

Glasgow Democratic State Representative Johnny Bell failed in his attempt to unseat incumbent House majority whip Tommy Thompson in the first day of business of the legislative session, but Bell was a part of a group of challengers who made history in the Kentucky legislature. Rep. Sannie Overly, from Paris Tuesday became the first woman ever elected to a Democratic state House leadership post, unseating Rep. Bob Damron, Nicholasville, for caucus chair. Prior to the opening of the session WCLU News spoke with Bell about his attempt to take on a leadership role in the house.

{audio}<http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/0109bell.mp3>{/audio}

Like Bell, Representative Arnold Simpson failed to unseat a long time leader in the democratic caucus, Louisville's Larry Clark who retained the position of Speaker Pro-Tem.

Other Democratic House leaders who were re-elected: House Speaker Greg Stumbo of Prestonsburg, and Majority Leader Rocky Adkins of Sandy Hook.

Republican Rep. Jeff Hoover of Jamestown was re-elected minority floor leader, Rep. Bob DeWeese of Louisville was re-elected as Republican caucus chairman. And Rep. Bam Carney of Campbellsville was elected Republican whip to replace former Rep. Danny Ford, who retired.