



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON
Republican President Designate

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Ben Albritton
SUBJECT: Leadership Team
DATE: November 7, 2024

As we prepare for the Organization Session, I would like to share with you the following information regarding the Senators I have asked to serve on my leadership team.

Senator Jason Brodeur – Senate President Pro Tempore

I respectfully ask you to join me in voting for Senator Jason Brodeur to serve as our Senate President Pro Tempore for the 2024-2026 Legislative Term.

The role of Senate President Pro Tempore is a position of significant trust and authority. Together with the President and the Rules Chair, the Pro Tempore is responsible for making certain we abide by the letter and spirit of the Senate Rules to ensure all Senators have the opportunity to advocate for their constituents.

Jason and I came into the House together in 2010, and he has always been a reliable partner in working through challenging policy and budget issues. His ability to grasp extremely complicated issues quickly and articulate both the problem and the solution with ease is truly amazing. His authenticity and positivity, combined with his deep knowledge and experience in the legislative process, make him a perfect fit for the important role of President Pro Tempore.

President Kathleen Passidomo – Chair, Senate Committee on Rules

I am honored President Passidomo has agreed to step into the role of Rules Chair, a position she held under President Simpson prior to her term as Senate President. Kathleen and I came into the House together. For the entire time I have known her, regardless of her position, she has always read every single bill, and every single amendment. She has gained the respect of those on both sides of the political aisle by listening to the concerns each Senator brings forward and working to build consensus. She has exhibited sound judgment and a fair-minded, reasonable and

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thoughtful approach to decision making that, I am confident, will continue to be a great benefit to the Senate over the next two years.

Serving as the Rules Chair is a tall task. I am thankful President Passidomo is willing to step back into an important and extremely time-consuming role during her last two years in the Senate. Her dedication and keen attention to detail will continue to serve the Senate well.

Senator Ed Hooper – Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

Senator Hooper will serve as Chair of our Senate Committee on Appropriations, leading the Senate's efforts in the development of our state budget. During my time in the Senate, the budget has almost always passed unanimously, which is a testament to the hard work it takes to ensure the priorities of all Senators and their constituents are reflected in a balanced, fiscally responsible manner.

Senator Hooper preceded most of our current Senators with his election to the House in 2006. He has been a mentor to so many of us over the years. I trust his instincts. Each year we have a constitutional duty to pass a balanced budget. Sound management and careful oversight of the year-round appropriations process are critical to meeting our obligation to craft our budget within our 60-day session.

The detailed and time-intensive post of Appropriations Chair is one of the most demanding responsibilities in the Legislature. Ed is a strong and fair leader, and I am confident he will be an effective member of the Senate leadership in this important role.

Senator Joe Gruters – Chair, Senate Committee on Fiscal Policy

In order to allow the Committee on Appropriations ample time to thoroughly review and prepare the General Appropriations Act, the Committee on Fiscal Policy will continue to provide an alternative path to the Senate Calendar for bills with a fiscal impact. This structure allows time for robust discussion and debate on both budget items and policy initiatives prior to consideration by the full Senate.

Senator Gruters will lead this important committee. Throughout our service together in both the House and Senate I have witnessed Joe's leadership abilities. With the timeline to spend pandemic funds coming to an end, we know we need to continue to make smart, fiscally-responsible adjustments to align our spending with post-pandemic level spending that is sustainable for the long term. This includes bills with a fiscal impact that must be accounted for in our budget. It will be extremely important that we continue to hold the line and thoroughly vet requests for continued funding as well as new funding. Joe will be a strong leader in this endeavor.

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Senator Jim Boyd – Majority Leader

Senator Boyd and I came into the House together in 2010 as part of a large freshman class. He quickly became a friend and confidante. A dedicated family man and small business owner, we have all witnessed his strong work ethic, innate intellect and willingness to tackle tough issues with grace and good humor – all characteristics that enabled him to quickly rise to positions of both policy and political leadership during his service in the House, and now the Senate.

Jim has proven he has the support of Senate Republicans and is ready to lead our Caucus in this important role. Putting to use his life's work in the field of helping Floridians access insurance and navigating the claims process, Senator Boyd has spent countless hours with Senators on both sides of the aisle exploring and talking through policy solutions to help stabilize Florida's property insurance market. Likewise, he always digs into the details and helps Senators whose constituents have questions or need help with insurance issues. Senator Boyd is truly the epitome of the citizen legislator envisioned in our Constitution. Together with Senator Pizzo, he will work to ensure a smooth operation on the Senate Floor where all Senators will have the opportunity to have their voices heard.