

U.S. District Court Nominees Confirmed During the First Year of the Second Trump Presidency: Comparative Overview and Statistics

February 18, 2026

This Insight provides information related to the number of [U.S. district court](#) nominees confirmed during the first calendar year of the second Trump presidency (2025), as well as information about the number of district court nominees confirmed during the first years of other presidencies from 1953 to 2021. This Insight also provides additional statistics about district court nominees confirmed in 2025 and compares these statistics with those from the first years of several recent presidencies. An [additional Insight](#) provides similar information for [U.S. circuit court](#) nominees.

For the purposes of this Insight, a President's first year is measured as the period from January 20 to December 31 of his first calendar year in office. So, for example, the first year of the second Trump presidency is measured as beginning on January 20, 2025.

Number of Confirmed Nominees

Overall, during the period from 1953 to 2025, the median number of district court nominees confirmed during the first year of a presidency was approximately 21 (ranging from a low of 6 nominees confirmed in 2017, during the first year of the first Trump presidency, to a high of 45 nominees confirmed in 1961, during the first year of the Kennedy presidency).

President Trump had 20 district court nominees confirmed during the first year of his second presidency. As shown by **Figure 1**, this is more than three times as many district court nominees as confirmed during the first year of his first presidency (2017) and slightly below the number of district court nominees confirmed during the first years of the George W. Bush and Carter presidencies (22 and 21, respectively).

Congressional Research Service

<https://crsreports.congress.gov>

IN12659

Figure 1. Number of U.S. District Court Nominees Confirmed During the First Year of a Presidency (1953-2025)

President (first year in office)	Number of district court nominees confirmed (first year)	Date when first last district court nominee was confirmed (first year)
TRUMP (2025)	20	7/22/2025 12/9/2025
BIDEN (2021)	29	6/8/2021 12/18/2021
TRUMP (2017)	6	7/12/2017 11/27/2017
OBAMA (2009)	9	9/29/2009 12/24/2009
GW BUSH (2001)	22	7/20/2001 12/20/2001
CLINTON (1993)	24	9/30/1993 11/20/1993
GHW BUSH (1989)	10	5/18/1989 11/22/1989
REAGAN (1981)	32	7/20/1981 12/16/1981
CARTER (1977)	21	4/25/1977 12/15/1977
NIXON (1969)	13	2/25/1969 12/18/1969
KENNEDY (1961)	45	3/3/1961 9/23/1961
EISENHOWER (1953)	9	4/23/1953 8/1/1953

← Median = 21

The figure excludes Presidents who first ascended to the office because of the death or resignation of an incumbent President.

Source: Congressional Research Service.

Note: The median value of the number of district court nominees confirmed during the first year of a presidency for the 1953-2025 period is 20.5. For the purposes of this Insight, the median value is rounded to 21.

Figure 1 also identifies, for each presidency, the first and final dates during a President's first year in office when a district court nominee was confirmed by the Senate. The earliest date a nominee was confirmed was February 25 (during the first year of the Nixon presidency), while the latest date a nominee was confirmed was December 24 (during the first year of the Obama presidency).

In general, for earlier presidencies included in **Figure 1**, the first district court nominee confirmed during a President's first year in office was confirmed during the first half of the calendar year (prior to June 30). For more recent presidencies, the first district court nominee confirmed during a President's first year in office was confirmed during the second half of the year—either in July or September (with the exception of the Biden presidency, when the first district court nominee was confirmed in early June). During the Clinton and Obama presidencies, the Senate was considering Supreme Court nominations during the summer months of 1993 and 2009, which may have delayed consideration of each President's first district court nominee.

For 7 of the 12 presidencies included in **Figure 1**, the final district court nominee to be confirmed during a President's first year in office was confirmed in December. For another 3 presidencies, the final district court nominee was confirmed in November.

The number of district court nominees confirmed during a President's first year in office has likely been influenced, in part, by the number of district court vacancies that existed when he assumed office; the number of vacancies that occurred during his first year; whether his Administration prioritized filling vacancies for other types of judgeships (e.g., circuit court judgeships); and the priorities of the Senate majority party.

