



**Congressional  
Research Service**

Informing the legislative debate since 1914

---

# Party Leaders in the United States Congress, 1789-2017

**name redacted**

Specialist on Congress and the Legislative Process

January 5, 2017

**Congressional Research Service**

7-....

[www.crs.gov](http://www.crs.gov)

RL30567

## Summary

This report briefly describes current responsibilities and selection mechanisms for 15 House and Senate party leadership posts and provides tables with historical data, including service dates, party affiliation, and other information for each. Tables have been updated as of the report's issuance date to reflect leadership changes.

Although party divisions appeared almost from the First Congress, the formally structured party leadership organizations now taken for granted are a relatively modern development. Constitutionally specified leaders, namely the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate, can be identified since the First Congress. Other leadership posts, however, were not formally recognized until about the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and some are 20<sup>th</sup>-century creations.

In the earliest Congresses, those House Members who took some role in leading their parties were often designated by the President as his spokesperson in the chamber. By the early 1800s, an informal system developed when the Speaker began naming his lieutenant to chair one of the most influential House committees. Eventually, other Members wielded significant influence via other committee posts (e.g., the post-1880 Committee on Rules). By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the formal position of floor leaders had been established in the House.

The Senate was slower than the House to develop formal party leadership positions, and there are similar problems in identifying individual early leaders. For instance, records of party conferences in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Senate are not available. Memoirs and other secondary sources reveal the identities of party conference or caucus chairs for some, but not all, Congresses after about 1850, but these posts carried very little authority. It was not uncommon for Senators to publicly declare that within the Senate parties, there was no single leader. Rather, through the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, individuals who led the Senate achieved their positions through recognized personal attributes, including persuasion and oratorical skills, rather than election or appointment to formal leadership posts. The formal positions for Senate party floor leaders eventually arose from the position of conference chair.

Owing to the aforementioned problems in identifying informal party leaders in earlier Congresses, the tables in this report identify each leadership position beginning with the year in which each is generally regarded to have been formally established. The report excludes some leadership posts in order to render the amount of data manageable. A bibliography cites useful references, especially in regard to sources for historical data, and an appendix explains the abbreviations used to denote political parties.

This report will be updated as changes in House and Senate party leadership positions occur.

## Contents

Introduction and Methodological Notes .....	1
Identifying House Leaders .....	2
Identifying Senate Leaders.....	3
Party Affiliation Designations.....	3
Leadership Posts Excluded .....	4
House Positions: Descriptions and Historical Tables .....	4
Speaker of the House of Representatives .....	4
Party Floor Leader.....	7
Party Whip .....	9
Conference or Caucus Chair .....	11
Senate Positions: Descriptions and Historical Tables.....	16
President Pro Tempore of the Senate .....	16
Deputy Presidents Pro Tempore.....	23
Permanent Acting President Pro Tempore .....	23
Party Floor Leader.....	23
Conference Chair .....	27
Party Whip .....	28
Source Notes and Bibliography.....	31

## Tables

Table 1. Speakers of the House of Representatives, 1789-2017.....	4
Table 2. House Republican Floor Leaders, 1899-2017 .....	7
Table 3. House Democratic Floor Leaders, 1899-2017.....	8
Table 4. House Democratic Whips, 1901-2017.....	9
Table 5. House Republican Whips, 1897-2017 .....	10
Table 6. House Republican Conference Chairs, 1863-2017.....	11
Table 7. House Democratic Caucus Chairs, 1849-2017 .....	13
Table 8. Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1789-2017 .....	17
Table 9. Deputy Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1977-2017 .....	23
Table 10. Permanent Acting President Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1964-2017 .....	23
Table 11. Senate Republican Floor Leaders, 1919-2017 .....	24
Table 12. Senate Democratic Floor Leaders and Conference Chairs, 1893-2017.....	25
Table 13. Senate Republican Conference Chairs, 1893-2017 .....	27
Table 14. Senate Democratic Whips, 1913-2017 .....	29
Table 15. Senate Republican Whips, 1915-2017.....	30

## Appendixes

Appendix. Political Party Abbreviations .....	33
---	----

## **Contacts**

Author Contact Information .....	34
Acknowledgments .....	34

## Introduction and Methodological Notes

Although party divisions sprang up almost from the First Congress, the formally structured party leadership organizations now taken for granted are a relatively modern development. Constitutionally specified leaders, namely the Speaker of the House and the President pro tempore of the Senate, can be identified since the first Congress. Other leadership posts, however, were not officially recognized until about the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and some are 20<sup>th</sup> century creations. The following tables identify 15 different party leadership posts beginning with the year when each is generally regarded to have been formally established.

The tables herein present data on service dates, party affiliation, and other information for the following House and Senate party leadership posts:

### House Positions

1. Speakers of the House of Representatives, 1789-2017
2. House Republican Floor Leaders, 1899-2017
3. House Democratic Floor Leaders, 1899-2017
4. House Democratic Whips, 1901-2017
5. House Republican Whips, 1897-2017
6. House Republican Conference Chairs, 1863-2017
7. House Democratic Caucus Chairs, 1849-2017

### Senate Positions

8. Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1789-2017
9. Deputy Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1977-2017
10. Permanent Acting President Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1964-2017
11. Senate Republican Floor Leaders, 1919-2017
12. Senate Democratic Floor Leaders and Conference Chairs, 1893-2017
13. Senate Republican Conference Chairs, 1893-2017
14. Senate Democratic Whips, 1913-2017
15. Senate Republican Whips, 1915-2017

This information reflects the leadership elections and appointments at the start of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Included for each post are leaders' names, party and state affiliations, and dates and Congresses of service. For most Congresses, the report indicates years of service only, except in the tables for the House Speaker and the Senate President pro tempore, both of which include specific dates of service. When a Member died while holding a leadership office, however, the date of death is included as the end-of-service date (except in **Table 13**). In cases where a leadership change occurs during the course of a Congress, exact dates of service are indicated where possible. With respect to length of service, the report includes all instances in which a Member held a particular leadership post, regardless of whether the Member held the post for the entire Congress or only a portion of it.

Official congressional documents (*House Journal* and *Senate Journal*, *Congressional Record*, and predecessor publications) can be used to document the tenure of the constitutionally specified leaders (i.e., Speaker and President pro tempore). The actions of the party organizations in choosing other leaders, such as floor leaders or caucus or conference chairs, frequently went unacknowledged in these sources, however. In the frequent absence of party caucus records in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, scholars have had to rely on secondary sources, such as memoirs and correspondence, for evidence of party leadership position-holding. The concluding portion of this report, “Source Notes and Bibliography,” provides more information about sources and the reliability of leadership lists.

## Identifying House Leaders

The changing nature of congressional leadership provides additional challenges to identifying leaders not constitutionally specified (e.g., floor leader).<sup>1</sup> Even for party elected posts, determining who held other positions can be problematic in earlier Congresses. For example, identifying each party’s conference (or caucus) chair often requires reliance on incomplete historical records of conference meetings or inferences made from informal practices (e.g., noting which Member nominated his party’s candidate for Speaker, a motion that often fell to the conference chair).

In the House, for example, it was the common practice of President Thomas Jefferson and his immediate successors to designate a Member as their principal legislative spokesman. Often these spokesmen held no other formal leadership position in the House, and Presidents frequently designated new spokesmen, or even specialized spokesmen for individual measures, as their terms progressed. As these and other “leaders” were not chosen by a congressional party group or by a party leader such as the Speaker, these presidential designees have not been included here as “party leaders.”

Most historians who study the 19<sup>th</sup>-century House acknowledge that an informal “positional leadership” system emerged possibly as early as the “War Hawk” Congress (1811-1813) under Speaker Henry Clay. Under this system, the Speaker—who at the time designated the chairmen of the standing committees—would name his principal lieutenant to be chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. After the Appropriations Committee was split from the Ways and Means Committee in 1865, the Speaker’s principal floor lieutenant received either of these chairs. Sometimes, the Speaker chose a rival for the speakership to chair one of these committees in an effort to resolve intra-party disputes.

It is somewhat inaccurate, however, to consider these early leaders to be majority leaders in the modern sense, and they have not been included here. The position of chair of the Appropriations or Ways and Means Committee inevitably made the incumbent a powerful congressional figure because of the important legislation reported from these committees. These chairs were not, however, chosen in a vote by the full party organization, as the majority or minority House leaders are now. Furthermore, other leading congressional figures, such as the Republican leader Thomas Brackett Reed, achieved their positions of influence within the House by service on other committees, such as—in Reed’s case—the post-1880 Rules Committee.

---

<sup>1</sup> See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and citation of the multiple sources used in identifying leaders in the House of Representatives.

## Identifying Senate Leaders

The Senate developed an identifiable party leadership later than the House. The few existing records of party conferences in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Senate are held in private collections. Memoirs and other secondary sources reveal the identities of party conference or caucus chairs for some, but not all, Congresses after about 1850; these posts, however, carried very little authority. It was not uncommon for Senators to declare publicly that within the Senate parties there was no single leader.<sup>2</sup> Instead, through the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, individuals who led the Senate achieved their position through recognized personal attributes, including persuasion and oratory skills, rather than the current practice of election to most official leadership posts.

The development of Senate party floor leaders was one of slow evolution, like the House, but they arose for the most part from the post of conference chair. Not until 1945 did Senate Republicans specify that the conference chair and floor leader posts must be held by separate Senators. Among Senate Democrats, the floor leader is also chair of the conference. In many secondary sources, Senators are identified as “floor leaders” before existing party conference records so identify them. In this report, footnotes to the tables attempt to clarify when a leader was identified through official sources such as caucus minutes or through secondary sources.

## Party Affiliation Designations

Another problem in identifying party leaders in early Congresses is the matter of party affiliation. Secondary sources reporting on party leaders often relied upon the information compiled in early editions of the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*. As the editors of the 1989 edition of the *Biographical Directory* noted:

The most serious source of error and confusion in previous editions [of the *Biographical Directory*] [was] the designations of party affiliation. Many of the party labels added to the editions of 1913 and 1928 were anachronistic, claiming for the two modern parties Senators and Representatives elected to Congress before the [modern] Democratic or Republican parties existed. Other entries ignored the frequent shifts in party affiliation during the nineteenth century or omitted reference to short-lived and regional political parties and thus failed to reflect the vigor and diversity of nineteenth-century politics.<sup>3</sup>

The 1989 and 1997 editions of the *Biographical Directory* resolved these differences, and their designations of party affiliations are principal sources for this report. The 1997 edition of the *Biographical Directory*, in particular, included more complete notations where Members changed their party affiliations while serving in Congress.<sup>4</sup> The main source for early party affiliations of Senator leaders, principally Presidents pro tempore, is volume four of Senator Robert C. Byrd's *The Senate, 1789-1989 (Historical Statistics, 1789-1992)*.<sup>5</sup> An **Appendix** explains the abbreviations used to denote party affiliations in this report.

---

<sup>2</sup> Woodrow Wilson, *Congressional Government* (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1885), p. 223.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Congress, Senate, *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989: the Continental Congress, September 5, 1774, to October 21, 1788, and The Congress of the United States, from the First through the One Hundredth Congresses, March 4, 1789, to January 3, 1989, inclusive*, bicentennial edition, S.Doc. 100-34, 100<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2<sup>nd</sup> sess. (Washington: GPO, 1989), p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> *Biographical Directory of the American Congress 1774-1996* (Washington: CQ Staff Directories, Inc., 1997), p. xi. This commercially published edition of the *Biographical Directory* is a continuation of earlier editions that were published under public auspices. An online, updated, version is also available at <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>.

<sup>5</sup> Robert C. Byrd, *The Senate, 1789-1989*, 4 vols., S. Doc. 100-20, 100<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> sess. (Washington: GPO, 1988- (continued...))

## Leadership Posts Excluded

The tables in this report exclude some leadership posts in order to render manageable the amount of data provided. Specifically, the Senate and House party conference secretaries and the chairs of party committees (e.g., steering committees, policy committees, committees on committees, and campaign committees) are not presented here. Junior party whips are also not identified. At least since the 1930s in the House, both parties have selected (or allowed the principal whip to designate) subordinate whips. The lack of adequate records makes it almost impossible to identify all deputy whips, regional whips, and zone whips who have been appointed in the past 70 years.

## House Positions: Descriptions and Historical Tables

### Speaker of the House of Representatives

The position of Speaker is constitutionally specified in Article 1, Section 2. The Speaker is the only party leader who is chosen by a roll-call vote of the full House of Representatives, which occurs after each party has nominated a candidate for the position when a new Congress convenes. House rules give the Speaker various formal duties. These include, for example, administering the oath of office to new Members, signing House-passed bills and resolutions, presiding over the House (and making rulings on the presence of a quorum, points of order, etc.), referring measures to committees, and naming the party's slate of members for certain committee positions. Each party conference cedes additional powers and responsibilities to a Speaker from its own party, including influence over the makeup of certain standing committees. For more information, consult CRS Report 97-780, *The Speaker of the House: House Officer, Party Leader, and Representative*, by (name redacted) , and CRS Report RL30857, *Speakers of the House: Elections, 1913-2017*, by (name redacted) and (name redacted) .

