



STANDING RULES *of the* UNITED STATES SENATE

Authored and Sponsored by Majority Leader /u/cubascastrodistrict
(D-FR)

Co-sponsored by President Pro Tempore /u/Polkadot48 (D-GA)

Based on the Rules of the 122nd Senate

Be it resolved by the Senate of the United States of America assembled,

CONTENTS

Rule	Page
I. Oaths	1
II. Floor Leadership	2
III. President Pro Tempore	3
IV. Docket	4
V. Amendments	5
VI. Voting Procedure	6
VII. Committee Establishment	7
VIII. Committee Selection	8
IX. Committee Proceedings	9
X. Committee Hearings	10
XI. Proceedings on Treaties	11
XII. Proceedings on Nominations	12
XIII. Proceedings as Court of Impeachment	13
XIV. Censure	15
XV. Expulsion	16
XVI. Contempt	17
XVII. Legislation Holds	18
XVIII. Closed Sessions	19
XIX. Seniority	20
XX. Usage of Rules	21
XXI. Amendments to Rules	22
Appendices	23

Rule I.

Oaths

1. The oaths or affirmations required by the Constitution and prescribed by law shall be taken and subscribed by each Senator, in open Senate, before entering upon his duties.
 - a. “I, A__ B__, do solemnly swear (or affirm) 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 any 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.” (5 U.S.C. 3331.)

Rule II.

Floor Leadership

1. The Senate Majority Leader shall have general control over order and procedure. This includes, but is not limited to scheduling committee assignments and floor proceedings, reordering the docket, and extending the time to vote for any period of time for floor amendment proposals, floor amendment votes, or floor votes.
2. The Senate Majority Leader shall have the authority to adjourn or recess the Senate and to call sessions of any length, including pro forma sessions.
3. Upon the start of a new Congressional term, the Senate shall hold an election for the office of Senate Majority Leader by a vote of all Senators.
 - a. The candidate receiving the most votes is the Senate Majority Leader, but if there are multiple candidates each with the same number of votes, the Vice President shall decide which of those candidates becomes Majority Leader.
 - b. The candidate receiving the second most votes is the Senate Minority Leader, but if there are multiple runners-up each with the same number of votes, the Senate Majority Leader shall decide which of those candidates becomes Minority Leader.
 - c. If there is one candidate, the Senate Majority Leader shall appoint a Senator of the minority caucus to serve as Senate Minority Leader.
 - d. If no winner is determined, a second ballot shall proceed, and the lowest voting earner shall be eliminated.
4. A single combined re-caucus for the positions of Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, and President Pro Tempore can be issued by both the Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader informing the Senate Clerk.
5. A single combined re-caucus for the positions of Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, and President Pro Tempore can be issued by a resolution with a majority of Senators sponsoring or co-sponsoring such resolution, although such resolution may not be rushed.
6. Should the office of Senate Majority Leader become vacant, the Senate shall hold an election to determine a new Senate Majority Leader and a new Senate Minority Leader.
7. Should the office of Senate Minority Leader fall vacant in any situation except for a re-caucus, then the Senate Majority Leader shall appoint a Senator of the minority caucus to serve as Senate Minority Leader.
8. The Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader may resign from their positions without resigning from their Senate seat.
9. The Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader may also serve as Chairs of committees

Rule III.

President Pro Tempore

1. Upon the start of a new Congressional term, the Senate shall hold an election for the office of President Pro Tempore by a vote of all Senators.
 - a. The candidate receiving the most votes is the President Pro Tempore, but if there are multiple candidates each with the same number of votes, the Senate Majority Leader shall decide which of those candidates becomes President Pro Tempore.
 - b. If no winner is determined, a second ballot shall proceed, and the lowest voting earner shall be eliminated.
2. A re-caucus for the position of President Pro Tempore can be issued by both the Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader informing the Senate Clerk, or by a majority resolution.
3. Should the office of President Pro Tempore become vacant, the Senate shall hold an election to determine a new President Pro Tempore.
4. The President Pro Tempore may resign from their positions without resigning from their Senate seat.

Rule IV.

