

# Four of the top five GOP leaders reach term-limits in 2018, McConnell may become the longest serving GOP leader

## Current Senate Republican leadership (in order of rank)



Senate Majority Leader  
Mitch McConnell (KY)



Senate Majority Whip  
John Cornyn (TX)



Conference Chairman  
John Thune (SD)



Policy Chairman  
John Barrasso (WY)



Conference Vice Chairman  
Roy Blunt (MO)

## Potential new leaders



Deb Fischer (NE)



Shelley Moore Capito (WV)



Cory Gardner (CO)



Thom Tillis (NC)

### Analysis

- Republicans enforce strict limits of three two-year terms for all leadership posts except for the party leader
- Mitch McConnell has been party leader since 2007 and is expected to become the longest serving GOP leader with a 2020 reelection win
- The natural progression would be for all of the current leaders to receive promotions with a new face filling the vice chairman spot. However, with McConnell's expected reelection, the shuffle may prove more contentious as some of the current leaders will have to vacate their spot in the inner circle

Sources: Burgess Everett, Seung Min Kim, John Bresnahan, "Senate Republicans brace for leadership scramble," Politico, May 4, 2017.