

# The Daily Item

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## Wong looks to shore up beaches



BOSTON — State Rep. Donald Wong, R-Saugus, will be the permanent designee for House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones Jr. on the Metropolitan Beaches Commission.

Wong represents the 9th Essex District, which includes portions of Saugus, Lynn and Wakefield. A former Saugus Town Meeting member and past chairman of the Saugus Board of Selectmen, Wong is currently serving his third term in the Massachusetts Legislature.

The commission, created as part of the fiscal 2015 state budget, has been expanded from 19 to 27 members. It conducts annual reviews of the existing maintenance, operational and infrastructure needs of the state's metropolitan beaches, several of which are on the North Shore.

Among the 18 metropolitan beaches that fall under the commission's purview are Nahant Beach, Red Rock Park, King's Beach, Lynn Beach, Revere Beach, Short

Beach in Revere, and Winthrop Beach.

"I am honored to be appointed to the commission," Wong said. "The commonwealth's beaches are among our most valuable resources and deserve our strongest efforts to promote improved water quality and to maintain the beaches' beauty for generations to come."

In addition to identifying any security measures and capital-intensive repairs necessary to ensure the future recreational use of these beaches, the commission also examines best management practices and alternative funding sources—including public-private partnerships and nonprofit entities — to promote improved water quality and beautification efforts.

"Our state beaches are wonderful natural resources, and Rep. Wong is committed to working with the (commission) to ensure that they are properly maintained and remain fully accessible for the enjoyment of all residents," said Jones.

Among the communities the commission represents are Lynn, Nahant, Revere and Winthrop.

The commission is responsible for holding annual hearings to solicit testimony from interested stakeholders, including local municipalities, nonprofit organizations, friends' groups, and business and community leaders. The commission is also required to file an annual report containing its recommendations with the Senate and House chairs of the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, and the clerks of the two legislative branches.

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