## **Leading Scorers:** Party Unity

**Support** shows those who, in 2020, voted most often with a majority of their party against a majority of the other party. **Opposition** shows those who voted most often against their party's majority. Absences do not count. Members with identical scores are listed alphabetically. Independent members are not included.

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SUPPORT					OPPO	SITION	
Democrats		Republicans		Democrats		Republicans	
Gillibrand, Kirsten	100.0%	Barrasso, John	100.0%	Manchin, Joe III	38.5%	Collins, Susan	17.0%
Hirono, Mazie K.	100.0	Perdue, David	100.0	Sinema, Kyrsten	33.1	Paul, Rand	11.3
Klobuchar, Amy	100.0	Thune, John	100.0	Jones, Doug	32.2	Murkowski, Lisa	10.1
Markey, Edward J.	100.0	Boozman, John	99.5	Hassan, Maggie	17.6	Lee, Mike	6.0
Merkley, Jeff	100.0	Lankford, James	99.5	Tester, Jon	16.2	Alexander, Lamar	5.9
Schumer, Charles E.	100.0	Scott, Tim	99.5	Carper, Thomas R.	15.5	Young, Todd	4.9
Van Hollen, Chris	100.0	Blackburn, Marsha	99.5	Murphy, Christopher	15.1	Gardner, Cory	4.4
Warren, Elizabeth	100.0	Toomey, Patrick J.	99.5	Warner, Mark	14.9	Cassidy, Bill	4.3
Wyden, Ron	100.0	Sasse, Ben	99.4	Kaine, Tim	10.3	McSally, Martha	4.2
Blumenthal, Richard	99.5	Johnson, Ron	99.4	Shaheen, Jeanne	12.1	Romney, Mitt	3.8
Smith, Tina	99.5	Rubio, Marco	99.4	Whitehouse, Sheldon	11.4		
Stabenow, Debbie	99.5	Fischer, Deb	99.4	Peters, Gary	9.1		
Murray, Patty	99.5	Enzi, Michael B.	99.4				
		Burr, Richard M.	99.4				

### **HOUSE**

41.9%

35.7 32.4 31.3 25.7 20.0 19.4 18.5

17.7

17.1

15.9

15.8

15.2

14.9

Stefanik, Elise

Hurd, Will

Young, Don

Joyce, David

Fortenberry, Jeff

Herrera Beutler, Jaime

12.7

12.6

11.9

11.8

11.4

10.4

	SUPI	PORT		OPPOS	SITION		
Democrats		Republicans		Democrats		Republicans	
Bonamici, Suzanne	100.0%	Abraham, Ralph	100.0%	McAdams, Ben	27.3%	Fitzpatrick, Brian	
Clark, Katherine M.	100.0	Allen, Rick W.	100.0	Peterson, Collin C.	23.7	Smith, Christopher H.	
Dean, Madeleine	100.0	Babin, Brian	100.0	Cunningham, Joe	20.5	Van Drew, Jeff	
Dingell, Debbie	100.0	Bishop, Dan	100.0	Golden, Jared	19.3	Katko, John	
Garcia, Sylvia R.	100.0	Cline, Ben	100.0	Horn, Kendra	17.6	Upton, Fred	
Jeffries, Hakeem	100.0	Fulcher, Russ	100.0	Lamb, Conor	16.8	Davis, Rodney	
Kelly, Robin	100.0	Gohmert, Louie	100.0	Brindisi, Anthony	16.6	King, Peter T.	
Kildee, Dan	100.0	Jordan, Jim	100.0	Spanberger Abigail	14.2	Reed Tom	

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

99.4%

Schrader, Kurt

Rose, Max

Luria, Elaine

Finkenauer, Abby

Torres Small, Xochitl

Murphy, Stephanie

Note: 40 additional House Democrats had party unity scores of 100 percent but did not participate on all votes, as the members listed above had.

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

100.0

Kelly, Trent

Lamborn, Doug

Norman, Ralph

Palmer, Gary

Weber, Randy

19 members tied

Loudermilk, Barry

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Krishnamoorthi, Raja

McCollum, Betty

McNerney, Jerry

Pallone, Frank Jr.

Pingree, Chellie

Sarbanes, John

Scott, Robert C.

