



Rising Threats to Members of Congress

**New CPOST Study Shows Threats against
Members of Congress Increased Sharply in 2017,
Targeting both Democrats and Republicans**

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STUDYING THREATS TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS



Nearly 400 charged threats by Dept of Justice and State Courts from 2001 to 2024

- **Charged Threat Event: A threat or attack against a U.S. Representative or Senator charged in Federal or State Court**
 - Federal charges include: Assaulting, kidnapping, murdering a US official or their family, or threatening to do so (18 U.S.C. § 115); Congressional, Cabinet, and Supreme Court assassination, kidnapping, and assault (18 U.S.C. § 351) Interstate communications of threats (18 U.S.C. § 875); Mailing threatening communications (18 U.S.C. § 876)
 - We include attacks where the perpetrator dies prior to charging, e.g. the attack 2017 attack on Congressional Republicans that injured Rep. Steve Scalise and other during which the assailant was shot and killed by police.
- **Systematic search for threats to over 1,600 members of Congress (2001-2024) in open-source media and court records; charges confirmed in court records**
 - Database contains number of Members threatened, perpetrators, perpetrator characteristics and motives
- **Goal: CPOST study seeks to understand the changing trajectory, balance of target political identification, and perpetrator motives.**

CPOST THREATS MATRIX DATA SUMMARY



Charged Threats to Members of Congress (2001-2024)

- **Charged threats: 378**
- **Charged perpetrators: 265**
- **Perpetrators with multiple threats: 54**
- **Most threats by perpetrator(s):**
 - Szabo and Radovanovic, Dec 2023 swatting campaign: 17
 - Vance Boelter, Minnesota 2024 assassination and hitlist: 14
 - James Hodgkinson, 2017 attack on Congressional baseball practice: 11
- **Most threatened Democrat and Republican**
 - Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): 15 charged threats
 - Senator Susan Collins (R-ME): 5 charged threats

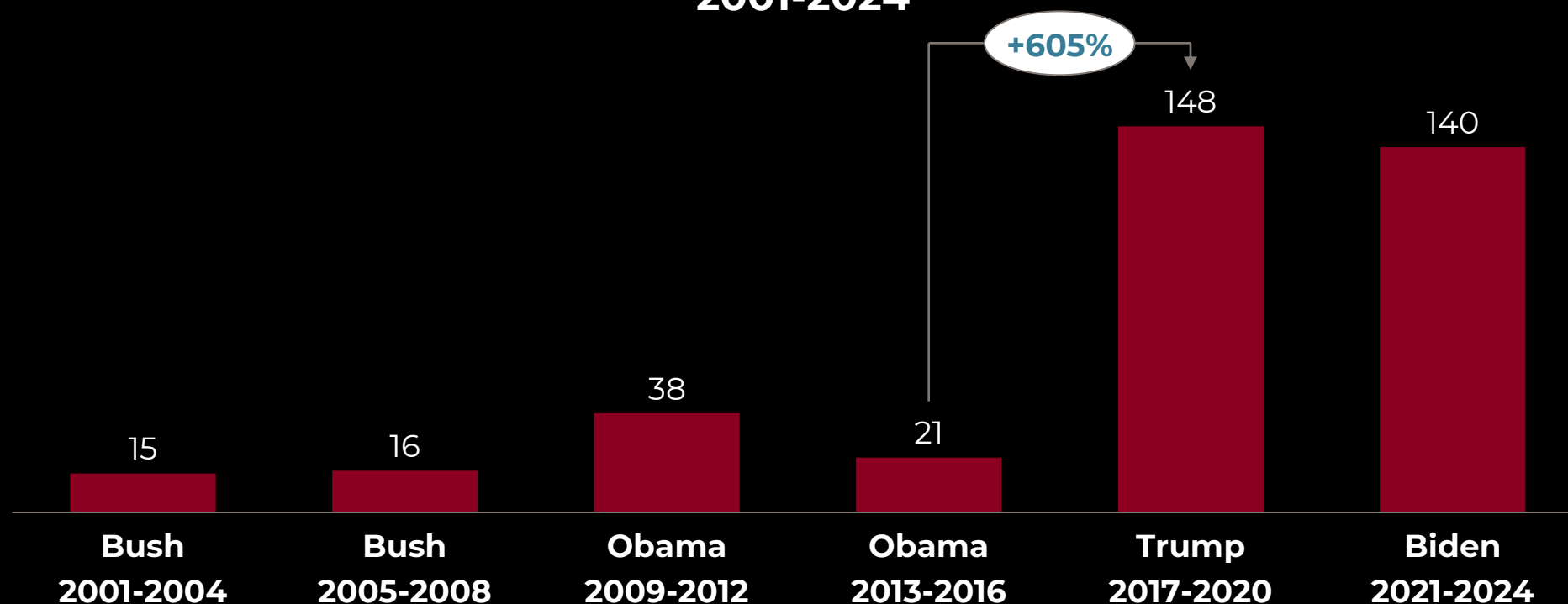
Source: CPOST Threats
Matrix Database, Last
Updated 10/2/2025