**Table 1. Speakers of the House of Representatives, 1789-2017**

Speaker	Party	State	Congress	Dates
Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg	N/A	PA	1 <sup>st</sup>	Apr. 1, 1789- Mar. 3, 1791
Jonathan Trumbull	N/A	CT	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Oct. 24, 1791- Mar. 3, 1793
Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg	N/A	PA	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec. 2, 1793- Mar. 3, 1795
Jonathan Dayton	N/A	NJ	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1795- Mar. 3, 1799
Theodore Sedgwick	N/A	MA	6 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 2, 1799- Mar. 3, 1801
Nathaniel Macon	N/A	NC	7 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1801-Mar. 3, 1807
Joseph B. Varnum	N/A	MA	10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	Oct. 26, 1807- Mar. 3, 1811
Henry Clay	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	KY	12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 4, 1811- Jan. 19, 1814 <sup>b</sup>
Langdon Cheeves	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	SC	13 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 19, 1814- Mar. 3, 1815
Henry Clay	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	KY	14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 4, 1815- Oct. 28, 1820 <sup>c</sup>

(...continued)

1993), vol. 4, *Historical Statistics, 1789-1992*. Hereinafter cited as Byrd's *Historical Statistics*. See also Gerald Gamm and Steven S. Smith, "Last Among Equals: The Senate's Presiding Officer," paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, September 3-6, 1998.



<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Congress</b>	<b>Dates</b>
John W. Taylor	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	NY	16 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 15, 1820- Mar. 3, 1821
Philip Barbour	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	VA	17 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 4, 1821- Mar. 3, 1823
Henry Clay	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	KY	18 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 3, 1823- Mar. 6, 1825 <sup>d</sup>
John W. Taylor	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	NY	19 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 5, 1825- Mar. 3, 1827
Andrew Stevenson	N/A	VA	20 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 3, 1827- Mar. 3, 1829
Andrew Stevenson	J	VA	21 <sup>st</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec. 7, 1829- June 2, 1834 <sup>e</sup>
John Bell	N/A	TN	23 <sup>rd</sup>	June 2, 1834- Mar. 3, 1835
James K. Polk	J	TN	24 <sup>th</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1835- Mar. 3, 1839
Robert M.T. Hunter	W	VA	26 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 16, 1839- Mar. 3, 1841
John White	W	KY	27 <sup>th</sup>	May 31, 1841- Mar. 3, 1843
John W. Jones	D	VA	28 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 4, 1843- Mar. 3, 1845
John W. Davis	D	IN	29 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 1, 1845- Mar. 3, 1847
Robert C. Winthrop	W	MA	30 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 6, 1847- Mar. 3, 1849
Howell Cobb	D	GA	31 <sup>st</sup>	Dec. 22, 1849- Mar. 3, 1851
Linn Boyd	D	KY	32 <sup>nd</sup> -33 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec. 1, 1851- Mar. 3, 1855
Nathaniel P. Banks	Am <sup>f</sup>	MA	34 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 2, 1856- Mar. 3, 1857
James L. Orr	D	SC	35 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1857- Mar. 3, 1859
William Pennington	R	NJ	36 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 1, 1860- Mar. 3, 1861
Galusha A. Grow	R	PA	37 <sup>th</sup>	July 4, 1861- Mar. 3, 1863
Schuyler Colfax	R	IN	38 <sup>th</sup> -40 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1863- Mar. 3, 1869 <sup>g</sup>
Theodore Pomeroy	R	NY	40 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 3, 1869 <sup>h</sup>
James G. Blaine	R	ME	41 <sup>st</sup> -43 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 4, 1869- Mar. 3, 1875
Michael C. Kerr	D	IN	44 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 6, 1875- Aug. 19, 1876 <sup>i</sup>
Samuel J. Randall	D	PA	44 <sup>th</sup> -46 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 4, 1876- Mar. 3, 1881
J. Warren Keifer	R	OH	47 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 5, 1881- Mar. 3, 1883
John G. Carlisle	D	KY	48 <sup>th</sup> -50 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 3, 1883- Mar. 3, 1889
Thomas B. Reed	R	ME	51 <sup>st</sup>	Dec. 2, 1889- Mar. 3, 1891
Charles F. Crisp	D	GA	52 <sup>nd</sup> -53 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec. 7, 1891- Mar. 3, 1895
Thomas B. Reed	R	ME	54 <sup>th</sup> -55 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 2, 1895- Mar. 3, 1899
David B. Henderson	R	IA	56 <sup>th</sup> -57 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 4, 1899- Mar. 3, 1903
Joseph G. Cannon	R	IL	58 <sup>th</sup> -61 <sup>st</sup>	Nov. 9, 1903- Mar. 3, 1911
James B. (Champ) Clark	D	MO	62 <sup>nd</sup> -65 <sup>th</sup>	April 4, 1911- Mar. 3, 1919
Frederick H. Gillett	R	MA	66 <sup>th</sup> -68 <sup>th</sup>	May 19, 1919- Mar. 3, 1925
Nicholas Longworth	R	OH	69 <sup>th</sup> -71 <sup>st</sup>	Dec. 7, 1925- Mar. 3, 1931
John N. Garner	D	TX	72 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec. 7, 1931- Mar. 3, 1933
Henry T. Rainey	D	IL	73 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 9, 1933- Aug. 19, 1934 <sup>j</sup>
Joseph W. Byrns	D	TN	74 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 3, 1935- June 4, 1936 <sup>k</sup>

Speaker	Party	State	Congress	Dates
William B. Bankhead	D	AL	74 <sup>th</sup> -76 <sup>th</sup>	June 4, 1936- Sept. 15, 1940 <sup>l</sup>
Sam T. Rayburn	D	TX	76 <sup>th</sup> -79 <sup>th</sup>	Sept. 16, 1940- Jan. 3, 1947 <sup>m</sup>
Joseph W. Martin Jr.	R	MA	80 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 3, 1947- Jan. 3, 1949
Sam T. Rayburn	D	TX	81 <sup>st</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup>	Jan. 3, 1949- Jan. 3, 1953
Joseph W. Martin Jr.	R	MA	83 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan. 3, 1953- Jan. 3, 1955
Sam T. Rayburn	D	TX	84 <sup>th</sup> -87 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 5, 1955- Nov. 16, 1961 <sup>m</sup>
John W. McCormack	D	MA	87 <sup>th</sup> -91 <sup>st</sup>	Jan. 10, 1962- Jan. 3, 1971
Carl Albert	D	OK	92 <sup>nd</sup> -94 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 21, 1971- Jan. 3, 1977
Thomas P. O'Neill Jr.	D	MA	95 <sup>th</sup> -99 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 4, 1977- Jan. 3, 1987
James C. Wright Jr.	D	TX	100 <sup>th</sup> -101 <sup>st</sup>	Jan. 6, 1987- June 6, 1989 <sup>n</sup>
Thomas S. Foley	D	WA	101 <sup>st</sup> -103 <sup>rd</sup>	June 6, 1989- Jan. 3, 1995
Newt Gingrich	R	GA	104 <sup>th</sup> -105 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 4, 1995- Jan. 3, 1999
J. Dennis Hastert	R	IL	106 <sup>th</sup> -109 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 6, 1999- Jan. 3, 2007
Nancy Pelosi	D	CA	110 <sup>th</sup> -111 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 4, 2007- Jan. 3, 2012
John A. Boehner	R	OH	112 <sup>th</sup> -114 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 5, 2011-Oct. 29, 2015 <sup>o</sup>
Paul D. Ryan	R	WI	114 <sup>th</sup> -	Oct. 29, 2015-

**Sources:** See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources.

**Notes:** A key to all party abbreviations can be found in the **Appendix** of this report.

- a. Although the *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1996* identifies these Speakers as Republicans, the party designation “Democratic Republicans” is more widely used and familiar to readers. This designation, R(DR), should not be taken to refer to the contemporary Republican Party, which did not emerge until the 1850s.
- b. Resigned from the House of Representatives, January 19, 1814.
- c. Resigned the speakership on October 28, 1820.
- d. Resigned from the House, March 6, 1825.
- e. Resigned from the House, June 2, 1834.
- f. Speaker Nathaniel P. Banks served in the House three separate times under three different party designations. In the 34<sup>th</sup> Congress, he served as an American Party Member.
- g. Resigned from the House, March 3, 1869.
- h. Elected Speaker, March 3, 1869, and served one day.
- i. Died in office, August 19, 1876.
- j. Died in office, August 19, 1934.
- k. Died in office, June 4, 1936.
- l. Died in office, September 15, 1940.
- m. Died in office, November 16, 1961.
- n. Resigned the Speakership, June 6, 1989; resigned from the House, June 30, 1989.
- o. Resigned the Speakership, October 29, 2015, upon the election of his successor (and announced his intention to resign from the House at the end of the month).

## Party Floor Leader

At an organizational meeting prior to the beginning of a new Congress, each party conference (or caucus) in the House selects its floor leader (also called majority leader or minority leader, as appropriate) in a secret-ballot vote. The majority party floor leader works closely with the Speaker and is largely responsible for the party's daily legislative operations in consultation with other party leaders. Similarly, the minority party floor leader directs the party's ongoing legislative strategies and operations and typically serves as the spokesperson for the party in the House. Each party assigns additional responsibilities to its respective floor leader. For more information on the majority party floor leader position, see CRS Report RL30665, *The Role of the House Majority Leader: An Overview*, by (name redacted) .

**Table 2. House Republican Floor Leaders, 1899-2017**

Floor Leader	State	Congress	Dates
Sereno E. Payne	NY	<b>56<sup>th</sup>-61<sup>st</sup></b>	1899-1911
James R. Mann	IL	62 <sup>nd</sup> -65 <sup>th</sup>	1911-1919
Franklin W. Mondell	WY	<b>66<sup>th</sup>-67<sup>th</sup></b>	1919-1923
Nicholas Longworth	OH	<b>68<sup>th</sup></b>	1923-1925
John Q. Tilson	CT	<b>69<sup>th</sup>-71<sup>st</sup></b>	1925-1931
Bertrand H. Snell	NY	72 <sup>nd</sup> -75 <sup>th</sup>	1931-1939
Joseph W. Martin Jr.	MA	76 <sup>th</sup> -79 <sup>th</sup>	1939-1947
Charles Halleck	IN	<b>80<sup>th</sup></b>	1947-1949
Joseph W. Martin Jr.	MA	81 <sup>st</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup>	1949-1953
Charles Halleck	IN	<b>83<sup>rd</sup></b>	1953-1955
Joseph W. Martin Jr.	MA	84 <sup>th</sup> -85 <sup>th</sup>	1955-1959
Charles Halleck	IN	86 <sup>th</sup> -88 <sup>th</sup>	1959-1965
Gerald R. Ford	MI	89 <sup>th</sup> -93 <sup>rd</sup>	1965-Dec. 6, 1973 <sup>a</sup>
John J. Rhodes	AZ	93 <sup>rd</sup> -96 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1973-1981
Robert H. Michel	IL	97 <sup>th</sup> -103 <sup>rd</sup>	1981-1995
Richard K. Armey	TX	<b>104<sup>th</sup>-107<sup>th</sup></b>	1995-2003
Tom DeLay	TX	<b>108<sup>th</sup>-109<sup>th</sup></b>	2003-Sept. 28, 2005 <sup>b</sup>
Roy Blunt	MO	<b>109<sup>th</sup></b>	Sept. 28, 2005-Feb. 2, 2006 <sup>c</sup>
John Boehner	OH	<b>109<sup>th</sup>, 110<sup>th</sup>-111<sup>th</sup></b>	Feb. 2, 2006-2011
Eric Cantor	VA	<b>112<sup>th</sup>-113<sup>th</sup></b>	2011-Jul. 31, 2014 <sup>d</sup>
Kevin McCarthy	CA	<b>113<sup>th</sup>-</b>	Jul. 31, 2014 <sup>e</sup> -

**Sources:** See the "Source Notes and Bibliography" section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the floor leader was also majority leader.

- Resigned from the House on December 6, 1973, after having been confirmed by the Senate to become Vice President to fill the post vacated by the resignation of Spiro T. Agnew.
- Resigned from leader position on September 28, 2005.

- c. Appointed acting Republican floor leader on September 28, 2005, to replace Tom DeLay temporarily until the conference could hold new elections on February 2, 2006. He continued serving as Republican Whip during this period.
- d. Resigned from leader position, effective July 31, 2014.
- e. On June 19, 2014, elected to the leader position, effective July 31, 2014, due to Eric Cantor's resignation from the post.

