

Report for Congress

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Major Leadership Election Contests In the Senate: A 28-Year Survey

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Summary

This report contains data on elections in the Democratic and Republican party conferences for principal congressional leaders within each party from the 94th through the 108th 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.

Contents

Introduction 1

List of Tables

Table 1. Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate, 94th -108th Congresses 3
Table 2. Presidents Pro Tempore Emeritus of the Senate 4
Table 3. Deputy Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate 4
Table 4. Senate Democratic Floor Leaders and Conference Chairmen 5
Table 5. Senate Republican Floor Leaders 6
Table 6. Senate Democratic Whips 8
Table 7. Senate Republican Whips 9
Table 8. Senate Republican Conference Chairmen 10
Table 9. Senate Democratic Conference Secretaries 11
Table 10. Senate Republican Policy Committee Chairmen 12
Table 11. Senate Republican Conference Secretaries 13
Table 12. Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Chairmen 14
Table 13. National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairmen 15

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Major Leadership Election Contests In the Senate: A 28-Year Survey

Introduction

This report contains balloting data on the elections in the Democratic and Republican party conferences for principal congressional leaders from the 94th through the 108th Congresses. **Table 1** identifies the seven 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 designated to the honorary position of President pro tempore emeritus, and **Table 3** identifies the two Senators who have been elected to the honorary position of deputy President pro tempore, positions for which there is no formal election by either party.

The other tables provide the names and states of the candidates for each major party office, the Congress(es) in which they ran, 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 107th Congress, the majority party switched, thus causing changes in the positions of majority leader and majority whip.

Tables 4-13 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 races were contested, most were decided after one ballot. However, in the 99th Congress, it took four ballots to elect the Republican floor leader and two ballots to elect the Republican whip. In the 102nd and 104th Congresses, two ballots were needed to elect the chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee. When published accounts did not mention a contest 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*, *Congressional Staff Directories*, and press accounts.

**Table 1. Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate,
94th -108th Congresses**

Congress	President Pro Tempore	State	Date Elected ^a
94 th	James O. Eastland	D-MS	no election
95 th	James O. Eastland	D-MS	no election
96 th	Warren G. Magnuson	D-WA	Jan. 15, 1979
96 th	Milton R. Young ^b	R-ND	Dec. 4, 1980
97 th	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	Jan. 5, 1981
98 th	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
99 th	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
100 th	John C. Stennis	D-MS	Jan. 6, 1987
101 st	Robert C. Byrd	D-WV	Jan. 3, 1989
102 nd	Robert C. Byrd	D-WV	no election
103 rd	Robert C. Byrd	D-WV	no election
104 th	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	Jan. 4, 1995
105 th	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
106 th	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
107 th	Strom Thurmond	R-SC	no election
107 th	Robert C. Byrd	D-WV	June 6, 2001 ^c
108 th	Ted Stevens	R-AK	Jan. 7, 2003

- 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 an amendment is normally defeated by voice vote. The President pro tempore is not reelected at the beginning of a Congress unless party control changes, 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 96th Congress.
- c. Senator Byrd was elected President pro tempore for the 107th Congress when the Democrats regained control of the Senate on June 6, 2001.

Table 2. Presidents Pro Tempore Emeritus of the Senate

Congress	President Pro Tempore Emeritus	Party–State	Dates
107 th	Strom Thurmond ^a	R-SC	June 6, 2001- Jan. 3, 2003
108 th	Robert C. Byrd ^b	D-WV	Jan. 15, 2003-

^a When the Senate party control changed in June 2001, Senator Thurmond, who had been Senate President pro tempore, was designated President pro tempore emeritus. See: “Thanking and Electing Strom Thurmond President Pro Tempore Emeritus,” *Congressional Record*, daily edition, vol. 147, June 6, 2001, p. S5844.

