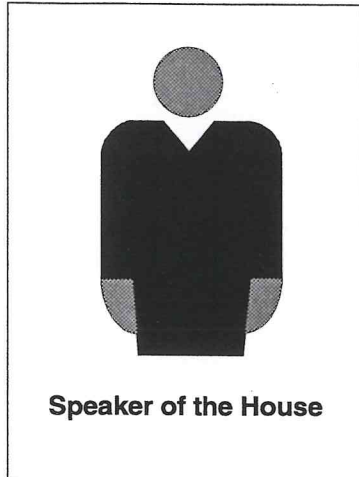


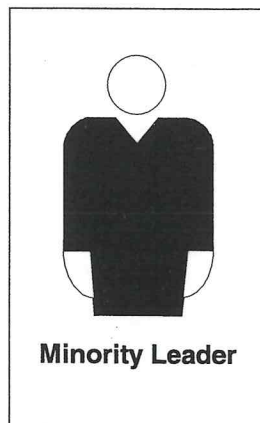
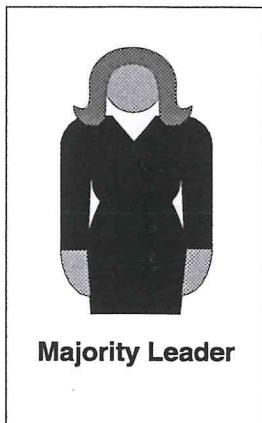
## House of Representatives Leadership

### House of Representatives



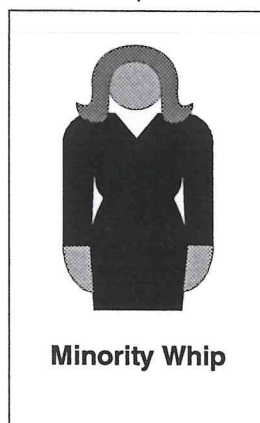
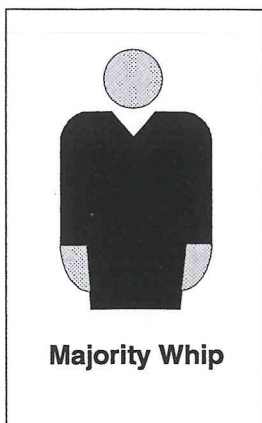
#### Speaker of the House

Chamber's presiding officer  
 Decides points of order  
 Refers bills and resolutions to appropriate House committees  
 Schedules legislation for floor action  
 Appoints House members to select, joint, and House-Senate conference committees