**Table 3. House Democratic Floor Leaders, 1899-2017**

Floor Leader	State	Congress	Dates
James D. Richardson	TN	56 <sup>th</sup> -57 <sup>th</sup>	1899-1903
John Sharp Williams	MS	58 <sup>th</sup> -60 <sup>th</sup>	1903-1908
James B. (Champ) Clark	MO	60 <sup>th</sup> -61 <sup>st</sup>	1908-1911
Oscar W. Underwood	AL	62 <sup>nd</sup> -63 <sup>rd</sup>	1911-1915
Claude Kitchin	NC	<b>64<sup>th</sup>-65<sup>th</sup></b>	1915-1919
James B. (Champ) Clark	MO	66 <sup>th</sup>	1919-1921
Claude Kitchin	NC	67 <sup>th</sup>	1921-1923
Finis J. Garrett	IN	68 <sup>th</sup> -70 <sup>th</sup>	1923-1929
John N. Garner	TX	71 <sup>st</sup>	1929-1931
Henry T. Rainey	IL	<b>72<sup>nd</sup></b>	1931-1933
Joseph W. Byrns	TN	<b>73<sup>rd</sup></b>	1933-1935
William B. Bankhead	AL	<b>74<sup>th</sup></b>	1935-June 4, 1936 <sup>a</sup>
Sam T. Rayburn	TX	<b>75<sup>th</sup>-76<sup>th</sup></b>	1937-Sept. 16, 1940 <sup>b</sup>
John W. McCormack	MA	<b>76<sup>th</sup>-79<sup>th</sup></b>	Sept. 16, 1940-1947 <sup>c</sup>
Sam T. Rayburn	TX	80 <sup>th</sup>	1947-1949
John W. McCormack	MA	<b>81<sup>st</sup>-82<sup>nd</sup></b>	1949-1953
Sam T. Rayburn	TX	83 <sup>rd</sup>	1953-1955
John W. McCormack	MA	<b>84<sup>th</sup>-87<sup>th</sup></b>	1955-Jan. 10, 1962 <sup>d</sup>
Carl Albert	OK	<b>87<sup>th</sup>-91<sup>st</sup></b>	Jan. 10, 1962-1971 <sup>e</sup>
Thomas Hale Boggs	LA	<b>92<sup>nd</sup></b>	1971-1973 <sup>f</sup>
Thomas P. O'Neill Jr.	MA	<b>93<sup>rd</sup>-94<sup>th</sup></b>	1973-1977
James Wright	TX	<b>95<sup>th</sup>-99<sup>th</sup></b>	1977-1987
Thomas S. Foley	WA	<b>100<sup>th</sup>-101<sup>st</sup></b>	1987-June 6, 1989 <sup>g</sup>
Richard A. Gephardt	MO	<b>101<sup>st</sup>-103<sup>rd</sup></b> 104 <sup>th</sup> -107 <sup>th</sup>	June 14, 1989 <sup>h</sup> -2003
Nancy Pelosi	CA	108 <sup>th</sup> -109 <sup>th</sup>	2003-2007
Steny H. Hoyer	MD	<b>110<sup>th</sup>-111<sup>th</sup></b>	2007-2011
Nancy Pelosi	CA	112 <sup>th</sup> -	2011-

**Sources:** See the "Source Notes and Bibliography" section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the floor leader was also majority leader.

- a. Elected Speaker, filling the vacancy caused by the death of Speaker Joseph W. Byrns. Records indicate that Representative John J. O'Connor of New York, chair of the House Rules Committee, served as acting majority leader during the 14 remaining days of the 74<sup>th</sup> Congress. O'Connor does not, however, appear to have been formally elected majority leader at that time and therefore is not included in this list.
- b. Elected Speaker following the death of Speaker William B. Bankhead.
- c. Elected majority leader on September 16, 1940, to fill post made vacant by the election of Sam Rayburn as Speaker.
- d. Elected Speaker at the start of the 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, following the death of Sam Rayburn.
- e. Elected majority leader at commencement of the 87<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session, when Majority Leader John McCormack was elected Speaker to succeed Speaker Rayburn.
- f. Disappeared on a flight from Anchorage to Juneau, Alaska, October 16, 1972. Presumed dead pursuant to House Resolution 1, 93<sup>rd</sup> Congress.
- g. Elected Speaker on June 6, 1989, following Speaker James C. Wright's resignation from that post on the same date.
- h. Elected majority leader on June 14, 1989, to fill the post made vacant by the election of Thomas S. Foley to be Speaker on June 6, 1989.

## Party Whip

Each House party caucus currently elects its own party whip at organizational meetings as a new Congress begins. House Republicans (or a representative group of their conference) have always elected their party whips; Democrats in the House appointed a chief whip until 1986. Chief deputy whips are currently appointed by the party's chief whip; additional members to serve in the whip team are either similarly appointed or, instead, elected by subsets of the caucus. The whip organization is responsible for assessing the passage prospects for upcoming measures, mobilizing member support for leadership priorities, informing the party rank-and-file regarding legislative scheduling and initiatives, and informing the top party leadership regarding the sentiment of the rank-and-file. For more information, see archived CRS Report RS20499, *House Leadership: Whip Organization*, by (name redacted)

**Table 4. House Democratic Whips, 1901-2017**

Whip	State	Congress	Dates
Oscar W. Underwood <sup>a</sup>	AL	56 <sup>th</sup>	1901
James T. Lloyd	MO	57 <sup>th</sup> -60 <sup>th</sup>	1901-1908 <sup>b</sup>
N/A <sup>c</sup>		61 <sup>st</sup> -62 <sup>nd</sup>	1909-1913
Thomas M. Bell	GA	63 <sup>rd</sup>	1913-1915
N/A <sup>c</sup>		64 <sup>th</sup> -65 <sup>th</sup> , 66 <sup>th</sup>	1915-1921
William A. Oldfield	AR	67 <sup>th</sup> -70 <sup>th</sup>	1921-Nov. 19, 1928 <sup>d</sup>
John McDuffie	AL	70 <sup>th</sup> -71 <sup>st</sup> , 72 <sup>nd</sup>	1928-1933
Arthur Greenwood	IN	73 <sup>rd</sup>	1933-1935
Patrick J. Boland	PA	74 <sup>th</sup> -77 <sup>th</sup>	1935-May 18, 1942 <sup>e</sup>
Robert Ramspeck	GA	77 <sup>th</sup> -79 <sup>th</sup>	1942-Dec. 31, 1945 <sup>f</sup>
John J. Sparkman	AL	79 <sup>th</sup>	1946-1947
John W. McCormack <sup>a</sup>	MA	80 <sup>th</sup>	1947-1949
J. Percy Priest	TN	81 <sup>st</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup>	1949-1953
John W. McCormack <sup>a</sup>	MA	83 <sup>rd</sup>	1953-1955

Whip	State	Congress	Dates
Carl Albert <sup>a</sup>	OK	<b>84<sup>th</sup>-87<sup>th</sup></b>	1955-1962
Thomas Hale Boggs <sup>a</sup>	LA	<b>87<sup>th</sup>-91<sup>st</sup></b>	1962-1971
Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. <sup>a</sup>	MA	<b>92<sup>nd</sup></b>	1971-1973
John J. McFall	CA	<b>93<sup>rd</sup>-94<sup>th</sup></b>	1973-1977
John W. Brademas	IN	<b>95<sup>th</sup>-96<sup>th</sup></b>	1977-1981
Thomas S. Foley <sup>a</sup>	WA	<b>97<sup>th</sup>-99<sup>th</sup></b>	1981-1987
Tony Coelho <sup>g</sup>	CA	<b>100<sup>th</sup>-101<sup>st</sup></b>	1987-June 14, 1989
William H. Gray III	PA	<b>101<sup>st</sup>-102<sup>nd</sup></b>	June 14, 1989-Sept. 11, 1991 <sup>h</sup>
David E. Bonior	MI	<b>102<sup>nd</sup>-103<sup>rd</sup>, 104<sup>th</sup>-107<sup>th</sup></b>	Sept. 11, 1991-Jan. 15, 2002 <sup>i</sup>
Nancy Pelosi <sup>a</sup>	CA	107 <sup>th</sup> -108 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 15, 2002-2003 <sup>i</sup>
Steny H. Hoyer <sup>a</sup>	MD	108 <sup>th</sup> -109 <sup>th</sup>	2003-2007
James E. Clyburn	SC	<b>110<sup>th</sup>-111<sup>th</sup></b>	2007-2011
Steny H. Hoyer	MD	112 <sup>th</sup> -	2011-

**Sources:** See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the Democratic whip was the majority whip.

- a. Ascended (or re-ascended) to party floor leader.
- b. Resigned from position as Democratic whip in 1908 at the conclusion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- c. For these periods, there is no official record—in the minutes of the Democratic Caucus or elsewhere—of the name of the Democratic whip. Some scholars believe that Representative Thomas Bell may have been the whip from 1909 to 1919; others believe the whip for that period may have been Representative John Nance Garner. See Randall B. Ripley, “The Party Whip Organizations in the United States House of Representatives,” *American Political Science Review*, vol. 58, September 1964, p. 504.
- d. Died in office, November 19, 1928.
- e. Died in office, May 18, 1942.
- f. Resigned from the House of Representatives, December 31, 1945.
- g. Representative Tony Coelho was the first elected Democratic whip.
- h. Resigned from the House of Representatives, September 11, 1991.
- i. Elected July 11, 1991, but did not assume the House Democratic whip post until his predecessor in the position, William H. Gray III, resigned from Congress on September 11, 1991.
- j. Elected on October 10, 2001, but did not assume the position of House Democratic whip until January 15, 2002, the date on which Bonior’s resignation as whip became effective.

**Table 5. House Republican Whips, 1897-2017**

Whip	State	Congress	Dates
James A. Tawney	MN	<b>55<sup>th</sup>-58<sup>th</sup></b>	1897-1905
James E. Watson	IN	<b>59<sup>th</sup>-60<sup>th</sup></b>	1905-1909
John W. Dwight	NY	<b>61<sup>st</sup></b> 62 <sup>nd</sup>	1909-1913
Charles H. Burke	SD	63 <sup>rd</sup>	1913-1915
Charles M. Hamilton	WY	64 <sup>th</sup> -65 <sup>th</sup>	1915-1919
Harold Knutson	MN	<b>66<sup>th</sup>-67<sup>th</sup></b>	1919-1923

Whip	State	Congress	Dates
Albert H. Vestal	IN	<b>68<sup>th</sup>-71<sup>st</sup></b>	1923-1931
Carl G. Bachmann	WV	72 <sup>nd</sup>	1931-1933
Harry L. Englebright	CA	73 <sup>rd</sup> -78 <sup>th</sup>	1933-May 13, 1943 <sup>a</sup>
Leslie C. Arends	IL	78 <sup>th</sup> -79 <sup>th</sup> <b>80<sup>th</sup></b> 81 <sup>st</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup> <b>83<sup>rd</sup></b> 84 <sup>th</sup> -93 <sup>rd</sup>	1943-1975
Robert H. Michel <sup>b</sup>	IL	94 <sup>th</sup> -96 <sup>th</sup>	1975-1981
Trent Lott	MS	97 <sup>th</sup> -100 <sup>th</sup>	1981-1989
Dick Cheney	WY	101 <sup>st</sup>	1989-Mar. 17, 1989 <sup>c</sup>
Newt Gingrich	GA	101 <sup>st</sup> -103 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 22, 1989-1995 <sup>c</sup>
Tom DeLay <sup>b</sup>	TX	<b>104<sup>th</sup>-107<sup>th</sup></b>	1995-2003
Roy D. Blunt <sup>b</sup>	MO	<b>108<sup>th</sup>-109<sup>th</sup></b> 110 <sup>th</sup>	2003 <sup>d</sup> -2009
Eric Cantor <sup>b</sup>	VA	111 <sup>th</sup>	2009-2011
Kevin McCarthy	CA	<b>112<sup>th</sup>-113<sup>th</sup></b>	2011-July 31, 2014 <sup>e</sup>
Steve Scalise	LA	<b>113<sup>th</sup>-</b>	July 31, 2014 <sup>f</sup> -

**Sources:** See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the Republican whip was the majority whip.

- Died in office, May 13, 1943.
- Ascended to party floor leader.
- Elected House Republican whip on March 22, 1989, following Representative Dick Cheney’s resignation from the House on March 17, 1989, to become Secretary of Defense.
- Served concurrently as whip and acting Republican floor leader from September 28, 2005, to February 2, 2006.
- Resigned as Republican whip on July 31, 2014, upon becoming Republican floor leader.
- On June 19, 2014, elected to the leader position, effective July 31, 2014, due to Eric Cantor’s resignation from the post.

## Conference or Caucus Chair

The Republican Conference and the Democratic Caucus are the organizations of the members of the respective parties in the House. Each conference has an elected chair, who presides over its meetings. Decisions made by the conference (and often publicly promulgated by the chair) are generally regarded as the collective sentiment of the respective House party contingent.

