



# CONNECTICUT LEGISLATIVE OFFICIALS & THEIR DUTIES

## SENATE

### President of the Senate

The Lieutenant Governor is the President of the Senate by virtue of the office. The duties of the Lieutenant Governor include presiding over the Senate, recognizing members wishing to address the Senate, putting all questions to vote, deciding questions of order, and referring bills to committees. In the event of a tie vote, the Lieutenant Governor may cast a vote to break the tie.



Michael Fedele (R)

### President Pro Tempore

The President Pro Tempore is elected by the Senate from its own members. The duties of the President Pro Tempore include presiding over the Senate in the absence of the President and appointing the Senate members of all committees, except when committee appointments are made by resolution.



Donald E. Williams, Jr. (D)

### Majority Leader

The Senate Majority Leader is appointed by the President Pro Tempore and serves as the majority party's leading spokesperson in floor debate. The Majority Leader is elected by majority party members of the Senate and manages the order of Senate business in conjunction with the President Pro Tempore.



Martin M. Looney (D)

### Minority Leader

The Senate Minority Leader is elected by the minority party and serves as the minority party's leading spokesperson in floor debate. Some of the duties of the Minority Leader are to nominate committee members and designate committee ranking members.



John P. McKinney (R)

## **The Majority and Minority Whips of the Senate**

The Whips are Senators elected by their party to count potential votes and promote unity in voting.

### **Clerk and Assistant Clerk**

The Clerk of the Senate is elected by the members. The Clerk appoints an assistant to help in carrying out the duties of the clerk. The Clerk presents and reads all official documents and legislation for action in the Senate and assists in management of Senate floor operations in cooperation with the Majority Leader and the President of the Senate. The Clerk also oversees the Senate Clerk's Office and signs bills upon engrossment. The Assistant Clerk has the same powers and performs the same duties as the Clerk, subject to the direction of the Clerk.

## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### **Speaker**

The Speaker is elected by the House from its own members. The duties of the Speaker include presiding over the House during its sessions, appointing House members of all committees not appointed by resolution, recognizing all persons wishing to address the House, putting all questions to vote, deciding questions of order, and referring bills to committees.



Christopher G. Donovan (D)

### **Majority Leader**

The House Majority Leader is elected by majority party members of House and serves as the party's leading spokespersons in floor debate. The Majority Leader presides over party caucuses, directs party strategy, assembles party members for important votes, and serves as ex-officio member on all committees.



Denise W. Merrill (D)

### **Minority Leader**

The House Minority Leader is elected by minority party members of the House and serves as the party's leading spokespersons in floor debate. The Minority Leader nominates minority committee members and designates committee ranking members. The position also presides over party caucuses, directs party strategy, assembles party members for important votes, and serves as ex-officio member on all committees.



Lawrence F. Cafero (R)

## **The Majority and Minority Whips of the House**

The Whip is elected by his/her party to count potential votes and promote unity in voting.

### **Clerk and Assistant Clerk**

The Clerk of the House is elected by the members and an Assistant Clerk is appointed by resolution. It is the duty of the Clerk to keep adequate records of the proceedings of the House, to read all bills, resolutions and other instruments presented for action, to keep the Journal and a daily Calendar including accurate records of all transactions between the House and Senate. Additional duties include keeping a record available to members of the action to date on all resolutions and bills, to supervise the distribution of the Journal, Legislative Bulletin and Calendar, and to sign bills upon engrossment.