

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Leader-Designate Fentrice Driskell Announces Leadership Team

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Florida House Democratic **Leader-Designate Fentrice Driskell (D-Tampa)** today announced the appointment of the following Democratic Representatives to serve on the House Democratic Caucus leadership team for the 2022-24 legislative term:

- **Leader *Pro Tempore*: Representative Dotie Joseph (D-Miami);**
- **Policy Chair: Representative Kelly Skidmore (D-Boca Raton);**
- **Floor Leader: Representative Michael “Mike” Gottlieb (D-Davie); and**
- **Whip: Representative Christine Hunschofsky (D-Parkland).**

“The House Democratic Caucus is made up of some of the strongest, most fierce champions of the people in the entire state,” said **Leader-Designate Driskell**. “It is an honor and great pleasure to work with these individuals in this new capacity, and all of them are prepared to lead the Caucus in the face of the challenges that lie ahead of us.”

As **Leader *Pro Tempore***, **Representative Joseph** will assist the Democratic Leader in carrying out designated responsibilities and perform such Leadership responsibilities as are assigned, including stepping in for the Leader as needed.

“I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing **Representative Joseph** for over 20 years. From the time we were at Georgetown Law to now, she has always been a consistent champion for justice. The issues she advocates for on behalf of all Floridians makes **Representative Joseph** an invaluable asset in defending Floridians against extremist Republican policies,” said **Leader-Designate Driskell**. “I look forward to **Representative Joseph**’s leadership as a key member of my team over the next two years.”

In her role as the Caucus Policy Chair, **Representative Skidmore** will be responsible for ensuring the Caucus continues to champion legislation that positively impacts all Floridians, and will lead discussions about bills before the House at Caucus meetings.

“As the previous Policy Chair for the Caucus, I know what is needed to do this job. Appointing **Representative Skidmore** as Policy Chair was an easy choice,” said **Leader-Designate Driskell**. “She stood out as a prime member in understanding policy during the last legislative term. **Representative Skidmore** also brings with her

a wealth of experience as both a former House and Senate staffer and House member. Applying her unique skillset to this new role will benefit the Caucus and all Floridians.”

In his role as Floor Leader, **Representative Gottlieb** will be responsible in interpreting the House Rules, ensuring the Caucus adheres to the agreed upon rules, and working with his Republican counterpart in advocating for fair amounts of time be allotted to the Caucus in debating different pieces of legislation.

“Two things I greatly appreciate about **Representative Gottlieb** are his refreshing candor and strong fortitude,” said **Leader-Designate Driskell**. “As the minority party in the Legislature, we’re aware of the challenges that lie ahead of us. What we need right now is someone who is unwavering under extreme pressure to help guide our Caucus during difficult moments. **Representative Gottlieb** is perfectly suited for this role.”

As Whip, **Representative Hunschofsky** will be responsible for keeping all Democratic Caucus members apprised of Caucus policy on any bills or issues before the House.

“**Representative Hunschofsky** has an amazing ability to get things done,” said **Leader-Designate Driskell**. “Not only does **Representative Hunschofsky** possess a wealth of knowledge due to her experience as the former mayor of Parkland, Florida, she is also a champion of many initiatives close to Floridians’ hearts, such as expanding access to quality mental health care. I know **Representative Hunschofsky**’s knowledge and ability will help prepare our Caucus for the challenges of the next two year.”

The Florida House Democratic Caucus will convene during Organizational Session taking place Nov. 21-22, 2022 in advance of the 2023 Legislative Session scheduled to begin on March 7, 2023.

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