



LOUISIANA SENATE

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2016-2020 LA STATE SENATORS TAKE OATH OF OFFICE IN SPECIAL INAUGURAL CEREMONIES

TAP SENATORS ALARIO AND LONG FOR TOP LEADERSHIP POSTS

In special inaugural ceremonies in the Louisiana State Senate Chamber, members of the 2016-2020 State Senate took the oath of office and were officially seated as State Senators. Among the 39 members are 11 new State Senators including six members who are beginning their first term in the Louisiana Legislature. After taking the oath of office from Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Johnson, the members chose their leadership.



Senators unanimously re-elected District 8 State Senator John A. Alario, Jr. (R-Westwego) as Senate President. Senators Danny Martiny and Francis Thompson spoke in support of Alario's re-election, citing his commitment to public service, integrity and proven leadership.

Sen. Alario, who is beginning his third 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. The tax consultant and veteran legislator is the first Louisiana lawmaker to twice hold the top leadership post in both the House and the Senate.

During the inauguration ceremonies, the Senate President left his desk on the Senate floor empty. The empty desk was in recognition and honor of the many public servants and their families who came before him and who made an unselfish commitment to Louisiana.



With family members by his side, Sen. Alario took the oath of office from his former colleague Ed Murray who served in both the House and the Senate with Alario, the dean of the Louisiana legislature. The Senate President, known as an even-handed coalition builder, sees this new legislative term as one filled with opportunities.

"I see this as an opportunity to work with the members of the Senate with all of us pulling together to achieve financial stability and to provide educational and economic opportunities

for all Louisiana citizens. This is about making Louisiana what we all know that it should be and can be. It is not a matter of what we can't do, but what we can do and what we will do," Sen. Alario said.

Senate President Pro-Tempore District 31 State Senator Gerald Long (R-Natchitoches), who was chosen for the leadership post by an overwhelming vote, is ready to help lead that effort. Sen. Long is beginning his third term in the Senate and most recently served as chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and as a member of the Agriculture, Insurance and Retirement committees. The life-long Louisiana resident and Winn Parish native is a former educator and small businessman who retired from the insurance business. Described as a deeply committed, passionate public servant who leads by example by Senators Neil Riser and Eric LaFleur who urged their fellow senators to support Long for the leadership post, Sen. Long took the oath of office from his nephew Jimmy Long, Jr. as the Senator's wife Rose stood nearby.

"I am deeply humbled to be selected by my peers to serve in this position of leadership," Senate President Pro Tempore Long said. "I am eager to work closely with President Alario to continue to move Louisiana forward under the new administration. With the challenges we face it is important that we not be dedicated to serving the 'D' or the 'R', but that we be dedicated to the people of Louisiana. That is what will make a difference."



Among the new members of the Senate are Regina Ashford Barrow, Wesley Bishop, Troy Carter, Jr., Jim Fannin and Eddie Lambert who all previously served in the Louisiana House of Representatives. Other first-term Senators Gerald Boudreaux, Ryan Gatti, Sharon Hewitt, Jay Luneau, John Milkovich and Beth Mizell are new to the Louisiana State Legislature.

At the organizational session, Senators also re-elected Senate Secretary Glenn Koepp and Sergeant at Arms John Keller.

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