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Begin forwarded message:

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Running (or Ruining) the Country from 1977 forward (post-Vietnam War era)

Years	President	Senate*	House of Representatives*	
1977-79	D-Carter	D 61-38	D 292-143	
1979-81	D-Carter	D 58-41	D 277-158	
1981-83	R-Reagan	R 53-46	D 242-192	
1983-85	R-Reagan	R 54-46	D 269-166	
1985-87	R-Reagan	R 53-47	D 253-182	
1987-89	R-Reagan	D 55-45	D 258-177	
1989-91	R-Bush I	D 55-45	D 260-175	
1991-93	R-Bush I	D 56-44	D 267-167	
1993-95	D-Clinton	D 57-43	D 258-176	
1995-97	D-Clinton	R 52-48	R 230-204	The Newt Gingrich/Tom DeLay/Rush Limbaugh** era
1997-99	D-Clinton	R 55-45	R 228-206	(Gingrich resigned from Congress after 1998 elections
1999-01	D-Clinton	R 55-45	R 223-211	DeLay resigned from Congress June, 2006)
2001-03	R-Bush II	T 50-50	R 221-212	Afghanistan War begins Oct 2001
2003-05	R-Bush II	R 51-48	R 229-204	Iraq War begins Mar 2003
2005-07	R-Bush II	R 55-44	R 232-202	
2007-09	R-Bush II	T 49-49	D 235-198	U.S. Economic meltdown 2008
2009-11	D-Obama	D 57-41	D 256-178	Dems in majority since Jan 20, 2009, 2 1/2 months
2011-13	D-Obama	D 51-47-2#	R 242-193	

* - reasonably accurate numbers from 2007 World Almanac and Wikipedia. There are occasional and small shifts during a Congress - somebody dies or resigns. Only rarely are there members of other parties in Congress, usually these are people who call themselves Independents.

The "sausage making" aspect of law-making is well known. Bush II was the closest we ever came to an imperial Presidency that considered itself sole and supreme authority, essentially ignoring other branches of government. The era of Republican dominance of the U.S. Government was 1995 through 2008. Even today Republican threat of filibuster in the Senate means that it is difficult for the Democrats to attain the 60 votes needed to pass bills to their specifications. And this makes an assumption that all Democrats are ideologically the same, which they are not.

** - Rush Limbaugh was lionized as a hero by the Republicans for his talk-radio role in overturning Congress in the 1994 elections. One of his own listeners, an apparently conservative Republican, caught Rush unawares and lambasted him on the air yesterday.

- Senators Joe Lieberman and Bernie Sanders are listed as Independents on the official U.S. Senate website. Per Senate rules, it is almost impossible to move controversial items without 60 votes.