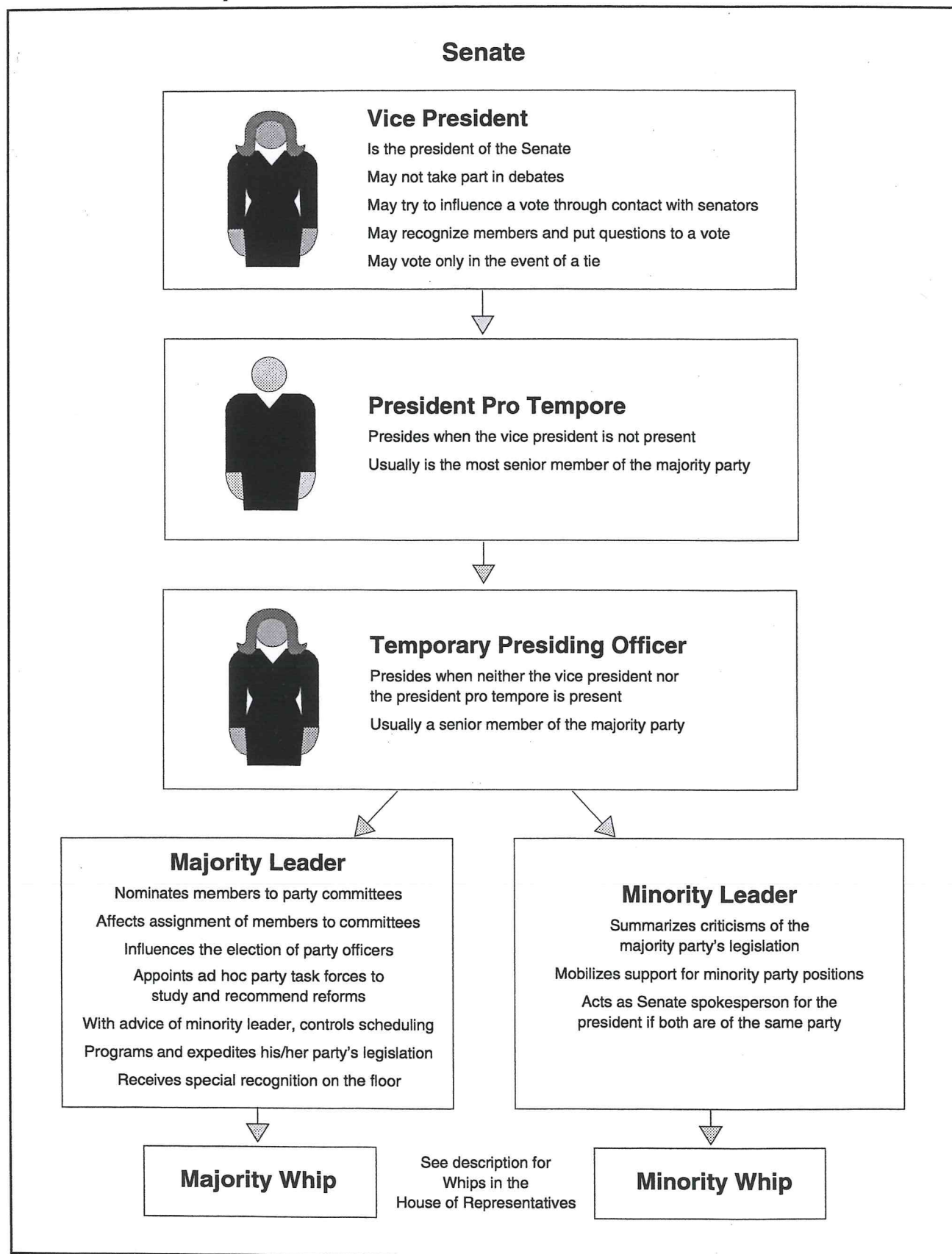
#### Majority Leader & Minority Leader

Appointed by parties to shape and direct the strategy on the House floor  
 Maintain their parties' alliances to garner voting majorities to pass or defeat bills and amendments  
 Formulate the party's legislative program in cooperation with the speaker  
 With other party leaders steer their program through the House  
 Ensure that committee chairs take action on bills



#### Majority Whip & Minority Whip

Each party elects a whip to aid the floor leader in implementing the party's legislative program  
 Help develop a party program  
 Transmit information to party members in the chamber  
 Assist leaders in developing a count and a strategy for key vote  
 Build coalitions to pass bills and amendments  
 Gather intelligence, know where the key votes are, and use persuasive tactics to garner more votes

**STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT: The Legislative Branch****Senate Leadership**

## Congressional Committee System: Overview

The core work of the Congress is accomplished in committees. This is where details of bills are decided, differences are ironed out, and special investigations and specialized reporting are conducted, to name just a few functions. It is the heart and soul of the legislative process.

### Functions Directly Relating to Legislation

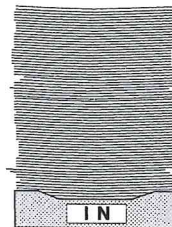
Select from the approximately 20,000 bills presented those that they feel merit further examination. This involves listening to opponents and supporters to determine if a bill has a chance of becoming a law.

Devise and revise legislation on a smaller scale than the full House and Senate.



**Committee's concern:**  
details of legislation

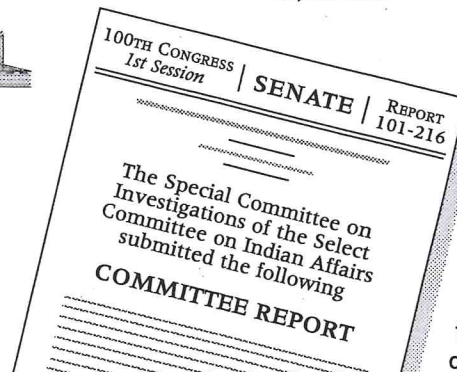
**Full house's concern:**  
overall scope of bill



