

TABLE 4-2 **Midterm Fortunes of Presidential Parties, 1934–2010**

Year	President	Seats gained or lost	
		House	Senate
1934	Franklin D. Roosevelt (D)	+9	+10
1938	Roosevelt (D)	–71	–6
1942	Roosevelt (D)	–45	–9
1946	Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman (D)	–55	–12
1950	Truman (D)	–29	–6
1954	Dwight D. Eisenhower (R)	–18	–1
1958	Eisenhower (R)	–47	–13
1962	John F. Kennedy (D)	–5	+3
1966	Lyndon B. Johnson (D)	–47	–4
1970	Richard M. Nixon (R)	–12	+3
1974	Nixon and Gerald R. Ford (R)	–48	–5
1978	Jimmy Carter (D)	–15	–3
1982	Ronald Reagan (R)	–26	+1
1986	Reagan (R)	–5	–8
1990	George H. W. Bush (R)	–7	–1
1994	Bill Clinton (D)	–54	–10
1998	Clinton (D)	+4	0
2002	George W. Bush (R)	+8	+1
2006	Bush (R)	–31	–6
2010	Obama (D)	–63	–6
Average seats lost (20 elections)		–27.8	–3.6

Sources: CQ Press Electronic Library, *Vital Statistics on American Politics Online Edition*, table 1-17. Originally published in Harold W. Stanley and Richard G. Niemi, eds., *Vital Statistics on American Politics, 2009–2010* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2009). Each entry is the difference between the number of seats held by the president's party at the start of Congress after the midterm election and the number of seats held by that party at the start of Congress after the preceding general election. Special elections that shifted partisan seat totals between elections are not noted.