



THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE LAST SIX PRESIDENTS

 Passed with two-party support
 Passed with one-party support

NO LABELS

It was recently reported that President Biden’s approval rating had declined since his inauguration, which, in and of itself, is not unusual. George H.W. Bush is the only president in the last three decades who was more popular six months into his administration than at the beginning. So No Labels decided to figure out why, by digging into the first six months of our last six presidents’ administrations to highlight their signature initiatives and the extent to which they did, or did not, govern as bipartisan leaders.

President	Approval Rating	Synopsis	Key Dates
GEORGE H.W. BUSH – 1989	January 51% April 58% July 66%	Bush announced S&L bailout legislation in February. It became law in August, though the final legislation differed from Bush’s original proposal in terms of funding.	April 10: Whistleblower Protection Act (Senate 97-0; House voice vote) August 9: Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act (Senate 91-8; House 320-97)
BILL CLINTON – 1993	January 58% April 55% July 45%	Clinton’s main priority in his first year was healthcare reform. On January 25, he named Hillary Rodham Clinton the chair of the Task Force on National Health Care Reform. The president announced the completed plan in September, and it was introduced as a 1,358-page bill in November. It never came to a vote.	February 5: Family and Medical Leave Act (Senate 71-27; House 265-163) May 20: National Voter Registration Act (Senate 62-37; House 259-160) August 3: Government Performance and Results Act (Unanimous consent in both Senate and House) August 10: Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (Senate 49-49; House 219-213)
GEORGE W. BUSH – 2001	January 57% April 62% July 56%	Bush’s main focus in his first year was on tax cuts and on immigration reform, though only the first saw legislative action. Bush was preparing to turn his focus to immigration in late summer, but the 9/11 attacks altered the agenda.	June 7: Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act (Senate 58-33; House 230-197)

[Presidential approval rating data from <https://news.gallup.com/interactives/185273/presidential-job-approval-center.aspx>]

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BARACK OBAMA - 2009	January 67% April 62% July 58%	Obama first focused on a major stimulus package and related economic legislation. His other main priority, healthcare reform, was introduced in September as the Affordable Care Act.	January 29: Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act (Senate 61-36; House 250-177) February 4: Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (Senate 66-32; House 290-138) February 17: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Senate 61-37; House 244-188) March 11: Omnibus Appropriations Act (Senate voice vote; House 245-178) April 21: Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (Senate 79-19; House 321-105) May 20: Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act (Senate 92-4; House 367-59) May 20: Helping Families Save Their Homes Act (Senate 91-5; House 234-191) May 22: Credit CARD Act (Senate 90-5; House 279-147)
DONALD TRUMP - 2017	January 44% April 41% July 38%	Trump's priorities in office included immigration, trade, and tax cuts, though he primarily utilized executive orders rather than pursuing legislation.	May 5: Consolidated Appropriations Act (Senate unanimous; House 409-1-21) June 23: Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act (Senate voice vote; House 368-55) August 2: Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Senate 98-2; House 419-3)
JOE BIDEN - 2021	January 57% April 57% July 50%	Biden has focused on the COVID pandemic, both in terms of vaccination and relief funding, as well as on an infrastructure package and a larger social spending and climate bill.	March 11: American Rescue Plan Act (Senate 50-49; House 219-212) March 30: Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act (Senate 92-7; House 415-3) May 20: COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (Senate 94-1; House 364-62)