

ELECTIONS AND PARTISAN CONTROL
OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1946-2002

Until the 1994 elections, the Democrats had been in control of the House since 1955. Since World War II, the Republicans have had control of the House for 10 years: 1947-1949, 1953-1955, and 1994-2002. In order for the Democrats to regain control of the House, a net gain of 12 seats is needed.

<u>Election</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Shift</u>
1946	188	245	-	55 R
1948	263	171	1	75 D
1950	234	199	1	28 R
1952	213	221	1	22 R
1954	232	203	-	19 D
1956	234	201	-	2 D
1958*	283	153	-	49 D
1960*	262	175	-	22 R
1962	258	176	-	1 R
1964	295	140	-	37 D
1966	248	187	-	47 R
1968	243	192	-	5 R
1970	255	180	-	12 D
1972	242	192	1	12 R
1974	291	144	-	49 D
1976	292	143	-	1 D
1978	277	158	-	15 R
1980	243	192	-	34 R
1982	269	166	-	26 D
1984	253	182	-	15 R
1986	257	178	-	5 D
1988	260	175	-	3 D
1990	267	167	1	7 D
1992	258	176	1	9 R
1994	204	230	1	54 R
1996	207 (197)*	227	1	9 D
1998	211	223	1	5 D
2000	212	221	2	1 D
2002	205(208)**	229(223)**	1(1)**	6 R

* Because of party switches and special elections this was the actual Democratic line-up on Election Day 1996.

** Because of party switches and special elections, this was the actual line-up on Election Day in 2002. There were also three vacancies.

Because of party switches and special elections, this is the actual line-up going in to Election Day 2004. There are also two vacancies.

2004	206	227	1	???
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33 MOST COMPETITIVE HOUSE RACES

A list of all 435 House races is available upon request.

Arizona 1

In Arizona's first House district, freshman Congressman Rick Renzi (R) is facing Coconino County supervisor, Paul Babbitt (D). Babbitt was formerly the mayor of Flagstaff and the brother of former Clinton Interior Secretary and Governor Bruce Babbitt. The first district was designed to be divided between the two parties and it has with Democratic strongholds among mining and Indian populations while Prescott and Yavapai counties are heavily Republican. Babbitt is counting on the competitive nature of the district as well as Renzi's conservative voting record to win. The race currently leans Republican.

Colorado 3

In Colorado's third House district, Republican Rep. Scott McInnis is retiring. State Rep. John Salazar (D) is battling Colorado Natural Resources Department Director Greg Walcher (R). Salazar is the older brother of state Attorney General Ken Salazar (D), who's running for the Senate. Democrats are confident that McInnis, a former potato farmer, is a good fit for the rural district while Republicans believe that a 13,000 voter registration edge will ultimately be the difference. The race is currently a toss-up.

Colorado 7

In Colorado's seventh House district, Democrat Dave Thomas, Jefferson County's District Attorney is challenging the Republican incumbent Rep. Bob Beauprez. The district is divided evenly a third Republican, a third Democrats, and a third independents. Beauprez is better-funded than Thomas and called himself the more mainstream candidate. Thomas, however, is well known from his work on the 1999 Columbine High School shootings. The race currently leans Republican.

Connecticut 2

Republican incumbent Robert Simmons is running against Jimmy Sullivan (D), formerly a Norwich City Council Rep., and a candidate in '02. Polls show that the two candidates are neck and neck with Simmons leading only slightly. The district is relatively split between registered Republicans and Democrats. The race currently leans Republican.

Georgia 12

Freshman incumbent Rep. Max Burns (R) is being challenged by John Barrow, a Democratic lawyer and former Athens-Clarke County Commissioner. Democrats are optimistic because the district is heavily democratic and Burns has a very conservative voting record. The race is currently a toss-up.

Illinois 8

Democratic businesswoman Melissa Bean is trying for a second time to unseat incumbent Republican Congressman Philip Crane. She ran against him in 2002. The race, was considered a long shot by Bean at the start of the campaign, however, thanks to considerable fundraising on her part, she has made up considerable ground. The race currently leans Republican.

