JUDD GREGG NEWS TIMELINE

Prepared by Bryan Craig
Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/29/2014

1965  Judd Gregg graduates from Phillips Exeter Academy.  (http://bioguide.congress.gov)

1969  Gregg earns an A.B. from Columbia University.  (http://bioguide.congress.gov)

1972  Gregg receives a J.D. from Boston University.  (http://bioguide.congress.gov)


1993  Gregg begins to serve in the U.S. Senate (R-NH).  (http://bioguide.congress.gov)

2000  


2001  

January  Gregg continues to serve on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) and Appropriations Committees.

On the 3rd, the Democrats regain control of the Senate for 17 days until Gore, who has been the tie-breaking vote in the evenly split Senate as vice president, is replaced by new Vice President Dick Cheney.  Senators Trent Lott (R-MS) and Tom Daschle (D-SD) reach an agreement to make the committees evenly divided, but Republicans would chair each committee.  Gregg becomes chair of the HELP Committee.  (Dick Cheney, In My Time, New York: Threshold, 2011, p. 308)
On the 23rd, Bush unveils his education plan. It includes consolidating dozens of programs into five general grant categories, holding schools accountable by annual testing in grades 3-8, offering federal help for under-performing schools, and providing vouchers for students to attend private school. He also unveils a “Reading First” initiative that helps teach reading to disadvantaged children through the third grade. (*2001 CQ Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2002, pp. 8-4 to 8-5; *Education Week*, 01/23/2001)

On the 27th, Bush states he is willing to look at alternatives to school vouchers that Gregg supports. Secretary of Education Rod Paige and Bush support school choice, where students can attend public (including state-sponsored charter schools) or private schools. Democrats, however, oppose the plan, believing it would take money away from public schools. (*The Washington Post*, 01/28/2001; *The Washington Times*, 01/28/2001)

**Winter**

The Bush Administration is reportedly worried about the Senate HELP Committee chairman Senator Jim Jeffords (R-VT) siding with liberal Democrats on an education bill. They develop channels with Gregg, Evan Bayh (D-IN), and Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) in order to draft a bill. Lieberman and Bayh helped develop the “Three R’s” bill in 2000 which had accountability measures that Bush supports. (*The Washington Post*, 12/17/2001)

**February**

On the 7th, Bush outlines his position on patients’ rights legislation. He argues that patients should be able to sue insurance companies in federal court if the companies improperly deny medical care, as determined by an independent review. Bush also supports a cap on damages. The president raises objections to the managed care/patients’ rights legislation sponsored by Senators McCain, Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and John Edwards (D-NC), because it has few limits on damages and patients could sue in state courts. (*The New York Times*, 02/08/2001)

**March**

On the 8th, the Senate HELP Committee approves its Better Education for Students and Teachers Act. It includes Bush’s provision to test students in grades 3-8 for reading and math and create a new reading program. Committee Democrats gave states an additional year to begin testing but lost significant increases for teaching training. Gregg fails to amend the bill to allow Title I funds for low-income students to move with children from failing schools when their parents choose other schools. (*2001 CQ Almanac*, p. 8-6; *The Washington Times*, 03/08/2001)

On the 22nd, Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) introduces the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) that reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It encompasses Bush’s plans from January. (THOMAS on HR 1)

**May**

On the 2nd, Bush announces a Social Security Commission to examine private accounts in Social Security. Gregg is reportedly a proponent of the creation of the commission with an early deadline. The commission’s report comes out in December. (The Washington Post, 02/27/2001; http://govinfo.library.unt.edu/csss/)

On the 9th, Bush nominates Miguel Estrada for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Democrats see Estrada as a judicial conservative and move slowly on the president’s judicial nominations to thwart Bush from choosing conservative judges. (The New York Times, 05/07/2003)

On the 15th, Bush publically endorses the Frist-Breaux-Jeffords patients’ bill of rights bill. Although supportive of patient protections, Bush worries that too many lawsuits would drive up health costs. (The Washington Post, 05/15/2001)

On the 23rd, the House passes its five-year, $22.8 billion NCLB bill. (2001 CQ Almanac, p. 8-5)

June

On the 6th, the Democrats regain control of the Senate when Jeffords leaves the Republican Party to caucus with the Democrats as an Independent two weeks earlier. Senior Adviser to the President Karl Rove argues that one of Jeffords’ motivations to leave the party is that he disapproves of Bush’s working relationship with Gregg on the NCLB bill. Gregg loses the chairmanship of HELP. (Rove, p. 230)

On the 14th, the Senate passes its $33 billion ESEA reauthorization. It includes some elements of “Straight A’s” that give seven states and 25 school districts more latitude to spend federal funds. Gregg fails in his attempt to amend the bill to include school vouchers. (2001 CQ Almanac, p. 8-7)

Over a veto threat by Bush, on the 29th, the Senate goes on to pass the patients’ rights legislation sponsored by Kennedy-McCain-Edwards. Gregg is the GOP floor manager for this bill. (2001 CQ Almanac, pp. 12-5, S-46)

August

After the Senate passes a version of the patients’ bill of rights opposed by Bush, Director of Legislative Affairs Nick Calio, Chief of Staff Andrew Card, and Deputy Chief of Staff Joshua Bolten broker an agreement with Rep. Charles Norwood (R-GA), who leads a bloc of moderate Republicans in the House, concerning patients’ legal options against their health care providers. Bush personally closes the deal that includes stricter limits on damages than the Senate version, and he holds a press conference with Norwood. The agreement on the House bill forces the legislation to conference committee and forestalls a veto of a popular measure. However, unexpected national security concerns stall the bill for the year. (The Washington Post, 08/03/2001, 08/05/2001; New Republic, 08/20/2001)
On the 9th, Bush outlines his plan that allows for government funding for research on already extracted stem cells, but prohibits extraction of additional stem cells from human embryos. (The New York Times, 08/10/2001)

September

On the 11th, terrorists strike New York, the Pentagon, and an unknown target as the plane crashes in Pennsylvania. Laura Bush is on Capitol Hill, talking about education reform with Kennedy and Gregg when the strikes occur. Gregg drives home later that day. (Laura Bush, Spoken from the Heart, New York: Scribner, 2010, pp. 198-200)

On the 14th, Congress passes $40 billion in emergency appropriations. (2001 CQ Almanac, p. 2-59)

On the 20th, Bush gives an address to a joint session of Congress.

