

Table 2-19 Party-Line Voting in Presidential and Congressional Elections, 1956 - 2016 (as a percentage of all voters)

| Year | Presidential election | | | Senate elections | | | House elections | | |
|------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Party-line voters ^a | Defectors ^b | Pure independents ^c | Party-line voters ^a | Defectors ^b | Pure independents ^c | Party-line voters ^a | Defectors ^b | Pure independents ^c |
| 1956 | 76 | 15 | 9 | 79 | 12 | 9 | 82 | 9 | 9 |
| 1958 | | | | 85 | 9 | 5 | 84 | 11 | 5 |
| 1960 | 79 | 13 | 8 | 77 | 15 | 8 | 80 | 12 | 8 |
| 1962 | | | | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 83 | 12 | 6 |
| 1964 | 79 | 15 | 5 | 78 | 16 | 6 | 79 | 15 | 5 |
| 1966 | | | | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. | 76 | 16 | 8 |
| 1968 | 69 | 23 | 9 | 74 | 19 | 7 | 74 | 19 | 7 |
| 1970 | | | | 78 | 12 | 10 | 76 | 16 | 8 |
| 1972 | 67 | 25 | 8 | 69 | 22 | 9 | 75 | 17 | 8 |
| 1974 | | | | 73 | 19 | 8 | 74 | 18 | 8 |
| 1976 | 74 | 15 | 11 | 70 | 19 | 11 | 72 | 19 | 9 |
| 1978 | | | | 71 | 20 | 9 | 69 | 22 | 9 |
| 1980 | 70 | 22 | 8 | 71 | 21 | 8 | 69 | 23 | 8 |
| 1982 | | | | 77 | 17 | 6 | 76 | 17 | 6 |
| 1984 | 81 | 12 | 7 | 72 | 19 | 8 | 70 | 23 | 7 |
| 1986 | | | | 76 | 20 | 4 | 72 | 22 | 6 |
| 1988 | 81 | 12 | 7 | 72 | 20 | 7 | 74 | 20 | 7 |
| 1990 | | | | 75 | 20 | 5 | 72 | 22 | 5 |
| 1992 | 68 | 24 | 9 | 73 | 20 | 7 | 70 | 22 | 8 |
| 1994 | | | | 76 | 18 | 5 | 77 | 17 | 6 |
| 1996 | 80 | 15 | 5 | 77 | 16 | 7 | 77 | 17 | 6 |
| 1998 | | | | 77 | 15 | 8 | 74 | 20 | 6 |
| 2000 | 81 | 11 | 7 | 80 | 13 | 7 | 76 | 17 | 6 |
| 2002 | | | | 82 | 14 | 4 | 78 | 18 | 4 |
| 2004 | 85 | 10 | 6 | 81 | 14 | 5 | 80 | 15 | 6 |
| 2006 | | | | 83 | 8 | 9 | 80 | 11 | 9 |
| 2008 | 85 | 9 | 10 | 81 | 12 | 7 | 81 | 13 | 6 |
| 2010 | | | | 86 | 9 | 5 | 84 | 10 | 7 |
| 2012 | 84 | 7 | 9 | 82 | 9 | 9 | 84 | 9 | 8 |
| 2014 | | | | 83 | 11 | 6 | 81 | 10 | 8 |
| 2016 | 83 | 8 | 9 | 79 | 13 | 8 | 78 | 14 | 8 |

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

- a. These are party identifiers who voted for the candidate of their party.
- b. These are party identifiers who vote for the candidate of the other party.
- c. The SRC/CPS National Election Surveys use a seven-point scale to define party identification, including three categories of Independents--those who "lean" to one or the other party and those who are "pure" Independents. The "leaners" are included here among the party-line voters. Party identification here means self-identification as determined by surveys.

Source: For 2000-2004, Gary Jacobson, University of California, San Diego. Data from Gregory Giroux, Congressional Quarterly. Data for 2006, 2010 and 2014 were compiled from the Cooperative Congressional Election Study, while the remainder of the data come from the American National Election Studies.

Most recent update source: American National Election Study (for 2016) and Cooperative Congressional Election Study (for 2014)