

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021

SESSION OF 2021

205TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 1

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 12 m., e.s.t.

THE CHIEF CLERK (DAVID L. REDDECLIFF) PRESIDING

CALL TO ORDER

The CHIEF CLERK. Well, we knew that this was going to be a unique swearing-in. For all of the following groups, please listen to when you are supposed to come to the House floor due to the delay.

The members will take their seats and the Sergeants at Arms will clear the aisles.

This being the day and the hour appointed by Article II, section 4, of the Constitution of Pennsylvania for the meeting of the General Assembly, the House of Representatives will now come to order.

The Sergeants at Arms will close the doors of the House.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR HON. MIKE REESE

The CHIEF CLERK. Friends, we were not planning to begin the new year like this, and clearly this is not the way we wanted to start a new session. We were all shocked and deeply saddened by the untimely passing of our friend and colleague, Majority Caucus Chairman Mike Reese. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mike's wife, Angela; his three children; and their family.

Prior to the prayer being offered by the Honorable Joanna McClinton, the Democratic leader, we will stand for a moment of silence as a mark of respect for Representative Reese. Immediately after the prayer, we will recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members and guests will please rise as able.

(Whereupon, the members-elect of the House and all visitors stood in a moment of silence in solemn respect to the memory of the Honorable Mike Reese.)

PRAYER

HON. JOANNA E. McCLINTON, member-elect of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

This is the day the Lord has made. We are rejoicing, even with heavy hearts, and still being glad and grateful. Lord, we thank You for bringing us to this moment in time. You told us in Your Word You are our refuge and our strength, a very present help in times of trouble. There are troubled times around the land, but especially in this chamber as we mourn the untimely passing of our colleague, Chairman Reese. God, we pray that You be with his family right now who was planning to be here for a joyous day, God; that You comfort his children and his wife and all those who are near and dear, God. We pray, Lord, that You would lift the grief, the sorrow, and give them healing peace throughout this journey.

Lord God, this morning we are reminded how blessed we are to be alive. Lord, we just say thank You. Thank You for life, thank You for health, thank You for strength, thank You for the ability, O God, to even compete outside this building and to be able to come here, especially our newest members. Lord, we thank You for blessing them with the opportunity to serve. You said what we could do for the least of these, when we are sick, O God, when someone is in prison, when someone is in need. Lord, let us look out for our neighbors across this Commonwealth who are looking for leadership, who are looking for strength, who are looking for conviction in a time that is chaotic with so much turmoil. Father, let us be leaders, give us what we need deep down on the inside. You said to be strong and courageous, to not be afraid.

So, Lord, we pray, even this afternoon as we start this new session, pray for Your strength, we pray for Your wisdom, we pray for Your guidance. We pray, Lord, that You would give us the ability to work together, dispelling the myths of politricks and games. God, we pray that we make a difference. People who need help, people who are desperate, people who have struggled through this pandemic – Lord, let us be the leaders they need in this time to create solutions and put our political affiliations aside. We pray for compassion and grace. We pray for favor. We pray, most importantly, that we would humble ourselves, seek Your face, and ask for change in this land, change in this Commonwealth, change in these United States, change in this world. As we say this prayer this afternoon, there is someone who needs You. We would pray that You would meet them at their point of need.

And most importantly, we pray, God, that we realize this privilege, this opportunity, and this honor to be in this role. We pray that You order our steps, lead us, guide us, and go with us. Every single burden on our shoulders, we give it to You in prayer. You said to cast our cares on You because You care for us. So we thank You that we are not on this journey alone. We thank You that You are with us – so many friends that could not be here today but, Lord, we thank You for the support back home. We thank You for our neighbors and the faith that they have, even in us, to do the work. So, God, give our hands the strength to do Your work.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members-elect and visitors.)

The CHIEF CLERK. The Sergeants at Arms will open the doors of the House. Members and guests, please be seated.

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Chief Clerk, the Executive Deputy Secretary, Sari Stevens.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes Executive Deputy Secretary Stevens.

Ms. STEVENS. I have the honor to present the returns and statement of campaign expense compliance for the office of Representative in the General Assembly for the election held November 3, 2020.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair extends the thanks of the House to Ms. Stevens.

NEW MEMBERS INTRODUCED

The CHIEF CLERK. The caucus secretaries will proceed with the reading of the returns of the new members only. Members should please rise as their names are read.

The Chair recognizes Representative Martina White, majority caucus secretary.

Ms. WHITE. To the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives and the members of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, greetings. I have the honor to present the returns of the general election held November 3, 2020. The following, having received the highest number of votes in their respective districts, were duly elected members of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly.

As I call the names of the new members of the Republican Caucus, will they please stand. Please hold any applause until I have completed the introduction of all the members.

Robert W. Mercuri, Carrie Lewis DelRosso, Jason Silvis, Brian Smith, Michael Armanini, Joe Hamm, Perry A. Stambaugh, Timothy Twardzik, Joe Kerwin, Victoria Milou Mackenzie, Ann Flood, Shelby Labs, Tracy Pennycuick, Wendell Craig Williams. Thank you.

The CHIEF CLERK. Thank you, Madam Secretary.

The Chair recognizes— Oh, yeah. Applause for everybody.

The Chair now recognizes Representative Tina Davis, Democratic caucus secretary.

Mrs. DAVIS. Good afternoon, Mr. Chief Clerk, my colleagues, and all you guests for your first time here. As I call the names of the new members of the Democratic Caucus, please stand. We ask you to hold all your applause until I have completed the introductions.

Emily Deborah Kinkead, District 20; Jessica Lynn Benham, District 36; Nickolas Pisciotano, District 38; Manuel Guzman, District 127 – I had to make sure I got that one right – Nancy Guent, District 152; Napoleon Nelson, District 154; Dianne Herrin, District 156; Regina Young, District 185; Rick Krajewski, District 188; Amen Brown, District 190; Darisha Parker, District 198. Congratulations.

The CHIEF CLERK. Thank you, Madam Secretary.

The following election returns were read:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the returns of the General Election held November 3, 2020. The following, having received the highest number of votes in their respective districts, were duly elected Members of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly:

Name	District
Patrick J. Harkins	First
Robert E. Merski	Second
Ryan A. Bizzarro	Third
Curtis G. Sonney	Fourth
Barry J. Jozwiak	Fifth
Bradley T. Roae	Sixth
Mark Longietti	Seventh
Timothy R. Bonner	Eighth
Christopher Sainato	Ninth
Aaron Joseph Bernstine	Tenth
Marci Mustello	Eleventh
Daryl D. Metcalfe	Twelfth
John Adda Lawrence	Thirteenth
James E. Marshall	Fourteenth
Joshua Daniel Kail	Fifteenth
Robert F. Matzie	Sixteenth
Parke H. Wentling	Seventeenth
Kathleen C. Tomlinson	Eighteenth
Jake Wheatley	Nineteenth
Emily Deborah Kinkead	Twentieth
Sara Innamorato	Twenty-first
Peter Schweyer	Twenty-second
Dan B. Frankel	Twenty-third
Edward C. Gainey	Twenty-fourth
Brandon Markosek	Twenty-fifth
Timothy F. Hennessey	Twenty-sixth
Daniel Deasy	Twenty-seventh
Robert W. Mercuri	Twenty-eighth
Meghan Schroeder	Twenty-ninth
Lori A. Mizgorski	Thirtieth

Perry Warren	Thirty-first	David S. Hickernell	Ninety-eighth
Anthony DeLuca	Thirty-second	David H. Zimmerman	Ninety-ninth
Carrie L. DelRosso	Thirty-third	Bryan D. Cutler	One hundredth
Summer Lee	Thirty-fourth	Francis X. Ryan	One hundred first
Austin A. Davis	Thirty-fifth	Russ Diamond	One hundred second
Jessica Lynn Benham	Thirty-sixth	Patty H. Kim	One hundred third
Melinda S. Fee	Thirty-seventh	Susan C. Helm	One hundred fourth
Nickolas R. Pisciotano	Thirty-eighth	Andrew Lewis	One hundred fifth
Michael James Puskaric	Thirty-ninth	Thomas L. Mehaffie III	One hundred sixth
Natalie Nicole Mihalek Stuck	Fortieth	Kurt A. Masser	One hundred seventh
Brett R. Miller	Forty-first	Lynda J. Schlegel Culver	One hundred eighth
Daniel Miller	Forty-second	David R. Millard	One hundred ninth
Keith James Greiner	Forty-third	Tina Pickett	One hundred tenth
Valerie Gaydos	Forty-fourth	Jonathan A. Fritz	One hundred eleventh
Anita A. Kulik	Forty-fifth	Kyle Mullins	One hundred twelfth
Jason A. Ortitay	Forty-sixth	Marty Flynn	One hundred thirteenth
Keith J. Gillespie	Forty-seventh	Bridget Kosierowski	One hundred fourteenth
Timothy Jon O'Neal	Forty-eighth	Maureen Madden	One hundred fifteenth
Donald Cook	Forty-ninth	Tarah C. Toohil	One hundred sixteenth
Pam Snyder	Fiftieth	Karen Boback	One hundred seventeenth
Matthew David Dowling	Fifty-first	Michael B. Carroll	One hundred eighteenth
Ryan James Warner	Fifty-second	Gerald J. Mullery	One hundred nineteenth
Steven R. Malagari	Fifty-third	Aaron D. Kaufer	One hundred twentieth
Robert J. Brooks	Fifty-fourth	Edwin Pashinski	One hundred twenty-first
Jason Roy Silvis	Fifty-fifth	Doyle Heffley	One hundred twenty-second
George Dunbar	Fifty-sixth	Timothy F. Twardzik	One hundred twenty-third
Eric R. Nelson	Fifty-seventh	Jerome P. Knowles	One hundred twenty-fourth
Eric M. Davanzo	Fifty-eighth	Joseph P. Kerwin	One hundred twenty-fifth
Michael P. Reese	Fifty-ninth	Mark L. Rozzi	One hundred twenty-sixth
Jeffrey P. Pyle	Sixtieth	Manuel Guzman Jr.	One hundred twenty-seventh
Laura Elizabeth Frances Hanbidge	Sixty-first	Mark M. Gillen	One hundred twenty-eighth
James Bruno Struzzi II	Sixty-second	James A. Cox Jr.	One hundred twenty-ninth
Donna R. Oberlander	Sixty-third	David M. Maloney Sr.	One hundred thirtieth
R. Lee James	Sixty-fourth	V. Milou Mackenzie	One hundred thirty-first
Kathy L. Rapp	Sixty-fifth	Michael Schlossberg	One hundred thirty-second
Brian A. Smith	Sixty-sixth	Jeanne McNeill	One hundred thirty-third
Martin T. Causer	Sixty-seventh	Ryan Mackenzie	One hundred thirty-fourth
Clinton D. Owlett	Sixty-eighth	Stephen P. Samuelson	One hundred thirty-fifth
Carl Walker Metzgar	Sixty-ninth	Robert Freeman	One hundred thirty-sixth
Matthew D. Bradford	Seventieth	Joseph T. Emrick	One hundred thirty-seventh
James Patrick Rigby	Seventy-first	Ann L. Flood	One hundred thirty-eighth
Frank Burns	Seventy-second	Michael Peifer	One hundred thirty-ninth
Thomas R. Sankey III	Seventy-third	John T. Galloway	One hundred fortieth
Dan K. Williams	Seventy-fourth	Tina Davis	One hundred forty-first
Michael J. Armanini	Seventy-fifth	Frank A. Farry III	One hundred forty-second
Stephanie Paige Borowicz	Seventy-sixth	Shelby E. Labs	One hundred forty-third
Harry Scott Conklin	Seventy-seventh	F. Todd Polinchock	One hundred forty-fourth
Jesse W. Topper	Seventy-eighth	Craig T. Staats	One hundred forty-fifth
Louis C. Schmitt Jr.	Seventy-ninth	Joseph P. Ciresi	One hundred forty-sixth
James V. Gregory	Eightieth	Tracy Elizabeth Pennycuick	One hundred forty-seventh
Richard S. Irvin	Eighty-first	Mary Josephine Daley	One hundred forty-eighth
Johnathan D. Hershey	Eighty-second	Tim Briggs	One hundred forty-ninth
Jeff C. Wheeland	Eighty-third	Joseph Webster	One hundred fiftieth
Joseph D. Hamm	Eighty-fourth	William Todd Stephens	One hundred fifty-first
David Hummer Rowe	Eighty-fifth	Nancy Guenst	One hundred fifty-second
Perry A. Stambaugh	Eighty-sixth	Benjamin V. Sanchez	One hundred fifty-third
William Gregory Rothman	Eighty-seventh	Napoleon J. Nelson, Sr.	One hundred fifty-fourth
Sheryl M. Delozier	Eighty-eighth	Danielle Friel Otten	One hundred fifty-fifth
Robert W. Kauffman	Eighty-ninth	Dianne Herrin	One hundred fifty-sixth
Paul T. Schemel	Ninetieth	Melissa L. Shusterman	One hundred fifty-seventh
Daniel P. Moul	Ninety-first	Christina Sappey	One hundred fifty-eighth
Dawn Keefer	Ninety-second	Brian Kirkland	One hundred fifty-ninth
Paul Michael Jones	Ninety-third	Wendell Craig Williams	One hundred sixtieth
Stanley E. Saylor	Ninety-fourth	Leanne Krueger	One hundred sixty-first
Carol Hill-Evans	Ninety-fifth	David M. Dellosa	One hundred sixty-second
P. Michael Sturla	Ninety-sixth	Michael P. Zabel	One hundred sixty-third
Steven Curtis Mentzer	Ninety-seventh	Margo L. Davidson	One hundred sixty-fourth

