

2013 Minnesota Legislature

Legislature will convene on January 8, 2013. All 201 members of the 2013 Legislature were elected and in many cases re-elected in November 2012. The House members will serve a two year term while the Senators serve a four year term.

The control of the Legislature has changed. Both the House and the Senate will be under the leadership of the DFL. All four caucuses elected leaders within week of the election. The leadership of caucus and nominees for the Speaker and President of the Senate follows:

House: Speaker of the House	Rep. Paul Thissen (DFL-Minneapolis)
Majority Leader	Rep. Erin Murphy (DFL-St. Paul)
Minority Leader	Rep. Kurt Daudt (R-Crown)
Senate: President of the Senate	Sen. Sandy Pappas (DFL- St. Paul)
Majority Leader	Sen. Tom Baak (DFL-Cook)
Assistant Majority Leader	Sen. Katie Sieben (DFL-Newport)
Deputy Majority Leader	Sen. Jeff Hayden (DFL-Minneapolis)
Minority	Sen. David Hann (R-Eden Prairie)

The Speaker and the Senate President are subject to a vote of the House and Senate respectively. Since their caucus is in control, it is assumed that they will be elected to the positions on the first day of Session.

The House of Representative consists of 134 members. For the 2013 session it is expected that there will be 73 DFL members and 61 Republicans. Overall, nearly one-third of incoming state representatives will be either new to the House (34 members total) or returning to serve nonconsecutive terms (eight members). Nine incumbents lost reelection bids in the House — all of them Republicans. In two of those contests — Districts 5A and 5B — newly redrawn districts had pitted DFL and Republican incumbents against each other.

The Senate has 67 members with 39 DFLers and 28 Republicans. Of the 23 new members 14 are DFLers.

The Senate released on Wednesday evening, November 14, 2012, its committee structure and chairs. The structure includes 19 committees and subdivisions. The chairs and committees follow:

The committee chairs are as follows:

Capital Investment – Sen. LeRoy Stumpf (DFL-Plummer)

Commerce – Sen. Jim Metzen (DFL-South St. Paul)

E-12 Finance Division – Sen. Chuck Wiger (DFL-North St. Paul)

Education – Sen. Patricia Torres-Ray (DFL-Minneapolis)

Elections (Subcommittee) – Sen. Katie Sieben (DFL-Newport)

Environment, Economic Development, & Ag Finance Division – Sen. David Tomassoni (DFL- Chisholm)

Environment & Energy – Sen. John Marty (DFL-Roseville)

Finance – Sen. Dick Cohen (DFL-St. Paul)

Health and Human Services Finance Division – Sen. Tony Lourey (DFL-Kerrick)

Health, Human Services & Housing – Sen. Kathy Sheran (DFL-Mankato)

Higher Ed and Workforce Development Finance Division – Sen. Terri Bonoff (DFL- Minnetonka)

Jobs, Agriculture, and Rural Development – Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin)

Judiciary – Sen. Ron Latz (DFL-St. Louis Park)

Rules and Administration – Sen. Tom Bakk (DFL-Tower)

State Departments and Veterans Finance Division – Sen. Tom Saxhaug (DFL–Grand Rapids)

State & Local Government – Sen. Sandy Pappas (DFL-St. Paul)

Taxes – Sen. Rod Skoe (DFL-Clearbrook)

Tax Reform Division – Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope)

Transportation and Public Safety Finance Division – Sen. Scott Dibble (DFL-Minneapolis)

The House should announce their committees and chairs within the next two weeks.