

SESSIONS OF CONGRESS

[Closing date for this table was July 11, 2005.]

MEETING DATES OF CONGRESS: Pursuant to a resolution of the Confederation Congress in 1788, the Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. From then until the 20th amendment took effect in January 1934, the term of each Congress began on March 4th of each odd-numbered year; however, Article I, section 4, of the Constitution provided that "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." The Congress therefore convened regularly on the first Monday in December until the 20th amendment became effective, which changed the beginning of Congress's term as well as its convening date to January 3rd. So prior to 1934, a new Congress typically would not convene for regular business until 13 months after being elected. One effect of this was that the last session of each Congress was a "lame duck" session. After the 20th amendment, the time from the election to the beginning of Congress's term as well as when it convened was reduced to two months. Recognizing that the need might exist for Congress to meet at times other than the regularly scheduled convening date, Article II, section 3 of the Constitution provides that the President "may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them"; hence these sessions occur only if convened by Presidential proclamation. Except as noted, these are separately numbered sessions of a Congress, and are marked by an E in the session column of the table. Until the 20th amendment was adopted, there were also times when special sessions of the Senate were convened, principally for confirming Cabinet and other executive nominations, and occasionally for the ratification of treaties or other executive business. These Senate sessions were also called by Presidential proclamation (typically by the outgoing President, although on occasion by incumbents as well) and are marked by an S in the session column. MEETING PLACES OF CONGRESS: Congress met for the first and second sessions of the First Congress (1789 and 1790) in New York City. From the third session of the First Congress through the first session of the Sixth Congress (1790 to 1800), Philadelphia was the meeting place. Congress has convened in Washington since the second session of the Sixth Congress (1800).

Congress	Session	Convening Date	Adjournment Date	Length in days ¹	Recesses ²		President pro tempore of the Senate ³	Speaker of the House of Representatives
					Senate	House of Representatives		
1st	1	Mar. 4, 1789	Sept. 29, 1789	210	.....	.....	John Langdon, of New Hampshire	Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg, of Pennsylvania.
2d	2	Jan. 4, 1790	Aug. 12, 1790	221	.....	.....	.....do.	.....
	3	Dec. 6, 1790	Mar. 3, 1791	88	.....	.....	.....do.	.....
	5	Mar. 4, 1791	May 8, 1791	1	.....	.....	Richard Henry Lee, of Virginia	Jonathan Trumbull, of Connecticut.
3d	1	Oct. 24, 1791	Mar. 4, 1792	197	.....	.....	John Langdon, of New Hampshire.	.....
	2	Nov. 3, 1792	Mar. 2, 1793	119	.....	.....	.....do.	.....
	5	Mar. 4, 1793	Mar. 4, 1793	1	.....	.....	John Langdon, of New Hampshire;	Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg, of Pennsylvania.
4th	1	Dec. 2, 1793	June 9, 1794	190	.....	.....	Ralph Izard, of South Carolina.	.....
	2	Nov. 3, 1794	Mar. 3, 1795	121	.....	.....	Henry Tazewell, of Virginia.	.....
	5	June 8, 1795	June 26, 1795	19	.....	.....	Henry Tazewell, of Virginia; Samuel	.....
5th	1	Dec. 7, 1795	June 1, 1796	177	.....	.....	Livermore, of New Hampshire.	Jonathan Dayton, of New Jersey.
	2	Dec. 5, 1796	Mar. 3, 1797	89	.....	.....	William Bingham, of Pennsylvania.	.....
	5	Mar. 4, 1797	Mar. 4, 1797	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
6th	1-E	May 15, 1797	July 10, 1797	57	.....	.....	Jacob Read, of South Carolina; Theodore Sedgwick, of Massachusetts.	.....
	5	July 17, 1798	July 19, 1798	3	.....	.....	John Laurance, of New York; James Ross, of Pennsylvania.	.....
	2	Nov. 13, 1797	July 16, 1798	246	.....	.....	Samuel Livermore, of New Hampshire; Uriah Tracy, of Connecticut.	.....
7th	3	Dec. 3, 1798	Mar. 3, 1799	91	.....	.....	John E. Howard, of Maryland; James Hillhouse, of Connecticut.	.....
	1	Dec. 2, 1799	May 14, 1800	164	.....	.....	Dec. 23-Dec. 30, 1800	.....
	2	Nov. 17, 1800	Mar. 3, 1801	107	.....	.....	.....	.....
8th	5	Mar. 4, 1801	Mar. 5, 1801	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
	1	Dec. 7, 1801	May 3, 1802	148	.....	.....	Abraham Baldwin, of Georgia	Nathaniel Macon, of North Carolina.

8th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 6, 1802	Mar. 3, 1803	88	.....	Stephen R. Bradley, of Vermont. John Brown, of Kentucky; Jesse Frank- lin, of North Carolina.	Do.
9th ...	2	2	Nov. 5, 1804	Mar. 3, 1805	119	.....	Joseph Anderson, of Tennessee.	Do.
10th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 2, 1805	Apr. 21, 1806	141	.....	Samuel Smith, of Maryland	Joseph B. Varnum, of Massachusetts.
11th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 26, 1806	Mar. 5, 1807	165	.....	.....do.....	
11th ...	2	1-E	Oct. 26, 1807	Apr. 25, 1808	182	.....	Stephen R. Bradley, of Vermont; John Milledge, of Georgia.	
11th ...	2	1-E	Nov. 7, 1808	Mar. 3, 1809	117	.....	.....do.....	
11th ...	2	1-E	Mar. 4, 1809	Mar. 7, 1809	4	.....	Andrew Gregg, of Pennsylvania	Do.
11th ...	2	1-E	May 22, 1809	June 28, 1809	38	.....	John Gaillard, of South Carolina.	
11th ...	2	1-E	Nov. 27, 1809	May 1, 1810	156	.....	John Pope, of Kentucky.	
12th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 3, 1810	Mar. 3, 1811	91	.....	William H. Crawford, of Georgia	Henry Clay, of Kentucky.
12th ...	2	1-E	Nov. 4, 1811	July 6, 1812	245	.....	.....do.....	Do. ⁴
13th ...	2	1-E	Nov. 2, 1812	Mar. 3, 1813	122	.....	.....do.....	Langdon Cheves, of South Carolina. ⁴
13th ...	2	1-E	May 24, 1813	Aug. 2, 1813	71	.....	Joseph B. Varnum, of Massachusetts; John Gaillard, of South Carolina.	
13th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 6, 1813	Apr. 18, 1814	134	.....	John Gaillard, of South Carolina.	Henry Clay, of Kentucky.
14th ...	2	1-E	Sept. 19, 1814	Mar. 3, 1815	166	.....	.....do.....	
14th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 4, 1815	Apr. 30, 1816	148	.....	.....do.....	
15th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 2, 1816	Mar. 3, 1817	92	.....	.....do.....	
15th ...	2	1-E	Mar. 4, 1817	Mar. 6, 1817	3	.....	James Barbour, of Virginia.	Do.
16th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 1, 1817	Apr. 20, 1818	141	.....	James Barbour, of Virginia; John Gaillard, of South Carolina.	Do. ⁵
16th ...	2	1-E	Nov. 16, 1818	Mar. 3, 1819	108	.....	John Gaillard, of South Carolina	John W. Taylor, of New York; ⁵ Philip P. Barbour, of Virginia.
16th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 6, 1819	May 15, 1820	162	.....	.....do.....	Henry Clay, of Kentucky.
17th ...	2	1-E	Nov. 13, 1820	Mar. 3, 1821	111	.....	.....do.....	
17th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 3, 1821	May 8, 1822	157	.....	.....do.....	
18th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 2, 1822	Mar. 3, 1823	92	.....	.....do.....	
18th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 1, 1823	May 27, 1824	178	.....	.....do.....	
19th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 6, 1824	Mar. 3, 1825	88	.....	.....do.....	
19th ...	2	1-E	Mar. 4, 1825	Mar. 9, 1825	6	.....	.....do.....	
20th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 5, 1825	May 22, 1826	169	.....	.....do.....	
20th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 4, 1826	Mar. 3, 1827	90	.....	.....do.....	
20th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 3, 1827	May 26, 1828	175	.....	Nathaniel Macon, of North Carolina	John W. Taylor, of New York.
21st ...	2	1-E	Dec. 1, 1828	Mar. 3, 1829	93	.....	.....do.....	Andrew Stevenson, of Virginia.
21st ...	2	1-E	Mar. 4, 1829	Mar. 17, 1829	14	.....	.....do.....	
22d ...	2	1-E	Dec. 7, 1829	May 31, 1830	176	.....	.....do.....	
22d ...	2	1-E	Dec. 6, 1830	Mar. 3, 1831	88	.....	.....do.....	
22d ...	2	1-E	Dec. 5, 1831	July 16, 1832	225	.....	.....do.....	
23d ...	2	1-E	Dec. 3, 1832	Mar. 2, 1833	91	.....	.....do.....	
23d ...	2	1-E	Dec. 2, 1833	June 30, 1834	211	.....	.....do.....	
24th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 1, 1834	Mar. 3, 1835	93	.....	.....do.....	
24th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 7, 1835	July 4, 1836	211	.....	.....do.....	
25th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 5, 1836	Mar. 3, 1837	89	.....	.....do.....	
25th ...	2	1-E	Mar. 4, 1837	Mar. 10, 1837	7	.....	.....do.....	
25th ...	2	1-E	Sept. 4, 1837	Oct. 16, 1837	43	.....	.....do.....	
26th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 4, 1837	July 9, 1838	218	.....	.....do.....	
26th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 3, 1838	Mar. 3, 1839	91	.....	.....do.....	
26th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 2, 1839	July 21, 1840	233	.....	.....do.....	
27th ...	2	1-E	Dec. 7, 1840	Mar. 3, 1841	87	.....	.....do.....	
27th ...	2	1-E	Mar. 4, 1841	Mar. 15, 1841	12	.....	.....do.....	
							Robert M.T. Hunter, of Virginia. William R. King, of Alabama; Samuel L. Southard, of New Jersey.	