Docket

1. No one shall submit legislation to the Senate who is not currently serving as a United States Senator or President of the Senate. A Senator may sponsor legislation authored by a non-Senator which will allow it to be submitted to the Senate.
2. Any Senator or President of the Senate may submit a piece of legislation to the Senate in the manner prescribed by the Senate Clerk.
3. Legislation shall be added to the Senate docket in the order in which it was submitted.
4. The Senate Majority Leader may rush any legislation (including treaties and nominations) to an amendment proposal or Senate floor vote by informing the Senate Clerk. The Senate Majority Leader may rush a nomination to a Senate floor vote by informing the Senate Clerk. The Senate Majority Leader may alter the order of legislation (including treaties and nominations) on the docket by informing the Senate Clerk.
5. The Senate Majority Leader shall determine the floor docket and calendar of the Senate for all action to proceed.
6. Legislation originating from the House of Representatives shall be treated the same as Senate legislation and all rules applying to Senate legislation shall apply to it as well.
7. The Senate Clerk shall determine the minimum number of pieces of legislation originating from the House of Representatives that must be introduced in each week that legislation originating from the Senate is introduced.

Rule V.
Amendments

1. No Senator shall propose an amendment which:
 - a. Contains any significant matter not within the jurisdiction of the committee where the amendment is being proposed if it is proposed during the committee amendment stage.
 - b. Strikes all significant portions (where a significant portion is taken to mean all sections, excluding any definitions, short title, or other procedural section) of a part of legislation.
 - c. Strikes the enacting clause or amends the enacting clause to a date further than ten years beyond the implementation date of the legislation, or otherwise significantly delays the enactment of the legislation beyond what is just and reasonable
 - d. Significantly negates the purpose of the legislation.
 - e. Strikes particular tenses, letters, or other grammatical functions to make the legislation incoherent.
 - f. Adds non-germane and/or absurd sections to the legislation to ensure its failure.
 - g. Alters the legislation such that it violates the provisions of the United States Constitution.
 - h. Generally alters the language of the legislation in a manner unduly severe or contrary to the original purpose of the legislation.
2. This rule shall be interpreted and enforced by the Chair of a Committee within their committee, but their ruling can be overruled by that of the Senate Majority Leader, who may also appropriately sanction Senators in violation.
3. This rule shall be interpreted and enforced by the Senate Majority Leader outside of committees, who may appropriately sanction Senators in violation.

Rule VI.
Voting Procedure

1. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Senators duly chosen and sworn.
2. All voting periods (including amendment proposals) have a minimum length of 48 hours from their time of posting by the Senate Clerk.
3. The Senate Majority Leader may lengthen any voting period (including amendment proposals) prior to the voting period beginning or during the voting period by informing the Senate Clerk.
4. The Chair of a Committee may lengthen any voting period (including amendment proposals) within their committee prior to the voting period beginning or during the voting period by informing the Senate Clerk, but the Senate Majority Leader may overrule such lengthening.
5. During a voting period, a Senator must vote either in the affirmative by commenting 'yea', in the unaffirmative by commenting 'nay', or may declare themselves present but not voting in either the affirmative or unaffirmative, by commenting 'present' or 'abstain'.
 - a. Amendments to bills in either committee or floor votes shall be considered passed with a simple majority of quorum.
6. No Senator shall delete or remove their vote, but a Senator may change their vote in a manner prescribed by the Senate Clerk

Rule VII.

Committee Establishment

1. There is established a Standing Committee on Veteran Affairs, Foreign Relations, and Armed Services, which shall have jurisdiction over measures relating to the following: the armed forces, foreign relations and treaties, homeland security and governmental affairs, issues of defense and war, veteran affairs, and federal intelligence operations, and its oversight. This committee may be referred to as the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Armed Services.
2. There is established a Standing Committee on Commerce, Finance, Labor, and Pensions, which shall have jurisdiction over measures relating to the following: appropriations and budgeting, revenue and government finance, banking, the currency, labor, interstate commerce, trade, pensions and Social Security, social welfare, small businesses, and education. This committee may be referred to as the Senate Committee on Finance.
3. There is established a Standing Committee on Health, Science, and the Environment, which shall have jurisdiction over measures relating to the following: agriculture, nutrition, forestry, civil space matters, science, transportation, energy, natural resources, the environment and conservation, public works, public health, and healthcare. This committee may be referred to as the Senate Committee on The Environment and Healthcare.
4. There is established a Standing Committee on Judiciary, Local Government, and Oversight, which shall have jurisdiction over measures relating to the following: local government, the Federal District, the judiciary, government ethics, and government oversight and accountability. This committee may be referred to as the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.
5. The Senate Majority Leader may create any number of special committees to address a particular concern with themselves or their designee as Chair and any number of Senators as members and may also dismiss such special committees at any time.