**Table 6. House Republican Conference Chairs, 1863-2017**

Chair	State	Congress	Dates
Justin S. Morrill <sup>a</sup>	VT	<b>38<sup>th</sup>-39<sup>th</sup></b>	1863-1867
N/A <sup>b</sup>		<b>40<sup>th</sup></b>	1867-1869
Robert C. Schenck <sup>c</sup>	OH	<b>41<sup>st</sup></b>	1869-1871
Nathaniel P. Banks <sup>c</sup>	MA		

<b>Chair</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Congress</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Austin Blair	MI	<b>42<sup>nd</sup></b>	1871-1873
Horace Maynard	TN	<b>43<sup>rd</sup></b>	1873-1875
George W. McCrary	IA	<b>44<sup>th</sup></b>	1875-1877
Eugene Hale	ME	<b>45<sup>th</sup></b>	1877-1879
William P. Frye	ME	<b>46<sup>th</sup></b>	1879-1881
G.M. Robeson	NJ	<b>47<sup>th</sup></b>	1881-1883
Joseph G. Cannon	IL	<b>48<sup>th</sup>-50<sup>th</sup></b>	1883-1889
T.J. Henderson	IL	<b>51<sup>st</sup></b> <b>52<sup>nd</sup>-53<sup>rd</sup></b>	1889-1895
Charles H. Grosvenor	OH	<b>54<sup>th</sup>-55<sup>th</sup></b>	1895-1899
Joseph G. Cannon	IL	<b>56<sup>th</sup>-57<sup>th</sup></b>	1899-1903
William P. Hepburn	IA	<b>58<sup>th</sup>-60<sup>th</sup></b>	1903-1909
F.D. Currier	NH	<b>61<sup>st</sup></b> <b>62<sup>nd</sup></b>	1909-1913
William S. Greene	MA	<b>63<sup>rd</sup>-65<sup>th</sup></b>	1913-1919
Horace M. Towner	IA	<b>66<sup>th</sup>-67<sup>th</sup></b>	1919-1923
Sydney Anderson	MN	<b>68<sup>th</sup></b>	1923-1925
Willis C. Hawley	OR	<b>69<sup>th</sup>-71<sup>st</sup></b> <b>72<sup>nd</sup></b>	1925-1933
Robert Luce	MA	<b>73<sup>rd</sup></b>	1933-1935
Frederick R. Lehlbach	NJ	<b>74<sup>th</sup></b>	1935-1937
Roy Woodruff	MI	<b>75<sup>th</sup>-79<sup>th</sup></b> <b>80<sup>th</sup></b> <b>81<sup>st</sup></b>	1937-1951
Clifford Hope	KS	<b>82<sup>nd</sup></b> <b>83<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>84<sup>th</sup></b>	1951-1957
Charles Hoeven	IA	<b>85<sup>th</sup>-87<sup>th</sup></b>	1957-1963
Gerald R. Ford	MI	<b>88<sup>th</sup></b>	1963-1965
Melvin Laird	WI	<b>89<sup>th</sup>-90<sup>th</sup></b>	1965-1969
John B. Anderson	IL	<b>91<sup>st</sup>-95<sup>th</sup></b>	1969-1979
Samuel L. Devine	OH	<b>96<sup>th</sup></b>	1979-1981
Jack Kemp	NY	<b>97<sup>th</sup>-99<sup>th</sup></b>	1981-June 4, 1987 <sup>d</sup>
Dick Cheney	WY	<b>100<sup>th</sup></b>	June 4, 1987-1989 <sup>d</sup>
Jerry Lewis	CA	<b>101<sup>st</sup>-102<sup>nd</sup></b>	1989-1993
Richard K. Armey	TX	<b>103<sup>rd</sup></b>	1993-1995
John A. Boehner	OH	<b>104<sup>th</sup>-105<sup>th</sup></b>	1995-1999
J.C. Watts	OK	<b>106<sup>th</sup>-107<sup>th</sup></b>	1999-2003
Deborah Pryce	OH	<b>108<sup>th</sup>-109<sup>th</sup></b>	2003-2007



Chair	State	Congress	Dates
Adam Putnam	FL	110 <sup>th</sup>	2007-2009
Mike Pence	IN	111 <sup>th</sup>	2009-2011
Jeb Hensarling	TX	112 <sup>th</sup>	2011-2013
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	WA	113 <sup>th</sup> -	2013-

**Sources:** See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the Republican Party was in the majority.

- a. Representative Justin S. Morrill is the first officially designated Republican caucus chair. There exists no clear evidence of formal chairs of Republican organizations in earlier Congresses.
- b. Caucus minutes show three Members (Representatives Nathaniel Banks, Luke Poland, and Samuel Hooper) chairing three separate meetings.
- c. Caucus minutes show Representative Robert C. Schenck elected chair but Representative Nathaniel P. Banks chairing two early meetings, possibly in Schenck’s absence.
- d. On June 4, 1987, Representative Dick Cheney was elected conference chair to succeed Representative Jack Kemp, who resigned from the post.

**Table 7. House Democratic Caucus Chairs, 1849-2017**

Chair	State	Congress	Dates
James Thompson	PA	31 <sup>st</sup>	1849-1851
N/A <sup>a</sup>		32 <sup>nd</sup>	1851-1853
Edson B. Olds	OH	33 <sup>rd</sup>	1853-1855
George W. Jones	TN	34 <sup>th</sup>	1855-1857
N/A <sup>b</sup>		35 <sup>th</sup>	1857-1859
George S. Houston	AL	36 <sup>th</sup>	1859-1861
N/A <sup>c</sup>		37 <sup>th</sup> -40 <sup>th</sup>	1861-1869
William E. Niblack <sup>d</sup>	IN	41 <sup>st</sup>	1869-1871
Samuel J. Randall <sup>d</sup>	PA		
N/A <sup>e</sup>		42 <sup>nd</sup>	1871-1873
William E. Niblack	IN	43 <sup>rd</sup>	1873-1875
Lucius Q.C. Lamar	MS	44 <sup>th</sup>	1875-1877
Hiester Clymer	PA	45 <sup>th</sup>	1877-1879
John F. House	TN	46 <sup>th</sup>	1879-1881
N/A <sup>f</sup>		47 <sup>th</sup>	1881-1883
George W. Geddes	OH	48 <sup>th</sup>	1883-1885
J. Randolph Tucker	VA	49 <sup>th</sup>	1885-1887
Samuel S. Cox	NY	50 <sup>th</sup>	1887-1889 <sup>g</sup>
William S. Holman	IN	51 <sup>st</sup> 52 <sup>nd</sup> -53 <sup>rd</sup>	1889-1895
David B. Culberson	TX	54 <sup>th</sup>	1895-1897
James D. Richardson	TN	55 <sup>th</sup>	1897-1899

<b>Chair</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Congress</b>	<b>Dates</b>
James Hay	VA	56 <sup>th</sup> -58 <sup>th</sup>	1899-1905
Robert L. Henry	TX	59 <sup>th</sup>	1905-1907
Henry D. Clayton	AL	60 <sup>th</sup> -61 <sup>st</sup>	1907-1911 <sup>h</sup>
Albert S. Burleson	TX	62 <sup>nd</sup>	1911-1913 <sup>h</sup>
A. Mitchell Palmer	PA	63 <sup>rd</sup>	1913-1915
E.W. Saunders	VA	64 <sup>th</sup> -65 <sup>th</sup>	1915-1919
Arthur G. Dewalt	PA	66 <sup>th</sup>	1919-1921
Sam T. Rayburn	TX	67 <sup>th</sup>	1921-1923
Henry T. Rainey	IL	68 <sup>th</sup>	1923-1925
Charles D. Carter	OK	69 <sup>th</sup>	1925-1927
Arthur Greenwood	IN	70 <sup>th</sup>	1927-1929
David Kincheloe	KY	71 <sup>st</sup>	1929-1930 <sup>i</sup>
William W. Arnold	IL	72 <sup>nd</sup>	1931-1933
Clarence F. Lea	CA	73 <sup>rd</sup>	1933-1935
Edward T. Taylor	CO	74 <sup>th</sup>	1935-1937
Robert L. Doughton	NC	75 <sup>th</sup>	1937-1939
John W. McCormack	MA	76 <sup>th</sup>	1939-Sept. 16, 1940 <sup>i</sup>
Richard M. Duncan	MO	77 <sup>th</sup>	1941-1943
Harry Sheppard	CA	78 <sup>th</sup>	1943-1945
Jere Cooper	TN	79 <sup>th</sup>	1945-1947
Aime Forand	RI	80 <sup>th</sup>	1947-1949
Francis E. Walter	PA	81 <sup>st</sup>	1949-1951
Jere Cooper	TN	82 <sup>nd</sup>	1951-1953
Wilbur Mills	AR	83 <sup>rd</sup>	1953-1955
John J. Rooney	NY	84 <sup>th</sup>	1955-1957
Melvin Price	IL	85 <sup>th</sup> -86 <sup>th</sup>	1957-1961
Francis E. Walter	PA	87 <sup>th</sup> -88 <sup>th</sup>	1961-May 31, 1963 <sup>k</sup>
Albert Thomas	TX	88 <sup>th</sup>	1964-1965
Eugene Keogh	NY	89 <sup>th</sup>	1965-1967
Dan Rostenkowski	IL	90 <sup>th</sup> -91 <sup>st</sup>	1967-1971
Olin Teague	TX	92 <sup>nd</sup> -93 <sup>rd</sup>	1971-1975
Philip Burton	CA	94 <sup>th</sup>	1975-1977
Thomas S. Foley	WA	95 <sup>th</sup> -96 <sup>th</sup>	1977-1981
Gillis W. Long	LA	97 <sup>th</sup> -98 <sup>th</sup>	1981-1985
Richard Gephardt	MO	99 <sup>th</sup> -100 <sup>th</sup>	1985-1989
William H. Gray III	PA	101 <sup>st</sup>	Jan. 4-June 14, 1989 <sup>l</sup>
Steny H. Hoyer	MD	101 <sup>st</sup> -103 <sup>rd</sup>	June 21, 1989-1995 <sup>m</sup>

Chair	State	Congress	Dates
Vic Fazio	CA	104 <sup>th</sup> -105 <sup>th</sup>	1995-1999
Martin Frost	TX	106 <sup>th</sup> -107 <sup>th</sup>	1999-2003
Robert Menendez	NJ	108 <sup>th</sup> -109 <sup>th</sup>	2003-Dec. 16, 2005 <sup>n</sup>
James E. Clyburn	SC	109 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 16, 2005 <sup>n</sup> -2007
Rahm Emanuel	IL	<b>110<sup>th</sup></b>	2007-2009
John B. Larson	CT	<b>111<sup>th</sup></b> 112 <sup>th</sup>	2009-2013
Xavier Becerra	CA	113 <sup>th</sup> -114 <sup>th</sup>	2013-2017
Joseph Crowley	NY	115 <sup>th</sup> -	2017-

**Sources:** See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the Democratic Party was in the majority.

- a. No clear records remain for this Congress. In early practice, the caucus chair often offered the various organizational resolutions at the beginning of a Congress (e.g., the nomination of his party’s candidate for Speaker, or the motion to elect the Speaker); examination of these motions can often help in a determination of who was caucus chair. However, several different Democratic Members offered the organizing resolutions for the 31<sup>st</sup> Congress.
- b. No clear data for this period exist.
- c. No clear data for this period exist. Representative John Hickman nominated Representative F. P. Blair as Speaker in 1861, but no records show whether Hickman was caucus chair.
- d. Representative Samuel J. Randall nominated the party’s candidate for Speaker. Caucus records, however, show both Representatives William B. Niblack and Randall as having served as chair during the Congress. The caucus records specify no dates of service.
- e. Representative Fernando Wood nominated the Democratic leadership slate in the House, but there is no other evidence to show he was elected caucus chair.
- f. Available data show that Representative John F. House offered the Democrats’ nomination for Speaker in the 47<sup>th</sup> Congress. However, later data show Representative W. S. Rosecrans issuing the next call for a Democratic Caucus meeting; there is no evidence to suggest that Rosecrans was actually elected caucus chair.
- g. Former Parliamentarian Clarence Cannon’s notes state that Representative Samuel J. Cox “died during this Congress and [Representative James B.] McCreary evidently succeeded or acted for him.” Representative Cox died on September 10, 1889, six months after the sine die adjournment of the 50<sup>th</sup> Congress and the convening of the 51<sup>st</sup> Congress.
- h. Caucus records are contradictory for this period. They show the election of Representative James Hay as chair on January 19, 1911, but do not mention a resignation by incumbent chair Henry P. Clayton, nor do they specify that Hay was elected chair for the new Congress. Later, they show the election of Representative Albert S. Burlison on April 11, 1911.
- i. Resigned from the House, October 5, 1930; there is no record of an election to fill the vacancy as caucus chair.
- j. Resigned following election as majority floor leader, September 16, 1940; records do not indicate that a successor was chosen during the remainder of the Congress.
- k. Died in office, May 31, 1963. Caucus chair post vacant until January 21, 1964.
- l. Representative William H. Gray III vacated the caucus chair post when he was elected Democratic whip on June 14, 1989.
- m. Representative Steny H. Hoyer was elected caucus chair on June 21, 1989, following the June 14, 1989, election of Representative William H. Gray as Democratic whip.
- n. Representative Robert Menendez resigned from the House on January 16, 2006, after being appointed to the Senate seat for New Jersey vacated by Jon Corzine when he was elected governor. Representative

Menendez had previously resigned from the caucus chair position, to which Representative James E. Clyburn was elected on December 16, 2005.

