

## OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT

The Senate President is the presiding officer of the State Senate, elected by and among the members of the Senate to serve a two-year term. The Illinois Constitution, statutes and rules define the functions and responsibilities of the office.

The President appoints Senate members to standing committees and permanent and interim study commissions, designating one member as chair. The President also appoints the Majority Leader and Assistant Majority Leaders, who serve as officers of the Senate.

With the Speaker of the House, the Senate President shares primary responsibility for legislative procedures and operations. By strategically directing the flow of legislation, the President ultimately can set the pace of work in the Senate. The President is required to approve all vouchers for the expenditure of funds appropriated for use by the Senate and to certify that all bills passed by the Senate are in accordance with Senate rules.

As chair of the Senate Operations Commission, the President oversees a seven-member management committee responsible for deciding Senate policy, hiring Senate employees, purchasing supplies, renting equipment and maintaining the Senate chambers and office, among other duties.

In addition to presiding over the Senate, the President is the leader of the majority party in the upper chamber. The President also is the chief spokesperson of his or her political party.

Likewise, the Senate Minority Leader, selected by the minority party and formally elected by all Senate members, speaks on behalf of the minority party. Responsibilities of the Senate Minority Leader include appointing members to serve on certain boards, commissions and standing committees; selecting assistant leaders and staff; and serving as spokesperson for constitutional officers from the minority party.

As spokesmen in the upper chamber, both the Senate President and Minority Leader can influence their respective party members and effectuate the passage or obstruction of legislation.



**Emil Jones, Jr.**  
Senate President

Senate President **Emil Jones, Jr.**, has been a member of the General Assembly since 1973. He is a strong proponent of social justice and the fair and adequate funding of public education in Illinois.

Senator Jones received the unanimous support of the members of the Senate Democratic Caucus to be elected Senate President of the 94th General Assembly. On Jan. 12, 2005, Illinois Supreme Court Justice Charles Freeman administered the oath of office to Senator Jones before his family, friends and colleagues.

Elected to the Senate in 1982, Senator Jones is currently a member of the Senate Executive Committee, and served as vice-chair of the General Assembly Retirement System's Board of Trustees. As a member of the Illinois House of

Representatives from 1973 to 1983, he served as an Assistant Minority Leader and chair of the Insurance Committee.

A 1953 graduate of Chicago's Tilden Technical High School, Senator Jones graduated from Chicago Loop Junior College and attended Roosevelt University, where he majored in business administration and received a Doctorate of Humane Letters Honoris Causa degree in 2004. He also received an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree from

Chicago State University. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation and an honorary member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of Harold Washington College.

Senator Jones is a lifelong resident of Chicago's south side. He is a member of the Knights of St. Peter Claver, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the National Conference of State Legislators and the Shriners, and is a 32nd degree Mason. He has four children and is married to Dr. Lorrie Jones.



**Debbie Halvorson**  
Senate Majority  
Leader

**Debbie Halvorson** (Democrat) is the first woman to serve as Senate Majority Leader in the history of the Illinois Senate. Born March 1, 1958, Senator Halvorson grew up in Steger and currently lives in Crete. Previously a small business owner and now a full-time legislator, she was elected to the Senate in 1996.

Senator Halvorson holds degrees from Robert Morris College and Prairie State University. She received her B.A. degree in communications from Governors State University and her master's degree in communications and training. She received the Freshman Legislator of the Year award from the Illinois Health Care Association and was named an Education Hero by the Illinois Education Association. She also was named Business Advocate of the Year by the Chicago Southland Development Inc., received the Distinguished Legislator of the Year award from the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill, and was named Legislator of the Year by the South Suburban Area on Aging.

Senator Halvorson is married with four children and three grandchildren.

Senate Minority Leader **Frank Watson** (Republican) has been a member of the General Assembly since 1973, serving in the Illinois House from 1973 to 1983. He was elected to the Senate in 1983, representing the 55th Senate District until 2002. He was re-elected in November 2002 to represent the newly-drawn 51st Senate District.

Senator Watson was elected Senate Minority Leader in January 2003 and re-elected in 2005. Prior to serving as Minority Leader, he was an Assistant Majority Leader from 1993 to 2002. During his Senate tenure, he has served as a member of Committees on Agriculture and Conservation, Appropriations, Education, Transportation and Executive. He also has served on numerous legislative commissions dealing with such diverse topics as alcoholism and substance abuse, energy resources, reuse of military bases, mine subsidence and education. As a legislator, Senator Watson has been a recognized leader in many areas, including welfare reform, elementary and secondary education, higher education affordability, rural health care, downstate transportation, the promotion of Illinois coal and economic development.

