

Retirements from the Senate open seats to costly primaries and potentially contentious general elections

Senators retiring and not seeking reelection in 2018



Bob Corker
(R-TN)

- Corker has been an outspoken critic of Trump
- Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) is the Republican frontrunner
- Former Democratic TN governor Phil Bredesen (2003-2011) also announced his candidacy



Jeff Flake
(R-AZ)

- Flake decided not to run in light of low polling numbers a strong challenge by Kelli Ward
- Competitive Republican primary between Rep. Martha McSally (R-AZ02), State Rep. Kelli Ward and former sheriff Joe Arpaio
- Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ09) is considered the Democratic frontrunner



Orrin Hatch
(R-UT)

- Hatch announced his retirement after initially deciding to run
- Former MA governor and presidential candidate Mitt Romney announced he was running for the open seat in mid-February and is expected to win nomination and the seat



Thad Cochran
(R-MS)

- Cochran announced his early retirement due to health concerns
- MS Governor Phil Bryan (R) may appoint himself to fill the seat until November and then run again
- Former US Rep. and Sec. of Agriculture Mike Espy (D) has announced his intent to run
- Both Mississippi Senate seats will be on the ballot in November



Al Franken
(D-MN)

- Franken resigned on January 2nd amid a sexual harassment scandal
- He was replaced by Tina Smith (D) who will run to finish his term in November
- Both Minnesota Senate seats will be on the ballot in November

Sources: National Journal Research 2017. *Includes Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) who resigned in January and was replaced by the Tina Smith (D)