

# WVIA

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **January 10, 2025**

A one-day organizational session was held this week of the new 87th West Virginia Legislature. Legislators took the oath of office and formally elected their presiding officers - Senate President Randy Smith; and House Speaker Roger Hanshaw. Other actions were taken in the Senate and House to help establish procedural and organizational plans in each chamber for the upcoming session. The Legislature will reconvene Feb. 12, when the 60-day Regular Session begins and Governor-Elect Morrisey's new Administration is in place. Legislators also held Interim Meetings, and a summary of key meetings is available [here](#). As part of the one-day session this week, U.S. Senator-Elect Jim Justice also delivered his farewell address to the full Legislature. Full remarks are available [here](#). Below is a summary with relevant links of the Legislative Leadership and Committee Announcements along with Governor-Elect Morrisey's recent appointments.

### **Legislative Leadership and Committee Announcements**

#### ***Senate***

As of this writing, Senate President Randy Smith has not officially and fully announced Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs and the Senate Committee composition. However, some names were recently announced for key positions including the following:

- Senator Patrick Martin will serve as Senate Majority Leader replacing Senator Tom Takubo
- Senator Jason Barrett will be the new Senate Finance Committee Chairman replacing Senator Eric Tarr. Vice Chair will be Senator Rollan Roberts
- Senator Mike Stuart will be the new Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman replacing outgoing Senator Charles Trump. Vice Chair will be Tom Willis
- No other official announcements have been made re: other Committee Chairs or Committee composition but please be on the lookout for additional information in the days ahead. If you have any questions, please contact [me](#). In the meantime, here's a [listing of the full Senate](#), representing [17 senatorial districts](#). The Senate is comprised of 34 members - 2 Democrats and 32 Republicans. Senators serve four-year terms with half of those seats up for election every two years.

#### ***House***

House Speaker Roger Hanshaw this week announced several leadership roles with the West Virginia House of Delegates and a change to the committee format for the upcoming 87<sup>th</sup> Legislature. For a listing of the leadership roles, including Chairs/Vice Chairs along with a summary of the new committee format and structure read [here](#). The House of Delegates is composed of 100

members, 9 Democrats and 91 Republicans, from [100 delegate districts](#) throughout the state. Delegates serve two-year terms with all of the seats in the House up for election every two years.

### **Governor-Elect Morrisey Appointments**

As been reported, Governor-Elect Morrisey has made the first round of administration cabinet appointments and executive team members for his Administration. Further announcements will be made in the days ahead. In case you missed it, a full listing of first round appointments is available [here](#). To keep updated on further appointments and developments re: Governor-Elect Morrisey, visit [here](#) or contact [me](#).

If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact [me](#). Thanks.

Tony