



POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS MEMO

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DATA AS OF MARCH 9, YEAR 2, FOR EACH PRESIDENT

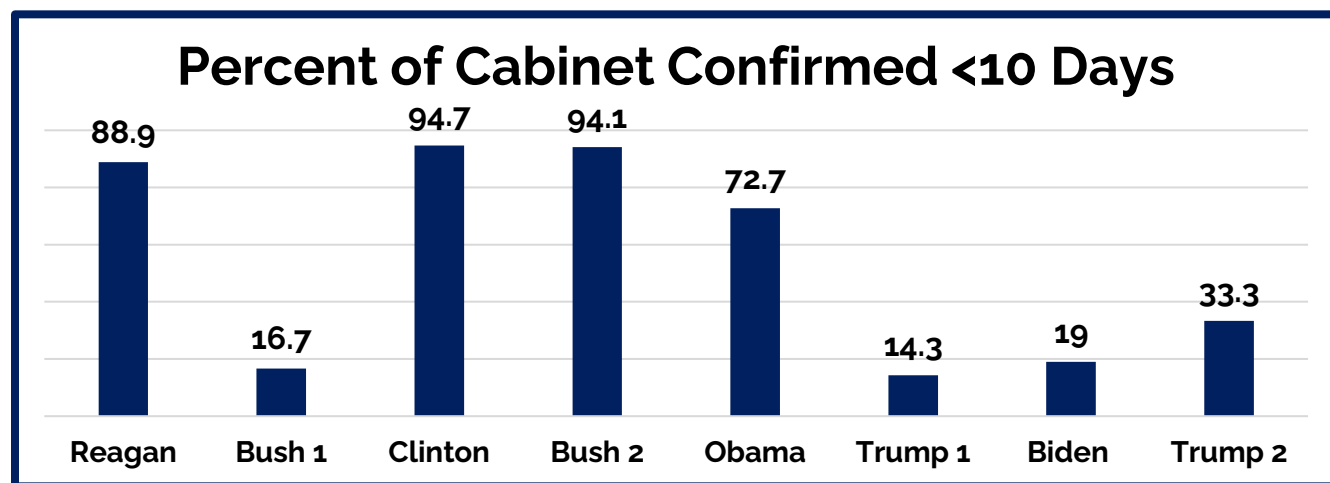
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Background: [Article II](#) of the Constitution gives the President authority to nominate and, with Senate consent, to appoint “Officers of the United States.” Nominations are referred to the relevant Senate committee and, if approved, listed on the [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.²
- 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.

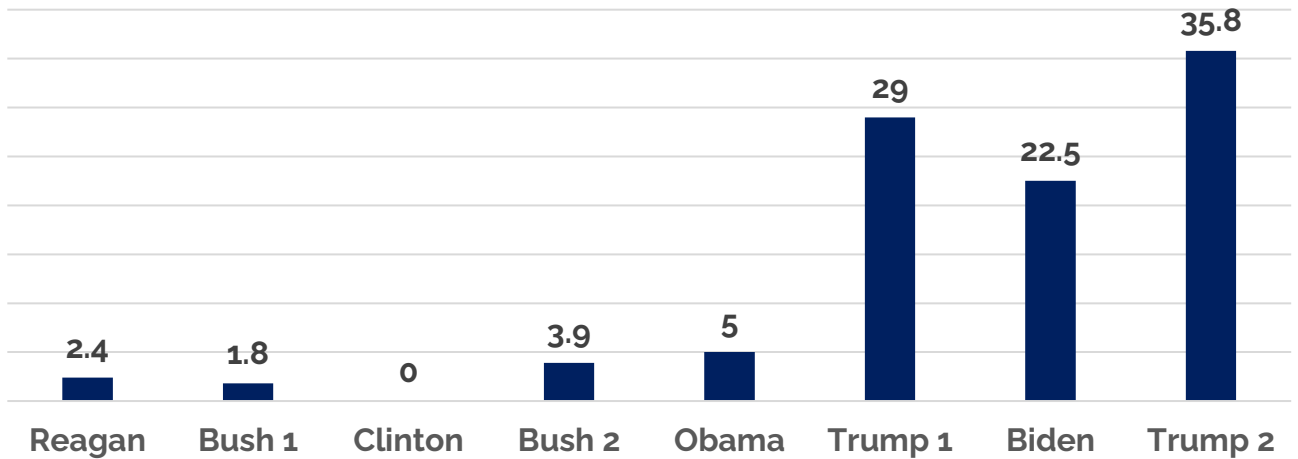


¹ Data and analysis are drawn from or based on sources such as congress.gov.

² For each president except George H.W. Bush, his party controlled the Senate when he made these nominations. Democrats controlled the Senate during Bush's term and slow-walked his nominations. Even while in the minority during President Trump's 1st term, Democrats used other tactics to significantly slow the confirmation process.



Average Votes Against Cabinet Confirmation



Percent of Exec Branch Noms Confirmed

