

12/09/2000: Bush v Gore

On December 9, concluding (7–2) that a fair statewide recount could not be performed in time to meet the December 18 deadline for certifying the state’s electors, the court issued a controversial 5–4 decision to reverse the Florida Supreme Court’s recount order, effectively awarding the presidency to Bush.

06/07/2001: Trillion dollar tax cut

President Bush signs a \$1.35 trillion tax cut into law. Although the amount falls short of the \$1.60 trillion the administration has been seeking, the bill does slash income tax rates across the board and provides for the gradual elimination of the estate tax.

09/11/2001: September 11 Terrorist Attacks

Terrorists hijack four commercial jets and crash them into the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the Pennsylvania countryside. It is the worst attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor, with fatalities numbering about 3,000. Addressing the nation twelve hours after the attacks, President Bush vows to hunt down those responsible.

09/20/2001: Targeting bin Laden; Tom Ridge appointed to Homeland Security

President Bush appears before a joint session of Congress to outline the administration’s plans to defeat world terrorism, singling out Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda organization as the primary targets of such a policy. He states that every nation must take sides in the international conflict against worldwide terrorist networks; he also warns Americans to prepare for a protracted campaign against terrorism. The President then appoints Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge to the new cabinet-level post of director of the Office of Homeland Security. Governor Ridge will coordinate the efforts of more than forty federal agencies to secure the United States against future terrorist attacks.

10/17/2001: D.C. Anthrax scare

The Capital shuts down amidst an Anthrax scare. Persons in Florida and New York have already tested positive for the frequently fatal bacteria. Bush calls for \$1.5 billion to fight bioterrorism.

12/02/2001: Enron files bankruptcy

The Enron Corporation files for Chapter Eleven bankruptcy protection, the largest bankruptcy case in American history. The beleaguered company, once the world’s premier energy trading and services firm, files for court protection after watching its stock price plummet as a result of accounting issues relating to its operations. Earlier in the year, discoveries reveal that Enron’s chief financial officer engaged in partnerships which allowed the company to hide half a billion dollars worth of debt. The Bush administration has ties to key Enron executives, including CEO Kenneth Lay, but denies any involvement in the scandal.

01/08/2002: No Child Left Behind

President Bush signs an education reform bill with bipartisan support; this reauthorized the Johnson-era Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. Known as the No Child Left Behind Act, it offers local authorities greater flexibility in spending federal dollars, but requires standardized math and reading tests.

6/06/2002: Bush expands Homeland Security

In a televised address to the nation, President Bush announces broad changes to security departments in charge of protecting the nation from terrorism. The Office of Homeland Security will now coordinate a wide

range of functions and oversee more than 100 organizations. The announcement follows criticism of the FBI and CIA for failing to prevent the September 11 attacks.

07/08/2002: Curbing corporate abuses

Following the Enron and WorldCom scandals, in which both companies claimed profits which turned out to be highly inflated, President Bush calls for new laws on corporate abuse. On July 10, the Dow Jones index drops below 9,000, its largest one-day loss since September 2001.

01/07/2003: Further tax cuts

Bush reveals a tax-cut plan of \$674 billion over ten years. He suggests that the plan will stimulate the U.S. economy, end the recession, and create jobs. Democrats dismiss the plan as financially irresponsible and favorable to the rich.

02/01/2003: Columbia shuttle explosion

The seven-member crew of the shuttle Columbia dies in an explosion in space. Debris falls in Texas.

03/19/2003: Bush declares war with Iraq

The 8:00 p.m. deadline for Hussein to leave Iraq passes. At 10:15 p.m., Bush addresses the nation and informs the American people that the United States is at war with Iraq.

03/25/2003: Tax cuts reduced to fund war

Citing costs of the Iraq War, the Senate approves, by a vote of 51-48, the reduction of Bush's tax cut plan to \$350 million, less than half of the original amount.

05/28/2003: Bush signs third largest tax cut in history

Bush signs into law his \$350 billion tax-cut package, the third-largest in history, in an effort to strengthen the U.S. economy and reverse a trend of increasing unemployment. Congressional Democrats who opposed the bill argued it is skewed towards the wealthy.

06/17/2003: Federal law enforcement and race

President Bush issues comprehensive guidelines forbidding federal law enforcement agencies from considering race or ethnicity in routine patrol duties. Although more extensive than previous federal law, the guidelines provided clear exceptions for matters of national security and counterterrorism operations.