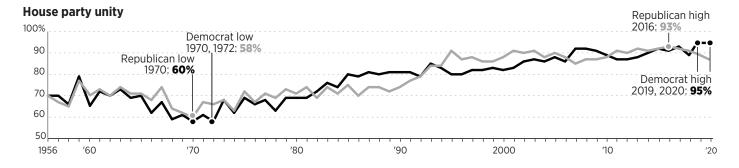
Scanlon, Mary Gay

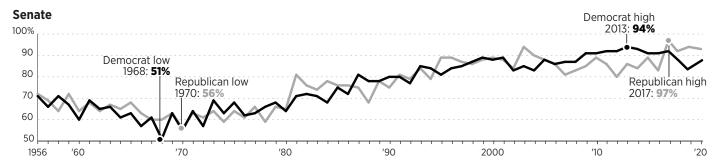
Watson Coleman, Bonnie

2020\_01\_front\_a\_b\_c\_116\_2.indd 6 9/15/21 1:27 PM

### Majorities stick together, press their advantage

Though majorities typically face defections from both members worried about primaries and those worried about general elections, House Democrats and Senate Republicans both approached record levels of unity in 2020.





### **Majority rules**

The global pandemic that made legislating more difficult only widened the divide between the chambers led by opposing parties, resulting in fewer votes and high levels of partisanship.

## Average chamber party unity scores:

#### **HOUSE**

R 87% Lowest in a decade

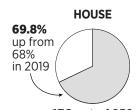
**D 95%** Remains at record high level

#### **SENATE**

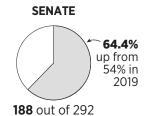
R 93% Second-highest since 2003

**D 88%** Lowest since 2004

## Frequency of party unity votes:



**176** out of 252

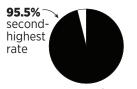


AVERAGE FOR BOTH CHAMBERS:

66.9%

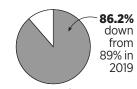
## How often the majority won:

### HOUSE DEMOCRATS



**168** out of 176

### SENATE REPUBLICANS



**162** out of 188

AVERAGE FOR BOTH CHAMBERS:

90.7%

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## **Background:** Party Unity

Roll-call votes used for the party unity study are those on which a majority of Democrats opposed a majority of Republicans. Support indicates the percentage of time members voted in agreement with their party on such party unity votes. The tables below also show the number of party unity votes on which each party was victorious and the number of instances in which either party voted unanimously.

#### **AVERAGE PARTY UNITY SCORE BY CHAMBER**

		SUPPORT		
		2019	2020	
HOUSE	Democrats	95%	95%	
HOUSE	Republicans	89	87	
CENATE	Democrats	84	88	
SENATE	Republicans	94	93	
CONCRESS	Democrats	93	97	
CONGRESS	Republicans	90	96	

Average scores for chamber and party are calculated based on all party unity votes for which members were eligible. A member's failure to vote lowers the score for the group.

VICTORIES IN PARTY UNITY VO	ΓES
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VICTORIES IN PARTY UNITY VOTES								
	HOUSE		SEI	SENATE		GRESS		
YEAR	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans		
2020	168 votes	8	26	170	194	178		
2019	458	18	26	205	484	223		
2018	23	269	28	108	51	337		
2017	51	488	23	201	74	689		
2016	40	416	53	22	93	438		
2015	68	460	93	142	161	602		
2014	55	353	224	20	279	373		
2013	50	389	171	32	221	421		
2012	67	411	103	47	170	458		
2011	82	634	87	33	169	667		
2010	236	28	196	39	432	67		
2009	473	29	264	22	737	51		
2008	342	25	60	51	402	76		
2007	658	72	179	87	837	159		
2006	59	236	53	107	112	343		
2005	50	278	47	182	97	460		
2004	42	213	28	85	70	298		
2003	39	310	56	250	95	560		
2002	39	170	42	73	81	243		
2001	27	177	95	115	122	292		
2000	77	182	31	114	108	296		
1999	58	177	77	211	135	388		
1998	80	216	61	114	141	330		

### **UNANIMOUS VOTING ON UNITY VOTES**

	HOUSE		SEI	SENATE		CONGRESS	
YEAR	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	Democrats	Republicans	
2020	86	76	107	138	193	214	
2019	242	162	106	158	348	320	
2018	117	91	50	92	167	183	
2017	242	176	125	160	367	336	
2016	109	118	24	11	133	129	
2015	174	177	96	77	270	254	
2014	92	159	180	76	272	235	
2013	97	152	106	62	203	214	
2012	40	99	60	19	100	118	
2011	76	209	55	31	131	240	
2010	10	91	67	106	77	197	
2009	29	144	79	74	108	218	
2008	66	96	30	19	96	115	
2007	170	177	102	35	272	212	
2006	70	62	34	30	104	92	
2005	82	91	69	59	151	150	
2004	70	77	3	31	73	108	
2003	94	109	32	130	126	239	
2002	37	54	12	23	49	77	
2001	1	66	37	55	38	121	
2000	1	67	52	19	53	86	
1999	11	59	100	63	111	122	
1998	8	42	46	33	54	75	

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### **History:** Party Unity

The table below on the left shows how frequently a majority of Democrats aligned against a majority of Republicans. The average scores in the other columns for each chamber are computed including absences.

