

Presidency and Political Parties

- Nominations and elections
- Symbolic leader of party
- Control over national party organization
- Partisan support in Congress
- Partisan appointments to executive and judicial branches

President as Symbolic Party Leader

Republican party = President George W. Bush

<http://www.rnc.org>

<http://www.dnc.org>

President as Symbolic Party Leader

- Platform and webpage contain president's positions
- Public identify president's issues as party's issues
- Executive-centered party versus headless opposition party

Presidential Control Over National Party Organization

- Past - connections to states
- Today - build support for president's programs
- Problems
 - divided duties of party leaders
 - make president's policies too partisan

President Selects Party Chair

IN
(Rep)

OUT
(Dem)

Ken
Mehlman

Howard
Dean

Conflict with
White House
staff

President Major Fund Raiser for Party

- Raises money for national party
- Attends fundraisers for party's candidates

Bush at May 2004 GOP
fund raiser = \$38.5 million

Presidents, Congress & Parties

- Divided versus unified government
- Unified
 - innovative policy
 - Roosevelt New Deal
 - Johnson Medicare

Presidents, Congress & Parties

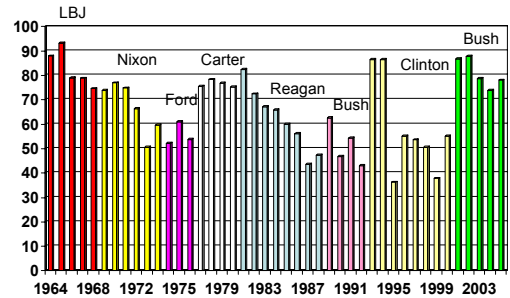
- Divided government
 - stalemate
 - December 1995, January 1996 government shutdown
 - compromise policy

Presidents Attempt to Set Congressional Agenda

- Speeches
- Bills and budget
 - OMB vs. Congressional Budget Office

George W. Bush
State of the Union
January 2001

Presidential Success in Congress

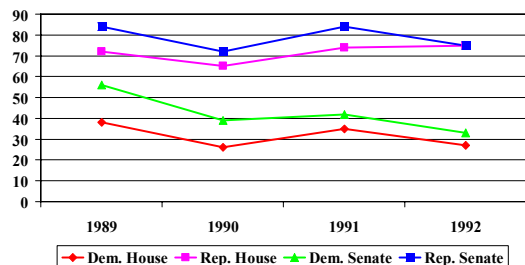


Source: Congressional Quarterly Weekly Reports

Presidential Success Rate in Congress

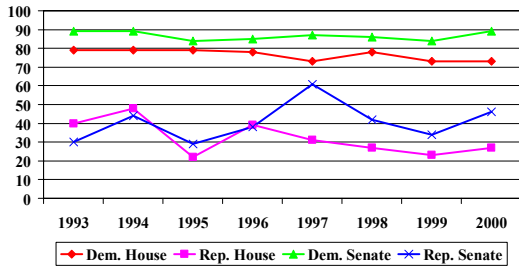
- Partisanship
 - 2/3rds from own party
 - 1/2 or less from opposition party
- Bipartisanship
 - more on foreign than domestic

Success Rate for George Bush (1989-1992)



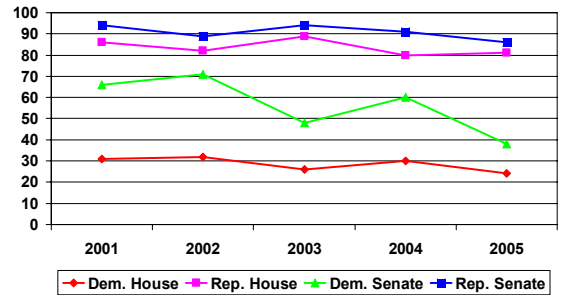
Source: Congressional Quarterly Weekly Reports

Success Rate for Bill Clinton



Source: Congressional Quarterly Weekly Reports

Success Rate for George H.W. Bush

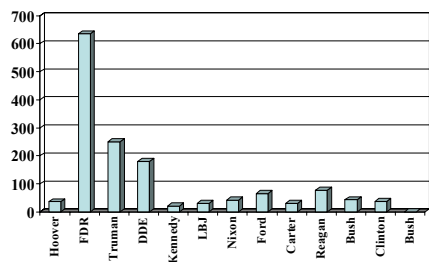


Congressional Quarterly Weekly Reports

Presidential Vetoes

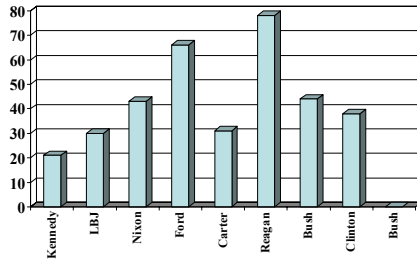
- Regular veto (1,484 - 58%, 1789 to 2001)
 - 10 days to sign, ignore, or return to Congress
 - Weakness or strength?
 - Veto override - 2/3rd vote in both House and Senate (106 total - 7%)
- Pocket veto (1,066 - 42%)
 - Congress adjourns during 10 day period
 - Unsigned bills automatically vetoed

Number of Presidential Vetoes



Source: Clerk of the House of Representatives

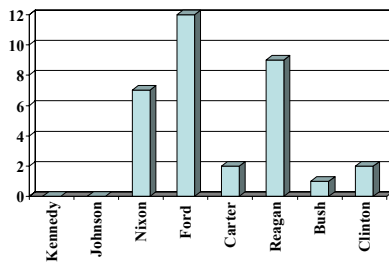
Number of Presidential Vetoes Since 1960



Presidential Vetoes

- Number of vetoes unrelated to party size in Congress
- Number of veto overrides is related to party size in Congress

Number of Vetoes Overridden



106 out of 1484 vetoes overridden = 7%

Reasons for Presidential Influence on Own Party Members in Congress

- Policy agreement
- Successful president helps party
- Small favors
 - fundraisers
 - photo ops

Reasons for Less Presidential Influence on Own Party Members in Congress

- No sanctions
- Little personal contact between president and rank-and-file members
- Different constituencies
 - national
 - district/state

Partisan Appointments

- Presidents appoint less than 10% of executive branch
- Presidents appoint
 - Heads of Department/Cabinet
 - Executive Office of the President
 - About 3,500 people
- 2/3rds along party lines

Appointment Not Equal Loyalty

- Other reasons for appointment
- Staggered terms of boards
 - Federal Reserve Board
- Some boards require bipartisan members
 - Federal Election Commission, 1/2 from each
- Appointees “captured” by agency