

Pace of Senate confirmations: How does Biden compare with previous presidents?

*Nominations to Senate-confirmed positions
September 9, 2021, at 8:00 a.m.*

Presidents are responsible for about 4,000 political appointments, about 1,200 of which require Senate confirmation. This paper includes a comparison of how President Joe Biden's pace of appointments and confirmations compares with the previous three presidents.

The table below includes the number of nominations submitted to and confirmed by the Senate for positions in the executive, legislative and judicial branches on key dates early in an administration. Nominations for concurrent positions, like the ambassador to the General Assembly of the United Nations and the representative of the United States in the United Nations Security Council, are counted as a single nomination.

For a detailed list of many key nominees and their statuses, see the [Biden Political Appointee Tracker](#) which is updated daily by the [Partnership for Public Service](#) and [The Washington Post](#).

| | | Nominations and confirmations by key dates | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|--|----------|---------|---------|--------|-------------|
| | | Jan. 20 | April 29 | May 31 | June 30 | August | Aug. |
| | | Day 1 | Day 100 | Day 132 | Day 162 | Recess | Recess date |
| W. Bush | Submitted | 13 | 85 | 216 | 308 | 448 | Aug. 3 |
| | Confirmed | 7 | 34 | 126 | 130 | 291 | |
| Obama | Submitted | 34 | 190 | 225 | 325 | 430 | Aug. 7 |
| | Confirmed | 7 | 67 | 145 | 179 | 304 | |
| Trump | Submitted | 26 | 72 | 118 | 213 | 308 | Aug. 3 |
| | Confirmed | 2 | 28 | 42 | 49 | 130 | |
| Biden | Submitted | 36 | 220 | 243 | 304 | 442 | Aug. 11 |
| | Confirmed | 1 | 44 | 57 | 91 | 144 | |

Notes:

Submitted The submitted category captures the number of nominations formally submitted to the Senate. Due to the confirmation process, nominations are often announced days or weeks before they are officially submitted to the Senate.

Confirmed The number of confirmed nominations captures non-concurrent positions.
For example, we count nominations to be the ambassador to the General Assembly of the UN and a separate nomination to be the representative of the United States in the UN Security Council as a single nomination.

Dates The days refer to the number of days after the first inauguration for W. Bush, Obama, Trump and Biden (2001, 2009, 2017 and 2021, respectively).

Source: Data compiled by the Center for Presidential Transition from [Congress.gov](#) and [The Washington Post](#) and [Partnership for Public Service Biden Political Appointee Tracker](#). Only includes civilian nominations.