Jennifer O'Mara	One hundred sixty-fifth
Greg Vitali	One hundred sixty-sixth
Kristine C. Howard	One hundred sixty-seventh
Christopher B. Quinn	One hundred sixty-eighth
Kate Anne Klunk	One hundred sixty-ninth
Martina A. White	One hundred seventieth
Kerry A. Benninghoff	One hundred seventy-first
Kevin J. Boyle	One hundred seventy-second
Michael Driscoll	One hundred seventy-third
Ed Neilson	One hundred seventy-fourth
MaryLouise Isaacson	One hundred seventy-fifth
Jack B. Rader Jr.	One hundred seventy-sixth
Joe Hohenstein	One hundred seventy-seventh
Wendi Thomas	One hundred seventy-eighth
Jason T. Dawkins	One hundred seventy-ninth
Angel L. Cruz	One hundred eightieth
Malcolm Kenyatta	One hundred eighty-first
Brian K. Sims	One hundred eighty-second
Zachary Allen Mako	One hundred eighty-third
Elizabeth Fiedler	One hundred eighty-fourth
Regina Genell Young	One hundred eighty-fifth
Jordan Alexander Harris	One hundred eighty-sixth
Gary Day	One hundred eighty-seventh
Rick Chester Krajewski	One hundred eighty-eighth
Rosemary Maula Brown	One hundred eighty-ninth
Amen Brown	One hundred ninetieth
Joanna McClinton	One hundred ninety-first
Morgan B. Cephas	One hundred ninety-second
Torren C. Ecker	One hundred ninety-third
Pamela A. DeLissio	One hundred ninety-fourth
Donna Bullock	One hundred ninety-fifth
Seth Michael Grove	One hundred ninety-sixth
Danilo R. Burgos	One hundred ninety-seventh
Darisha K. Parker	One hundred ninety-eighth
Barbara J. Gleim	One hundred ninety-ninth
Chris Rabb	Two hundredth
Stephen Kinsey	Two hundred first
Jared Solomon	Two hundred second
Isabella Fitzgerald	Two hundred third

Witness my hand and the seal of my office this fourth day of January, 2021.

(SEAL)

Kathy Boockvar
Secretary of the Commonwealth

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
GREETINGS:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1632(b) of the Pennsylvania Election Code, 25 P.S. § 3252(b), I do hereby certify that all duly elected members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have filed all of the reports and statements of contributions and expenditures required by the provisions of Article XVI of the Pennsylvania Election Code entitled "Primary and Election Expenses."

Witness my hand and the seal of my office this fourth day of January, 2021.

(SEAL)

Kathy Boockvar
Secretary of the Commonwealth

The CHIEF CLERK. The election returns for all candidates for membership in the House of Representatives will be printed in the Journal of the House.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The CHIEF CLERK. Are there requests for leaves of absence? The Chair recognizes the majority whip, Ms. Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

We do have one request for leave. That is the gentelady, Valerie GAYDOS, from Allegheny County.

The CHIEF CLERK. Without objection, leave of absence is granted. The Chair thanks the lady.

The Chair recognizes the Democratic whip, Mr. Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

We ask for leave for the genteladies, DAVIDSON, EVANS, KIM, LEE, and the gentleman, WHEATLEY. Thank you.

The CHIEF CLERK. Without objection, leaves of absence are granted. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

ROLL CALL

The CHIEF CLERK. The roll will now be taken, and the members will signify their presence by pressing the "aye" button. The members will proceed to vote.

The following roll call was recorded, and the following members-elect were present:

PRESENT—196

Armanini	Flood	Lawrence	Rabb
Benham	Flynn	Lewis	Rader
Benninghoff	Frankel	Longietti	Rapp
Bernstine	Freeman	Mackenzie, M.	Rigby
Bizzarro	Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Roae
Boback	Gainey	Madden	Rothman
Bonner	Galloway	Mako	Rowe
Borowicz	Gillen	Malagari	Rozzi
Boyle	Gillespie	Maloney	Ryan
Bradford	Gleim	Markosek	Sainato
Briggs	Gregory	Marshall	Samuelson
Brooks	Greiner	Masser	Sanchez
Brown, A.	Grove	Matzie	Sankey
Brown, R.	Guenst	McClinton	Sapppey
Bullock	Guzman	McNeill	Saylor
Burgos	Hamm	Mehaffie	Schemel
Burns	Hanbidge	Mentzer	Schlossberg
Carroll	Harkins	Mercuri	Schmitt
Causar	Harris	Merski	Schroeder
Cephas	Heffley	Metcalfe	Schweyer
Ciresi	Helm	Metzgar	Shusterman
Conklin	Hennessey	Mihalek	Silvis
Cook	Herrin	Millard	Sims
Cox	Hershey	Miller, B.	Smith
Cruz	Hickernell	Miller, D.	Snyder
Culver	Hohenstein	Mizgorski	Solomon
Cutler	Howard	Moul	Sonney
Daley	Innamorato	Mullery	Staats
Davanzo	Irvin	Mullins	Stambaugh
Davis, A.	Isaacson	Mustello	Stephens
Davis, T.	James	Neilson	Struzzi
Dawkins	Jones	Nelson, E.	Sturla
Day	Jozwiak	Nelson, N.	Thomas
Deasy	Kail	O'Mara	Tomlinson
DeLissio	Kaufner	O'Neal	Toohil
Delloso	Kauffman	Oberlander	Topper
Delozier	Keefer	Ortity	Twardzik

DelRosso	Kenyatta	Otten	Vitali
DeLuca	Kerwin	Owlett	Warner
Diamond	Kinkead	Parker	Warren
Dowling	Kinsey	Pashinski	Webster
Driscoll	Kirkland	Peifer	Wentling
Dunbar	Klunk	Pennycuick	Wheeland
Ecker	Knowles	Pickett	White
Emrick	Kosierowski	Pisciottano	Williams, C.
Farry	Krajewski	Polinchock	Williams, D.
Fee	Krueger	Puskaric	Young
Fiedler	Kulik	Pyle	Zabel
Fitzgerald	Labs	Quinn	Zimmerman

ADDITIONS—0

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—6

Davidson	Gaydos	Lee	Wheatley
Evans	Kim		

The CHIEF CLERK. One hundred and ninety-six members having indicated their presence, a quorum is present.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MEMBERS-ELECT, GROUP A

The CHIEF CLERK. We will now proceed to the administering of the oath of office. Members in group A, please signify your presence by pressing the "aye" button.

(Members-elect in group A proceeded to signify their presence.)

The CHIEF CLERK. The whips will please verify that all members in group A have signified their presence.

The Chair recognizes the majority whip, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the lady.

The Chair recognizes the minority whip, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

All members in group A have signified their presence, and their names will be entered into the Journal.

Armanini
Benham
Benninghoff
Bizzarro
Bonner
Bradford
Brown, A.
Causer
Cutler
Davis, T.
DelRosso
Flood
Guenst
Guzman
Hamm

Harris
Herrin
Kerwin
Kinkead
Krajewski
Labs
Mackenzie, R.
Mackenzie, M.
Masser
McClinton
Mercuri
Miller, D.
Nelson, N.
Oberlander
Parker
Pennycuick
Pisciottano
Saylor
Schlossberg
Silvis
Smith
Stambaugh
Twardzik
White
Williams, C.
Young

The CHIEF CLERK. Members will rise, place your left hand on the Bible or other Holy Book or the Constitution, raise your right hand, and remain standing at your desk during the administration of the oath to which each member will swear or affirm.

The oath of office will be administered by the Honorable Brandon Neuman, judge, Court of Common Pleas, Washington County, and former member and good friend of the House.

(Members-elect stood.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Welcome, everybody.

You can keep your hands up for picture purposes, but I am going to say just a few words.

First, Madam Leader, welcome. Thank you. Congratulations.

Leader Benninghoff, thank you. Congratulations.

To all the members of the House, congratulations.

To the freshman members, welcome. You are presented today with the most grand room in all of Pennsylvania, I would argue the most grand room in all of the country.

To the guests, welcome. Congratulations. I know that you must be close friends and family because these tickets were tight. You have lived the election and campaign with the member you are associated with, so congratulations to you as well.

I would be remiss if I did not mention my good friend, Mike Reese. Mike and I had a lot in common, and we would talk a lot on the House floor, mostly about high school competitions of Westmoreland County versus Washington County. And the one thing that I always admired about Mike is, no matter where we were – on the left, the right, the middle – no matter where we were, I knew how his family was doing, I knew how his wife was doing, I knew him. Get to know the members. And Mike Reese is a testament to a good member, a good person, and someone that you should live up to be as a member and as a person. And it is a reminder that your family comes first. No matter what all the hustle and bustle is here in Harrisburg and in your district, if there is a baseball game, go to it. Do not go to the spaghetti dinner; go

to the baseball game. So, Mike Reese, to your family, we love you, we are with you, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

I am not one to refer to movies much, but in times of crisis, I watched a movie the other night that referred to building bridges, and in the "Black Panther" they talked about in times of crisis building bridges because we are all one tribe. That aisle down the middle, there is a bridge that can be built. And a bridge that works never makes the news. The only time a bridge makes the news is when it is finished and if it is shut down. So please try to build bridges in this time of crisis – however you are going to define this time of crisis, build bridges. It is my feeling that government works best when you are the afterthought, you are not the thought of people when they first wake up and when they go to bed. So your goal should be to build bridges and not put the barricades up to make the news, but to just govern.

I wish you all luck. As I served in the House for four terms, I loved every moment of it, and I appreciate everything, my district in Washington County and learning about Pennsylvania. To the freshman members, my advice to you is, first and foremost, learn the process and the rules. They will guide you. And learn about Pennsylvania. And the experts of Pennsylvania are on that board up there, so learn their districts because they are the experts of their districts.

