



NEWS RELEASE

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 11, 2016 • Contact: Cory Stewart or Lauren Russell (225) 342-9795

Speaker Taylor Barras announces newly elected House officials and Organizational Session details

Baton Rouge, La. - Newly elected Speaker of the House Taylor Barras, (R-New Iberia), has announced the agenda for the 2016 organizational session, which began today at 10 a.m.

The session opened with the election of State Representative Taylor Barras as Speaker, and the re-election of State Representative Walt Leger, III as Speaker Pro Tempore. Butch Speer and Clarence Russ were also re-elected and re-appointed as Clerk of the House and Sergeant at Arms. This Organizational Session will extend through Jan. 13 to provide members with necessary training and information about the state's fiscal status.

The House will convene tomorrow and begin with an ethics training presentation followed by a discussion on public records and open meetings, both presented by Clerk of the House Butch Speer and other House staff members. These presentations will be followed by a presentation by the House Fiscal Division on the timeline of the fiscal process and a history of state spending.

Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne will also provide an overview of the current and next fiscal years' status, along with a presentation on additional fiscal issues. The House will also receive presentations on revenue and expenditure options by officials from LSU and Tulane, and information from the House Fiscal Division on the timeframe for requesting legislation for this year's legislative session.

Speaker Barras said, "I am honored to have been selected by this body to lead the House of Representatives and look forward to working with each and every member to accomplish great things for our state. As we face many challenges ahead, we must come together to make necessary changes and meet the needs and expectations of the citizens of Louisiana. It is my hope that we can work together in a spirit of collaboration in this upcoming session. We owe the people of this great state our best and great outcomes are only achieved by those who put people before politics. We're ready to get to work!"

Re-elected as Speaker Pro Tem, Walt Leger, III said "I am honored the members have elected me without objection to remain the Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Louisiana House of Representatives. Now, at this critical time, it is important for us to hit the ground running. The Constitution provides for an Organizational Session and the remainder of this time is for us to focus and organize ourselves to provide a high level

view of issues that will need to be worked on as we go into this New Year and the rapidly approaching Special Session that is likely to be called. We have a sacred obligation to work together to set a new course in Louisiana. The sooner we begin the better. The voters spoke very clearly in the last election. It is not about a Democratic solution or Republican solution - it is about creating solutions that work best for the State of Louisiana."

The Organizational Session is expected to adjourn Sine Die by noon Wednesday.

###