Indiana 9

In a rematch three-term Democratic incumbent Rep. Baron Hill will once again face Republican challenger Mike Sodrel, a trucking company owner who ran against Hill in 2002. Sodrel lost by a mere five percentage points in 2002 and was seriously considered to be the Republican candidate for governor in Indiana in 2003. The district is relatively split between registered Republicans and Democrats. The race currently leans Democratic.

Kansas 3

Democratic incumbent Rep. Dennis Moore faces a challenge from Republican lawyer Kris Kobach. Kobach served as an advisor to Attorney General John Ashcroft from 2001 to 2003. Kobach was formerly a White House fellow and also served as Overland Park Councilman. Vice President Dick Cheney has campaigned in Kansas on Kobach's behalf. In the last two elections, Moore has managed to hold on to his seat by very small margins. In a state whose three other Representatives are all Republican, it is not difficult to see why the GOP has put Kansas's third district on their target list. The race currently leans Democratic.

Kentucky 3

Republican incumbent Rep. Anne Northrup is running against the Jefferson Circuit Court Clerk, Tony Miller (D). The 3rd district has been seriously contested in every election since 1992. Both candidates have high name recognition although Northrup has done a better job of fundraising and leads slightly in the polls. The race currently leans Republican.

Kentucky 4

Democratic incumbent Rep. Ken Lucas is retiring leaving his seat up for grabs. Nick Clooney (D), a former Cincinnati TV anchor, who is also the father of actor George Clooney faces GOP challenger Geoff Davis, a business consultant who also ran in 2002. The 4th district is one of the most Republican areas now held by a Democrat and gave 61 percent of its votes to President Bush in 2000. Clooney, however, is highly recognizable in the district and has a slight lead in the polls. The race is currently a toss-up.

Louisiana 3

In Louisiana's third House district there are five candidates running to succeed 12-term GOP Rep. Billy Tauzin. Republican Billy Tauzin III, the son of the incumbent and Democrat Charlie Melancon, who is a former president of the American Sugar Cane League, appear to be the front-runners. Other candidates include Democratic state Rep. Damon Baldone and Charmaine Caccioppi, who was an aide to-then Sen. Bennett Johnston. Tuazin has his father's name recognition and has done good fundraising but the 30 year old lacks experience. Melancon has also done well with fundraising but does not have a recognizable name. The race is currently a toss-up

Louisiana 7

Rep. Chris John (D) is vacating his seat to run for the Senate. Democrats running for the seat include the former mayor of Lake Charles, State Senator Willie Mount; State Senator Don Cravins; and Malcolm Carrierre. Republicans have a strong candidate in heart surgeon Charles Boustany although he lacks political experience and name recognition. Also running as a Republican is 1996 candidate David Thibodaux. Mount and Cravins appear to be the two frontrunners. The race is currently a toss-up.

Minnesota 6

In Minnesota's 6th House district, Republican incumbent Mark Kennedy is facing Patty Wetterling, a child rights advocate. Both have raised considerable funds in the suburban district but Kennedy, a strong winner in 2002 appears to be leading in the polls. The race currently leans Republican.

Nebraska 1

In the 1st District Rep. Doug Bereuter (R) is retiring, leaving an open-seat race between State Senator Matt Connealy (D) and Lincoln City councilman Jeff Fortenberry (R). The 1st district has shown in the past that it will elect moderate Democrats but on the whole tends to choose Republican candidates. The district voted 59 percent for President Bush in 2000. The race currently leans Republican.

Nevada 3

Republican incumbent Rep. Jon Porter is facing gaming executive Tom Gallagher (D). Porter won solidly in 2002 and is popular in the district. Mid-September polls showed Porter has a big lead but a tight race between George Bush and John Kerry in the Presidential election is expected to bring more voters than usual to the polls which could mobilize his Democratic base and help Gallagher. The race currently leans Republican.

