



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

December 12, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your calls, meetings, texts, and emails since the Democratic Caucus meeting in October. Every day, I realize more the shoes I must fill in January, and am strengthened by the knowledge that we have a talented team of lawmakers who are eager to work together for the betterment of our state.

After consultation with members of the Senate, I am pleased to introduce the team that I hope to lead our Senate should I be elected by the full Senate in January. Committee compositions are determined by taking the input of the Senators, and balancing those against geographic, gender, racial, knowledge areas, and many other considerations. While we have much work to do to increase diversity in our chamber and in more public positions, I am proud that half of our standing Committee chairs are African-American, and that the Senate leadership team reflects our diversity.

**Senator Delores Kelley** will continue to serve as Chair of the Finance Committee, and **Senator Brian Feldman** will continue to serve as Vice-Chair. Senator Kelley has served in a variety of leadership positions in her time in the Senate, and as a national leader on a large variety of issues that come before the Finance Committee. Together with the Committee, she shepherded through some of the most high-profile issues of last session, and forged a commonsense position on many issues. Senator Feldman has been heralded for his leadership on issues of health, transit, and energy over the last session and has the respect of all his colleagues for his fairness and ability to forge compromise.

**Senator Guy Guzzone** will serve as Chair of the Budget & Taxation Committee and **Senator Jim Rosapepe** will serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee. Senator Guzzone currently serves as Majority Leader, and as Chair of the Health Subcommittee, and as former chair of the Pensions Subcommittee. He is widely recognized for his fairness, understanding of the issues, and ability to work across the aisle with compassion for so many Marylanders. Senator Rosapepe is a leading authority on a variety of issues before the Committee, including Pensions, Education, and Government Oversight issues. As

Democratic Caucus Chair, he has shown the ability to corral our diverse Caucus, and his intellect is respected throughout the Senate.

**Senator Paul Pinsky** will continue to serve as Chair of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, and **Senator Cheryl Kagan** will serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee. During his time as Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, Senator Pinsky has been an honest broker, while still remaining a passionate advocate on education and environmental issues. He is well respected by all members of his Committee. Senator Kagan has served ably in the Senate since 2015 on the Committee, and has been an active voice on every issue that has come through the Committee. A fierce advocate for municipalities and the nonprofit sector, I am confident that she will excel as Vice-Chair.

**Senator Will Smith** will serve as the Chair of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, and **Senator Jeff Waldstreicher** will serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee. Senator Smith has gained accolades for his service as Vice-Chair of the Committee over the last year, and is widely praised for his willingness to listen to all members of his Committee. Senator Smith just returned from a six-month deployment to Afghanistan serving as the Branch Chief for the Governance and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) divisions within the Combined Joint Intelligence Operations Center- Afghanistan (CJIOC-A). He continues the long line of intellectual heavyweights from Montgomery County including former Senators Jamie Raskin, Brian Frosh, and Chris Van Hollen. Senator Waldstreicher is a leader in the Senate on issues of Corporate and Civil Law, and has gained a reputation over the last year as somebody who will work with all members of the Senate. His critical leadership and ability to put others over himself will be essential on the Committee this session.

**Senator Joanne Benson** will continue to serve as Chair of the Senate Rules Committee, and **Senator Craig Zucker** will continue to serve as Vice-Chair. **Senator Ron Young** will continue to serve as Chair of the Executive Nominations Committee, and **Senator Pamela Beidle** will continue to serve as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

I am asking that you join me in voting for **Senator Melony Griffith** for President Pro Tem. Last year, when the most difficult bill of the Session came to the floor, the Senate gave unanimous accolades to Senator Griffith for her abilities and leadership. Those abilities will be critical for our leadership team, and she represents a historic choice for the Senate. I am excited to vote for Senator Griffith, and I respectfully ask that you do the same.

I appreciate the dedicated public service and passion of **Senator Kathy Klausmeier** who I will be appointing to serve as President Pro Tem Emeritus. In this new role, Senator

Klausmeier will continue to serve as a key part of our leadership team, and continue representing the Senate of Maryland throughout the State and country. I am also asking you to join me in voting for a change to our Senate Rules to establish a new position in our chamber: Senate President Emeritus. With **Senate President Miller** continuing his service in the Senate, his continued presence and leadership will be vital for the ongoing stability and success of the Senate.

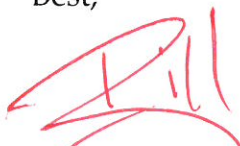
**Senator Nancy King** will serve as Majority Leader, and **Senator Susan Lee** will continue to serve as Majority Whip. Senator King is known by all members of the Senate for her firm grasp of the issues and her eagerness for fairness, while advocating on a variety of issues, especially education. In her new role she will be a central part of our leadership team and help drive key decisions on strategy. Senator Lee has been a leader in the Legislature on a variety of issues and has served effectively as Majority Whip. As the highest-ranking Asian American elected official in Maryland, Senator Lee's experienced commitment to diversity and inclusion has been a beacon for all Marylanders. Her continued engagement on our leadership team will be an asset for all.

In addition, I have asked **Senator Craig Zucker** to serve as Chair of the Democratic Caucus, and **Senator Antonio Hayes** to serve as Vice-Chair of the Democratic Caucus. Senator Zucker understands how to wade through the myriad of issues facing the Senate and will be a key member of the leadership team. Together, Senators Zucker and Hayes will be vital to providing critical support and guidance to our Democratic members.