Congratulations to everybody.

Now is the time for your oath, so please raise your right hand, place your other hand on the book in which you chose to be sworn in on, and all you have to say at the end is "I do." You do not have to repeat after me. We make this as simple as possible. So please place your hand on the Bible or the book that you chose to be sworn in on. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that you will discharge the duties of your office with fidelity? If so, say "I do."

(Members asserted oath.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Congratulations.

The CHIEF CLERK. Congratulations.

Now comes the fun part. This is where we deviate from our decades-old practices. New members and guests, please listen closely to the following instructions: The freshman members of group A should now leave the chamber when I instruct, when I instruct, and we ask that you report to the hallway outside the Chief Clerk's Office on the first floor and sign the oath book. Staff will be waiting there to assist in maintaining social distancing. After signing the oath book, you are encouraged to go to the fourth-floor gallery to view the remainder of the session, since this is your first session, or you may return to your office. We will have additional staff to escort you upstairs because I am sure you still do not know how to get through the Capitol corridors yet. All guests will please stay seated until the ushers and tour guides assist you off the floor.

Members, you may leave, and guests in the gallery are now permitted to return to their members' offices. And I would suggest that the freshman members, you can leave any of the doors here and go down to the first floor and sign the oath book.

And while all of this is happening, if members are listening in their offices, members in group B, the blue group, should now report to the floor. Members of group B, the blue group, should now report to the floor.

We will be at ease.

Members, if you would kindly take your seats, it will help us identify if all of group B is present. Members, please take your seats so we can identify who is here. Would all members in group B please report to the House. We would like to get started.

The House will come to order. Members, please take your seats. The House will come to order.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MEMBERS-ELECT, GROUP B

The CHIEF CLERK. We will now proceed to the administering of the oath of office. Members in group B, please signify your presence by pressing the "aye" button. Members in group B, please signify your presence by pressing the "aye" button.

(Members-elect in group B proceeded to signify their presence.)

The CHIEF CLERK. The whips will please verify that all members in group B have signified their presence.

The Chair recognizes the majority whip, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the lady.

The Chair recognizes the minority whip, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

All members in group B have signified their presence, and their names will be entered into the Journal.

Briggs
Brooks
Brown, R.
Burgos
Cephas
Conklin
Davis, A.
Dawkins
Delloso
Delozier
Dowling
Driscoll
Emrick
Fiedler
Fitzgerald
Gainey
Grove
Hanbidge
Harkins
Heffley
Helm
Hershey
Hohenstein
Klunk
Knowles
Kosierowski
Krueger
Madden
Marshall

McNeill
 Mehaffie
 Mentzer
 Mizgorski
 O'Mara
 O'Neal
 Pickett
 Puskaric
 Pyle
 Quinn
 Rothman
 Sanchez
 Sankey
 Schemel
 Schmitt
 Schweyer
 Sonney
 Thomas
 Wentling

The CHIEF CLERK. Members will rise, place your left hand on the Bible or other Holy Book or the Constitution, raise your right hand, and remain standing at your desk during the administration of the oath to which each member will swear or affirm.

The oath of office will be administered by the Honorable Brandon Neuman, judge, Court of Common Pleas, Washington County, and former member and good friend of the House.

(Members-elect stood.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Thank you. There are many more familiar faces in this group than in the last group, and we can tell that you are veterans as you are a little more rambunctious and the last group was pretty silent. So keep your right hand raised. There are going to be people taking pictures. It is very important you memorialize this special moment. And I will do the oath of office and at the end you will say "I do." Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that you will discharge the duties of your office with fidelity? If so, please say "I do."

(Members asserted oath.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Congratulations, everybody, on a new session.

The CHIEF CLERK. Congratulations.

The members of group B should now leave the chamber, and we ask that you report to the hallway outside the Chief Clerk's Office on the first floor and sign the oath book. Staff will be waiting there to assist in maintaining social distancing. After signing the oath book, you may return to your offices.

Members in group C, the orange group, should now report to the floor. Would group C, the orange group, please report to the House floor. Thank you.

Would all members please take your seats. We are going to begin in a few minutes, but it will make it easier to identify who is actually here. Members, please take your seats. Would all members please take their seats. We are going to begin group C.

The House will come to order. Members, please take your seats.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MEMBERS-ELECT, GROUP C

The CHIEF CLERK. We will now proceed to the administering of the oath of office. Members in group C, please signify your presence by pressing the "aye" button.

(Members-elect in group C proceeded to signify their presence.)

The CHIEF CLERK. The whips will please verify that all members in group C have signified their presence.

The Chair recognizes the majority whip, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the lady.

The Chair recognizes the minority whip, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

All members in group C have signified their presence, and their names will be entered into the Journal.

Boback
 Boyle
 Bullock
 Daley
 Davanzo
 Deasy
 Dunbar
 Ecker
 Fee
 Flynn
 Fritz
 Galloway
 Gillen
 Gillespie
 Gleim
 Gregory
 Greiner
 Howard
 Innamorato
 Isaacson
 James
 Jones
 Kenyatta
 Kinsey
 Kirkland
 Kulik
 Lewis
 Mako
 Merski
 Millard
 Mullins
 Mustello
 Neilson
 Ortitay
 Otten
 Owlett
 Pashinski
 Rabb
 Rader
 Rigby
 Roae

Rozzi
 Ryan
 Sappey
 Shusterman
 Sims
 Stephens
 Tomlinson
 Toohil
 Warren
 Webster
 Wheeland
 Zabel

The CHIEF CLERK. Members will rise, place your left hand on the Bible or other Holy Book or the Constitution, raise your right hand, and remain standing at your desk during the administration of the oath to which each member will swear or affirm.

The oath of office will be administered by the Honorable Brandon Neuman, judge, Court of Common Pleas, Washington County, and former member and good friend of the House.

(Members-elect stood.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Good afternoon, everybody.

As we all know, things are a lot different this year. Make sure you keep your hand raised so they can get photos. It is very important you memorialize this moment. Congratulations to all of you. I know that this has been a very difficult year, and congratulations on your successful election.

I am going to say the oath, and then at the end I am going ask for an "I do." You do not have to repeat the oath. So please raise your right hand and I will do the oath: Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that you will discharge the duties of your office with fidelity? If you do, please say "I do."

(Members asserted oath.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Congratulations, everybody.

The CHIEF CLERK. So now the members of group C should leave the chamber and we ask that you report to the hallway outside of the Chief Clerk's Office on the first floor and sign the oath book. Staff will be waiting there to assist in maintaining social distancing. After signing the oath book, you may return to your offices.

Members in group D, the green group, should now report to the floor. The last group, group D, the green group, should now report to floor. Quickly, please. Would all members of group D please report to the floor. We have a busy day and we would appreciate everyone coming to the floor as quickly as possible. Would all members please take your seats. All members, please take your seats so we can easily identify those that are here and those that are missing.

The House will come order. Members, please take your seats.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MEMBERS-ELECT, GROUP D

The CHIEF CLERK. We will now proceed to the administering of the oath of office. Members, take your seats, please. Members in group D, please signify your presence by pressing the "aye" button. Would all members please signify your presence by pressing your "aye" button.

(Members-elect in group D proceeded to signify their presence.)

The CHIEF CLERK. The whips will please verify that all members in group D have signified their presence.

The Chair recognizes the majority whip, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the lady.

The Chair recognizes the minority whip, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

All members in group D have signified their presence, and their names will be entered into the Journal.

Bernstine
 Borowicz
 Burns
 Carroll
 Ciresi
 Cook
 Cox
 Cruz
 Culver
 Day
 DeLissio
 DeLuca
 Diamond
 Farry
 Frankel
 Freeman
 Hennessey
 Hickernell
 Irvin
 Jozwiak
 Kail
 Kaufer
 Kauffman
 Keefer
 Lawrence
 Longiatti
 Malagari
 Maloney
 Markosek
 Matzie
 Metcalfe

Metzgar
 Mihalek
 Miller, B.
 Moul
 Mullery
 Nelson, E.
 Peifer
 Polinchock
 Rapp
 Rowe
 Sainato
 Samuelson
 Schroeder
 Snyder
 Solomon
 Staats
 Struzzi
 Sturla
 Topper
 Vitali
 Warner
 Williams, D.
 Zimmerman

The CHIEF CLERK. Members, would you please rise, place your left hand on the Bible or other Holy Book or the Constitution, raise your right hand, and remain standing at your desk during the administration of the oath to which each member will swear or affirm.

The oath of office will be administered by the Honorable Brandon Neuman, judge, Court of Common Pleas, Washington County, and former member and good friend of the House.

(Members-elect stood.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Good afternoon, everybody.

Congratulations to all of you and good luck in this upcoming session. I know that you have a lot of work to do, and I hope that you guys can do it in a bipartisan fashion.

Please keep your hand raised. I will do the oath and ask for an affirmation just by you saying "I do." Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that you will discharge the duties of your office with fidelity? If you do, please say "I do."

(Members asserted oath.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Congratulations, everybody, and good luck.

The CHIEF CLERK. Congratulations.

Members, please be seated. We are going to make a few changes to our schedule.

REMARKS BY MR. TOPPER

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bedford County to say a few remarks, Representative Topper, under unanimous consent.

Mr. TOPPER. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

My heart has never been heavier in this chamber than it is today. Honestly, my heart has never been heavier at any time, in any place since last Friday. The sudden passing of Mike Reese has been a shock to all of us throughout the Commonwealth and it just does not seem right to start this session without him.

First, let me say that the Reese family has felt the outpouring of love and support, and there will be opportunities in the coming weeks to continue to show that support and love in more ways – I know many of you have offered suggestions and thoughts, and those details will be forthcoming. But for now, all of our actions and certainly our words seem so inadequate. Mike was the eternal optimist and was greatly looking forward to beginning this session and his new term as the Republican caucus chair.

Mike's legacy will be different for each one of us. For many in this building and in this political arena, his legacy will be that of a model legislator: someone who listened far more than he spoke; a man who stood by his principles but also understood the institution of government and what it took to accomplish goals in the realm of public policy. His efforts on educational issues and his work done as one of our appointees to the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association will long be remembered.

For some, especially in our caucus, his legacy will be that of a tremendous mentor. Our newer members can attest to his work as our caucus secretary, guiding freshmen through their first term as legislators. Sometimes they even had to come back for a refresher course as sophomores. Right, Bud? And no better mentor could any of you have had than Mike Reese.

His legacy to many back in his district will be that of a tireless advocate who brought the concerns of the 59th District and the whole of Westmoreland County to Harrisburg and he was very, very effective in doing so. He was also active in his home community as a visible and accessible elected official.

Now, his legacy that he would want all of us to have about him and that he would so desperately want me to mention was that he was a superior athlete who dominated the Harrisburg charity softball game for many years. And yes, I used the words "superior athlete" because that is how he would undoubtedly demand that I refer to him. And these are all appropriate legacies for this great man.

But to his family his legacy will be that of a caring son, a giving brother, a doting uncle. His legacy to Angela will be that of a loving husband who adored his wife and commented to me routinely how blessed he was to have her in his life. His legacy to Addison, Michael, and Claire will be that of proud dad, coach, chauffeur, and yes, the guy who enjoyed embarrassing his kids just the right amount. He was a devoted father who did not simply talk the talk, he walked the walk.

But to me, his legacy is that of trusted friend. Angela always said we talked on the phone like two teenage girls, and I know that we took a lot of heat for our Kohl's shopping trips after we went out to dinner down here, but I just loved spending time with the guy. And I can hear that typical Reese way of ending a conversation: "All right, Brother. I'll catch ya later." He was there for me through good and plenty of bad. And there is no one else you would want to have your back than Mike Reese and he had mine. And I am going to miss him greatly, as we all will. So, Mike, thank you for everything. And I will catch ya later.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC CAUCUSES

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair now recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

At this moment I would like to have both caucuses break for an official caucus for about 45 minutes.

