

SENATE MAJORITY LEADERS, 1959-2017¹

Senator	Hometown	District	Session Years
Frank D. Beadle	St. Clair	34	1959-1962
Stanley G. Thayer	Ann Arbor	33	1963-1964
Raymond D. Dzendzel	Detroit	7	1965-1966
Emil Lockwood	St. Louis	30	1967-1970
Robert VanderLaan	Kentwood	31	1971-1974
Milton Zaagman	Grand Rapids	32	1974
William B. Fitzgerald	Detroit	1	1975-1976
William Faust	Westland	13	1976-1984
John M. Engler	Mt. Pleasant	35	1984-1990
Richard Posthumus	Alto	31	1991-1998
Dan L. DeGrow	Port Huron	27	1999-2002
Ken Sikkema	Grandville	28	2003-2006
Michael D. Bishop	Rochester	12	2007-2010
Randy Richardville	Monroe	17	2011-2014
Arlan B. Meekhof	West Olive	30	2015-

¹ The Standing Rules of the Senate adopted in January 1959 were the first rules to provide for the election of a Majority Leader by the majority caucus. The rules adopted in 1961 and 1963 changed the position's name to Majority Caucus Chairman, but subsequent rules once again referred to Majority Leader. Not until 1979, with a revision of the Senate Rules, did the Senate Majority Leader gain the authority to name the members to committees.

PRESIDENTS PRO TEMPORE OF THE STATE SENATE, 1835-2017¹

Senator	County of Residence	District	Session Years
John S. Barry	St. Joseph	3	1835-1836
Jonathan D. Davis	Wayne	1	1837
John S. Barry	St. Joseph	3	1838
Benjamin B. Kercheval ²	Wayne	1	1839
Thomas J. Drake ³	Genesee	3	1840-1841
James Kingsley	Washtenaw	2	1842
William L. Greenly	Lenawee	3	1842-1843
Edwin M. Cust	Livingston	2	1844
William T. Howell	Hillsdale	3	1845
Flavius J. Littlejohn	Allegan	5	1846
Charles P. Bush ⁴	Livingston	2	1847
Samuel Denton	Washtenaw	2	1848
Alvin N. Hart	Lapeer	6	1849
Jonathan P. King	Mackinac	6	1850
Michael Shoemaker	Jackson	2	1851
George R. Griswold ⁵	Wayne	1	1853
Alonzo Cressy	Hillsdale	15	1855
Perley Bills	Lenawee	11	1857-1858
Omar D. Conger	St. Clair	26	1859
Joseph R. Williams ⁶	St. Joseph	16	1861
Henry T. Backus	Wayne	3	1861
Byron G. Stout	Oakland	5	1862
Charles M. Croswell	Lenawee	10, 8 ⁷	1863-1867
William B. Williams	Allegan	17	1869-1870
Alfred B. Wood ⁸	Saginaw	26	1871
Philip H. Emerson	Calhoun	11	1872
J. Webster Childs	Washtenaw	4	1873-1874
John K. Boies	Lenawee	6	1875
Charles D. Nelson	Muskegon	26	1877
William Chamberlain	Berrien	13	1879
William E. Ambler	Oceana	27	1881-1882
Archibald Buttars	Charlevoix	28	1883
James W. Belknap	Montcalm	21	1885
Charles J. Monroe	Montcalm	10	1887
William Ball ⁹	Livingston	13	1889
Chauncey W. Wisner ¹⁰	Saginaw	18	1891
Aaron B. Brown	Montcalm	23	1892
Samuel W. Hopkins	Isabella	25	1893
Joseph R. McLaughlin ¹¹	Wayne	3	1895
John L. Preston	Lapeer	21	1897-1898
Robert B. Loomis	Kent	16	1899-1901

