



President Joe Biden

Nancy is the single best speaker I think in American history. [[October 13, 2022](#)]

President Barack Obama

The one thing I understood about Nancy fairly quickly was the fact that she was as tough or tougher than anybody in the world... There are times that I think we underestimate just that kind of being able to grind and grit it out, and she has that kind of capacity... [She is] as effective as any legislative leader I've seen in managing a diverse and often contentious group of folks with a lot of different points of view. [Page, Susan. Madam Speaker, pg. 14]

Hillary Clinton

I think she has been one of the most significant figures in modern American history... She has proven to be one of the most historically significant speakers in American history. [Page, Susan. Madam Speaker, pg. 348]

Lindsay Chervinsky, Center for Presidential History at Southern Methodist University

...To date, there have been 54 House speakers. Pelosi is the first and only female to serve in the position. She is also one of the most effective speakers in history, and she does it while battling the double standards that apply to powerful women. Her incredible track record of being able to pass crucial bills — the COVID relief package, the CHIPS and Science Act, an infrastructure bill and a bill that would help veterans exposed to toxins during military service — in one congressional session should be enough to secure her place in history alone... And that's just this term, which doesn't include her tenure during President Barack Obama's administration...

...she will rightfully be remembered as one of the greatest lawmakers in U.S. history. But her unique status as the first female speaker, especially at moments of extreme peril, should not be overlooked. She not only established a precedent for the women that will follow, but she also accomplished more during her tenure than almost anyone who came before — and arguably under more difficult circumstances. [[October 17, 2022](#)]

Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyoming)

...I want to say a word about Speaker Pelosi. I did not really know her before I began work on the January 6 Committee. I'm not sure if I had ever spoken to her, actually. But since I have been on the committee — and I say this. Everyone knows she is a liberal from San Francisco. I am a conservative from Wyoming. There are many issues, maybe most issues, on which we disagree. But I think she is a tremendous leader. I have watched her up close. She is a leader of historic consequence. [[November 1, 2022](#)]

Douglas Brinkley, Rice University

A lot of people would wither under the pressure she's under...She takes slings and arrows by the second, from all different corners, but she constantly keeps a kind of political courage, personal integrity, and no-nonsense demeanor about her. She's legendary. [[November 11, 2022](#)]

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

I trust Speaker Pelosi, she's the best speaker in my lifetime... [Business Insider, September 28, 2021]

Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

One of the things that's really set Nancy Pelosi apart is her uncanny ability to unite all the different Democratic coalitions around a negotiating position. [[November 19, 2018](#)]

Former Rep. David Obey (D-WI)

She is, in my view, the best speaker I've ever seen...She understands her caucus, and she doesn't run it like a San Francisco liberal. She runs it by trying to find its center of gravity. She works harder than anybody I've ever seen, and I think she has more determination to stand for something than anybody I've ever dealt with. [[November 19, 2018](#)]

Former Rep. Gabby Giffords (D-AZ)

As Speaker, she had the grit and skill to touch the lives of millions through the passage of landmark legislation. As a friend, she came, in my darkest days, to my hospital bed. As an advocate for gun violence prevention, she has no equal. [November 16, 2018]

Former Speaker Newt Gingrich

You could argue she's been the strongest speaker in history... She has shown more capacity to organize and muscle, with really narrow margins, which I would've thought impossible. [[November 8, 2022](#)]

John Harwood

It becomes more obvious all the time that Nancy Pelosi – as a matter of strength, temperament and effectiveness – towers over other leaders in Congress. [[October 14, 2022](#)]

Jon Meacham

There's a patriotism. There's a persistent sense of civic duty there. I think she'll go down as arguably the greatest Speaker of the House in American history, or certainly in the top one or two. [MSNBC, October 14, 2022]

Norm Ornstein

She's the strongest Speaker we've seen in our lifetime. She's relentless. She knows how to push the right buttons. She makes things happen. [Globe and Mail, March 24, 2010]

Thomas E. Mann

What we can say at this point is that she has been the most successful speaker in decades, with an extraordinary record of legislative achievement. Her energy and skill in keeping her party together under unified Republican opposition and courage in pushing ahead with such difficult issues as health reform have already earned her a place in the pantheon of powerful speakers of the House. [Politico, 12/20/10]

Tsai Chi-chang, Vice President of Taiwan's legislature

Madam Speaker's visit to Taiwan with the delegation, without fear, is the strongest defense of upholding human rights and consolidation of the values of democracy and freedom.

