

Seth Berry for House Whip

New Energy for Maine

Who is Seth Berry?

Seth Berry is an effective, energetic legislator who can help bring the state together around core values such as sustainability, education, public health, and Maine's unique qualities of place. Seth represents the future of the Democratic Party, and is the kind of leader we need to tackle the challenges both within our party and beyond.

Seth declared his candidacy for Majority Whip, or Assistant Majority Leader, in January of 2008. In his first term in the Maine Legislature, Seth proved himself to be a fighter for Maine's people and environment. Notably, he sponsored and passed seven pieces of legislation in his first term alone.

This year, Seth will turn 40 -- and will mark 20 years serving in education and progressive public school reform. Seth studied at Brown and Columbia, and taught for eight years in inner-city New York schools where he won awards for his innovative, student-centered approach. After returning to Maine in 2000, Seth served as Selectperson in Bowdoinham, including a year as Chair, and as a consulting teacher and staff developer in M.S.A.D. 75. Seth lives with his partner Adelaida and their two sons in Bowdoinham.

More information about Seth is available at his website, www.sethberry.org.

What is the Majority Whip?

The role of the Whip, or Assistant Majority Leader, is to bring the House majority caucus together around its core values, communicating effectively between the rank and file, committee chairs, and the Majority Leader and Speaker. With Democrats controlling the House, the Whip is the third ranking Representative.

Like Speaker and Majority Leader, the Whip is traditionally chosen in a secret ballot vote of the majority party within a month of the November election. Since term limits of eight years were imposed on the Legislature in the '90s, new representatives have typically become Majority Leader or Speaker within four to six years.



To be chosen, candidates must win the support of a majority of colleagues. Representatives generally consider factors such as legislative acumen, voting record, geographic balance among leadership, and whether the candidate has worked hard to support the election of new candidates to build the majority party.

In the next Legislature, it is expected that Hannah Pingree will be Speaker. Unfortunately, Hannah will be term limited in just two years, and the same may also be true of our next Majority Leader.

How can I help Seth build strong legislative leadership?

There are two ways. First, work hard to help your local Democratic candidate for State Representative. Offer to drive them or to make calls on their behalf. Help them to win. After Election Day, encourage them to vote for Seth to be their next Majority Whip.

Second, help Seth fundraise! The money you donate to Seth's PAC, "Berry for Maine," is spent to help train candidates, and to pay for independent mailings or ads that support the candidate independently of his or her campaign budget. There is no limit on your donations.

Seth believes money should not be so much a part of politics. But as long as it is, he plans to play by the rules in order to change them.

Cultivating effective, ethical leadership for the future has never been more critical. Clean Elections loopholes, narrow margins in recent Legislatures, and revolving door term limits have often spelled doom for strong, progressive ideas in recent years.

Your donation at any level will help Seth work for strong, Democratic ideals. To give, please visit www.actblue.com/page/berry4me or send a check to Berry for ME, P.O. Box 45, Richmond ME 04357. In the memo section, please include your occupation and employer. Thank you for your support.

