

Cox keeps leadership post

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CH Republican re-elected House majority leader

FROM STAFF REPORTS

RICHMOND — House Majority Leader Kirk Cox, a Republican lawmaker from Colonial Heights, will keep his leadership position in the Virginia House of Delegates.

The House Republican Caucus on Sunday unanimously re-elected Cox to

serve as House majority leader; the second ranking leadership position in the House of Delegates. Cox

was first elected majority leader last December.

"It is an honor to be re-elected by my colleagues to serve as their majority leader,



COX

and I am grateful for their continued support," Cox said in a statement. "I am looking forward to working with Gov. [Bob] McDonnell, Speaker [William J.] Howell, and the entire House Republican Caucus as we continue our focus on creating new jobs and opportunities for Virginia businesses and families."

Cox has been a member of the House Republican leadership for eight years, previously serving seven years as

the House majority whip.

As majority leader, Cox is one of the leaders of the Republican Caucus and helps advance legislation that supports the conservative principles of the caucus. He also plays a key role in debating legislation on the floor of the House of Delegates.

In the upcoming session, Cox will be focused on helping to craft the biennial state budget in his position as vice

Please see COX, Page A6

COX

Continued from Page A1

chairman of the Appropriations Committee. He said he will work with Gov. McDonnell, Chairman Lacey Putney, and Senate Republicans to cut wasteful spending and eliminate unnecessary programs.

Cox has served on the Appropriations Committee since 2000 and has represented the House as a Budget Conference Committee member with the Senate for eight years.

"The voters of Virginia sent a clear message on Election Day that they support the House Republican agenda when they voted to increase the Republican House majority by seven members to an all-time high of 68 delegates," said Cox. "The Republican Caucus will work hard on behalf of our constituents to create jobs and opportunities across the Commonwealth."

During the election cycle, Cox served as the campaign chairman for the House Republican Campaign Committee and worked with the Republican House challenger candidates on their campaigns.

"With the elections over, I am ready to continue to work for my constituents and with my colleagues in the House during the upcoming session to keep Virginia moving forward as national leader in creating jobs and opportunities," Cox said.

House Speaker Howell said Cox has proven his leadership abilities and has done a "superb" job as House majority leader.

"Kirk is an outstanding member of the House who I rely on time and again for thoughtful analysis and strategic insights on the important challenges and opportunities facing taxpayers, families, businesses and Virginia," Howell said. "Kirk is widely regarded as one of the 'go-to' people on the state budget as well as education and veterans issues."

Cox holds many other key positions in the General Assembly. He has served on the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC), the General Assembly's investigative arm, for 12 years and was the committee's chairman for two years. He has worked with colleagues from both sides of the aisle in the House and Senate to identify areas in which state government can improve services for Virginians and eliminate wasteful spending and programs. Cox is also the chairman of the Higher Education Appropriation Sub-Committee; McDonnell appointed him to be the vice chairman of the Governor's Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment. The commission was established to improve access and affordability for Virginia students at Virginia's colleges and universities.

Cox has also focused on veterans and military legislation since his district is located near Fort Lee. He has introduced over 83 pieces of legislation in support of veterans, the military and their families.