

Table 2-19 Party-Line Voting in Presidential and Congressional Elections, 1956 - 2018 (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
2018				84	7	9	86	5	9

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)