SESSIONS OF CONGRESS—CONTINUED

[Closing date for this table was July 11, 2005.]

MEETING DATES OF CONGRESS: Pursuant to a resolution of the Confederation Congress in 1788, the Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. From then until the 20th amendment took effect in January 1934, the term of each Congress began on March 4th of each odd-numbered year; however, Article I, section 4, of the Constitution provided that "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." The Congress therefore convened regularly on the first Monday in December until the 20th amendment became effective, which changed the beginning of Congress's term as well as its convening date to January 3rd. So prior to 1934, a new Congress typically would not convene for regular business until 13 months after being elected. One effect of this was that the last session of each Congress was a "lame duck" session. After the 20th amendment, the time from the election to the beginning of Congress's term as well as when it convened was reduced to two months. Recognizing that the need might exist for Congress to meet at times other than the regularly scheduled convening date, Article II, section 3 of the Constitution provides that the President "may" on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them"; hence these sessions occur only if convened by Presidential proclamation. Except as noted, these are separately numbered sessions of a Congress, and are marked by an E in the session column of the table. Until the 20th amendment was adopted, there were also times when special sessions of the Senate were convened, principally for confirming Cabinet and other executive nominations, and occasionally for the ratification of treaties or other executive business. These Senate sessions were also called by Presidential proclamation (typically by the outgoing President, although on occasion by incumbents as well) and are marked by an S in the session column. MEETING PLACES OF CONGRESS: Congress met for the first and second sessions of the First Congress (1789 and 1790) in New York City. From the third session of the First Congress through the first session of the Sixth Congress (1790 to 1800), Philadelphia was the meeting place. Congress has convened in Washington since the second session of the Sixth Congress (1800).

Congress	Session	Convening Date	Adjournment Date	Length in days ¹	Recesses ²		President pro tempore of the Senate ³	Speaker of the House of Representatives
					Senate	House of Representatives		
28th ...	1-E	May 31, 1841	Sept. 13, 1841 ..	106	.....	.....	Samuel L. Southard, of New Jersey	John White, of Kentucky.
	2	Dec. 6, 1841	Aug. 31, 1842 ...	269	.....	.....	Willie P. Mangum, of North Carolina.	
	3	Dec. 5, 1842	Mar. 3, 1843	89	.....	.....	.....do.....	John W. Jones, of Virginia.
	1	Dec. 4, 1843	June 17, 1844 ...	196	.....	.....	.....do.....	
	2	Dec. 2, 1844	Mar. 3, 1845	92	.....	.....	.....do.....	
29th ...	5	Mar. 4, 1845	Mar. 20, 1845 ...	17	.....	.....		
	1	Dec. 1, 1845	Aug. 10, 1846 ..	253	.....	.....	Ambrose H. Sevier, of Missouri.	John W. Davis, of Indiana.
30th ...	2	Dec. 7, 1846	Mar. 3, 1847	87	.....	.....	David R. Atchison, of Missouri.	
	1	Dec. 6, 1847	Aug. 14, 1848 ...	254	.....	.....	.....do.....	Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts.
	2	Dec. 4, 1848	Mar. 3, 1849	90	.....	.....	.....do.....	
31st ...	5	Mar. 3, 1849	Mar. 23, 1849 ...	19	.....	.....	.....do.....	
	1	Dec. 3, 1849	Sept. 30, 1850 ...	302	.....	.....	William R. King, of Alabama	Howell Cobb, of Georgia.
32d	2	Dec. 2, 1850	Mar. 3, 1851	92	.....	.....	.....do.....	
	5	Mar. 4, 1851	Mar. 13, 1851 ...	10	.....	.....	.....do.....	Linn Boyd, of Kentucky.
	1	Dec. 1, 1851	Aug. 31, 1852 ...	275	.....	.....	David R. Atchison, of Missouri.	
33d	2	Dec. 6, 1852	Mar. 3, 1853	88	.....	.....	.....do.....	Do.
	5	Mar. 4, 1853	Apr. 11, 1853 ...	39	.....	.....	Lewis Cass, of Michigan; Jesse D.	
	1	Dec. 5, 1853	Aug. 7, 1854	246	.....	.....	Bright, of Indiana.	
34th ...	2	Dec. 4, 1854	Mar. 3, 1855	90	.....	.....	Bright, of Indiana.	
	1	Dec. 3, 1855	Aug. 18, 1856 ..	260	.....	.....	Charles E. Stuart, of Michigan; Jesse D.	Nathaniel P. Banks, of Massachusetts.
35th ...	2-E	Aug. 21, 1856	Aug. 30, 1856 ...	10	.....	.....	Jesse D. Bright, of Indiana.	
	5	Dec. 1, 1856	Mar. 3, 1857	93	.....	.....	James M. Mason, of Virginia.	
	3	Mar. 4, 1857	Mar. 14, 1857 ...	11	.....	.....	James M. Mason, of Virginia; Thomas J. Rusk, of Texas.	
	1	Dec. 7, 1857	June 14, 1858 ...	189	Dec. 23, 1857–Jan. 4, 1858 ..	Dec. 23, 1857–Jan. 4, 1858 ..	Benjamin Fitzpatrick, of Alabama	James L. Orr, of South Carolina.