Rule VIII.
Committee Selection

1. Each standing committee shall be composed of five senators, with each Senator serving on two different committees.
2. Each Senator must caucus with either the Senate Majority Leader or the Senate Minority Leader for the purposes of committee selection.
3. The Senate Majority Leader shall assign places on each committee for each party proportional to the overall party composition of the Senate.
4. The Senate Majority Leader shall assign Senators into places in each committee corresponding to their political party for Senators caucusing with the Majority Leader.
5. The Senate Minority Leader shall assign Senators into places in each committee corresponding to their political party for Senators caucusing with the Minority Leader.
6. The Majority Leader shall select the Chair of each committee.
7. The Minority Leader shall select the Ranking Member of each committee unless there are not enough Senators caucusing with the Minority Leader in any committee, in which case the Senate Majority Leader shall select the Ranking Member for the appropriate number of committees and the Minority Leader shall select the remaining Ranking Members.
8. Upon the vacancy of a committee Chairmanship, the Majority Leader shall select one member of that committee to become Chair.
9. Upon the vacancy of a committee Ranking Membership, the Minority Leader shall select one member of that committee to become Ranking Member unless there are not enough Senators caucusing with the Minority Leader in any caucus, in which case the Senate Majority Leader shall select the Ranking Member for the appropriate number of committees and the Minority Leader shall select the remaining Ranking Members.
10. Committees shall be completely re-established in accordance with this rule upon any successful re-caucusing of the Senate Majority Leader.
11. The Senate Majority Leader may modify committee assignments or Chairmanships in accordance with this rule at any time by informing the Senate Clerk.
12. The Senate may create and abolish committees, reform their jurisdictions, or change the leadership and membership on any or all committees by a Senate Resolution passed by a majority of the Senate.
13. Senators which replace other Senators shall take that Senator's committee assignments, but not their positions of either Chair or Ranking Member.
14. A Senator may not be Chair or Ranking Member of more than one of the five established standing committees.

Rule IX.

Committee Proceedings

1. A majority of the members of a committee shall constitute a quorum of that committee.
2. Committees shall have the power:
 - a. To amend legislation within their committee, to deem a measure fit for consideration on the Senate floor, to deem a measure unfit for consideration on the Senate floor, to report measures to the Senate floor.
 - b. To hold hearings, to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such correspondence, books, papers, and documents, or to take such testimony on any matter falling under its jurisdiction.
3. Committees shall wield these powers by a simple majority of a quorum.
4. While legislation (including treaties and nominations) is on the docket, the Senate Majority Leader may contact the Senate Clerk to inform them as to which committee, if any, the legislation should be assigned to. Otherwise, the Senate Clerk shall send legislation to an appropriate committee.
 - a. Notwithstanding any other Rule, if the Senate Majority Leader and the Chair of the Committee on Finance agree, they may require that a piece of legislation which contains an appropriation of any amount must be considered by the Committee on Finance, in addition to any other Committees as determined by the appropriate authority outlined in these Rules.
5. Legislation may proceed to the Senate floor without first being referred to a committee by the Senate Majority Leader informing the Senate Clerk.
6. The Chair of each committee may send legislation not currently in amendment proposal or amendment votes in their committees straight to a committee vote by informing the Senate Clerk.

Rule X.

Committee Hearings

1. The Chair, or a majority, of a committee may, at any time hold a hearing by informing the Senate Clerk, but the Majority Leader may cancel such committee hearing at their own discretion by informing the Senate Clerk.
2. The Chair, or a majority, of a committee may, at any time require by a subpoena the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondences, memoranda, papers, and documents as it considers necessary by informing the Senate Clerk, but the Senate Majority Leader may void such subpoena at their own discretion by informing the Senate Clerk.
3. All members of a committee shall be entitled during a hearing conducted pursuant to this rule to ask germane, decorous and non-prejudicial questions of the subject or other witnesses, subject to the oversight of the Chair and any reasonable restrictions that he or she may prescribe.
4. Committee hearings shall be open to the public, unless the Chair, or a majority of the committee, elects to hold a closed hearing.
5. A hearing may be conducted in closed session without dissemination of any records to non-members of the committee, excepting the Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader, if the Chair deems that overriding national security circumstances dictate such an outcome.
6. Following a hearing, the Chair shall prepare and release a full report detailing the findings of the hearing and suggested actions to be taken in response to the findings. The Ranking Member may request to prepare an additional findings report with the permission of the Chair, but the Majority Leader may overrule the Chair's decision on the request. The report may be released solely to the Majority Leader, Minority Leader, and relevant officials in the case of a closed hearing.

