

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 24, 2025

House Republican leaders respond to governor's appointments

PALMER, Alaska – House Republicans will meet the week after Christmas to consider Gov. Mike Dunleavy's appointments to Districts 26 and 29 in the Alaska House of Representatives.

Steve St. Clair, of Wasilla, and Garret Nelson, of Sutton, will be sworn in as Alaska's newest state representatives immediately following a successful confirmation vote.

"We are happy to see the names come forward," Minority Leader Rep. DeLena Johnson, R-Palmer, said. "We will be working on seating the members next week."

Republican leaders said it's important to get the new members seated without delay as the 34th Legislature prepares to convene on Jan. 20 in Juneau for its second session.

The two Mat-Su valley House vacancies were created after former Representatives Cathy Tilton, R-Wasilla, and George Rauscher, R-Sutton, joined the state Senate.

"With the governor's appointments complete, I am looking forward to the next steps of confirmation and working together to move the House forward," Minority Whip Rep. Justin Ruffridge, R- Soldotna, said.

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