On the 25th, Bush meets with Gregg, Kennedy, Boehner, and Rep. George Miller (D-CA) to restart the talks on the NCLB bill. (The Washington Post, 10/15/2001)

October

On the 15th, a white envelope filled with two grams of anthrax is delivered to Daschle’s office. Anthrax is also detected on a letter for Tom Brokaw, while a New Jersey postal worker and an assistant at CBS news contract the skin form of anthrax. At the end of the attack, seventeen are infected and five are killed. (The Washington Post, 10/19/2001; http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/history/famous-cases/anthrax-amerithrax)

On the 17th, Bush asks Congress for $1.2 billion to stockpile emergency medicines, including $300 million for local and state hospitals, and legislation to better prepare for a bio-terrorist attack. Some local officials respond that the $300 million is inadequate, and it should be in the billions. The House also passes its bill and awaits a conference. (2001 CQ Almanac, p. 12-9; The Washington Post, 10/18/2001, 11/05/2001, 11/16/2001)

Bush signs the Patriot Act on the 26th.

November

Talks on the patients’ bill of rights resume between the White House and Kennedy. Calio monitors the negotiations, which remain centered on patients’ rights to sue, as well as caps on damage awards. The talks proceed fitfully until August 2002, when Kennedy and his co-sponsors, Edwards and McCain, abandon the negotiations after unsuccessful efforts to reach an agreement. (The New York Times, 01/14/2002, 08/02/2002; New Republic, 02/25/2002)

December

On the 11th, a final version of NCLB is announced. A major obstacle was state control over use of federal funds. The compromise includes that all states can shift small portions of federal money for any educational purpose, but money directed to the poorest children can’t be diverted. A pilot program of seven states
and 150 districts can shift more money than the rest. Congress passes the measure by substantial margins. (2001 CQ Almanac, p. 8-3 to 8-10)

2002

January

On the 8th, Bush signs the NCLB bill into law. Gregg attends the signing ceremony. (The Washington Post, 01/09/2002)

February

In the wake of the fall of ENRON Corporation, Bush calls for 401(k) reform that allows workers to sell company stock from their 401 (k) plans after three years. (The New York Times, 02/02/2002)

March

On the 27th, Bush signs the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act.

On the 21st, Gregg votes against Kennedy’s bill on a party line HELP Committee vote of 11-10 that would limit the amount of company stock that workers could acquire in their 401(k). Companies could either offer their stock as a matching 401(k) contribution or simply as an investment option, but not both. Employees could also sell the company stock after working three years, get investment advice from parties not affiliated with the plan, file suit against employers who misused the funds, and serve on company boards that oversee pension plans. However, compromise on a final bill collapses as some senators oppose workers sitting on pension plan boards. (2002 CQ Almanac, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 2003, pp. 12-5)

April

On the 2nd, Bush announces his early childhood education plan. It is a Head Start accountability program where all Head Start teachers will be re-trained in alphabet, letter writing, and numbers instruction, and use a detailed literacy-screening test. Bush plans to spend $45 million over five years to research effective early literacy programs. Some educators reportedly fear the new plan would push the children to focus too much on reading too early. (The New York Times, 04/03/2002; The Washington Post, 04/03/2002)

May

Congress passes the $4.2 billion Bioterrorism Act with states getting $1.5 billion in federal grants to prepare for a biological attack. Bush signs it in June. (The New York Times, 05/22/2002; CQ Weekly, 12/07/2002)

June

On the 6th, Bush unveils his plan to create the Department of Homeland Security. (The Washington Times, 06/14/2001)


October

Congress passes a resolution on the 11th, authorizing the use of force against Iraq,
**September**  
Senate work on the Homeland Security Department stalls as Democratic opposition grows to proposed labor regulations aimed at keeping unions out of the new department. Roughly thirty percent of the 170,000 employees who would constitute the new department are union members, but the Administration does not want to give them the right to join unions or engage in collective bargaining. Bush threatens to veto any Senate bill that includes such provisions. *(The Washington Post, 09/05/2002)*

**November**  
On the 5th, the GOP expands its congressional majorities in midterm elections, marking just the second time a president has secured midterm gains for his party in both houses of Congress. *(Fox News, 11/07/2004)*

Congress passes a bill to create the Department of Homeland Security.