RECESS

The CHIEF CLERK. This House will now be in recess until 2:30 for caucus.

AFTER RECESS

The time of recess having expired, the House was called to order.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair would ask all members planning to attend the fourth group to please report to the floor.

RESOLUTION

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. We will now proceed to the election of the Speaker.

All members, please take your seats.

The Chair recognizes the lady from Bucks County, Mrs. Schroeder.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Chief Clerk—

The CHIEF CLERK. Just a moment, please, Mrs. Schroeder.

Would all members please take your seats. We are going to proceed with the election of the Speaker.

The Chair recognizes the lady from Bucks County, Mrs. Schroeder.

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Chief Clerk, I have the honor of presenting a resolution for the election of Speaker.

The CHIEF CLERK. The lady from Bucks County, Mrs. Schroeder, presents a resolution, which the clerk will read.

Mrs. SCHROEDER offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
January 5, 2021

RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Article II, section 9 of the Constitution of Pennsylvania, the House do now proceed to the election of a Speaker.

NOMINATIONS FOR SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. Nominations are now in order for the office of Speaker.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman, my good friend, from Lancaster County, Mr. Hickernell.

Mr. HICKERNELL. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Good afternoon. A hundred and ninety-seven days ago I stood in this very spot and asked you to join me in voting to elect my good friend, Bryan Cutler, to serve as the 141st Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. I told you then that Bryan was a man with considerable talent, skill, and intellect and he would always seek to find common ground and work to bring both sides together. I shared that Bryan has a deep regard for this institution and that as Speaker he would treat every member with respect and dignity. I want to thank you for joining me and choosing Bryan Cutler to preside over this chamber for the past 6 months.

The CHIEF CLERK. Would the gentleman pause, please.

Would all the members please take your seat. We are in the middle of nominating Speakers.

I apologize, Mr. Hickernell. You may proceed.

Mr. HICKERNELL. Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

During this time Bryan has proven to be the kind of leader we need in these challenging days. I think you all agree with me that Bryan Cutler has learned quickly and has presided over this House with considerable skill and decorum. He has risen to the occasion, and I believe he is deserving of our support to continue serving as Speaker in this new session. Bryan Cutler has wielded the gavel with both authority and humility, demonstrating his unique style of servant leadership.

I am honored today to place into nomination the name of Bryan Dean Cutler for the office of Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. And I ask you, please join me in reelecting our colleague and good friend, Bryan Cutler, to preside over this House of Representatives for the 2021-22 session.

Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Lancaster County, Mr. Hickernell, places in nomination for office of Speaker the gentleman from Lancaster County, the Honorable Bryan Cutler.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Bedford County, Mr. Topper.

Mr. TOPPER. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

We have all heard the phrase "a steady hand at the helm." It is a nautical phrase used to describe an individual capable of steering a ship through rough seas. Something that everyone in this chamber, around this Capitol, and watching these proceedings can certainly agree on is that we are in the midst of rough seas. It is a time when division, distrust, and fear seems to have replaced what we normally feel at the beginning of a new session, which is hope, unity, and a renewed sense of a rested spirit. At such a time as this, we have never been more in need of a steady hand at the helm of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Bryan Cutler has been and will continue to be that steady hand. A man who values the institution above himself, a leader who never asks those under his leadership to perform a task that he himself would not perform, a Representative who works with purpose to find solutions to the most pressing of issues, and a Speaker who treats everyone with whom he comes in contact with the utmost respect. He has a command of the rules and precedents set within this chamber, and he is a credit to his district, his delegation, his family, and this House.

I am proud to second the nomination of my friend, the gentleman from Lancaster, Mr. Cutler, to guide this institutional ship with his steady hand through what may very well be our most challenging time.

Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Bedford County, Mr. Topper, seconds the nomination of Bryan Cutler for the office of Speaker.

Are there any other nominations?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Solomon.

Mr. SOLOMON. Thank you, Chief.

Good afternoon, everybody.

I am proud today to nominate my friend, my law school classmate, the gentledady from Philadelphia, our minority leader, who I believe has the hope and brings the energy to help heal the political divide that we face as an institution.

Thank you, Chief.

The CHIEF CLERK. Mr. Solomon places in nomination for the office of Speaker the lady from Philadelphia, the Honorable Joanna McClinton.

The Chair now recognizes the lady from Greene County, Mrs. Snyder.

Mrs. SNYDER. Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

I would like to second the nomination of the first woman to be elected leader in this historic chamber in its history, Joanna McClinton.

The CHIEF CLERK. Mrs. Snyder seconds the nomination of Representative McClinton.

The Chair now recognizes the lady from Allegheny, Representative Mihalek.

Ms. MIHALEK. Mr. Chief Clerk, I move that the nominations now be closed.

The CHIEF CLERK. Representative Mihalek moves that the nominations be closed.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. The House will now proceed to elect the Speaker. Those voting for Representative Bryan Cutler will vote in the affirmative; those voting for Representative Joanna McClinton will vote in the negative. The votes will be tallied as follows: Every "aye" vote will be tallied as a vote for Representative Cutler; every "no" vote will be tallied as a vote for Representative McClinton.

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the majority whip, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the lady.

The Chair recognizes the minority whip, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

The electronic board is accurate.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—111

Armanini	Gleim	Marshall	Roae
Benninghoff	Gregory	Masser	Rothman
Bernstine	Greiner	Mehaffie	Rowe
Boback	Grove	Mentzer	Ryan
Bonner	Hamm	Mercuri	Sankey
Borowicz	Heffley	Metcalfe	Saylor
Brooks	Helm	Metzgar	Schemel
Brown, R.	Hennessey	Mihalek	Schmitt
Causar	Hershey	Millard	Schroeder
Cook	Hickernell	Miller, B.	Silvis
Cox	Irvin	Mizgorski	Smith
Culver	James	Moul	Sonney
Cutler	Jones	Mustello	Staats
Davanzo	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Stambaugh
Day	Kail	O'Neal	Stephens
Delozier	Kaufer	Oberlander	Struzzi
DelRosso	Kauffman	Ortitay	Thomas
Diamond	Keefer	Owlett	Tomlinson
Dowling	Kerwin	Peifer	Toohil
Dunbar	Klunk	Pennycuik	Topper
Ecker	Knowles	Pickett	Twardzik
Emrick	Labs	Polinchock	Warner
Farry	Lawrence	Puskaric	Wentling
Fee	Lewis	Pyle	Wheeland
Flood	Mackenzie, M.	Quinn	White
Fritz	Mackenzie, R.	Rader	Williams, C.
Gillen	Mako	Rapp	Zimmerman
Gillespie	Maloney	Rigby	

NAYS—85

Benham	Driscoll	Kirkland	Pashinski
Bizzarro	Fiedler	Kosierowski	Pisciottano
Boyle	Fitzgerald	Krajewski	Rabb
Bradford	Flynn	Krueger	Rozzi
Briggs	Frankel	Kulik	Sainato
Brown, A.	Freeman	Longietti	Samuelson
Bullock	Gainey	Madden	Sanchez
Burgos	Galloway	Malagari	Sappery
Burns	Guent	Markosek	Schlossberg
Carrroll	Guzman	Matzie	Schweyer
Cephas	Hanbidge	McClinton	Shusterman
Ciresi	Harkins	McNeill	Sims
Conklin	Harris	Merski	Snyder
Cruz	Herrin	Miller, D.	Solomon
Daley	Hohenstein	Mullery	Sturla
Davis, A.	Howard	Mullins	Vitali
Davis, T.	Innamorato	Neilson	Warren
Dawkins	Isaacson	Nelson, N.	Webster
Deasy	Kenyatta	O'Mara	Williams, D.
DeLissio	Kinhead	Otten	Young
Delloso	Kinsey	Parker	Zabel
DeLuca			

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—6

Davidson	Gaydos	Lee	Wheatley
Evans	Kim		

The CHIEF CLERK. The Honorable Bryan Cutler received 111 votes; the Honorable Joanna McClinton received 85 votes.

Ms. McCLINTON. It is really disappointing.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the Honorable Joanna McClinton.

Ms. McCLINTON. First of all, I had to be the noes.

Mr. Chief Clerk, let the record reflect a unanimous vote for Representative Bryan Cutler for Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair declares a unanimous vote.

Thank you, Madam Leader.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT SPEAKER-ELECT TO ROSTRUM

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair appoints the gentleman from Centre County, Mr. Benninghoff, and the lady from Philadelphia County, Ms. McClinton, to escort Speaker-elect Bryan Cutler to the rostrum.

The committee to escort the Speaker-elect will proceed with the performance of its duties.

The Chair recognizes the chairman of the committee, Mr. Benninghoff.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

It is with great honor that we present our Speaker-elect, Bryan Cutler, from the county of Lancaster.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO SPEAKER-ELECT CUTLER

The CHIEF CLERK. The oath of office to the Speaker-elect will now be administered by the Honorable Brandon Neuman, judge, Court of Common Pleas, Washington County, and a former member of the House – I think we probably know that already, do we not?

Members and all guests, please rise as able for the oath of office.

JUDGE NEUMAN. Good afternoon again. I have had the distinct pleasure of swearing in each member now of the House of Representatives, and I will remind our Speaker that each member has a voice of 65,000, roughly, constituents that you bring with you to Harrisburg every day. The nominations for Leader McClinton and Speaker Cutler came from Greene County, they came from Bedford County, Lancaster County, and Philadelphia County. Pennsylvania is beautifully diverse, which makes it very complicated to be in the seat that you are in. I can tell you that Bryan is the one that can unite Pennsylvania and become a united front in a crisis that we are currently having. There is a reason why we are the Keystone State, and we need to show our country and this world again what leadership is and how this Keystone State can hold everything together.

Bryan shares a lot of the attributes of a member that we just lost, Mike Reese – kind, gentle, family-oriented, somebody that treats everyone with respect. And I know that if Mike was here today, he would have gladly cast his vote for Speaker Cutler today. Bryan is someone that you can go to and talk to. You may not agree with him and he may not agree with you, but he will listen, and at the end of the day, you owe it to your constituents to be heard. You are here on behalf of 65,000 people. Go back to your districts and let them know that you have a Speaker that will listen.

So I congratulate Bryan Cutler on becoming the Speaker of the House for this legislative session. His leadership will guide

you and guide this House to, hopefully, come together, build bridges, and make sure that the barriers are torn down between the parties and the partisanship that we have seen throughout the country. And even though the partisanship makes the most news, believe it or not, the vast majority of bills that come out of this House are passed in a bipartisan fashion. So please stay focused on what you can do and work on together, and I know with Bryan as your Speaker, he will guide that way.

Thank you for allowing me the honor to swear you in. And, Bryan, you came to my swearing-in as a judge in Washington County from Lancaster County. I cannot thank you enough for that, and it is my honor to swear you in. Place your hand on the Bible and raise your right hand: I – state your name – do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

(Speaker-elect Cutler asserted oath.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Congratulations, Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Thank you.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair requests the Honorable Matt Gabler, a former member of the House, to take the Chair for the purpose of presenting the gavel to Speaker Bryan Cutler.

Mr. GABLER. Thank you, Mr. Chief Clerk.

Ladies and gentlemen, honorable members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, congratulations. I am truly privileged to join you for today's important proceedings.

Speaker Cutler, my heartfelt congratulations to you. Today, Mr. Speaker, your colleagues have entrusted you with this gavel, which you will use to preside over the important business of this chamber. As Speaker, you are the only member of this body elected by the members as a whole, placing you in the unique position of representing a much broader set of constituencies. You continue to represent the approximately 64,000 citizens of the 100th District, as you have with distinction for the past 14 years. Additionally, you count every member of this chamber as your constituent as Speaker, which means that by extension, you have a responsibility to each and every citizen of this great Commonwealth.

