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Missouri Legislators Elect Leaders

(KLZA) The Missouri Senate will be led by new people when it convenes in 2013.

Majority party Republicans on Thursday nominated Senator Tom Dempsey of St. Charles to serve as president pro tem - the top position in the chamber. Dempsey still must be elected by the full Senate when it convenes in January.

Republicans picked Senator Ron Richard of Joplin to succeed Dempsey as the Senate majority leader. Richard, a former House speaker, defeated Senator Mike Parson of Bolivar during a closed-door meeting of the Republican caucus.

Democrats picked Senator Jolie Justus of Kansas City to serve as their minority leader. She is believed to be the first openly gay senator to hold that position.

House Democrats on Thursday picked Jake Hummel of St. Louis as the minority party leader.

Associated Press