Senator Watson is a graduate of Purdue University. A registered pharmacist, he is owner of Watson's Drug Store, a family-owned business for more than 100 years. He and his wife, Susan, are the parents of two adult children.



**Frank Watson**  
Senate Minority  
Leader

## Secretary of the Senate

**Linda Hawker** (Democrat) was born May 13, 1949, in Springfield. She has served as Secretary of the Senate for the 85th, 86th, 87th, 93rd and 94th General Assemblies. She was elected Assistant Secretary of the Senate in 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001. From 1971 to 1980, she worked for the Senate Democrat Leadership staff and then as a Public Affairs associate at Sangamon State University (now the University of Illinois at Springfield), where she received her bachelor's degree in political science. She also served as a special assistant to former Senate President Philip J. Rock.



## Assistant Secretary of the Senate

**Scott Kaiser** (Republican) was born June 25, 1966, in Peoria. He received his B.A. degree in political science from Sangamon State University. He served as a legislative analyst on the Senate Republican staff from 1988 to 1996, and as deputy director of Legislative Affairs for Governor Jim Edgar. In 1999, he became assistant to the president of Southern Illinois University. He was first elected Assistant Secretary of the Senate in June 2004. He and his wife, Julie, have two children.



## Clerk of the House

**Mark E. Mahoney** (Democrat) was born Nov. 20, 1967, in Springfield. He graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University with his B.A. degree in history/political science. He served as a legislative assistant to U.S. Rep. John W. Cox, Jr., from 1991 to 1993, and as chief legislative correspondent to U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg from 1993 to 1995. From 1997 to 2003, he served on Speaker Madigan's Issues Development staff, and from 2003 to 2004 he was chief of Intergovernmental Relations for the Department of Corrections. He was first elected Clerk of the House in February 2004. He and his wife, Grainne, have a daughter.



## Assistant Clerk of the House

**Bradley S. Bolin** (Republican) was born April 15, 1964, in Anderson, IN. He received his B.A. degree in political science from Purdue University. He then served as a legislative analyst on the House Republican Staff from 1986 to 1997. He was first elected Assistant Clerk of the House in January 1997. He is married to the former Brittan Ramey, and they have one daughter.



## SENATE COMMITTEES

**AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION** — Sullivan, *chair*; Wilhelmi, *vice-chair*; Dahl, *minority spokesperson*; Demuzio, Forby, Halvorson, J. Jones, Luechtefeld, Winkel.

**APPROPRIATIONS I** — Trotter, *chair*; Collins, *vice-chair*; Syverson, *minority spokesperson*; Haine, W. Jones, Lauzen, Lightford, Maloney, Meeks, Radogno, Rauschenberger, Sandoval, Schoenberg.

**APPROPRIATIONS II** — Schoenberg, *chair*; Trotter, *vice-chair*; Radogno, *minority spokesperson*; Burzynski, Clayborne, Harmon, Lauzen, Link, Rauschenberger, Sullivan, Syverson, Viverito, Wilhelmi.

**APPROPRIATIONS III** — Hunter, *chair*; Schoenberg, *vice-chair*; Rauschenberger, *minority spokesperson*; Althoff, Forby, Garrett, Lauzen, Muñoz, Pankau, Radogno, Trotter, Wilhelmi.

**COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** — Sandoval, *chair*; Meeks, *vice-chair*; Althoff, *minority spokesperson*; Cronin, Dahl, Demuzio, Raoul, Silverstein, Syverson, Trotter.

**EDUCATION** — Lightford, *chair*; del Valle, *vice-chair*; Cronin, *minority spokesperson*; Burzynski, Demuzio, Forby, Garrett, Luechtefeld, Meeks, Ronen, Winkel.

**ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY** — Clayborne, *chair*; Muñoz, *vice-chair*; Risinger, *minority spokesperson*; Dillard, Haine, Harmon, Hendon, Jacobs, Rauschenberger, Roskam, Rutherford, Sandoval, Trotter.

**EXECUTIVE** — Silverstein, *chair*; Cullerton, *vice-chair*; Roskam, *minority spokesperson*; Burzynski, DeLeo, del Valle, Hendon, E. Jones, Petka, Shadid, Sieben, Viverito, Watson.

**EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS** — Geo-Karis, *co-chair*; Hendon, *co-chair*; DeLeo, *vice-chair*; Dillard, Jacobs, Luechtefeld, Petka, Shadid, Viverito.

