



ML Strategies Alert

Massachusetts House Leadership Announced, Hinting at Issue Positions

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Yesterday afternoon, House Speaker Robert DeLeo appointed his senior leadership and made assignments to all standing and joint committees. DeLeo kept most of his senior leadership team intact, with Ronald Mariano, Patricia Haddad, and Byron Rushing continuing as Majority Leader, Speaker Pro Tempore, and Majority Whip respectively. Haverhill Democrat Brian Dempsey will also remain in place, serving once again as chair of Ways and Means. He will be joined by Western Massachusetts Representatives Stephen Kulik (D – Worthington), who returns as vice chair, and Benjamin Swan (D – Springfield), the newly appointed assistant vice chair, making the Commonwealth's western region, which has faced economic struggles in recent years, a strong player in state budget negotiations.

Speaker DeLeo's leadership announcement comes about a month after Senate President Stanley Rosenberg made his committee appointments, and according to multiple sources close to the Speaker, he continued to make changes to his roster up until hours before making his appointments public. The Speaker's selections hint at his position on a number of priorities for the session, which according to public statements, include strengthening public transportation and infrastructure, bolstering early childhood education efforts, and continuing the Commonwealth's battle against opiate abuse.

After high turnover in the House, DeLeo elevated many new faces to chairmanships, appointing over 10 new committee leaders. Lowell Representative Thomas Golden will be taking over the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee after last session's chair John Keenan left the Legislature. Energy will be a hot topic this session: Governor Baker singled out Massachusetts' high energy costs as one of the biggest threats to the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness, and the Speaker of the House has also identified energy as a priority. Representative Golden has said that he is "keeping an open mind" on matters related to the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline and offshore wind, two subjects his committee will likely address this session. Golden was most recently Vice Chair of the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and State Assets.

Healthcare will also likely be near the top of the agenda this session, particularly given Governor Baker's stated desire to make changes at MassHealth, which is the state's costliest program. In his FY2015 budget fix plan, the Governor tried to gain greater control over MassHealth spending, but the Legislature blocked his move. As the Baker administration forecasts a \$1.5 billion gap between projected revenues and spending for FY2016, it is likely that the Governor's budget, which comes out March 4, will make moves to restructure MassHealth spending. The Governor also recently moved to shake up the Health Connector board, removing all four of former Governor Patrick's appointed members. In this dynamic environment, Representative Jeffrey Sanchez (D - Jamaica Plain) will take over the Health Care Financing Committee chairmanship from James Welch. Representative Sanchez has declined thus far to forecast how his committee would address the Governor's efforts to rein in costs at MassHealth. Formerly, Sanchez chaired the Joint Committee on Public Health, where he focused on systematic reforms necessary to increase access to healthcare for underserved communities. Representative Lori Ehrlich of Marblehead will take on the role of vice chair.

Representative William Straus, a Mattapoisett Democrat, will remain as Transportation Committee chair. Straus and his committee will tackle issues of transportation financing and system reform, in the wake of the widespread transportation failures that resulted from the series of winter storms Massachusetts faced this winter.

Representative Alice Peisch, who has supported a modest raise in the charter school cap, will also remain as House Education Committee co-chair. It seems likely that the issue of charter school expansion will resurface as a contentious issue: the Senate's education co-chair is skeptical of charter schools, while the Governor has championed them.

South Hadley Democrat John Scibak will co-chair the Labor and Workforce Development Committee, which will likely become active quickly, as both the Senate President and the Governor have singled out workforce training as an area for early focus.

See below for a full list of the Massachusetts' House committee posts. A list showing House and Senate committee leadership positions can be found [here](#).

ML Strategies will continue to monitor developments on Beacon Hill as the Governor releases his first budget next week and both the House and the Senate begin to focus on their priority agenda items.

House Leadership Appointments

- **Majority Leader** – Ronald Mariano (D – Quincy)
Mariano will continue in his role as Majority Leader, which he began in 2011. He was elected to the House in 1991.
- **Speaker Pro Tempore** – Patricia Haddad (D – Somerset)
Representative Haddad will also continue as Speaker Pro Tempore. Elected in 2000, this is her 8th term in the House.
- **Assistant Majority Leaders**
 - Byron Rushing (D – Boston – South End)
 - Garrett Bradley (D – Hingham)
 - Paul Donato (D – Medford)
- **Floor Division Chairs**
 - First – Michael Moran (D – Brighton)
 - Second – Louis Kafka (D – Stoughton)
 - Third – Sarah Peake (D – Provincetown)
 - Fourth – Ellen Story (D – Amherst)

House Standing Committees

Rules

- Chair – William C. Galvin (D – Canton)
- Vice Chair – Paul Mark (D – Peru)

