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## **Major Leadership Election Contests In the Senate: A 27-Year Survey**

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# Major Leadership Election Contests in the Senate: A 27-Year Survey

## Summary

This report contains data on elections in the Democratic and Republican party conferences for principal congressional leaders within each party from the 94<sup>th</sup> through the 107<sup>th</sup> Congresses. It reflects actual balloting. Also identified are the six Senators who have served as presidents pro tempore of the Senate, the two who have served as deputy presidents pro tempore, and the one Senator who has served as president pro tempore emeritus. These are largely positions of honor, for which there is no formal election in either party conference.

Other tables provide the names and states of the candidates for each major party office, the congress(es) in which they were running and the votes they received. Also noted are Senators elected with no opposition.

In numerous instances, leaders were selected without opposition. In cases where published accounts did not mention contests for a particular office, it was assumed there was only one candidate. The data do not include notices of announced candidacies that were abandoned before conference voting took place.

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# Major Leadership Election Contests In the Senate: A 27-Year Survey

## Introduction

This report contains balloting data on the elections in the Democratic and Republican party conferences for principal congressional leaders from the 94<sup>th</sup> through the 107<sup>th</sup> Congresses. **Table 1** identifies the six Senators who have served as presidents pro tempore of the Senate. This position is generally reserved for the majority party Senator with the party's longest continuous Senate service, but there is no formal election in either party conference for the position. **Table 2** identifies the two Senators who have been elected to the honorary position of deputy president pro tempore, also a position for which there is no formal election by either party. Also noted is the Senator who was designated president pro tempore emeritus.

The other tables provide the names and states of the candidates for each major party office, the Congress(es) in which they were running, and the votes they received. Also noted are Senators elected with no opposition. Although most conference balloting took place prior to the convening of a new Congress, in some cases leadership elections were held to fill vacancies during a Congress. In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, majority party switched, thus causing a change in the positions of majority leader and majority whip.

The following tables provide data on elections for the positions of:

- Senate Democratic Floor Leaders and Conference Chairmen
- Senate Republican Floor Leaders
- Senate Democratic Whips
- Senate Republican Whips
- Senate Republican Conference Chairmen
- Senate Democratic Conference Secretaries
- Senate Republican Policy Committee Chairmen
- Senate Republican Conference Secretaries
- Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Chairmen
- National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairmen

In numerous instances, leaders were selected without opposition. Where there were contested races, most were decided after one ballot. However, in the 99<sup>th</sup> Congress, it took four ballots to elect the Republican floor leader and two ballots to elect the Republican whip. In the 102<sup>nd</sup> and 104<sup>th</sup> Congresses, two ballots were needed to elect the chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee. In cases where published accounts did not mention contests for a particular office, it was assumed there was only one candidate. The data do not include notices of announced candidacies that were abandoned before conference voting took place.

The sources for this report include various editions of *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Reports* and *Congressional Staff Directories*.

**Table 1. Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate,  
94<sup>th</sup> -107<sup>th</sup> Congresses**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>President Pro Tempore</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Date Elected<sup>a</sup></b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	James O. Eastland	D-MS	no election
95 <sup>th</sup>	James O. Eastland	D-MS	no election
96 <sup>th</sup>	Warren G. Magnuson	D-WA	Jan. 15, 1979
96 <sup>th</sup>	Milton R. Young <sup>b</sup>	R-ND	Dec. 4, 1980
97 <sup>th</sup>	J. Strom Thurmond	R-SC	Jan. 5, 1981
98 <sup>th</sup>	J. Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
99 <sup>th</sup>	J. Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
100 <sup>th</sup>	John C. Stennis	D-MS	Jan. 6, 1987
101 <sup>st</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	D-WV	Jan. 3, 1989
102 <sup>nd</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	D-WV	no election
103 <sup>rd</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	D-WV	no election
104 <sup>th</sup>	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	Jan. 4, 1995
105 <sup>th</sup>	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
106 <sup>th</sup>	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
107 <sup>th</sup>	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
107 <sup>th</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	D-WV	June 6, 2001 <sup>c</sup>

