



ML Strategies Alert

House and Senate Leadership and Committee Assignments Announced

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Senate President Stan Rosenberg and House Speaker Robert DeLeo announced this week their leadership teams and committee appointments for the 2017-2018 legislative session.

Retaining the core of his leadership team for his second cycle as Senate President, Rosenberg kept Harriet Chandler as Majority Leader, Marc Pacheco as President Pro Tempore, and Cynthia Creem and Mark Montigny as Assistant Majority Leaders. Rosenberg also appointed Kenneth Donnelly, Linda Dorcena Forry, and Joan Lovely to leadership positions.

DeLeo also kept most of his leadership team intact, reappointing Ron Mariano as Majority Leader, Pat Haddad as Speaker Pro Tempore, and Byron Rushing as Assistant Majority Leader. Michael Moran was also elevated to the role of Second Assistant Majority Leader, and David Nangle and Ann-Margaret Ferrante joined the leadership team as Division Chairs.

Brian Dempsey and Karen Spilka will remain as the House and Senate Chairs, respectively, of the powerful budget-writing Ways and Means Committee. Governor Charlie Baker released his [FY2018 spending plan](#) in January, and the House is now working on its own proposal, which will start to be debated at the end of this month.

Michael Barrett, a major proponent of carbon pricing, will replace the retired Benjamin Downing as Senate Chair of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, which has jurisdiction over the exploration, exploitation, and development of renewable and conventional energy sources, the siting of energy facilities, and public utilities, among other responsibilities. Representative Thomas Golden will remain as the House Chair of this committee.

Additionally, Senator Pat Jehlen and Representative Mark Cusack were tapped to lead the newly created Committee on Marijuana Policy charged with leading efforts to make changes to the new marijuana legalization law approved at the ballot last fall. Jehlen supported the ballot question, while Cusack did not reveal his position. The Committee is expected to work quickly to change major aspects of the law, including taxation levels on retail marijuana sales, regulation of edible products, and local control over pot shops.

With these assignments in place, the legislative process in the House and Senate can now begin in earnest. Filed bills will soon be assigned to committees with hearing dates announced shortly thereafter.

Below we list the House and Senate leadership teams, chairs of the House and Senate Standing Committees, and House and Senate chairs of each Joint Committee. The complete list of members for each committee [can be found here](#).

Senate Leadership

Majority Leader – Harriet Chandler (D – Worcester)

- Chandler returns for her second stint as majority leader.

President Pro Tempore – Marc Pacheco (D – Taunton)

- Pacheco retains this role for the second consecutive term as the longest serving member of the Senate.

Assistant Majority Leaders– Cynthia Creem (D – Newton), Mark Montigny (D – New Bedford), and Kenneth Donnelly (D – Arlington)

- Donnelly, who has returned to the Senate after battling cancer last year, fills the Majority Leader role held last session by Brian Joyce.

Majority Whip – Michael Rodrigues (D – Westport)

- Rodrigues takes Donnelly's previous position as Majority Whip.

Assistant Majority Whips – Linda Dorcena Forry (D – Dorchester) and Joan Lovely (D – Salem)

- The Senate created an additional Assistant Majority Whip position, and Forry and Lovely join the leadership team for the first time. Rosenberg said his Senate leadership team lacked a Senator from Boston or Northeast Massachusetts, and these appointments fill these geographic voids.

House Leadership

Majority Leader – Ron Mariano (D – Quincy)

- Mariano has served as Majority Leader since 2011.

Speaker Pro Tempore – Pat Haddad (D – Somerset)

- Haddad has served in this role since 2013.

Assistant Majority Leader – Byron Rushing (D – Boston)

- Rushing becomes the sole Assistant Majority Leader. Last session, three representatives served in this role.

Second Assistant Majority Leaders – Paul Donato (D – Medford) and Michael Moran (D – Boston)

- Moran, elevated from First Floor Division Chair, replaces Garrett Bradley, who retired last year, as an Assistant Majority Leader.

Floor Division Chairs

- First Division Chair – Ann Margaret Ferrante (D – Gloucester)
- Second Division Chair – David Nangle (D – Lowell)
- Third Division Chair – Sarah Peake (D – Provincetown)
- Fourth Division Chair – Louis Kafka (D – Stoughton)

Senate Standing Committee Chairs

Bills in Third Reading – Chair Cynthia Creem (D – Newton)

Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets – Chair John Keenan (D – Quincy)

Ethics – Chair Michael Rodrigues (D – Westport)

Global Warming and Climate Change – Chair Marc Pacheco (D – Taunton)

Intergovernmental Affairs – Chair Sal DiDomenico (D – Everett)

Personnel and Administration – Chair Michael Rush (D – West Roxbury)

