

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

DuWAYNE GREGORY
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PRESS RELEASE

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Take Me To Your *New* Leader **Gregory Elected to Top Legislative Leadership Position**

AMITYVILLE, NY—Everybody knows that Steve Bellone won a landslide election in November to become Suffolk County Executive. But now that he's got the job, getting it done won't be easy. Critical to Bellone's success will be his ability to work with the County Legislature (something his predecessor churlishly relished in NOT doing). Lucky for Bellone legislative Democrats were also successful on Election Day, continuing their control of the 18-member body for a record-breaking 8 years. One of the key legislative players Bellone will look to for cooperation is fellow Babylonian and new, incoming Majority Leader, Legislator DuWayne Gregory (D-Amityville).

At an organizational Caucus meeting this past December, Gregory's colleagues overwhelmingly voted to make the 15th District legislator only the second Democratic Majority Leader in the history of the Suffolk County Legislature. Gregory follows in the footsteps of Jon Cooper (D-Lloyd Harbor), who left public office after 12 years due to mandatory term limits, including a record six consecutive terms as Majority Leader.

"I'm certainly sad to be saying goodbye to my friends and colleagues in the Democratic Caucus," says Cooper. "However, I know I'm leaving them in good hands with DuWayne. He definitely has the skills to lead the Caucus into the future."

In 2000, Gregory was appointed under then Babylon supervisor Rich Schaffer as the town's Citizen's Advocate. After Bellone succeeded Schaffer as supervisor, he first appointed Gregory to become the town's deputy commissioner for public works. In 2002 Bellone then promoted Gregory to be the Commissioner of General Services. Like Bellone—Gregory too—comes to the public sector from after serving America in the armed forces. A native Long Islander who enlisted in Army 1993, Gregory was accepted to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS). After which he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in Field Artillery.

"I've worked for many years with Legislator Gregory on numerous projects and initiatives in Babylon that have improved the lives of thousands of residents," says Bellone. "He is exceptional leader and I'm confident working with him we will be able to accomplish many great things for the people of this County."

— MORE, MORE, MORE —

First elected in a special election in 2008, Gregory has successfully defended his seat 3 times. Since 2009 he has served as chair of the Legislature's all-important Budget & Finance Committee. Due to his knowledge of procurement, Gregory was appointed in 2005 by the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Sheldon Silver, to the Advisory Council on Procurement Lobbying. He is also a former member of the Route 110 Redevelopment Corporation. Gregory holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Justice and Public Policy from North Carolina Wesleyan College.

Gregory's promotion to this all-important leadership position promises to be a new beginning not only for him but for the Democratic Caucus, which with 3 new members, still maintains a 2 to 1 majority in the Legislature. Faced with looming budget deficits spurred on by decreased aid and continued unfunded mandates from New York State, the Legislature and new County Executive will need to work together in order lead the County through the hard economic times that lie ahead.

Of his new partner in the Legislature, Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay said, "My congratulations go to Legislator Gregory on being selected as our new majority caucus leader. DuWayne follows in the footsteps of Legislator Cooper, and we are all sure he will continue Jon's great work in finding common ground for our caucus and for the entire Legislature on both sides of the aisle."

"I'll always uphold the ideals I and my Caucus members believe in, but there is no Democratic or Republican way of governing" says Gregory. "I look forward to working with my caucus members, County Executive Bellone, Presiding Officer Lindsay, Minority Leader Kennedy and the Republican Caucus. I'm extremely confident that if we leave our partisan labels at the door, together we can find consensus to the critical questions facing the great people who live, work and raise their families here in Suffolk County."

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