

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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**Berks County
Water & Sewer
ASSOCIATION**

November 16, 2020 – Issue 134

House Republican Caucus Elects Leadership for 2021- 22 Session

The Pennsylvania House Republican Caucus Tuesday elected its legislative leaders for the 2021-22 Legislative Session.

The leadership team consists of:

- **Speaker-designee** Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster).
- **Majority Leader** Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre/Mifflin).
- **Majority Whip** Donna Oberlander (R-Clarion/Armstrong/Forest).
- **Majority Appropriations Committee Chairman** Stan Saylor (R-York).
- **Majority Policy Committee Chairman** Marty Causer (R-Cameron/McKean/Potter).
- **Majority Caucus Chairman** Mike Reese (R-Westmoreland/Somerset).
- **Majority Caucus Secretary** Martina White (R-Philadelphia).
- **Majority Caucus Administrator** Kurt Masser (R-Northumberland/Columbia/Montour).

Speaker-designee Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster): "Our chamber is one of the oldest democratically elected bodies in the world. Over the course of our Commonwealth's history, our members have pushed

our nation forward by always answering the call of our constituents to face ever-evolving challenges. I am honored and inspired to join with these proven, principled and selfless public servants to continue to answer the call to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians and stand humbled and ready to oversee another successful session."

House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre/Mifflin): "Led by our message of fiscal responsibility, adding common sense to our COVID-19 response, and ensuring government is responsible to the people, the voters of Pennsylvania have returned a significant Republican majority back to the Pennsylvania General Assembly. I am proud to lead our caucus in our ongoing mission to be the true voice of the people and work to improve the lives of Pennsylvanians everywhere."

Majority Whip Donna Oberlander (R-Clarion/Armstrong/Forest): "Today's leadership election sends a strong message that we, as a caucus, are poised to use our growing strength in order to confront the challenges facing our Commonwealth in the next two years," said Oberlander. "Together, we will work toward building a stronger Pennsylvania to put forth good public policy and continue to assert ourselves as a co-equal branch of state government."

Majority Appropriations Chairman Stan Saylor (R-York): "I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as House Appropriations Committee Chairman for another session. Together, we have held the line on taxes and kept spending restrained. I am confident that our caucus will continue to be leaders in good government reform, private sector job creation and fiscal responsibility next session."

Majority Policy Committee Chairman Marty Causer (R-Cameron/McKean/Potter): "I am deeply honored by the continued opportunity to help lead our caucus and our Commonwealth through these very challenging times. Pennsylvania is a diverse state, and in my role as policy chairman, I will focus on building consensus on policies that move us forward as we work to reopen our economy, protect public safety and improve quality of life for all Pennsylvanians"

Majority Caucus Chairman Mike Reese (R-Westmoreland/Somerset): "I am honored to serve our caucus in this new capacity. The ongoing issues surrounding the questionable COVID-19 mitigation efforts put in place by the administration, as well as contentions surrounding the 2020 election cycle, will be our principle workload. This is in addition to continuing to grow our economy and reforming some archaic state regulations. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the House on these important matters."

Majority Caucus Secretary Martina White (R-Philadelphia): "I am honored to have been chosen to serve in this position and to represent the people of southeast Pennsylvania during leadership discussions," said White. "I look forward to the additional responsibilities I will be assuming, while continuing to diligently work for the people of the 170th Legislative District."

Majority Caucus Administrator Kurt Masser (R-Northumberland/Columbia/Montour): "I'm honored to garner the support of my colleagues to continue serving in a leadership position within the caucus," Masser said. "We will continue pushing for policies that promote economic growth while protecting the health and safety of our residents."

Source: House Republican Caucus, 11/10/2020

House Democrats elect leaders for upcoming legislative session

The 90 members of the House Democratic Caucus who won election last week to serve during the 2021-22 session chose their caucus leaders. Due to the high risk of Covid-19 transmission a number of lawmakers participated in the meeting virtually.

Rep. Joanna McClinton today made Pennsylvania history, becoming the first woman elected to serve as a minority leader in the House or Senate. With 32 women serving in the upcoming session, more than one-third of the new House Democratic Caucus are women.

The leadership team chosen today consists of:

Democratic Leader Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia/Delaware). A member of the House since 2015, McClinton represents the 191st District in parts of Philadelphia and Delaware County and served as caucus chair in the current session.