- a. The president pro tempore of the Senate is one of only three legislative officers established by the U.S. Constitution. The other two are the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Vice President of the United States, who also serves as President of the Senate. The Constitution designates the president pro tempore to serve in the Vice President's absence. The Senate generally elects by resolution a specified Senator president pro tempore. These resolutions are usually agreed to by voice vote. On rare occasions, the minority has offered an amendment naming its candidate. Such amendments are normally defeated by voice vote. The president pro tempore is not reelected at the beginning of a Congress unless there is a change in party control or the Senator serving as president pro tempore has been elected to a new Senate term. Prior to 1890, the Senate elected a president pro tempore whenever the Vice President was not in attendance. When the Vice President returned, the president pro tempore lost his place. When the Vice President was again absent, the Senate elected a president pro tempore, in many instances the same Senator who had previously occupied the office. By the standing order agreed to on March 12, 1890, the Senate declared that the president pro tempore shall hold the office during "the pleasure of the Senate and until another is elected, and shall execute the duties thereof during all future absences of the Vice President until the Senate does otherwise order." Contemporary presidents pro tempore now serve as long as their party holds a majority in the Senate.
- b. Senator Young was elected to serve as president pro tempore for one day prior to his Senate retirement. His party was in the minority at the time. Senator Magnuson then resumed the presidency pro tempore for the balance of the 96<sup>th</sup> Congress.

- c. Senator Byrd was elected president pro tempore for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress when the Democrats regained control of the Senate on June 6, 2001. At the same time, Senator Thurmond was designated president pro tem emeritus.

**Table 2. Deputy Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate**

Congress	Deputy President Pro Tempore	Party—State	Dates
95 <sup>th</sup>	Hubert H. Humphrey <sup>a</sup>	D—MN	Jan. 5, 1977- Jan. 13, 1978
100 <sup>th</sup>	George J. Mitchell <sup>b</sup>	D—ME	Jan. 28, 1987- Nov. 29, 1988 <sup>c</sup>

- a. Pursuant to S. Res. 17, agreed to January 10, 1977, the Senate established (effective January 5, 1977) the post of deputy president pro tempore of the Senate to be held by “any Member of the Senate who has held the Office of President of the United States or Vice President of the United States.” Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota held this position until his death on January 13, 1978.
- b. On January 28, 1987, the Senate agreed to S. Res. 90, authorizing the Senate to designate a Senator to serve as deputy president pro tempore during the 100<sup>th</sup> Congress, in addition to Senators who hold such office under the authority of S. Res. 17, 95<sup>th</sup> Congress. Accordingly, on the same date the Senate agreed to S. Res. 91, designating Senator George J. Mitchell of Maine deputy president pro tempore.
- c. On November 29, 1988, Senator Mitchell was elected majority leader for the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress.

**Table 3. Senate Democratic Floor Leaders and Conference Chairmen**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Michael J. Mansfield	MT	no opposition
95 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a,b</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
96 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
97 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
98 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
99 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
100 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
101 <sup>st</sup> <sup>a</sup>	George J. Mitchell <sup>c</sup>	ME	27
	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	14
	J. Bennett Johnston	LA	14
102 <sup>nd</sup> <sup>a</sup>	George J. Mitchell	ME	no opposition
103 <sup>rd</sup> <sup>a</sup>	George J. Mitchell	ME	no opposition
104 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas Daschle	SD	24
	Christopher J. Dodd	CT	23
105 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas A. Daschle	SD	no opposition
106 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas A. Daschle	SD	no opposition
107 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Thomas A. Daschle <sup>d</sup>	SD	no opposition

- a. Indicates Congresses in which the floor leader was also the majority leader. The Democratic leader is also the chairman of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee.
- b. Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-MN) withdrew from the race the morning of the election.
- c. Although Senator Mitchell fell one vote short of the necessary majority on the first ballot, the other candidates immediately withdrew, and he was elected by acclamation.
- d. Senator Daschle became majority leader on June 6, 2001, when the Democrats regained control of the Senate.



