



116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★

# SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release:*  
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### **Senate Democratic Caucus re-elects Vi Simpson as leader** *Assistant Leader Sen. Tim Lanane retained, Sen. Jim Arnold elected Caucus Chair*

INDIANAPOLIS – Members of the Indiana Senate Democratic Caucus have voted to retain the current legislative leadership team for the upcoming 117<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

During a Statehouse caucus held Wednesday, the Senate Democrats voted to re-elect State Senator Vi Simpson (D-Ellettsville) as Democratic Floor Leader and State Senator Tim Lanane (D-Anderson) as Assistant Democratic Floor Leader. State Senator Jim Arnold (D-LaPorte) was elected Caucus Chairman, replacing State Senator Connie Sipes who retired this year. Sen. Arnold assumed the responsibilities of Caucus Chair immediately.

"I'm honored to continue serving as Leader for the Senate Democrats. Our caucus members have worked very hard to provide an alternative voice with a fresh perspective in the Indiana Senate, and we will continue to do so," Sen. Simpson said.

"We are very pleased to have Jim Arnold join our leadership team," Sen. Simpson added. "He is an experienced public servant, and his leadership will help the Senate Democrats organize a strong effort to protect the interests of our constituents and all residents of Indiana."

First elected Senate Democrat Leader in 2008, Sen. Vi Simpson has served in the General Assembly since 1984. She represents Senate District 40, which includes Brown County and portions of Monroe County. She served as Simpson is widely regarded as an expert on the state's finances, having served as the Senate Democrat Caucus' representative on the powerful State Budget Committee and as the ranking member of the Senate's Appropriations Committee.

Appointed to the Senate in 1997, Sen. Tim Lanane serves as ranking Democrat on the Senate's Judiciary Committee and is a member of the Energy and Environmental Affairs; Corrections, Criminal and Civil Matters; and Local Government and Elections standing committees. He represents Senate District 25, which includes portions of Madison County.

First elected in 2007 to fulfill an unexpired term, Sen. Jim Arnold was re-elected in 2008. He represents Senate District 8, which encompasses a majority of LaPorte County including LaPorte and Michigan City, and the western portions of St. Joseph County. Arnold retired as the LaPorte County Sheriff having served 36 years in law enforcement before joining the Senate.

For more information on the Senate Democratic Caucus or other business before the Indiana State Senate call 1-800-382-9467 or visit the website at [www.senatedemocrats.in.gov](http://www.senatedemocrats.in.gov).

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