**Committee in-box:**  
20,000 bills



**Committee out-box:**  
bills worth looking into



**Report**  
recommended legislation to the floor of their chamber

### More General Functions

Survey policy developments

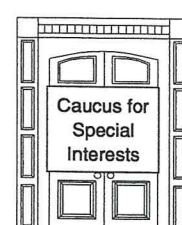
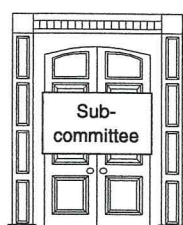
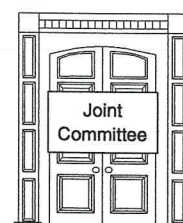
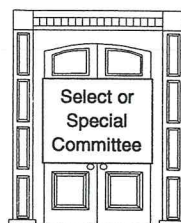
Oversee activities of executive and judicial agencies within their jurisdictions

Enable lawmakers to become specialists in areas that their committees consider

Hold public hearings to enable the populace to become more informed on key issues

### Types of Committees

There are seven different types of committees that carry out this work



## STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT: The Legislative Branch

## Standing Committees, Subcommittees, Special Committees, and Caucuses

*Members of the Senate  
Select Committee on  
Presidential Campaign  
activities (i.e. Watergate  
Committee)*

**DURATION****Standing Committees**

(Example: House Ways & Means Committee)

Permanent status: carry over from one Congress to another

Are written into the rules of the House and Senate

**Subcommittees**

(Example: House Subcommittee on Labor Management Relations of the Education and Labor Committee)

Most are permanent.

**Select or Special Committees**

(Example: Senate Select Watergate Committee)

Temporary: Authorized to operate for only a specific period or until the project for which they were created has been completed. May last one or two Congresses.

**Caucuses for Special Interests**

(Example: Congressional Black Caucus)

Temporary or Permanent

**DESCRIPTION**

Have permanently authorized staff  
Have broad legislative mandates  
Number has increased because of the increased workload of Congress

Subdivisions of committees  
Vary in importance; some function almost autonomously  
Enable members of Congress to develop expertise in specialized fields  
Number has increased because of the increased workload of Congress

Usually investigate pressing problems rather than work on legislation  
Examine key issues of public concern  
Coordinate policy that overlaps the jurisdictions of several standing committees

Officially known as "legislative service organizations" (LSOs)  
Must be registered as an LSO to use congressional office space for meetings  
Cannot receive outside contributions or must sever all ties with the House  
Attempt, sometimes successfully, to influence legislation  
Have proliferated during past several decades

**MEMBERSHIP**

Majority party in each house controls these committees and selects chairpersons. Committee membership is in direct proportion to the number of party members in parent house.

Composed of members of majority and minority parties in the same proportion as on full committees

Composition of committee varies

Members of one party who hold common views on issues that are important to them and their constituents. Members are from both chambers.

## Joint Committees, Conference Committees, and Committee on Committees



### DURATION

#### Joint Committees

(Example: Joint Committee on Taxation)

Temporary or permanent

Four are permanent: Taxation, Economic, Library, and Printing

### DESCRIPTION

Coordinate the work of both houses

Members often research important matters such as defense, taxation, etc.; other times tend to routine matters

### MEMBERSHIP

Members from both houses and from both political parties

Position of chairperson usually rotates between houses

#### Conference Committees

(Example: House and Senate Conference Committee on 1994 Anti-Crime Bill)

Temporary

Dissolved as soon as a final joint version of a bill is agreed on

Type of joint committee

Appointed to resolve differences between House and Senate versions of legislation

With limitations, have power to consider, alter, and report legislation

Members or conferees usually drawn from the original committees where legislation was examined

Chairmanship rotates between houses

#### Committee on Committees

(Example: One committee each for Democrats and Republicans in both Senate and House)

Permanent

Established in 1910 as a response to the growing control in the House of the leadership, especially the speaker

Appoints members to committees

Appointments are then submitted to party caucuses for approval

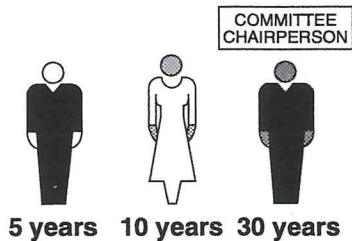
Membership rules vary between House and Senate Democrats and Republicans

## STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT: The Legislative Branch

## Committee Leadership

## How a Chairperson Is Selected: Seniority vs. Election

Initially, committees were given the option of electing their own chair. Once the committee system gained a stronghold in Congress, the chairs rose to their positions through longevity. Custom conferred the position of chairperson on the member of the majority party who had served the longest on the committee.