SPIKE IN PROSECUTED THREAT EVENTS SINCE 2017



Threats to Members of Congress **Up 600%** in 2017 and Remain High

Threats to Members of Congress by Presidential Term,
2001-2024



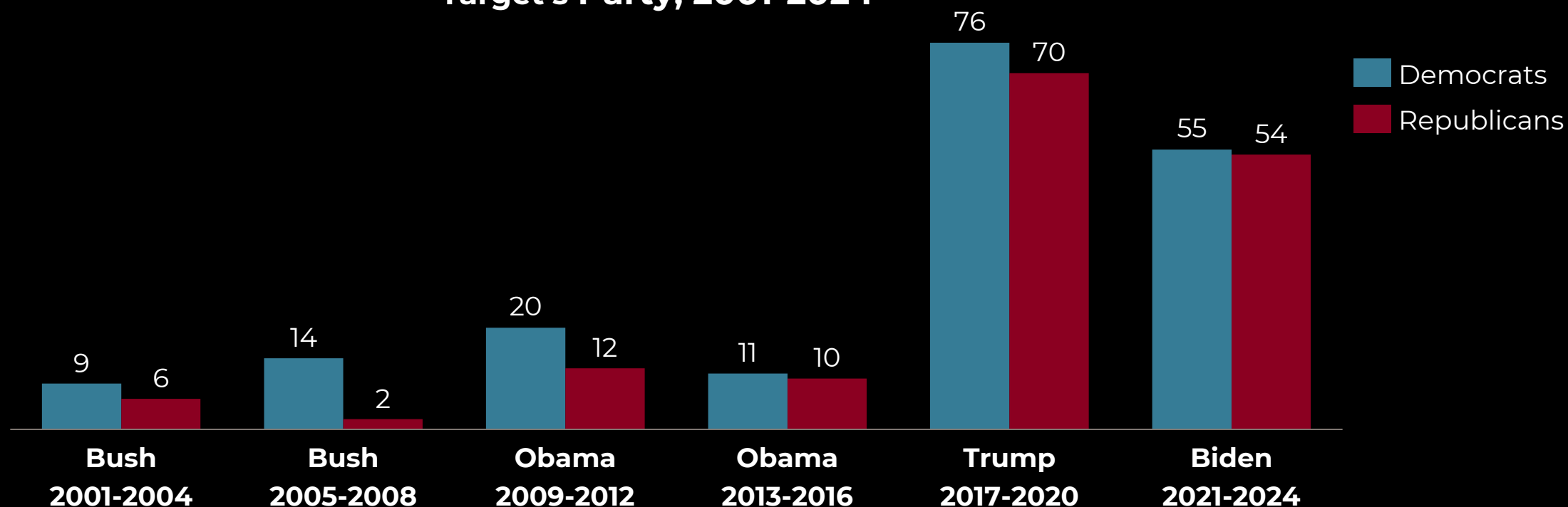
Note: Data represents threats to members of congress charged in federal and state/local courts. Date of threat based on when the threat was made, not when the perpetrator was charged. Data is complete through 2024 and was last updated 10/3/2025.