S	June 15, 1858	June 16, 1858	2	Dec. 23, 1858-Jan. 4, 1859	do.	Benjamin Fitzpatrick, of Alabama; Jesse D. Bright, of Indiana.	William Pennington, of New Jersey.
S	Dec. 6, 1858	Mar. 3, 1859	8	.....	.....do.	.....	.....
S	Mar. 4, 1859	Mar. 10, 1859	7	.....	.....	Benjamin Fitzpatrick, of Alabama.	Benjamin Fitzpatrick, of Alabama.
1	Dec. 5, 1859	June 25, 1860	202	.....	.....	Solomon Foot, of Vermont.	Solomon Foot, of Vermont.
S	June 26, 1860	Mar. 28, 1860	3	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
2	Dec. 3, 1860	Mar. 3, 1861	93	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
2	Mar. 4, 1861	Mar. 28, 1861	25	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
1-E	S	Aug. 6, 1861	34	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
2	July 4, 1861	July 17, 1862	228	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
3	Dec. 2, 1861	Dec. 1, 1862	93	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
3	Dec. 1, 1862	Mar. 3, 1863	11	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
1	Mar. 4, 1863	Mar. 14, 1863	209	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
S	Dec. 7, 1863	July 4, 1864	.....	.....	.....	Solomon Foot, of Vermont; Daniel Clark, of New Hampshire.	Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana.
2	Dec. 5, 1864	Mar. 3, 1865	89	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
S	Mar. 4, 1865	July 11, 1865	8	.....	.....	Daniel Clark, of New Hampshire.	do.
1	Dec. 4, 1865	July 28, 1866	237	.....	.....	Lafayette S. Foster, of Connecticut.	Do.
2	Dec. 3, 1866	Mar. 3, 1867	91	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
1	Mar. 4, 1867	Dec. 1, 1867	273	.....	.....	Benjamin F. Wade, of Ohio.	Do. ⁷
S	Apr. 1, 1867	Apr. 20, 1867	20	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
2	Dec. 2, 1867	Nov. 10, 1868	345	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
3	Dec. 7, 1868	Mar. 3, 1869	87	.....	.....	Henry B. Anthony, of Rhode Island	Theodore M. Pomeroy, of New York. ⁷
S	Mar. 4, 1869	Apr. 10, 1869	38	.....	.....	.....do.	James G. Blaine, of Maine.
1	Apr. 12, 1869	Apr. 22, 1869	11	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
S	Dec. 6, 1869	July 15, 1870	222	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
3	Dec. 5, 1870	Mar. 3, 1871	89	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
1	Mar. 4, 1871	Apr. 20, 1871	48	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
S	May 10, 1871	May 27, 1871	18	.....	.....	Matthew H. Carpenter, of Wisconsin.	do.
2	Dec. 4, 1871	June 10, 1872	190	.....	.....	Matthew H. Carpenter, of Wisconsin; Henry B. Anthony, of Rhode Island.	do.
3	Dec. 2, 1872	Mar. 3, 1873	92	.....	.....	Thomas W. Ferry, of Michigan.	do.
S	Mar. 4, 1873	June 23, 1873	204	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
1	Dec. 1, 1873	Mar. 26, 1874	204	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
2	Dec. 7, 1874	Mar. 3, 1875	87	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
S	Mar. 5, 1875	Mar. 24, 1875	20	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
1	Dec. 6, 1875	Aug. 15, 1876	254	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
S	Dec. 4, 1876	Mar. 3, 1877	90	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
2	Mar. 5, 1877	Mar. 17, 1877	13	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
1-E	S	Dec. 3, 1877	50	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
2	Oct. 15, 1877	Dec. 3, 1877	200	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
3	Dec. 3, 1877	June 20, 1878	200	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
3	Dec. 2, 1878	Mar. 3, 1879	92	.....	.....	Allen G. Thurman, of Ohio	do.
1-E	S	July 1, 1879	106	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
2	Mar. 18, 1879	June 1, 1880	199	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
3	Dec. 1, 1879	June 16, 1880	88	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
2	Dec. 6, 1880	Mar. 3, 1881	78	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
S	Mar. 4, 1881	May 20, 1881	20	.....	.....	.....do.	do.
S	Oct. 10, 1881	Oct. 29, 1881	247	.....	.....	Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware; David Davis, of Illinois.	J. Warren Keifer, of Ohio.
1	Dec. 5, 1881	Aug. 8, 1882	.....	.....	.....	.....do.	do.

SESSIONS OF CONGRESS—CONTINUED

[Closing date for this table was July 11, 2005.]

MEETING DATES OF CONGRESS: Pursuant to a resolution of the Confederation Congress in 1788, the Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. From then until the 20th amendment took effect in January 1934, the term of each Congress began on March 4th of each odd-numbered year; however, Article I, section 4, of the Constitution provided that "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." The Congress therefore convened regularly on the first Monday in December until the 20th amendment became effective, which changed the beginning of Congress's term as well as its convening date to January 3rd. So prior to 1934, a new Congress typically would not convene for regular business until 13 months after being elected. One effect of this was that the last session of each Congress was a "lame duck" session. After the 20th amendment, the time from the election to the beginning of Congress's term as well as when it convened was reduced to two months. Recognizing that the need might exist for Congress to meet at times other than the regularly scheduled convening date, Article II, section 3 of the Constitution provides that the President "may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them"; hence these sessions occur only if convened by Presidential proclamation. Except as noted, these are separately numbered sessions of a Congress, and are marked by an E in the session column of the table. Until the 20th amendment was adopted, there were also times when special sessions of the Senate were convened, principally for confirming Cabinet and other executive nominations, and occasionally for the ratification of treaties or other executive business. These Senate sessions were also called by Presidential proclamation (typically by the outgoing President, although on occasion by incumbents as well) and are marked by an S in the session column. MEETING PLACES OF CONGRESS: Congress met for the first and second sessions of the First Congress (1789 and 1790) in New York City. From the third session of the First Congress through the first session of the Sixth Congress (1790 to 1800), Philadelphia was the meeting place. Congress has convened in Washington since the second session of the Sixth Congress (1800).

Congress	Session	Convening Date	Adjournment Date	Length in days ¹	Recesses ²		President pro tempore of the Senate ³	Speaker of the House of Representatives
					Senate	House of Representatives		
48th ...	2	Dec. 4, 1882	Mar. 3, 1883	90	Dec. 24, 1883–Jan. 7, 1884	Dec. 24, 1883–Jan. 7, 1884	George F. Edmunds, of Vermont.	J. Warren Keifer, of Ohio.
49th ...	1	Dec. 3, 1883	July 7, 1884	218	Dec. 24, 1884–Jan. 5, 1885	Dec. 24, 1884–Jan. 5, 1885	do.	John G. Carlisle, of Kentucky.
49th ...	2	Dec. 1, 1884	Mar. 3, 1885	93	.....	.....	.....	.....
50th ...	5	Mar. 4, 1885	Apr. 2, 1885	30	.....	.....	.....	.....
50th ...	1	Dec. 7, 1885	Aug. 5, 1886	242	Dec. 21, 1885–Jan. 5, 1886	Dec. 21, 1885–Jan. 5, 1886	John Sherman, of Ohio	Do.
50th ...	2	Dec. 6, 1886	Mar. 3, 1887	88	Dec. 22, 1886–Jan. 4, 1887	Dec. 22, 1886–Jan. 4, 1887	John J. Ingalls, of Kansas.	Do.
51st ...	1	Dec. 5, 1887	Oct. 20, 1888	321	Dec. 22, 1887–Jan. 4, 1888	Dec. 22, 1887–Jan. 4, 1888	do.	.....
51st ...	2	Dec. 3, 1888	Mar. 3, 1889	91	Dec. 21, 1888–Jan. 2, 1889	Dec. 21, 1888–Jan. 2, 1889	do.	.....
51st ...	5	Mar. 4, 1889	Apr. 2, 1889	30	.....	.....	.....	.....
52d ...	1	Dec. 2, 1889	Oct. 1, 1890	304	Dec. 21, 1889–Jan. 6, 1890	Dec. 21, 1889–Jan. 6, 1890	Charles F. Manderson, of Nebraska.	Thomas B. Reed, of Maine.
52d ...	2	Dec. 1, 1890	Mar. 3, 1891	95	.....	.....	.....do.	.....
53d ...	1	Dec. 7, 1891	Aug. 5, 1892	251	Dec. 22, 1891–Jan. 4, 1893	Dec. 22, 1892–Jan. 4, 1893	Charles F. Manderson, of Nebraska;	Charles F. Crisp, of Georgia.
53d ...	2	Dec. 5, 1892	Mar. 3, 1893	89	.....	.....	Isham G. Harris, of Tennessee.	Do.
53d ...	5	Mar. 4, 1893	Apr. 15, 1893	43	.....	.....	.....do.	.....
54th ...	1-E	Aug. 7, 1893	Nov. 3, 1893	89	.....	.....	.....	.....
54th ...	2	Dec. 4, 1893	Aug. 28, 1894	268	.....	.....	.....	.....
54th ...	3	Dec. 3, 1894	Mar. 3, 1895	97	.....	.....	.....	.....
55th ...	1	Dec. 2, 1895	June 11, 1896	193	Dec. 22, 1895–Jan. 5, 1897	Dec. 22, 1896–Jan. 5, 1897	Matt W. Ransom, of North Carolina;	Thomas B. Reed, of Maine.
55th ...	2	Dec. 7, 1896	Mar. 3, 1897	87	.....	.....	Isham G. Harris, of Tennessee.	Do.
55th ...	5	Mar. 4, 1897	Mar. 10, 1897	11	.....	.....	.....do.	.....
55th ...	1-E	Mar. 15, 1897	July 24, 1897	131	.....	.....	.....	.....
56th ...	2	Dec. 6, 1897	July 8, 1898	215	Dec. 18, 1897–Jan. 5, 1898	Dec. 18, 1897–Jan. 5, 1898	.....	.....
56th ...	3	Dec. 5, 1898	Mar. 3, 1899	89	Dec. 21, 1898–Jan. 4, 1899	Dec. 21, 1898–Jan. 4, 1899	.....	.....
56th ...	1	Dec. 4, 1899	June 7, 1900	186	Dec. 20, 1899–Jan. 3, 1900	Dec. 20, 1899–Jan. 3, 1900	.....	.....
57th ...	2	Dec. 3, 1900	Mar. 3, 1901	91	Dec. 21, 1900–Jan. 3, 1901	Dec. 21, 1900–Jan. 3, 1901	do.	David B. Henderson, of Iowa.
57th ...	5	Mar. 4, 1901	Mar. 9, 1901	6	.....	.....	.....	.....