07/11/2003: Assumed Iraqi nuclear potential discredited

CIA Director George Tenet accepts full responsibility for the statement in Bush's 2003 State of the Union Address regarding Iraq's alleged effort to obtain uranium from Africa, saying its inclusion should not have been approved by the CIA because the intelligence was unsubstantiated and the claim had been discredited.

10/02/2003: Weapons Inspector finds no nuclear weapons in Iraq

Chief U.S. Weapons Inspector David Kay reports that his 1,400 member team, the Iraq Survey Group, failed to find any biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons in Iraq. Kay acknowledged that they did find evidence that Iraq sought the capacity to create those weapons in the future. Bush used these findings as validation of his prewar claims that Iraq posed a significant security threat to the United States.

12/08/2003: Medicare overhaul

Bush signs a landmark bill overhauling Medicare that includes the program's first prescription drug benefits to begin in 2006 and creates incentives for private insurance companies to cover Medicare subscribers.

06/28/2004: Formal occupation of Iraq ends

The U.S.-led Coalition for Provisional Authority formally ends foreign occupation of Iraq, granting the provisional government sovereignty. Still, 130,000 troops remain in Iraq.

11/03/2004: Bush reelected

Bush wins a second term with a close 51 percent of the popular vote and 274 electoral votes to John Kerry's 252. The Republican Party builds slightly on its majority in the House and Senate.

08/28/2005: Hurricane Katrina strikes

Hurricane Katrina strikes the Gulf coast of the United States with devastating effects. The storm breaches the levee system in New Orleans, causing massive flooding and destruction of property. The Bush administration is harshly criticized for an inadequate response by the federal government to the storm's destruction.

10/26/2006: Bush approves border fence

President Bush signs a bill providing for the construction of a 700-mile fence along the United States-Mexico border, in an effort to increase border security and stem illegal immigration.

12/30/2006: Saddam Hussein hanged

Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is hanged in Baghdad, Iraq, after being convicted of crimes against humanity dating back to 1982.

01/04/2007: Pelosi becomes first woman Speaker

Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from California, takes office as the first woman Speaker of the House. Democrats assume control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

04/16/2007: Virginia Tech massacre

Seung-Hui Cho kills himself and 32 fellow students at Virginia Tech in the deadliest campus gun rampage in U.S. history. President Bush and the First Lady attend the memorial.

07/26/2007: Antiterrorism Bill

Congress passes the Antiterrorism Bill, which will allow for the screening of air and sea cargo and will give more money in government antiterrorism grants to states with the greatest risk for terrorist attacks.

10/09/2007: Dow Jones all-time high

The Dow Jones industrial average closes at 14,164, its all-time high. Soon after, it begins a steep decline.

01/18/2008: Bush proposes stimulus package

President Bush proposes a \$145 billion stimulus package in response to a housing crisis and rapidly increasing oil prices. The package gives individuals several hundred dollars to facilitate spending, as well as rebates for families with children and tax deductions for businesses in order to jump-start the slowing economy.

02/01/2008: Labor Statistics reports drastic job loss

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the U.S. economy lost more than 15,000 jobs during the previous month. Such an elimination of jobs from the economy had not occurred for more than four years.

02/07/2008: Senate passes stimulus package

The Senate passes a \$170-billion stimulus package to give many Americans tax rebates as large as \$600 or more, and to implement tax breaks for certain businesses in an effort to head-off impending economic slowdown.

05/22/2008: Congress overrides veto, pushes Farm Bill

The House and Senate override President Bush's veto of the Farm Bill, a \$307 billion bill which will provide subsidies to farmers. More than \$10 billion of the funds will go to expanding nutritional programs such as food stamps. Bush originally vetoed the bill, which he felt to be excessive.

09/07/2008: Federal takeover of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac

The U.S. government places federal mortgage lenders Fannie Mae (Federal National Mortgage Association) and Freddie Mac (Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation) under control of the U.S. Treasury to prevent the institutions from going under and endangering more than half of the country's mortgages.

10/03/2008: Bush signs largest bailout in history

At the onset of financial crisis, President Bush signs a \$700 billion bailout plan for failing bank assets, the largest in U.S. history.

11/25/2008: Treasury, Federal Reserve agree to buy debt

The Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve agree to provide another \$800 billion in lending programs to buy debt insured by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and to provide more small loans to consumers.

12/19/2008: Bush bails out GM, Chrysler

President Bush issues a \$17.4-billion auto bailout to General Motors and Chrysler to keep the two American automotive giants from going bankrupt.