Ways & Means

- Chair – Brian Dempsey (D – Haverhill)
- Vice Chair – Stephen Kulik (D – Worthington)
- Assistant Vice-Chair – Benjamin Swan (D – Springfield)
- Angelo M. Scaccia of Boston
- James R. Miceli of Wilmington
- Gloria L. Fox of Boston
- Thomas M. Petrolati of Ludlow
- Robert M. Koczera of New Bedford
- Colleen M. Garry of Dracut
- Ruth B. Balser of Newton
- Thomas M. Stanley of Waltham
- William Smitty Pignatelli of Lenox
- Linda Campbell of Methuen
- Sean Garballey of Arlington
- James M. Cantwell of Marshfield
- Carolyn C. Dykema of Holliston
- Timothy R. Madden of Nantucket
- Marcos A. Devers of Lawrence
- Paul A. Brodeur of Melrose
- Tackey Chan of Quincy
- Nick Collins of Boston
- Michael I. Finn of West Springfield
- Russell E. Holmes of Boston
- Chris Walsh of Framingham
- Claire D. Cronin of Easton
- Marjorie C. Decker of Cambridge
- Jeffrey N. Roy of Franklin
- Alan Silvia of Fall River

Bills in Third Reading

- Chair – Theodore Speliotis (D – Danvers)
- Vice Chair – Timothy R. Madden (D – Nantucket)

Bonding, Capital, Expenditure & State Assets

- Chair – Antonio F.D. Cabral (D – New Bedford)
- Vice Chair – Michael D. Brady (D – Brockton)
- Angelo M. Scaccia of Boston
- James J. Dwyer of Woburn
- Josh S. Cutler of Duxbury
- Paul R. Heroux of Attleboro
- Frank A. Moran of Lawrence
- Daniel M. Donahue of Worcester
- Michelle M. DuBois of Brockton

Ethics

- Chair – Christopher M. Markey (D – Dartmouth)
- Vice Chair – Jeffrey N. Roy (D – Franklin)
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- Garrett J. Bradley of Hingham
- Paul J. Donato of Medford
- Patricia A Haddad of Somerset
- Peter V. Kocot of Northampton

Global Warming and Climate Change

- Chair – Frank I. Smizik (D – Brookline)
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- Denise Provost of Somerville
- Thomas J. Calter, III of Kingston
- Jonathan Hecht of Watertown
- Tricia Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield
- Kenneth I. Gordon of Bedford
- Jonathan D. Zlotriik of Gardner
- Carmine Gentile of Sudbury

Personnel and Administration

- Chair – Paul McMurtry (D – Dedham)

- Vice Chair – Nick Collins (D – Boston)
- John H. Rogers of Norwood
- Colleen M. Garry of Dracut
- Brian M. Ashe of Longmeadow
- Brian R. Mannal of Barnstable
- Aaron Vega of Holyoke
- Christine P. Barber of Somerville

Post Audit and Oversight

- Chair – David Paul Linsky (D – Natick)
- Vice Chair – Robert F. Fennell (D – Lynn)
- Thomas M. Stanley of Waltham
- Claire D. Cronin of Easton
- Josh S. Cutler of Duxbury
- Daniel Cullinane of Dorchester
- Brendan P. Crighton of Lynn
- Michael Day of Stoneham

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- William Smitty Pignatelli of Lenox
- Nick Collins of Boston.
- Brian R. Mannal of Barnstable
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- Cartaine Gentile of Sudbury
- Daniel J. Ryan of Charlestown

Joint Standing Committees

Children & Families

- Chair – Kay Khan (D – Newton)
- Vice Chair – Aaron Vega (D – Holyoke)
- John H. Rogers of Norwood
- Carolyn C. Dykema of Holliston
- Danielle W. Gregoire of Marlborough
- Jonathan Hecht of Watertown
- Tricia Farley-Bouvier of Pittsfield
- David M. Rogers of Cambridge
- Michelle M. DuBois of Brockton

Community Development & Small Business

- Chair – Ann-Margaret Ferrante (D – Gloucester)

- Vice Chair – Tackey Chan (D – Quincy)
- Thomas J. Calter, III of Kingston
- Dennis A. Rosa of Leominster
- Frank A. Moran of Lawrence
- Jonathan D. Zlotnik of Gardner
- Jay Livingstone of Boston
- Brendan P. Crighton of Lynn
- Carlos Gonzalez of Springfield

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- James Arciero of Westford
- Tackey Chan of Quincy
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- Jose F. Tosado of Springfield

Economic Development & Emerging Technologies

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- RoseLee Vincent of Revere
- Brendan P. Crighton of Lynn
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Education

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