



# PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release  
November 15, 2016

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## **Oregon House Democrats Elect Leadership Team for 2017 Session**

*Also, Democrats become the first House caucus in Oregon history to be majority women*

On Tuesday, November 15, House Democrats elected their new leadership team for the 2017 legislative session. Rep. Tina Kotek was nominated to continue serving in her role as Speaker of the House, and Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson was reelected to serve as House Majority Leader.

### **The House Democrats 2017 Leadership Team:**

Speaker of the House nomination: Rep. Tina Kotek (D-Portland)

Speaker Pro Tempore nomination: Rep. Paul Holvey (D-Eugene)

House Majority Leader: Rep. Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland)

House Majority Whip: Rep. Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis)

House Majority Deputy Whip: Rep. Barbara Smith Warner (D-Portland)

House Assistant Majority Leader – Policy: Rep. Caddy McKeown (D-Coos Bay)

House Assistant Majority Leader – Policy: Alissa Keny-Guyer (D-Portland)

House Assistant Majority Leader – Politics: Rep. David Gomberg (D-Central Coast)

Additionally, House Democrats hold ex-officio leadership positions for the co-chair of the Joint Ways and Means Committee and the chair of the Revenue Committee. Reps. Nancy Nathanson (D-Eugene) and Phil Barnhart (D-Eugene) hold those respective positions.

### **Oregon House Democrats Make History**

As a result of the November General Election, a majority of the Democratic seats in the Oregon House are now held by women. This is the first time in the Oregon House of Representatives' history—and only the second time in Oregon's legislative history—that a caucus has been majority women. The newly elected leadership team is also majority women.

Of the 10 new members of the Oregon House Democrats, eight are women, bringing the total of women in the caucus to 19 out of 35 members, or 54%.

“At a time when less than a quarter of all legislative seats across the country are held by women, I’m proud that Oregon’s House Democrats are working hard to close this troubling gender gap,” says House Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson (D-SW & NW Portland).

“House Democrats have delivered on a vision of improving the lives of women, working families, and small businesses,” Rep. Williamson continues. “I’m excited to start working with our new members to continue putting our values into action.”

“With a strong leadership team in place, House Democrats are ready to work hard in 2017 to protect Oregonians’ priorities,” says Rep. Barbara Smith Warner (D-Portland). “By working together, we’ll ensure that Oregon remains a great place to live for everyone.”

The constitutional officers—Speaker of the House and Speaker Pro Tempore—are elected by all House members on January 9.

The 79th Legislative Assembly officially begins its work on February 1, 2017.

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