Having served alongside you when we were both rank-and-file members, I have always admired how you possessed the qualities of a true statesman. You conceive of legislating as a public service that is done with the intention of elevating the quality of life for all. You understand that such important work often comes with unavoidable disagreement, but you have the patience and perseverance to give due respect to differing perspectives and to seek consensus whenever possible.

Certainly the occupant of this rostrum is charged with the duty of protecting the rights of the members of this chamber. I have every confidence that today those members have wisely placed their trust in you. Therefore, at this time it is my distinct honor and pleasure to present you with this, the gavel for the 205th legislative session of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for your service to the citizens of this Commonwealth.

**THE SPEAKER (BRYAN CUTLER)
PRESIDING**

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Thank you.

Thank you very much, Representative Gabler. I appreciate your kind words. I certainly will miss serving with you. For the benefit of the members, I wanted to share some back history before I get to my prepared remarks. I first met Matt when he was a staffer on the Policy Committee working for then Policy Committee Chairman Turzai, and I had the privilege of working with Matt and with Speaker Turzai on a LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program) reform bill with Representative Ron Waters at that time. It had that bipartisan support that Brandon mentioned. And so it meant a lot to go from working together on legislation to this point today. Matt also has intermittently been my own personal trainer, taking me on many a run where his stride is far faster and longer than mine, and I always appreciated that encouragement.

Earlier I took the oath on the Assembly Bible, and the Parliamentarian gave me some information to share. In 1746 the Pennsylvania Assembly ordered the clerk of the Assembly to begin accumulating books for a library to be used by its members. The clerk, Benjamin Franklin, requested from England copies of books related to the law, religion, mathematics, architecture, history, and other topics. He also requested some large maps to be hung in the Assembly room. More books were purchased by Franklin in the mid-1750s to add to the library collection. Included in this purchase was this Bible from 1739. It bears the early ownership stamp on the cover in gold that was placed on the Assembly's books in 1767, and this Bible is currently housed in the rare books collection at the Pennsylvania State Library.

To Representative Topper, thank you. I appreciated your remarks on Representative Reese as well. Many of the members know that Representatives Topper, Reese, and myself were actually very good friends. We talked to each other on a daily basis. And I certainly – and I will address Representative Reese in a little bit – but I appreciate your kind words, your support, and mostly importantly, your friendship. Thank you, Jesse.

Representative Hickernell, I thank you for once again agreeing to nominate me to serve in this capacity. Dave has been a wonderful friend, and more importantly, mentor from my very first day here. He demonstrates daily on how to legislate effectively, efficiently, and fairly, and I have always gone to him for counsel and appreciate his insight. And I also want to thank you, Dave, for the nomination and your friendship as well.

To Leader McClinton, thank you for the very kind motion to make it a unanimous vote, because I think it is important that we start this session united and working together because of many of the difficult issues that we have before us. I also would like to congratulate you on your new election to the leadership position that you now hold. Congratulations on making history, and I look forward to working with the leadership teams on both sides, who have many new members.

As I said in June when I was first elected Speaker of this historical body, I believe the best speeches use the least words and have more meaning. In that spirit again, I would like to offer some brief remarks as we begin this, our 205th session of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Before I begin, though, I cannot start without the acknowledgement of my very good

friend from the 59th Legislative District who would have joined us today to begin another term of service to the people of Somerset and Westmoreland Counties and to the Republican Caucus as an elected leader. Mike, words cannot express how much you are already missed.

Jesse, Mike, and I would routinely talk every day, and Mike had a gift, Mike had a gift of he was the one guy who could say things that nobody else could probably get away with. He mocked me continually regarding – he said I was overweight, he said I was frail, he said I was weak, and it was always in good fun, but the reason I share that is because that is just the kind of guy Mike was, because he was always pushing us to be better. He was one of the kindest souls that I will ever have known, and he was a good friend and he will really be missed. I was looking forward to serving with him this session. Professionally, Representative Topper outlined his many professional accomplishments as a legislator, but he approached legislation just like he did the friendships here. He genuinely was someone whom everybody could work with, and we need a little more of that these days.

Now to the members who have returned to the House or are joining us for the first time, my sincerest congratulations to each of you. The people of your districts have placed an extraordinary confidence in you, and you have placed your confidence in me. I hope that, as we begin this new legislative term, you will always remember that the most important people, the most important people here in this Commonwealth are not the ones that occupy the seats in this beautiful chamber – and to be clear, they are not in the Senate either – they are all of our citizens back home. Let us never forget that in a republican form of government, the sovereign are always the citizens of the Commonwealth. Each day we should individually and collectively work to improve their lives, promote opportunities for earned success, manage their resources with fidelity, and be building for the next generation of learners, workers, and families. Your duty to meet that noble goal and effectively represent and serve the people of your district is a heavy one, which is why being a State Representative is such an incredible position of trust. And at this time, in this moment, on our watch, the people of Pennsylvania need us more than ever.

I could take the remainder of our day here to detail the many challenges that now confront us, but I would like to focus on just a few. In the last year, our State was not immune to the devastation the COVID-19 pandemic has wrecked upon our friends, neighbors, communities, businesses, and industries. Even our own legislative body has not been spared, as evidenced by just how different today's proceedings have been. Like many of you, I sincerely mourn for these incredible losses. Far too many citizens, including our children, have suffered in unimaginable ways. We have lost veterans, educators, business and religious leaders, people from all walks of life and every corner of our State that Judge Neuman highlighted in who nominated the Speaker candidates today.

In my home county, we have lost a beloved guidance counselor and wife, an Air Force veteran who spent a portion of his career standing guard on Air Force One, a Battle of the Bulge survivor, a scuba diver whose underwater photos and videos were in demand all over the world, a grandmother devoted to her family who spent nearly four decades as the best seamstress in town and found constant joy by singing in the church choir. These are just a few of the people whose lives meant so much to so many, and I know that many others have suffered terribly. But in

this darkness, we have been surrounded by the inspiring light of everyday heroes – our health-care workers, our teachers, those individuals who went to work continually for all of us; and each of you, who dutifully worked for the remainder of the last legislative session and into this one. So thank you – people who may not always be publicly known but deserve to be acknowledged and thanked.

Unfortunately, the tragedy of this pandemic stretches far beyond human health, hospital beds, and temperature checks. I am sure that every member of this chamber can also name at least one business that has shut down completely. And sadly, I am also confident that we all personally know friends or family searching for employment or waiting for financial aid from the unemployment compensation system. And I know that the children in your home and your community are facing uncertainty over how or where they will be educated, or whether the severe disruptions will lead to long-term learning loss that will have a generational impact.

Make no mistake, our government at all levels, in the interest of public health, has made irreversible and life-altering decisions that have and will continue to profoundly impact lives as we go forward. Consider the restaurant owner who took on massive debt to transform their business to an outdoor eatery and a take-out business but still could not make ends meet. Today their doors are closed for good and their staff is out of work. Of course, they are not alone. The salon owned by a single parent, also closed. The flower shop, family owned and operated for more than four decades, is now empty. The local clothing store, owned and operated by a husband and wife team, closed after decades of serving happy customers. The small-town gym owner doing her part to make her community healthier; she has already sold all of her equipment and is currently looking for a new job. COVID-19 may not have found its way into these business owners' homes or directly into their lives, but it certainly changed the course of their family history. Those examples are just from this region. I know that you each have examples from your own. Whether it is illness or impact, I know that you will carry the stories of those businesses, employees, and individuals from your district with you here today.

More than 3 million Pennsylvanians have applied for unemployment in 2020, by no fault of their own or that of their employer. And just like the loss of human life or the physical suffering of our people, we cannot grow numb to stories like these because they are real too. Colleagues, this is not the first time that severe challenge or calamity has visited us. From our very founding, legislators – people just like each of us – have been tasked with managing all manner of difficult issues, trials, and yes, catastrophes. And despite everything we faced as a Commonwealth, we persevered and we conquered.

In closing, I will share with you my thoughts as to how and why we have navigated these rough waters to find calmer seas. First, it takes honest, caring, and committed leaders – like everyone here today – principled people who are willing to seek understanding, listen more than speak, work in good faith, and be willing to challenge their own assumptions. Second, it takes fidelity to our very first and most important law, the Constitution. Our Constitution is so sacred that it cannot be modified or changed without the consent of the people themselves. Our Republic's creation through the Constitution can only be sustained if we are faithful to its design. Our Constitution is not

just an outdated parchment promise; it is the people's law, divinely inspired and masterfully crafted for all generations through good and bad times. That, my friends, is why the only promise that you are required to make during your oath of office is to support, obey, and defend our Constitution. The architects of this magnificent experiment in representative government knew that our Commonwealth could endure if people just like you would keep that commitment. That is the oath that we have now taken. It is the vow that we swore today. And when you stop to think about it, the reason that we pledge our loyalty to the Constitution is actually very simple: because the Constitution was created to form a more perfect Union. It is an enduring promise to all, each and every one.

To close, I would like to share a verse that I often think about since you first trusted me with the House gavel in June. Reading from Hebrews, chapter 12, verse 1: "Therefore, we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which could so easily beset us, and let us run with endurance the race that is now set before us." You have been elected to run this race and all of Pennsylvania is a witness. Please join me in casting aside anything that prevents us from helping those who have honored us with that awesome responsibility that is now before us, the oldest continually elected citizen legislature in all of America.

Thank you. May God bless you and this House of Representatives.

COMMEMORATIVE GAVEL PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. The Chair now recognizes the Chief Clerk for the presentation of a commemorative gavel.

The Chair would like to thank the Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to present to you today this commemorative gavel on the occasion of your election as Speaker to the 205th regular session of the General Assembly. On behalf of all the institutional staff, those that fall under the Comptroller and the Chief Clerk, we want to congratulate you, wish you the very best, and let you know that we stand ready to serve you and your colleagues and the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Congratulations, Bryan.

The SPEAKER. Thank you very much, Dave.

The Chair would like to thank the Chief Clerk for the gavel.

I started to thank the Chief Clerk for presiding over what has certainly been a very different start for our session, and then I realized it looked like I was jumping ahead on the script, so I apologize, Mr. Clerk.

PLACING OF MACE

The SPEAKER. Placing the mace is next. It is an honored tradition here in the House.

The oath of office having been taken by the members of the House and the Speaker elected, the Chair now instructs the macebearer to now place the mace on the rostrum. The mace is a symbol of authority of this House. When the mace is at the Speaker's rostrum, to my right, the House is in session.

(Mace was placed on rostrum.)

The SPEAKER. For the information of the new members, we do have an informational booklet on the mace and the history of the mace. I would certainly encourage you, as we go throughout the session, to take the opportunity to learn about the history and what it symbolizes in terms of being here representing the citizens of the Commonwealth.

PARLIAMENTARIAN APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. In compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth authorizing the Speaker to appoint a Parliamentarian, the Speaker now appoints Clancy Myer as Parliamentarian of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJORITY LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER. The Speaker now recognizes the lady from Clarion County, Gentlelady Oberlander, for the purpose of making an announcement.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My sincere congratulations to you.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart, as today's program indicates that this is the part of the ceremony when our Republican Caucus chairman, Representative Mike Reese, would be introducing our leadership team. We were all shocked and are deeply saddened with Rep. Reese's sudden passing just 4 days ago. We all send our heartfelt prayers and thoughts to his family, and we will continue to lean on each other during this difficult time. It is my honor to rise and share the words that Rep. Reese wrote in honor of today's ceremony:

"Mr. Speaker, for the information of the members and for the record of the House, I am pleased to announce that the gentleman from Centre and Mifflin Counties, Mr. Kerry Benninghoff, has been elected majority leader by the caucus, and that the gentlelady from Armstrong, Clarion, and Forest Counties, Ms. Donna Oberlander, has been elected majority whip. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the gentlelady from Philadelphia County, Ms. Martina White, has been elected caucus secretary. The gentleman from Cameron, McKean, and Potter Counties, Mr. Martin Causer, has been elected Policy chairman. The gentleman from Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland Counties, Mr. Kurt Masser, has been elected caucus administrator. And finally, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from York County, Mr. Stan Saylor, has been elected majority chairman of the Appropriations Committee."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP

The SPEAKER. The Speaker now recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Representative Dan Miller, for the purpose of making an announcement.

