



Legislative Report

LEGISLATORS HAVE RETURNED to Springfield in the last month in full force, ready to tackle a new legislative year and all the issues that are inherent with it. Much of the first couple of weeks of session are dedicated to organizational matters, and substantive debate on new legislation often takes awhile to crank up.

When that occurs, we will see a new Governor in office for the first time in six years. Patrick Quinn was sworn in on January 28 following Rod Blagojevich's impeachment. He inherits, among other problems, a state budget deficit pegged by Comptroller Dan Hynes of \$9 billion. Although Quinn received a one-month reprieve on delivering his state budget address until later this month, he will have little time to get his hands around this massive flow of red ink.

And then there's the day-to-day management of state business. Quinn has had little to no time to prepare for taking the reins of Illinois government. Aside from some top-level appointments, most of his administrators are left over from the Blagojevich administration. So he's learning about his key people on the job. Statehouse observers await with much anticipation the Governor's first key speech on March 18, where he will lay out his budget plans and the potential tax hikes that might go with them.

With the advent of a new legislature sworn in last January, there are some changes among the leadership and committee direction in both the House of Representatives and Senate. Here are the new leadership teams with terms running through 2010:

SENATE DEMOCRATS: President John J. Cullerton (Chicago), Majority Leader James F. Clayborne, Jr., (Belleville), Assistant Majority Leaders James A. DeLeo (Chicago), Rickey R. Hendon (Chicago), Don Harmon (Chicago), Kimberly A. Lightford (Chicago) and Jeffrey M. Schoenberg (Evanston), Majority Caucus Chair Antonio Munoz (Chicago), Majority Appropriations Chairs Donne E. Trotter (Chicago) and John Sullivan (Rushville), Majority Caucus Whips Susan Garrett (Lake Forest), Ira Silverstein (Chicago), Louis S. Viverito (Burbank) and Terry Link (Vernon Hills).

SENATE REPUBLICANS: Leader Christine Radogno (LaGrange), Deputy Leader Dale Righter (Mattoon), Assistant Leaders J. Bradley Burzynski (Clare), John O. Jones (Mt. Vernon), David Luechtefeld (Okawville) and Dan Rutherford (Pontiac), Caucus Chair Dave Syverson (Rockford), Caucus Whip Carole Pankau (Roselle).

HOUSE DEMOCRATS: Speaker Michael J. Madigan (Chicago), Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie (Chicago), Deputy Majority Leaders Arthur L. Turner (Chicago) and Gary Hannig (Litchfield), Assistant Majority Leaders Edward J. Acevedo (Chicago), Louis "Lou" Lang (Skokie), Joe Lyons (Chicago), Jack McGuire (Joliet), Charles Jefferson (Rockford) and Frank Mautino (Spring Valley), Majority Conference Chairman David Miller (Chicago).

HOUSE REPUBLICANS: Leader Tom Cross (Oswego), Deputy Leaders William Black (Danville) and Tim Schmitz (Batavia), Assistant Leaders Mark Beaubien, Jr. (Barrington Hills), Dan Brady (Bloomington), Jim Durkin (Western Springs), Renee Kosel (New Lenox), David Leitch (Peoria) and Ron Stephens (Troy), Caucus Chair JoAnn Osmond (Antioch).

Of interest to township officials are the leadership of a few key committees in the General Assembly. In the Senate, the Local Government Committee will be headed by Dave Koehler (D-Peoria); Gary Dahl (R-Granville) will be Minority Spokesman. Senate Revenue is chaired by Lou Viverito (D-Burbank); Chris Lauzen (R-Elgin) is Minority Spokesman.

In the House, the Counties and Townships Committee will be chaired by Pat Verschoore (D-Milan); the Minority Spokesman is Randy Ramey (R-Carol Stream). The Revenue Committee will be chaired by John Bradley (D-Marion), and the Minority Spokesman was not known at press time.

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