[\[August 3, 2022\]](#)

Jay Nordlinger, Senior Editor of National Review

Nancy Pelosi has been a thorn in the CCP's side since the late 1980s. It's one of the best things about her. Some Republicans will tell you this, in whispers. Some even say it out loud. [\[August 2, 2022\]](#)

Bono

No one has fought harder than Nancy Pelosi since the day she came into office...Millions of people all over the world owe their lives to Nancy and the bipartisan coalition that fought to contain the AIDS epidemic, not just here in America, but in the poorest parts of this planet. [\[June 6, 2012\]](#)

EJ Dionne

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), presiding over one of the narrowest partisan majorities in history, showed yet again why she is the most consequential House leader of the modern era. [\[August 13, 2022\]](#)

Julian Zelizer, Princeton

She has governed with force and authority... She is likely to go down in history as one of the most effective Speakers. [AP, December 21, 2019]

Elaine Povich

People have gone wrong by under-estimating her for years. Never bet against her. She's consistently the hardest worker, the best organized and great vote counter. [\[January 2, 2019\]](#)

Paul Krugman

...Pelosi is by far the greatest speaker of modern times and surely ranks among the most impressive people ever to hold that position. [\[August 13, 2018\]](#)

Robert Draper

...the temptation is just to say, oh, well, you know, Nancy Pelosi really knows how to count votes. And that's the secret to her success. But that's a really reductive way of saying that, in fact, Pelosi understands the substance of legislation, understands what that substance means to various constituent parts, understands the leverage that she has to commit to those constituent parts and then finally, understands the number 218 and how to get there. [[November 27, 2018](#)]

Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

I govern with both with my head and my heart and if you think a woman can't beat Donald Trump, Nancy Pelosi does it every single day. [Democratic Presidential Debate, November 20, 2019]

Bill Kristol

As minority leader, Nancy Pelosi laid the groundwork for winning the House. Under her leadership, the House then did what it could to check Trump. This November, she held the majority and helped Joe Biden win the presidency. She has served not just her party but the country well. [[January 3, 2021](#)]

Jennifer Rubin

Speaker Sam Rayburn served longer. Speaker John W. McCormack shepherded through the Great Society legislation. But Speaker Nancy Pelosi might be the most accomplished and consequential speaker in the modern era on the following basis: The California Democrat passed more major legislation with smaller margins than any of her predecessors (McCormack, for example, had the largest Democratic House majority since 1936). And yes, she was the first woman to hold the job.... "Transformational" is an overused word, but for millions of Americans and the economy as a whole, it may be the most apt description for the legislation passed under her speakerships. [[November 21, 2021](#)]

Jennifer Rubin

Pelosi's superpower throughout her two stretches as speaker has been her ability to mollify factions of her caucus, to figure out what they really need, to count her votes and to keep her eye on the goal. That is the reason for the most widely held rule of thumb inside the Beltway: Never bet against Pelosi. [[August 25, 2021](#)]

Mika Brzezinski

Pelosi is a 'confident, accomplished, elegant warrior... an example and an inspiration for women of all ages.' [[January 4, 2019](#)]

Bill Press

Nancy Pelosi is the smartest leader in the history of the House. [[July 29, 2021](#)]

Rachel Maddow

She's always been a big deal simply because of her breaking that glass ceiling. But the other thing that very quickly became clear about Nancy Pelosi as speaker, Nancy Pelosi as the leader of the that branch of government was that she's just technically quite good at it, she is specifically unquestionably good at the math part. She can count votes like nobody's business. If a piece of legislation needed to get passed, Nancy Pelosi knows whether and how she can get the votes for it and she never brings a bill to the floor unless she knows she can pass it.

And I mean, I've said it before. I'll say it again. Whether you are aligned with her politically, whether you love Nancy Pelosi or you hate Nancy Pelosi, it doesn't matter. What you must appreciate is that she knows what she's doing. She's very technically skilled at the job she holds...