## Senate Positions: Descriptions and Historical Tables

### President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Pursuant to Article 1, Section 3, of the U.S. Constitution, the President pro tempore of the Senate is the chamber's presiding officer in the absence of the President of the Senate (the Vice President of the United States). The President pro tempore is elected by the full Senate as the formal institutional leader and, in current practice, is the longest-serving member of the majority party.<sup>6</sup> Until 1890, the Senate elected a President pro tempore whenever the Vice President was not in attendance, whether for a day or permanently, as in the case of the Vice President's death or resignation. When the Vice President returned, the President pro tempore lost his place. When the Vice President was again absent, the Senate again elected a President pro tempore—in many cases the same Senator who had been chosen before. 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.”<sup>7</sup>

The Senate's President pro tempore is, pursuant to statute, currently third in the line of presidential succession (behind the Vice President and the Speaker of the House). In the Succession Act of 1792, the position was initially designated to serve in line after the Vice President.<sup>8</sup> An 1886 act altered the succession line by replacing congressional leaders with cabinet secretaries, but the President pro tempore post was reinstated in the line (in the current position) in 1947.<sup>9</sup>

As presiding officer, the President pro tempore has the power to decide points of order and enforce decorum on the floor. The President pro tempore has other formal powers (e.g., appointing conferees; appointing certain Senate officers; and serving on, or appointing others to, working groups, commissions, and advisory boards). However, because the direction of Senate business has fallen in modern times to the majority leader, almost all of these powers are actually exercised by the majority leader in practice.

As explained in the notes to **Table 9** and **Table 10** below, the Senate has also had past occasion to select a Deputy President pro tempore and a Permanent Acting President pro tempore. For more information on the President pro tempore (and the deputy and acting posts), consult CRS Report RL30960, *The President Pro Tempore of the Senate: History and Authority of the Office*, by (name redacted)

<sup>6</sup> Electing the longest-serving majority party Senator has generally been the practice since 1890, with some exceptions. The only exception since 1945 has been the election of Senator Arthur Vandenberg in 1947.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Congress, Senate Journal, 50<sup>th</sup> Cong., 2<sup>nd</sup> sess., p. 165. See also “President Pro Tempore of the Senate,” *Congressional Record*, vol. 21 (March 12, 1890), pp. 2144-2150.

<sup>8</sup> 1 Stat. 240.

<sup>9</sup> 24 Stat 1; 61 Stat. 380.

**Table 8. Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1789-2017**

Name	Party	State	Congress	Date Elected
John Langdon	Pro-Admin	NH	1 <sup>st</sup>	Apr. 6, 1789
Richard Henry Lee	Anti-Admin	VA	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Apr. 18, 1792
John Langdon	Pro-Admin	NH	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nov. 5, 1792 Mar. 1, 1793
Ralph Izard	Pro-Admin	SC	3 <sup>rd</sup>	May 31, 1794
Henry Tazewell	Anti-Admin	VA	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Feb. 20, 1795
	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>		4 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1795
Samuel Livermore	F	NH	4 <sup>th</sup>	May 6, 1796
William Bingham	F	PA	4 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 16, 1797
William Bradford	F	RI	5 <sup>th</sup>	July 6, 1797
Jacob Read	F	SC	5 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 22, 1797
Theodore Sedgwick	F	MA	5 <sup>th</sup>	June 27, 1798
John Laurance	F	NY	5 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 6, 1798
James Ross	F	PA	5 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 1, 1799
Samuel Livermore	F	NH	6 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 22, 1799
Uriah Tracy	F	CT	6 <sup>th</sup>	May 14, 1800
John E. Howard	F	MD	6 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 21, 1800
James Hillhouse	F	CT	6 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 28, 1801
Abraham Baldwin	R	GA	7 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1801
Stephen R. Bradley	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	VT	7 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 14, 1802 Feb. 25, 1803 Mar. 2, 1803
John Brown	Anti-Admin	KY	8 <sup>th</sup>	Oct. 17, 1803 Jan. 23, 1804
Jesse Franklin	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	NC	8 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 10, 1804
Joseph Anderson	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	TN	8 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 15, 1805 Feb. 28, 1805 Mar. 2, 1805
Samuel Smith	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	MD	9 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 2, 1805 Mar. 18, 1806 Mar. 2, 1807 Apr. 16, 1808
Stephen R. Bradley	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	VT	10 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 28, 1808
John Milledge	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	GA	10 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 30, 1809
Andrew Gregg	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	PA	11 <sup>th</sup>	June 26, 1809
John Gaillard	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	SC	11 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 28, 1810 Apr. 17, 1810
John Pope	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	KY	11 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 23, 1811

Name	Party	State	Congress	Date Elected
William H. Crawford	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	GA	12 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 24, 1812
Joseph B. Varnum	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	MA	13 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 6, 1813
John Gaillard	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	SC	13 <sup>th</sup>	Apr. 18, 1814
			14 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 25, 1814 <sup>b</sup>
			15 <sup>th</sup>	[no election]
				Mar. 6, 1817
				Mar. 31, 1918
James Barbour	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	VA	15 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 15, 1819
			16 <sup>th</sup>	[no election]
John Gaillard	R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	SC	16 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 25, 1820
			17 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 1, 1822
			18 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 19, 1823
			19 <sup>th</sup>	May 21, 1824
	CRR			Mar. 9, 1825
	J			
Nathaniel Macon	J	NC	19 <sup>th</sup>	May 20, 1826
				Jan. 2, 1827
				Mar. 2, 1827
Samuel Smith	J	MD	20 <sup>th</sup>	May 15, 1828
			21 <sup>st</sup>	Mar. 13, 1829
				May 29, 1830
				Mar. 1, 1831
Littleton Tazewell	J	VA	22 <sup>nd</sup>	July 9, 1832
Hugh L. White	J	TN	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec. 3, 1832
			23 <sup>rd</sup>	[no election]
George Poindexter	AJ	MS	23 <sup>rd</sup>	June 28, 1834
John Tyler	AJ	VA	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 3, 1835
William R. King	J	AL	24 <sup>th</sup>	July 1, 1836
			25 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 28, 1837
			26 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 7, 1837
			27 <sup>th</sup>	Oct. 13, 1837
				July 2, 1838
				Feb. 25, 1839
				July 3, 1840
	Mar. 3, 1841			
	Mar. 4, 1841			
Samuel Southard	W	NJ	27 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 11, 1841
Willie P. Mangum	W	NC	27 <sup>th</sup>	May 31, 1842
			28 <sup>th</sup>	[no election]
Ambrose H. Sevier	D	AR	29 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 27, 1845 <sup>c</sup>
David R. Atchison	D	MO	29 <sup>th</sup>	Aug. 8, 1846
			30 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 11, 1847
			31 <sup>st</sup>	Mar. 3, 1847

<b>Name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Congress</b>	<b>Date Elected</b>
				Feb. 2, 1848
				June 1, 1848
				June 26, 1848
				July 29, 1848
				Dec. 26, 1848
				Mar. 2, 1849
				Mar. 5, 1849
				Mar. 16, 1849
William R. King	D	AL	31 <sup>st</sup>	May 6, 1850
			32 <sup>nd</sup>	July 11, 1850
				[no election]
David R. Atchison	D	MO	32 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec. 20, 1852
			33 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 4, 1853
Lewis Cass	D	MI	33 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec. 4, 1854
Jesse D. Bright	D	IN	33 <sup>rd</sup>	Dec. 5, 1854
			34 <sup>th</sup>	June 11, 1856
Charles E. Stuart	D	MI	34 <sup>th</sup>	June 9, 1856
James M. Mason	D	VA	34 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 6, 1857
			35 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 4, 1857
Thomas J. Rusk	D	TX	35 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 14, 1857
Benjamin Fitzpatrick	D	AL	35 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1857
			36 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 29, 1858
				June 14, 1858
				Jan. 25, 1858
				Mar. 9, 1859
				Dec. 19, 1859
				Feb. 20, 1860
Jesse D. Bright	D	IN	36 <sup>th</sup>	June 12, 1860
Benjamin Fitzpatrick	D	AL	36 <sup>th</sup>	June 26, 1860
Solomon Foot	R	VT	36 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 16, 1861
			37 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 23, 1861
			38 <sup>th</sup>	July 18, 1861
				Jan. 15, 1862
				Mar. 31, 1862
				June 19, 1862
				Feb. 18, 1863
				Mar. 4, 1863
				Dec. 18, 1863
				Feb. 23, 1864
				Apr. 11, 1864
Daniel Clark	R	NH	38 <sup>th</sup>	Apr. 26, 1864
				Feb. 9, 1865

Name	Party	State	Congress	Date Elected
Lafayette S. Foster	R	CT	39 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 7, 1865
Benjamin F. Wade	R	OH	39 <sup>th</sup> 40 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 2, 1867 [no election]
Henry B. Anthony	R	RI	41 <sup>st</sup> 42 <sup>nd</sup>	Mar. 23, 1869 Apr. 9, 1869 May 28, 1870 July 1, 1870 July 14, 1870 Mar. 10, 1871 Apr. 17, 1871 May 23, 1871 Dec. 21, 1871 Feb. 23, 1872 June 8, 1872 Dec. 4, 1872 Dec. 13, 1872 Dec. 20, 1872 Jan. 24, 1873
Matthew H. Carpenter	R	WI	43 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 12, 1873 Mar. 26, 1873 Dec. 11, 1873 Dec. 23, 1874
Henry B. Anthony	R	RI	43 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan. 25, 1875 Feb. 15, 1875
Thomas W. Ferry	R	MI	44 <sup>th</sup> 45 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 9, 1875 Mar. 19, 1875 Dec. 20, 1875 Mar. 5, 1877 Feb. 26, 1878 Apr. 17, 1878 Mar. 3, 1879
Allen G. Thurman	D	OH	46 <sup>th</sup>	Apr. 15, 1879 Apr. 7, 1880 May 6, 1880
Thomas F. Bayard Sr.	D	DE	47 <sup>th</sup>	Oct. 10, 1881
David Davis	I	IL	47 <sup>th</sup>	Oct. 13, 1881
George F. Edmonds	R	VT	47 <sup>th</sup> 48 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 3, 1883 Jan. 14, 1884
John Sherman	R	OH	49 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 7, 1885
John J. Ingalls	R	KS	49 <sup>th</sup> 50 <sup>th</sup> 51 <sup>st</sup>	Feb. 25, 1887 [no election] Mar. 7, 1889 Apr. 2, 1889



<b>Name</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Congress</b>	<b>Date Elected</b>
				Feb. 28, 1890
				Apr. 3, 1890 <sup>d</sup>
Charles F. Manderson	R	NE	51 <sup>st</sup> -53 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 2, 1891
Isham G. Harris	D	TN	53 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 22, 1893
Matt W. Ransom	D	NC	53 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan. 7, 1895
Isham G. Harris	D	TN	53 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan. 10, 1895
William P. Frye	R	ME	54 <sup>th</sup> -56 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 7, 1896
			57 <sup>th</sup> -59 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 7, 1901
			60 <sup>th</sup> -62 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec. 5, 1907
Charles Curtis	R	KS	62 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec. 4, 1911
Augustus O. Bacon	D	GA	62 <sup>nd</sup>	Jan. 15, 1912
Jacob H. Gallinger	R	NH	62 <sup>nd</sup>	Feb. 12, 1912
Henry Cabot Lodge Sr.	R	MA	62 <sup>nd</sup>	Mar. 25, 1912
Frank B. Brandegee	R	CT	62 <sup>nd</sup>	May 25, 1912
James P. Clarke	D	AR	63 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 13, 1913
			64 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 6, 1915
Willard Saulsbury Jr.	D	DE	64 <sup>th</sup> -65 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 14, 1916
Albert B. Cummins	R	IA	66 <sup>th</sup>	May 19, 1919
			67 <sup>th</sup> -69 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 7, 1921
George H. Moses	R	NH	69 <sup>th</sup>	Mar. 6, 1925
			70 <sup>th</sup> -72 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec. 15, 1927
Key Pittman	D	NV	73 <sup>rd</sup>	Mar. 9, 1933
			74 <sup>th</sup> -76 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 7, 1935
William H. King	D	UT	76 <sup>th</sup>	Nov. 19, 1940
Pat Harrison	D	MS	77 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 6, 1941
Carter Glass	D	VA	77 <sup>th</sup>	July 10, 1941
			78 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 5, 1943
Kenneth D. McKellar	D	TN	79 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 6, 1945
Arthur Vandenberg	R	MI	80 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 4, 1947
Kenneth D. McKellar	D	TN	81 <sup>st</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup>	Jan. 3, 1949
Styles Bridges	R	NH	83 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan. 3, 1953
Walter F. George	D	GA	84 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 5, 1955
Carl T. Hayden	D	AZ	85 <sup>th</sup> -90 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 3, 1957
Richard B. Russell Jr.	D	GA	91 <sup>st</sup> -92 <sup>nd</sup>	Jan. 3, 1969
Allen J. Ellender	D	LA	92 <sup>nd</sup>	Jan. 22, 1971
James O. Eastland	D	MS	92 <sup>nd</sup> -95 <sup>th</sup>	July 28, 1972
Warren G. Magnuson	D	WA	96 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 15, 1979
Milton R. Young	R	ND	96 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 4, 1980
Strom Thurmond	R	SC	97 <sup>th</sup> -99 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 5, 1981

