

# Chart of the Day



US Presidents appoint over 4,000 individuals across the US Government, approximately 1,250 of whom require US Senate confirmation. Historically, Presidents have enormous latitude to pick their own appointees, and the withdrawal or rejection of Cabinet-level appointments are relatively rare events. In fact, President Bush's nominee of Senator John G. Tower for Defense Secretary in 1989, 35 years ago, was the last time the US Senate voted to reject a Cabinet-level nominee. Since then, 18 Cabinet-level nominees have "withdrawn" from consideration prior to a Senate vote.

## Unsuccessful cabinet nominations (1801 - 2024)

| Year | Nominee           | Position  | President  | Outcome          | Senate Control |
|------|-------------------|---|------------|------------------|----------------|
| 2024 | Chad Chronister   | Head of Drug Enforcement Administration         | Trump      | Withdraw         | Republican     |
| 2024 | Matt Gaetz        | Attorney General                                | Trump      | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 2021 | Neera Tanden      | Director of the Office of Management and Budget | Biden      | Withdrawn        | Democratic     |
| 2021 | Chad Wolf         | Secretary of Homeland Security                  | Trump      | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 2019 | Patrick Shanahan  | Secretary of Defense                            | Trump      | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 2019 | John Ratcliffe    | Director of National Intelligence               | Trump      | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 2018 | Ronny Jackson     | Secretary of Veterans Affairs                   | Trump      | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 2016 | Andrew Puzder     | Secretary of Labor                              | Trump      | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 2009 | Judd Gregg        | Secretary of Commerce                           | Obama      | Withdrawn        | Democratic     |
| 2008 | Tom Daschle       | Secretary of Health and Human Services          | Obama      | Withdrawn        | Democratic     |
| 2008 | Bill Richardson   | Secretary of Commerce                           | Obama      | Withdrawn        | Democratic     |
| 2004 | Bernard Kerik     | Secretary of Homeland Security                  | Bush       | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 2001 | Linda Chavez      | Secretary of Labor                              | Bush       | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 1997 | Hershel W. Gober  | Secretary of Veterans Affairs                   | Clinton    | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 1996 | Anthony Lake      | CIA Director                                    | Clinton    | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 1993 | Zoë E. Baird      | Attorney General                                | Clinton    | Withdrawn        | Democratic     |
| 1993 | Kimba Wood        | Attorney General                                | Clinton    | Withdrawn        | Democratic     |
| 1993 | Bobby Ray Inman   | Secretary of Defense                            | Clinton    | Withdrawn        | Democratic     |
| 1989 | John G. Tower     | Secretary of Defense                            | H.W. Bush  | Rejected         | Democratic     |
| 1959 | Lewis L. Strauss  | Secretary of Commerce                           | Eisenhower | Rejected         | Democratic     |
| 1925 | Charles B. Warren | Attorney General                                | Coolidge   | Rejected         | Republican     |
| 1868 | Thomas Ewing Sr.  | Secretary of War                                | Johnson    | Never Confirmed* | Republican     |
| 1868 | Henry Stanbery    | Attorney General                                | Johnson    | Rejected         | Republican     |
| 1844 | James S. Green    | Secretary of the Treasury                       | Tyler      | Rejected         | Whigs          |
| 1843 | James M. Porter   | Secretary of War                                | Tyler      | Rejected         | Whigs          |
| 1843 | David Henshaw     | Secretary of the Navy                           | Tyler      | Rejected         | Whigs          |
| 1843 | Caleb Cushing     | Secretary of the Treasury                       | Tyler      | Rejected         | Whigs          |
| 1834 | Roger B. Taney    | Secretary of the Treasury                       | Jackson    | Rejected         | Anti-Jacksons  |
| 1815 | Henry Dearborn    | Secretary of War                                | Madison    | Withdrawn        | Republican     |
| 1801 | Lucius Stockton   | Secretary of War                                | Adams      | Withdrawn        | Federalists    |

Source: US Senate. Data as of December 10, 2024. \*Note: Ewing was appointed by Johnson to be Secretary of War following the firing of Edwin M. Stanton, but was never confirmed due to ongoing disagreements in the Senate.

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