**December**  
On the 13th, Bush announces a smallpox vaccination program. He orders military personnel and up to ten million medical civilian healthcare and emergency workers to take the vaccination, but stops short of a widespread public vaccination. Gregg responds that the HELP Committee will hold hearings on the need for a widely available vaccine. *(The Washington Post, 11/23/2002; The New York Times, 12/14/2002)*

On the 23rd, Senator Bill Frist (R-TN) is elected minority leader after Lott resigns over making racist remarks. *(The Washington Post, 12/23/2002)*

**2003**

**January**  
Gregg becomes chairman of the HELP Committee.

**March**  
Efforts to immunize civilian healthcare and emergency workers face resistance. The Senate HELP Committee debates a bill to provide compensation for health and emergency workers who suffer adverse effects from the smallpox vaccine. The Bush Administration now supports a fund, after pressure from unions, hospitals, and public health departments, because the vaccine carries risks, including deaths in a very small part of the immunized population. By April, both chambers pass a House bill, which is signed by Bush. *(The Washington Post, 03/06/2003; CQ Weekly, 04/05/2003)*

The Labor Department unveils plans to modernize overtime rules. Business groups lobbied the White House to update the rules, because the current standards, which date back more than twenty years, included obsolete jobs and vague language that has caused an increase in litigation. The new rules would guarantee overtime pay for workers making less than $22,100/yr., but other employees could potentially become exempt from overtime, including workers who earn more than $65,000/yr. or who can be defined as executives, administrative officials, or “learned professionals,” if they have specialized
training. Critics charge that eight million workers would now be ineligible for overtime. (*CQ Weekly*, 05/08/2004)

On the 6th, Senate Republicans fall five votes short of breaking a filibuster to end the debate to nominate Estrada. Five days later, Bush sends a proposal to the Senate that would have a two-hour debate limit for judicial nominations. Frist offers a second round of confirmation hearings for Estrada, but Democrats decline. (*The Washington Post*, 03/12/2003)

On the 11th, Gregg introduces the Project Bioshield Act. It is a ten-year initiative to develop and stockpile vaccines and medications to combat a bioterrorism attack. The bill stalls over a measure on mandatory funding that Democrats see as undermining Congressional oversight. (*CQ Weekly*, 12/13/2003)

U.S. and coalition forces launch airstrikes in Iraq on the 19th. Coalition forces reach and occupy Baghdad by April 9th.

**April**

On the 9th, the Senate passes revised legislation offering tax incentives to encourage greater charitable donations to faith-based organizations. It also includes block grant funding for technical assistance to religious groups, seeking federal social services funding, but drops the controversial provision allowing religious groups to discriminate on the basis of religion in hiring. However, the legislation stalls in negotiations between Congress and the White House. (*CQ Weekly*, 12/13/2003)

**May**

On the 1st, Senate and House leaders agree to abandon Bush’s plan to eliminate all taxes on dividends. Frist hoped to get a temporary repeal, but he works on reducing both dividends and capital gain taxes. (*The New York Times*, 05/02/2003)

On the 9th, Frist introduces S Res 138 to amend rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate relating to nominations by needing only a majority of votes for a cloture motion. Kennedy helps organize the Democratic opposition. The resolution never reaches the floor, because it doesn’t have enough votes to break a filibuster. Lott and other Republicans suggest they could break the filibuster on judges by using the parliamentary power afforded the majority party in the Senate. The presiding officer of the Senate, who would be a Republican, could simply rule against the filibuster as a point of order and have his ruling upheld by simple majority vote. The Democrats label this tactic the “nuclear option” and argue it would bring the Senate to a stand-still. (*2003 CQ Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2004, p. 6-3)

Bush signs the $15 billion President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) on the 27th. It is a five-year program in 15 countries, with goals of providing antiretroviral treatment to 2 million HIV-infected people in resourcelimited settings, preventing 7 million new infections, and supporting care for 10 million people (the “2–7–10 goals”). (Bush, p. 344; http://southafrica.usembassy.gov)

**July**

On the 9th, Frist pulls the medical malpractice bill from the Senate floor that would cap damages for pain and suffering. Republicans consider high malpractice awards as part of the reason behind soaring medical costs. (*The Washington Post*, 07/10/2003)


On the 22nd, the Senate HELP Committee holds a confirmation hearing for the solicitor general for the Labor Department. Democrats use it as a forum to attack Bush’s new overtime rules that would reportedly exempt millions of workers. (*The Washington Post*, 07/30/2003)

**September**

On the 4th, Estrada withdraws his nomination.

Bush calls for an additional $87 billion in defense funding. Congress passes the biggest U.S. defense spending package ever on the 25th. (*2003 CQ Almanac*, p. 2-42)

**October**

The HELP Committee unanimously approves a Gregg-Kennedy Head Start bill. Unlike a House bill that passed by only one vote in July, the Gregg-Kennedy bill does not include a pilot program to allow eight states to experiment with integrating their own early childhood programs with Head Start. Head Start is federally funded but is operated by local groups. Senate Democrats prevent the bill from coming to the floor in 2003 and 2004, fearing Republicans would add the pilot program in conference. (*2004 CQ Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2005, p. 7-4)


**November**

On the 14th, the Democrats end a 39-hour debate on Bush’s judicial nominations. So far six out of 172 nominees have been blocked: Carolyn B. Kuhl, Janice Rogers Brown, Priscilla Owen, Charles W. Pickering, Sr., and Estrada. (*The Washington Post*, 11/15/2003)

Congress passes the prescription bill conference report. The final bill offers seniors a prescription drug benefit through participating managed care plans.
Among other things, it creates a pilot program beginning in 2010 in which Medicare and private insurers compete on price in six metropolitan areas for six years; it provides $86 billion in tax breaks and subsidies to encourage employers not to drop existing drug coverage for their retirees and creates health savings accounts to allow Americans to save for medical costs; the bill also includes $14 billion that private insurers can tap to provide health insurance for Medicare recipients in unprofitable markets and provides $25 billion for rural hospitals and providers. (2003 CQ Almanac, pp. 11-7 to 11-13, S-82)

2004

January

Bush proposes immigration reform.