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** — Collins, *chair*; Lightford, *vice-chair*; Rutherford, *minority spokesperson*; Axley, Bomke, Cullerton, Link, Schoenberg, Sieben.

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** — Ronen, *chair*; Garrett, *vice-chair*; Righter, *minority spokesperson*; Crotty, Hunter, Martinez, Pankau, Radogno, Raoul, Schoenberg, Syverson.

**HIGHER EDUCATION** — Maloney, *chair*; Sullivan, *vice-chair*; Winkel, *minority spokesperson*; Burzynski, del Valle, Lightford, Luechtefeld, Meeks, Raoul, Ronen, Righter.

**HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS** — Meeks, *chair*; Martinez, *vice-chair*; W. Jones, *minority spokesperson*; Althoff, Collins, Hendon, Hunter, J. Jones, Rauschenberger, Wilhelmi.

**INSURANCE** — Haine, *chair*; Clayborne, *vice-chair*; Brady, *minority spokesperson*; Cullerton, Jacobs, Martinez, Peterson, Roskam, Shadid, Sieben.

**JUDICIARY** — Cullerton, *co-chair*; Dillard, *co-chair*; Harmon, *vice-chair*; Clayborne, Haine, Petka, Raoul, Roskam, Silverstein, Winkel.

**LABOR** — Forby, *chair*; Maloney, *vice-chair*; Pankau, *minority spokesperson*; Cronin, del Valle, Hendon, W. Jones, Lightford, Righter, Ronen.

**LICENSED ACTIVITIES** — Demuzio, *chair*; Haine, *vice-chair*; J. Jones, *minority spokesperson*; Crotty, Dillard, Millner, Muñoz, Peterson, Silverstein.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT** — Crotty, *chair*; Sandoval, *vice-chair*; Axley, *minority spokesperson*; Althoff, Dahl, DeLeo, Link, Maloney, Risinger, Wilhelmi.

**PENSIONS AND INVESTMENTS** — Martinez, *chair*; Raoul, *vice-chair*; Brady, *minority spokesperson*; Clayborne, Harmon, Hunter, Jacobs, Geo-Karis, Millner, Righter.

**REVENUE** — Harmon, *chair*; Link, *vice-chair*; Lauzen, *minority spokesperson*; Brady, Collins, Jacobs, W. Jones, Muñoz, Pankau, Trotter.

**RULES** — Viverito, *chair*; Petka, *minority spokesperson*; Cullerton, Hendon, Roskam.

**STATE GOVERNMENT** — Garrett, *chair*; Demuzio, *vice-chair*; Millner, *minority spokesperson*; Althoff, Bomke, Crotty, Forby, Hunter, Peterson.

**TRANSPORTATION** — Muñoz, *chair*; Shadid, *vice-chair*; Bomke, *minority spokesperson*; Axley, Forby, Garrett, Halvorson, Radogno, Risinger, Sullivan.

## OFFICERS OF THE SENATE

Emil Jones, Jr. ....	<i>President of the Senate</i>
Debbie Halvorson .....	<i>Majority Leader</i>
Miguel del Valle .....	<i>Assistant Majority Leader</i>
James DeLeo .....	<i>Assistant Majority Leader</i>
Rickey R. Hendon .....	<i>Assistant Majority Leader</i>
Louis Viverito.....	<i>Assistant Majority Leader</i>
George Shadid .....	<i>Assistant Majority Leader</i>
Terry Link .....	<i>Majority Caucus Chair</i>
James F. Clayborne.....	<i>Majority Caucus Whip</i>
John J. Cullerton .....	<i>Majority Caucus Whip</i>
Frank Watson.....	<i>Minority Leader</i>
Edward Petka.....	<i>Deputy Minority Leader</i>
Todd Sieben .....	<i>Assistant Minority Leader</i>
Steve Rauschenberger.....	<i>Assistant Minority Leader</i>
David Luechtefeld.....	<i>Assistant Minority Leader</i>
Bill Peterson.....	<i>Assistant Minority Leader</i>
J. Bradley Burzynski .....	<i>Minority Caucus Chair</i>
Peter J. Roskam.....	<i>Minority Caucus Whip</i>
Linda Hawker.....	<i>Secretary of the Senate</i>
Scott Kaiser .....	<i>Assistant Secretary of the Senate</i>
Anita Robinson .....	<i>Sergeant-at-Arms</i>
Tracey Sidles.....	<i>Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms</i>