Name	Party	State	Congress	Date Elected
John C. Stennis	D	MS	100 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 6, 1987
Robert C. Byrd	D	WV	101 <sup>st</sup> -103 <sup>rd</sup>	Jan. 3, 1989
Strom Thurmond	R	SC	104 <sup>th</sup> -106 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 4, 1995
Robert C. Byrd	D	WV	107 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 3, 2001 <sup>e</sup>
Strom Thurmond	R	SC	107 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 3, 2001 <sup>e</sup>
Robert C. Byrd <sup>f</sup>	D	WV	107 <sup>th</sup>	June 6, 2001
Ted Stevens	R	AK	108 <sup>th</sup> -109 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 7, 2003
Robert C. Byrd	D	WV	110 <sup>th</sup> -111 <sup>th</sup>	Jan. 4, 2007 <sup>g</sup>
Daniel K. Inouye	D	HI	111 <sup>th</sup> -112 <sup>th</sup>	June 28, 2010 <sup>h</sup>
Patrick J. Leahy	D	VT	112 <sup>th</sup> -113 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 17, 2012
Orrin G. Hatch	R	UT	114 <sup>th</sup> -	Jan. 6, 2015

**Sources:** The principal source for this table is Byrd's *Historical Statistics*, pp. 647-653. See the "Source Notes and Bibliography" section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources.

**Notes:** A key to party abbreviations can be found in the **Appendix** of this report. Note that several Senators holding the President pro tempore position were members of (or identified with) different political parties during their congressional careers. This table lists the party with which each individual was affiliated at the time of his service as President pro tempore. In cases in which the historical sources indicate a party "switch" in the midst of a calendar year (without a specific date), it is presumed that the party switch coincided with the beginning of a new Congress.

- a. Although the *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1996* identifies these Presidents pro tempore as Republicans, the party designation "Democratic Republicans" is more widely used and familiar to readers. This designation, R(DR), should not be taken to refer to the contemporary Republican Party, which did not emerge until the 1850s.
- b. Senator John Gaillard was elected after the death of Vice President Elbridge Gerry on November 23, 1814, and continued to serve throughout the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress, as there was no Vice President.
- c. There was no actual election. Senator Ambrose H. Sevier was "permitted to occupy the chair for the day." In their table of Presidents pro tempore, Gerald Gamm and Steven S. Smith do not include Sevier's service. See Gerald Gamm and Steven S. Smith, "Last Among Equals," Table 1: Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate, p.13.
- d. As noted above, in March 1890, the Senate adopted a resolution stating that Presidents pro tempore would hold office continuously until the election of another President pro tempore rather than being elected only for the period in which the Vice President was absent. That system has continued to the present.
- e. When the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress convened on January 3, 2001, Republican George W. Bush had been elected President. Richard B. Cheney, Vice President-elect, would not be sworn in until January 20, 2001. As a consequence, the Senate was evenly divided, 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans. When Congress convened on January 3, 2001, Vice President Al Gore, a Democrat, remained as President of the Senate, providing Senate Democrats with an effective majority of one. On January 3, 2001, the Senate adopted S.Res. 3, which provided for the election of Democratic Senator Robert C. Byrd to serve as President pro tempore from January 3 until the inauguration of President Bush and Vice President Cheney at noon on January 20, at which time Republican Senator Strom Thurmond would assume the office of President pro tempore. See "Election of the Honorable Robert C. Byrd as President Pro Tempore and Election of the Honorable Strom Thurmond as President Pro Tempore," *Congressional Record*, vol. 147 (January 3, 2001), p. 7.
- f. Party control in the Senate shifted with the decision in May, 2001 of Senator Jim Jeffords to leave the Republican Party and to become an Independent, caucusing with Senate Democrats. On June 6, the Senate agreed to S.Res. 100, electing Senator Byrd President pro tempore once again.
- g. Senator Robert C. Byrd died on June 28, 2010. That day, the Senate adopted S.Res. 567, electing Senator Daniel K. Inouye President pro tempore.
- h. Senator Daniel K. Inouye died on December 17, 2012. That day, the Senate adopted S.Res. 619, electing Senator Patrick J. Leahy President pro tempore.

The Senate has, on occasion, created special offices connected to the position of President pro tempore. These two positions—detailed below—were created for specific individuals under narrow circumstances and are not currently in use.

### Deputy Presidents Pro Tempore

Pursuant to S.Res. 17 (95<sup>th</sup> Congress), 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 was Deputy President pro tempore until his death on January 13, 1978. In the 100<sup>th</sup> Congress, due to concerns over the health of the President pro tempore, Senator John S. Stennis, the Senate agreed on January 28, 1987, to S.Res. 90, authorizing the Senate to designate a Senator to serve as Deputy President pro tempore during that 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 (100<sup>th</sup> Congress), designating Senator George H. Mitchell Deputy President pro tempore.

**Table 9. Deputy Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1977-2017**

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

a. Senator Mitchell served as Deputy President pro tempore until he was elected majority leader for the 101<sup>st</sup> Congress on November 29, 1988.

### Permanent Acting President Pro Tempore

This post was initially established in 1963 after Senate Majority Leader Michael J. Mansfield became concerned that the stamina of then-President pro tempore Senator Carl T. Hayden would be overly taxed by presiding over the prolonged debate on civil rights legislation. In response, the Senate adopted S.Res. 232 and S.Res. 238 (88<sup>th</sup> Congress), making Senator Lee Metcalf Acting President pro tempore from December 9, 1963, until the meeting of the second session of the 88<sup>th</sup> Congress. Continuing concerns over the presiding officer’s responsibilities led the Senate, on February 7, 1964, to authorize Senator Metcalf “to perform the duties of the Chair as Acting President pro tempore until otherwise ordered by the Senate” via S.Res. 296 (88<sup>th</sup> Congress). Senator Metcalf held the post throughout his remaining 14 years in the Senate.

**Table 10. Permanent Acting President Pro Tempore of the Senate, 1964-2017**

Permanent Acting President Pro Tempore	Party	State	Congress	Dates
Lee Metcalf	D	MT	88 <sup>th</sup> -95 <sup>th</sup>	Feb. 7, 1964-Jan. 12, 1978

### Party Floor Leader

Each Senate party conference selects its floor leader (also called majority leader or minority leader, as appropriate) in a secret-ballot vote at its organizational meeting prior to the beginning of a new Congress. While these positions developed later than (and arose from) the post of conference chair, they now represent the top post in each party. The majority leader is the lead

spokesperson for the party in the chamber and is also responsible for scheduling the legislative activity of the Senate. By precedent established in 1937, the majority leader is afforded priority recognition on the floor. The minority leader leads and speaks for the minority party and is consulted by the majority leader in scheduling Senate floor activity; he also has preferential floor recognition, after the majority leader. The rules of each party conference assign additional responsibilities to each floor leader, as well. In current practice, the floor leader for Senate Democrats also serves as the party’s conference chair. (See next section for description of conference chair positions.)

**Table 11. Senate Republican Floor Leaders, 1919-2017**

Floor Leader	State	Congress	Dates
Henry Cabot Lodge Sr. <sup>a,b,c</sup>	MA	<b>66<sup>th</sup>-68<sup>th</sup></b>	1919-Nov. 9, 1924 <sup>d</sup>
Charles Curtis <sup>a,e</sup>	KS	<b>68<sup>th</sup>-70<sup>th</sup></b>	Nov. 28, 1924-1929
James E. Watson <sup>a</sup>	IN	<b>71<sup>st</sup>-72<sup>nd</sup></b>	1929-1933
Charles L. McNary <sup>a</sup>	OR	73 <sup>rd</sup> -78 <sup>th</sup>	1933-Feb. 25, 1944 <sup>f</sup>
Wallace H. White Jr.	ME	79 <sup>th</sup> <b>80<sup>th</sup></b>	1945-1949
Kenneth S. Wherry	NE	81 <sup>st</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup>	1949-Nov. 29, 1951 <sup>g</sup>
Styles Bridges	NH	82 <sup>nd</sup>	1952-1953
Robert A. Taft	OH	<b>83<sup>rd</sup></b>	1953-July 31, 1953 <sup>h</sup>
William F. Knowland	CA	<b>83<sup>rd</sup></b> 84 <sup>th</sup> -85 <sup>th</sup>	Aug. 4, 1953-1959
Everett Dirksen	IL	86 <sup>th</sup> -91 <sup>st</sup>	1959-Sept. 7, 1969 <sup>i</sup>
Hugh Scott	PA	91 <sup>st</sup> -94 <sup>th</sup>	Sept. 24, 1969-1977
Howard H. Baker	TN	95 <sup>th</sup> -96 <sup>th</sup> <b>97<sup>th</sup>-98<sup>th</sup></b>	1977-1985
Robert H. Dole	KS	<b>99<sup>th</sup></b> 100 <sup>th</sup> -103 <sup>rd</sup> <b>104<sup>th</sup></b>	1985-June 11, 1996 <sup>i</sup>
Trent Lott	MS	<b>104<sup>th</sup>-106<sup>th</sup></b> 107 <sup>th</sup>	June 12, 1996 - Dec. 20, 2002 <sup>k</sup>
William H. Frist	TN	<b>108<sup>th</sup>-109<sup>th</sup></b>	Dec. 23, 2001-2007
Mitch McConnell	KY	110 <sup>th</sup> -113 <sup>th</sup> <b>114<sup>th</sup>-</b>	2007-

**Sources:** The principal source for this table is Byrd’s *Historical Statistics*, p. 505, with some details provided by Riddick, *Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate*, pp. 1-11. See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the floor leader was also majority leader for at least half of the Congress. For example, while the Republicans began the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress with a controlling majority, party control switched to the Democrats in June of the first session; the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress is therefore treated as being under Democratic party control in these tables, where applicable.

- a. Indicates a leader who was also conference chair. Prior to 1945, the Republican conference chair and floor leader positions were held by the same individual.
- b. While Byrd’s volume provisionally lists Republican Conference Chair Henry Cabot Lodge Sr. as the first Republican floor leader in practice, some sources treat two previous conference chairs as floor leaders in

- practice. For example, Riddick includes (in Table III, Seniority of Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, p.11) conference chairs Senator Shelby M. Cullom as majority leader from 1911 to 1913 and Senator Jacob H. Gallinger as minority leader from 1913 until his death on August 17, 1918.
- c. Elected conference chair in the 65<sup>th</sup> Congress on August 24, 1918, to replace Senator Gallinger. Senator Lodge was not officially a floor leader; he was simply reelected to the conference chair post in 1919, and the party had not yet employed the designation floor leader. Scholarly opinion is that his role in the 66<sup>th</sup> to 68<sup>th</sup> Congresses, for all intents and purposes, was that of the floor leader, however. Byrd's volume provisionally lists him as the first majority leader (Table 4-6, p. 506); Riddick includes him in Table III, p.11. Also see Widenor, "Henry Cabot Lodge: The Astute Parliamentarian," for additional supporting details.
  - d. Died in office, November 9, 1924.
  - e. Senator Charles Curtis was elected conference chair on November 28, 1924, to replace Senator Henry Cabot Lodge Sr., who died on November 9. On March 5, 1925, the Republican conference also designated him as floor leader, the first Senator to hold the title.
  - f. Senator Charles L. McNary died on February 25, 1944. There is no reference in congressional sources to the formal selection of a new Republican floor leader during the 78<sup>th</sup> Congress. In his article summarizing "The Second Session of the Seventy-Eighth Congress (January 10-December 18, 1944)," *American Political Science Review*, vol. 39 (April 1945), pp. 317-336, Floyd Riddick makes no mention of McNary's death or the selection of a successor.
  - g. Died in office, November 29, 1951.
  - h. Died in office, July 31, 1953.
  - i. Died in office, September 7, 1969.
  - j. Resigned from Senate, June 11, 1996.
  - k. Elected June 12, 1996, to replace Senator Robert H. Dole and resigned from majority leader post, December 20, 2002.
  - l. Elected December 23, 2002, to replace Senator Trent Lott.