**PRESIDENTS PRO TEMPORE
OF THE STATE SENATE, 1835-2017 (Cont.)**

Senator	County of Residence	District	Session Years
Oramel B. Fuller	Delta	30	1903
Cassius L. Glasgow	Barry	15	1905
Michael H. Moriarty	Iron	31	1907
Fred R. Ming	Cheboygan	29	1909
Fred B. Kline	Lenawee	19	1911-1912
Frank D. Scott	Alpena	29	1913
Walter R. Taylor	Kalamazoo	6	1915
J. Lee Morford	Otsego	29	1917
Charles B. Scully	Lapeer	21	1919
Walter J. Hayes	Wayne	1	1921-1923
George M. Condon	Wayne	4	1925-1926
Augustus H. Gansser	Bay	24	1927-1929
Norman B. Horton	Lenawee	19	1931-1932
Leon D. Case	Berrien	7	1933-1934
Adolph F. Heidkamp	Houghton	32	1935-1936
William Palmer	Genesee	13	1937-1938
Felix H. H. Flynn	Wexford	27	1939
D. Hale Brake	Montcalm	25	1941-1942
George P. McCallum	Washtenaw	12	1943-1944
Harry F. Hittle	Ingham	14	1945-1948, 1953-1956
Harold D. Tripp	Allegan	8	1949-1950
Don Vander Werp	Newaygo	26	1951-1952
Frank Andrews	Montmorency	29	1957-1958
Charles T. Prescott	Ogemaw	28	1959-1960
Perry W. Greene	Kent	16	1961-1962
John P. Smeekens	Branch	9	1963-1964
John T. Bowman	Macomb	26	1965-1966
Thomas F. Schweigert ¹²	Emmet	37	1967-1970
Milton Zaagman ¹³	Kent	32	1971-1974
L. Harvey Lodge	Oakland	17	1974
John T. Bowman ¹⁴	Macomb	27	1975-1977
Jack Faxon	Wayne	7	1977-1982
Jackie Vaughn III	Wayne	3	1983
Harry A. DeMaso	Calhoun	20	1984-1986
Nick Smith	Hillsdale	19	1987-1990
Vernon J. Ehlers ¹⁵	Kent	32	1991-1994
John J. H. Schwarz, M.D. ¹⁶	Calhoun	24	1994-2002
Patricia L. Birkholz	Allegan	24	2003-2006
Randy Richardville	Monroe	17	2007-2010
Tonya Schuitmaker	Van Buren	20	2011-

¹ The president pro tem acts as the presiding officer of the state senate in the absence of the president of the senate, the lieutenant governor. Chosen by senate peers, the president pro tem is currently elected at the first session of the quadrennium. When acting as the presiding officer, the powers and duties of the post are defined by the adopted rules of the senate.

² Elected April 20, 1839, last day of the session year.

³ Elected April 1, 1840, last day of session year; assumed duties of president of senate when Lieutenant Governor James W. Gordon became acting governor February 24, 1841.

⁴ Assumed duties of president of senate when Lieutenant Governor William L. Greenly became acting governor March 4, 1847.

⁵ Assumed duties of president of senate when Lieutenant Governor Andrew Parsons became acting governor March 7, 1853.

⁶ Assumed duties of president of senate upon resignation of James Birney as lieutenant governor April 3, 1861; died 1861, and succeeded by Henry T. Backus May 8, 1861.

⁷ Act 162 of 1861, Laws of Michigan, apportioned a section of Lenawee County into District 10; that same portion of Lenawee County was apportioned as District 8 by Act 220 of 1865, Laws of Michigan.

⁸ Resigned March 29, 1872; succeeded by Philip H. Emerson.

⁹ Assumed duties of president of senate upon death of Lieutenant Governor James H. MacDonald.

¹⁰ Resigned July 3, 1891; succeeded by Aaron B. Brown August 6, 1892.

¹¹ Assumed duties of president of senate upon resignation of Lieutenant Governor Alfred Milnes May 31, 1895.

¹² See Opinion of the Attorney General, No. 4625, April 22, 1968, and Act 8 of 1969. Assumed title of president of senate and acting lieutenant governor March 20, 1970.

¹³ Resigned January 22, 1974, and succeeded by L. Harvey Lodge.

¹⁴ Resigned from senate February 1, 1977; succeeded by Jack Faxon.

¹⁵ Resigned from senate effective January 13, 1994.

¹⁶ Elected president pro tempore of the senate February 3, 1994.