Rule XI.

Proceedings on Treaties

1. When a treaty shall be laid before the Senate for ratification, it shall, only once ordered by the Senate Majority Leader, be referred directly to the Senate floor, unless otherwise prescribed by the Majority Leader.
2. On the final question to advise and consent to the ratification in the form agreed to, the concurrence of two-thirds of the Senators present shall be necessary to determine it in the affirmative.

Rule XII.

Proceedings on Nominations

1. When nominations shall be made by the President of the United States, they shall, only once ordered by the Senate Majority Leader, be referred to appropriate committees, as determined by Appendix A, for a committee vote before being reported to the Senate floor, unless otherwise prescribed by the Majority Leader.
 - a. There shall be a binding vote on that nominee where a majority of the committee in favor shall approve the nominee for a report to the Senate floor. Should a majority of the committee not be in favor the committee shall not approve the nominee for a report to the Senate floor.
 - b. The Senate Majority Leader may prescribe that a public or private hearing with the nominee precede the vote on the nominee by informing the Senate Clerk.
 - c. The Chair may prescribe that a private committee hearing with the nominee precede the vote on the nominee by informing the Senate Clerk, but the Majority Leader may cancel or extend or reduce the length of such committee hearing at their own discretion by informing the Senate Clerk.
2. Nominations neither confirmed nor rejected during the session at which they are made shall not be acted upon at any succeeding session without being again made to the Senate by the President; and if the Senate shall adjourn or take a recess for more than thirty days, all nominations pending and not finally acted upon at the time of taking such adjournment or recess shall be returned by the Senate Clerk to the President, and shall not again be considered unless they shall again be made to the Senate by the President.

Rule XIII.

Proceedings as Court of Impeachment

1. The House shall inform the Clerk of the Senate upon the impeachment of an official through the transmission of the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate. The Clerk of the Senate shall inform the house the day the next legislative cycle shall occur, for Managers of the House to present the articles to the Senate, although such articles may only be considered by the Senate or any of its committees at the discretion of the Senate Majority Leader who must comment on the appropriate thread for consideration to begin.
2. Should the impeached individual be the President of the United States, the Senate shall call upon the Chief Justice of the United States to appear and preside over the Senate when standing as a Court of Impeachment.
3. Should the impeached individual not be the President of the United States, the Senate shall call upon the President of the Senate to appear and preside over the Senate when standing as a Court of Impeachment.
4. Regardless of the impeached individual, the following process shall be used:
 - a. The Clerk of the Senate shall create a live thread, add all members of the Senate, and the presiding officer of the Senate standing as the Court of Impeachment.
 - b. The Senate Clerk shall administer the oath of impartiality and then provide the gavel to the presiding officer of the Senate standing as the Court of Impeachment.
 - c. The presiding officer of the Court of Impeachment shall administer the oath of impartiality to all senators in as the jury in the Court of Impeachment:
 - i. “I, A__ B__, solemnly swear (or affirm) that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of A__ B__, now pending, I will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws: so help me God.”
 - ii. If any Senator is absent, they shall swear the oath of impartiality upon their appearance.
5. Upon the Senate, while standing as the Court of Impeachment, having been presented the articles, the Senate shall provide trial-specific rules governing the proceedings of the trial. The rules proposed by the Majority Leader, or their designee shall be immediately considered and rushed for debate by solely the Managers of the House and the Counsel to the Impeached. The Yeas and Nays shall be taken. If a majority vote to adopt these rules, the rules shall take precedence over all other proposals.
6. Managers of the House or the Counselors to the Impeached Individual may motion to subpoena an individual to appear before the Senate standing as a Court of Impeachment for questioning, presentation of documents, or whatever requested of the counselors, by a majority vote of the Senators Present and duly sworn. Upon the motion to subpoena an individual or items, the Clerk of the Senate shall transmit the order to the respective individual.

