

# Salem Sen. named GOP minority leader

CONNOR RADNOVICH  
SALEM STATESMAN JOURNAL  
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Salem Republican Sen. Jackie Winters was elected by her peers Nov. 15 to serve as the new Republican Leader, presenting herself as a collaborator willing to listen and compromise to get goals accomplished.

Winters is one of the longest-serving members of the state Senate, having first assumed office in 2003, and has built relationships in the House, Senate and Governor's office that she says will help her succeed in her new role.

"Leadership requires that you have the capability of working across the aisle and working with others," she said during a news conference after her selection.

Winters was elected to replace Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R-John Day, who was confirmed to an executive appointment earlier in the day.

Initially, Winters didn't seek out the leadership position, but colleagues began pushing her to run, she said.

"It's an honor to have your colleagues elect you to lead them," she said. "It's really an honor when they actually reach out to you to ask you to do this."

Four of the top six leadership positions in the Legislature are now filled by women, as is the governor and attorney general.

One of the relationships Winters has built during her time in government is with Senate President and Salem Democrat Sen. Peter Courtney. The two are good friends, but Winters said they both understand their roles and she anticipates there will be times when they don't agree at all.



Sen. Jackie Winters, R-Salem, speaks to reporters after her election as Senate Republican Leader at the Oregon Capitol Building in Salem, Oregon, on Nov. 15.

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But relationships are critical to keeping everything running properly, she said.

"I don't think that our friendship will suffer as a result of this," Winters said. "We both know that this process functions best when we actually have built relationships in this building, and where we built trust."

In a statement, Courtney praised Winters for her toughness and "inner strength."

"She's a true Republican and a true Oregonian," Courtney said. "Jackie's wisdom and sense of fairness will make her an exceptional leader and will help make the Legislature work."

One of the reasons Winters was initially hesitant to run for Republican Leader is her health; in August she began rounds of chemotherapy for "localized" lung cancer. But she announced Wednesday that she is off chemo and her cancer is in remission.

Looking forward to 2018's short session, Winters said the Legislature should spend the month on non-controversial, achievable legislative tweaks, not major bills. Democrats are looking to pass a carbon "cap and invest" bill in 2018,

which Republicans have said is too much to address in the limited time available next year.

Lawmakers will be missing two of their most senior members after Ferrioli and Sen. Richard Devlin, D-Tualatin, were both confirmed Wednesday to an executive appointment to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

"I'm hoping that we will still be cohesive and still put forward some very good public policy," she said.

Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, said reading out the names of Ferrioli and Devlin as among dozens of appointments confirmed by the Senate Wednesday was "bittersweet."

"(They) will leave a huge gap in our body. I go back many years with both of them, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors," she said.

"I don't know if there's anything sweet about it," Courtney quipped. "I'm not happy with either one of you two."

Still undetermined is which senator will replace Devlin as co-chair of the budget-writing Joint Ways and Means Committee, a powerful committee due to its influence on state spending.

Both Senate spots also need to be filled and appointments for the remainder of the term are made by county commissioners in each district.

Republicans also elected Sen. Fred Girod, R-Stayton, as Deputy Senate Republican Leader and Sen. Dennis Linthicum, R-Klamath Falls, as Senate Republican Whip.

Contact the reporter at [cradnovich@statesmanjournal.com](mailto:cradnovich@statesmanjournal.com) or 503-399-6864, or follow him on Twitter at @CDRadnovich.

## Winter is a great time to share joys of writing



COMMENTARY  
WENDY RICHARDS

As the holiday season approaches, including time off from school, it's a good time for parents to consider learning activities children can do to keep sharp, especially in writing. Kids look forward to time off from classes and families have busy schedules, but there are opportunities to help students improve writing skills during winter break.

Writing takes imagination and time. As far back as I can remember, I've loved writing. Although I'll add that it was hard when I was younger — I had so many thoughts about what I wanted to write about, and getting them down on paper was difficult.

Many students and grownups would rather visit the dentist than write something. However, there are techniques you can use to inspire your children to practice writing skills over winter break.

### Holiday letters, thank you notes, cards

Some feel letter writing is a lost art, but your children can learn otherwise. Encourage them to write letters to friends and relatives over winter break, or send that important, and well-crafted,

note addressed to the North Pole.

Students can also personalize holiday greeting cards, and write thank you notes for gifts received. These exercises enhance social development and help children sharpen their geography skills while researching recipients' addresses.

### Family folklore and fables

Encourage your children to explore their family's heritage by creating a family tree or writing about your family's history. They can interview relatives, perhaps asking questions about favorite holiday traditions or memories.

Each member of your household can also contribute to a family newsletter. Have everyone write a section about what they achieved over the past year, and what they are thankful for this season. Expressing gratitude is beneficial for students and a great way to do so is through writing.

### Lead by example

If children see their parents writing over the winter break, they'll understand it's part of daily life. Invite your children to collaborate on a story related to winter or the holidays. Together you can write a chapter every week, perhaps on a favorite seasonal custom like the Hanukkah Dreidel game, the candles of Kwanzaa, or mistletoe.

As a parent, you know what kind of writing your children might enjoy. When you demonstrate writing can be fun, they'll want to do more on their own.

By making writing enjoyable at home you can show your children these are practical skills for everyday life outside school walls. While our world is driven by technology more and more, writing remains a key factor to success.

An estimated 270 million emails are sent daily worldwide, so using written language to communicate has become even more important. Employers are also concerned about having a skilled workforce; according to a recent national report, 44-percent of managers felt writing proficiency was the skill most lacking in college graduates.

Computers are useful, but I recommend writing things down by hand. All my students submit a handwritten rough draft for every language arts portfolio project. Remember that even famous authors like J.K. Rowling started her famous Harry Potter novels by drawing pictures of her characters and scribbling notes on scraps of paper.

Even if your students choose to type their essays and short stories, they still should begin their idea with a rough draft. Writing down everything isn't necessary, but the ability to write key ideas and facts for a future story is pivotal.

I always suggest an idea we to get started, where my students write the

main idea in the center with supporting ideas branching off. That way, they can jot their ideas down and add more details while writing their story. I encourage students to write about topics that interest them, activities they're involved in, or places they've been. It doesn't matter if your children use sticky notes or keep an idea list on a smartphone — like any skill, good writing takes patience and lots of practice.

Writing also involves plenty of re-writing. Adults do it routinely on projects at work, emails to friends, and more. Writing is a process that flows from brainstorming, drafting, and editing, culminating in a final version. Even writing this commentary required many revisions.

November is National Novel Writing Month, and the Young Writers Program (<https://ywp.nanowrimo.org/>) offers a fun "seat-of-your-pants" approach to the writing process along with some helpful tools for students.

American author Henry Miller once said: "Writing is its own reward." Utilizing some of the activities I've suggested, hopefully your children will experience that reward over the "winter writing season" this year.

Wendy Richards of Oregon City is a second-grade teacher at Oregon Connections Academy She can be reached at [www.OregonConnectionsAcademy.com](http://www.OregonConnectionsAcademy.com) or by calling (800) 382-6010.

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