

CHINA'S NEW PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERS

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Executive Summary

1. On 3 July 2012, the Beijing Municipal Party Committee Standing Committee was elected and all 31 provincial-level party committees had completed their elections.
2. Altogether, the 31 party committees have elected 404 standing members/times. Wang Sanyuan (王三运) was elected as a standing member in both Anhui and Gansu, and Yin Deming (尹德明) for both Tibet and Tianjin because of their transfers from one place to another. The actual number of standing members, therefore, is 402.
3. The majority (24) of the provincial units have 13 standing members, with six exceptions. Xinjiang and Tibet have 15 standing members each; Qinghai has 14; and Hainan, Shaanxi, Sichuan, and Shanghai have 12 standing members each.
4. The average age of the provincial party leaders is 54.9 years old, with the youngest at 44 and the oldest at 67. Of these, those born in the 1940s are few while those born in the 1950s have become the mainstream; and those who were born in the 1960s have increased significantly. Notably, three provincial party secretaries were born in the 1960s. They are all rising stars.
5. The new provincial party leaders are highly educated. There are altogether 92 holders of doctoral degrees. Tianjin has the most with seven standing members with doctoral degrees, followed by Shanxi with six, and Hebei, Shaanxi, and Gansu with five each.
6. In terms of home province distribution, Shandong (55), Hebei (29), Jiangsu (28), Zhejiang (27), Henan (24), Hubei (22), and Liaoning (19) have produced 204 provincial standing members, more than half of the total.

7. There are 49 standing members from 15 different ethnic groups other than Han mostly in the five autonomous regions, taking 12.2% of total standing members. There are 37 female standing members, taking 9.2% of the total. Each provincial unit has at least one female standing member.
8. Among new provincial party leaders, 132 (32.8% of total) have had experiences working for youth league committees at various levels. Fourteen of them are provincial party secretaries, and 10 are provincial chief government leaders (governors/mayors/chairmen).
9. A number of changes have taken place ever since the completion of the provincial party committee reshuffle in early July 2012. On 18 July 2012, for instance, Governor Zhao Kezhi (赵克志) of Guizhou was promoted to party secretary and Party Secretary Li Zhanshu (栗战书) was transferred to Beijing for a different appointment.
10. Major changes to the provincial party leadership after the 18th National Party Congress are expected because a significant number of provincial party leaders will be promoted to higher offices in Beijing.