[Closing date for this table was July 11, 2005.]

MEETING DATES OF CONGRESS: Pursuant to a resolution of the Confederation Congress in 1788, the Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. From then until the 20th amendment took effect in January 1934, the term of each Congress began on March 4th of each odd-numbered year; however, Article I, section 4, of the Constitution provided that "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." The Congress therefore convened regularly on the first Monday in December until the 20th amendment became effective, which changed the beginning of Congress's term as well as its convening date to January 3rd. So prior to 1934, a new Congress typically would not convene for regular business until 13 months after being elected. One effect of this was that the last session of each Congress was a "lame duck" session. After the 20th amendment, the time from the election to the beginning of Congress's term as well as when it convened was reduced to two months. Recognizing that the need might exist for Congress to meet at times other than the regularly scheduled convening date, Article II, section 3 of the Constitution provides that the President "may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them"; hence these sessions occur only if convened by Presidential proclamation. Except as noted, these are separately numbered sessions of a Congress, and are marked by an E in the session column of the table. Until the 20th amendment was adopted, there were also times when special sessions of the Senate were convened, principally for confirming Cabinet and other executive nominations, and occasionally for the ratification of treaties or other executive business. These Senate sessions were also called by Presidential proclamation (typically by the outgoing President, although on occasion by incumbents as well) and are marked by an S in the session column. **MEETING PLACES OF CONGRESS:** Congress met for the first and second sessions of the First Congress (1789 and 1790) in New York City. From the third session of the First Congress through the first session of the Sixth Congress (1790 to 1800), Philadelphia was the meeting place. Congress has convened in Washington since the second session of the Sixth Congress (1800).

Congress	Session	Convening Date	Adjournment Date	Length in days ¹	Recesses ²		President pro tempore of the Senate ³	Speaker of the House of Representatives
					Senate	House of Representatives		
3	Dec. 1, 1930	Mar. 3, 1931	93	Dec. 20, 1930–Jan. 5, 1931	Dec. 20, 1930–Jan. 5, 1931	George H. Moses, of New Hampshire	Nicholas Longworth, of Ohio.	
1	Dec. 7, 1931	July 16, 1932	223	Dec. 22, 1931–Jan. 4, 1932	Dec. 22, 1931–Jan. 4, 1932	do.	John N. Garner, of Texas.	
2	Dec. 5, 1932	Mar. 3, 1933	89			do.		
1–E	Mar. 4, 1933	Mar. 6, 1933	3			do.		
	Mar. 9, 1933	June 15, 1933	99			Key Pittman, of Nevada	Henry T. Rainey, of Illinois.	
2	Jan. 3, 1934	June 18, 1934	167			do.		
1	Jan. 3, 1935	Aug. 26, 1935	236			do.		
2	Jan. 3, 1936	June 20, 1936	170			do.		
1	Jan. 3, 1937	Aug. 21, 1937	229			do.		
2–E	Nov. 15, 1937	Dec. 21, 1937	37			do.		
3	Jan. 3, 1938	June 16, 1938	165			do.		
1	Jan. 3, 1939	Aug. 3, 1939	215			do.		
2–E	Sept. 21, 1939	Nov. 3, 1939	44			do.		
3	Jan. 3, 1940	Jan. 3, 1941	366			do.		
1	Jan. 3, 1941	Jan. 2, 1942	365			Key Pittman, of Nevada; ¹³ William H. King, of Utah; ¹³	Sam Rayburn, of Texas. ¹²	
2	Jan. 5, 1942	Dec. 16, 1942	346			Pat Harrison, of Mississippi; ¹⁴ Carter Glass, of Virginia. ¹⁴	Do.	
1	Jan. 6, 1943	Dec. 21, 1943	350			do.		
2	Jan. 10, 1944	Dec. 19, 1944	345			do.		
				July 8–Sept. 14, 1943	July 8–Sept. 14, 1943	do.		
				Apr. 1–Apr. 12, 1944	Apr. 1–Apr. 12, 1944	do.		
				June 23–Aug. 14, 1944	June 23–Aug. 14, 1944	do.		
				Sept. 21–Nov. 14, 1944	Sept. 21–Nov. 14, 1944	do.		
				Apr. 1–Sept. 5, 1945	July 21–Sept. 5, 1945	Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee	Do.	
1	Jan. 3, 1945	Dec. 21, 1945	353			do.		
2	Jan. 14, 1946	Aug. 2, 1946	201			do.		
151	Jan. 3, 1947	Dec. 19, 1947	351			Arthur H. Vandenberg, of Michigan	Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts.	
				July 27–Nov. 17, 1947	July 27–Nov. 17, 1947	do.		
				June 20–July 26, 1948	June 20–July 26, 1948	do.		
152	Jan. 6, 1948	Dec. 31, 1948	361			do.		
				Aug. 7–Dec. 31, 1948	Aug. 7–Dec. 31, 1948	do.		

81st	1	Jan. 3, 1949	Oct. 19, 1949	290	Sept. 23—Nov. 27, 1950	Apr. 6—Apr. 18, 1950	Kenneth McKellar, of Tennessee	Sam Rayburn, of Texas.
	2	Jan. 3, 1950	Jan. 2, 1951	365	Mar. 22—Apr. 2, 1951	Sept. 23—Nov. 27, 1950	do.	
82d	1	Jan. 3, 1951	Oct. 20, 1951	291	Aug. 23—Sept. 12, 1951	Mar. 22—Apr. 2, 1951	do.	Do.
	2	Jan. 8, 1952	July 7, 1952	182	Aug. 10—Apr. 22, 1952	Apr. 10—Apr. 22, 1951	do.	
83d	1	Jan. 3, 1953	Aug. 7, 1953	213	.....	Apr. 2—Apr. 13, 1953	Styles Bridges, of New Hampshire	Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts.
	2	Jan. 6, 1954	Dec. 2, 1954	331	Aug. 20—Nov. 8, 1954	Apr. 15—Apr. 22, 1954	do.	
					Nov. 18—Nov. 29, 1954	Adjourned sine die Aug. 20, 1954		
84th	1	Jan. 5, 1955	Aug. 2, 1955	210	Apr. 4—Apr. 13, 1955	Mar. 4—Apr. 13, 1955	Walter F. George, of Georgia	Sam Rayburn, of Texas.
	2	Jan. 3, 1956	July 27, 1956	207	Mar. 29—Apr. 9, 1956	Apr. 29—Apr. 9, 1956	do.	
85th	1	Jan. 3, 1957	Aug. 30, 1957	239	Apr. 18—Apr. 29, 1957	Apr. 18—Apr. 29, 1957	Carl Hayden, of Arizona	Do.
	2	Jan. 7, 1958	Aug. 24, 1958	230	Apr. 3—Apr. 14, 1958	Apr. 3—Apr. 14, 1958	do.	
86th	1	Jan. 7, 1959	Sept. 15, 1959	252	Mar. 26—Apr. 7, 1959	Mar. 26—Apr. 7, 1959	do.	Do.
	2	Jan. 6, 1960	Sept. 1, 1960	240	Apr. 14—Apr. 18, 1960	Apr. 14—Apr. 18, 1960	do.	
					May 27—May 31, 1960	May 27—May 31, 1960	do.	
87th	1	Jan. 3, 1961	Sept. 27, 1961	268	July 3—Aug. 8, 1960	July 3—Aug. 15, 1960	do.	Do. ¹⁶
	2	Jan. 10, 1962	Oct. 13, 1962	277	.....	Mar. 30—Apr. 10, 1961	do.	John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts. ¹⁶
88th	1	Jan. 9, 1963	Dec. 30, 1963	356	July 10—July 20, 1964	Apr. 11—Apr. 22, 1963	do.	Do.
	2	Jan. 7, 1964	Oct. 3, 1964	270	Aug. 21—Aug. 31, 1964	Mar. 26—Apr. 6, 1964	do.	
					.....	July 2—July 20, 1964	do.	
89th	1	Jan. 4, 1965	Oct. 23, 1965	293	Apr. 7—Apr. 13, 1966	Apr. 7—Apr. 18, 1966	do.	
	2	Jan. 10, 1966	Oct. 22, 1966	286	June 30—July 11, 1966	June 30—July 11, 1966	do.	
90th	1	Jan. 10, 1967	Dec. 15, 1967	340	Mar. 23—Apr. 3, 1967	Mar. 23—Apr. 3, 1967	do.	Do.
					June 29—July 10, 1967	June 29—July 10, 1967	do.	
					Aug. 31—Sept. 11, 1967	Aug. 31—Sept. 11, 1967	do.	
					Nov. 22—Nov. 27, 1967	Nov. 22—Nov. 27, 1967	do.	
	2	Jan. 15, 1968	Oct. 14, 1968	274	Apr. 11—Apr. 17, 1968	Apr. 11—Apr. 22, 1968	do.	
					May 29—June 3, 1968	May 29—June 3, 1968	do.	
					June 3—July 8, 1968	June 3—July 8, 1968	do.	
					Aug. 2—Sept. 4, 1968	Aug. 2—Sept. 4, 1968	do.	
					Feb. 7—Feb. 17, 1969	Feb. 7—Feb. 17, 1969	do.	
					July 2—July 7, 1969	July 2—July 7, 1969	do.	
					Aug. 13—Sept. 3, 1969	Aug. 13—Sept. 3, 1969	do.	
					Nov. 26—Dec. 1, 1969	Nov. 26—Dec. 1, 1969	do.	
91st	1	Jan. 3, 1969	Dec. 23, 1969	355	Feb. 10—Feb. 16, 1970	Feb. 10—Feb. 16, 1970	Richard B. Russell, of Georgia	Do.
					Mar. 26—Mar. 31, 1970	Mar. 26—Mar. 31, 1970	do.	
	2	Jan. 19, 1970	Jan. 2, 1971	349	Sept. 2—Sept. 8, 1970	May 27—June 1, 1970	do.	
					Oct. 14—Nov. 16, 1970	July 1—July 6, 1970	do.	
					Nov. 25—Nov. 30, 1970	Aug. 14—Sept. 9, 1970	do.	
					Dec. 22—Dec. 28, 1970	Oct. 14—Nov. 16, 1970	do.	
					.....	Nov. 25—Nov. 30, 1970	do.	
					.....	Dec. 22—Dec. 29, 1970	do.	

