

Table 2-18 Shifts in Democratic Major Party Vote in  
Congressional Districts, 1956 - 2020

Period	Change in democratic percentage nationally	Change in Democratic percentage in congressional districts		
		Greatest loss	Greatest gain	Variance <sup>a</sup>
1956-58	5.0	-9.5	27.3	30.3
1958-60	-1.2	-22.1	14.4	31.4
1972-74	5.8	-18.8	36.2	92.2
1974-76	-1.3	-30.7	31.6	81.0
1976-78	-2.8	-37.6	39.6	106.1
1978-80	-3.2	-27.8	37.0	85.0
1982-84	-4.1	-40.6	16.5	68.8
1984-86	2.4	-46.1	22.5	63.6
1986-88	-1.1	-23.5	36.1	65.9
1988-90	0.1	-29.1	36.4	92.6
1992-94	-6.3	-38.0	28.0	67.2
1994-96	3.4	-31.2	21.5	51.1
1996-98	-0.3	-16.3	21.0	46.0
1998-2000	0.3	-28.7	27.0	41.2
2002-04	1.1	-28.0	22.8	36.7
2006-08	1.4	-41.1	30.8	48.0
2008-10	-9.0	-27.7	40.7	49.4
2012-14	-3.4	-20.3	18.0	18.4
2014-16	2.2	-25	22.6	25.4
2016-18	5.0	-6.9	17.5	17.9
2018-20	-2.9	17.4	5.7	8.7

Note: Includes only those districts in which two major party candidates competed in both elections and in which the boundaries remained unchanged for both elections. Because of massive redrawing of district lines after each decennial census, no figures are computed for 1970-1972, 1980-1982, 1990-1992, 2000-2002, 2010-2012, and 2020-2022.

Some data from earlier years/previous versions of Vital Statistics have been updated. See errata for more detail.

a. Variance, the square of the standard deviation, measures the extent to which the changes in local returns differ from the change in national returns.

Source: For 2000-2004, computed by Gary Jacobson, University of California, San Diego. Other data from Gregory Giroux; Congressional Quarterly; CQ Voting and Elections Collection; and the Federal Election Commission.

Most recent update source: Tabulations of data from MIT Election Data + Science Lab, <https://electionlab.mit.edu/>