SPIKE IN PROSECUTED THREAT EVENTS SINCE 2017



Members of Congress from Both Parties Targeted

**Charged Threats to Members of Congress by
Target's Party, 2001-2024**



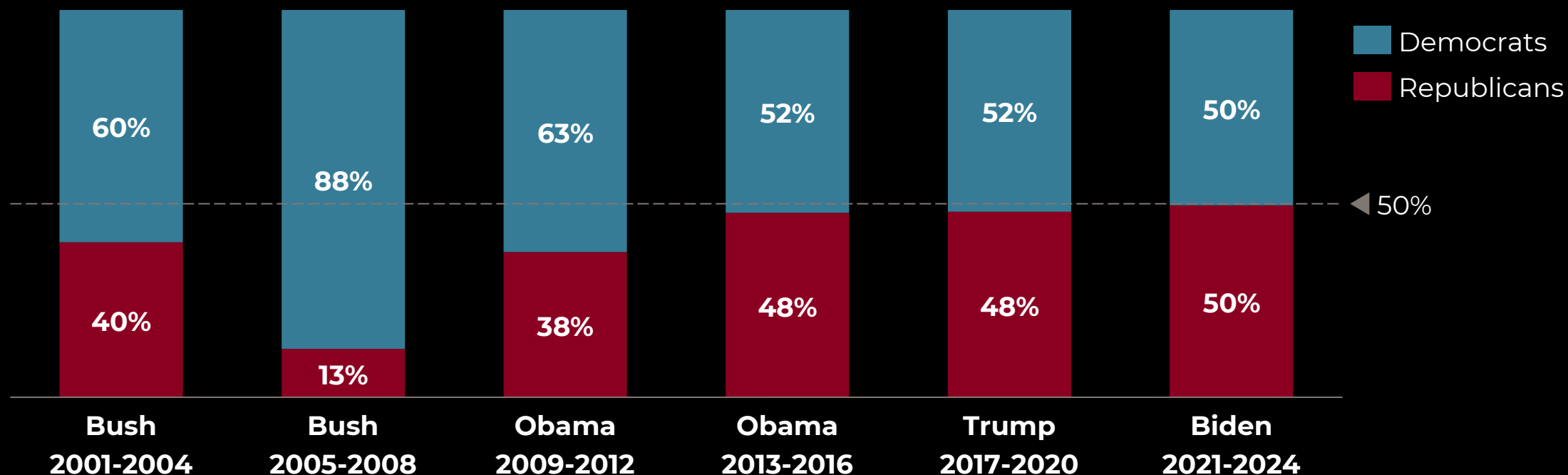
Note: Includes all cases where the target party is known. Independent senators Bernie Sanders and Joe Lieberman included with Democrats. Excludes 39 cases where the target was not identified in media or court records. Data represents threats to members of congress charged in federal and state/local courts. Date of threat based on when the threat was made, not when the perpetrator was charged. Data is complete through 2024 and was last updated 10/3/2025.

SPIKE IN PROSECUTED THREAT EVENTS SINCE 2017



Members of Congress from Both Parties Targeted

Distribution of Charged Threats to Members of Congress by Target's Party, 2001-2024



Note: Includes all cases where the target party is known. Independent senators Bernie Sanders and Joe Lieberman included with Democrats. Excludes 39 cases where the target was not identified in media or court records. Data represents threats to members of congress charged in federal and state/local courts. Date of threat based on when the threat was made, not when the perpetrator was charged. Data is complete through 2024 and was last updated 10/3/2025.

