

Riddler Express 2019-06-14
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The Problem

The [Riddler Express for 2019-06-14](#) is as follows.

From Al Crouch, a little bit of mathematical history:

The following set of number pairs refers to some coincidences in American history, spanning the period from the founding of the nation in 1776 to the present.

2, 6
?, ?
9, 23
17, 36
26, 32

What number pair should be in the second position?

MSB's Answer

41, 43

The coincidences are the ordinal positions of US Presidents sharing the same last names, in alphabetical order:

John and John Quincy Adams (2, 6),
George and George W. Bush (41, 43),
William Henry and Benjamin Harrison (9, 23),
Andrew and Lyndon B. Johnson (17, 36),
Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt (26, 32)

So, the missing numbers are 41, 43.