



Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, Ohio 43215

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2011

CONTACT: John McClelland
(614) 466-0663

**SENATOR TOM PATTON SELECTED BY COLLEAGUES AS
SENATE MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER**

COLUMBUS – The Ohio Senate Republican Caucus today unanimously elected Senator Tom Patton (R - Strongsville) to serve as Senate Majority Floor Leader for the remainder of the 129th General Assembly. He replaces former Senator Jimmy Stewart, who resigned from the Senate earlier this year.

“I am honored to have received the support of my colleagues in being elected to this important leadership position,” Patton said. “I look forward to working with members of both parties and other groups as we continue to develop and implement policies and initiatives that will move our state forward and get Ohioans back to work.”

“Senator Patton’s legislative experience and knowledge have been a tremendous asset to both our caucus and the people of his district,” said Ohio Senate President Tom Niehaus (R-New Richmond). “He will be a welcome addition to our leadership team, which now includes a member from Northeast Ohio. I know that as Senate Majority Floor Leader he will continue to work in a bipartisan manner on solutions to the many challenges facing our state while remaining a strong advocate for the people of the 24th Senate District.”

Patton was appointed to the Ohio Senate in 2008 after serving six years in the Ohio House of Representatives, where he sponsored legislation – now law – that authorized use of a “land bank” to help Cuyahoga County combat the foreclosure crisis and urban blight. He currently chairs the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee.

Senator Patton will officially be sworn in as Majority Floor Leader following a vote of the full Senate during its next session, currently scheduled for Tuesday, September 20.

-30-

Senator Patton represents the 24th Senate District, which encompasses portions of Cuyahoga County and includes 27 communities, from Bay Village and Westlake in the west to Strongsville and North Royalton in the south to Lyndhurst and Mayfield Heights in the east. For more information, please visit www.ohiosenate.gov/tom-patton.