Mr. D. MILLER. Thank you, and congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

I know as well that the loss of Mike is something that is felt in every Democrat as well as every Republican, obviously. We stand together with you in prayers for Mike and his family.

In relation to the announcement, Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Democratic Caucus, I have been instructed to announce, for the information of the members of the House and for the record, that the good lady from Philadelphia County, Ms. McClinton, has been elected Democratic leader by the Democratic Caucus, and the Democratic gentleman from Philadelphia County, Mr. Harris, has been elected Democratic whip. Furthermore, the lady from Bucks County, Mrs. Davis, has been elected caucus secretary. The gentleman from Erie County, Mr. Bizzarro, has been elected Policy chairman. The gentleman from Lehigh County, Mr. Schlossberg, has been elected caucus administrator. And finally, the good gentleman from Montgomery County, Mr. Bradford, has been elected Democratic chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and offers its congratulations to the leadership teams.

REMARKS BY MAJORITY LEADER

The SPEAKER. The Speaker now recognizes the majority leader, Representative Benninghoff, for remarks.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And to the Speaker, Leader McClinton, members, and all of this esteemed body, especially our freshman members and guests, we welcome you here to the 2021-2022 legislative session. I will share a couple remarks with you that I was thinking about when I was coming down here, all the people that affected my life over the years, and I think of a teacher from when I was in seventh grade who gave some encouraging remarks to my mother that were shared with me and still stick with me 20-some years later.

In my years serving the Pennsylvania General Assembly's 171st District in this building, I have always reflected on how much I enjoy today, swearing-in day, and what a significant time it is as we prepare to be seated in this majestic palace of art, as it has often been called. And it has been said, even though this year's ceremony is a little different, it should be no less meaningful to any of us, new or returning. It has also been remarked that today is particularly sad as this chamber unexpectedly is one member short. Representative Mike Reese's sudden departure jars all of us, not only being unexpected, but the devastating loss to his family, friends, those in this building and across Pennsylvania, as we all knew and loved him. His career may be remembered by what he did here, but his life will be remembered, his legacy will be the love he had for his family; his wife, Angela, and his three children.

It is important for all of us to remember, as we get into heated discussions at times, especially for the new members, I have often said – maybe it is only in my own case – but what we do here sometimes is only a blip in history, but do not let it ever affect who you are, and most importantly, who you are with your family and your friends.

As to the new legislative session we start today: throughout our history, there have been times of great challenge and hardship that became the catalyst for good change and prosperity. I like to not let the negative things get me down. While it may seem like we have many, many challenges before us, I like to look at it as having many, many opportunities – opportunities to make Pennsylvania better for those whom we serve by being their voices, the people's voices, in how laws are made, in how we respond to crises, and in how we work on issues our constituents

bring to our offices every day. We are the legislative branch. We are lawmakers – the body known to be closest to the people.

For some of you new members, you will often have conversations, believe it or not, in grocery stores, places of worship, and at gas pumps with your constituents that will impact your decisions, or ask you to champion some issues, but ultimately, they have some impact on how you vote here. I urge every one of us to remember to keep those back home in our minds when we consider what we do here in this beautiful, majestic chamber that we call the House of Representatives.

Today is also new beginnings. We have new members, new leadership teams, and new committees eager to begin the legislative process by discussing new bills and passing them for further debate onto the House floor. We can leave the arguments and the passions of the past session and move on to these new goals, new ideas, and new accomplishments to restore Pennsylvania. I was asked recently in an interview about my hopes for 2021 after the challenges of 2020. My answer was pretty simple: I hope we can make 2021 the year of renewed prosperity through great cooperation. A year in which we can put aside the need to score political points, canceling out our opponents, and truly work together for the people of Pennsylvania.

That does not mean we should not stand up for our beliefs or our differences in our opinions. One of the best pieces of advice I remember being given was from former Speaker Matthew Ryan on my first day being sworn in. For some it may not seem like much, but to me it has been with me. He then told us, "Be sure to stand for something or you will be sure to fall for anything." That is something I have always taken to heart and tried not to forget. What it does mean, however, is that when we see people suffering or we know people are struggling or we see problems that need to be solved, we can stand on principle, not politics, to the best of our ability to address them.

Wrapped around the top of this rotunda are the words from our Founding Father, William Penn, as he talked about this land called Pennsylvania, which he called a Holy Experiment. I will paraphrase, but it says that for the nations want a precedent, and my God will make it the seed of this nation, that an example be set upon the nations. Working together, we, even with our different beliefs, can further that ideal by making Pennsylvania what we know it can be – my favorite new phrase – the envy of the East, a precedent for the nation in all 50 States. We have so many beautiful things here in this Commonwealth, the place we call home: a determined people, great research institutions, natural resources, and a true desire for the betterment of our fellow citizens.

Finally, just a few words of advice for our new members – and even some of our old members. Being in this position is demanding, and being successful here often depends on what you do outside of the House. Take time to make friends with your fellow members on both sides of the aisle, be responsive to your constituents, and always remember to take time to be with your friends and your family. Also, do not be afraid to find out answers to what you do not know, and ask others for advice. We all started in that same situation. My office door is open to all of you, from both sides of the aisle, for whatever I might be able to do to help you with, and maybe it is just a simple discussion.

Mr. Speaker, Leader McClinton, members and guests, I thank you very much for the opportunity to be here and to share in a few words. God bless you. God bless this session before us.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks Leader Benninghoff.

REMARKS BY DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER. The Speaker now recognizes the Democratic leader, Ms. McClinton, for remarks.

Ms. McCLINTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker; thank you, Leader Benninghoff; and thank you to all of you colleagues. Before I get started, if we could just take another moment of silence for Representative Reese collectively, I would appreciate that.

(Whereupon, a moment of silence was observed.)

Ms. McCLINTON. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The lady is in order. Thank you.

Ms. McCLINTON. Colleagues, if there is anything that we are reminded about with the sudden passing of our recent colleague, who was in the program to be here today, is that life is fragile. It has to be handled with care. If there is anything 2020 reminded us, it is that our democracy is fragile and also needs to be handled with care. That said, for us to be anything short of successful, it will require cooperation, innovative thinking, and legislating for all people. That being said, congratulations, especially to our newest members. Congratulations to this class of 2021-2022. We are proud of each of you, because certainly, it is your hard work and your commitment to your neighbors back home that have brought you to this moment in time in history.

Speaking of where we are in time and in history, there have been over 338 years that have passed since the very first meeting of the Pennsylvania General Assembly; 338 years, wow, that is longer than any of us collectively – and I have not done the math yet – but that is longer than any of us have been alive, if we did all the math. To think that in that time, my hometown of Philly was just a few farms, a couple of buildings, and about 300 people. There was not yet a Pittsburgh, and there were not yet these United States of America.

You fast-forward and you see where we are in current history, and each of us is fighting. We are fighting for our lives. We are fighting to save our democracy. We are fighting an invisible virus that we cannot see that is threatening our livelihood, our opportunities to have the pursuit of happiness in these United States, and specifically, right here in Pennsylvania. We are at a time in history where we are fighting to save and protect our democracy. Both life and democracy are fragile. We must handle each of them with care.

That being said, you may say, well, what is it that we can do? So I call on all of us, all 201 of you listening. It will take all of us putting our egos aside, our political affiliations aside, to handle our lives and this democracy with care, to collectively come together and think about the folks who have had it the hardest, specifically in this pandemic. The folks who are struggling right now, low-wage workers, hoping that there is going to be bread on the table tomorrow. Think about the farmers who do not have access to broadband Internet to be able to compete. Think about those who live in housing and who work at jobs who are afraid that they may be fired for whom they love or how they identify. Think about the people who need our help, the folks who do not think their children's education is fairly funded yet they do not have much to do about that because we are in here, we are fighting each other, we are keeping the dukes up.

I call for us in this new session to put the dukes down. Fight for the people who need us to fight for them, the people who look at this Capitol sometimes and say, "Oh, that's a joke. They don't

do anything to help anybody. They don't make a difference in our lives." While the world is watching, let us show them how much care we can bring to take care of our lives and our democracy. Can we do that in 2021-2022? Can we handle both our lives and those who depended and elected us to take care of their lives and to protect this democracy with care? Can we do that? I am asking each and every one of you to rise to the occasion of your life and handle both with care, because the time is now for us to show people who are watching that we can be the ones to make the difference for them.

You might say, well, who am I to come out and have this radical call for action? Well, you know that I am not here by myself. I am standing on the shoulders of my mother, who is in my office safely. She did not want to stay here too many hours for a few reasons I will not get into, but I am standing on her shoulders because she is a strong Black woman who did everything she could as a single parent with myself and my brother. I am standing on the shoulders of my grandmother who came up from segregated North Carolina, where she could not go to school, where she could not finish her education. I am standing on her shoulders too. And I am from the 191st Legislative District, so I am standing on the shoulders of Hardy Williams, who in 1970 shook up the political scene in Philadelphia for Black people, giving opportunity and kicking doors down where there had been barricades for years. I am standing on the shoulders of Shirley Chisholm, who dreamt one day there would be a young woman like me that her colleagues could have a little bit of faith in and take a step out and to continue to make history. I am standing on all of their shoulders.

But more than that, you all know deep down on the inside, what is driving all of this for me is my faith. Certainly, these are democratic values that our caucus holds near and dear. But what I think about more than anything are the words, "For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me in. I needed clothes, and you clothed me. I was sick, and you looked after me. I was in prison, and you came to visit me." So those words and other words that you may hold as guiding principles, let them be what lifts us out of this dark time so that we can take care of our lives, this democracy, and handle them both with care. Thank you, and God bless.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

CALENDAR

RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER. We are about to take up the resolution for the adoption of rules for the upcoming session.

The Speaker now recognizes the majority leader, Representative Benninghoff, who offers HR 3, found on page 1 of today's House calendar, which the clerk will read.

The following resolution was read:

House Resolution No. 3

A RESOLUTION

A Resolution adopting permanent rules for the House of Representatives, further providing for time of meeting, for order of business, for fiscal notes, for general appropriation bill and non-preferred bills, for consideration of bills, for amendments, for bills amended by the Senate, for hospital and home appropriations or acquiring lands of the Commonwealth, for House and concurrent resolutions, for standing committees and subcommittees, for powers and duties of standing committees and subcommittees, for Government Oversight Committee, for investigations, for privileged motions, for lay on the table, for division of a question, for financial interests in gaming entities, for electric roll call and for Committee on Ethics; and providing for temporary rules relating to roll call votes, to voting meetings of committees, to consideration of bills, third consideration and final passage bills and conference committee reports and remote participation.

On the question,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

The SPEAKER. On the resolution, the Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

After a lot of work within this chamber with both sides of the party, I would ask the members to join us in support of these rules so that we can begin the people's business of the House as Representatives. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and recognizes the gentlelady.

Ms. McCLINTON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, these are not the rules that my colleagues had in mind as an ideal set; however, there are many amendments that they are offering, some that already exist, so that we can continue on the road to good government and transparency.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

On the question recurring,

Will the House adopt the resolution?