Democratic Whip Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia). Continuing in his role as whip, Harris first won election to the House in 2012 and he represents the 186th District in Philadelphia.

Democratic Appropriations Chairman Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery). Continuing in his role as Appropriations Committee chairman, Bradford first won election to the House in 2008 and represents the 70th District in Montgomery County.

Caucus Chair Dan Miller (D-Allegheny). A member of the House since 2013, Miller represents the 42nd District in Allegheny County and chaired the Allegheny County Delegation in the current session.

Caucus Secretary Tina Davis (D-Bucks). A member of the House since 2010, Davis represents the 141st District in Bucks County.

Caucus Administrator Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh). A member of the House since 2012, Schlossberg represents the 132nd District centered on the city of Allentown in Lehigh County.

Democratic Policy Chairman Ryan Bizzarro (D-Erie). A member of the House since 2012, Bizzarro represents the 3rd District in Erie County and served as chief deputy whip in the current session.

Source: House Democratic Caucus, 11/12/2020

Senate Republicans Elect Leadership Team for New Session

On November 12, 2020, the Senate Republicans elected their leadership team for the 2021-2022 legislative session. The newly elected leadership team will begin serving in their roles on December 1, 2020.

Senator Jake Corman (<https://www.senatorcorman.com/profile/> (R-Centre/Huntingdon/Juniata/Mifflin)) has been nominated to serve as **Senate President Pro Tempore**. *The full Senate will vote on Senator Corman's nomination when it reconvenes in January.* As President Pro Tempore, he will be responsible for appointing the chairpersons and members of the standing committees of the Senate. He has served as Majority Leader of the Senate since 2015 and will replace Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-25), who is retiring at the end of the year.

Senator Kim Ward (<https://www.senatorward.com/biography/> (R-Westmoreland)) will serve as **Senate Majority Leader**. Her duties include overseeing the legislative agenda, developing policies and strategies for the Senate Republican Caucus, chairing the Senate Rules and Executive Nominations Committee and playing a key role in floor debates. She will also have a major role in negotiating issues with the Administration and House of Representatives and in supervising action on the Senate floor. She previously served as

Majority Caucus Administrator and as the first female chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Senator Pat Browne (<https://www.senatorbrowne.com/biography/> (R-Lehigh)) will continue to **chair the Senate Appropriations Committee**, one of the most influential of the standing committees. The committee reviews all legislation for its fiscal impact and plays a crucial role in developing the state budget. Browne is an attorney, a CPA and a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Senator John Gordner (<https://www.senatorgordner.com/biography/> (R-Columbia/Luzerne/Montour/Northumberland/Snyder)) will remain **Majority Whip**. His duties include acting as assistant floor leader, working to gain support for legislation and ensuring that Republican policies and strategies are maintained through the cooperative efforts of the majority caucus.

Senator Bob Mensch (<https://www.senatormensch.com/profile/> (R-24)) will remain **Majority Caucus Chairman** for the 2021-2022 legislative session. As chairman he will preside over Republican caucus meetings to discuss bills and amendments and to develop caucus strategy.

As the **Senate Majority Caucus Secretary**, **Senator Ryan Aument** (<https://www.senatoraument.com/biography/> (R-Lancaster)) will oversee all executive nominations submitted to the Senate for confirmation. He will coordinate the review of the background and experience of nominees and ensure that proper documentation is submitted.

Source: Senate Republican Communications, 11/12/2020

NOTE: Senate Democrats have not held their leadership elections yet as Senator Jim Brewster's (D-Allegheny/Westmoreland) race remains too close to call.

Grove Named Interim Chairman of State Government Committee

Speaker makes move as committee plans hearings into 2020 election processes

To help facilitate immediate action by the House State Government Committee, Speaker of the House Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster) today named Rep. Seth Grove (R-York) the interim chairman of the House State Government Committee.

"Members from across the state have received an unprecedented number of complaints and concerns being registered by voters concerning the administration and conduct of the 2020 General Election," Cutler said. "In order to ensure that all citizens have confidence in the election process, an investigation by our State Government Committee is not just prudent, but necessary. I am confident that Rep. Grove, who has defined his career in Harrisburg by being committed to open and transparent government, will fairly direct a comprehensive review of this election."