**Table 12. Senate Democratic Floor Leaders and Conference Chairs, 1893-2017**

Floor Leader	State	Congress	Dates
Arthur P. Gorman <sup>a,b</sup>	MD	53 <sup>rd</sup> 54 <sup>th</sup> -55 <sup>th</sup>	1893-1898
N/A <sup>c</sup>		55 <sup>th</sup> -56 <sup>th</sup>	1898-1901
John T. Morgan <sup>b</sup>	AL	57 <sup>th</sup>	1901-1902
James K. Jones <sup>b</sup>	AR	57 <sup>th</sup>	1902-1903
Arthur P. Gorman <sup>d</sup>	MD	58 <sup>th</sup> -59 <sup>th</sup>	1903-June 4, 1906 <sup>e</sup>
Joseph C.S. Blackburn <sup>f</sup>	KY	59 <sup>th</sup>	June 9, 1906-1907 <sup>g</sup>
Charles A. Culberson	TX	60 <sup>th</sup>	1907-1909
Hernando D. Money	MS	61 <sup>st</sup>	1909-1911
Thomas S. Martin <sup>f</sup>	VA	62 <sup>nd</sup>	1911-1913
John Worth Kern <sup>f</sup>	IN	63 <sup>rd</sup> -64 <sup>th</sup>	1913-1917
Thomas S. Martin	VA	65 <sup>th</sup> 66 <sup>th</sup>	1917-Nov. 12, 1919 <sup>h</sup>
Oscar W. Underwood <sup>f</sup>	AL	66 <sup>th</sup> -67 <sup>th</sup>	Apr. 27, 1920-1923 <sup>i</sup>
Joseph T. Robinson	AR	68 <sup>th</sup> -75 <sup>th</sup> 73 <sup>rd</sup> -75 <sup>th</sup>	1923-July 14, 1937 <sup>i</sup>
Alben W. Barkley	KY	75 <sup>th</sup> -79 <sup>th</sup> 80 <sup>th</sup>	July 22, 1937-1949 <sup>k</sup>
Scott W. Lucas	IL	81 <sup>st</sup>	1949-1951

Floor Leader	State	Congress	Dates
Ernest W. McFarland	AZ	<b>82<sup>nd</sup></b>	1951-1953
Lyndon B. Johnson	TX	83 <sup>rd</sup> <b>84<sup>th</sup>-86<sup>th</sup></b>	1953-1961
Mike Mansfield	MT	<b>87<sup>th</sup>-94<sup>th</sup></b>	1961-1977
Robert C. Byrd	WV	<b>95<sup>th</sup>-96<sup>th</sup></b> 97 <sup>th</sup> -99 <sup>th</sup> <b>100<sup>th</sup></b>	1977-1989
George J. Mitchell	ME	<b>101<sup>st</sup>-103<sup>rd</sup></b>	1989-1995
Tom Daschle <sup>a</sup>	SD	104 <sup>th</sup> -106 <sup>th</sup> <b>107<sup>th</sup></b> 108 <sup>th</sup>	1995-2005
Harry Reid	NV	109 <sup>th</sup> <b>110<sup>th</sup>-113<sup>th</sup></b> 114 <sup>th</sup>	2005-2017
Charles E. Schumer	NY	115 <sup>th</sup> -	2017-

**Sources:** See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources. The principal source for this table is Byrd’s *Historical Statistics*, p. 503. Some additional details are from Riddick’s *Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate*, pp. 1-11. The Senate Democratic Caucus officially changed its name to the Democratic Conference in 1925.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the floor leader was also majority leader for at least half of the Congress. For example, while the Republicans began the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress with a controlling majority, party control switched to the Democrats in June of the first session; the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress is therefore treated as being under Democratic Party control in these tables, where applicable.

- a. Byrd’s identification of the first Democratic Conference chair begins with Senator Gorman in the 58<sup>th</sup> Congress. Other sources, however, rely on unofficial records to give Gorman that title in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Congress, with Senators Morgan and Jones identified as such in later Congresses (after a period in which reliable sources do not exist); see, for example, Riddick, *Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate*, Table I, p. 7.
- b. Riddick identifies Senator Gorman as the first Democratic Conference chair in 1893, though Byrd does not designate him as such until the 58<sup>th</sup> Congress. This is also the case with the designations of Senators Morgan in 1901 and Jones in 1902.
- c. No reliable records from the caucus exist for this period.
- d. Senator Gorman’s designation as conference chair in the 58<sup>th</sup> Congress is the first that can be confirmed from official caucus minutes.
- e. Died June 4, 1906.
- f. Secondary sources generally identify Senator Kern as the first Democratic floor leader in the modern sense of the term. See, for example, Oleszek, “John Worth Kern,” p. 10. Others have made a case for designating Senator Blackburn as the first, since he was referred to as the Democrats’ “chosen official leader” in a congratulatory resolution. See Riddick, p. 3. Still others consider Senator Martin an early floor leader; see Oleszek, “John Worth Kern,” note 13. Senator Underwood is the first person to be officially called floor leader in minutes of the party conference, so some sources (e.g., Byrd) treat him as the first Democratic floor leader.
- g. Elected June 9, 1906.
- h. Died November 12, 1919. An initial caucus vote to replace Senator Martin resulted in a tie between Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock and Senator Underwood. Hitchcock was briefly acting leader until Underwood was elected in April of 1920. See Riddick, p. 9, note 2.
- i. Elected April 27, 1920.
- j. Died July 14, 1937.
- k. Elected July 22, 1937.

- I. In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Daschle became majority leader on June 6, 2001, following a change in party control of the Senate from Republican to Democratic.

## Conference Chair

Each party has a conference organization consisting of all the elected Senators from that party; it is the main body through which the party contingent at large decides and communicates its legislative priorities. While each party's conference chair posts were the first formal party leadership positions in the Senate, eventually floor leader positions were established as uppermost in each party's leadership hierarchy. Since 1945, Republicans have elected their conference chairs separately from other leadership posts, but the elected Democratic floor leader also serves as chair of the Democratic Conference. (See **Table 12** for the list of Democratic floor leaders/conference chairs.)

**Table 13. Senate Republican Conference Chairs, 1893-2017**

Chair	State	Congress	Dates
John Sherman <sup>a</sup>	OH	53 <sup>rd</sup> 54 <sup>th</sup>	1893-1897
William B. Allison	IA	55 <sup>th</sup> -56 <sup>th</sup>	1897-1901 <sup>b</sup>
Eugene Hale	ME	57 <sup>th</sup>	1901-1902
Orville Platt	CT	57 <sup>th</sup>	1902-1903 <sup>c</sup>
Eugene Hale	ME	58 <sup>th</sup>	1903-1904
William B. Allison	IA	58 <sup>th</sup> -59 <sup>th</sup>	1904-1906
Eugene Hale	ME	59 <sup>th</sup>	1906-1907
William B. Allison <sup>d</sup>	IA	59 <sup>th</sup>	1907-1908
Nelson W. Aldrich	RI	60 <sup>th</sup>	1908-1909
Eugene Hale	ME	60 <sup>th</sup> -61 <sup>st</sup>	1909-1910
Shelby M. Cullom	IL	61 <sup>st</sup> -62 <sup>nd</sup>	1910-1913
Jacob H. Gallinger	NH	63 <sup>rd</sup> -65 <sup>th</sup>	1913-1918
Henry Cabot Lodge Sr. <sup>e</sup>	MA	65 <sup>th</sup> 66 <sup>th</sup> -68 <sup>th</sup>	1918-1924
Charles Curtis <sup>e</sup>	KS	68 <sup>th</sup> -70 <sup>th</sup>	1924-1929
James E. Watson <sup>e</sup>	IN	71 <sup>st</sup> -72 <sup>nd</sup>	1929-1932
Charles L. McNary <sup>e</sup>	OR	73 <sup>rd</sup> -78 <sup>th</sup>	1933-1944
Arthur H. Vandenberg	MI	79 <sup>th</sup>	1945-1946
Eugene D. Millikin	CO	80 <sup>th</sup> 81 <sup>st</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup> 83 <sup>rd</sup> 84 <sup>th</sup>	1947-1956
Leverett Saltonstall	MA	85 <sup>th</sup> -89 <sup>th</sup>	1957-1966
Margaret Chase Smith	ME	90 <sup>th</sup> -92 <sup>nd</sup>	1967-1972
Norris Cotton	NH	93 <sup>rd</sup>	1973-1974
Carl T. Curtis	NE	94 <sup>th</sup> -95 <sup>th</sup>	1975-1978

Chair	State	Congress	Dates
Robert Packwood	OR	96 <sup>th</sup>	1979-1980
James A. McClure	ID	<b>97<sup>th</sup>-98<sup>th</sup></b>	1981-1984
John Chafee	RI	<b>99<sup>th</sup></b> 101 <sup>st</sup>	1985-1990
Thad Cochran	MS	102 <sup>nd</sup> -103 <sup>rd</sup> <b>104<sup>th</sup></b>	1991-1996
Connie Mack	FL	<b>105<sup>th</sup>-106<sup>th</sup></b>	1997-2000
Richard J. Santorum	PA	107 <sup>th</sup> <b>108<sup>th</sup>-109<sup>th</sup></b>	2001-2006
Jon L. Kyl	AZ	110 <sup>th</sup>	2007-Dec. 6, 2007 <sup>f</sup>
Lamar Alexander	TN	110 <sup>th</sup> -112 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 6, 2007 <sup>f</sup> -Jan. 26, 2012 <sup>g</sup>
John Thune	SD	112 <sup>th</sup> -113 <sup>th</sup> <b>114<sup>th</sup></b>	Jan. 26, 2012-

**Sources:** See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources. The principal source for this table is Byrd’s *Historical Statistics*, p. 502. Additional detail is from Riddick, *Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate*, pp. 7-9. Records of the Republican Conference are extant only from 1911. Secondary sources (see Riddick, pp. 7-9) provide information for years prior to 1893. Rothman, in his work, claims that Senator Henry B. Anthony served as Republican caucus chair for an undetermined number of years beginning in 1869 and that Senator George Franklin Edmunds served as chair from 1885 to 1891. See David J. Rothman, *Politics and Power: The United States Senate, 1869-1901*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1966, pp. 6, 28-30.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the Republican Party was in the majority for at least half of the Congress. For example, while the Republicans began the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress with a controlling majority, party control switched to the Democrats in June of the first session; the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress is therefore treated as being under Democratic Party control in these tables, where applicable. Except for those individuals who also served as floor leader (as designated in next note), sources do not provide specific dates of conference chair service (e.g., when there was a death or resignation and, as a result, a mid-session election was held). Therefore, this table provides only years of service for each conference chair and gives no specific dates for transitions that occurred within a session.

- a. Riddick indicates that secondary sources confirm Sherman as the first Republican conference chair (Table I, p. 7); Byrd starts his list (Table 4-1, p. 502) with Allison’s tenure in the 55<sup>th</sup> Congress but notes Sherman’s previous tenure in a footnote.
- b. Byrd lists Senator Allison’s tenure in the position as 1897-1901, but Riddick maintains that reliable records do not exist for 1898 to 1901.
- c. Using unofficial sources, Riddick (Table I, p. 7) indicates that Senator George H. Hoar was briefly conference chair in 1903. Byrd does not include him.
- d. Using unofficial sources, Riddick (Table I, p. 7) indicates that Senator Allison was chair; Byrd does not include him.
- e. Indicates individuals who were simultaneously identified as the floor leader. See **Table II** of this report.
- f. Senator Jon L. Kyl was elected party whip on December 6, 2007; Senator Lamar Alexander was elected on that day to serve as conference chair.
- g. In September, 2011, Senator Lamar Alexander announced his intention to resign from the post, effective January, 2012. Senator John Thune was elected to the position on December 13, 2011, effective January 26, 2012.