THREATS INVESTIGATED BY THE CAPITOL POLICE

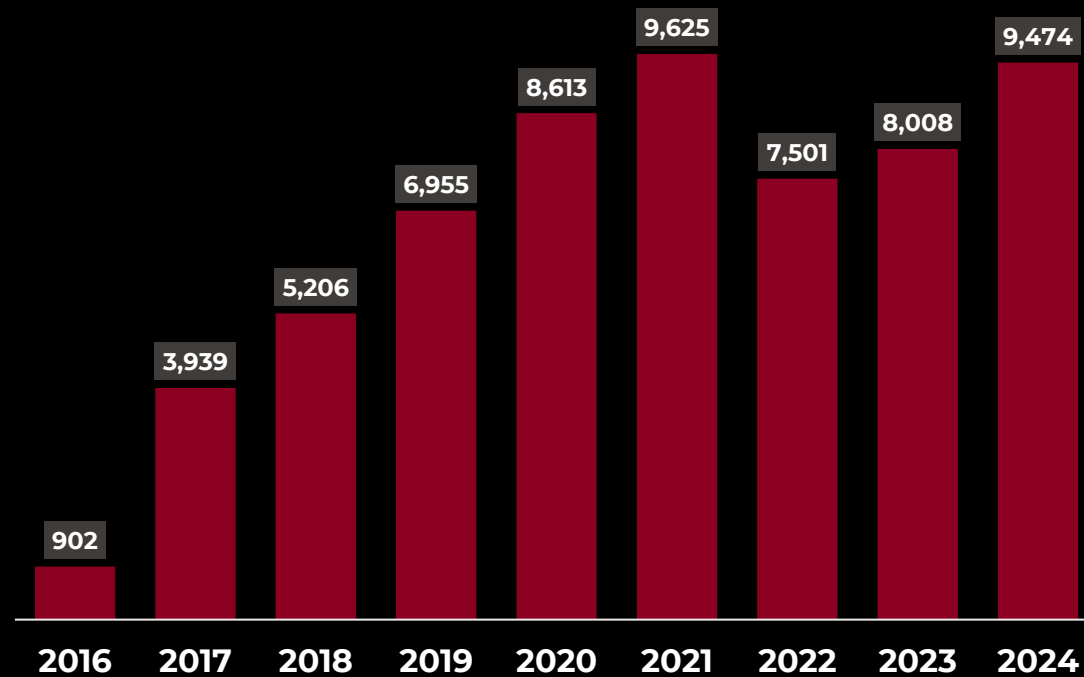


Official data shows spike in threats in 2017

Annual Total Threat Assessments for Threats
Against Members of Congress Initiated by US
Capitol Police, 2016-2024

Not all
investigations lead
to charges

- Severity
- Criminal Intent
- Diversion



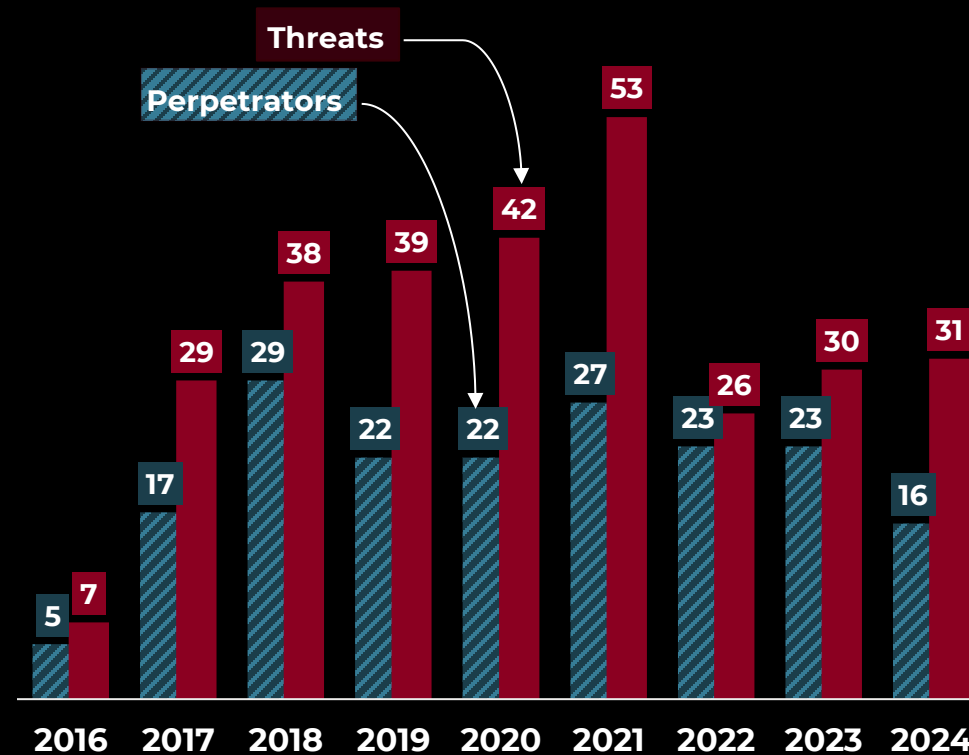
Sources: [USCP TAS Threat Assessments \(2024\)](#); [The Hill \(2016.\)](#). No consistent data available on USCP TAS Threat Assessments prior to 2016.

CHARGED THREATS AND PERPETRATORS



Many charged perpetrators threatened more than one Member of Congress

Annual Total Charged Threats and Perpetrators of Threats
Against Members of Congress, 2016-2024



Note: Source: CPOST Threats Matrix Database (2025). Data is complete through 2024 and was last updated 10/3/2025.

OVERALL FINDING

Growing Risks of:

1. **Political Violence to Leaders from Both Parties**
2. **Especially lone wolf and small group, not just violent protests**

**Strong Evidence America is in a
New Era of Violent Populism**



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Political violence

30 years studying political violence

20 years focused on terrorism and propaganda

2020 American Political Violence – 100 cities survey

Past 5 years analyzing the
Political Violence in America:
Jan 6 Demographics analysis
12 Nationally Representative Surveys
US Military Veteran Survey
Ethnographic Focus Groups
Antisemitism and Support for Political Violence
**= Deep Undersanding of Violent Dangers to
American Democracy**