



## **AFSCME, AFL-CIO**

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**Week of November 15, 2010**

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**NEWLY-ELECTED LEGISLATORS CHOSE LEADERS FOR 2011-2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION** - As is the tradition, in the weeks after elections, legislators of both parties and in both houses meet to decide who their leaders will be for the next legislative session. Here is a rundown of those who will serve in leadership posts:

**Senate Republicans:** (Majority Party: 19 of 33 seats)

Senate Majority Leader: Scott Fitzgerald of Juneau  
Senate Assistant Majority Leader: Glenn Grothman of West Bend  
Senate President: Mike Ellis of Neenah  
Senate President Pro Tem: Joe Leibham of Sheboygan  
Senate Republican Caucus Chair: Dan Kapanke of LaCrosse

**Senate Democrats:** (Minority Party: 14 of 33 seats)

Senate Minority Leader: Mark Miller of Monona  
Senate Assistant Minority Leader: Dave Hansen of Green Bay  
Senate Democratic Caucus Chair: Julie Lassa of Stevens Point

**Assembly Republicans:** (Majority Party: 60 of 99 seats)

Assembly Speaker: Jeff Fitzgerald of Horicon  
Assembly Majority Leader: Scott Suder of Abbotsford  
Assembly Assistant Majority Leader: Dan Knodl of Germantown  
Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore: Bill Kramer of Waukesha  
Assembly Republican Caucus Chair: Scott Gunderson of Waterford

**Assembly Democrats:** (Minority Party: 38 of 99 seats)

Assembly Minority Leader: Peter Barca of Kenosha  
Assembly Assistant Minority Leader: Donna Seidel of Wausau  
Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair: Kelda Roys of Madison

**Assembly Independent:** Bob Ziegelbauer (1 of 99 seats)

**JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** - The 16 member Joint Committee on Finance is a key legislative committee because of its statutorily-prescribed role in reviewing and modifying the executive budget. This week most of the Committee members were appointed by the new leaders. There are 8 total Senate members and 8 Assembly members of the Committee. Since Republicans control both houses, they get a majority of the seats on the Joint Finance Committee as well. Here is a list of the appointments announced this week:

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### LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE NUMBERS

In Madison 266-9960

Outside of Madison (toll free) 1-800-362-9472



## **Joint Finance Committee member appointments:**

### **Senate Republicans:**

Alberta Darling of River Hills, Senate Co-Chair  
Luther Olsen of Ripon, Senate Vice-Chair  
Sheila Harsdorf of River Falls  
Joe Leibham of Sheboygan  
Glenn Grothman of West Bend  
Randy Hopper of Fond du Lac

**Senate Democrats:** Appointments for the two Senate Democratic members of the committee have not yet been made.

### **Assembly Republicans:**

Robin Vos of Caledonia, Assembly Co-Chair  
Mark Gottlieb of Port Washington, Assembly Vice-Chair  
Dan Meyer of Eagle River  
Dan LeMahieu of Cascade  
John Nygren of Marinette  
Pat Strachota of West Bend

**Assembly Democrats:** Appointments for the two Democratic members will be announced at a later date.

**A WORD ABOUT THE NEXT FEW MONTHS** - Those elected to office on Nov. 2, 2010 will be inaugurated on January 3, 2011. Between now and Jan. 3, the transition of power will take place. Those who retired or who lost their seats will be packing up their offices. The new leadership will make office assignments and committee appointments.

Governor-elect Walker has chosen a transition team, and has set up a transition office near the Capitol.

The next Governor is likely to deliver his "State of the State" speech sometime in the latter part of January. Gov.-elect Walker has said he intends to call a special session of the Legislature early in January and declare an "economic emergency". The content of the legislation he intends to propose in the special session has not yet been made public, but he has mentioned a new state tax deduction on high deductible health savings accounts or HSAs. AFSCME maintains that HSAs encourage employers to drop high quality health insurance and substitute high deductible, catastrophic insurance, which increases out of pocket costs.

Gov.-elect Walker is reportedly already working on the 2011-2013 state budget. In the past, sitting Governors typically present their budget proposals to the state Legislature in the second or third week of February. It is likely that Gov.-elect Walker also will unveil his budget sometime in February. After that, lawmakers begin reviewing the budget, a process which typically runs through June.

For more information, contact the AFSCME office at 608-836-6666.