While the Senate and the General Assembly are undergoing historic transitions, I believe what I have said publicly and privately: Together we have the skills and talent within the Senate to ensure that our institution will remain the singular best legislative body in the country. Five of our twelve Standing Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs will be new for the 2020 Session, in addition to the changes we experienced ahead of the 2019 Session. Styles of leadership will change, and priorities at times may be different, yet I am confident that our collective belief in the Senate, our state, and the desire to do good on behalf of all Marylanders will guide our steps and our chamber forward.

As always, please contact my office if I can be of assistance.

Best,



Bill Ferguson

## **Senate Finance Committee**

Senator Delores G. Kelley, Chair  
Senator Brian J. Feldman, Vice-Chair  
Senate President Pro Tem Emeritus Katherine Klausmeier  
Senator Malcolm Augustine  
Senator Pamela Beidle  
Senator Joanne C. Benson  
Senator Antonio L. Hayes  
Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.  
Senator J.B. Jennings  
Senator Benjamin F. Kramer  
Senator Edward R. Reilly

## **Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair  
Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
Senator Addie Eckardt  
Senator Sarah Elfreth  
Senator George C. Edwards  
Senator Melony Griffith  
Senator Nancy J. King  
Senator Cory McCray  
Senator Douglas J. J. Peters  
Senator Johnny Ray Salling  
Senator Andrew Serafini  
Senator Craig Zucker

### **Capital Budget Subcommittee**

Senator Douglas J. J. Peters, Chair  
Senator Craig J. Zucker, Vice-Chair  
Senator George C. Edwards  
Senator Melony Griffith  
Senator Nancy J. King  
Senator Cory McCray  
Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

### **Education, Business, & Administration Subcommittee**

Senator Craig J. Zucker, Chair  
Senator Sarah K. Elfreth  
Senator Nancy J. King  
Senator Andrew Serafini

**Health & Human Services Subcommittee**

Senator Melony G. Griffith, Chair  
Senator Adelaide C. Eckardt  
Senator Johnny Ray Salling  
Senator Jim Rosapepe

**Pensions Subcommittee**

Senator Sarah K. Elfreth, Chair  
Senator Adelaide C. Eckardt  
Senator Melony G. Griffith  
Senator Cory McCray  
Senator Jim Rosapepe  
Senator Andrew Serafini  
Senator Craig J. Zucker

**Public Safety, Transportation, & Environment Subcommittee**

Senator Cory V. McCray, Chair  
Senator George C. Edwards  
Senate President Emeritus Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
Senator Douglas J. J. Peters

**Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee**

Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair  
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice-Chair  
Senator Jack Bailey  
Senator Mary Beth Carozza  
Senator Arthur Ellis  
Senator Jason C. Gallion  
Senator Katie Fry Hester  
Senator Clarence K. Lam  
Senator Obie Patterson  
Senator Bryan Simonaire  
Senator Mary Washington

## **Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

Senator William C. Smith, Jr., Chair  
Senator Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair  
Senator Jill P. Carter  
Senator Bob Cassilly  
Senator Michael J. Hough  
Senator Susan C. Lee  
Senator Justin Ready  
Senator Chris West  
Senator Ronald N. Young  
Senator from District 11  
Senator from District 44

## **Senate Executive Nominations Committee**

Senator Ronald N. Young, Chair  
Senator Pamela Beidle, Vice-Chair  
Committee Membership to be announced at a later date

## **Senate Rules Committee**

Senator Joanne C. Benson, Chair  
Senator Craig Zucker, Vice-Chair  
Committee Membership to be announced at a later date

## **Joint Committee Chairs** (Membership to be announced at a later date)

\* Denotes new Chair

- Investigation Committee - Senator Bill Ferguson, Senate Chair\*
- Joint Committee on Audits and Program Evaluation - Senator Clarence Lam, Senate Chair\*
- Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review - Senator Sarah K. Elfreth, Senate Chair\*
- Joint Committee on Behavioral Health & Opioid Use Disorders – Senator Antonio Hayes, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area - Senator Sarah K. Elfreth, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on Children, Youth, & Families - Senator Mary L. Washington, Senate Chair

- Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, & Biotechnology - Senator Katie Hester, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness - Senator Mary L. Washington, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on Fair Practices and State Personnel Oversight - Senator Clarence K. Lam, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on Federal Relations - Senator Jill P. Carter, Senate Chair\*
- Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight - Senator Obie Patterson, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics - Senator George C. Edwards, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds - Senator Malcolm Augustine, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on Pensions - Senator Sarah K. Elfreth, Senate Chair\*
- Joint Committee on Program Open Space & Agricultural Land Preservation - Senator Ronald N. Young, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on Unemployment Insurance Oversight - Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Senate Chair
- Joint Committee on Workers' Compensation Benefit and Insurance Oversight - Senator Katherine Klausmeier, Senate Chair
- Spending Affordability Committee - Senator Craig Zucker, Senate Chair

#### **Majority Floor Leadership:**

- **Majority Leader** – Senator Nancy J. King\*
- **Deputy Majority Leader** – Senator Joanne C. Benson\*
- **Assistant Deputy Majority Leader** – Senator Arthur Ellis\*
- **Majority Whip** - Senator Susan C. Lee
- **Deputy Majority Whip** – Senator Cory V. McCray\*
- **Deputy Majority Whip** – Senator Obie Patterson
- **Deputy Majority Whip** – Senator Pamela Beidle\*

#### **Democratic Caucus Leadership:**

- **Caucus Chair** – Senator Craig Zucker\*
- **Caucus Vice-Chair** – Senator Antonio Hayes\*