

## APGoPo Unit 5

# LEADERSHIP IN CONGRESS

### ***SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE***

- ☆ Presides over House (MOST POWERFUL MEMBER) – always from majority party (selected by the majority party)
- ☆ Refers bills to appropriate House committees
- ☆ Appoints House members to select, joint, and House-Senate conference committees
- ☆ Appoints Rules Committee members and its chairman
- ☆ Assigns bills to committees
- ☆ Schedules legislation for floor action
- ☆ Influences agenda of the House
- ☆ Third in line for presidency after V.P.
- ☆ Informal powers, e.g., access to media

### ***HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER***

- ☆ Selected by the majority party
- ☆ Appointed by party 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

### ***HOUSE MINORITY LEADER***

- ☆ Selected by the minority party
- ☆ Summarizes criticisms of the majority parties legislation
- ☆ Mobilizes support for minority party positions
- ☆ Acts as House spokesperson for the president if they are from the same party

### ***HOUSE MAJORITY WHIP & MINORITY WHIP***

- ☆ Each party elects a whip to aid the floor leader in implementing the party's legislative program
- ☆ Assistant floor leaders
- ☆ Inform party leaders on "mood" of House
- ☆ Liaison between party leadership and rank and file membership
- ☆ 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

### ***PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE***

- ☆ Role of the Vice President of the United States
- ☆ Presides over Senate
- ☆ May not take part in debates (not an elected member of the Senate)
- ☆ May vote only in the event of a tie
- ☆ Ceremonial job

### ***PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE***

- ☆ Usually the most senior member of the majority party
- ☆ Ceremonial job
- ☆ Presides in absence of the Vice President
- ☆ Fourth in line for presidency

### ***SENATE MAJORITY LEADER***

- ☆ Selected by the majority party
- ☆ MAJORITY LEADER IS THE TRUE LEADER IN SENATE
- ☆ Recognized first for all debates – w/power to filibuster, this gives Majority Leader strong influence on bills
- ☆ Leader of majority party
- ☆ Influences committee assignments of senators
- ☆ Influences Senate agenda, along with Minority Leader
- ☆ Informal powers, e.g., using the media

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