

PRESS RELEASE FROM
PRESIDING OFFICER DUWAYNE GREGORY



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Legislature Elects 2016 Leadership

2nd District Legislator Bridget Fleming Sworn into First Term



Fifteenth District Legislator DuWayne Gregory, left, of Amityville was sworn in for his third term as Presiding Officer at the Suffolk County Legislature's organizational meeting

Jan. 4 in Hauppauge. Hon. C. Randall Hinrichs, Suffolk County District Administrative Judge, administers the oath as Gregory's wife, Erica Chase-Gregory, looks on.

HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. – The Suffolk County Legislature today held its 2016 organizational meeting, at which its 18 members took their oaths of office and elected their leadership for the upcoming year.

Fifteenth District Legislator DuWayne Gregory was elected to his third term as Presiding Officer, and 7th District Legislator Rob Calarco was elected to serve as Deputy Presiding Officer. He succeeds last year's Deputy Presiding Officer Jay Schneiderman, who was termed out of his 2nd District legislative seat after 12 years of service. He is now supervisor of the Town of Southampton.

"I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to continue leading this Legislature in 2016," said Presiding Officer Gregory. "We had a productive year in 2015, but we will face many challenges in the coming year. Protecting taxpayer dollars while delivering quality services will remain our top priority, and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle as we continue to build a stronger Suffolk in 2016."

"I want to thank my colleagues for their support in electing me to serve as the Deputy Presiding Officer," said Deputy Presiding Officer Calarco. "I looking forward to working with Presiding Officer Gregory and the entire Legislature to achieve the common goal of doing the best we can for the residents of Suffolk County."

"The residents of Suffolk County have entrusted us to be their voices and serve as stewards of our shared future," said 5th District Legislator Kara Hahn, who last month was elected Majority Leader by her colleagues in the Democratic Caucus. "I have been humbled by this responsibility every day for the past four years and look forward to continuing working with all of my colleagues, and across party lines, on behalf of Suffolk County's 1.5 million residents."

"I'm pleased to be joining such a professional group of legislators, who are clearly committed to the best interests of our community, and I look forward to representing the unique needs of Suffolk County's East End," said 2nd District Legislator Bridget Fleming, who is the only new member of the Legislature in 2016. "As a Southampton Town Councilwoman, I focused my efforts on three areas that are critical to the East End: providing economic opportunity, defending the environment and keeping government accountable to the citizens it serves. As a county legislator, I will continue to focus my attention on those key priorities in addition to the other needs of my constituents."

The Legislature also re-appointed Jason Richberg of West Babylon as Clerk of the Legislature and named Amy Ellis of Mount Sinai the Chief Deputy Clerk. George Nolan of Bayport was re-appointed Counsel to the Legislature, and Dr. Robert Lipp of St. James was appointed to his first full term as Director of the Legislature's nonpartisan Budget Review Office.

The ceremonial oaths of the Presiding Officer and Deputy Presiding Officer were administered by Hon. C. Randall Hinrichs, Suffolk County District Administrative Judge. The official oath of all incoming legislators was administered by Suffolk County Clerk Judith Pascale.

Speaking at the meeting, U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer called the Suffolk County Legislature “one of the best in the country.” County Executive Steve Bellone was also in attendance to congratulate the legislators.

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