2020 6 2019 6 2018 5 2017 7 2016 7 2015 7 2014 7 2013 6 2012 7	69.8% 68.0 58.6 76.0 73.4	54.0 49.6	DEMOCRATS  95%	REPUBLICANS	DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS
2019 6 2018 5 2017 7 2016 7 2015 7 2014 7 2013 6 2012 7	58.0 58.6 76.0 73.4	54.0 49.6		070/		
2019 6 2018 5 2017 7 2016 7 2015 7 2014 7 2013 6 2012 7	58.0 58.6 76.0 73.4	54.0 49.6		87%	88%	93%
2017 7 2016 7 2015 7 2014 7 2013 6 2012 7	76.0 73.4		95	89	84	94
2016 7 2015 7 2014 7 2013 6 2012 7	73.4	60.0	89	91	87	92
2015 7 2014 7 2013 6 2012 7		68.9	93	92	92	97_
2014 7 2013 6 2012 7	75.1	46.0	91	93	91	83_
2013 6 2012 7		69.3	92	92	91	89
2012 7	72.6	66.7	90	91	93	84
	58.6 72.8	69.8 59.8	88 87	92 90	94 92	86 80
	75.8	51.1	87	91	92	86
	40.0	78.6	89	88	91	89
	50.9	72.0	91	87	91	85
2008 5	53.3	51.6	92	87	87	83
	52.0	60.2	92	85	87	81
	54.5	57.3	86	88	86	86_
	49.0	62.6	88	90	88	88_
	47.0	52.3	86	88	83	90_
	51.7 43.3	45.5	87 86	91 90	<u>85</u> 83	94 84
	+3.3 40.2	55.3	83	91	89	88
	43.2	48.7	82	88	88	89
	47.3	62.8	83	86	89	88
	55.5	55.7	82	86	87	86
1997 5	50.4	50.3	82	88	85	87
	56.4	62.4	80	87	84	89
	73.2	68.8	80	91	81	89
	51.8	51.7	83	84	84	79_
	55.5	67.1	85	84	85	84
	54.5 55.1	53.0 49.3	79 81	79 77	77 80	79 81
	49.1	54.3	81	77	80	
	56.3	35.3	81	72	78	
	47.0	42.5	80	74	78	68
	53.7	40.7	81	74	81	75
1986 5	56.5	52.3	79	70	72	76
	51.0	49.6	80	75	75	76_
	47.1	40.0	74	71	68	78
	55.6	43.7	76	74	71	74_
	36.4	43.4	72	69 74	72	76
	37.4 37.6	47.8 45.8	69 69	71	71 64	81 65
	47.3	46.7	69	73	68	66
	33.2	45.2	63	69	66	<u>59</u>
	42.2	42.4	68	71	63	66
1976 3	35.9	37.2	66	67	62	61
	18.4	47.8	69	72	68	64
	29.4	44.3	62	63	63	59_
	41.8	39.9	68	68	69	64
	27.1	36.5	58	66	57	61
	37.8 27.1	41.6 35.2	61 58	67 60	64 55	63 56
	31.1	36.3	61	62	63	63
	35.2	32.0	59	64	51	60
	36.3	34.6	67	74	61	60
	41.5	50.2	62	68	57	63
1965 5	52.2	41.9	70	71	63	68
	54.9	35.7	69	71	61	65
	48.7	47.2	73	74	66	67
	46.0	41.1	70	70	65	64_
	50.0	62.3	72	73	69	68
	52.7 55.2	36.7 47.9	65 79	70 77	60 67	<u>64</u> 72
	55.2 39.8	43.5		65	71	64
	59.0	35.5	70	67	66	69
	43.8	53.1	70	70	71	72

# Tallying party unity votes

In the House in 2020, the two parties aligned against each other on 176 of 252 "yea" or "nay" roll call votes, or 69.8 percent of the time - up about two percentage points from 2019. In the Senate, the parties opposed each other on 188 of 292 roll calls, or 64.4 percent of the time. That's up from last year's 54 percent. A list of roll-call votes that pitted majorities of the two parties against each other is available upon request from CQ Roll Call.

Calculations of average scores by chamber and party are based on all eligible "yea" or "nay" votes, whether or not all members participated. Under this methodology, average support and opposition scores are reduced when members do not vote. Party and chamber averages are not strictly comparable to individual member scores.

Also, in the member score tables, Sens. Angus King, I-Maine, and Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., were treated as if they were Democrats when calculating their support and opposition scores. They do not, however, qualify to be listed among the party's leaders in any category.

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