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## Speaker Mattiello Recommends Rep. McNamara as Democratic Party Chairman

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*PROVIDENCE, RI – House Speaker Nicholas A. Mattiello is recommending that State Representative Joseph M. McNamara serve as the next chairman of the Rhode Island Democratic Party.*

*The party is notifying its members that a State Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Cranston Portuguese Club, 20 Second Avenue, Cranston, for the purpose of electing a new chairman. A meeting notice from State Representative and party First Vice Chairwoman Grace Diaz, who is the acting party chair, is being mailed today.*

*“Joe McNamara is a dedicated, well-spoken and hard-working member of our party who will do a terrific job as chairman,” said Speaker Mattiello. “He recently retired after a distinguished career as an educator and he will have the time and energy to devote to the party.”*

*Mattiello said he thought it was important to have a new chairman in place before the party’s Unity Dinner on Tuesday, October 14, at the West Valley Inn in West Warwick.*

*“We are heading into the November 4<sup>th</sup> election as a unified party with an extremely strong ticket,” stated Mattiello. “With Joe McNamara as the chairman and Joe Shekarchi heading up the coordinated campaign, we will have great people in place to support our outstanding Democratic candidates.”*

*McNamara was elected to the Rhode Island House of Representatives in 1994 from District 19 in Warwick. He has served as the chairman of the House Health, Education and Welfare Committee for the past 12 years. He also serves as the secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and is a member of the Joint Committee on Health Care Oversight.*

*McNamara holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Boston University and a Master’s degree in education from Providence College. He is a retired Pawtucket public school administrator and is a member of the New England Board of Higher Education. He and his wife, Diane, have two children.*