



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR JEFF ATWATER**  
*President*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 3, 2008**

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**(850) 487-5632**

**SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER ANNOUNCES REMAINING SENATE  
LEADERSHIP TEAM AND COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS**

**Tallahassee, Fl -- Senate President Jeff Atwater (R-Palm Beach)** today announced the appointment of **Senator JD Alexander (R-Lake Wales)** as the Chair of the Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means and **Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla (R-Miami)** as the Senate Majority Leader for the 2008-2010 term.

"Floridians clearly said on Election Day that they want their elected leaders to work together to solve problems," said President Atwater. "We face unprecedented economic challenges. However Florida has survived tough situations before. I have the utmost confidence in these two individuals and their commitment to Florida."

President Atwater also named the following Policy and Steering Committee chairs: Senator Gaetz, Senator King, Senator Haridopolos, and Senator Pruitt. The Policy and Steering Committees, under the leadership of the chairs, will hear legislation, work with their respective committee chairs, and set the special order calendar.

"I am grateful for the willingness of these individuals to dedicate their time and talents in this capacity," President Atwater said. "These Senators will play a vital role in ensuring that legislation has been thoroughly studied and debated."

**Appropriations Chair - Senator JD Alexander (R-Lake Wales)**

Senator JD Alexander is has one of the brightest minds in the Senate. He is known for his ability to grasp and understand complex issues and skillfully navigate the obstacles in order to identify and achieve successful solutions. Senator Alexander is a fifth generation Floridian. He was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1998, where he served two terms. In 2002, Senator Alexander was elected to the Senate. Most recently Senator Alexander chaired the Senate General Government Appropriations Committee.

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**Majority Leader - Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla (R-Miami)**

Senator Alex Diaz de la Portilla is known for his passion for service and skillful intellect. He will work tirelessly to assist his colleagues as they serve their constituencies; ensuring that they are successful public servants. Senator Diaz de la Portilla was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1994, where he served three terms. In 2000, he was elected to the Senate, where he served as President Pro Tempore 2002-2004. Most recently Senator Diaz de la Portilla chaired the Senate Commerce Committee.

Attached is a complete listing of committee assignments

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**SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
2008 - 2010**

**President Pro Tempore: Mike Fasano**

**Majority Leader: Alex Diaz de la Portilla  
Minority Leader: Al Lawson**

**GROUP I**

**Policy and Steering Committee on Energy, Environment, and Land Use**

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Jim King, Chair	Paula Dockery
Nan Rich, Vice Chair	Rudy Garcia
Dave Aronberg	Mike Haridopolos
Mike Bennett	Gary Siplin
Larcenia Bullard	Eleanor Sobel
Lee Constantine	Alex Villalobos
Charlie Dean	

**Agriculture**

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Charlie Dean, Chair	Carey Baker
Larcenia Bullard, Vice Chair	Durell Peaden
Dave Aronberg	

**Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities**

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Jim King, Chair	Steve Oelrich
Arthenia Joyner, Vice Chair	Ken Pruitt
Mike Fasano	Garrett Richter
Dan Gelber	Chris Smith
Mike Haridopolos	

**Community Affairs**

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Mike Bennett, Chair	Andy Gardiner
Gary Siplin, Vice Chair	Tony Hill
Thad Altman	Jeremy Ring
Ted Deutch	Ronda Storms
Rudy Garcia	Stephen Wise

**SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
2008 - 2010**

**President Pro Tempore: Mike Fasano**

**Majority Leader: Alex Diaz de la Portilla  
Minority Leader: Al Lawson**

**Environmental Preservation and Conservation**

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Lee Constantine, Chair  
Eleanor Sobel, Vice Chair  
Nancy Detert

Paula Dockery  
Dennis Jones  
Nan Rich

**SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
2008 - 2010**

**President Pro Tempore: Mike Fasano**

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**GROUP II**

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**Policy and Steering Committee on Commerce and Industry**

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Don Gaetz, Chair	Arthenia Joyner
Jeremy Ring, Vice Chair	Charlie Justice
Ted Deutch	Evelyn Lynn
Alex Diaz de la Portilla	Durell Peaden
Rudy Garcia	Garrett Richter
Andy Gardiner	Chris Smith
Dennis Jones	

