

118th Congress Leadership Forecasting

Last Updated: November 15, 2022

[[Plurus Strategies]]

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Overall Picture

Senate

- Senate Democrats will hold their leadership elections the week of December 5.
- Senate Republicans are scheduled to hold leadership elections on November 16. Last week, Sen. Rick Scott (FL) along with Sens. Mike Lee (R-UT) and Ron Johnson (R-WI) circulated a letter to urge their colleagues to support a delay on leadership elections. They have received backing from Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL), Josh Hawley (R-MO), Cynthia Lummis (R-WY), and Lindsey Graham (R-SC). It is unlikely that Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) position will be affected.

House

- House Democrats will hold their leadership elections on November 30.
- House Republicans will hold their leadership elections on November 15. Fallout over GOP performance in the midterm elections is likely to impact dynamics in internal leadership contests.

SENATE DEMOCRATS

DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY: PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Patty Murray (WA)



STATUS

- The president pro tempore is elected by the Senate and is, by custom, the Senator of the majority party with the longest record of continuous service. Since 117th Congress **President Pro Tempore** Patrick Leahy (VT) is retiring, the next longest serving Democrat would be Sen. Dianne Feinstein (CA). however, she has indicated she plans to forgo the position, meaning next in line could be Sen. Patty Murray (WA).

DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

Leader

Chuck Schumer (NY)



Whip

Dick Durbin (IL)



Deputy Whip

Jeff Merkley (OR)



Assistant Leader

Patty Murray (WA)



STATUS

- **117th Congress Majority Leader** Chuck Schumer (NY), **Majority Whip** Dick Durbin (IL), **Chief Deputy Majority Whip** Jeff Merkley (OR), and **Assistant Democratic Leader** Patty Murray (WA) could remain in these positions in the 118th Congress.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Chairman

Chuck Schumer (NY)



Vice Chair

Elizabeth Warren (MA)



Vice Chair

Mark Warner (VA)



Secretary

Tammy Baldwin (WA)



STATUS

- **Chair** Chuck Schumer (NY), **Vice Chair** Elizabeth Warren (MA), **Vice Chair** Mark Warner (VA), and **Secretary** Tammy Baldwin (WA) will likely remain in their current positions.

DEMOCRATIC POLICY & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairwoman

Debbie Stabenow (MI)



Vice Chair

Joe Manchin (WV)



Vice Chair

Cory Booker (NJ)



STATUS

- **DPCC Chairwoman** Debbie Stabenow (MI), **DPCC Vice Chair** Joe Manchin (WV), and **DPCC Vice Chair** Cory Booker (NJ) could continue in these roles in the 118th Congress.

DEMOCRATIC STEERING & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chairwoman
Amy Klobuchar (MN)



Vice Chairwoman
Jeanne Shaheen (NH)



STATUS

- **DSOC Chairwoman** Amy Klobuchar (MN) and **DSOC Vice Chairwoman** Jeanne Shaheen (NH) could remain in these positions in the next Congress.

DEMOCRATIC SENATORIAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE



STATUS

- It is unclear who will succeed current **DSCC Chairman** Gary Peters (D-MI).

SENATE REPUBLICANS

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Likely Leader

Mitch McConnell (KY)



Potential Candidate for Leader

Rick Scott (FL)



Assistant Leader

John Thune (SD)



Chief Deputy Whip

Mike Crapo (ID)



STATUS

- **Minority Leader** Mitch McConnell (KY) is unlikely to be affected by ongoing efforts to delay Senate Republican leadership elections. However, **National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) Chair** Rick Scott (R-FL) has not ruled out challenging Leader McConnell. **Assistant Minority Leader** John Thune (SD), and **Minority Chief Deputy Whip** Mike Crapo (ID) will likely continue in these roles in the 118th Congress.

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Chair

John Barrasso (WY)



Vice Chair

Shelley Moore Capito (WV)



STATUS

- **SRC Chair** John Barrasso (WY) will likely remain in this position. Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (WV) has stated she will make a bid for the **SRC Vice Chair** spot, currently held by Sen. Joni Ernst (IA), who has indicated she is making a bid for retiring **RPC Chair** Roy Blunt's (MO) spot.

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

Likely Chairwoman
Joni Ernst (IA)



Possible Candidate for Chair
Ron Johnson (WI)



Vice Chair



STATUS

- Due to **RPC Chair** Roy Blunt's (MO) retirement, current **SRC Vice Chair** Joni Ernst (IA) has indicated she is looking to move into this position, opening up the SRC Vice Chair slot. Sen. Ron Johnson (WI) has not ruled out mounting a bid against Sen. Ernst.

