



POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS MEMO

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DATA AS OF MARCH 18, YEAR 2, FOR EACH PRESIDENT

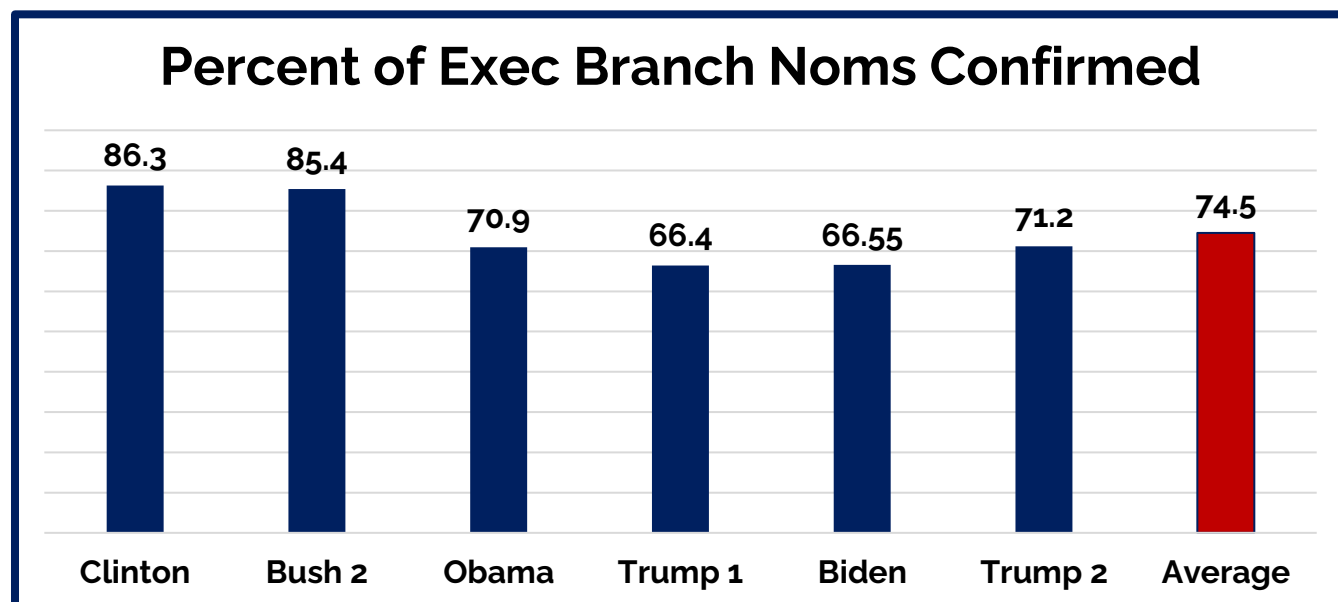
**ADVANCING AMERICAN
FREEDOM FOUNDATION**

Background: [Article II](#) of the Constitution gives the President authority to nominate and, with Senate consent, to appoint “Officers of the United States.” Nominations are referred to the relevant Senate committee and, if approved, listed on the [Executive Calendar](#). The Majority Leader decides which nominations to put before the Senate for consideration. The Minority Leader can allow the Senate to do so efficiently or force it to use time-consuming procedures.

The “Plum Book”: Published after each presidential election, the “Plum Book” (the cover is plum-colored) lists executive and legislative branch positions filled outside the regular civil service process. The [2024 Plum Book](#) includes 936 positions requiring presidential nomination and Senate confirmation.¹

Traditional Confirmation Process Norms:

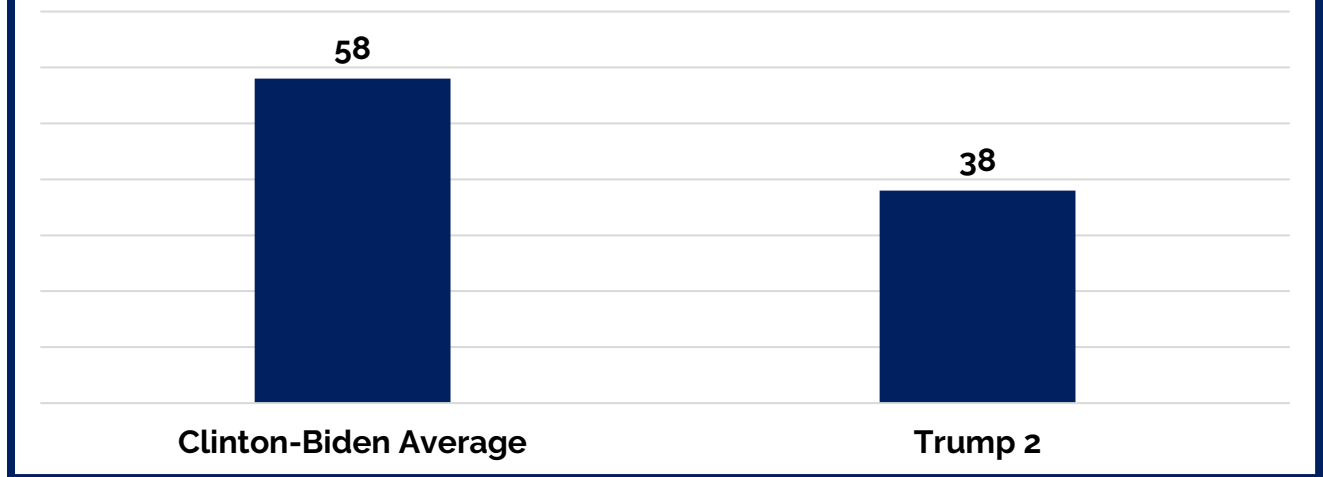
- The Senate confirmed most Cabinet nominations quickly with little or no opposition.
- Opposition to President Trump's 1st term Cabinet nominations was **550% higher** than for his predecessor.
- Forcing separate votes under [Senate Rule 22](#) to invoke cloture, or end debate, before voting on Cabinet nominations began in President Trump's 1st term.



¹ Data and analysis are drawn from or based on sources such as congress.gov.



Percent of Executive Branch Nominations



During his 14 months in office, President Trump has made only 38 percent of his nominations to executive branch positions during the second half (August-March) of this period. In other words, his nomination pace has dramatically slowed.

By comparison, his five predecessors made an average of 58 percent of their executive branch nominations during the second half of their first 14 months in office. The difference is particularly stark comparing Trump's two terms. During his first term, he made two-thirds of his executive branch nominations in the second half of his first 14 months.