SESSIONS OF CONGRESS—CONTINUED

[Closing date for this table was July 11, 2005.]

MEETING DATES OF CONGRESS: Pursuant to a resolution of the Confederation Congress in 1788, the Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. From then until the 20th amendment took effect in January 1934, the term of each Congress began on March 4th of each odd-numbered year; however, Article I, section 4, of the Constitution provided that "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." The Congress therefore convened regularly on the first Monday in December until the 20th amendment became effective, which changed the beginning of Congress's term as well as its convening date to January 3rd. So prior to 1934, a new Congress typically would not convene for regular business until 13 months after being elected. One effect of this was that the last session of each Congress was a "lame duck" session. After the 20th amendment, the time from the election to the beginning of Congress's term as well as when it convened was reduced to two months. Recognizing that the need might exist for Congress to meet at times other than the regularly scheduled convening date, Article II, section 3 of the Constitution provides that the President "may" on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them"; hence these sessions occur only if convened by Presidential proclamation. Except as noted, these are separately numbered sessions of a Congress, and are marked by an E in the session column of the table. Until the 20th amendment was adopted, there were also times when special sessions of the Senate were convened, principally for confirming Cabinet and other executive nominations, and occasionally for the ratification of treaties or other executive business. These Senate sessions were also called by Presidential proclamation (typically by the outgoing President, although on occasion by incumbents as well) and are marked by an S in the session column. MEETING PLACES OF CONGRESS: Congress met for the first and second sessions of the First Congress (1789 and 1790) in New York City. From the third session of the First Congress through the first session of the Sixth Congress (1790 to 1800), Philadelphia was the meeting place. Congress has convened in Washington since the second session of the Sixth Congress (1800).

Congress	Session	Convening Date	Adjournment Date	Length in days ¹	Recesses ²		President pro tempore of the Senate ³	Speaker of the House of Representatives
					Senate	House of Representatives		
92d	1	Jan. 21, 1971	Dec. 17, 1971 ..	331	Feb. 11-Feb. 17, 1971	Feb. 10-Feb. 17, 1971	Richard B. Russell, of Georgia; ¹⁷ Allen J. Ellender, of Louisiana. ¹⁷	Carl B. Albert, of Oklahoma.
					Apr. 7-Apr. 14, 1971	Apr. 7-Apr. 19, 1971		
					May 26-June 1, 1971	May 27-June 1, 1971		
					June 30-July 6, 1971	July 1-July 6, 1971		
					Aug. 6-Sept. 8, 1971	Aug. 6-Sept. 8, 1971		
93d					Oct. 21-Oct. 26, 1971	Oct. 7-Oct. 12, 1971	Allen J. Ellender, of Louisiana; ¹⁸ James O. Eastland, of Mississippi. ¹⁸	Do.
					Nov. 24-Nov. 29, 1971	Oct. 21-Oct. 26, 1971		
	2	Jan. 18, 1972	Oct. 18, 1972 ..	275	Feb. 9-Feb. 14, 1972	Nov. 19-Nov. 29, 1971		
					Mar. 30-Apr. 4, 1972	Feb. 9-Feb. 16, 1972		
					May 25-May 30, 1972	Mar. 29-Apr. 10, 1972		
					June 30-July 17, 1972	May 24-May 30, 1972	James O. Eastland, of Mississippi	Do.
					Aug. 18-Sept. 5, 1972	June 30-July 17, 1972		
					Feb. 8-Feb. 15, 1973	Aug. 18-Sept. 5, 1972		
					Apr. 18-Apr. 30, 1973	Feb. 8-Feb. 19, 1973		
					May 23-May 29, 1973	Apr. 19-Apr. 30, 1973		
	1	Jan. 3, 1973	Dec. 22, 1973 ..	354	June 3-Sept. 5, 1973	May 24-May 29, 1973	do.	
					Oct. 18-Oct. 23, 1973	June 30-July 10, 1973		
					Nov. 21-Nov. 26, 1973	Aug. 3-Sept. 5, 1973		
					Feb. 8-Feb. 18, 1974	Oct. 4-Oct. 9, 1973		
					Mar. 13-Mar. 19, 1974	Oct. 18-Oct. 23, 1973		
	2	Jan. 21, 1974	Dec. 20, 1974 ..	334	Apr. 11-Apr. 22, 1974	Nov. 15-Nov. 26, 1973		
					May 23-May 28, 1974	Feb. 7-Feb. 13, 1974		
					Aug. 22-Sept. 11, 1974	Apr. 11-Apr. 22, 1974		
					Oct. 17-Nov. 18, 1974	May 23-May 28, 1974		
					Nov. 26-Dec. 2, 1974	Aug. 22-Sept. 11, 1974		

