

Table 2-8 Senate Incumbents Retired, Defeated, or Reelected, 1946 - 2016

Year	Not seeking reelection	Total seeking reelection ^a	Defeated in primaries	Defeated in general election	Total reelected	Reelected as percentage of those seeking reelection
1946	9	30	6	7	17	56.7
1948	8	25	2	8	15	60.0
1950	4	32	5	5	22	68.8
1952	4	29	1	10	18	62.1
1954	6	32	2	5	25	78.1
1956	5	30	0	4	26	86.7
1958	6	27	0	10	17	63.0
1960	5	29	0	2	27	93.1
1962	4	35	1	5	29	82.9
1964	3	32	0	4	28	87.5
1966	3	32	3	1	28	87.5
1968	7	27	4	4	19	70.4
1970	4	31	1	6	24	77.4
1972	6	27	2	5	20	74.1
1974	7	27	2	2	23	85.2
1976	8	25	0	9	16	64.0
1978	10	25	3	7	15	60.0
1980	5	29	4	9	16	55.2
1982	3	30	0	2	28	93.3
1984	4	29	0	3	26	89.7
1986	6	28	0	7	21	75.0
1988	6	27	0	4	23	85.2
1990	4	32	0	1	31	96.9
1992	9	28	1	4	23	82.1
1994	9	26	0	2	24	92.3
1996	13	21	1 ^b	1	19	90.5
1998	5	29	0	3	26	89.7
2000	5	29	0	6	23	79.3
2002	7	27	1	2	24	88.9
2004	8	26	0	1	25	96.2
2006	5	28	1 ^c	6	22	78.6
2008	5	30	0	5	25	83.3
2010	12	25	3 ^d	2	21	84.0
2012	10	23	1	1	21 ^e	91.3
2014	7 ^f	29	0	5	23 ^g	79.3
2016	5	29	0	2	27	93.1

Note: Table includes all Senate contests in a given year, whether for full or partial terms.

- a. This entry includes Senators who died or resigned before the election and those retiring at the end of their terms.
- b. Sheila Frahm, appointed to fill Robert Dole's term, is counted as an incumbent in Kansas's "B" seat.
- c. Sen. Joe Lieberman (CT) lost in the Democratic primary, but ran in the general election as an independent and won reelection.
- d. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) lost her primary to Joe Miller (R-AK), but ran in the general election as a Republican write-in candidate and won reelection.
- e. Total includes Dean Heller (R-NV), who was appointed on May 9, 2011 and won reelection.
- f. Includes the resignation of Tom Coburn (R-OK) and the resulting special election to finish his term.
- g. John Walsh (D-MT) withdrew from race after primary and was replaced on the ballot at a party convention.

Source: Congressional Quarterly Almanac (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, various years); Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues; National Journal, various issues, Center for Responsive Politics, <http://opensecrets.org>.

Most recent update source: Tabulations of data from Federal Election Commission, <http://www.fec.gov>