## Party Whip

Senate Democrats first selected a party whip in 1913; Republicans followed in 1915. Some accounts of these early selections imply that the individuals were initially appointed, but other



contemporary accounts refer to conference elections for the posts. (Republicans first formally codified their conference procedures in 1944, making it clear that the whip post was elected by the conference.) Today, each party conference elects a party whip (sometimes called the assistant majority leader or assistant minority leader, depending on the party). Typically, deputy whips are also appointed to assist the whip operation. The whips communicate leadership priorities to the party rank-and-file (and vice versa), provide leaders an assessment of member support for (or opposition to) pending legislative matters, and mobilize support for leadership-supported measures under consideration. For more information, see archived CRS Report RS20887, *Senate Leadership: Whip Organization*, by (name redacted)

**Table 14. Senate Democratic Whips, 1913-2017**

Whip	State	Congress	Dates
James Hamilton Lewis <sup>a</sup>	IL	<b>63<sup>rd</sup>-65<sup>th</sup></b>	1913-1919
Peter G. Gerry	RI	<b>66<sup>th</sup>-70<sup>th</sup></b>	1919-1929
Morris Sheppard	TX	<b>71<sup>st</sup>-72<sup>nd</sup></b>	1929-1933
James Hamilton Lewis	IL	<b>73<sup>rd</sup>-75<sup>th</sup></b>	1933-1939
Sherman Minton	IN	<b>76<sup>th</sup></b>	1939-1941
J. Lister Hill	AL	<b>77<sup>th</sup>-79<sup>th</sup></b>	1941-1947
Scott W. Lucas <sup>b</sup>	IL	<b>80<sup>th</sup></b>	1947-1949
Francis J. Myers	PA	<b>81<sup>st</sup></b>	1949-1951
Lyndon B. Johnson <sup>b</sup>	TX	<b>82<sup>nd</sup></b>	1951-1953
Earle C. Clements	KY	<b>83<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>84<sup>th</sup></b>	1953-1957
Mike Mansfield <sup>b</sup>	MT	<b>85<sup>th</sup>-86<sup>th</sup></b>	1957-1961
Hubert H. Humphrey	MN	<b>87<sup>th</sup>-88<sup>th</sup></b>	1961-1965
Russell B. Long	LA	<b>89<sup>th</sup>-90<sup>th</sup></b>	1965-1969
Edward M. Kennedy	MA	<b>91<sup>st</sup></b>	1969-1971
Robert C. Byrd <sup>b</sup>	WV	<b>92<sup>nd</sup>-94<sup>th</sup></b>	1971-1977
Alan Cranston	CA	<b>95<sup>th</sup>-96<sup>th</sup></b> <b>97<sup>th</sup>-99<sup>th</sup></b> <b>100<sup>th</sup>-101<sup>st</sup></b>	1977-1991
Wendell H. Ford	KY	<b>102<sup>nd</sup>-103<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>104<sup>th</sup>-105<sup>th</sup></b>	1991-1999
Harry Reid <sup>b</sup>	NV	<b>106<sup>th</sup></b> <b>107<sup>th</sup></b> <b>108<sup>th</sup></b>	1999-2005
Richard J. Durbin	IL	<b>109<sup>th</sup></b> <b>110<sup>th</sup>-113<sup>th</sup></b> <b>114<sup>th</sup></b>	2005-

**Sources:** See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources. The principal source for this table is Byrd’s *Historical Statistics*, p. 509, with additional detail drawn from Oleszek, *Majority and Minority Whips of the Senate*.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the Democratic whip was also the majority whip for at least half of the Congress. For example, while the Republicans began the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress with a controlling majority,

party control switched to the Democrats in June of the first session; the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress is therefore treated as being under Democratic Party control in these tables, where applicable.

- a. Senator James Hamilton Lewis became the first Democratic Party whip in 1913. In the *Congressional Record*, Lewis himself referred to his “appointment,” but a press account the next year said he was elected. See Oleszek, *Majority and Minority Whips of the Senate*, p. 4.
- b. Indicates individuals who later advanced to floor leader.

**Table 15. Senate Republican Whips, 1915-2017**

Whip	State	Congress	Dates
James W. Wadsworth Jr. <sup>a</sup>	NY	64 <sup>th</sup>	1915
Charles Curtis <sup>b</sup>	KS	64 <sup>th</sup> -65 <sup>th</sup> <b>66<sup>th</sup>-68<sup>th</sup></b>	1915-1924
Wesley L. Jones	WA	<b>68<sup>th</sup>-70<sup>th</sup></b>	1924-1929
Simeon D. Fess	OH	<b>71<sup>st</sup>-72<sup>nd</sup></b>	1929-1933
Felix Hebert	RI	73 <sup>rd</sup>	1933-1935
N/A <sup>c</sup>		74 <sup>th</sup> -77 <sup>th</sup>	1936-1943
Kenneth S. Wherry <sup>b</sup>	NE	78 <sup>th</sup> -79 <sup>th</sup> <b>80<sup>th</sup></b>	1944-1949
Leverett Saltonstall	MA	81 <sup>st</sup> -82 <sup>nd</sup> <b>83<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>84<sup>th</sup></b>	1949-1957
Everett M. Dirksen <sup>b</sup>	IL	85 <sup>th</sup>	1957-1959
Thomas H. Kuchel	CA	86 <sup>th</sup> -90 <sup>th</sup>	1959-1969
Hugh D. Scott <sup>b</sup>	PA	91 <sup>st</sup>	1969
Robert P. Griffin	MI	91 <sup>st</sup> -94 <sup>th</sup>	1969-1977
Ted Stevens	AK	95 <sup>th</sup> -96 <sup>th</sup> <b>97<sup>th</sup>-98<sup>th</sup></b>	1977-1985
Alan K. Simpson	WY	<b>99<sup>th</sup></b> 100 <sup>th</sup> -103 <sup>rd</sup>	1985-1995
Trent Lott <sup>b</sup>	MS	104 <sup>th</sup>	1995-June 12, 1996 <sup>d</sup>
Don Nickles	OK	<b>104<sup>th</sup>-106<sup>th</sup></b> 107 <sup>th</sup>	June 12, 1996-2003 <sup>e</sup>
Mitch McConnell <sup>b</sup>	KY	<b>108<sup>th</sup>-109<sup>th</sup></b>	2003-2007
Trent Lott	MS	110 <sup>th</sup>	2007-Dec. 6, 2007 <sup>f</sup>
Jon L. Kyl	AZ	110 <sup>th</sup> -112 <sup>th</sup>	Dec. 6, 2007 <sup>g</sup> -2013
John Cornyn	TX	113 <sup>th</sup> <b>114<sup>th</sup>-</b>	2013-

**Sources:** See the “Source Notes and Bibliography” section at the end of this report for a description and full citation of all sources. The principal source for this table is Byrd’s *Historical Statistics*, p. 509, with additional details provided by Oleszek, *Majority and Minority Whips of the Senate*.

**Notes:** Bolded entries indicate Congresses in which the Republican whip was also majority whip for at least half of the Congress. For example, while the Republicans began the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress with a controlling majority, party control switched to the Democrats in June of the first session; the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress is treated as being under Democratic Party control in these tables, where applicable.

- a. Wadsworth was the first Republican whip but served only one week before Senator Curtis was named his successor. Some sources describe the selections as appointments, but clearly the party eventually elected

- individuals to the post. The conference rules for such selection were formally codified only in 1944, but the election practice seems to have been occurring prior to this. See Oleszek, *Majority and Minority Whips of the Senate*, p. 5.
- b. Indicates individuals who later advanced to floor leader.
  - c. Between 1936 and 1943, the Republican whip post was filled by informal, irregular appointment by the Republican leader.
  - d. Elected majority leader, June 12, 1996.
  - e. Elected to replace Senator Trent Lott as whip, June 12, 1996.
  - f. Senator Jon L. Kyl was elected to the position on December 6, 2007, replacing Senator Trent Lott, who resigned from the Senate soon thereafter (on December 18, 2007).

## Source Notes and Bibliography

This report relies heavily on primary congressional sources and authoritative documents such as the privately printed *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774 to 1996*, and a similar online adaptation, the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774 to the Present*. In addition, over the years, individual Members of Congress, legislative aides, and scholars have gained limited access to party conference journals. Reliable leadership lists have been compiled from these sources. Where these have been published, they have been used as a source in this report. This report also relies on secondary sources developed by scholars. The Congressional Research Service made no attempt to gain access to caucus or conference minutes in collecting data for this report.

Inevitably, conflicting interpretations occur in these data, even among sources generally accepted as reliable. For example, there are disparities on the dates of elections and tenure of Senate Presidents pro tempore among Byrd's history, the 1911 Senate document, and Gamm and Smith's research. The report attempts to footnote these divergences where they occur.

Unless otherwise noted, the following sources were used to compile the tables in this report:

Berdahl, Clarence. "Some Notes on Party Membership in Congress." *American Political Science Review*, vol. 43 (April 1949), pp. 309-332; (June 1949), pp. 492-508; and (August 1949), pp. 721-734.

*Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1996*. Washington: CQ Staff Directories, Inc., 1997.

*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774 to the Present*. Available at <http://bioguide.congress.gov/biosearch/biosearch.asp>.

Byrd, Robert C. *The Senate, 1789-1989*. 4 vols., 100<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session. S. Doc. 100-20. Washington: GPO, 1988-1993.

Cannon, Clarence. "Party History." Remarks in the appendix, *Congressional Record*, vol. 89 (January 22, 1941), pp. A383-A384.

*Congressional Directory*. Washington: GPO, various years.

*Congressional Globe*. Washington, 1833-1873.

*Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report*. Washington: Congressional Quarterly, Inc., various dates.

*Congressional Record*. Washington: GPO, 1873-present.

CRS Report RL30960, *The President Pro Tempore of the Senate: History and Authority of the Office*, by (name redacted)

Deschler, Lewis. *Deschler-Brown Precedents of the United States House of Representatives*. 16 vols. Washington: GPO, 1977-2000.

Galloway, George B. "Leadership in the House of Representatives." *The Western Political Quarterly*, vol. 12, no. 2, (June 1959), pp. 417-441.

Gamm, Gerald and Steven S. Smith. "Last Among Equals: The Senate's Presiding Officer." In Burdett A. Loomis, ed., *Esteemed Colleagues: Civility and Deliberation in the U.S. Senate*, pp. 105-134. Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2000.

Martis, Kenneth C. *The Historical Atlas of Political Parties in the United States Congress, 1789-1989*. New York: Macmillan, 1989.

Oleszek, Walter J. *Majority and Minority Whips in the Senate: History and Development of the Party Whip System in the U.S. Senate*. 99<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session. S. Doc. 99-23. Washington: GPO, 1985.

———. "John Worth Kern: Portrait of Floor Leader." In Richard A. Baker and Roger H. Davidson, eds., *First Among Equals: Outstanding Senate Leaders of the Twentieth Century*, pp. 7-37. Washington: CQ Press, 1991.

Ripley, Randall B. *Party Leaders in the House of Representatives*. Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 1967.

———. "The Party Whip Organizations in the United States House of Representatives." *American Political Science Review*, vol. 58 (September 1964), pp. 561-576.

Rothman, David J. *Politics and Power*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1966.

U.S. Congress. *Hinds' and Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States*. 11 vols. Washington: GPO, 1907-1908, 1935-1941.

———. House. *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 1789-present, various publishers.

———. Senate. *Journal of the Senate of the United States*, 1789-present, various publishers.

———. *Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate: History and Development of the Offices of the Floor Leaders*. Prepared by Floyd M. Riddick. 99<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> session. S. Doc. 99-3. Washington: GPO, 1985.

———. *President of the Senate Pro Tempore*. 62<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> session. S.Doc. 62-101. Washington: GPO, 1911.

Widenor, William C. "Henry Cabot Lodge: The Astute Parliamentarian," In Richard A. Baker and Roger H. Davidson, eds., *First Among Equals: Outstanding Senate Leaders of the Twentieth Century*, pp. 38-62. Washington: CQ Press, 1991.

## Appendix. Political Party Abbreviations

---

Adams	Adams
Adams-Clay F	Adams-Clay Federalist
Adams-Clay R	Adams-Clay Republican
AJ	Anti-Jackson
Am	American (Know-Nothing)
Anti-Admin	Anti-Administration
C	Conservative
CRR	Crawford Republican
D	Democrat
F	Federalist
FL	Farmer-Labor
FS	Free Soil
I	Independent
ID	Independent Democrat
IR	Independent Republican
J	Jacksonian
JR	Jacksonian Republican
L	Liberty
LR	Liberal Republican
N	Nullifier
N/A	Party Unknown or No Party Affiliation
NR	National Republican
OP	Opposition
PO	Populist
PR	Progressive
Pro-Admin	Pro-Administration
R	Republican
R(DR) <sup>a</sup>	Jeffersonian, Jeffersonian Republican, or Democratic Republican
RA	Readjuster
S	Silver
SR	Silver Republican
U	Unionist
UU	Unconditional Unionist
W	Whig

---

**Source:** This table is derived from Byrd, *Historical Statistics*, p. xvi.

- a. While the *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1996* identifies the party affiliation of certain Representatives in early Congresses as Republicans, the designation “Democratic Republican” is more

familiar to readers. This designation, R(DR), should not be taken to refer to the contemporary Republican Party, which did not emerge until the 1850s.

## **Author Contact Information**

(name redacted)  
Specialist on Congress and the Legislative Process  
[redacted]@crs.loc.gov , 7-....

## **Acknowledgments**

This report was originally written and updated by (name redacted) and Richard C. Sachs, former specialists in American National Government at CRS, and Faye M. Bullock, former technical information specialist at CRS. The listed author has updated and expanded this report and is available to respond to inquiries on the subject.

# EveryCRSReport.com

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) is a federal legislative branch agency, housed inside the Library of Congress, charged with providing the United States Congress non-partisan advice on issues that may come before Congress.

EveryCRSReport.com republishes CRS reports that are available to all Congressional staff. The reports are not classified, and Members of Congress routinely make individual reports available to the public.

Prior to our republication, we redacted names, phone numbers and email addresses of analysts who produced the reports. We also added this page to the report. We have not intentionally made any other changes to any report published on EveryCRSReport.com.

CRS reports, as a work of the United States government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.

Information in a CRS report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to members of Congress in connection with CRS' institutional role.

EveryCRSReport.com is not a government website and is not affiliated with CRS. We do not claim copyright on any CRS report we have republished.