February


On the 31st, Frist pulls a welfare bill from the floor, when Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Kennedy amend the bill to raise the minimum wage to $7/hr. within two years. Two weeks earlier, Bush suffers another legislative set back when Frist had to pull a corporate tax bill from the floor to prevent Democrats from blocking the Labor Department from implementing the new overtime rules. (2004 CQ Almanac, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2005, pp. 8-5, 17-6; The New York Times, 04/02/2004)

April

On the 20th, the Labor Department raises the eligibility for overtime from below $22,100/yr. to below $23,660/yr. and raises the cap from $65,000/yr. to $100,000/yr. Overtime pay would also be guaranteed for police officers, firefighters, and other emergency and public safety workers. In May, the Senate passes a Democrat sponsored amendment to require all categories of workers to get overtime pay. (CQ Weekly, 05/08/2004)

May

On the 11th, the Senate votes to pass a corporate tax bill with an amendment to block implementation of the overtime rules. The amendment is later dropped in committee and the rules go into effect in August. (CQ Weekly, 05/11/2004, 12/11/2004)

On the 18th, Bush agrees not to make any further recess appointments, and the Senate will allow 25 of Bush’s nominees to be confirmed in the coming weeks. (The New York Times, 05/19/2004)

The Senate passes the Project Bioshield Act, a $5.6 billion, 10-year bioterrorism program written by Frist, Kennedy, and Gregg. It will speed up development and stock-piles of vaccines and antidotes, speed research on defenses against bioterrorism, and hire more technical experts. In July, it passes the House, and Bush signs the bill. (The Washington Post, 05/20/2004)
September  Gregg plays Senator John Kerry (D-MA) in three or four practice sessions with Bush, to prepare the president for the upcoming debate. (Peter Baker, Days of Fire, New York: Doubleday, 2013, p. 344)

October  On the 4th, Bush signs a law that extends the marriage tax credit, the $1,000 child tax credit, extends an expansion of the ten percent income-tax bracket until 2010, a one-year break from the alternative minimum tax (AMT), and other business tax breaks. (The Washington Post, 09/24/2004; CQ Weekly, 12/04/2004)

On the 22nd, Bush signs a corporate tax overhaul bill that cuts corporate taxes from 35 percent to 32 percent, worth about $76.5 billion, and cuts taxes on overseas profits. (The Washington Post, 10/12/2004)

November  Gregg wins re-election to the Senate. Bush defeats Kerry.

December  On the 8th, Bush signs the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act to oversee and integrate the nation’s fifteen intelligence agencies. The difficult part to reconcile between the two houses was how much power to give the new national intelligence director. The Senate had supported near unilateral authority over the 15-agency community, while the House supported less budgetary power. (The Washington Post, 12/01/2004, 12/18/2004)

2005  

January  Gregg becomes chairman of the Senate Budget Committee as he steps down from being chair of the HELP Committee.

The Administration decides to lead off Bush’s second term with Social Security reform, calling for private accounts for individual workers. However, the Democrats are united in opposition. (The Washington Post, 01/26/2005)

February  On the 7th, the White House releases its $2.57 trillion budget for fiscal year 2006. The proposal increases spending for the Departments of State, Defense, and Homeland Security, while cutting the rest of the discretionary budget. Although the budget cuts the deficit from $427 billion to $390 billion, it does not include the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. (The Washington Post, 02/08/2005)

Bush warns Congress on the 11th not to revisit the Medicare prescription law. The revised cost is $800 million more than originally projected, and Gregg favors reexamining the program. (The Washington Post, 02/12/2005)

On the 14th, Bush re-nominates 12 candidates for federal appeals court seats.

March  Congress passes and Bush signs legislation to grant federal court jurisdiction over the case of Terri Schiavo, a dying and brain-damaged woman. Conservatives reportedly hope that the federal court will compel reinsertion of her feeding tube.
The bill states that Congress should consider a broader bill for incapacitated individuals. A federal court rules against reinstating a feeding tube, and Schiavo dies near the end of March. (CQ Weekly, 03/28/2005)

Senate Republicans offer $70 billion in tax cuts, compared to $100 billion the Administration asked for. Some Republicans are concerned about the deficit and the cost for overhauling Social Security. (The New York Times, 03/10/2005)

On the 18th, the Senate adds $5.4 billion in education, Medicaid, and an urban renewal program to the budget. Congress has failed to pass a budget for two of the last three years, and Bush has campaigned on fiscal responsibility. (The New York Times, 03/19/2005)

**Spring**

Bush launches his bid to restructure Social Security around private accounts with 108 town hall events. Bush holds a news conference in April to outline his Social Security proposal. Deputy Assistant to the U.S. President for Economic Policy Keith Hennessey, Secretary of Treasury John Snow, Card, Rove, and several other White House advisers serve on Bush’s legislative team working to build support for the plan in Congress. Though it is modeled on a similar proposal by Democrat Robert Pozen, the Administration’s plan receives very little support. Democrats charge that Bush is trying to privatize Social Security, and the initiative stalls during the summer. (Bush, pp. 298-301; The New York Times, 01/12/2005; The Washington Post, 04/06/2005)

**April**

Congress passes a $2.56 trillion budget. It calls for a $35 billion cut in entitlements over the next five years and extends Bush’s tax cuts on capital gains and dividend income. (The New York Times, 04/29/2005)

**May**

The Gang of 14, led by Senators Ben Nelson (D-NE) and John McCain (R-AZ), reach a compromise to end the deadlock over Bush’s stalled judicial nominations. The seven Democrats agree to allow a floor vote on all five nominees, and the seven Republicans agree not to support the “nuclear option,” enabling the Senate to end a filibuster by a simple majority vote. The Gang of 14 also agrees to filibuster only under “extraordinary circumstances.” The Senate approves three of Bush’s nominees. (Rove, pp. 415-418; The Washington Post, 05/24/2005)

Kennedy and McCain unveil their comprehensive immigration bill to tighten border patrols, establish a temporary visa program and create a pathway for illegal aliens to become citizens. Kennedy and McCain had reportedly worked with the White House to help build broad support for the bipartisan legislation. (The Boston Globe, 05/13/2005)

