



LOUISIANA SENATE

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2012-2016 LA STATE SENATORS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE **IN SPECIAL INAUGURAL CEREMONIES**

TAP SENATORS ALARIO AND BROOME **FOR TOP LEADERSHIP POSTS**

In special inaugural ceremonies in the Louisiana State Senate Chamber, members of the 2012-2016 State Senate took the oath of office and were officially seated as State Senators. Among the 39 members are 10 new State Senators including four members who are beginning their first term in the Louisiana Legislature. After taking the oath of office from Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Catherine "Kitty" Kimball, the members chose their leadership.



Senators overwhelmingly chose District 8 State Senator John Alario (R-Westwego) as the new Senate President. Senators Danny Martiny and Rick Gallot nominated the tax consultant and long-time public servant for the post, citing his proven, consistent leadership, selfless service to the state and sound counsel.

Sen. Alario, who is beginning his second term in the Louisiana Senate, previously served in the Louisiana House of Representatives for 9 terms leading the body as Speaker for two of those terms. With his election as Senate President, Alario becomes the second Louisiana legislator in modern times and the fifth legislator in the nation to hold the top leadership post in both the House and the Senate according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.



With family members by his side, Sen. Alario took the oath of office from Federal District Court Judge Carl Barbier. The new Senate President, known as fair-minded and a coalition builder, sees this new legislative term as an opportunity to focus on the future of Louisiana - our children.

"Our responsibility is to give our children the best tools to succeed. Only through a quality education will their lives be brighter," Senate President Alario said. "Change is not easy, but we do have an

opportunity to leave a legacy during our time in public service by providing our children opportunities to not only exceed, but excel. Now is the time for us to work together for the common good."

Senate President Pro-Tempore District 15 State Senator Sharon Weston Broome (D-Baton Rouge), who was chosen for the leadership post by a unanimous vote for the second term in a row, is ready to help lead that effort. Sen. Broome, who was the first woman elected Speaker Pro Tempore during her service in the Louisiana House of Representatives, is the second woman to serve as Louisiana Senate President Pro Tempore. Described as a wise, knowledgeable leader who does the right thing for the right reasons by Senators Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb and Gerald Long who nominated Broome for the leadership post, Sen. Broome took the oath office from State District Judge Lisa Woodruff-White as the Senator's husband Marvin and her grandchildren stood nearby.



"I look forward to working with our new President and all of the members of the Senate to advance the priorities of this body," Senate President Pro Tempore Weston Broome said. "We must be reminded that while we certainly must attend to the concerns of our districts, it is our ability to establish bipartisan cooperation, combining our ideas and our abilities, to provide relevant solutions to benefit not only our districts, but the state as a whole."

The new members of the Senate are Page Cortez, Rick Gallot Jr., Ronnie Johns, Gary L. Smith, Jr. and Bodi White who all previously served in the Louisiana House of Representatives and Greg Tarver who previously served in the Louisiana Senate. Senators Bret Allain, Troy Brown, Barrow Peacock and Rick Ward III are new to the Louisiana State Legislature.

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