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN SENATORIAL COMMITTEE

Likely Chair

Steve Daines (MT)



STATUS

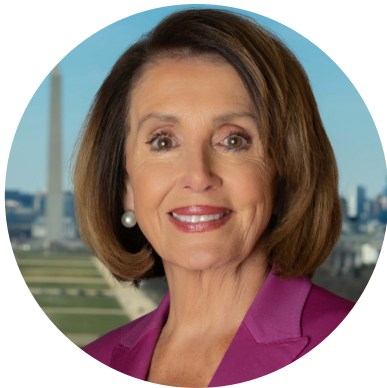
- Sen. Steve Daines (MT) is expected to succeed Sen. Rick Scott (FL) as **NRSC Chair**. He is also 117th Congress ranking member of the **Indian Affairs Committee**. If he wants to serve in both leadership positions, he will have to seek a waiver.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS

DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

CANDIDATES FOR SPEAKER (MAJORITY)/LEADER (MINORITY)

Nancy Pelosi (CA)



Steny Hoyer (MD)



Hakeem Jeffries (NY)



Adam Schiff (CA)



STATUS

- **117th Congress Speaker** Nancy Pelosi (CA) and **Leader** Steny Hoyer (MD) both won reelection. They are expected to decide their future plans by internal leadership elections on November 30. Given recent developments with **Speaker** Pelosi's husband, we could see a retirement, which would set off a chain reaction. Should **Speaker** Pelosi step down, **Democratic Caucus Chair** Hakeem Jeffries (NY) is favored to lead the caucus. **Leader** Hoyer and **Intelligence Committee Chair** Adam Schiff (CA) are reportedly eyeing runs as well.

DEMOCRATIC WHIP AND SENIOR CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

Whip

James Clyburn (SC)



Candidate for Whip

Katherine Clark (MA)



Candidate for Whip

Pramila Jayapal (WA)



STATUS

- **Whip** James Clyburn (SC) and **Assistant Speaker** Katherine Clark both won reelection. **Senior Chief Deputy Whip** GK Butterfield (NC) is retiring, and it is unclear who might replace him.
- Rep. Clyburn could remain **Whip** but is likely waiting to declare his intentions until margins in the House are clear. **Assistant Speaker** Clark and **Progressive Caucus Chair** Pramila Jayapal (WA) might be interested in the role as well.

DEMOCRATIC ASSISTANT SPEAKER

Assistant Speaker
Katherine Clark (MA)



Candidate for Assistant Speaker
Pete Aguilar (CA)



STATUS

- Rep. Katherine Clark (MA) currently serves as **Assistant Speaker** and is thought to be interested in continuing in this role if there is no more senior position open. Assuming there will be other leadership changes, Rep. Pete Aguilar (CA), who currently serves as **Democratic Caucus Vice Chair**, would be likely to run for this position.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

Likely Chair
Joe Neguse (CO)



Candidate for Vice Chair
Debbie Dingell (MI)



Candidate for Vice Chair
Madeleine Dean (PA)



Candidate for Vice Chair
Joyce Beatty (PA)



Candidate for Vice Chair
Ted Lieu (CA)



STATUS

- **Chair** Hakeem Jeffries (NY) will be ineligible to continue in his position per caucus rules. **Democratic Policy and Communications Co-Chair** Joe Neguse (CO) was particularly busy during August recess, suggesting he is positioning himself for the chairmanship. **Democratic Policy and Communications Co-Chair** Debbie Dingell (MI), and Reps. Madeleine Dean (PA), Joyce Beatty (OH), and Ted Lieu (CA) are competing for the **Vice Chair** position.

DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Potential Chair
Joe Neguse (CO)



Potential Co-Chair
Dean Phillips (MN)



Co-Chair



Co-Chair



STATUS

- **Co-Chairs** Matt Cartwright (PA), Debbie Dingell (MI), and Ted Lieu (CA) are not eligible per caucus rules. **Co-Chair** Joe Neguse (CO) may be angling for **Democratic Caucus** Chair. However, if the "Big Three" (**Speaker** Pelosi, **Leader** Hoyer and **Whip** Jim Clyburn) decide to stay, Rep. Neguse may remain in his current position. Rep. Dean Phillips (MN) is also interested in a seat.

DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Candidate for Chair
Ami Bera (CA)



Candidate for Chair
Tony Cardenas (CA)



STATUS

- **Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) Chair** Patrick Maloney (NY) lost reelection. Reps. Ami Bera (CA) and Tony Cardenas (CA) have announced bids for the chairmanship. Rep. Cardenas previously challenged Rep. Maloney for the role.

JUNIOR CAUCUS LEADERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE

Colin Allred (TX)



STATUS

- **CLR** Colin Allred (TX) could continue in his current position. If reelected, Rep. Allred would be in his third term, meaning he would still be eligible to serve under caucus rules. In 2020, Rep. Allred narrowly defeated Rep. Jason Crow (CO) for the position, but Rep. Crow has not indicated interest in running again.

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Co-Chair

Barbara Lee (CA)



Co-Chair

Eric Swalwell (CA)



STATUS

- **Co-Chair** Cheri Bustos (IL) is retiring, creating an open co-chair slot. **Co-Chair** Barbara Lee (CA) and **Co-Chair** Eric Swalwell (CA) could continue to serve as co-chairs. Caucus rules are silent on number of chairs needed for the Steering Committee, meaning there would not have to be three co-chairs.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Likely Speaker
(Majority)/Leader (Minority)
Kevin McCarthy (CA)



Likely Candidate for Leader
(Majority)/Whip (Minority)
Steve Scalise (LA)



Likely Leader
(Majority)/Whip (Minority)
Steve Scalise (LA)



STATUS

- Given the general election results, future GOP leadership may be less certain. 117th Congress **Minority Leader** Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) was expected to be elected **Speaker**. However, Rep. Andy Biggs (R-AZ) is likely to put in his bid as a symbolic move to show **Leader** McCarthy he does not have enough votes. Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY) is also seen as a contender. **Leader** McCarthy is likely to win the House GOP election Tuesday. It is not until January that he must win a majority of the full House. This gives him just over a month to win support from the GOP conference. 117th Congress **Minority Whip** Steve Scalise (R-LA) will likely become **Majority Leader**.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Candidate for Whip
Jim Banks (IN)



Candidate for Whip
Tom Emmer (MN)



Candidate for Whip
Drew Ferguson (GA)



STATUS

- Candidates who are interested in the **Majority Whip** position if Rep. Scalise moves up include **RSC Chair** Jim Banks (IN), **National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) Chair** Tom Emmer (MN), and **Chief Deputy Whip** Drew Ferguson (GA). The race has reportedly shifted to favor Rep. Banks.

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Candidate for HRC Chair

Elise Stefanik (NY)



Candidate for HRC Chair

Byron Donalds (FL)



Likely HRC Vice Chair

Mike Johnson (LA)



STATUS

- Rep. Elise Stefanik (NY) confirmed in early September she is seeking another term as **HRC Chair**. Rep. Stefanik is also being floated around as a potential running mate for President Donald Trump in 2024. Rep. Byron Donalds (FL) is reportedly looking to run for the **HRC Chair**, but he does not present a serious challenge to Rep. Stefanik. **HRC Vice Chair** Mike Johnson (LA) is running for another term unopposed.

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Candidate for HRC Secretary

Lisa McClain (MI)



Candidate for HRC Secretary

Glenn Grothman (WI)



Candidate for HRC Secretary

Andrew Clyde (GA)



STATUS

- **HRC Secretary** Richard Hudson (NC) could remain in this position, although it sounds like he may also be interested in the **National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) Chair** job. Three candidates are seeking his spot: Reps. Lisa McClain (R-MI), Glenn Grothman (R-WI), and Andrew Clyde (R-GA). Rep. McClain is viewed as the favorite.

REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair
Gary Palmer (AL)



STATUS

- **Chairman** Gary Palmer (AL) could continue to serve in this role, and his staff has already indicated he is beginning to plan for the 118th Congress.

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE

Likely NRCC Chair
Richard Hudson (NC)



STATUS

- **NRCC Chair** Tom Emmer (MN) is reportedly interested in the **Whip** position should Republicans take the majority. Rep. Richard Hudson (NC) will likely win the **NRCC Chair** position.

REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE

Likely Chair

Kevin Hern (OK)



STATUS

- **RSC Chair** Jim Banks (IN) may run for **Whip** as **HRC Chair** Elise Stefanik has confirmed she will not, but he could also run for another leadership spot. The chairmanship will likely go to Rep. Kevin Hern (OK).