**Banking and Insurance**

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Garrett Richter, Chair	Al Lawson
Chris Smith, Vice Chair	Jeremy Ring
JD Alexander	Ronda Storms
Mike Bennett	Alex Villalobos
Mike Fasano	

**Commerce**

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Rudy Garcia, Chair	Evelyn Lynn
Dan Gelber, Vice Chair	Steve Oelrich
Victor Crist	Durell Peaden
Nancy Detert	Nan Rich
Charlie Justice	Eleanor Sobel

**Regulated Industries**

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Dennis Jones, Chair	Alex Diaz de la Portilla
Ted Deutch, Vice Chair	Tony Hill
Dave Aronberg	Jim King
Charlie Dean	Stephen Wise

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
2008 - 2010**

**President Pro Tempore: Mike Fasano**

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Minority Leader: Al Lawson**

**Transportation**

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Andy Gardiner, Chair  
Larcenia Bullard, Vice Chair  
Thad Altman  
Carey Baker  
Lee Constantine

Paula Dockery  
Mike Haridopolos  
Arthenia Joyner  
Gary Siplin

**SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
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**GROUP III**

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**Policy and Steering Committee on Social Responsibility**

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Ken Pruitt, Chair  
Al Lawson, Vice Chair  
Carey Baker  
Lee Constantine  
Nancy Detert  
Paula Dockery  
Don Gaetz

Dan Gelber  
Charlie Justice  
Gary Siplin  
Ronda Storms  
Frederica Wilson  
Stephen Wise

**Children, Families, and Elder Affairs**

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Ronda Storms, Chair  
Nan Rich, Vice Chair  
Nancy Detert  
Alex Diaz de la Portilla

Rudy Garcia  
Tony Hill  
Charlie Justice  
Stephen Wise

**Criminal Justice**

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Paula Dockery, Chair  
Frederica Wilson, Vice Chair  
Victor Crist  
Charlie Dean

Ted Deutch  
Jim King  
Gary Siplin  
Alex Villalobos

**Education Pre-K - 12**

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Nancy Detert, Chair  
Frederica Wilson, Vice Chair  
Larcenia Bullard  
Lee Constantine

Don Gaetz  
Eleanor Sobel  
Ronda Storms  
Stephen Wise

**SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
2008 - 2010**

**President Pro Tempore: Mike Fasano**

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**Health Regulation**

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Don Gaetz, Chair	Mike Bennett
Eleanor Sobel, Vice Chair	Andy Gardiner
Thad Altman	Dennis Jones
Dave Aronberg	Al Lawson

**Higher Education**

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Steve Oelrich, Chair	Evelyn Lynn
Chris Smith, Vice Chair	Ken Pruitt
Larcenia Bullard	

**Judiciary**

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Lee Constantine, Chair	Mike Haridopolos
Arthenia Joyner, Vice Chair	Durell Peaden
Carey Baker	Garrett Richter
Mike Fasano	Jeremy Ring
Dan Gelber	

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2008 - 2010**

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**GROUP IV**

**Policy and Steering Committee on Governmental Operations**

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Mike Haridopolos, Chair	Mike Fasano
Dave Aronberg, Vice Chair	Tony Hill
JD Alexander	Jim King
Mike Bennett	Al Lawson
Charlie Dean	Steve Oelrich
Ted Deutch	Jeremy Ring
Alex Diaz de la Portilla	

**Ethics and Elections**

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JD Alexander, Chair	Andy Gardiner
Charlie Justice, Vice Chair	Arthenia Joyner
Carey Baker	Nan Rich
Alex Diaz de la Portilla	Garrett Richter
Mike Fasano	

**Governmental Oversight and Accountability**

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Mike Haridopolos, Chair	Dennis Jones
Gary Siplin, Vice Chair	Jim King
Victor Crist	Al Lawson
Charlie Dean	Jeremy Ring

**Military Affairs and Domestic Security**

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Dave Aronberg, Chair	Tony Hill
Steve Oelrich, Vice Chair	Evelyn Lynn
Mike Bennett	Durrell Peaden
Ted Deutch	Alex Villalobos

**SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
2008 - 2010**

**President Pro Tempore: Mike Fasano**

**Majority Leader: Alex Diaz de la Portilla  
Minority Leader: Al Lawson**

**Reapportionment**

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Mike Haridopolos, Chair  
Chris Smith, Vice Chair  
Mike Bennett