**Table 4. Senate Republican Floor Leaders**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	Hugh D. Scott	PA	no opposition
95 <sup>th</sup>	Howard H. Baker	TN	19
	Robert P. Griffin	MI	18
96 <sup>th</sup>	Howard H. Baker	TN	no opposition
97 <sup>th a</sup>	Howard H. Baker	TN	no opposition
98 <sup>th a</sup>	Howard H. Baker	TN	no opposition
99 <sup>th a</sup>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Ballot</b>		
	Robert J. Dole	KS	14
	Ted Stevens	AK	12
	Richard G. Lugar	IN	10
	Pete V. Domenici	NM	9
	James A. McClure	ID	8
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot</b>		
	Robert J. Dole	KS	17
	Ted Stevens	AK	14
	Richard G. Lugar	IN	12
	Pete V. Domenici	NM	10
	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Ballot</b>		
	Robert J. Dole	KS	20
	Ted Stevens	AK	20
	Richard G. Lugar	IN	13
	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Ballot</b>		
Robert J. Dole	KS	28	
Ted Stevens	AK	25	
100 <sup>th</sup>	Robert J. Dole	KS	no opposition
101 <sup>st</sup>	Robert J. Dole	KS	no opposition
102 <sup>nd</sup>	Robert J. Dole	KS	no opposition
103 <sup>rd</sup>	Robert J. Dole	KS	no opposition

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
104 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	<b>Initial Election</b>		
	Robert J. Dole <sup>b</sup>	KS	no opposition
	<b>Replacement Election of June 12, 1996</b>		
	Trent Lott	MS	44
	Thad Cochran	MS	8
105 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Trent Lott	MS	no opposition
106 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Trent Lott	MS	no opposition
107 <sup>th</sup> <sup>a</sup>	Trent Lott <sup>c</sup>	MS	no opposition

a. Indicates Congresses in which the floor leader was also the majority leader.

b. Senator Dole resigned from the Senate on June 11, 1996, to campaign for the office of President of the United States.

c. Senator Lott lost the majority leader position on June 6, 2001, when the Democrats regained control of the Senate.

**Table 5. Senate Democratic Whips**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
95 <sup>th</sup>	Alan M. Cranston	CA	no opposition
96 <sup>th</sup>	Alan M. Cranston	CA	no opposition
97 <sup>th</sup>	Alan M. Cranston	CA	no opposition
98 <sup>th</sup>	Alan M. Cranston	CA	no opposition
99 <sup>th</sup>	Alan M. Cranston	CA	no opposition
100 <sup>th</sup>	Alan M. Cranston	CA	no opposition
101 <sup>st</sup>	Alan M. Cranston	CA	30
	Wendell H. Ford <sup>a</sup>	KY	12
102 <sup>nd</sup>	Wendell H. Ford	KY	no opposition
103 <sup>rd</sup>	Wendell H. Ford	KY	no opposition
104 <sup>th</sup>	Wendell H. Ford	KY	no opposition
105 <sup>th</sup>	Wendell H. Ford	KY	no opposition
106 <sup>th</sup>	Harry Reid	NV	no opposition
107 <sup>th</sup>	Harry Reid	NV	no opposition

a. Subsequently, Senator Ford moved to make Senator Cranston's reelection unanimous.

**Table 6. Senate Republican Whips**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	Robert P. Griffin	MI	no opposition
95 <sup>th</sup>	Ted Stevens	AK	no opposition
96 <sup>th</sup>	Ted Stevens	AK	no opposition
97 <sup>th</sup>	Ted Stevens	AK	no opposition
98 <sup>th</sup>	Ted Stevens	AK	no opposition
99 <sup>th</sup>	<b>1st Ballot</b>		
	Alan K. Simpson	WY	22
	Slade Gorton	WA	16
	Robert W. Kasten	WI	15
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot</b>		
	Alan K. Simpson	WY	31
	Slade Gorton	WA	22
100 <sup>th</sup>	Alan K. Simpson	WY	no opposition
101 <sup>st</sup>	Alan K. Simpson	WY	no opposition
102 <sup>nd</sup>	Alan K. Simpson	WY	no opposition
103 <sup>rd</sup>	Alan K. Simpson	WY	25
	Slade Gorton	WA	14
104 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Initial Election</b>		
	Trent Lott	MS	27
	Alan K. Simpson	WY	26
	<b>Replacement Election of June 12, 1996 <sup>a</sup></b>		
	Don Nickles	OK	no opposition
105 <sup>th</sup>	Don Nickles	OK	no opposition
106 <sup>th</sup>	Don Nickles	OK	no opposition
107 <sup>th</sup>	Don Nickles	OK	no opposition

