

New Indiana State Senator Sworn In

Press Release – InsideIndianaBusiness.com

INDIANAPOLIS – In a Statehouse ceremony today, Karen Tallian (D-Portage) was sworn in as the new State Senator from Senate District 4, which encompasses portion of Porter and Lake Counties.



Indiana Supreme Court Justice Randall Shepard administered the oath of office, as Tallian's family, friends and colleagues looked on. Tallian was elected on Saturday to fill the unexpired term of State Senator Rose Antich-Carr who resigned to become the Merrillville Town Clerk-Treasurer.

"I am humbled and honored to be entrusted with this responsibility," said Senator Tallian. "I pledge to work hard to represent the people of Senate District 4 and to fight for the things that will improve their lives."

A long time resident of Northwest Indiana, Tallian is a partner with Eberhard & Gastineau in Portage. Prior to joining the Senate, Tallian served her community in a variety of capacities including serving as counsel to the Porter County Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals, the Portage Township Trustees and the Portage Fire Department Merit Board.

Tallian was an adjunct professor at Valparaiso University Law School and taught insurance law. She has also served as president and board member of the Portage Parks Foundation, president of the Porter County League of Women Voters and the Director on the State Board of the League of Women Voters.

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Harrington Institute of Design.”

Throughout her law career, Tallian has represented governmental entities and has worked extensively on water and sewer issues, zoning matters, municipal contracts and drafting ordinances. Tallian has experience in both state and federal court and holds law licenses in both Indiana and Illinois.

In the State Senate, Tallian plans to take a leading role in issues important to working families, including labor issues, health care, property tax reform and environmental protection. She will serve as the Ranking Minority Member on the Senate's Energy & Environmental Affairs Committee and as a member of the Insurance & Financial Institutions, Commerce and Transportation and Pensions & Labor standing committees.

"I plan to get to work right away," added Tallian. "There are so many important issues that need to be addressed, from strengthening our economy, improving our schools, to reducing our reliance on property taxes. These are all critical issues and debates that I hope to impact immediately."

A 1972 graduate of the University of Chicago with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and psychology, the senator's post graduate work includes an associate's degree from Chicago's Harrington Institute of Design. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Valparaiso University School of Law in 1990.

Senator Tallian resides in Portage where she raised her three children. Mike is a Portage firefighter, Christopher works in Chicago where he attends school and daughter Aimee is working in Montana for the National Parks Service.

Source: Senate Democrats