

Assembly Speaker  
**Joseph Roberts (D)**



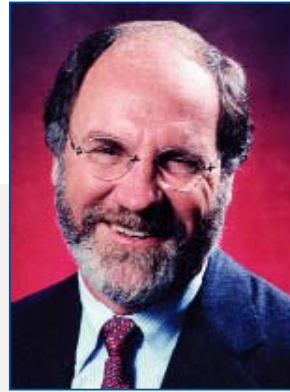
Assembly  
Majority Leader  
**Bonnie Watson  
Coleman (D)**



Assembly  
Minority Leader  
**Alex DeCroce (R)**

# New Jersey Legislature

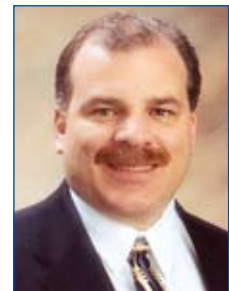
- The Legislature is the branch of government that makes new laws and changes old ones. It is made up of 120 members elected from 40 districts in New Jersey.
- There are 40 senators and 80 members of the General Assembly.
- Senators serve four-year terms, except during the first term of a new decade, when they serve only two years.
- Members of the General Assembly serve two-year terms.
- Each Legislature is constituted for a period of two years split into two annual sessions. Business from the first year may be carried into the second year, but at the end of the second year, all bills that have not passed die automatically and must be reintroduced in the next term if they are to become law.
- The two-year legislative term begins at noon on the second Tuesday in January of each even-numbered year.
- The New Jersey Legislature meets on most Mondays and Thursdays throughout the year. Each house sets its own meeting schedule. A typical session day consists of committee meetings in the morning, party conferences around midday, and floor sessions in the afternoon. Committee meetings and floor sessions are open to the public. For a schedule of session days and bills to be considered, sign on to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/legal.asp>.
- Each house elects a presiding officer from among its members—the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly. In addition to presiding over sessions, these leaders decide the meeting schedules and daily calendar of bills to be considered, appoint committee chairs and members, refer bills to committee for consideration, and direct the business of their houses. Other leaders elected from among the members of each house include President Pro Tem in the Senate and the Speaker Pro Tem in the Assembly.
- Each political party delegation in each house also elects its own leadership: the Majority or Minority Leader, assistant leaders, and “whips.” These party leaders help develop party policy on issues before the Legislature.
- For more information about the New Jersey Legislature sign on to <http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/>.



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Senate President  
**Richard J. Codey (D)**



Senate  
Majority Leader  
**Stephen M. Sweeney (D)**



Senate  
Minority Leader  
**Thomas H. Kean, Jr. (R)**