

# ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATS NEWS RELEASE



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**FOR RELEASE:**

November 8, 2007

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**ROBERTS/WATSON COLEMAN/GREEN/QUIGLEY**  
**UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED AS LEADERSHIP TEAM**

*Democratic Unity Expressed in Leadership Votes by Acclamation*

(TRENTON) – The Assembly’s incoming, diversified Democratic Majority Caucus today voted to re-designate Assemblyman Joseph J. Roberts Jr. as Assembly Speaker for the 2008-2009 legislative session, which will begin January 8.

The Caucus also re-elected Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman as Majority Leader and Assemblywoman Joan Quigley as Majority Conference Leader. Assemblyman Jerry Green was elected Speaker Pro-Tempore.

The leadership designations were by acclamation. All but the Majority Leader position will be ratified formally at the Assembly’s reorganization session on January 8.

“This leadership team continues to reflect the unity, diversity and shared mission for progress that is the hallmark of our Caucus,” said Roberts (D-Camden). “It’s an honor to have the opportunity to again lead this legislative institution and I look forward to working with Governor Corzine and members on both sides of the political aisle in the months and years ahead.”

The leadership vote took place two days after voters sent 14 new members to be part of the Democratic Majority Caucus, including the most women in state history.

“This new caucus bring tremendous experience and increased diversity to the mission of making New Jersey a better state in which to live, work, and raise a family,” said Watson Coleman (D-Mercer). “We are fortunate to have so many distinguished and highly qualified individuals join our ranks.”

(MORE)

Green (D-Union) commended Roberts and Watson Coleman for leading the successful effort to maintain the Democrats' majority control in the General Assembly. He vowed to work closely with them in fashioning a fiscally responsible legislative agenda that would help senior citizens, working families, consumers and the business community.

“The voters sent a message on Tuesday and we are determined to demonstrate that we are worthy of the trust they placed in us by reaffirming our majority,” said Green.

Quigley (D-Hudson) said she looked forward to presiding over caucus meetings with a membership that is ethnically diverse and boasts more women.

“I look forward to leading caucus discussions that will involve school funding, health care reform and new initiatives to control government spending,” said Quigley. “The voters have expressed themselves and now it is up to us to meet the challenge of governing and producing results that will benefit the people of this state.”

Fourteen new members participated the morning caucus meeting where the new leadership team was selected:

- Matt Milam, District 1
- Sandra Love, District 4
- Wayne DeAngelo, District 14
- Mila M. Jasey, District 27
- Cleopatra Tucker, District 28
- Ralph Caputo, District 28
- Albert Coutinho, District 29
- L. Grace Spencer, District 29
- L. Harvey Smith, District 31
- Anthony Chiappone, District 31
- Ruben Ramos, District 33
- Caridad Rodriguez, District 33
- Eleise Evans, District 35
- Connie Wagner, District 38