94th ...	1	Jan. 14, 1975	Dec. 19, 1975 ..	340	Mar. 26-Apr. 7, 1975	Mar. 26-Apr. 7, 1975	do	Do.
					May 22-June 2, 1975	May 22-June 2, 1975		
					June 27-July 7, 1975	June 26-July 8, 1975		
					Aug. 1-Sept. 3, 1975	Aug. 1-Sept. 3, 1975		
					Oct. 9-Oct. 20, 1975	Oct. 9-Oct. 20, 1975		
					Oct. 23-Oct. 28, 1975	Oct. 23-Oct. 28, 1975		
					Nov. 20-Dec. 1, 1975	Nov. 20-Dec. 1, 1975	do.	
	2	Jan. 19, 1976	Oct. 1, 1976	257	Feb. 6-Feb. 16, 1976	Feb. 11-Feb. 16, 1976		
					Apr. 14-Apr. 26, 1976	Apr. 14-Apr. 26, 1976		
					May 28-June 2, 1976	May 27-June 1, 1976		
					July 2-July 19, 1976	July 2-July 19, 1976		
					Aug. 1-Sept. 2, 1976	Aug. 1-Sept. 2, 1976		
					Sept. 1-Sept. 7, 1976	Sept. 2-Sept. 8, 1976		
					Feb. 1-Feb. 21, 1977	Feb. 9-Feb. 16, 1977	do	Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., of Massachusetts.
95th ...	1	Jan. 4, 1977	Dec. 15, 1977 ..	346	Apr. 1-Apr. 18, 1977	Apr. 2-Apr. 18, 1977		
					May 27-June 6, 1977	May 26-June 1, 1977		
					July 1-July 11, 1977	June 30-July 11, 1977		
					Aug. 6-Sept. 7, 1977	Aug. 5-Sept. 7, 1977		
					Feb. 10-Feb. 20, 1978	Feb. 9-Feb. 14, 1978	do.	
	2	Jan. 19, 1978	Oct. 15, 1978 ..	270	Mar. 22-Apr. 3, 1978	Mar. 22-Apr. 3, 1978		
					May 26-June 3, 1978	May 25-July 31, 1978		
					June 29-July 10, 1978	June 29-July 10, 1978		
					Aug. 25-Sept. 6, 1978	Aug. 17-Sept. 6, 1978		
					Feb. 9-Feb. 19, 1979	Feb. 8-Feb. 13, 1979		
					Apr. 10-Apr. 23, 1979	Apr. 10-Apr. 23, 1979		
					June 24-July 4, 1979	May 24-May 30, 1979		
					July 27-July 9, 1979	June 29-July 9, 1979		
					Aug. 3-Sept. 5, 1979	Aug. 2-Sept. 5, 1979		
					Nov. 20-Nov. 26, 1979	Nov. 20-Nov. 26, 1979		
					Adjourned sine die, Dec. 20, 1979			
	2	Jan. 3, 1980	Dec. 16, 1980 ..	349	Apr. 3-Apr. 15, 1980	Feb. 13-Feb. 19, 1980	Warren G. Magnuson, of Washington; Milton Young, of North Dakota; ¹⁹ Warren G. Magnuson, of Washington. ¹⁹	
					May 22-May 28, 1980	Apr. 12-Apr. 15, 1980		
					July 2-July 21, 1980	May 22-May 28, 1980		
					Aug. 6-Aug. 18, 1980	July 2-July 21, 1980		
					Aug. 27-Sept. 3, 1980	Aug. 1-Aug. 18, 1980		
					Oct. 1-Nov. 12, 1980	Aug. 28-Sept. 3, 1980		
					Nov. 25-Dec. 1, 1980	Oct. 2-Nov. 12, 1980		
					Feb. 6-Feb. 16, 1981	Nov. 21-Dec. 1, 1980		
	1	Jan. 5, 1981	Dec. 16, 1981 ..	347	Apr. 10-Apr. 27, 1981	Feb. 6-Feb. 17, 1981	Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina	
					June 25-July 8, 1981	Apr. 10-Apr. 27, 1981		
					Aug. 3-Sept. 9, 1981	June 26-July 8, 1981		
					Oct. 7-Oct. 14, 1981	Aug. 4-Sept. 9, 1981		
					Nov. 24-Nov. 30, 1981	Oct. 7-Oct. 13, 1981		
					Feb. 11-Feb. 22, 1982	Nov. 23-Nov. 30, 1981	do	
					Apr. 1-Apr. 13, 1982	Feb. 10-Feb. 22, 1982		
					May 27-June 8, 1982	Apr. 6-Apr. 20, 1982		
					July 1-July 12, 1982	May 27-June 2, 1982		
					Oct. 20-Sept. 8, 1982	July 1-July 12, 1982		
					Oct. 1-Nov. 29, 1982	Aug. 20-Sept. 8, 1982		
97th ...	2	Jan. 25, 1982	Dec. 23, 1982 ..	333	Oct. 1-Nov. 29, 1982	Oct. 1-Nov. 29, 1982		

SESSIONS OF CONGRESS—CONTINUED

[Closing date for this table was July 11, 2005.]

MEETING DATES OF CONGRESS: Pursuant to a resolution of the Confederation Congress in 1788, the Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. From then until the 20th amendment took effect in January 1934, the term of each Congress began on March 4th of each odd-numbered year; however, Article I, section 4, of the Constitution provided that "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." The Congress therefore convened regularly on the first Monday in December until the 20th amendment became effective, which changed the beginning of Congress's term as well as its convening date to January 3rd. So prior to 1934, a new Congress typically would not convene for regular business until 13 months after being elected. One effect of this was that the last session of each Congress was a "lame duck" session. After the 20th amendment, the time from the election to the beginning of Congress's term as well as when it convened was reduced to two months. Recognizing that the need might exist for Congress to meet at times other than the regularly scheduled convening date, Article II, section 3 of the Constitution provides that the President "may" on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them"; hence these sessions occur only if convened by Presidential proclamation. Except as noted, these are separately numbered sessions of a Congress, and are marked by an E in the session column of the table. Until the 20th amendment was adopted, there were also times when special sessions of the Senate were convened, principally for confirming Cabinet and other executive nominations, and occasionally for the ratification of treaties or other executive business. These Senate sessions were also called by Presidential proclamation (typically by the outgoing President, although on occasion by incumbents as well) and are marked by an S in the session column. MEETING PLACES OF CONGRESS: Congress met for the first and second sessions of the First Congress (1789 and 1790) in New York City. From the third session of the First Congress through the first session of the Sixth Congress (1790 to 1800), Philadelphia was the meeting place. Congress has convened in Washington since the second session of the Sixth Congress (1800).

Congress	Session	Convening Date	Adjournment Date	Length in days ¹	Recesses ²		President pro tempore of the Senate ³	Speaker of the House of Representatives
					Senate	House of Representatives		
98th ...	1	Jan. 3, 1983	Nov. 18, 1983 ..	320	Jan. 3–Jan. 25, 1983	Jan. 6–Jan. 25, 1983	Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina	Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., of Massachusetts.
					Feb. 3–Feb. 14, 1983	Feb. 17–Feb. 22, 1983		
					Mar. 24–Apr. 5, 1983	Mar. 24–Apr. 5, 1983		
					May 26–June 6, 1983	May 26–June 1, 1983		
					June 29–July 11, 1983	June 30–July 11, 1983		
99th ...	2	Jan. 23, 1984	Oct. 12, 1984 ...	264	Aug. 4–Sept. 12, 1983	Aug. 4–Sept. 12, 1983	do.	Do.
					Oct. 7–Oct. 17, 1983	Oct. 6–Oct. 17, 1983		
					Feb. 9–Feb. 20, 1984	Feb. 9–Feb. 21, 1984		
					Apr. 12–Apr. 24, 1984	Apr. 12–Apr. 24, 1984		
					May 24–May 31, 1984	May 24–May 30, 1984		
	1	Jan. 3, 1985	Dec. 20, 1985 ...	352	June 29–July 23, 1984	June 29–July 23, 1984	do.	Do.
					Aug. 10–Sept. 5, 1984	Aug. 10–Sept. 5, 1984		
					Jan. 7–Jan. 21, 1985	Jan. 3–Jan. 21, 1985		
					Feb. 7–Feb. 18, 1985	Feb. 7–Feb. 19, 1985		
					Apr. 4–Apr. 15, 1985	Mar. 7–Mar. 19, 1985		
	2	Jan. 21, 1986	Oct. 18, 1986 ...	278	May 9–May 14, 1985	Apr. 4–Apr. 15, 1985	do.	
					May 24–June 3, 1985	May 23–June 3, 1985		
					June 27–July 8, 1985	June 27–July 8, 1985		
					Aug. 1–Sept. 9, 1985	Aug. 1–Sept. 4, 1985		
					Nov. 23–Dec. 2, 1985	Nov. 21–Dec. 2, 1985		
					Feb. 7–Feb. 17, 1986	Feb. 6–Feb. 18, 1986		
					Mar. 27–Apr. 8, 1986	Mar. 25–Apr. 8, 1986		
					May 21–June 2, 1986	May 22–June 3, 1986		
					June 26–July 7, 1986	June 26–July 14, 1986		
					Aug. 15–Sept. 8, 1986	Aug. 16–Sept. 8, 1986		

SESSIONS OF CONGRESS—CONTINUED

[Closing date for this table was July 11, 2005.]

MEETING DATES OF CONGRESS: Pursuant to a resolution of the Confederation Congress in 1788, the Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. From then until the 20th amendment took effect in January 1934, the term of each Congress began on March 4th of each odd-numbered year; however, Article I, section 4, of the Constitution provided that "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." The Congress therefore convened regularly on the first Monday in December until the 20th amendment became effective, which changed the beginning of Congress's term as well as its convening date to January 3rd. So prior to 1934, a new Congress typically would not convene for regular business until 13 months after being elected. One effect of this was that the last session of each Congress was a "lame duck" session. After the 20th amendment, the time from the election to the beginning of Congress's term as well as when it convened was reduced to two months. Recognizing that the need might exist for Congress to meet at times other than the regularly scheduled convening date, Article II, section 3 of the Constitution provides that the President "may" on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them"; hence these sessions occur only if convened by Presidential proclamation. Except as noted, these are separately numbered sessions of a Congress, and are marked by an E in the session column of the table. Until the 20th amendment was adopted, there were also times when special sessions of the Senate were convened, principally for confirming Cabinet and other executive nominations, and occasionally for the ratification of treaties or other executive business. These Senate sessions were also called by Presidential proclamation (typically by the outgoing President, although on occasion by incumbents as well) and are marked by an S in the session column. MEETING PLACES OF CONGRESS: Congress met for the first and second sessions of the First Congress (1789 and 1790) in New York City. From the third session of the First Congress through the first session of the Sixth Congress (1790 to 1800), Philadelphia was the meeting place. Congress has convened in Washington since the second session of the Sixth Congress (1800).