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The SPEAKER. On that question, the Chair recognizes the majority whip, Representative Oberlander.

Ms. OBERLANDER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady and recognizes the Democratic whip, Representative Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The electronic board is accurate.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—142

Armanini	Flynn	Mako	Rigby
Benninghoff	Frankel	Maloney	Roae
Bernstine	Fritz	Markosek	Rothman
Bizzarro	Galloway	Marshall	Rowe
Boback	Gillen	Masser	Ryan
Bonner	Gillespie	Matzie	Sankey
Borowicz	Gleim	McClinton	Saylor
Boyle	Gregory	Mehaffie	Schemel
Bradford	Greiner	Mentzer	Schlossberg
Briggs	Grove	Mercuri	Schmitt
Brown, R.	Hamm	Metcalfe	Schroeder
Carroll	Harkins	Metzgar	Silvis
Causer	Harris	Mihalek	Smith
Conklin	Heffley	Millard	Snyder
Cook	Helm	Miller, B.	Solomon
Cox	Hennessey	Miller, D.	Sonney
Cruz	Hershey	Mizgorski	Staats
Culver	Hickernell	Moul	Stambaugh
Daley	Irvin	Mullery	Stephens
Davanzo	James	Mustello	Struzzi
Davis, A.	Jones	Neilson	Sturla
Davis, T.	Jozwiak	Nelson, E.	Thomas
Dawkins	Kail	O'Neal	Tomlinson
Day	Kaufer	Oberlander	Toohil
Deasy	Kauffman	Ortitay	Topper
Delozier	Keefer	Owlett	Twardzik
DelRosso	Kerwin	Pashinski	Vitali
DeLuca	Klunk	Peifer	Warner
Diamond	Knowles	Pennycuik	Wentling
Dowling	Kulik	Pickett	Wheeland
Dunbar	Labs	Polinchock	White
Ecker	Lawrence	Puskaric	Williams, C.
Emrick	Lewis	Pyle	Zimmerman
Farry	Longietti	Quinn	
Fee	Mackenzie, M.	Rader	Cutler,
Flood	Mackenzie, R.	Rapp	Speaker

NAYS—54

Benham	Gainey	Krajewski	Rozzi
Brooks	Guenst	Krueger	Sainato
Brown, A.	Guzman	Madden	Samuelson
Bullock	Hanbidge	Malagari	Sanchez
Burgos	Herrin	McNeill	Sappey
Burns	Hohenstein	Merski	Schweyer
Cephas	Howard	Mullins	Shusterman
Ciresi	Innamorato	Nelson, N.	Sims
DeLissio	Isaacson	O'Mara	Warren
Delloso	Kenyatta	Otten	Webster
Driscoll	Kinhead	Parker	Williams, D.
Fiedler	Kinsey	Pisciottano	Young
Fitzgerald	Kirkland	Rabb	Zabel
Freeman	Kosierowski		

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—6

Davidson	Gaydos	Lee	Wheatley
Evans	Kim		

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the question was determined in the affirmative and the resolution was adopted.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES
APPOINTED**

The SPEAKER. Moving to announcements, the following members have been selected to serve on the Committee on Committees: Representative Stan Saylor, chairman; Representative Kerry Benninghoff; Representative John Lawrence; Representative Kurt Masser; Representative Donna Oberlander; Representative Tina Pickett; Representative Martina White; Representative Jesse Topper; Representative Marty Causer; and sadly, there is one vacancy. Representative Mary Jo Daley, the Democratic chair; Representative Emily Kinhead; Representative Brian Kirkland; Representative Pete Schweyer; Representative Morgan Cephas; and the Speaker.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. For the information of the members, members who have not done so yet, please report to the hallway outside the Chief Clerk's Office upon leaving the floor today to sign the oath book. Staff will assist you in maintaining proper social distancing.

For the information of the members, we are waiting on the Senate for the joint session. They estimate that it could be approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour before they conclude their current activities. The members are not required to stay here in the hall of the House, but we will be readjourning for a joint session with two duties that are required by statute to certify the election returns of the Attorney General, the Auditor General, and the Treasurer, and the election of the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. We will be going at ease until such time that the Senate is available.

I would like to personally thank Judge Neuman for being here today. Brandon and I have been friends since his very first term, and he spoke but more importantly demonstrated during our time here the ability to work in a collaborative manner and be friends reaching across the aisle to solve the problems before the Commonwealth. And for the information of those who might be viewing from home, I echo Leader McClinton's comments regarding working together, and I am happy to report that last session over 90 percent of our bills were, in fact, bipartisan and 65 percent were unanimous. But as Judge Neuman so eloquently pointed out, oftentimes when things run on time that is not news.

So I want to thank the members from last session who have returned and welcome the new members, and we will be at ease for approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour until the Senate can join us for a joint session.

This House will be at ease.

The House will please come to order.

SENATE MESSAGE

JOINT SESSION

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate,
January 5, 2021

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Senate and House of Representatives meet in Joint Session on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, in the Hall of the House of Representatives for the purpose of witnessing the opening, counting and computing of the official returns of the election for Attorney General, Auditor General, and State Treasurer, held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, in the several counties of the Commonwealth, and to elect the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

RESOLUTION

APPOINTMENT OF TELLER

Mr. BENNINGHOFF offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
January 5, 2021

RESOLVED, That the gentleman from York County, Mr. Saylor, be appointed Teller on the part of the House of Representatives to open and compute the vote for Attorney General, Auditor General, and Treasurer in a joint session of the Senate and House.

ARRIVAL OF SENATE

The SPEAKER. The House will please come to order. The Senate is now entering the hall of the House. Members and guests will please rise.

The Chair now recognizes the Sergeants at Arms of the House.

The SERGEANT AT ARMS. Mr. Speaker, the Senate is now present in the hall of the House.

The SPEAKER. The President pro tempore of the Senate, the Honorable Jake Corman, is invited to be seated on the rostrum. Members of the House and the Senate will please take your seats.

JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE SPEAKER (BRYAN CUTLER) PRESIDING

ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED

The SPEAKER. This joint session of the General Assembly will please come to order. Members, take your seats.

This being the day and the time agreed upon by a concurrent resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of this Commonwealth for the opening and computing of the

official returns of the election for the Attorney General, Auditor General, and Treasurer held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, in the several counties of this Commonwealth, the returns will now be opened and read.

The teller on the part of the Senate is the Senator from Schuylkill County, Senator David Argall, and the teller on the part of the House of Representatives is the Representative from York County, Representative Stan Saylor.

The tellers will please come forward to the desk assigned to them by the Chief Clerk of the House and proceed in the performance of their duties.

The following election returns were read:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 3, 2020, for the office of State Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Mr. Joseph M. Torsella, Democratic, received 3,239,331 votes,
Ms. Stacy L. Garrity, Republican, received 3,291,877 votes,
Mr. Joseph P. Soloski, Libertarian, received 148,614 votes,
Mr. Timothy Runkle, Green, received 81,984 votes,
Write-in Votes, 3,626 (scattered),

as the same have been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the sixty-seven County Boards of Elections.

Witness my hand and the seal of my
office this fourth day of January, 2021.

(SEAL)

Kathy Boockvar
Secretary of the Commonwealth

* * *

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election held November 3, 2020, for the office of Auditor General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Ms. Nilofer Nina Ahmad, Democratic, received 3,129,131 votes,
Mr. Timothy L. DeFoor, Republican, received 3,338,009 votes,
Ms. Jennifer Lynn Moore, Libertarian, received 205,929 votes,
Ms. Olivia Faison, Green, 78,588 received votes,
Write-in Votes, 3,830 (scattered),

as the same have been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the sixty-seven County Boards of Elections.

(SEAL)

Witness my hand and the seal of my
office this fourth day of January, 2021.

Kathy Boockvar
Secretary of the Commonwealth

* * *

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE PRESIDENT PRO
TEMPORE OF THE SENATE, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

I have the honor to present the official returns of the General Election
held November 3, 2020, for the office of Attorney General of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, wherein it was disclosed that:

Mr. Joshua D. Shapiro, Democratic, received 3,461,472 votes,
Ms. Heather S. Heidelbaugh, Republican, received 3,153,831
votes,

Mr. Daniel Wassmer, Libertarian, received 120,489 votes,
Mr. Richard L. Weiss, Green, received 70,804 votes,
Write-in Votes, 3,270 (scattered),

as the same have been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the sixty-seven County Boards of
Elections.

(SEAL)

Witness my hand and the seal of my
office this fourth day of January, 2021.

Kathy Boockvar
Secretary of the Commonwealth

CERTIFICATE ON ELECTION EXPENSES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE MEMBERS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA, GREETINGS:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1632(b) of the
Pennsylvania Election Code [25 P.S. § 3252(b)], I do hereby certify that
Joshua D. Shapiro, Attorney General, Timothy L. DeFoor, Auditor
General, and Stacy L. Garrity, State Treasurer, have filed all of the
reports and statements of contributions and expenditures required by the
provisions of Article XVI of the Pennsylvania Election Code entitled
"Primary and Election Expenses."

(SEAL)

Witness my hand and the seal of my
office this fourth day of January, 2021.

Kathy Boockvar
Secretary of the Commonwealth

TELLERS' REPORT

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the teller on the part of
the Senate, the Senator from Schuylkill County, Senator David
Argall.

Mr. ARGALL. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, members of the
General Assembly, the tellers agree in their count and submit
their report on the votes cast for the offices of State Treasurer,
Auditor General, and Attorney General.

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Joshua D. Shapiro, Democrat, received
3,461,472 votes;
Heather S. Heidelbaugh, Republican,
received 3,153,831 votes;
Daniel Wassmer, Libertarian, received
120,489 votes;
Richard L. Weiss, Green Party, received
70,804 votes;
Scattered write-in votes: 3,270.

FOR AUDITOR GENERAL:

Timothy L. DeFoor, Republican, received
3,338,009 votes;
Nina Ahmad, Democrat, received 3,129,131
votes;
Jennifer Lynn Moore, Libertarian, received
205,929 votes;
Olivia Faison, Green Party, received 78,588
votes;
Scattered write-in votes: 3,830.

FOR STATE TREASURER:

Stacy L. Garrity, Republican, received
3,291,877 votes;
Joseph M. Torsella, Democrat, received
3,239,331 votes;
Joseph P. Soloski, Libertarian, received
148,614 votes;
Timothy Runkle, Green Party, received
81,984 votes;
Scattered write-in votes: 3,626.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Joshua D. Shapiro, having received the highest number of
votes, is duly elected Attorney General of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of
January 2021.

Timothy L. DeFoor, having received the highest number of
votes, is duly elected Auditor General of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of
January 2021.

Stacy L. Garrity, having received the highest number of votes,
is duly elected State Treasurer of the Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania for the term of 4 years from the third Tuesday of
January 2021.

The General Assembly will now be at ease for several
moments while we sign the certificates of election.

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION FILED

The SPEAKER. The House will please come to order.

The certificates of election for Attorney General, Auditor
General, and the Treasurer have been signed by the officers and
tellers on the part of the Senate and the House of Representatives
and will be filed.

The following signed certificates of election were filed:

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 5, 2021

We, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the fifth day of January, A.D., two thousand twenty-one, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for Auditor General of this Commonwealth, and publish the same in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly, conforming to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth, and upon counting the votes by a Teller appointed on the part of each house, it appeared that The Honorable Timothy L. DeFoor had the highest number of votes; where upon The Honorable Timothy L. DeFoor was declared to have been duly elected Auditor General of this Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year written above.

