

Table 2-5 House Seats That Changed Party, 1954 - 2016

Year	Total changes	Incumbent defeated		Open seat	
		D → R	R → D	D → R	R → D
1954	26	3	18	2	3
1956	20	7	7	2	4
1958	49	1	34	0	14
1960	37	23	2	6	6
1962	19	9	5	2	3
1964	55	5	39	3	8
1966	47	38	2	5	2
1968	11	5	0	2	4
1970	25	2	9	6	8
1972	21	8	3	6	4
1974	55	4	36	2	13
1976	22	7	5	3	7
1978	32	15	5	7	5
1980	41	28	3	9	1
1982	31	1	23	3	4
1984	22	13	3	5	1
1986	22	2	7	7	6
1988	9	2	4	1	2
1990	20	6	8	0	6
1992	43	19	12	10	2
1994	60	35	0	21	4
1996	31	3	16	9	3
1998	18	1	5	5	7
2000	18	2	4	6	6
2002	15	2	2	6	5
2004	13	6	2	2	3
2006	31	0	22	0	9
2008	31	5	14	0	12
2010	69	52	2	14	1
2012	29	4	15	7	3
2014	19	11	2	5	1
2016	13	1	6	2	3

Note: This table reflects shifts in party control of seats from immediately before to immediately after the November elections. It does not include party gains resulting from the creation of new districts and does not account for situations in which two districts were reduced to one, thus forcing incumbents to run against each other.

Party gains that resulted from an incumbent being defeated in either a primary or general election are classified as incumbent defeats. In situations where the incumbent declined to run again, ran for another political office, or died or resigned before the end of the term are classified as open seats.

Source: Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774–1989 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1989); Congressional Quarterly Almanac (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, various years); National Journal, various issues; The Almanac of American Politics (Washington, D.C.: National Journal Group, various years); Election 2012 Data: The Impact on the House (The Brookings Institution), The Green Papers, <http://thegreenpapers.com>