7. Upon the conclusion of closing arguments by both parties, the Senate standing as the Court of Impeachment shall be provided 2 days to deliberate in closed session upon a majority voting to close the doors and deliberate in a respective closed-door channel in the Discord. Upon two days concluding, the Senate shall vote to open the doors and provide remarks into the record, if they wish, in a Respective floor remarks thread, solely dedicated to their remarks on the Trial. This thread shall not extend for 2 days.
 - a. During this thread, a member of the Senate, with a sufficient second may move to dismiss a specific article. Upon a majority voting in the affirmative after 2 days, the Senate shall render a dismissal of the charge specific to the article in question. Upon a vote in the negative, there shall be no reconsideration of dismissal and shall be non-appealable.
8. Upon the conclusion of the trial and all periods for remarks and deliberations, the Senate standing as the Court of Impeachment shall cast their votes on each Article of Impeachment.
 - a. The Presiding officer shall order the clerk to read the articles in the voting thread. Each article shall have an individual voting thread. The voting thread shall read:
 - i. “The Question is on the #th Article of Impeachment. Senators, how say you, find the respondent: A__ B__, GUILTY or NOT GUILTY on Impeachment Article #?”
 - ii. The clerk shall then provide the article below the question.
 - b. The Court of Impeachment shall cast their votes by rendering the following votes: “Guilty”, “Not Guilty”, or “Present”.
 - c. The vote may be extended by any length at the discretion of the Senate Majority Leader by commenting on the appropriate thread.
 - d. 7 votes shall be required, or 2/3rds of Senators sworn in shall be required to render a guilty verdict on any Article of Impeachment.
9. Pursuant to the Constitution, upon a guilty verdict being rendered on any article, the Clerk shall provide a voting thread providing the following: “Should the Defendant, A__ B__ be forever disqualified from holding and enjoying any Office of Honor, Trust, or Profit Under the United States?”
10. Upon all voted being provided, the Senate standing as the Court of Impeachment shall adjourn sine die. And all prior business before the senate shall resume.

Rule XIV.

Censure

1. The censure of any Senator shall result in a suspension of committee membership for three weeks and the loss of any leadership positions within the Senate for the remainder of the term.
2. All resolutions seeking to censure a Senator or Senators shall automatically be rushed to a floor vote.
 - 2.1. Resolutions seeking to censure the Senate Majority Leader or Senate Minority Leader may not be rushed.
3. Each Senator is limited to submitting one censure resolution a month.

Rule XV.

Expulsion

1. A member may provide a resolution to the docket expelling a member from the Senate pursuant to Article Article I, Section 5, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States.
2. The Senate Majority Leader shall have the authority to, at their own discretion, rule on resolutions expelling a member from the Senate which do not have sound legal basis. Upon such ruling, the resolution in question shall not be considered.
3. Two-thirds of the Senate shall be required to vote in the affirmative for any expulsion to take place.
4. Each Senator is limited to submitting one expulsion resolution a month.

Rule XVI.
Contempt

1. An individual is in contempt of Congress if:
 - a. They refuse to comply with an active subpoena and give testimony or produce documents required by a committee.
 - b. They mislead or materially obstruct a committee of the House on any question pertinent to the inquiry.
 - c. They act in a manner that outrages, insults, or attacks the dignity and authority of the Senate or is otherwise violative of these rules.
 - d. They refuse to answer any question pertinent to the inquiry.
2. An individual who is in contempt of Congress may be cited by the committee chair, subject to the agreement of the Senate Majority Leader. The chair shall present to the committee a written contempt citation containing factual findings detailing the individual's contemptuous actions and how they have materially hindered an inquiry of the committee, upon which a vote shall be held. If a majority of members present and voting of the committee vote to affirm the citation, the Senate Majority Leader may present the citation to the Attorney General with the recommendation to initiate criminal prosecution.
3. The Senate Majority Leader may, under the inherent authority of the Senate of the United States, direct that the Sergeant-at-Arms arrest the individual in question and present them to the full Senate for trial. Upon presentment, a trial shall be held with the President of the Senate presiding where the committee chair who issued the citation, or a designated senator, shall present the evidence underlying the citation, and the individual or their counsel shall then be afforded an opportunity to present a defense. At the trial's conclusion, the full Senate shall by a majority vote of members present and voting order that the individual is convicted. The procedures, presentation of evidence, decorum, presentation, shall be prescribed by a resolution determining the rules of presentation and all action by resolution or may defer to the Federal Rules of Criminal Practice and Procedure.
4. An individual convicted under the inherent authority of the Senate of the United States shall be remanded to the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms and subject, at the discretion of the Senate Majority Leader, to punitive imprisonment for a term not exceeding the life of the Congress, or to coercive imprisonment, or to a fine not exceeding \$100,000.

Rule XVII.

