a Republican to an Independent, caucusing with the Democrats, and transferring the majority to the Democrats. Late in that Congress, the death of Democratic Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, the appointment of an Independent to fill his seat, and the election of Republican Senator James M. Talent of Missouri to fill the remainder of the term of the late Senator Mel Carnahan, shifted the balance once again to the Republicans in November 2002, for the remaining two months of the Congress. See United States Senate, "Party Division," <https://www.senate.gov/history/partydiv.htm>.

¹³ In 2006, two Independent Senators caucused with the Democrats, giving that party the majority. United States Senate, "Party Division," <https://www.senate.gov/history/partydiv.htm>.

¹⁴ On the opening day of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress, the U.S. Senate was comprised of 51 Republicans, 46 Democrats, 2 Independents (who caucused with the Democrats), and 1 vacancy. No candidate received a majority of votes in the general election for Georgia's class 2 seat or in the special election for Georgia's class 3 seat. Runoff elections for both of the state's Senate seats were scheduled for January 5, 2021. Democratic candidates won both elections. Following the inauguration of Vice President Kamala D. Harris on January 20, 2021, the Senate had a Democratic majority, comprised of 50 Republicans, 48 Democrats, and 2 Independents (who caucus with the Democrats). The Vice President is able to cast tie-breaking votes in the Senate. See United States Senate, "Party Division," <https://www.senate.gov/history/partydiv.htm>.

Office of the Historian: history@mail.house.gov (<mailto:history@mail.house.gov>)

Office of Art & Archives, Office of the Clerk: art@mail.house.gov (<mailto:art@mail.house.gov>), archives@mail.house.gov (<mailto:archives@mail.house.gov>)