Length of Time from Nomination to Confirmation

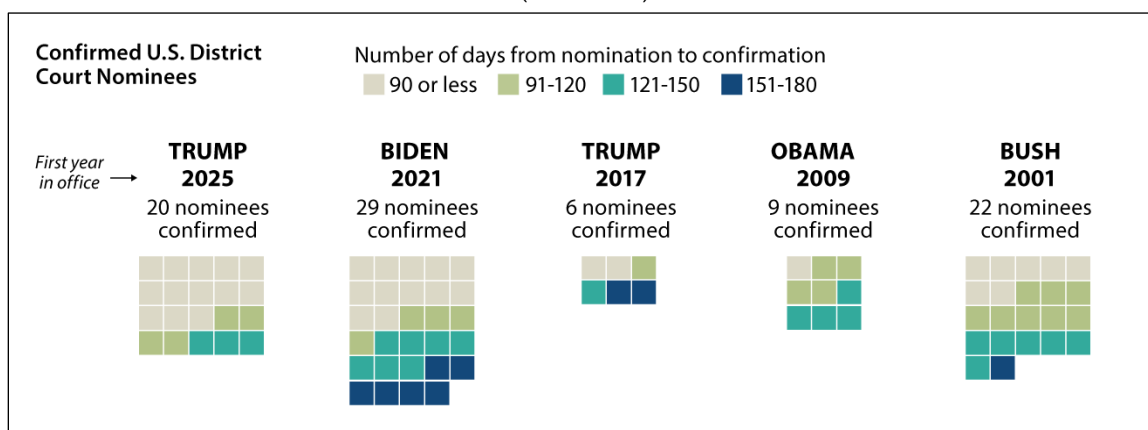
The average length of time from nomination to confirmation for the 20 nominees confirmed in 2025 was 85 days (the median was 80 days). This was the shortest average length of time from nomination to

confirmation for district court nominees confirmed during the first year of a presidency for the 2001-2025 period (the second-shortest average was 102 days in 2001).

Figure 2 shows the number of district court nominees confirmed within a specified number of days during the first year of presidencies from 2001 to 2025.

Of the 20 nominees confirmed in 2025, 13 (65%) were confirmed within 90 days of being nominated and 4 (20%) were confirmed within 91 to 120 days of being nominated. Among the 20 nominees, the shortest length of time from nomination to confirmation was 49 days, while the longest length of time was 134 days.

Figure 2. Length of Time from Nomination to Confirmation for U.S. District Court Nominees Confirmed During the First Year of a Presidency (2001-2025)



Source: Congressional Research Service.

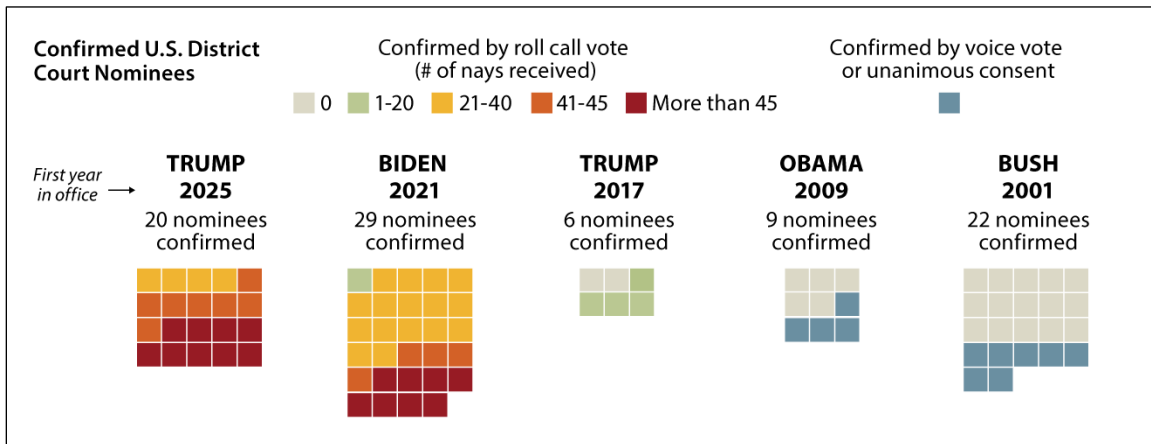
Number of Nay Votes Received When Confirmed

For the period 2001-2025, **Figure 3** shows the range of nay votes received by a President's district court nominees when confirmed by the Senate during his first year in office.

Most district court nominees confirmed during the first year of a presidency from 2001 to 2025 were confirmed by [roll call vote](#)—specifically 75 of 86, or 87%, of nominees. The most recent nominees confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent during the first year of a presidency were [Dolly M. Gee](#) and [Richard Seeborg](#), both confirmed on December 24, 2009.

Of the 20 district court nominees confirmed during the first year of the second Trump presidency, 16 (80%) received more than 40 nay votes when confirmed (with 9 of those nominees having received more than 45 nay votes). In contrast, during the first year of the first Trump presidency, each of the 6 confirmed district court nominees received 20 or fewer nay votes (with 5 of those nominees having received 10 or fewer nay votes when confirmed).

Figure 3. Number of Nay Votes Received by U.S. District Court Nominees Confirmed During the First Year of a Presidency (2001-2025)



Source: Congressional Research Service.

For related historical information about nay votes received by district court nominees at the time of confirmation, see [CRS Report R45622, *Judicial Nomination Statistics and Analysis: U.S. Circuit and District Courts, 1977-2024*](#).

Author Information

Barry J. McMillion
Analyst in American National Government

Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.