Legislation Holds

5. A Senator may hold the floor in order to prevent a piece of legislation (including treaties and nominations) from progressing.
6. A hold shall begin when a Senator comments on the thread designated by the Senate Clerk with the phrase “I am starting a hold on [Legislation Title]”.
 - a. [Legislation Title] shall refer to the type and number of bill, for example, S. 420.
 - b. Any senator may submit a hold on legislation during amendment proposals or amendment votes. A hold on treaties and nominations may be started during amendment proposals or amendment votes, if applicable, and during Senate floor votes, respectively.
7. A hold does not prevent any Senator from taking action they normally would be able to on legislation (including treaties and nominations) including, but not limited to, voting, proposing amendments, and voting on amendments.
8. Once a Senator has started a hold. The legislation (including treaties and nominations) will not proceed out of its current phase until the holding Senator ends their hold or at least 6 other Senators indicate that they are ending the hold. Ending a hold in this manner ends all currently active holds on the legislation (including treaties and nominations).
 - a. The only exception to ending a hold not explicitly stated in the above section, is when the Senate Majority Leader and Senate Minority Leader agree to end a hold.
9. Once a hold has been ended; The legislation (including treaties and nominations) will proceed to the next legislative phase unless the hold was ended within 48 hours from the original posting of the legislation (including treaties and nominations) in which case the phase remains open for all usual action including another hold.
10. No Senator may initiate a Hold on the same legislation (including treaties and nominations) consecutively.
11. If, due to action by the Senate Majority Leader, legislation (including treaties or nominations) has no amendment proposal phase or amendment vote phase then a hold may be started only within 48 hours of the original posting of the legislation’s (including treaties and nominations) floor vote phase.
12. A senator may only have 3 active holds at any given time.
13. Legislation (including treaties) can not be resubmitted or put up for discussion if it is on hold, for the purpose of getting around said hold.
14. Legislation (including treaties), if still on hold at the end of the term, shall be withdrawn from the docket.

Rule XVIII.

Closed Sessions

1. On a motion made to close the doors of the Senate, on the discussion of any business which may, in the opinion of the Senate Majority Leader or a majority of Senators, require secrecy, the Presiding Officer shall direct the galleries to be cleared; and during the discussion of such motion the doors shall remain closed.
2. No matters concerning the discussion of classified materials dealing with National Security or active troop movements not made public shall be discussed in open session.

Rule XIX.

Seniority

1. The Seniority date of each Senator is calculated in the first instance as the date on which the Oath is taken by the Senator that began their current, continuous service in the Senate. Those Senators taking the Oath earlier are more senior than Senators taking the Oath later. For the purposes of this rule, only the calendar day and year are considered and not hours, minutes, seconds, or any smaller denomination of time.
2. In the event that two or more Senators took the Oath on the same date the more senior is the Senator whose state they represent entered the Union earlier.
3. In the event that two or more Senators took the Oath on the same date and the state they represent entered the Union on the same date the more senior is the Senator who has a longer length of service in the positions described in Appendix B based on hierarchy. Any amount of service in a higher office will make that Senator more senior than a longer length of service in a lower office.

Rule XX.

Usage of Rules

1. Any power a Senator, Chair, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, President Pro Tempore, or the President of the Senate is granted within these rules, that is not pertinent to normal Senate business, must be made as a comment on the appropriate thread while pinging the Senate Clerk.
2. In the event of an ambiguity or contradiction within the Senate Rules, the President Pro Tempore may issue an interpretation of the Senate Rules that solves the problem. A member of the Senate, with sufficient second, may move to appeal the ruling of the President Pro Tempore by majority vote.

Rule XXI.

Amendments to Rules

1. No motion to suspend, modify, or amend any Senate rule, or any part thereof, shall be in order, except on two days' notice specifying precisely the rule or part proposed to be suspended, modified, or amended, and the purpose thereof. Any rule may be suspended without notice by the unanimous consent of the Senate, except as otherwise provided in these rules.
2. The rules of the Senate shall continue from one Congress to the next Congress unless they are changed by amendment in accordance with this rule.

Appendix A.

Standing Committee on Commerce, Finance, and Labor

1. Secretary of the Treasury

Standing Committee on Health, Science, and the Environment

1. Secretary of Health and Human Services
2. Secretary of the Interior

Standing Committee on Judiciary, Local Government, and Oversight

1. Attorney General
2. Supreme Court Justices

Standing Committee on Veteran Affairs, Foreign Relations, and Armed Services

1. Secretary of State
2. Secretary of Defense

Appendix B.

1. Former Senator
2. Former President
3. Former Vice President
4. Former House Representative
5. Former cabinet Secretary
6. Former state Governor
7. Population of state based on the most recent census when the Senator took office