Charlie Dean  
Al Lawson

**SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
2008 - 2010**

**President Pro Tempore: Mike Fasano**

**Majority Leader: Alex Diaz de la Portilla  
Minority Leader: Al Lawson**

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**GROUP V**

**Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means**

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JD Alexander, Chair	Charlie Justice
Ted Deutch, Vice Chair	Al Lawson
Thad Altman	Evelyn Lynn
Carey Baker	Durell Peaden
Victor Crist	Ken Pruitt
Mike Fasano	Nan Rich
Don Gaetz	Gary Siplin
Dan Gelber	Alex Villalobos
Mike Haridopolos	Frederica Wilson
Tony Hill	Stephen Wise

**Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations**

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Victor Crist, Chair	Arthenia Joyner
Frederica Wilson, Vice Chair	Alex Villalobos
Dennis Jones	

**Education Pre-K - 12 Appropriations**

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Stephen Wise, Chair	Nancy Detert
Gary Siplin, Vice Chair	Rudy Garcia
Larcenia Bullard	Garrett Richter

**Finance and Tax**

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Thad Altman, Chair	Ken Pruitt
Charlie Justice, Vice Chair	Jeremy Ring
Mike Bennett	

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**President Pro Tempore: Mike Fasano**

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Minority Leader: Al Lawson**

**General Government Appropriations**

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Carey Baker, Chair  
Al Lawson, Vice Chair  
Dave Aronberg

Charlie Dean  
Steve Oelrich

**Health and Human Services Appropriations**

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Durell Peaden, Chair  
Nan Rich, Vice Chair  
Don Gaetz

Mike Haridopolos  
Eleanor Sobel

**Higher Education Appropriations**

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Evelyn Lynn, Chair  
Dan Gelber, Vice Chair  
Lee Constantine

Ted Deutch  
Jim King

**Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations**

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Mike Fasano, Chair  
Tony Hill, Vice Chair  
Alex Diaz de la Portilla  
Paula Dockery

Andy Gardiner  
Chris Smith  
Ronda Storms

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Minority Leader: Al Lawson**

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**GROUP VI**

**Rules**

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Alex Villalobos, Chair	Charlie Justice
Dave Aronberg, Vice Chair	Jim King
JD Alexander	Al Lawson
Lee Constantine	Evelyn Lynn
Victor Crist	Ken Pruitt
Ted Deutch	Gary Siplin
Don Gaetz	Chris Smith
Rudy Garcia	Eleanor Sobel
Andy Gardiner	Ronda Storms
Dennis Jones	Stephen Wise

**Joint Administrative Procedures Committee**

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Arthenia Joyner, Chair	Alex Villalobos
Charlie Dean	

**Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight**

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Lee Constantine, Chair	Rudy Garcia
Thad Altman	Dan Gelber
Paula Dockery	Chris Smith

**Joint Legislative Auditing Committee**

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Alex Diaz de la Portilla, Alt. Chair	Jeremy Ring
Larcenia Bullard	Stephen Wise
Andy Gardiner	

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Minority Leader: Al Lawson**

**Joint Legislative Committee on Everglades Oversight**

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Gary Siplin, Chair  
Steve Oelrich

Garrett Richter

**Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations**

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Tony Hill, Chair  
Nancy Detert

Mike Haridopolos  
Frederica Wilson

**Joint Legislative Sunset Committee**

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Ronda Storms, Co-Chair  
Thad Altman  
Durell Peaden

Nan Rich  
Eleanor Sobel

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
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**GROUP VII**

**Joint Legislative Budget Commission**

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Ken Pruitt, Alt. Chair  
JD Alexander  
Lee Constantine  
Mike Fasano

Rudy Garcia  
Charlie Justice  
Al Lawson

**SENATE PRESIDENT JEFF ATWATER  
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS  
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Minority Leader: Al Lawson**

**GROUP VIII**

**Select Committee on Florida's Economy**

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Don Gaetz, Chair  
Jeremy Ring, Vice Chair  
JD Alexander  
Mike Bennett  
Dan Gelber  
Mike Haridopolos

Tony Hill  
Jim King  
Ken Pruitt  
Garrett Richter  
Eleanor Sobel