

Dem Sen. Tim Johnson undergoes surgery

RAW STORY

Published: Wednesday December 13, 2006

Print page sponsored by Velvet Revolution.

[Print This](#) [Email This](#)

The *Associated Press* is reporting that Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD) "did not suffer a stroke or heart attack, contrary to initial reports." *Political Wire's* "Insider" blog additionally reported that Johnson "is speaking and is expected to be fine."



However, a late report at CBS notes the following:

Johnson underwent surgery late Wednesday. There has been no word on the nature of the surgery, which lasted past midnight, or on Johnson's condition.

Sources close to the situation, speaking before the surgery was made public, tell CBS News the situation is definitely not good.

Various news outlets initially indicated that the Senator may have suffered a mild stroke. Earlier, a call from RAW STORY to Johnson's office was not returned, but his office did issue a statement to the press relating that Johnson was taken to George Washington Hospital for evaluation.

Concerns are rising that the Democrats' new Senate power is at risk, should Johnson be too incapacitated to perform his duties. If he were to be forced into retirement, the US Constitution delegates the task of appointing a replacement to South Dakota lawmakers, who often turn that task over to the governor. The governor of the state, Mike Rounds, is a Republican, and both houses of the state legislature are dominated by Republicans.

However, in the case of South Dakota, the decision falls to Rounds, whose appointment would serve as senator until a special election held between 80 and 90 days after the vacancy.

A different statute, though, says that the election would take place in 2008, adding that, "The general election laws shall apply unless inconsistent with this chapter."

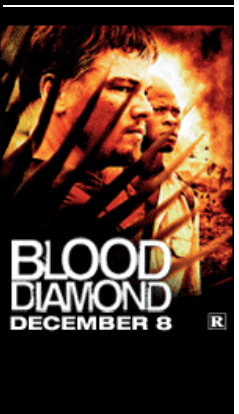
It is unclear at this time which of these seemingly conflicting procedures takes precedence over the other.

A statement from Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), who is slated to be Senate Majority Leader in the 110th Congress, reads, "Senator Johnson is a dear friend to me and to all of us here in the Senate. Every member of the United States Senate sends our best to him and to his family at this difficult time, and we wish him a full recovery."

Johnson will turn 60 on December 29.

GOP Rep. Mike Castle, Delaware's lone House representative, suffered two minor strokes during the 2006 election season, but recovered sufficiently to retain his office. Sen. Craig Thomas (R-WY) has been diagnosed with leukemia, but continues to work.

Editor's Note: An earlier version of this story indicated that the governor's



DELL BUY ONLINE TODAY

AMD Turion64 MOBILE TECHNOLOGY

INSPIRON™ 1501 NOTEBOOK

Online Price AU \$1,098* Delivered

Price Includes \$50 Cash Off. Offer ends 14/12/06

Ads by Google

Universal Joint Manufact.

Johnson Power Universal Joints Wastewater, Paper & Steel Mills
www.johnsonpower.com

Compass Strategies, LLC

Providing specialized lobbying and government relations services.
www.compassstrategies.com

Today's Top News

Get a conservative point of view News, opinion from the New York Sun
www.nysun.com

Senators Johnson

Looking for Senators Johnson? Find exactly what you want today.
eBay.com.au

Email Congress

Add online advocacy to your website with CongressWeb. Learn more now
www.TheSoftEdge.com

Advertise on this site

appointed replacement would serve until the 2008 election. That information, reported by other news agencies as well, can not be verified. RAW STORY regrets the error.

[Ads by Google](#)

[Advertise on this site](#)

The Concatenate

A short, punchy, take on Australian news and culture
www.theconcat.com.au

The Greenan Tapes are

illegal and immoral. So why are they available? Ask your Senator
www.snuffout.org

Senate Vote

For 2006 Election Results, Info & Analysis Visit
washingtonpost.com
www.washingtonpost.com

Who's your Perfect Lover?

Predict exactly, down to the name, who your Perfect Lover is. Try it!

PerfectLover.com.au

[218 Comments](#)

Ads by Google

[Advertise on this site](#)