[\[September 27, 2021\]](#)

Molly Ball

Many congressional scholars consider Pelosi the most adept lawmaker of the past half-century, measuring her record of society-shaping legislation against the backdrop of the most partisan and gridlocked Congress in decades. [\[April 30, 2022\]](#)

John Burton

They keep underestimating this f---ing broad...They didn't get how godd--- tough she would be. [Page, Susan. Madam Speaker, pg. 173]

Ben Barnes, Lt. Gov. and Speaker of Texas House

[Pelosi] has an ability to find out what's on a person's mind and to empathize with what they're thinking and feeling as well as any political leader I've ever seen. [Page, Susan. Madam Speaker, pg. 195]

Cecile Richards

Nancy Pelosi has done more than anyone else in office to advance women's equity and opportunity, and to build a stronger future for generations to come. [\[April 19, 2018\]](#)

The Rt Rev Marc Andrus, PhD, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California

I support Speaker Pelosi in her clear commitment to women, children, and families, her evident deep, personal faith, and her embrace of a country founded on principles that include, importantly, separation of church and state. [\[May 21, 2022\]](#)

Gov. Phil Murphy

Speaker Pelosi is one of the most consequential figures in our party's and our nation's history. [\[August 29, 2019\]](#)

Joy-Ann Reid

Pelosi made history as the first woman speaker of the House in 2006 and went on to distinguish herself as the most effective and productive speaker since Sam Rayburn led the Congress that passed the civil rights and voting rights acts, Medicare and Medicaid. [\[June 24, 2017\]](#)

Mark Shields

She is the master of that House...she did something which Tip O'Neill or Sam Rayburn could never do. Not once, not twice, but three times, she passed health care through the House of Representatives. And she stands, in my judgment, as the most powerful political woman in the history of this country. [[March 26, 2010](#)]

Kirsten Powers

Nancy Pelosi will without a doubt be remembered as one of the most effective and powerful Speakers in U.S. history. [[October 22, 2010](#)]

Charlie Cook

Pelosi is "the most powerful speaker we've seen in modern history." [[July 1, 2010](#)]

Howard Meyerson

But when it comes to being a speaker – the presiding officer of the House of Representatives and the leader of its majority party – Pelosi is without peer. No speaker in the past century has played such a key role in enacting major reforms. No speaker since Henry Clay, who wielded the gavel in the 1810s and '20s, has had so great an effect on American life...San Francisco and Baltimore, West Coast liberal and New Deal boss – you can see all these in Pelosi's passion, her charm, her toughness, her smarts. [[March 26, 2010](#)]

Eleanor Clift

Pelosi is that rare public official in Washington who, when she says she'll get something done you can take it to the bank, or in the case of health care, to the White House... [[March 24, 2010](#)]

Gail Russell Chaddock

Make no mistake: Nancy Pelosi is the most powerful woman in American politics and the most powerful House speaker since Sam Rayburn a half century ago...she has shown uncommon skill in enforcing discipline in Democratic Party ranks at a time when members are more fractious and ideologically diverse than in decades. [[July 13, 2010](#)]

The Economist

Mrs. Pelosi is arguably the most powerful woman in American history. There have been female governors, secretaries of state and Supreme Court justices, but only one female speaker. [[March 18, 2010](#)]

David Rohde, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Duke University

She is a hell of a lot more effective speaker than Sam Rayburn. She got her party to do things that Sam Rayburn couldn't. [[July 22, 2010](#)]

Daniel Shea, Director of the Center for Political Participation, Allegheny College

Nancy Pelosi will go down in history as an exceedingly skillful, powerful and effective speaker. Few of her predecessors could note as many significant accomplishments in such a short period of time. She not only broke the glass ceiling, she shattered it! [Politico, December 20, 2010]

Theda Skocpol, Harvard

Nancy Pelosi will end up going down as one of the great speakers in U.S. history...She produced more leadership accomplishments in two years than most speakers produce in a decade, and Pelosi's Democrats accomplished major reforms that the United States badly needs... Polls aside, she is the master of House processes, and she has guts. She knows when to fight and when to fight another day. She will give 'em hell. [Politico, December 20, 2010]