Congress	Session	Convening Date	Adjournment Date	Length in days ¹	Recesses ²		President pro tempore of the Senate ³	Speaker of the House of Representatives
					Senate	House of Representatives		
103d ...	1	Jan. 5, 1993	Nov. 26, 1993 ..	326	Jan. 7–Jan. 20, 1993	Jan. 6–Jan. 20, 1993	Robert C. Byrd, of West Virginia	Thomas S. Foley, of Washington.
					Feb. 4–Feb. 16, 1993	Jan. 27–Feb. 2, 1993		
					Apr. 7–Apr. 19, 1993	Feb. 4–Feb. 16, 1993		
					May 28–June 7, 1993	Apr. 7–Apr. 19, 1993		
					July 1–July 13, 1993	May 27–June 8, 1993		
					Aug. 7–Sept. 7, 1993	July 1–July 13, 1993		
					Oct. 7–Oct. 13, 1993	Aug. 6–Sept. 8, 1993		
					Nov. 11–Nov. 16, 1993	Sept. 15–Sept. 21, 1993		
						Oct. 7–Oct. 12, 1993		
						Nov. 10–Nov. 15, 1993		
104th ...	2	Jan. 25, 1994	Dec. 1, 1994	311	Feb. 11–Feb. 22, 1994	Jan. 26–Feb. 1, 1994	do.	Newt Gingrich, of Georgia.
					Mar. 26–Apr. 11, 1994	Feb. 11–Feb. 22, 1994		
					May 25–June 7, 1994	Mar. 24–Apr. 12, 1994		
					July 1–July 11, 1994	May 26–June 8, 1994		
					Aug. 25–Sept. 12, 1994	June 30–July 12, 1994		
					Oct. 8–Nov. 30, 1994	Aug. 26–Sept. 12, 1994		
						Oct. 8–Nov. 29, 1994		
					Feb. 16–Feb. 22, 1995	Feb. 16–Feb. 21, 1995		
					Apr. 7–Apr. 24, 1995	Mar. 16–Mar. 21, 1995		
					May 26–June 5, 1995	Apr. 7–May 1, 1995		
104th ...	1	Jan. 4, 1995	Jan. 3, 1996	365	June 30–July 10, 1995	May 3–May 9, 1995	Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina	
					Aug. 11–Sept. 5, 1995	May 25–June 6, 1995		
					Sept. 29–Oct. 10, 1995	June 30–July 10, 1995		
					Nov. 20–Nov. 27, 1995	Aug. 4–Sept. 6, 1995		
						Sept. 29–Oct. 6, 1995		
						Nov. 20–Nov. 28, 1995		

2	Jan. 3, 1996	Oct. 4, 1996	276	Jan. 10-Jan. 22, 1996	Jan. 9-Jan. 22, 1996	do.	
				Mar. 29-Apr. 15, 1996	Mar. 29-Apr. 15, 1996		
				May 24-June 3, 1996	May 23-May 29, 1996		
				June 28-July 8, 1996	June 28-July 8, 1996		
				Aug. 2-Sept. 3, 1996	Aug. 2-Sept. 4, 1996		
1	Jan. 7, 1997	Nov. 13, 1997 ..	311	Jan. 9-Jan. 21, 1997	Jan. 9-Jan. 20, 1997	do	Do.
				Feb. 13-Feb. 24, 1997	Jan. 21-Feb. 4, 1997		
				Mar. 21-Apr. 7, 1997	Feb. 13-Feb. 25, 1997		
				June 27-July 7, 1997	Mar. 21-Apr. 8, 1997		
				July 31-Sept. 2, 1997	June 26-July 8, 1997		
				Oct. 9-Oct. 20, 1997	Aug. 1-Sept. 3, 1997		
				Feb. 13-Feb. 23, 1998	Oct. 9-Oct. 21, 1997	do.	
2	Jan. 27, 1998	Dec. 19, 1998	327	Apr. 3-Apr. 20, 1998	Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 1998		
				May 22-June 1, 1998	Feb. 5-Feb. 11, 1998		
				June 26-July 6, 1998	Feb. 12-Feb. 24, 1998		
				July 31-Aug. 31, 1998	Apr. 1-Apr. 21, 1998		
				Adjourned sine die, Oct. 21, 1998.	May 22-June 3, 1998		
				Feb. 12-Feb. 22, 1999	June 25-July 14, 1998		
1	Jan. 6, 1999	Nov. 22, 1999 ..	321	Mar. 25-Apr. 12, 1999	Aug. 7-Sept. 9, 1998	do	J. Dennis Hastert, of Illinois.
				May 27-June 7, 1999	Oct. 21-Dec. 17, 1998		
				July 1-July 12, 1999	Jan. 6-Jan. 19, 1999		
				Aug. 5-Sept. 8, 1999	Jan. 19-Feb. 2, 1999		
				Feb. 10-Feb. 22, 2000	Feb. 12-Feb. 23, 1999		
2	Jan. 24, 2000	Dec. 15, 2000	326	Mar. 9-Mar. 20, 2000	Mar. 25-Apr. 12, 1999	do.	
				Apr. 13-Apr. 25, 2000	May 27-June 7, 1999		
				May 25-June 6, 2000	July 1-July 12, 1999		
				June 30-July 10, 2000	Aug. 6-Sept. 8, 1999		
				July 27-Sept. 5, 2000	Feb. 16-Feb. 29, 2000		
				Nov. 2-Nov. 14, 2000	Apr. 13-May 2, 2000		
1	Jan. 3, 2001	Dec. 20, 2001	352	Jan. 8-Jan. 20, 2001	May 25-June 6, 2000		
				Feb. 15-Feb. 26, 2001	June 30-July 10, 2000		
				Apr. 6-Apr. 23, 2001	July 27-Sept. 6, 2000		
				May 26-June 5, 2001	Nov. 3-Nov. 13, 2000		
				June 29-July 9, 2001	Nov. 14-Dec. 4, 2000		
				Aug. 3-Sept. 4, 2001	Jan. 6-Jan. 20, 2001		
				Oct. 18-Oct. 23, 2001	Jan. 20-Jan. 30, 2001		
				Nov. 16-Nov. 27, 2001	Feb. 14-Feb. 26, 2002	Robert C. Byrd, of West Virginia; ²¹ Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina; ²¹ Robert C. Byrd, of West Virginia. ²¹	Do.
				Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 2002	Oct. 17-Oct. 23, 2001		
				Feb. 15-Feb. 25, 2002	Nov. 19-Nov. 27, 2001		
2	Jan. 23, 2002	Nov. 22, 2002	304	Mar. 22-Apr. 8, 2002	Jan. 29-Feb. 4, 2002		
				May 23-June 3, 2002	Feb. 14-Feb. 26, 2002		
				June 28-July 8, 2002	Mar. 20-Apr. 9, 2002		
				July 1-Sept. 3, 2002	May 24-June 4, 2002		
					June 28-July 8, 2002		
					July 27-Sept. 4, 2002		

SESSIONS OF CONGRESS—CONTINUED

[Closing date for this table was July 11, 2005.]

MEETING DATES OF CONGRESS: Pursuant to a resolution of the Confederation Congress in 1788, the Constitution went into effect on March 4, 1789. From then until the 20th amendment took effect in January 1934, the term of each Congress began on March 4th of each odd-numbered year; however, Article I, section 4, of the Constitution provided that "The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day." The Congress therefore convened regularly on the first Monday in December until the 20th amendment became effective, which changed the beginning of Congress's term as well as its convening date to January 3rd. So prior to 1934, a new Congress typically would not convene for regular business until 13 months after being elected. One effect of this was that the last session of each Congress was a "lame duck" session. After the 20th amendment, the time from the election to the beginning of Congress's term as well as when it convened was reduced to two months. Recognizing that the need might exist for Congress to meet at times other than the regularly scheduled convening date, Article II, section 3 of the Constitution provides that the President "may" on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them¹; hence these sessions occur only if convened by Presidential proclamation. Except as noted, these are separately numbered sessions of a Congress, and are marked by an E in the session column of the table. Until the 20th amendment was adopted, there were also times when special sessions of the Senate were convened, principally for confirming Cabinet and other executive nominations, and occasionally for the ratification of treaties or other executive business. These Senate sessions were also called by Presidential proclamation (typically by the outgoing President, although on occasion by incumbents as well) and are marked by an S in the session column. MEETING PLACES OF CONGRESS: Congress met for the first and second sessions of the First Congress (1789 and 1790) in New York City. From the third session of the First Congress through the first session of the Sixth Congress (1790 to 1800), Philadelphia was the meeting place. Congress has convened in Washington since the second session of the Sixth Congress (1800).