^b The Senate designated Senator Byrd President pro tempore emeritus after the convening of the 108th Congress and the election of Senator Stevens as President pro tempore. See: “Thanks to the Honorable Robert C. Byrd and His Designation as President Pro Tempore Emeritus,” *Congressional Record*, daily edition, vol. 149, January 15, 2003, p. S843.

Table 3. Deputy Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate

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

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. See “Establishment of the Office of Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and for Other Purposes,” *Congressional Record*, vol. 123, Jan. 10, 1977, p. 457.

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 100th Congress, in addition to Senators who held such office under the authority of S. Res. 17, 95th Congress. Accordingly, on the same date the Senate agreed to S. Res. 91, designating Senator George J. Mitchell of Maine deputy President pro tempore. See “Designation of a Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Designating Senator George J. Mitchell As Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate,” *Congressional Record*, vol. 133, Jan. 28, 1987, pp. 2167-2168.

c. On November 29, 1988, Senator Mitchell was elected majority leader for the 101st Congress.

Table 4. Senate Democratic Floor Leaders and Conference Chairmen

Congress	Candidates	State	Votes
94 ^{th a}	Michael J. Mansfield	MT	no opposition
95 ^{th a,b}	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
96 ^{th a}	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
97 ^{th a}	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
98 ^{th a}	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
99 ^{th a}	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
100 ^{th a}	Robert C. Byrd	WV	no opposition
101 ^{st a}	George J. Mitchell ^c	ME	27
	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	14
	J. Bennett Johnston	LA	14
102 ^{nd a}	George J. Mitchell	ME	no opposition
103 ^{rd a}	George J. Mitchell	ME	no opposition
104 th	Thomas Daschle	SD	24
	Christopher J. Dodd	CT	23
105 th	Thomas A. Daschle	SD	no opposition
106 th	Thomas A. Daschle	SD	no opposition
107 ^{th a}	Thomas A. Daschle ^d	SD	no opposition
108 th	Thomas A. Daschle	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 5. Senate Republican Floor Leaders

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

Congress	Candidates	State	Votes
104 th ^a	Initial Election		
	Robert J. Dole ^b	KS	no opposition
	Replacement Election of June 12, 1996		
	Trent Lott	MS	44
	Thad Cochran	MS	8
105 th ^a	Trent Lott	MS	no opposition
106 th ^a	Trent Lott	MS	no opposition
107 th ^a	Trent Lott ^c	MS	no opposition
108 th ^a	Trent Lott ^d	MS	no opposition
108 th ^a	Replacement Election of December 23, 2002		
	William Frist ^e	TN	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.

^d. Senator Lott resigned as majority leader effective January 6, 2003.

^e. For the first time in history, the Republican leader was elected in a conference call of Republican Senators. Senator Frist's election as Senate majority leader was effective January 6, 2003.

Table 6. Senate Democratic Whips

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

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

Table 7. Senate Republican Whips

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

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

Table 8. Senate Republican Conference Chairmen

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

Table 9. Senate Democratic Conference Secretaries

Congress	Candidates	State	Votes
94 th	Frank E. Moss	UT	no opposition
95 th	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
96 th	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
97 th	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
98 th	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
99 th	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
100 th	Daniel K. Inouye	HI	no opposition
101 st	David H. Pryor ^a	AR	
	Patrick J. Leahy	VT	
102 nd	David H. Pryor	AR	no opposition
103 rd	David H. Pryor	AR	no opposition
104 th	Barbara A. Mikulski	MD	no opposition
105 th	Barbara A. Mikulski	MD	no opposition
106 th	Barbara A. Mikulski	MD	no opposition
107 th	Barbara A. Mikulski	MD	no opposition
108 th	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 10. Senate Republican Policy Committee Chairmen

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

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 11. Senate Republican Conference Secretaries

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

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

**Table 12. Democratic Senatorial Campaign
Committee Chairmen**

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

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

Table 13. National Republican Senatorial Committee Chairmen

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