2020 US Senate Elections

Jamie DeAntonis

Columbia University

jad2295@columbia.edu

November 22, 2019

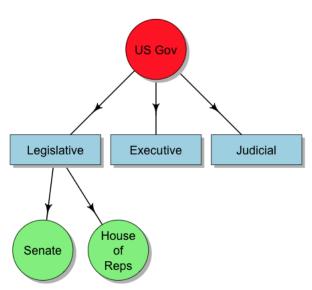
Overview

Government Structure

2 Party Breakdown of Current Senate

3 Forecast of Party Breakdown after 2020 Senate Election

Overview of US Government



The Senate and the House of Representatives

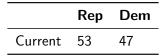
Senate

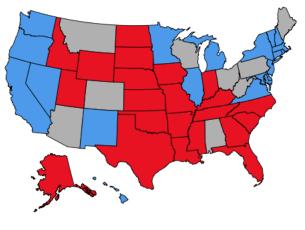
- 100 members; 2 from each state
- 6-year terms (staggered across even years)

House of Representatives

- 435 members; number from each state determined by population
- 2-year terms (every even year)

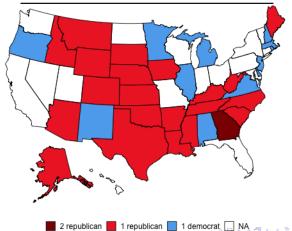
Current Senate Map



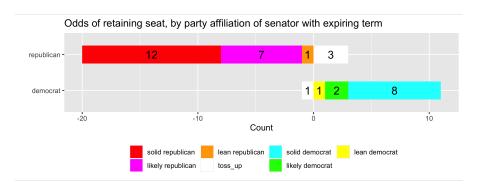


Senators with Seats up for Election in 2020

	Rep	Dem
Current	53	47
To be contested in 2020	23	12



Breakdown of Result Probabilities



Toss-Up Races

Rep-controlled	Dem-controlled			
Martha McSally, AZ	Doug Jones, AL			
Cory Gardner, CO				
Susan Collins, ME				

Formalizing Probabilities

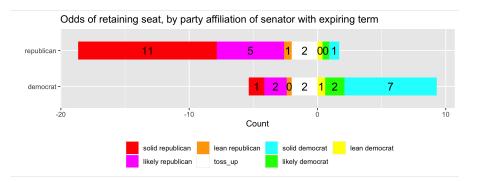
We define the following probabilities:

Category	Probability				
Solid	.9				
Likely	.75				
Lean	.6				
Toss-Up	.5				

Then, assuming an independence assumption amongst races, we have eight binomial random variables, $\{R_S, R_{Li}, R_{Le}, R_T, D_T, D_{Le}, D_{Li}, D_S\}$. More succinctly, $\{X_i\}$, where $X \in P = \{R, D\}$ and $i \in R = \{S, Li, Le, T\}$. Let each of these variables take on 1 if a democrat wins and 0 otherwise. Now, we need

$$\mathbb{P}\bigg(\sum_{X\in P}\sum_{i\in R}X_i\geq 15\bigg)$$

MLE



Party	R_S	R_{Li}	R_{Le}	Т	D_{Le}	D_{Li}	Ds	Seats	Total
Rep	11	5	1	2	0	0	1	20	50
Rep Dem	1	2	0	2	1	2	7	15	50

The End