Grove currently serves on the committee along with being chairman of the Government Oversight Committee. He now temporarily takes over State Government Committee chairman duties from Rep. Garth Everett (R-Lycoming/Union), who is retiring at the end of this session.

"Our committee passed five separate updates to the election code this session, all of which also passed through the House with bipartisan support," Grove said. "Using our committee hearing and investigative powers is in the best interest of the public to understand the impact of our changes to the law, the many interventions and changes in the law by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the secretary of State, and how best to promote trust in our electoral process."

Source: Speaker Cutler Press Release, 11/10/2020

Governor Wolf: New Apprenticeships in Water Treatment, Abatement, and Industrial Manufacturing and Mechatronics

On November 10, 2020, Governor Tom Wolf announced new apprenticeship programs in Southcentral and Southeastern Pennsylvania in water treatment, abatement, and industrial manufacturing and mechatronics (*the combination of mechanical engineering, computing, and electronics, as used in the design and development of new manufacturing techniques*). The Wolf Administration is committed to helping workers increase their skills and attracting more businesses throughout the commonwealth.

"Every Pennsylvanian deserves a chance to build a rewarding career and provide for their family through a sustaining wage," said Gov. Wolf. "Apprenticeships enable students and workers to get hands-on experience and learn the necessary skills needed for in-demand careers, all while earning a paycheck from their employer. We are investing in apprenticeships across the commonwealth to ensure that Pennsylvania has the most prepared and talented workforce in the country."

The Department of Labor & Industry's Apprenticeship and Training Office (ATO) recently approved a group, non-joint apprenticeship program with Mifflin Academy of Science & Technology in Lewistown, for Water Systems Operation Specialists. The Academy will partner with the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown to provide the program-related instruction.

"The Academy is proud to continue our support of local employers and registered apprenticeships through this program," said Mike McMonigal, supervisor of adult and post-secondary education at Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology. "Our partnership with the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Lewistown further demonstrates how industry and education can work

together to develop a skilled workforce for our community."

The Baxter Group, Inc. recently registered an individual, non-joint apprenticeship program for abatement supervisors. They have partnered with Aerosol Monitoring and Training to establish these construction/maintenance training programs.

"From the moment I reached out for more information on establishing an Apprenticeship Program and throughout the entire approval process, the representatives and committee members generously provided guidance and direction," said Jocelyne Melton, CEO of the Baxter Group, Inc. "We are very excited to be able to offer such an opportunity and strive to make our company one of the best companies to work for in Franklin County, thus creating a journey of success to our employees."

Lastly, the German American Chamber of Commerce Philadelphia (GACC Philadelphia) registered a group, non-joint apprenticeship program in partnership with the Northampton Community College and Lehigh Carbon Community College. The training provided will support an industrial manufacturing and mechatronics technician with the manufacturing industry.

"The German American Chamber of Commerce places companies at the center of training and aligns curriculum with strategic academic partners such as community colleges and high schools," said Susanne Rehse, executive director of GACC Philadelphia. "We carefully design and oversee these programs to ensure they are sustainable for the host companies, the apprentices, and the surrounding communities."

The Wolf Administration established the ATO in 2016 to support and expand registered apprenticeship programs statewide. The office provides outreach, education, and technical support to current and prospective apprenticeship program sponsors and apprentices.

"Reskilling programs are a critical tool to adapt and rebuild our workforce to respond to changes in the economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,"

said L&I Secretary Jerry Oleksiak.

"Apprenticeships are a great opportunity for Pennsylvanians to earn a steady paycheck while learning the skills needed for the jobs that will exist in this new economy."

Since the ATO was created in early 2016, the office has registered 180 new program sponsors and 274 new occupations, bringing the total number of registered apprentices to 17,966 statewide.

Apprenticeship programs are used to provide employer-driven training to create a more productive, diverse, highly skilled workforce for employers and help reduce employee turnover. The program provides job seekers with increased skills, and a nationally recognized credential to support future career advancement and increased wages.

Visit **ATO**

<https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Workforce-Development/apprenticeship/Pages/default.aspx> for more information about apprenticeship programs and the Apprenticeship and Training Office.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 11/10/2020

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