

Table 2-3 Net Party Gains in House and Senate Seats, General and Special Elections, 1946 - 2022

| Year | General elections <sup>a</sup> |        | Special elections <sup>b</sup> |        | Year | General elections <sup>a</sup> |                 | Special elections <sup>b</sup> |                     |
|------|--------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
|      | House                          | Senate | House                          | Senate |      | House                          | Senate          | House                          | Senate              |
|      |                                |        | 2R (13)                        | 3R (8) | 1984 | 14R                            | 2D              |                                |                     |
| 1946 | 56R                            | 13R    |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 0 (4)                          | 1D (1)              |
|      |                                |        | 0 (16)                         | 0 (3)  | 1986 | 5D                             | 8D              |                                |                     |
| 1948 | 75D                            | 9D     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 1R (6)                         | 0 (0)               |
|      |                                |        | 0 (10)                         | 2R (6) | 1988 | 2D                             | 0               |                                |                     |
| 1950 | 28R                            | 5R     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 1D (11)                        | 0 (1)               |
|      |                                |        | 3R (13)                        | 2R (4) | 1990 | 9D                             | 1D              |                                |                     |
| 1952 | 22R                            | 1R     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 1D (6)                         | 2D (3) <sup>c</sup> |
|      |                                |        | 2D (8)                         | 0 (9)  | 1992 | 10R                            | 0               |                                |                     |
| 1954 | 19D                            | 2D     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 2R (7)                         | 1R (2)              |
|      |                                |        | 0 (2)                          | 2R (3) | 1994 | 52R                            | 8R <sup>d</sup> |                                |                     |
| 1956 | 2D                             | 1D     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 1R (5)                         | 1D (1)              |
|      |                                |        | 0 (10)                         | 1D (4) | 1996 | 3D <sup>e</sup>                | 2R              |                                |                     |
| 1958 | 49D                            | 15D    |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 1R (8)                         | 0                   |
|      |                                |        | 1R (7)                         | 1D (3) | 1998 | 4D                             | 0               |                                |                     |
| 1960 | 22R                            | 2R     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 0 (3)                          | 0                   |
|      |                                |        | 0 (12)                         | 0 (6)  | 2000 | 1D                             | 5D <sup>f</sup> |                                |                     |
| 1962 | 1R                             | 3D     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 1R (9) <sup>g</sup>            | 0                   |
|      |                                |        | 2R (9)                         | 0 (2)  | 2002 | 8R                             | 1R              |                                |                     |
| 1964 | 37D                            | 1D     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 2D (5) <sup>h</sup>            | 0                   |
|      |                                |        | 0 (8)                          | 1R (3) | 2004 | 3R <sup>i</sup>                | 4R              |                                |                     |
| 1966 | 47R                            | 4R     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 0 (4)                          | 0                   |
|      |                                |        | 1R (5)                         | 0 (0)  | 2006 | 31D                            | 6D <sup>j</sup> |                                |                     |
| 1968 | 5R                             | 6R     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 3D (13) <sup>k</sup>           | 0 (0)               |
|      |                                |        | 3D (9)                         | 0 (2)  | 2008 | 21D                            | 8D              |                                |                     |
| 1970 | 12D                            | 2R     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 0 (9)                          | 1R (1)              |
|      |                                |        | 0 (9)                          | 0 (2)  | 2010 | 64R <sup>l</sup>               | 6R              |                                |                     |
| 1972 | 12R                            | 2D     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 0 (6)                          | 0 (0)               |
|      |                                |        | 4D (10)                        | 0 (0)  | 2012 | 8D                             | 2D              |                                |                     |
| 1974 | 49D                            | 4D     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 0(8)                           | 0(2)                |
|      |                                |        | 0 (6)                          | 1D (1) | 2014 | 13R                            | 9R              |                                |                     |
| 1976 | 1D                             | 0      |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 0(4)                           | 0(0)                |
|      |                                |        | 4R (6)                         | 1R (2) | 2016 | 6D                             | 2D              |                                |                     |
| 1978 | 15R                            | 3R     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 1D (10)                        | 1D (1)              |
|      |                                |        | 1R (6)                         | 0 (0)  | 2018 | 40D                            | 1R              |                                |                     |
| 1980 | 34R                            | 12R    |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 1R (7)                         | 0 (0)               |
|      |                                |        | 1D (8)                         | 0 (0)  | 2020 | 12R                            | 3D              |                                |                     |
| 1982 | 26D                            | 1R     |                                |        |      |                                |                 | 0 (14)                         | 0 (0)               |
|      |                                |        | 1R (7)                         | 1R (1) | 2022 | 9R                             | 1D              |                                |                     |

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>.