(SEAL) Jake D. Corman III
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

(SEAL) Bryan D. Cutler
Speaker of the House of Representatives

David Argall
Teller on the part of the Senate

Stanley Saylor
Teller on the part of the House of Representatives

* * *

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 5, 2021

We, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the fifth day of January, A.D., two thousand twenty-one, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for Attorney General of this Commonwealth, and publish the same in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly, conforming to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth, and upon counting the votes by a Teller appointed on the part of each house, it appeared that The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro had the highest number of votes; where upon The Honorable Joshua D. Shapiro was declared to have been duly elected Attorney General of this Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year written above.

(SEAL) Jake D. Corman III
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

(SEAL) Bryan D. Cutler
Speaker of the House of Representatives

David Argall
Teller on the part of the Senate

Stanley Saylor
Teller on the part of the House of Representatives

* * *

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

January 5, 2021

We, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that the President of the Senate did, on the fifth day of January, A.D., two thousand twenty-one, in the Hall of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol, open the returns of the election for State Treasurer of this Commonwealth, and publish the same in the presence of both houses of the General Assembly, conforming to the provisions of the Constitution and laws of said Commonwealth, and upon counting the votes by a Teller appointed on the part of each house, it appeared that The Honorable Stacy L. Garrity had the highest number of votes; where upon The Honorable Stacy L. Garrity was declared to have been duly elected State Treasurer of this Commonwealth.

In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year written above.

(SEAL) Jake D. Corman III
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

(SEAL) Bryan D. Cutler
Speaker of the House of Representatives

David Argall
Teller on the part of the Senate

Stanley Saylor
Teller on the part of the House of Representatives

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTOR OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The SPEAKER. The General Assembly will now proceed to the election of a Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Nominations are now in order.

The Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Westmoreland County, Senator Kim Ward, who may approach the leader's rostrum.

Ms. WARD. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor this afternoon to nominate Vincent DeLiberato to serve the General Assembly as Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Vince, as he is so fondly known throughout the Capitol, was born in Philadelphia and graduated from the esteemed Saint Joseph's University and the Villanova University School of Law.

He served his country as a staff sergeant in the United States Army Reserve and has served this Commonwealth as an attorney for nearly four decades. Vince is known for his vast knowledge, attention to detail, and dedication to the institution of the General Assembly. The Legislative Reference Bureau is often given seemingly impossible tasks by members of the Senate and the House, and Vince has a remarkable talent for making those impossible requests seem easy. He and his employees perform

their difficult job professionally, and we are grateful for the outstanding work they do for the legislature and the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to nominate Vince DeLiberato to head the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady.

The gentlelady from Westmoreland County, Senator Ward, places in nomination for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau Vincent DeLiberato of Dauphin County.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Centre County, Representative Benninghoff.

Mr. BENNINGHOFF. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to second that nomination and give a wholehearted thanks to Vince for his service. Mr. DeLiberato, as was stated, has served our State for 40 years.

On a more personal note, I was speaking with one of my staff members who was a student of his and acknowledged that after the long hours that he puts in here serving us and the people of this great Commonwealth, he also was teaching at Widener School, of which my staff person was a student, and as he said, "He was the greatest teacher I ever had."

So to Vince, congratulations. Your legacy continues not only through your service here, but all the people that you have instructed in the classroom, and we are truly grateful as a Commonwealth for your service, and I wholeheartedly second your nomination.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

Are there any further nominations?

The Chair hears none. The Chair declares the nominations closed.

The candidate for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau is Vincent DeLiberato of Dauphin County. Those in favor of Vincent DeLiberato for the office of Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau will say "aye," and those opposed, "no." The "ayes" have it. Vincent DeLiberato is declared unanimously elected Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

COMMITTEE TO ESCORT DIRECTOR-ELECT OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The SPEAKER. The gentlelady from Westmoreland County, Senator Ward, and the gentleman from Centre County, Representative Benninghoff, will please escort Vincent DeLiberato to the front of the rostrum for the purposes of taking the oath of office.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED

The SPEAKER. Please rise for the administration of the oath of office by the Honorable Brandon Neuman, judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Washington County.

JUDGE NEUMAN. Please raise your right hand. Repeat after me: I – state your name – do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.

(Mr. DeLiberato asserted oath.)

JUDGE NEUMAN. Congratulations.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, Vince.

JOINT SESSION ADJOURNED

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now ask members of the House and any visitors to please remain seated for just a moment while the members of the Senate leave the hall of the House.

The members of the Senate will please reassemble immediately in the Senate chamber upon adjournment of this meeting.

The business for which the joint session has been assembled having been transacted, the session is now adjourned.

MOTION TO PRINT PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT SESSION

The SPEAKER. The House will please be in order.

The Chair recognizes the majority leader, who moves that the proceedings of the joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives held this 5th day of January 2021 be printed in full in this day's Legislative Journal.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to.

SENATE MESSAGE

SENATE IS ORGANIZED

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate,
January 5, 2021

RESOLVED, That the Senate is organized in Regular Session and ready to proceed to business. The House shall be so advised.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,

Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?

Resolution was concurred in.

Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

SENATE MESSAGE

RECESS RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

The clerk of the Senate, being introduced, presented the following extract from the Journal of the Senate, which was read as follows:

In the Senate,
January 5, 2021

RESOLVED, (the House of Representatives concurring), Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the Senate recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, January 25, 2021, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses this week, it reconvene the week of Monday, January 11, 2021, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, Pursuant to Article II, Section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, that when the House of Representatives recesses the week of January 11, 2021, it reconvene on Monday, January 25, 2021, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Ordered, That the clerk present the same to the House of Representatives for its concurrence.

On the question,
Will the House concur in the resolution of the Senate?
Resolution was concurred in.
Ordered, That the clerk inform the Senate accordingly.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the gentleman from Lebanon County rise?

Mr. DIAMOND. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. DIAMOND. Mr. Speaker, during the joint session of the General Assembly, I rose to be recognized, I believe six times I asked to be recognized, and I was not recognized. I would just like an explanation as to why I was not recognized.

The SPEAKER. For the gentleman's information, while you were seeking to be recognized, we were at ease and we were performing the review of the election certificates as required by the joint session.

Mr. DIAMOND. Further parliamentary inquiry and clarification.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. DIAMOND. Was there in fact a question put to the joint session of the General Assembly, or were the questions put to the joint session announced prior to the Senate entering the chamber?

The SPEAKER. For the gentleman's information, we are requesting the transcript – or the script, rather, for the joint session so that I can review it with the good gentleman in terms of answering your particular question regarding that particular issue in terms of timing. Is that agreeable to the gentleman?

Mr. DIAMOND. It is agreeable, Mr. Speaker, and I appreciate your indulgence. It is just my recollection that no question was put to the joint session of the General Assembly itself and all questions were put to the House prior to the Senate coming into the joint session. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Yeah, I believe what the good gentleman from Lebanon County is referencing regarding the questions put before the House was actually the agreement to the joint session itself – that is, the joint resolution that prescribes what oversees the joint session and what business items are in fact in order. We had to do that prior to their arrival so that they could in fact be invited into the chamber.

Mr. DIAMOND. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just do not recall any questions being put to the joint session at all, and if that needs to be clarified by looking at the transcript, I am fine waiting for that answer.

The SPEAKER. We have requested it, sir.

Mr. DIAMOND. Thank you, sir.

The SPEAKER. Would the gentleman like to approach the rostrum while we are waiting for the transcript from the Senate?

(Conference held at Speaker's podium.)

The SPEAKER. The House will please come back to order.

OBJECTION TO ELECTION CERTIFICATION

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Lebanon County is recognized.

Mr. DIAMOND. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like the record to reflect that I have objected to the joint session of the General Assembly, and I would like the opportunity for other members to be able to object who actually missed that opportunity in the quick-fire manner that the Senate was brought in.

The SPEAKER. The Chair understands the gentleman's concerns.

Upon reviewing the resolution and the body of the tellers' report that were both read into the record, and for the information of the gentleman, your remarks will be so spread on the record. And any individuals either from the House or the Senate who wish to also be recorded in objection can simply contact— Any House members who remain who wish to be recognized for objection to the election report for our statewide offices can be registered now or provide further contact to the Clerk.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. DIAMOND. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

One further parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. DIAMOND. For future reference, Mr. Speaker, when we are in joint session with the Senate, is it appropriate for a member to seek recognition?

The SPEAKER. No. For the information of the members, in addition to the gentleman asking the inquiry, joint sessions are governed by the resolutions, the joint resolutions that we adopt by voice vote – in our case, prior to the Senate's arrival – and they govern what is in order for the joint session in order to focus it appropriately and move the issues before us. In this case, it was the recording, the opening, counting, and computing of the official returns by the House and the Senate tellers and the election of the Legislative Reference Bureau Director for his additional term. Those were the only two items that were in order.

Mr. DIAMOND. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You have explained everything that I needed explained. You are a true gentleman, and I am proud to have voted for you to be in that position.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

OBJECTIONS TO ELECTION CERTIFICATION

The SPEAKER. I believe I saw the gentleman, Representative Metcalfe, seeking recognition. For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. METCALFE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to also be noted in the record as having objected with the gentleman from Lebanon County to the joint session that received and certified the statewide election results, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman. So noted.

The Chair now recognizes the other gentleman from Lebanon County, Representative Ryan.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, again I want to also echo the comments of my colleagues that I wish to voice an objection to the certification. I would also like to again thank you that I am tremendously pleased with your integrity and vision, and I am honored to have voted for you as well.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman and appreciates the accolades. Your comments will be spread upon the record.

The Chair also recognizes the gentleman, Representative Schemel. For what purpose do you rise?

Mr. SCHEMEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to so object as well. Thank you for your indulgence.

The SPEAKER. So noted. Your remarks will be spread upon the record. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

The Chair now recognizes the gentlelady, Representative Keefer, from York County. For what purpose does the lady rise?

Mrs. KEEFER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to be recognized as objecting to the election results as well.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady. Your remarks will be spread upon the record.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman, Representative Jones, from York County. For what purpose do you rise?

Mr. JONES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise also to object to the results of the election. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. So noted. Your remarks will be spread upon the record.

For what purpose does the gentleman, Representative Rowe, rise?

Mr. ROWE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to be recognized as objecting as well. Thank you, sir.

The SPEAKER. So noted. Your comments will be spread upon the record.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman, Representative Harris. For what purpose do you rise?

Mr. HARRIS. Parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman is in order and may proceed.

Mr. HARRIS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, if there are objections to the joint session that we had, does that mean that the members are also objecting to their very elections?

The SPEAKER. For the benefit of the gentleman's question, the joint session's purpose was solely for opening, counting, and computing of the official returns for the election for Attorney General, Auditor General, and State Treasurer held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, in the several counties of the Commonwealth

and then also to elect the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. That was the sole purpose of the joint session and the objections.

Mr. HARRIS. So, Mr. Speaker, is that a no? I am just trying to get clarification.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman has a further parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. HARRIS. Yes. I am just trying to – I heard your answer – I am just trying to get clarification. Was that a no to my question? I am just trying to get—

The SPEAKER. That is correct. It was solely the statewide offices that were listed in the resolution.

Mr. HARRIS. Even though they are on the same ballot?

The SPEAKER. I believe the gentleman's question has been answered.

Mr. HARRIS. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

OBJECTION TO ELECTION CERTIFICATION

The SPEAKER. For what purpose does the lady, Representative Gleim, rise?

Mrs. GLEIM. I would like to note my objection as well. Thank you, sir.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the lady. So noted. Your remarks will be spread upon the record.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED OVER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, all remaining resolutions on today's calendar will be passed over. The Chair hears no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair is now in receipt of a motion that this House do now adjourn until Monday, January 11, 2021 – made by Representative Schlossberg – at 12 m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker. Safe travels, everyone.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to, and at 5:59 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.