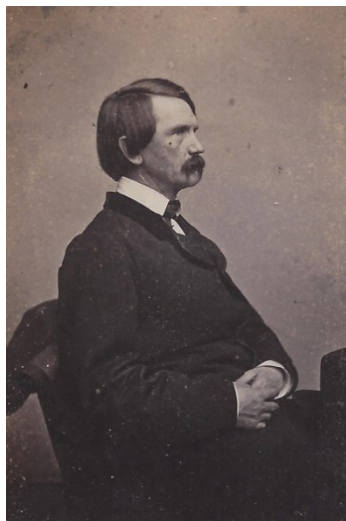


Chapter 235 - Republicans Win The Mid-Term House Elections

Time: August 2, 1858 to November 8, 1859

The Democrats Lose Their Prior Majority



Francis Blair, Jr. (1821-1878)

The actual mid-term election voting is strung out between August 2, 1858 and November 8, 1859 – a pattern that will persist until an 1872 bill that concentrates all polling on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

When the returns are all in, the Democrats have lost their majority in the House, surrendering 35 seats in total, with 19 going to a splinter group christened the Southern Opposition Party. Meanwhile the Republicans are the big winners, capturing 116 seats for a plurality position.

Results Of 1858 Elections: The House

Party	# Seats	Gain/Loss
Democrats	98	--35
Republicans	116	+26
Know Nothings	5	--9
So. Opposition	19	+19
Total	238	

The largest statewide shift in popularity occurs in Buchanan's home state of Pennsylvania, where his Democrats lose ten races. Gains by the new Southern Opposition faction are concentrated in the mid-South, Tennessee, Kentucky and North Carolina.

Biggest Shifts From 1856 Results In The House

	Gainers	Losers
Pennsylvania	Republicans +10	Democrats --10
Tennessee	So. Opposition +7	Democrats - 4/ KN -3
New York	Republicans +5	Democrats -5
Kentucky	So. Opposition +5	Democrats -3/KN - 2
North Carolina	So. Opposition +4	Democrats -3/KN -1

Time: Fall 1858

The Differences By Region Are Foreboding

The results by region reinforce the threat of a Union on the brink of dissolution.

In the slave states of the South, the Republicans win exactly one seat, that in Missouri’s 1st District, won by Francis Preston Blair, Jr.

Conversely in the North, they pile up 115 wins against only 33 going to the Democrats.

Should a portion of these Democratic victories give way in 1860, a new President, chosen entirely on electoral votes in the North, would be a possibility. In effect, a “Northern President.”

House Seats Won In The 1858 Election By State

Southeast	Tot Seats	Republican	Democrats	So. Opposition	Know Nothing
Virginia	13	0	12 (-1)	1 (+1)	0
North Carolina	8	0	4 (-3)	4 (+4)	0 ((-1)
Georgia	8	0	6	2 (+2)	0 (-2)
South Carolina	6	0	6	0	0
Total	35	0 0	28	7	0
Border					
Kentucky	10	0	5 (-3)	5 (+5)	0 (-2)
Maryland	6	0	3	0	3
Missouri	7	1	5 (+1)	0	1 (-1)
Delaware	1	0	1	0	0
Total	24	1	14	5	4
Southwest					
Tennessee	10	0	3 (-4)	7 (+7)	0 (-3)
Alabama	7	0	7	0	0
Mississippi	5	0	5	0	0
Louisiana	4	0	3	0	1
Arkansas	2	0	2	0	0
Texas	2	0	2	0	0
Florida	1	0	1	0	0
Total	31	0	23	7	1
Total South	90	1	65	19	5

Northeast					
New York	33	26 (+5)	7 (-5)		
Pennsylvania	25	20 (+10)	5 (-10)		
Massachusetts	11	11	0		
Maine	6	6	0		
New Jersey	5	3 (+1)	2 (-1)		
Connecticut	4	4 (+2)	0 (-2)		
New Hampshire	3	3	0		
Rhode Island	2	2	0		
Vermont	3	3	0		
Total	92	78	14		
Northwest					
Ohio	21	15 (+2)	6 (-2)		
Indiana	11	7 (+2)	4 (-2)		
Illinois	9	4	5		
Michigan	4	4	0		
Total	45	30	15		
Far West					
Wisconsin	3	2 (-1)	1 (+1)		
California	2	0	2		
Iowa	2	2	0		
Minnesota	2	2 (+2)	0 (-2)		
Oregon	1	0	1		
Kansas	1	1 (+1)			
Total	11	7	4		
Total North	148	115	33	0	0
Total U.S.	238	116	98	19	5

In the Senate, with only one-third of the seats are in play, the trend is toward the Republicans, although the Democrats still maintain a fairly comfortable majority.

Results Of 1858 Elections: The Senate

Party	# Seats	Gain/Loss
Democrats	38	--4
Republicans	25	+5
Know Nothings	2	-2
Total	65	