Because of criticism of the seniority rule in selecting committee chairs, however, House Republicans now select some chairpersons of standing committees by secret ballot. House Democrats now select chairpersons by secret ballot if 20% of their party caucus requests such a vote. Lawmakers may be restricted as to the number and type of chairmanships he or she may hold.



# Washington Chronicle

## HELP WANTED

### Committee Chairperson Sought

U.S. Congress seeks strong committee chairperson.  
As the most powerful member of your committee, you will:

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

- ★ Control your committee's agenda
- ★ Schedule meetings and hearings of the full committee
- ★ Help schedule subcommittee hearings and meetings
- ★ Handle committee's budget and hiring of its staff
- ★ Be expected to sit in regularly on House-Senate conference committees
- ★ Serve as the committee and party spokesperson on issues that fall within your committee area
- ★ Handle related bills on the floor of your chamber
- ★ If selected as a Senate committee chair, you will steer your committee's legislative agenda.
- ★ If selected as a House committee chair, you will have less control over legislation, because of new House rules.
- ★ Salary: \$136,673 per year, non-negotiable. Only members of Congress may apply.

## STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT: The Legislative Branch

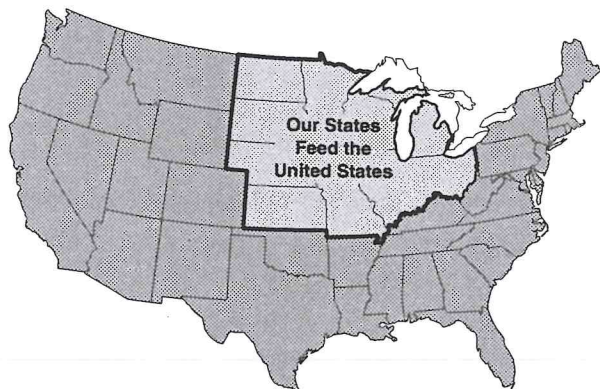
## Criteria in Assignment to a Committee

**Party Loyalty**

Because party caucuses have more control over committee selection, loyalty to the party (voting record) is important. How well a person gets along with the party leaders also is a factor.

**Seniority**

Based on uninterrupted service, seniority still plays a key role in assignment. Seniority on a committee is established by number of years of service on that committee. Seniority cannot be transferred from committee to committee.

**Geographic Location**

When a vacancy occurs on a committee, often the replacement is from the same state. Certain states have special interest in particular committees. For instance, the Midwest states are especially interested in the Agriculture Committee.

**Note:**

To be appointed to an "exclusive" committee, the member must be from a "safe" district—one that allows great independence in decision making.

U. S. Senate CONGRESSIONAL REPORT CARD		
Name	Senator Sam Nunn	State Georgia Party Democrat
SUBJECT	GRADE	CONGRESSIONAL LEADER'S COMMENTS
Defense Policy	A+	Senator Nunn's expertise in defense and armed services issues makes him suitable for leadership of the Armed Services Committee.

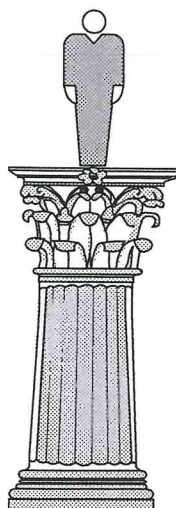
**Special Competence**

Members who develop expertise in a particular area stand a better chance of appointment.

U. S. Senate CONGRESSIONAL REPORT CARD		
Name	Senator Sam Nunn	State Georgia Party Democrat
WORK ATTITUDES AND RELATIONSHIPS	SATISFACTORY	UNSATISFACTORY
Respected by others	X	
Civil toward colleagues	X	
Willing to compromise	X	

**Responsibility & Attitude**

Attitude is a key factor in assignment. Those whose abilities are respected, whose relationships with colleagues are civil, and who are willing to compromise are likely candidates for assignment.

**Personal Preference**

This plays a role in assignment to a committee, albeit a minor one. In fact, since the 83rd Congress (1954-55), the Democrats have stipulated that each new Democratic member of the Senate must be given a committee assignment.