On the 17th, Bush signs the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005. It provides another year of relief from the AMT and makes cuts in dividend income and capital gains taxes through 2010. (CQ Weekly, 05/15/2006)
June

Bush announces a five-year, $1 billion initiative to eradicate malaria in fifteen countries. (Bush, p. 345)

On the 20th, the Senate votes to sustain a filibuster over John Bolton, Bush’s nominee for UN ambassador, for the second time in three months. Bush recess appoints Bolton in August. (The New York Times, 08/01/2005)

July

Congress passes the Bush Administration’s energy bill, which promotes investments in energy conservation and efficiency and provides incentives to encourage renewable sources and production of more oil and natural gas. Gregg opposes the bill, calling it too expensive. Bush signs the bill on August 8th. (Rove, pp. 413-414; The Washington Times, 07/30/2005)

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor informs the White House that she will be resigning. Bush decides in favor of John Roberts, whose nomination is announced on July 19th. (Bush, pp. 97-99)

A second immigration bill is introduced by Senators Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and John Cornyn (R-TX), which is a more conservative version of the Kennedy-McCain bill. The bill would allow foreign nationals to work in the U.S. for up to two years before returning to their home countries, and would require illegal immigrants already here to return home before applying to join that program. The bill would also add 10,000 new Border Patrol officers, 1,250 customs officers, more jail space and $5 billion for high-tech improvements to border control. (The Houston Chronicle, 07/20/2005)

August

On the 25th, Hurricane Katrina hits the Florida coast. On the 27th, Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco (D) declares a state of emergency, and Bush authorizes the DHS and FEMA to coordinate disaster relief. On the 29th, Katrina hits the Gulf coast. (http://www.factcheck.org)

September

Congress passes a $51.8 billion for Hurricane Katrina relief. (The Washington Post, 09/09/2005)


October

On the 3rd, Bush nominates White House Counsel Harriet Miers to replace O’Connor on the Supreme Court. Miers’ nomination, however, draws criticism from both parties. Frist is part of two meetings with White House aides and conservatives over her credentials. She withdraws her nomination by the end of the month. Bush nominates Samuel Alito on the 31st. (Rove, pp. 421-424; The Washington Post, 10/06/2005, 10/15/2005)

December  The House passes a more conservative immigration bill than the Kennedy-McCain version. House GOP leaders particularly oppose any kind of amnesty program for illegal aliens. The House bill requires businesses to verify workers’ legal status and increases sentences for those smuggling immigrants across the U.S. border. It also expands the grounds on which immigrants can be deported and authorizes local police to enforce federal immigration laws. The legislation makes being in the U.S. illegally a felony. It also authorizes the building of a two-layer border fence, with surveillance cameras, lighting, and motion sensors. The business lobby expresses dissatisfaction with the lack of a temporary worker program, while Hispanic/Latino groups and the Catholic Church object to punitive nature of the bill.  (*The Atlanta Journal-constiution*, 12/17/2005)

2006

Early  Congress requests the creation of an Iraq Study Group to study U.S. policy in Iraq.

January  19 Democrats join 53 Republicans to prevent a filibuster on Alito’s nomination, and on the 31st, the Senate confirms him as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.  (*CQ Weekly*, 01/31/2006; *The Washington Times*, 01/31/2006)

February  The White House submits its $2.77 trillion budget to Congress on the 6th. In addition to increases in security-related expenditures, Bush calls for his tax cuts to be made permanent.  (*The Washington Post*, 02/07/2006)

On the 8th, Bush signs the Deficit Reduction Act that aims to reduce annual growth of mandatory spending on Medicaid and Medicare. Gregg was a lead sponsor.  ([http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov](http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov))

March  In an effort to impose fiscal discipline, Gregg’s budget plan includes a cap on nondefense discretionary spending at $420 billion. However, Gregg has already had to drop a resolution to reduce Medicare spending by $37 billion, and some moderate Senators may block the discretionary spending plan.  (*The Washington Post*, 03/14/2006)

On the 6th, Bush asks Congress to pass the Legislative Line-Item Veto Act of 2006.  Under the bill, the president would seek Congressional approval to take out line-items by a simple majority vote within 10 days of the request.  ([http://thomas.loc.gov](http://thomas.loc.gov))

On the 17th, Congress votes to raise the debt ceiling by $781 billion due to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, hurricane relief, education, health care, and

On the 25th, Bush conducts a closed door meeting with senators that includes McCain, Kennedy, and Gregg, to discuss immigration reform.  (*The Washington Times*, 04/26/2006)

**May**  
On the 11th, the Senate passes the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 that provides another year of relief from the ATM and extends Bush’s tax cuts in dividend income and capital gains to 2010.  (*The Washington Post*, 05/12/2006)

On the 25th, the Senate passes the Kennedy-McCain immigration bill, which contains provisions designed to tighten border security, such as ordering the deportation of illegal immigrants convicted of a felony or three misdemeanors, and building a 370 mile triple layer fence between U.S. and Mexico, and declares English the U.S. national language. It also contains a guest worker program and a path for illegal immigrants to become citizens. However, the issue of “amnesty” stalls it by September.  (*2006 CQ Almanac*, Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., 2007, p. 14-3)

**June**  
On the 7th, the Senate votes on an amendment to ban same-sex marriage. Bush and conservatives have been pressuring the Senate to put it to a vote. The bill fails to get enough votes for cloture (49-48), and Frist pulls it from the floor. Gregg joins six other Republicans to oppose cloture.  (*The Washington Times*, 06/08/2006)

