

Table 2-8 Senate Incumbents Retired, Defeated, or Reelected, 1946 - 2020

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
2018	3	32	0	5	27	84.4
2020	4	31	0	5	26	83.9

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>