a. Senator Lott was elected majority leader on June 12, 1996.

**Table 7. Senate Republican Conference Chairmen**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	Carl T. Curtis	NE	23
	Jacob K. Javits	NY	14
95 <sup>th</sup>	Carl T. Curtis	NE	no opposition
96 <sup>th</sup>	Robert W. Packwood	OR	22
	James A. McClure	ID	19
97 <sup>th</sup>	James A. McClure	ID	33
	H. John Heinz, III	PA	20
98 <sup>th</sup>	James A. McClure	ID	no opposition
99 <sup>th</sup>	John H. Chafee	RI	28
	Edward J. (Jake) Garn	UT	25
100 <sup>th</sup>	John H. Chafee	RI	no opposition
101 <sup>st</sup>	John H. Chafee	RI	28
	Frank H. Murkowski	AK	17
102 <sup>nd</sup>	Thad Cochran	MS	22
	John H. Chafee	RI	21
103 <sup>rd</sup>	Thad Cochran	MS	no opposition
104 <sup>th</sup>	Thad Cochran	MS	no opposition
105 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Mack	FL	no opposition
106 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Mack	FL	no opposition
107 <sup>th</sup>	Rick Santorum	PA	30
	Christopher Bond	MO	20

**Table 8. Senate Democratic Conference Secretaries**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	Frank E. Moss	UT	no opposition
95 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
96 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
97 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
98 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
99 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
100 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
101 <sup>st</sup>	David H. Pryor <sup>a</sup>	AR	
	Patrick J. Leahy	VT	
102 <sup>nd</sup>	David H. Pryor	AR	no opposition
103 <sup>rd</sup>	David H. Pryor	AR	no opposition
104 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara A. Mikulski	MD	no opposition
105 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara A. Mikulski	MD	no opposition
106 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara A. Mikulski	MD	no opposition
107 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara A. Mikulski	MD	no opposition

a. After Senator Pryor received 28 votes, he was declared the winner by acclamation. No other votes were reported.

**Table 9. Senate Republican Policy Committee Chairmen**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	John G. Tower	TX	no opposition
95 <sup>th</sup>	John G. Tower	TX	no opposition
96 <sup>th</sup>	John G. Tower	TX	no opposition
97 <sup>th</sup>	John G. Tower	TX	no opposition
98 <sup>th</sup>	John G. Tower	TX	no opposition
99 <sup>th</sup>	William L. Armstrong	CO	no opposition
100 <sup>th</sup>	William L. Armstrong	CO	no opposition
101 <sup>st</sup>	William L. Armstrong	CO	no opposition
102 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Ballot</b>		
	Don Nickles	OK	21
	Pete V. Domenici	NM	21
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot</b>		
	Don Nickles	OK	23
	Pete V. Domenici	NM	20
103 <sup>rd</sup>	Don Nickles	OK	no opposition
104 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Initial Election</b>		
	Don Nickles <sup>a</sup>	OK	no opposition
	<b>Replacement Election of June 12, 1996 - 1<sup>st</sup> Ballot</b>		
	Larry E. Craig	ID	26
	Daniel R. Coats	IN	18
	Robert F. Bennett	UT	8
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Ballot</b>		
	Larry E. Craig	ID	30
	Daniel R. Coats	IN	22
105 <sup>th</sup>	Larry E. Craig	ID	no opposition
106 <sup>th</sup>	Larry E. Craig	ID	no opposition
107 <sup>th</sup>	Larry E. Craig	ID	26
	Peter Domenici	NM	24

a. Senator Nickles was elected republican whip on June 12, 1996, to fill the vacancy caused by Senator Lott's election as majority leader.