New Mexico 1

Republican incumbent Heather Wilson is opposed by Richard Romero, the Democratic State Senate president pro tem; Romero was also a 2002 nominee. Voters are split evenly between Republicans and Democrats in this district. Romero has called Wilson a "rubber stamp" for President Bush's proposals and has tried to frame her as an extreme conservative. The race currently leans Republican.

New York 1

Democratic incumbent Tim Bishop is opposed by Republican William "Bill" Manger a former Department of Transportation official. The 1st District was one of the closest House races in 2002 with Bishop winning by a mere 1 percent margin. Bishop and Manger have done a good job of fundraising and have been relentlessly attacking each other with ads. The race appears to be close in the polls but leans Democratic.

New York 27

Six-term Republican incumbent Jack Quinn is retiring. The open seat contest pits Democratic assemblyman Brian Higgins against Republican Comptroller Nancy Naples. The district has tended to vote Democratic in recent elections giving Al Gore 53 percent of the vote in 2000. Naples, however, is the former comptroller from Erie County which makes up 80 percent of the district. But Higgins will likely pick up the labor vote, a key group in the district. The race is currently a toss-up.

North Carolina 11

In North Carolina's 11th district, Republican incumbent Charles Taylor is facing Patsy Keever (D), the Buncombe County Commissioner. The district tends to have a majority of Republican registered voters and is also made up of only five percent African Americans, the lowest

percentage of any county in North Carolina. Taylor won two close races in 2002 and 2000 and is likely to have another this year. The race currently leans Republican.

Oregon 1

In Oregon's 1st district, Democratic incumbent Rep. David Wu is facing Republican telecommunications research firm president, Goli Ameri. Ameri has tried to frame Wu as someone who is too closely tied to his party. This election has been all about big national and international issues focusing heavily on the war in Iraq which Wu opposed. Wu did vote with Republicans on Medicare but has failed to capitalize on it as a sign of his independence. The race currently leans Republican.

Oregon 5

Democratic incumbent Darlene Hooley is facing a Republican challenge from attorney Jim Zupancic. Republicans see an opportunity as the district voted for Bush in 2000 and has 6,000 more registered Republicans than Democrats. Hooley has painted herself as a centrist candidate and leads slightly in the polls. The race currently leans Democratic.

Pennsylvania 6: Incumbent Jim Gerlach (R) will face attorney Lois Murphy (D) in November. Both candidates ran unopposed in the primary elections. Gerlach has raised more money than Murphy (\$1.8 million compared to \$1.3 million as of September, 2004). Murphy can count on financial help from EMILY's List, a feminist political action group. This race is considered to lean Republican.

Pennsylvania 8: As incumbent Jim Greenwood (R) is retiring, attorney Ginny Schrader (D) faces Bucks County Commissioner Mike Fitzpatrick (R), who joined the race after the primary. As of the end of September, Fitzpatrick had raised \$566,000 and had about \$424,000 remaining in the bank. Schrader raised \$382,000 and had \$265,000 in the bank. The race is considered to lean Republican.

Pennsylvania 13: Since incumbent Joe Hoeffel (D) is running for Senate, state Senator Allyson Schwartz (D) will face Dr. Melissa Brown (R) for Hoeffel's seat. New districting put Democratic-leaning Northeast Philadelphia in with Republican-leaning Montgomery County. Brown believes that Schwartz's views will appear too radical for this district. However, Schwartz, who has made healthcare a central issue of her campaign, seems to have a strong hold. This race is considered to lean Democratic.

South Dakota 1: In 2002, Stephanie Herseth (D) beat Republican state senator Larry Diedrich (R) by a narrow margin (about 3,000 votes) in a special election to fill the remainder of former Rep. Bill Janklow's term. Janklow resigned in January after being found guilty of felony manslaughter and three misdemeanors for his involvement in a fatal traffic accident. Diedrich is challenging Herseth again in November. Herseth vows to avoid playing partisan politics. Diedrich says that his district needs a representative that has business savvy, as he claims to be. The race is considered to lean Democratic.