Post Audit and Oversight – Chair Kathleen O'Connor Ives (D – Newburyport)

Redistricting – Chair Harriet Chandler (D – Worcester)

Rules – Chair Mark Montigny (D – New Bedford)

Steering and Policy – Chair Eileen Donoghue (D – Lowell)

Ways and Means – Chair Karen Spilka (D – Ashland)

House Standing Committee Chairs

Bills in Third Reading – Theodore Speliotis (D – Danvers)

Bonding, Capital Expenditure and State Assets – Antonio F.D. Cabral (D – New Bedford)

Ethics – Christopher Markey (D – Dartmouth)

Global Warming and Climate Change – Frank Smizik (D – Brookline)

Personnel and Administration – Paul McMurtry (D – Dedham)

Post Audit and Oversight – David Paul Linsky (D – Natick)

Redistricting – Paul Mark (D – Peru)

Rules – William Galvin (D – Canton)

Steering, Policy, and Scheduling – James Murphy (D – Weymouth)

Technology and Intergovernmental Affairs – Angelo Puppolo (D – Springfield)

Ways and Means – Brian Dempsey (D – Haverhill)

Joint Standing Committees

Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities

- Senate Chair: Jennifer Flanagan (D – Leominster)
- House Chair: Kay Khan (D – Newton)

Community Development and Small Business

- Senate Chair: Julian Cyr (D – Truro)
- House Chair: Edward Coppinger (D – Boston)

Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure

- Senate Chair: Barbara L'Italien (D - Andover)
- House Chair: Jen Benson (D – Lunenburg)

Economic Development and Emerging Technologies

- Senate Chair: Eric Lesser (D – Springfield)
- House Chair: Joseph Wagner (D – Chicopee)

Education

- Senate Chair: Sonia Chang-Diaz (D – Jamaica Plain)
- House Chair: Alice Hanlon Peisch (D – Wellesley)

Elder Affairs

- Senate Chair: Barbara L'Italien (D - Andover)
- House Chair: Danielle Gregoire (D – Marlborough)

Election Laws

- Senate Chair: Anne Gobi (D – Spencer)
- House Chair: John Mahoney (D – Worcester)

Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture

- Senate Chair: Anne Gobi (D – Spencer)
- House Chair: Gailanne Cariddi (D – North Adams)

Export Development

- Senate Chair: Eileen Donoghue (D – Lowell)
- House Chair: Lori Ehrlich (D – Marblehead)

Financial Services

- Senate Chair: Jamie Eldridge (D – Acton)
- House Chair: Aaron Michlewitz (D – Boston)

Health Care Financing

- Senate Chair: James Welch (D – Hampden)
- House Chair: Jeffrey Sanchez (D – Boston)

Higher Education

- Senate Chair: Michael Moore (D – Worcester)
- House Chair: John Scibak (D – South Hadley)

Judiciary

- Senate Chair: Will Brownsberger (D – Belmont)
- House Chair: Claire Cronin (D – Easton)

Labor and Workforce Development

- Senate Chair: Jason Lewis (D – Melrose)
- House Chair: Paul Brodeur (D – Melrose)

Marijuana Policy

- Senate Chair: Pat Jehlen (D – Somerville)
- House Chair: Mark Cusack (D – Braintree)

Mental Health, Substance Use, and Recovery

- Senate Chair: Jennifer Flanagan (D – Leominster)
- House Chair: Denise Garlick (D – Needham)

Municipalities and Regional Government

- Senate Chair: Michael Moore (D – Worcester)

- House Chair: James O'Day (D – Boylston)

Public Health

- Senate Chair: Jason Lewis (D – Melrose)
- House Chair: Kate Hogan (D – Stow)

Public Safety and Homeland Security

- Senate Chair: James Timilty (D – Walpole)
- House Chair: Harold Naughton (D – Clinton)

Public Service

- Senate Chair: James Timilty (D – Walpole)
- House Chair: Jerald Parisella (D – Beverly)

Revenue

- Senate Chair: Michael Brady (D – Brockton)
- House Chair: Jay Kaufman (D – Lexington)

State Administration and Regulatory Oversight

- Senate Chair: Walter Timilty (D – Avon)
- House Chair: Peter Kocot (D – Northampton)

Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy

- Senate Chair: Michael Barrett (D – Lexington)
- House Chair: Thomas Golden (D – Lowell)

Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development

- Senate Chair: Adam Hinds (D – Pittsfield)
- House Chair: Cory Atkins (D – Concord)

Transportation

- Senate Chair: Thomas McGee (D – Lynn)
- House Chair: William Straus (D – Mattapoisett)

Veterans and Federal Affairs

- Senate Chair: Michael Rush (D – West Roxbury)
- House Chair: John Lawn (D – Watertown)

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