

From: [Greg Foster <GregFoster@schouse.gov>](mailto:GregFoster@schouse.gov)
To: [Greg FosterGregFoster@schouse.gov](mailto:GregFoster@schouse.gov)
Date: 12/4/2012 4:04:28 PM
Subject: Release - Bobby Harrell Unanimously Reelected Speaker

Office of the Speaker
SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2012
Contact: Greg Foster
(803) 734-3125
gregfoster@schouse.gov

Bobby Harrell Unanimously Reelected Speaker

Leadership Record earns Harrell another term as House Speaker

(Columbia, SC) – Today, the Members of the SC House of Representatives and our state's 120th General Assembly voted unanimously to elect [Bobby Harrell](#) to another term as their House Speaker. The Election of Officers was one of the first actions taken by the newly-elected House during its two day Organization Session. All of the previous session's Officers sought reelection this year, and as with Speaker Harrell, they too received resounding approval from the Membership to continue on in their leadership positions.

First elected House Speaker in 2005, Harrell's tenure has been one of proven fiscal discipline, responsible government and leadership on conservative Reform. Over the course of his Speakership, the House has successfully delivered on many key issues:

- \$17 billion in Total Tax Cuts
 - o SC has the Lowest Taxes in the Nation per capita
 - o Cut Small Business Income Taxes by 40%, Personal Income Taxes Cut, Elimination of Grocery Tax, SC Taxpayer Fairness Act, Homeowners' Property Taxes Cut by Almost Half
- Limited Government Growth
 - o Balanced Budget Every Year
 - o Multiple Spending Limit Bills
 - o Under Harrell: >1% Average Annual Budget Growth Rate
 - o Since 1994: 2.5% Average Annual Budget Growth Rate
 - o Increased General Reserve Fund – 3% to 5% years ahead of schedule
- Tort Reform, Workers' Comp Reform, Government Restructuring, Stabilized our Retirement System, Point of Sale Reform
- Fully Funded Harbor Deepening, Strengthened our Right-to-Work laws, The Economic Development Competitiveness Act, Small Business Red Tape Reduction Act, Entrepreneurship Investment Act
- Education Funding Reform (a formula that has gone unchanged for more than 30 years) & Charter School Reform

Important links:

- [Speaker Harrell's Acceptance Speech](#)
- [House's Record on Reform](#)
- [Speaker Harrell's Nomination Speech](#) by the [Honorable James "Jay" Lucas](#)

The following is a personal statement from [House Speaker Bobby Harrell](#) about today's election:

"I tell folks all the time, I have two of the best jobs on the planet – and it just so happens that they are both jobs that require a pretty rigorous re-application process every two years.

"Giving a voice to our friends and neighbors as their Representative while also being allowed to serve my fellow House Members as their Speaker are two positions I am extremely honored and humbled to hold.

"House District 114 is a community my wife Cathy and I are incredibly proud to call home. And this distinguished Body has enabled me to serve alongside some of the finest individuals who I love being able to call my friends. The reality that I am able to be here today – as a Member, as Speaker – it means more to me than I can truly convey.

"These are positions only obtained by gaining the trust and confidence of others. It's a distinction that carries with it great weight and even greater responsibility. These sacred entrustments cannot be gained at a whim or kept over time without effort, but must be continually earned and renewed.

"Together, the Members of this House have been able to accomplish some great things. When this House makes the decision that we believe a fundamental change to our government will benefit our citizens, we take action. We always have.

"The measures we've been able to put in place are producing real positive results. Just this past month, our state's unemployment rate dropped to a 4-year low. But we must not lose our focus on improving our State's economy as we strive to make a difference.

"There are a lot of major issues now facing our state and much work to do as we begin another Legislative Session. While our moment here in our state's long history may only be brief, together we have the opportunity to accomplish some great things for our state and for our citizens.

"Leadership with fairness is the hallmark of this job. It is my utmost goal to work as hard as I can every day to make sure that I am worthy to hold this tremendous trust and confidence as we all work for the betterment of our state, our communities, and our citizens. Thank you."

Officers Elected by the House:

- The following slate of Officers were duly elected today by the full House Membership
- All were elected unanimously
- Click on each name for a link to their bio page

[Speaker Robert W. Harrell, Jr.](#)

- (District 114 – *Charleston* & Dorchester Counties)

[Speaker Pro Tempore James H. "Jay" Lucas](#)

- (District 65 – Chesterfield, *Darlington*, Kershaw & Lancaster Counties)

[Clerk Charles F. Reid*](#)

[Sergeant-at-Arms Mitchell G. Dorman*](#)

[Reading Clerk James L. M. "Bubba" Cromer, Jr.*](#)

[Chaplin Charles E. Seastrunk, Jr.*](#)

(* Non-Member Officers)

###

Deputy Chief of Staff
& Director of Communications
Office of the Speaker
South Carolina House of Representatives
(803) 734-3125
gregfoster@schouse.gov
twitter.com/gregfoster_sc