Texas 1: Incumbent Max Sandlin (D) will face former state appeals court chief justice Louis Gohmert (R). Only about 40 percent of Sandlin's old district is in the newly drawn district. Also, not one Democrat running for a statewide office in this district has won in the last eight years.

Gohmert has a base in Republican Smith County. However, Sandlin was able to do a lot of fundraising while Gohmert was busy with a difficult run-off election in the Republican primary. According to the *Cook Report*, Sandlin raised over \$750,000 in the first quarter and showed \$374,000 in the bank, while Gohmert showed to have only \$55,000 as of the pre-primary report. The race is considered to be a toss-up.

Texas 2: 9th District incumbent Nick Lampson (D) faces Ted Poe (R), a former state district judge. The newly drawn 2nd district is strongly Republican. The new district holds only about half of Lampson's old district. Lampson runs very well in his base in Jefferson County. However, in order to he will need to perform as well in Harris County (a suburb of Houston). He may have a hard time with this as Poe is counting on coming up ahead in Harris County, which trends Republican. Republicans are worried that Poe may not be fundraising hard enough. This race is considered to be a toss-up.

Texas 17: 11th District incumbent Chet Edwards (D) faces State Representative Arlene Wohlgemuth (R). Democrats are optimistic—in part because Edwards has shown an ability to win difficult races in tough political climates. From her voting record, Wohlgemuth appears to be a very conservative Republican, which Democrats hope will be too extreme for this Republican district. The Republicans hope that Edwards's record will play too liberal. Additionally, Wohlgemuth is an adept campaigner. The race is considered to lean Democratic.

Texas 19: Incumbent Rep. Randy Neugebauer (R) faces Rep. Charlie Stenholm (D), the 17th District incumbent in the district that puts two incumbents against each other. Neugebauer has some advantages including the fact that his former district constitutes almost two-thirds of the new district and that he has proven to be an incredible fundraiser. However, Stenholm was re-elected for 26 years in a generally Republican district. His position as ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee may also help him connect with the district's rural voters and counterbalance Republican leanings. This race is considered to lean Republican.

Texas 32: Incumbent Pete Sessions (R) faces 24th District incumbent Martin Frost (D). Both candidates ran unopposed in the primaries. The area seems to be a Republican territory—more than half the district was in Session's old district. However, Frost is a strong campaigner, and if he can turn out his base and a large percentage of the minority vote, he will have an advantage. The race is considered to be a toss-up.

Utah 2: In this district, incumbent Jim Matheson (D), who ran unopposed in the primary, will face John Swallow (R), who was the 2002 nominee. The Republicans seem to have had trouble rallying around a single candidate; Swallow won the primary only after a strong fight. Although the district gave Bush 67 percent of the vote in 2000, it is certainly not an easy win for the Republicans. In fact, Matheson appears to be in good shape. This race is considered to lean Democratic.

Washington 5: With incumbent George Nethercutt (R) retiring in order to run for Senate, former

state House Minority leader Cathy McMorris (R) faces retired WestCoast Hospitality Corp. CEO Don Barbieri (D). This primarily rural, conservative district strongly favored Bush in 2000. However, Barbieri is very well liked in Eastern Washington due to his business connections, which gives him a shot at winning. This race is considered to lean Republican.

Washington 8: With six-term incumbent Jennifer Dunn (R) retiring, Dave Ross (D) a local radio talk show host faces Dave Reichert (R) the King County sheriff. Both candidates have essentially equal name recognition and both are new to congressional politics. Even though it's one of the most affluent districts in the state, Gore carried 49 percent of the district in 2000. Reichert is far more conservative than was popular retiree Dunn. His conservatism is in stark contrast to the liberal views of Ross who opposes the Iraq war, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and individually managed Social Security accounts. In this very moderate district, the polarization of the candidates view makes the race very close. The race is considered to be a toss-up.