



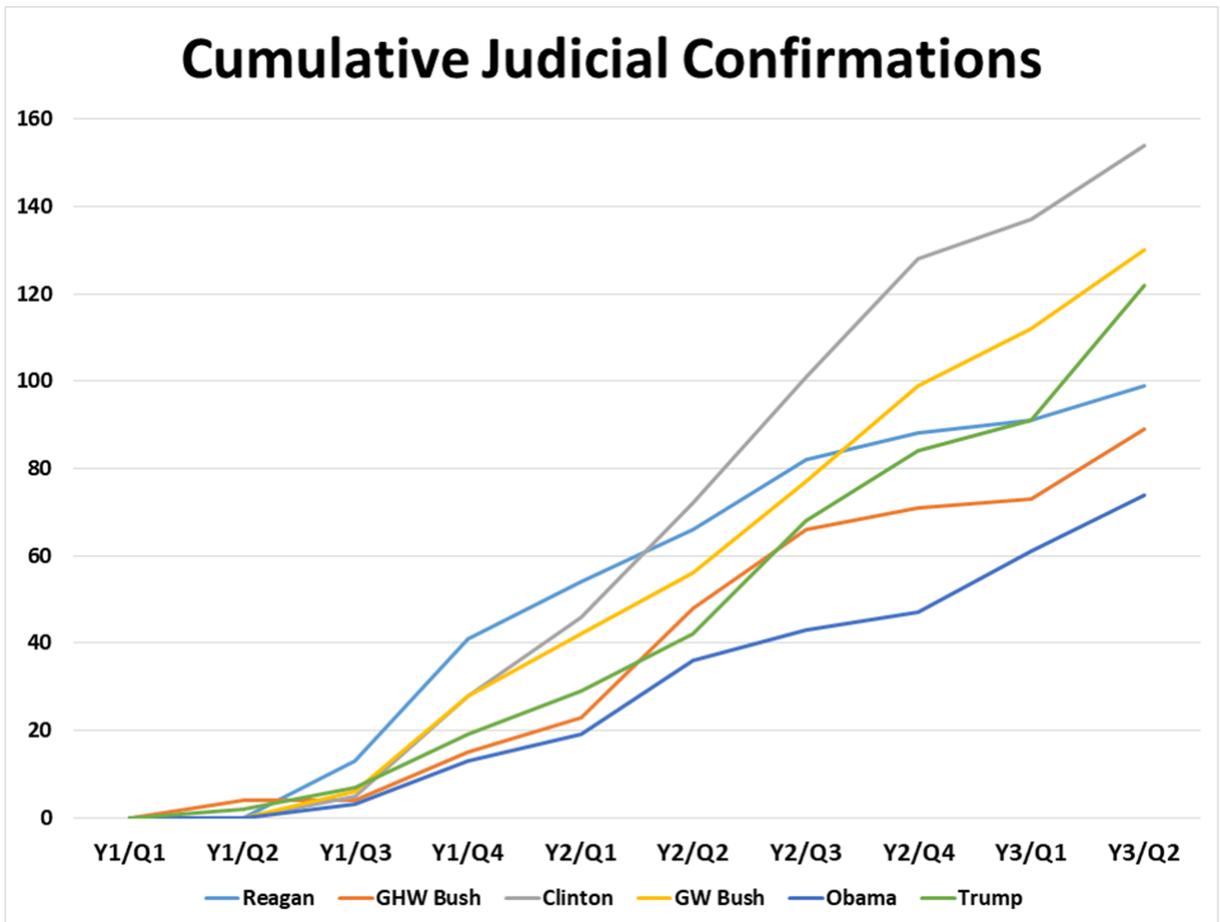
The Senate continued its record-breaking pace of judicial confirmations this week.

