
PA House Leadership Chosen for 2019–20 Session

On Tuesday, November 13, members of the House Republican and Democratic caucuses chose their respective leadership teams for the upcoming 2019-20 Legislative Session. When the House re-convenes in January, the House Republicans will hold a 110-93 majority, which is historic, because this is only the second time since 1924 that the Republicans have maintained the majority in the House for four or more consecutive two-year legislative sessions.

The House Republican leadership team for the 2019-20 Session is as follows:

House Speaker Mike Turzai (Allegheny), was chosen by the caucus as its Speaker-designee for the coming two-year session. Given the GOP's solid majority in the House, Turzai is a virtual shoe-in to repeat as Speaker, a position voted on by the entire House during the General Assembly's swearing-in day, which will be Jan. 1, 2019 this time around.

Majority Leader - Bryan Cutler (Lancaster). Rep. Cutler takes over the Majority Leader role because Rep. Dave Reed is leaving for a private sector job.

Majority Whip – Kerry Benninghoff (Centre). With Cutler vacating the Whip post, current House GOP Policy Committee Chairman Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre, was elected to replace him.

Majority Policy Chair – Donna Oberlander (Clarion). Current GOP Caucus Secretary, Rep. Donna Oberlander, R-Clarion, was elected by the caucus to replace Benninghoff as Policy Committee Chair – the first woman to hold that position in the House GOP Caucus.

There were no changes for the other caucus leadership spots with the current leadership team winning re-election for their positions. Those positions are as follows:

Appropriations Majority Chair – Stan Saylor (York).

Caucus Administrator - Kurt Masser, (Northumberland).

Caucus Chair - Marcy Toepel (Montgomery)

Caucus Secretary - Mike Reese (Westmoreland). Rep. Reese will be replacing Rep. Oberlander as Caucus Secretary.



The House Democrat leadership team for the 2019-20 Session is as follows:

Minority Leader Frank Dermody, D-Allegheny, will continue to lead the caucus during the next legislative session as a result of Tuesday's leadership election. He ran unopposed.

The House Republican leadership team for the 2019-20 Session is as follows:

Minority Caucus Whip - Jordan Harris (Philadelphia).

Minority Appropriations Chair - Matthew Bradford (Montgomery).

Reps Harris and Bradford succeed two western Democrats - Reps. Mike Hanna, D-Clinton, and Joseph Markosek, D-Allegheny, who are retiring from the House and their whip and appropriations jobs, respectively.

Rep. Matt Bradford defeated Rep. Dan Frankel (Allegheny) in a close vote for the appropriations post. At one point before the vote, Bradford and his supporters went to another room to caucus on strategy.

Rep. Jordan Harris defeated Rep. Mike Carroll (Luzerne) for the caucus whip post.

Minority Caucus Chair - Joanna McClinton (Philadelphia). Rep. McClinton defeated Rep. Robert Freeman (Northampton), and Rep. Robert Matzie (Beaver) for that post. McClinton was elected to the House in 2015.

Minority Caucus Administrator - Neal Goodman (Schuylkill). Rep. Goodman turned back a challenge from Rep. Leanne Krueger-Braneky (Delaware), to win another term.

Minority Policy Committee Chair - Mike Sturla (Lancaster). Rep. Sturla won re-election for this position without opposition.

Minority Caucus Secretary - Rosita Youngblood (Philadelphia). Rep. Youngblood was reelected Minority Caucus Secretary without opposition.

Today, the state Senate's political caucuses will choose their new leadership teams.

Questions, contact RCPA Director of Government Affairs [Jack Phillips](#).

(Source: Capitolwire.com, Chris Comisac and Robert Swift, Wednesday, November 14, 2018) ◀

PA Senate Leadership Chosen for 2019–20 Session

On Wednesday, November 14, members of the Senate Republican and Democratic caucuses chose their respective leadership teams for the upcoming 2019-20 Legislative Session. When the Senate re-convenes in January, the Senate Republicans will hold a 29-21 majority, with the possibility of that number going to 28-22 on the outcome of a “too close to call” election in Bucks County.

The Senate leadership elections did not provide any changes to either caucus’ leadership team for the 2019-20 Session. The Senate Republican Caucus will consist of the same leadership team of:

Senate Pro-Tempore - Joe Scarnati (Jefferson). Sen. Scarnati was chosen by the full Senate to be the nominee for Senate President Pro Tempore. His nomination will be voted by the full Senate when the chamber convenes on swearing-in day, which will be Jan. 1, 2019.

- ▶ Senate Majority Leader - Jake Corman (Centre)
- ▶ Senate Majority Whip - John Gordner (Columbia)
- ▶ Senate Majority Appropriations Committee Chair - Pat Browne (Lehigh)
- ▶ Senate Majority Appropriations Committee Vice-Chair - Kim Ward (Westmoreland)
- ▶ Senate Majority Caucus Chair - Bob Mensch (Montgomery)
- ▶ Senate Majority Caucus Secretary - Rich Alloway (Franklin)

Two positions are still vacant — those positions of Senate Majority Caucus Administrator and Senate Majority Policy Committee Chair will be appointed by Senator Joe Scarnati once he is officially elected Senate Pro-Tempore.

The Senate Democrat Caucus leadership team did not have any changes. The Senate Democrat Caucus leadership team is as follows:

- ▶ Senate Minority Leader – Jay Costa (Allegheny)
- ▶ Senate Minority Whip – Anthony Williams (Philadelphia)
- ▶ Senate Minority Appropriations Committee Chair – Vincent Hughes (Philadelphia)
- ▶ Senate Minority Appropriations Committee Vice-Chair – Judy Schwank (Berks)
- ▶ Senate Minority Caucus Chair – Wayne Fontana (Allegheny)
- ▶ Senate Minority Caucus Secretary – Larry Farnese (Philadelphia)
- ▶ Senate Minority Policy Committee Chair – Lisa Boscola (Northampton)
- ▶ Senate Minority Caucus Administrator – John Blake (Lackawanna)

Questions, contact RCPA Director of Government Affairs [Jack Phillips](#). ◀

Taken from Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) [December 2018 newsletter](#)