

GOP state senators vie for leadership positions

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Two Maryland senators from the Washington suburbs hope to succeed state Sen. F. Vernon Boozer of Towson as Senate Republican Leader if they are re-elected Nov. 3.

Republican state Sens. Patrick J. Hogan of Montgomery County and Martin G. Madden, who represent parts of Prince George's and Howard counties, each said they would seek the office.

State Sen. J. Lowell Stoltzfus — a Republican who represents Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties on the Eastern

Shore — said he recruited Mr. Madden to seek the post. Mr. Stoltzfus said he would like to succeed state Sen. John W. Derr of Frederick as Republican whip.

Mr. Boozer and Mr. Derr cannot be re-elected because they lost to more conservative candidates in the primary, largely on the efforts of business and anti-abortion interest groups and conservative state Sen. Larry E. Haines, a Carroll County Republican.

Both Mr. Madden and Mr. Hogan are considered pro-business moderates and each voted for a

bill to ban partial birth abortions that Mr. Boozer opposed.

Mr. Stoltzfus, a conservative, said he believes a combination of moderate and conservative leadership would be most effective for the GOP in the Senate, "especially if [Republican gubernatorial candidate] Ellen Sauerbrey gets elected."

Mr. Haines, who lost a bid to be minority leader in 1997 to Mr. Boozer, is expected to seek the post, but could not be reached for comment.

— Margie Hyslop