1. The Senate confirmed the 42nd circuit judge of the Trump presidency on Tuesday when it confirmed **Daniel Bress** to the Ninth Circuit [by a party-line vote of 53-45](#). This is a significant confirmation for several reasons. First, the Republican Senate and President Trump continue to break the record for circuit-judge confirmations. As the chart below demonstrates, President Trump and the Republican Senate have confirmed 62% more circuit judges than any of the last seven presidents had confirmed at this point in their presidencies. Second, this confirmation continues to remake the Ninth Circuit. When President Trump took office, the Ninth Circuit had 17 Democrat-appointed judges, 8 Republican-appointed judges, and 4 vacancies. Judge Bress is the President’s seventh appointment to the Ninth Circuit, bringing it to 16 Democrat appointees, 10 Republican appointees, and 3 vacancies. If the President and Republican Senate confirm judges for the 3 remaining vacancies, that will bring the count to 16 Democrat appointees and 13 Republican appointees—the closest to parity in many years. Third, Chairman Graham and his colleagues on the Committee overcame tremendous obstruction to get Judge Bress confirmed. The California Senators, unable to object to Judge Bress’ sterling qualifications, objected that Judge Bress was insufficiently “Californian.” This was a mere artifice; Judge Bress’ connections to California are extensive, meaningful and date back to his birth. Chairman Graham thus pushed this nomination to a successful conclusion.

President	Start	Date	Supreme	Circuit	District	CIT
Trump	2017/01/21	2019/07/10	2	42	83	0
Obama	2009/01/21	2011/07/10	2	19	68	0
W. Bush	2001/01/21	2003/07/10	0	26	106	1
Clinton	1993/01/21	1995/07/10	2	24	128	0
H.W. Bush	1989/01/21	1991/07/10	1	24	64	1
Reagan	1981/01/21	1983/07/10	1	20	78	1
Carter	1977/01/21	1979/07/10	0	17	70	0

- The Senate confirmed three more district judges on Wednesday, bringing the total for the Trump presidency to 83. The Senate confirmed **T. Kent Wetherell** to the Northern District of Florida [by a vote of 78-15](#); **J. Nicholas Ranjan** to the Western District of Pennsylvania [by a vote of 80-14](#); and **Damon Ray Leichty** to the Northern District of Indiana [by a vote of 85-10](#). As you can see in the previous chart, only Presidents George W. Bush and Clinton confirmed more district judges at this point in their presidencies than President Trump (while confirming far fewer circuit judges). The slower pace is attributable to the unrelenting and mindlessly partisan obstruction of the Democrats.

But that’s all changing. The chart below graphs the pace of confirmations during the first three years in each of the last seven presidencies. Check out the spike in the green line (representing the Trump presidency) during the second quarter of the third year. That spike represents the new pace of confirmations since the Senate reduced post-cloture debate time for district-judge nominees from 30 hours to 2 hours in April. In fact, the second quarter of this year was the single most productive quarter for judicial nominations during the first three years of any presidency since Nixon. The judicial confirmation train has gone from steady to full steam. And there are many more to come!



3. Here's a summary of where we stand, and of the work we have yet to do.
 - Total Article III judges confirmed: 127 (42 this Congress) (The Senate has also confirmed 2 judges to the Court of Federal Claims)
 - Supreme Court Justices: 2
 - Circuit judges: 42 (12 this Congress)
 - District judges: 83 (30 this Congress)
 - Total vacancies remaining: 141 (132 Article III vacancies, 9 Federal Claims vacancies)
 - Court of appeals: 7 vacancies with 2 nominees
 - 60 circuit judges currently eligible to retire or take senior status
 - 9 circuit judges become eligible to retire or take senior status before the 2020 elections
 - District courts: 121 vacancies with 49 nominees (72 vacancies without nominees)
 - 20 vacancies without nominees in states with two Republican Senators
 - 12 vacancies without nominees in states with a split Senate delegation
 - 39 vacancies without nominees in states with two Democrat Senators
 - 1 vacancy without a nominee in Puerto Rico
 - Court of International Trade: 4 vacancies with 2 nominees
 - Court of Federal Claims: 9 vacancies with 4 nominees
4. Chairman Graham will lead the Committee [in a markup today](#). There are four judges on the agenda for the first time: **Douglas Cole** and **Matthew McFarland** of the Southern District of Ohio; **Robert Molloy** of the District of the Virgin Islands; and **Kea Riggs** of the District of New Mexico. As they are on the agenda for the first time, we expect the Democrats to hold them over for a vote next week.
5. Chairman Graham will lead the Committee in its [eleventh nominations hearing of this Congress](#) next Wednesday, July 17. The Committee will hear from several nominees whom it will announce in the coming days.