**Table 10. Senate Republican Conference Secretaries**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	Robert T. Stafford	VT	no opposition
95 <sup>th</sup>	Clifford P. Hansen	WY	20
	Robert T. Stafford	VT	17
96 <sup>th</sup>	Edward J. (Jake) Garn	UT	21
	John H. Chafee	RI	19
97 <sup>th</sup>	Edward J. (Jake) Garn	UT	no opposition
98 <sup>th</sup>	Edward J. (Jake) Garn	UT	no opposition
99 <sup>th</sup>	Thad Cochran	MS	32
	Rudy E. Boschwitz	MN	21
100 <sup>th</sup>	Thad Cochran	MS	no opposition
101 <sup>st</sup>	Thad Cochran	MS	no opposition
102 <sup>nd</sup>	Robert W. Kasten	WI	26
	Christopher S. Bond	MO	17
103 <sup>rd</sup>	Trent Lott	MS	20
	Christopher S. Bond	MO	14
	Frank H. Murkowski	AK	5
104 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Mack	FL	no opposition
105 <sup>th</sup>	Paul D. Coverdell	GA	41
	Conrad R. Burns	MT	14
106 <sup>th</sup>	Paul D. Coverdell <sup>a</sup>	GA	no opposition
107 <sup>th</sup>	Kay Bailey Hutchison	TX	no opposition

a. Died on July 18, 2000; position left vacant for the remainder of the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress.



**Table 11. Senate Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Chairmen**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	J. Bennett Johnston	LA	—
95 <sup>th</sup>	Wendell H. Ford	KY	—
96 <sup>th</sup>	Wendell H. Ford	KY	—
97 <sup>th</sup>	Wendell H. Ford	KY	—
98 <sup>th</sup>	Lloyd M. Bentsen	TX	—
99 <sup>th</sup>	John F. Kerry	MA	—
100 <sup>th</sup>	George J. Mitchell	ME	—
101 <sup>st</sup>	John B. Breaux	LA	—
102 <sup>nd</sup>	Charles S. Robb	VA	—
103 <sup>rd</sup>	Bob Graham	FL	—
104 <sup>th</sup>	J. Robert Kerrey	NE	—
105 <sup>th</sup>	J. Robert Kerrey	NE	—
106 <sup>th</sup>	Robert G. Torricelli	NJ	—
107 <sup>th</sup>	Patty Murray	WA	—

**Note:** The chairmen of the Senate Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee have always been appointed by the Senate Democratic leader.

**Table 12. National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairmen**

<b>Congress</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Votes</b>
94 <sup>th</sup>	Ted Stevens	AK	no opposition
95 <sup>th</sup>	Robert W. Packwood	OR	no opposition
96 <sup>th</sup>	H. John Heinz III	PA	21
	Orrin G. Hatch	UT	20
97 <sup>th</sup>	Robert W. Packwood	OR	no opposition
98 <sup>th</sup>	Richard G. Lugar	IN	29
	Robert W. Packwood	OR	25
99 <sup>th</sup>	H. John Heinz III	PA	27
	Malcolm Wallop	WY	26
100 <sup>th</sup>	Rudy E. Boschwitz	MN	no opposition
101 <sup>st</sup>	Don Nickles	OK	28
	John S. McCain	AZ	17
102 <sup>nd</sup>	Phil Gramm	TX	26
	Mitch McConnell	KY	17
103 <sup>rd</sup>	Phil Gramm	TX	20
	Mitch McConnell	KY	19
104 <sup>th</sup>	Mitch McConnell	KY	no opposition
105 <sup>th</sup>	Mitch McConnell	KY	no opposition
106 <sup>th</sup>	Mitch McConnell	KY	39
	Chuck Hagel	NE	13
107 <sup>th</sup>	William Frist	TN	no opposition