

Table 2-4 Losses by the President's Party in Midterm Elections, 1862 - 2018

Year	Party holding presidency	President's party gain/loss of seats in House	President's party gain/loss of seats in Senate	Year	Party holding presidency	President's party gain/loss of seats in House	President's party gain/loss of seats in Senate
1862	R	-3	8	1942	D	-44	-9
1866	R	-2	0	1946	D	-55	-12
1870	R	-31	-4	1950	D	-28	-5
1874	R	-96	-8	1954	R	-18	-1
1878	R	-9	-6	1958	R	-48	-12
1882	R	-33	3	1962	D	-4	2
1886	D	-15	3	1966	D	-48	-4
1890	R	-85	0	1970	R	-12	1
1894	D	-125	-4	1974	R	-48	-4
1898	R	-19	9	1978	D	-15	-3
1902	R	9 ^a	2	1982	R	-26	1
1906	R	-28	3	1986	R	-5	-8
1910	R	-57	-8	1990	R	-8	-1
1914	D	-61	5	1994	D	-54	-8 ^b
1918	D	-22	-6	1998	D	-4	0
1922	R	-77	-6	2002	R	8	1
1926	R	-9	-6	2006	R	-30	-6
1930	R	-52	-8	2010	D	-64	-6
1934	D	9	10	2014	D	-13	-9
1938	D	-72	-7	2018	R	-42	1

Note: D indicates Democrats; R indicates Republicans.

Each entry is the difference between the number of seats won by the president's party in that midterm election and the number of seats won by that party in the preceding general election. Because of changes in the overall number of seats in the Senate and House, in the number of seats won by third parties, and in the number of vacancies, a Republican loss is not always matched precisely by a Democratic gain, or vice versa. Data reflects immediate election results.

a. Although the Republicans gained nine seats in the 1902 elections, they actually lost ground to the Democrats, who gained twenty-five seats after the increase in the overall number of Representatives after the 1900 census.

b. Sen. Richard Shelby (AL) switched from the Democratic to the Republican Party the day following the election, so that the total loss was nine 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), Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, <http://clerk.house.gov>; Clerk of the U.S. Senate, <http://clerk.senate.gov>.