



Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators
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The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators Celebrates The Rise In Women Leadership

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators proudly celebrates a significant milestone in the 194th Legislative Session, as a record number of women have been appointed to leadership positions in both the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate.

Women in the Senate hold key leadership positions that shape the legislative agenda in Massachusetts. Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Middlesex and Norfolk) has appointed women to Chair 11 committees in the Senate, with women also serving as Vice Chairs of 12 committees.

President Spilka reappointed Senator Cynthia Stone Creem (D-Norfolk and Middlesex) as Majority Leader and renamed Women’s Caucus Vice-Chair Senator Joan B. Lovely (D-2nd Essex) as Assistant Majority Leader. Women Caucus members Senator Cindy F. Friedman (D-4th Middlesex) and Senator Rebecca L. Rausch (D-Norfolk, Worcester, and Middlesex) have multiple committees they are chairing this session.

In the House of Representatives, House Speaker Ronald Mariano (D-3rd Norfolk) has appointed a record number of women to leadership roles in House committees this session with nine women appointed as Chairs in the House and 19 as Vice Chairs.

Speaker Mariano reappointed Representative Kate Hogan (D-3rd Middlesex) as Speaker Pro Tempore and Representative Alice Hanlon Peisch (D-14th Norfolk) as Assistant Majority Leader. Representative Danielle W. Gregoire (D-4th Middlesex) was renamed as First Division Chair. Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D-5th Essex) will continue to serve as Vice Chair of the House & Joint Committees on Ways & Means.

Also in the House, Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-20th Middlesex) reappointed Representative Kimberly N. Ferguson (R-1st Worcester) as First Assistant Minority Leader. The 3 Republican women in the House were named as Ranking Minority Members to several Committees.

“As Co-Chairs of the Women’s Caucus, we are proud to see a record number of women stepping into leadership roles this session. Each brings diverse perspectives and invaluable expertise to policymaking, strengthening our legislative process. Their leadership is not just symbolic—it is essential to shaping policy that reflects the needs of all communities,” said **Women’s Caucus Co-Chairs Senator Robyn K. Kennedy (D-1st Worcester) and Representative Christine P. Barber (D- 34th Middlesex)**. “We appreciate Speaker Mariano, Senate President Spilka, Senate Minority Leader Tarr, and House Minority Leader Jones for recognizing their contributions through these key leadership and committee assignments.”

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our members who have been appointed as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees," said **Seble Alemu, Executive Director of the Women's Caucus**. "Their dedication to our Commonwealth is unwavering, and I am confident their leadership will drive meaningful and lasting impact."

The Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators is a 60-member bipartisan and bicameral Caucus representing over 30% of the state legislature. Focusing on enhancing the economic status and equality of women and encouraging women in all levels of government, the Caucus recently set its strategic priorities for the 194th General Court: elevating women’s

economic opportunity and eliminating barriers; addressing racial and gender disparities in health care; and empowering women in government.

The following shows the women in the Senate chosen to be Chairs of Committees and Ranking Minority Members:

Sen. Comerford: Chair, Joint Committee on Higher Education	Sen. Kennedy: Chair, Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities
Sen. Creem: Chair, Senate Committee on Climate Change and Global Warming	Sen. Lovely: Chair, Senate & Joint Committees on Rules
Sen. Edwards: Chair, Joint Committee on Judiciary	Sen. Miranda: Chair, Joint Committee on Racial Equity, Civil Rights and Inclusion
Sen. Friedman: Chair, Senate Committee on Steering and Policy; Chair, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing;	Sen. Rausch: Chair, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources; Chair, Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government
Sen. Jehlen: Chair, Joint Committee on Aging and Independence	Sen. Dooner: Ranking Minority Member on Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business, Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, Joint Committee on Higher Education, Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery, Joint Committee on Public Health, Joint Committee on Public Service, and Senate Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

The following shows the women in the House chosen to be Chairs of Committees and Ranking Minority Members:

Rep. Barber: Chair, Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Rep. Blais: Chair, Joint Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Decker: Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
Rep. Domb: Chair, Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery
Rep. Farley-Bouvier: Chair, Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet, and Cybersecurity
Rep. Fiola: Chair, Joint Committee Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
Rep. LaNatra: Chair, House Committee on Federal Funding, Policy and Accountability
Rep. Lipper-Garabedian: Chair, House Committee on Ethics
Rep. Nguyen: Chair, House Committee on Climate Action and Sustainability
Rep. Ferguson: Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Bills in the Third Reading
Rep. Kane: Ranking Minority Member, House Committee on Ethics, Joint Committee on Health Care Financing, Joint Committee on Public Health, and Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight
Rep. Sullivan-Almeida: Ranking Minority Member, Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities and House Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs

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