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Presidential Daily Briefs: A Time-Based Analysis



Government Accountability Institute

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Executive Summary

In September 2014, the Government Accountability Institute updated an analysis of how much time President Barack Obama has spent attending his Presidential Daily Briefs (PDBs), as recorded on the White House official calendar and [Politico's](#) comprehensive calendar. The updated study covered the president's first 2,079 days in office, running from January 20, 2009 through September 29, 2014. Of those, President Obama attended a total of 875 Presidential Daily Briefs for an overall **42.09% attendance rate**.

Additionally, GAI compared the attendance rate during the first term to the attendance rate in the second term, thus far:

- **First Term:** President Obama was inaugurated on January 20, 2009 and was re-elected in November 2012. Between January 20, 2009 and January 19, 2013, President Obama attended 620 PDBs over a possible 1,461 days for a **42.43% attendance rate**.
- **Second Term:** President Obama was inaugurated for his second term on January 20, 2013. Between January 20, 2013 and September 29, 2014, President Obama attended 255 PDBs over a possible 618 days for a **41.26% attendance rate**.¹



| | Month | Days with PDB on Calendar | Percentages |
|------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2009 | January | 4 | |
| | February | 15 | |
| | March | 26 | |
| | April | 12 | |
| | May | 16 | |
| | June | 18 | |
| | July | 17 | |
| | August | 10 | |
| | September | 9 | |
| | October | 14 | |
| | November | 9 | |
| | December | 10 | |
| | Total | 160 | 46.2% |
| 2010 | January | 16 | |
| | February | 17 | |
| | March | 18 | |
| | April | 10 | |
| | May | 14 | |
| | June | 15 | |
| | July | 16 | |
| | August | 8 | |
| | September | 14 | |
| | October | 19 | |
| | November | 10 | |
| | December | 21 | |
| | Total | 178 | 48.8% |
| 2011 | January | 14 | |
| | February | 15 | |
| | March | 15 | |
| | April | 14 | |
| | May | 11 | |
| | June | 12 | |
| | July | 17 | |
| | August | 10 | |
| | September | 13 | |
| | October | 7 | |
| | November | 8 | |
| | December | 12 | |
| | Total | 148 | 40.5% |
| 2012 | January | 12 | |
| | February | 15 | |
| | March | 10 | |
| | April | 12 | |
| | May | 9 | |
| | June | 9 | |



| | Month | Days with PDB on Calendar | Percentages |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | July | 7 | |
| | August | 9 | |
| | September | 12 | |
| | October | 10 | |
| | November | 8 | |
| | December | 12 | |
| | Total | 125 | 34.2% |
| 2013 | January | 14 | |
| | February | 14 | |
| | March | 15 | |
| | April | 16 | |
| | May | 13 | |
| | June | 10 | |
| | July | 14 | |
| | August | 9 | |
| | September | 11 | |
| | October | 21 | |
| | November | 15 | |
| | December | 10 | |
| | Total | 162 | 44.4% |
| 2014 | January | 16 | |
| | February | 11 | |
| | March | 12 | |
| | April | 11 | |
| | May | 10 | |
| | June | 10 | |
| | July | 13 | |
| | August | 8 | |
| | September | 11 | |
| | Total | 102 | 37.5% |

¹ All counts are current as of September 29, 2014. It should be noted that due to inconsistencies on the White House public schedule, several dates have been updated from our original report. This report reflects the most current and accurate information provided by whitehouse.gov. Years 2009-2010 are counted using data pulled from Politico.com as the White House Presidential Calendar does not contain that date range.

