

# What is the *Senate President pro tem*?



## Constitutional Officer

The Constitution establishes only 2 legislative officers of the Senate: Vice President and President pro tem. By tradition, the senior member of the majority party is nominated and elected to serve as President pro tem.

## 3rd in Line to the Presidency

The “**Presidential Succession Act**,” signed into law on July 18, 1947, designates the following offices in the line of succession:

- 1 Vice President**
- 2 Speaker of the House**
- 3 Senate President pro tem**

## Oath of Office

*“I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, that I take this obligation freely, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.”*

- **Chuck Grassley**,  
Senate President pro tem, Jan. 3, 2019

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

**Do you know the qualifications required to serve in the U.S. Senate?**

**100** U.S. Senators. Each state represented by 2 senators

Must be at least **30 years old**

Must be a U.S. citizen for at least **9 years**

**1/3** of Senate seats are on the ballot each cycle; unlike the statutory two-term limit of the presidency, the ballot box determines the number of terms for incumbents seeking re-election.

## Did you know?

U.S. SENATOR **CHUCK GRASSLEY**

- is the longest serving senator in Iowa history
- holds the longest consecutive voting streak in Senate history; and is
- 91st Senate President pro tem

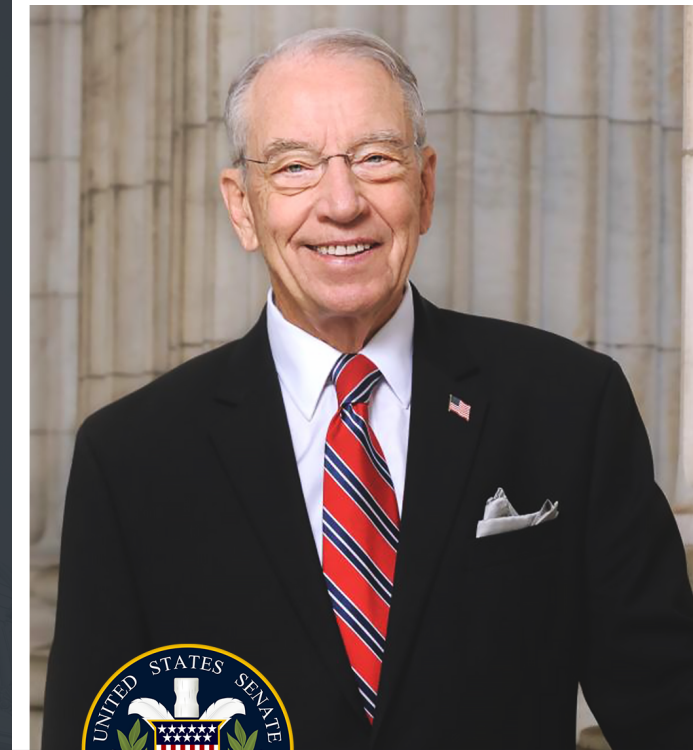
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# President pro tempore

OF THE U.S. SENATE

U.S. Senator **Chuck Grassley**  
*of Iowa*

**PREZ(ə)DƏNT PRŌ 'TEMPƏRĒ/**

pro tempore is Latin “for the time being.” President pro tempore is often referred to as the president pro tem.

(PPT)



**President pro tem Chuck Grassley** enrolls (signs) a bill before it's sent to the White House. The familiar portrait of Abraham Lincoln hanging in the background was painted in 1864 and used as the basis for the image of President Lincoln found on the penny.

## Which two Iowans have served as Senate PPT?

### Albert B. Cummins

68th Senate President pro tem (1919-1925)  
 U.S. Senator (1908-1926)  
 Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee (1924-1926)  
 18th Governor of Iowa (1902-1908)  
 Lawyer, Lawmaker

### Chuck Grassley

91st Senate President pro tem (2019-present)  
 U.S. Senator (1981-present)  
 Chairman, Senate Finance Committee (2001; 2003-2007; 2019-present)  
 Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee (2015-2019)  
 U.S. House of Representatives (1975-1981)  
 Iowa state representative (1959-1975)  
 Farmer, Lawmaker

## What are duties of presiding officer?

In the absence of the vice president (who serves as the President of the Senate), the PPT fulfills the following duties as the presiding officer.



- 1 Gavels open the Senate for business, calls upon Senate chaplain for opening prayer, leads chamber in reciting Pledge of Allegiance;
- 2 Follows parliamentary protocols, precedents and procedures;
- 3 Recognizes senators desiring to speak;
- 4 May decide parliamentary procedures, such as points of order;
- 5 Enforces decorum in Senate chamber and visitors' galleries;
- 6 Gives junior members of the Senate opportunity to learn rules of Senate by taking turns serving as presiding officer.

## What does the PPT do?



Serves as senior statesman of the Senate, works to preserve institutional traditions known as "the world's greatest deliberative body"



Signs bills passed by Congress to send to the White House, known as enrollment



Serves on the Senate leadership team, consults with committee and party leaders to appoint officials, such as the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, and members of trade delegations, commissions, advisory boards and senators to House-Senate conference committees



Represents U.S. Senate in meetings with foreign governments and legislative officials

## How does a bill become a law?



House and Senate passes legislation



Bill signed by Speaker of the House



Bill signed by President pro tem



Sent to White House



Bill signed into law by President