

Senator Pat Browne
Majority Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee

Senator Pat Browne was again elected by his colleagues in the Senate Republican Caucus to serve as Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman for the 2017-18 Legislative Session. The committee, one of the most powerful of the Senate's standing committees, reviews all legislation for its fiscal impact and plays a crucial role in developing the state budget.

Besides serving as Appropriations Committee Chairman, Senator Browne is also a member of three Senate Committees: Education; Finance; and Health & Human Services. He is also a member of the Senate Majority Policy Committee.

He also serves as a member of the board of the Public School Employees' Retirement System, the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Authority, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and the Legislative Audit Advisory Committee.

Senator Browne is Co-Chair of the bi-partisan, bi-cameral Early Childhood Education Caucus and the Legislative Arts and Culture Caucus. He is also Co-Chair of the PA Public School Building Construction and Reconstruction Advisory Committee (PlanCon).

Senator Browne wrote several laws which fundamentally reformed Pennsylvania's public pension systems and created an independent fiscal office to monitor state spending and the budget process.

Senator Browne was re-elected in November 2014 to his third full term as state Senator for the 16th District, representing constituents in parts of Lehigh County. Prior to joining the Senate, Senator Browne represented the 131st District for 10 years as a member of the state House of Representatives. Before being elected Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman, Senator Browne served as Senate Majority Whip.

Senator Browne received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from Temple University. Prior to his legislative service, he was employed with the accounting firms of Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse as a tax manager and senior tax associate, respectively. In addition to being a CPA, he is also a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Born and raised in Allentown, Senator Browne attended Allentown Central Catholic High School. He resides in Allentown with his wife, Heather, and son, Alex.