Legislative Update as of November 15, 2012

Now that the votes have been officially certified, we know that the DFL will control both the Senate and the House, working with DFL Governor Mark Dayton. The Party leadership has been busy in the week since the election with the priority being the naming of the official leadership. Senator Tom Bakk representing Duluth and Northeastern Minnesota was elected as the Senate Majority leader. There were some interesting things come into play, however, in the other Senate leadership positions. Issues of gender and regional balance came into play in the selection of Senator Katie Sieben of Newport as the Assistant Majority Leader in the Senate, and Senator Sandy Papas of St. Paul was elected as the Senate President.

In the House, as expected, Rep. Paul Thissen of Mpls was chosen as the Speaker of the House. Rep. Erin Murphy of St Paul was elected as the House Majority Leader. There were also major changes on the Republican side as their caucus met to elect their party leadership. Senator David Hann -R - Dist. 42 was selected as Senate Minority Leader and Rep. Kurt Daudt of Crown was selected as the House Minority Leader.

When the 88th Session of the Minnesota Legislature convenes on January 8, 2013, The DFL will control the Senate by a 39 - 28 margin and the House controlled by the DFL with a 73 - 61 vote Margin. Some other interesting information about the members of the Legislature. In 2013 there will be a record 44 women serving the House.

31.3 % of the new House members did not serve in the last Legislature.

Today the Senate released the Committee leadership for the new biennium. There will be 16 Committees in the Senate. As expected, Senator Ron Latz has been chosen to lead the Senate Judiciary Committee. He served as the Committee's ranking minority member last year. The Senate Health and Human Services -Finance Division will be led by Senator Tony Laurey of Kerrick and the Health and Human Services Policy Division will be chaired by Senator Kathy Sheran from Mankato. We expect the House will announce their structure and leadership within a week or two. Continuing updates will be provided as we obtain further information.

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