On the 14th, Gregg introduces his line-item veto bill, the Stop Over Spending Act of 2006. It also includes biannual budgeting and a mechanism for cutting entitlement spending if the deficit grows to more than half a percent of the GDP. The House passes its line-item veto bill, but Gregg’s legislation stalls.  (*Roll Call*, 06/15/2006; *The Washington Post*, 06/28/2006)

On the 22nd, the Senate Republicans reject two Democratic resolutions to bring U.S. troops home from Iraq.  (*The Washington Post*, 06/23/2006)

**July**  
The Senate passes a series of bills on funding for stem cell research. On the 18th, the Senate passes a House bill to allow federal funding for research on stem cells derived from surplus embryos at in-vitro clinics, to increase the number of existing stem cells for research. Bush vetoes this bill, and the House cannot override it. The Senate also unanimously passes S 2754 to encourage researchers to find ways to derive stem cell lines that don’t harm embryos, and S 3504 to ban funding for facilities that might create embryos strictly for research purposes only. Bush signs S 3504 into law, but the House cannot pass S 2754.  (*CQ Weekly*, 07/18/2006, 12/18/2006)
**September**
Efforts to reach compromise legislation between the House and Senate immigration bills collapse, as Senate leaders turn from comprehensive legislation to building a border fence. The collapse comes after House GOP leaders have spent much of the summer holding field hearings, which backers of the bipartisan plan label as delay tactics meant to drum up anti-immigration sentiments. *(The Washington Post, 9/30/2006)*

On the 6th, Bush acknowledges for the first time the CIA’s detention and interrogation programs, and he defends the CIA’s work as “having saved lives.” *(The Washington Post, 09/07/2006)*

**October**
Bush signs the Military Commissions Act on the 17th, which legislatively authorizes the new military tribunal system.

Bush signs the Secure Fence Act of 2006 on the 26th. It authorizes the construction of hundreds of miles of fence on the southern border, more checkpoints and barriers, and allows the Department of Homeland Security to use advance technology, like satellites and unmanned aerial vehicles. *(http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov)*

**November**
The Democrats win control of the Senate and House.

**December**
The Senate confirms the nomination of Robert Gates on the 6th to replace Donald Rumsfeld as secretary of defense.

On the 9th, the Iraq Study Group releases its report recommending diplomatic initiatives, including talks with Syria and Iran, and decreasing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq. The report also recommends that the U.S. set achievement goals with Iraqi leaders. *(2006 CQ Almanac, p. 5-13 to 5-14)*

**2007**

**January**
Bush announces his surge strategy for Iraq in a televised address.

**February**
Gregg reports that he has been meeting with Bush Cabinet and sub-Cabinet secretaries to discuss domestic issues such as entitlement reform. *(Roll Call, 02/15/2007)*

The Senate begins debate over Bush’s surge. A variety of Senate resolutions are discussed as some Republican Senators, like John Warner (R-VA), express deep doubts about whether a troop increase will succeed and look for diplomacy or benchmarks. Gregg composes a resolution to prohibit cutting funds for U.S. troops. *(The Washington Post, 01/31/2007; Roll Call, 02/26/2007)*

**March**
The Bush Administration announces its plan for immigration reform. Illegal immigrants would pay a fine and return home, then re-enter the country to gain permanent U.S. residency. The plan also includes additional Border Patrol
agents, more electronic sensors along the border, and money for more vehicle barriers. (The Washington Post, 03/30/2007, 04/09/2007)

The Senate passes a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the U.S. military or affect their ability to complete missions in Iraqi. The Senate passes Gregg’s troop funding resolution by a vote of 82-16. (The New York Times, 03/17/2007)

On the 23rd, the Senate passes a $2.9 trillion budget plan that increases spending for education and veterans while extending some of Bush’s tax breaks and erasing the federal deficit within five years. Gregg calls it “a classic Democratic tax-and-spend bill.” (The Washington Post, 03/24/2007)

Spring
As McCain bows out of the immigration debate to run for president in 2008, Kennedy and the White House begin working with Kyl to revive the Senate’s bipartisan immigration bill. Kyl had sponsored an immigration bill the previous year that was more in line with the conservative House bill. (The Washington Times, 05/09/2007)

April

May
Senate leaders from both parties announce they have reached an agreement on immigration that would tighten border security and create guest worker and path-to-citizenship programs. As a concession to conservatives, the Senate passes a Gregg resolution that would toughen the border controls that must be in place before immigrant-rights measures go into effect. The plan would also shift the U.S. visa system from family- to merit-based, in which a point system would evaluate visa candidates on the basis of job skills, education and English language proficiency. However, foreign-born spouses and minor children would continue to receive preference for visas. (The New York Times, 05/18/2007; The Washington Post, 05/24/2007)

Congress passes nearly $100 billion for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through September. Although there is no timeline for troop withdrawal, the measure does require assessments of the surge and Iraqi government and security performance. (The New York Times, 05/25/2007)

June
Facing bipartisan opposition to the immigration bill, Bush attends the Senate Republican luncheon on the 12th. Bush emphasizes the need for border security. However, the Kennedy-Kyl-Bush Administration-backed immigration compromise collapses when the Senate is unable to break a filibuster and move to a final vote. (The Washington Post, 06/29/2007)

September
On the 27th, Bush signs the College Cost Reduction and Access Act that cuts excess subsidies paid by the federal government to private lenders in the student
loan industry, authorizes a $23 billion increase in student aid, the largest since the
GI Bill, reduces interest rates on undergraduate subsidized Stafford loans by half
by 2011, makes debt more manageable by capping students’ monthly loan
repayments at 15 percent of their discretionary income, and allows certain
borrowers in economic hardship to have their loans forgiven after twenty five
years of repayment. (http://www.nasfaa.org)

Oct.-Nov. On two separate occasions, Bush vetoes a bill that expands the State Children’s
Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) by $35 billion and $30 billion more than Bush
wants. Bush calls it going “too far toward federalizing health care.” (CQ Weekly,
10/01/2007) Both chambers cannot override his vetoes. (The Washington Post,
10/03/2007; http://www.cnn.com)

December The Senate passes a $555 omnibus spending bill that includes $70 billion for the
wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Republicans stop a troop-withdrawal
resolution. (The Washington Post, 12/19/2007)

(EISA). It improves fuel economy standards for cars and light trucks and expands
ethanol production.

