

Table 2-3 Net Party Gains in House and Senate Seats, General and Special Elections, 1946 - 2020

Year	General elections ^a		Special elections ^b		Year	General elections ^a		Special elections ^b	
	House	Senate	House 2R (13)	Senate 3R (8)		House	Senate	House	Senate
1946	56R	13R	0 (16)	0 (3)	1984	14R	2D	0 (4)	1D (1)
1948	75D	9D	0 (10)	2R (6)	1986	5D	8D	1R (6)	0 (0)
1950	28R	5R	3R (13)	2R (4)	1988	2D	0	1D (11)	0 (1)
1952	22R	1R	2D (8)	0 (9)	1990	9D	1D	1D (6)	2D (3) ^c
1954	19D	2D	0 (2)	2R (3)	1992	10R	0	2R (7)	1R (2)
1956	2D	1D	0 (10)	1D (4)	1994	52R	8R ^d	1R (5)	1D (1)
1958	49D	15D	1R (7)	1D (3)	1996	3D ^e	2R	1R (8)	0
1960	22R	2R	0 (12)	0 (6)	1998	4D	0	0 (3)	0
1962	1R	3D	2R (9)	0 (2)	2000	1D	5D ^f	1R (9) ^g	0
1964	37D	1D	0 (8)	1R (3)	2002	8R	1R	2D (5) ^h	0
1966	47R	4R	1R (5)	0 (0)	2004	3R ⁱ	4R	0 (4)	0
1968	5R	6R	3D (9)	0 (2)	2006	31D	6D ^j	3D (13) ^k	0 (0)
1970	12D	2R	0 (9)	0 (2)	2008	21D	8D	0 (9)	1R (1)
1972	12R	2D	4D (10)	0 (0)	2010	64R ^l	6R	0 (6)	0 (0)
1974	49D	4D	0 (6)	1D (1)	2012	8D	2D	0(8)	0(2)
1976	1D	0	4R (6)	1R (2)	2014	13R	9R	0(4)	0(0)
1978	15R	3R	1R (6)	0 (0)	2016	6D	2D	1D (10)	1D (1)
1980	34R	12R	1D (8)	0 (0)	2018	40D	1R	1R (7)	0 (0)
1982	26D	1R	1R (7)	1R (1)	2020	12R	3D		

Note: D indicates Democrats; R indicates Republicans.

- a. The general election figure is the difference between the number of seats won by the party gaining seats in that election and the number of seats won by that party in the preceding general election. Special election gains are not included in the total.
- b. The special election figure is the net shift in seats held by the major parties as a result of special elections held between the two general elections. The figure does not include special elections held on the day of the general election. The number of special elections appears in parentheses.
- c. The total number of special elections (3) includes the special election of Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) to fill the seat to which John Seymour was temporarily appointed. The special election was held at the same time as the general election (November 3, 1992).
- d. Sen. Richard Shelby (AL) switched from the Democratic to the Republican Party the day after the election and brought the total Republican gain to nine.
- e. Between the two elections, six Representatives switched parties. When we consider those switches and special election Republican gains, the total 1996 Democratic gain was nine seats.
- f. Includes seat gained by Democrats when Zell Miller (GA) was appointed in 2000.
- g. Includes Ed Case (D-HI) who was elected November 30, 2002 after sine die adjournment of the House of Representatives, to fill Patsy Mink's chair (D-HI) in the 107th Congress.
- h. Includes Ed Case (D-HI) who was elected in a special election on January 4, 2003 to fill Patsy Mink's (D-HI) chair for the 108th Congress.
- i. There were two members who switched their party affiliations from D to R during the 108th Congress.
- j. Includes Joe Lieberman (CT).
- k. Includes Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH) who was elected in a special election on November 18, 2008, to fill the remainder during the 110th Congress of the term of Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) who died in office. Fudge was also elected in the general election on November 4, 2008, to serve in the 111th Congress.
- l. During the the 111th Congress, Parker Griffith switched his party affiliation from D to R.

Source: Congressional Quarterly Almanac (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly, various years); Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report, various issues; National Journal, various issues; Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, <http://clerk.house.gov>; Clerk of the U.S. Senate, <http://clerk.senate.gov>; Federal Election Commission, <http://www.fec.gov>; MIT Election Data + Science Lab, <https://electionlab.mit.edu>.