Congress	Session	Convening Date	Adjournment Date	Length in days ¹	Recesses ²		President pro tempore of the Senate ³	Speaker of the House of Representatives
					Senate	House of Representatives		
108th...	1	Jan. 7, 2003	Dec. 9, 2003	337	Feb. 14–Feb. 24, 2003	Jan. 8–Jan. 27, 2003	Ted Stevens, of Alaska	J. Dennis Hastert, of Illinois.
					Apr. 11–Apr. 28, 2003	Feb. 13–Feb. 25, 2003		
					May 23–June 2, 2003	Apr. 12–Apr. 29, 2003		
					June 27–July 7, 2003	May 23–June 2, 2003		
					Aug. 1–Sept. 2, 2003	June 27–July 7, 2003		
					Oct. 3–Oct. 14, 2003	July 29–Sept. 3, 2003		
					Nov. 25–Dec. 9, 2003	Nov. 25–Dec. 8, 2003		
					Feb. 12–Feb. 23, 2004	Feb. 11–Feb. 24, 2004		
					Mar. 12–Mar. 22, 2004	Apr. 2–Apr. 20, 2004		
					Apr. 8–Apr. 19, 2004	May 20–June 1, 2004		
109th...	1	Jan. 20, 2004	Dec. 8, 2004	324	May 21–June 1, 2004	June 9–June 14, 2004	do	Do.
					June 9–June 14, 2004	June 25–July 6, 2004		
					June 25–July 6, 2004	July 22–Sept. 7, 2004		
					July 22–Sept. 7, 2004	Oct. 9–Nov. 16, 2004		
					Oct. 11–Nov. 16, 2004	Nov. 24–Dec. 6, 2004		
					Nov. 24–Dec. 7, 2004	Jan. 6–Jan. 20, 2005		
					Jan. 26–Jan. 31, 2005	Jan. 20–Jan. 25, 2005		
					Feb. 18–Feb. 28, 2005	Jan. 26–Feb. 1, 2005		
					Mar. 20–Apr. 4, 2005	Feb. 2–Feb. 8, 2005		
					Apr. 29–May 9, 2005	Feb. 17–Mar. 1, 2005		
					May 26–June 6, 2005	Mar. 21–Apr. 5, 2005		
					July 1–July 11, 2005	May 26–June 7, 2005		
						July 1–July 11, 2005		

¹ For the purposes of this table, a session's "length in days" is defined as the total number of calendar days from the convening date to the adjournment date, inclusive. It does not mean the actual number of days that Congress met during that session.

² For the purposes of this table, a "recess" is defined as any period of three or more complete days—excluding Sundays—when either the House of Representatives or the Senate is not in session. As listed, the recess periods also are inclusive of days only partially in the recess, i.e., the day (or days) when the House and Senate each adjourn to begin the recess, as well as the day (or days) when each body reconvenes at the end of the recess.

³ The election and role of the President pro tempore has evolved considerably over the Senate's history. "Pro tempore" is Latin for "for the time being"; thus, the post was conceived as a temporary presiding officer. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Senate frequently elected several Presidents pro tempore during a single session. Since Vice Presidents presided routinely, the Senate thought it necessary to choose a President pro tempore only for the limited periods when the Vice President might be ill or otherwise absent.⁴ Since no provision was in place (until the 25th amendment was adopted in 1967) for replacing the Vice President if he died or resigned from office, or if he assumed the Presidency, the President pro tempore would continue under such circumstances to fill the duties of the chair until the next Vice President was elected. Since Mar. 12, 1890, however, Presidents pro tempore have served until "the Senate otherwise ordered."⁵ Since 1949, while still elected, the position has gone to the most senior member of the majority party (see footnote 19 for a minority party exception). To gain a more complete understanding of this position, see Robert C. Byrd's *The Senate 1789–1989: Addresses on the History of the United States Senate*, vol. 2, ch. 6—"The President Pro Tempore," pp. 167–183, from which the quotes in this footnote are taken. Also, a complete listing of the dates of election of the Presidents pro tempore is in vol. 4 of the Byrd series (*The Senate 1789–1989: Historical Statistics, 1789–1992*), table 6–2, pp. 647–653.

⁴ Henry Clay resigned as Speaker on Jan. 19, 1814. He was succeeded by Langdon Cheves who was elected on that same day.

⁵ Henry Clay resigned as Speaker on Oct. 28, 1820, after the sine die adjournment of the first session of the 16th Congress. He was succeeded by John W. Taylor who was elected at the beginning of the second session.

⁶ Andrew Stevenson resigned as Speaker on June 2, 1834. He was succeeded by John Bell who was elected on that same day.

⁷ Speaker Schuyler Colfax resigned as Speaker on the last day of the 40th Congress, Mar. 3, 1869, in preparation for becoming Vice President of the United States on the following day. Theodore M. Pomeroy was elected Speaker on Mar. 3, and served for only that one day.

⁸ Speaker Michael C. Kerr died on Aug. 19, 1876, after the sine die adjournment of the first session of the 44th Congress. Samuel J. Randall was elected Speaker at the beginning of the second session.

⁹ William P. Frye resigned as President pro tempore on Apr. 27, 1911.

¹⁰ President pro tempore James P. Clarke died on Oct. 1, 1916, after the sine die adjournment of the first session of the 64th Congress. Willard Saulsbury was elected President pro tempore during the second session.

¹¹ Speaker Joseph W. Byrns died on June 4, 1936. He was succeeded by William B. Bankhead who was elected Speaker on that same day.

¹² Speaker William B. Bankhead died on Sept. 15, 1940. He was succeeded by Sam Rayburn who was elected Speaker on that same day.

¹³ President pro tempore Key Pittman died on Nov. 10, 1940. He was succeeded by William H. King who was elected President pro tempore on Nov. 19, 1940.

¹⁴ President pro tempore Pat Harrison died on June 22, 1941. He was succeeded by Carter Glass who was elected President pro tempore on July 10, 1941.

¹⁵ President Harry S. Truman called the Congress into extraordinary session twice, both times during the 80th Congress. Each time Congress had essentially wrapped up its business for the year, but for technical reasons had not adjourned sine die, so in each case the extraordinary session is considered an extension of the regularly numbered session rather than a separately numbered one. The dates of these extraordinary sessions were Nov. 17 to Dec. 19, 1947, and July 26 to Aug. 7, 1948.

¹⁶ Speaker Sam Rayburn died on Nov. 16, 1961, after the sine die adjournment of the first session of the 87th Congress. John W. McCormack was elected Speaker at the beginning of the second session.

¹⁷ President pro tempore Richard B. Russell died on Jan. 21, 1971. He was succeeded by Allen J. Ellender who was elected to that position on Jan. 22, 1971.

¹⁸ President pro tempore Allen J. Ellender died on July 27, 1972. He was succeeded by James O. Eastland who was elected President pro tempore on July 28, 1972.

¹⁹ Milton Young was elected President pro tempore for one day, Dec. 5, 1980, which was at the end of his 36-year career in the Senate. He was Republican, which was the minority party at that time. Warren G. Magnuson resumed the position of President pro tempore on Dec. 6, 1980.

²⁰ James C. Wright, Jr., resigned as Speaker on June 6, 1989. He was succeeded by Thomas S. Foley who was elected on that same day.

²¹ The 2000 election resulted in an even split in the Senate between Republicans and Democrats. From the date the 107th Congress convened on Jan. 3, 2001, until Inauguration Day on Jan. 20, 2001, Vice President Albert Gore tipped the scale to a Democratic majority, hence Robert C. Byrd served as President pro tempore during this brief period. When Vice President Richard B. Cheney took office on Jan. 20, the Republicans became the majority party, and Strom Thurmond was elected President pro tempore. On June 6, 2001, Republican Senator James Jeffords became an Independent, creating a Democratic majority, and Robert C. Byrd was elected President pro tempore on that day.

CEREMONIAL MEETINGS OF CONGRESS

The following ceremonial meetings of Congress occurred on the following dates, at the designated locations, and for the reasons indicated. Please note that Congress was not in session on these occasions.

July 16, 1987, 100th Congress, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Independence Hall and Congress Hall—In honor of the bicentennial of the Constitution, and in commemoration of the Great Compromise of the Constitutional Convention which was agreed to on July 16, 1787.
September 6, 2002, 107th Congress, New York City, New York, Federal Hall—In remembrance of the victims and heroes of September 11, 2001, and in recognition of the courage and spirit of the City of New York.