2008

January On the 2nd, Secretary of Treasury Henry Paulson meets with Bush about a plan for
the weakened economy. Bolten and Paulson support the White House’s efforts
for an economic stimulus. Bush and Congress work on the details of a stimulus
package and the president signs the $145 billion measure into law the next month.
(Henry M. Paulson, Jr., On the Brink, New York: Business Plus, 2010, pp. 84-85;
The New York Times, 01/17/2008)

February Bush announces a $3.12 trillion budget plan that predicts a $400 billion deficit.
Bush hopes to freeze most domestic spending, but Gregg states realistically this
freeze is “not going to happen.” (The Washington Post, 02/05/2008)

March Paulson talks with Bush about Bear Sterns’ financial problems and its impact on
the economy. Bush asks if there is another company who might be willing to buy
Bear Sterns. Paulson works to get JPMorgan to buy Bear Sterns. (Paulson, pp.
96, 113)

May In response to turbulence in the credit market, on the 7th, Bush signs the Ensuring
Continued Access to Student Loans Act that increases annual and aggregate
Stafford Loan limits, provides parents with improved access to low-cost federal
PLUS loans as alternatives to private or home equity loans, stabilizes the private
student loan program (Federal Family Education Loan program) by temporarily
allowing the Department of Education to serve as the secondary market of last
resort lender. (http://www.nasfaa.org)
The Bush Administration makes the case for going to Congress for expanded authority to deal with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The proposal becomes the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. Gregg states, “If we do this right, taxpayers will not spend any money because the markets will be confident in the vitality of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, and the markets will correct themselves, but if the markets don't correct and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac become unstable, then we've got very serious problems well beyond anything in this estimate.” (The Washington Post, 07/23/2008) For distressed borrowers, the law allows the FHA to insure up to $300 billion of 30-year fixed rate refinance loans up to 90 percent of appraised value. Bush signs it into law at the end of the month. (Paulson, pp. 143-144; Reuters, 07/30/2008)

Paulson tells Bush that there is “no good alternative” to placing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in federal conservatorship. (Paulson, p. 3)

Paulson tries to find a buyer for Lehman Brothers. (Paulson, p. 216; Bush, pp. 456-457)

On the 15th, Paulson briefs the president after he learns that Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs are in financial trouble. (Paulson, p. 224)

On the 16th, with presidential approval, the U.S. Treasury and the New York Federal Reserve announce that they will lend up to $85 billion to the struggling American International Group (AIG). However, Paulson wants new management at AIG and with the help of his assistant, Ken Wilson, they propose Ed Liddy. (Paulson, p. 229; Andrew Sorkin, Too Big to Fail, New York: Viking, 2009, pp. 396-397)

On the 18th, Paulson meets with Bush to outline the plan that would become the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). Paulson reportedly tells Bush that the financial system is collapsing and a depression greater than the Great Depression could result. Paulson meets later with congressional leaders. (Sorkin, p. 440; Bush, p. 458; Paulson, p. 258)

On the 25th, Paulson, Cheney, and Bolten attend a meeting with Bush, presidential candidates McCain and Barack Obama (D-IL), and key members of Congress to discuss the economy. (Bush, p. 461)

On the 27th, Paulson and Hennessey meet with key Democratic Senators, including, Max Baucus (D-MT), Chris Dodd (D-CT), Kent Conrad (D-ND), Jack Reed (D-RI) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY), to discuss TARP. Gregg and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) are the chief Republican negotiators for this recovery package. Paulson, Hennessey, and Gregg agree that Congress will release an initial $250 billion, up to $350 billion, if Bush says it is necessary, and then another $350 billion after the Treasury Department submits a detailed plan for its use. Gregg also works with Congressional colleagues on a tax plan that says, after five years,
the president could propose Congress to enact a tax to have the financial industry pay for any losses from the TARP program, so taxpayers would get compensated. (Paulson, pp. 305, 310, 313)

On the 28th, Gregg calls Paulson to discuss McCain’s walking out of a Republican policy Committee luncheon on TARP. (Paulson, p. 294)

October

On the 3rd, Bush signs the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 to create TARP, which provides for $700 billion in aid for troubled financial institutions. Instead of the government buying toxic assets, Paulson supports the government’s buying non-voting preferred stock and major financial firms’ infusing capital in struggling banks. (Bush, pp. 464-465)

November

Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) defeats McCain in the presidential general election.

Gregg is appointed to the five-member Congressional Oversight Panel to oversee TARP’s implementation. He resigns from the panel in December due to his Senate workload.

December

On the 10th, Senate Republicans block a plan to rescue Chrysler and General Motors. Consequently, on the 19th, Bush uses $17.4 billion in TARP funds to temporarily sustain the auto companies. (The Washington Post, 12/11/2008; The New York Times, 12/20/2008)

2009

February

Gregg withdraws his name for consideration to be secretary of commerce under President Barack Obama.

2011

Gregg retires from the Senate.
TIMELINES

- Judd Gregg News Timeline, prepared by Bryan Craig, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/29/2014.

