



New Hampshire Senate

NEWS RELEASE

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Senate President Morse announces committee assignments, President *Pro Tempore* and senior staff

CONCORD, NH – Senate President Charles “Chuck” Morse (R-Salem) today announced committee assignments, President *Pro Tempore* and senior staff for the 2021-2022 legislative session:

Committee Assignments for 2021-2022

Capital Budget

Chair: Sen. Reagan, VC: Sen. Bradley

Members: Senators Daniels, D’Allesandro and Watters

Commerce

Chair: Sen. French, VC: Sen. Gannon

Members: Senators Bradley, Soucy and Cavanaugh

ED&A

Chair: Sen. Carson, VC: Sen. Reagan

Members: Senators Ricciardi, Cavanaugh and Prentiss

Education

Chair: Sen. Ward, VC: Sen. Hennessey

Members: Senators Ricciardi, Kahn and Prentiss

Election Law & Municipal Affairs

Chair: Sen. Gray, VC: Sen. Birdsell

Members: Senators Ward, Soucy and Perkins-Kwoka

Energy

Chair: Sen. Avard, VC: Sen. Guida

Members: Senators Gray, Watters and Perkins-Kwoka

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Finance

Chair: Sen. Daniels, VC: Sen. Reagan

Members: Senators Guida, Hennessey, Morse, D'Allesandro and Rosenwald

Health & Human Services

Chair: Sen. Bradley, VC: Sen. Gray

Members: Senators Avard, Sherman and Whitley

Judiciary

Chair: Sen. Carson, VC: Sen. Gannon

Members: Senators French, Whitley and Kahn

Rules

Chair: Sen. Bradley, VC: Sen. Avard

Members: Senators Daniels, Carson, Soucy and Rosenwald

Transportation

Chair: Sen. Birdsell, VC: Sen. Watters

Members: Senators Ricciardi, Ward and Sherman

Ways & Means

Chair: Sen. Guida, VC: Sen. D'Allesandro

Members: Senators Daniels, Hennessey and Rosenwald

President *Pro Tempore*

Senate President Morse has appointed Sharon Carson to serve as Senate President *Pro Tempore* for the new legislative session. Sen. Carson has the longest record of continuous service and is in her 9th term representing District 14 that includes her hometown of Londonderry as well as Auburn and Hudson. The President *Pro Tempore* (President for a time) is a constitutionally recognized officer of the state Senate who presides over the chamber in the absence of the president.

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Senior Staff

Debra Vanderbeek will serve as Senate Chief of Staff. She brings more than 35 years of experience in public policy and advocacy, issues management and communications. Vanderbeek has worked on complex policy issues such as healthcare, energy, and consumer issues at the local, state, and national levels. She previously served as a congressional Chief of Staff in Washington, D.C.

Joshua W. Elliott has been promoted to Deputy Chief of Staff. He has worked for the Senate for the last five years as both Majority Policy Director and most recently as Minority Policy Director. Elliott graduated from Saint Anselm College with honors and earned a master's degree from the University of Chicago.

For Senate Legal Counsel, Sen. Morse selected Richard Lehmann who has previously held the position. The Concord attorney and Boston University School of Law graduate has worked as an Assistant Merrimack County Attorney and in the Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Criminal Justice Bureau. He has been in private practice since 2000.

Grant Bosse will serve as the Senate's Policy Director. He is a veteran of Granite State journalism and government for the past 25 years, including the New Hampshire House and Senate, the U.S. Senate, the Union Leader, and the Josiah Bartlett Center. Grant has extensive public policy experience in budgeting and education funding.

Carole Alfano returns again as Communications Director to work for her fifth senate president. From 2013-2019, she served as the communications manager at the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Her experience also includes speechwriting on Beacon Hill. Carole is a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law and is a former journalist.

Veteran staffer Shannon Girard will continue as Executive Assistant. Since joining the senate in 2007, Girard has also served as Sen. Morse's legislative aide when he chaired the Finance Committee and drafted two state budgets. Besides being an important part of administration and scheduling, Girard focuses on constituent service.

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