- Timeline of the Bush Presidency, prepared by Justin Peck and Bryan Craig, Miller Center, University of Virginia, 04/30/2010.
SELECTED WRITINGS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY JUDD GREGG


KEY ISSUES AND EVENTS AS U.S. SENATOR

2000 Election


No Child Left Behind Act


Patients’ Bill of Rights


Medicare Prescription Plan


Budget and Spending


**Iraq**


**2008 Financial Crisis**


**JUDD GREGG SUGGESTED TOPICS**

*Prepared by Bryan Craig*

*Miller Center, University of Virginia, 03/13/2015*

---

**Origins of Relationship with Bush Family**
- Tell us about your work in President George H. W. Bush’s 1988 campaign.
- When did you first meet George W. Bush? What were your early impressions of him?

**Campaigns**
- What was your involvement in President Bush’s 2000 presidential campaign? Explain your role in preparing the president for debate against Vice President Al Gore.
- How surprised were you about President Bush’s showing in the New Hampshire primary? What contributed to President Bush’s loss and what were the lessons learned?
- Tell us about President Bush’s campaign work for the 2002 and 2006 mid-term elections. How were the two mid-term elections different?
- What was your role in the 2004 presidential election? Tell us about the debate preparation for this election and what did you do differently compared to the 2000 election.

**Senator**
- Tell us about President Bush’s relationship with members of Congress. How accessible was the president to you and other congressional leaders?
- Describe your working relationship with the White House. With whom did you interact on a regular basis? How were policy proposals presented to you and other Republican leaders? How open was the Administration to congressional policy concerns and suggestions?
- What were your observations during the time when Senator Jeffords switched parties and how did President Bush respond?
- Tell us about your interactions with President Bush during the Senator Thurmond controversy that led to Senator Lott’s resignation and Senator Frist’s becoming Senate Republican leader?

**Domestic Issues**
- Describe your work on President Bush’s tax cuts and stimulus plans. Discuss how the budgetary dynamic in Congress changed over time as the nation moved from surplus to deficit.
- Tell us about your efforts to reform Social Security. Why did the reforms fail to pass?
- Describe your role in crafting and passing the No Child Left Behind Act. How helpful was President Bush in your attempt to include school vouchers in the bill? Discuss your work with Senator Kennedy on NCLB. Which White House staffers were most effective in the bill’s success?
- Explain the difficulties in getting a patient bill of rights passed and President Bush’s efforts to support Senator Frist’s draft of the bill.
- What conversations did you have with President Bush on fiscal responsibility? How effective was the president in trying to limit spending?
- Describe your role in passing the Medicare prescription drug plan, and how did President Bush help in securing its passage?
What role did you have in passing the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (TIPRA)?

Tell us about your efforts to reform immigration law? Why did it fail to pass?

Describe the White House’s efforts to respond to Hurricane Katrina. How did this crisis affect the Bush White House’s effectiveness?

Explain your role in stem cell research. Did President Bush consult with you on this issue during his tenure?

Describe your interactions with the president throughout the financial crisis, the creation of legislation like the Housing and Economic Recovery Act and TARP, and the rescue of the Big Three automakers. How often did you speak with the president? Did President Bush immediately recognize the need for major government intervention to avert a collapse, or did his thinking evolve as the crisis deepened?

Were there missed opportunities to prevent the economic crisis? In retrospect, were there significant errors in the way the crisis was addressed? Who were the most important people in devising the administration’s response?

How difficult was it to generate momentum for major new government intervention in the marketplace among members of Congress committed to limited government? Did this in any way slow the necessary response?

How did you respond to members of Congress who saw the rescue plans as “bail-outs?” To liberal members who claimed that the bankers were insufficiently punished for their misdeeds?

What role did you play in President Bush’s U.S. Supreme Court nominations and the overall back-log of judicial nominations that developed?

Why have nominations and confirmations become so polarized? Has the way the president selects nominees changed? Has the Senate changed? Regarding judicial nominations, have the importance of the courts themselves changed? Why has this polarization extended into lower court appointments as well as Supreme Court nominations?

**War on Terror/National Security Issues**

Provide your account of the Hainan Island incident.

Tell us about your experience on September 11th. Describe the events in the Capitol when anthrax was found in Senator Daschle’s office and your efforts to pass bioterrorism laws.

Tell us about your role in passing the Patriot Act? What difficulties did you experience in trying to reauthorize the law?

When did you learn about the terrorist surveillance program? What difficulties did Bush have in Congress to get it reauthorized?

Discuss the 9/11 Commission’s conclusions, especially on intelligence gathering. Tell us about your role in passing the homeland security bill and reforming the intelligence gathering agencies.

Tell us about detainee issues: Geneva Conventions/POW status, interrogation techniques, Abu Ghraib, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, and the Military Commissions Act.

Provide your account of the resolution for military action in Iraq; the search for weapons of mass destruction and pre-war intelligence; Congress’ authorization and money for Iraq;
postwar planning and the surge; Iraqi governance and reconstruction; and stopping the Democrats from passing troop pull-outs and time-lines.

- How much concern was there during your tenure about the growth of presidential power attendant to the War on Terror? Was this a significant issue of contention with the White House? Were Republicans more inclined to accept this growth because the incumbent was a Republican?

**Comparison with Previous Administration**

- Discuss parallels and differences observed between the Bush administration and the Clinton administration in their relations with Congress.
- Discuss your views on presidential signing statements.

**Bush Presidency in Retrospect**

- Evaluate President Bush as a public leader, a legislative leader, and a world leader.
- Discuss how President Bush made decisions, managed issues. Did you see Bush’s approach to policy or Congressional relations change over time?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the Bush administration?
- What features of the Bush administration were missed or misunderstood by the press?
- Are there important areas where President Bush followed the lead of Congress during the course of his presidency?
- How should the Bush presidency be viewed by history?