

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023

SESSION OF 2023

207TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 5

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House convened at 11 a.m., e.s.t.

THE SPEAKER (MARK ROZZI) PRESIDING

PRAYER

HON. JARED G. SOLOMON, member of the House of Representatives, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

My favorite verse from the Bible is Micah 6:8. "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

In my faith, the Jewish faith, some commentators have said that all religious learning that is required in Judaism is contained in that verse. All 613 of our commandments in the Old Testament, the mitzvot, are contained in that verse. The prophet Micah provides us with a human standard – how to interact with one another, a standard to live by. Yet this is also a standard for our institution. Micah provides us with a statement of simplicity that demands so much of each of us.

So as we enter this new session, let us all commit to act justly, let us show mercy, and let us embrace a common sense of humility. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

JOURNAL APPROVAL POSTPONED

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the approval of the Journal of Monday, February 27, 2023, will be postponed until printed.

FILMING PERMISSION

The SPEAKER. We have Jason Kardisco from the House Democratic Legislative Communications Office on the floor filming.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

The SPEAKER. To the left of the Speaker, we have Sharmain Matlock-Turner, a guest of Representative Jordan Harris. She is president and CEO (chief executive officer) of the Urban Affairs Coalition. Let us give her a warm welcome.

Seated behind the rail and in the gallery are members of the Bishop McDevitt High School State Championship Football Team and coaches. They are the guests of Representative Justin Fleming. Let us give them a warm welcome to the House, you State champs.

Representative Abney has a University of Pittsburgh student, Michael Akinsola, shadowing him for today. Let us give Michael a warm welcome to the House.

We have Wendy Vehar, secretary for Pro-Life of York County, a guest of Representative Wendy Fink. Let us give her a warm welcome today.

We have 12 students from the University of Pittsburgh here with Representative Dan Frankel for their annual Legislator for a Day program. Let us give them a warm welcome.

We have Chad Schlanger, from my district office, with his family: wife, Korissa, and sons, Lawrence, Ari, and Ever. They are in the back of the House here behind the rail. Let us give them a warm welcome.

And also behind the rail, we have Ammar Alabboodi, and he is shadowing Representative Mercuri today. He is here with the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics Legislator for a Day program. Ammar is currently pursuing a degree in computer science. Let us give Ammar a warm welcome.

And it looks like we also have some more of the Bishop McDevitt High School football State champions that have made their way on the back of the House here and maybe up top. So I did not want to miss you guys that came in late. Welcome to the hall of the House.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

The SPEAKER. Are there any leaves of absence?

The Chair recognizes the majority whip, who indicates there are no leaves of absence.

The Chair recognizes the minority whip, who indicates there are no leaves of absence for the day.

MASTER ROLL CALL

The SPEAKER. The Chair is about to take the master roll. Members will proceed to vote.

The following roll call was recorded:

PRESENT—202

Abney	Flick	Krupa	Rader
Adams	Flood	Kulik	Rapp
Armanini	Frankel	Kutz	Rigby
Banta	Freeman	Kuzma	Roae
Barton	Friel	Labs	Rossi
Bellmon	Fritz	Lawrence	Rowe
Benham	Gallagher	Leadbeter	Ryncavage
Benninghoff	Galloway	Mackenzie, M.	Salisbury
Bernstine	Gaydos	Mackenzie, R.	Samuelson
Bizzarro	Gergely	Madden	Sanchez
Bonner	Gillen	Madsen	Sappey
Borowicz	Giral	Major	Schemel
Borowski	Gleim	Mako	Scheuren
Boyle	Green	Malagari	Schlegel
Bradford	Gregory	Maloney	Schlossberg
Brennan	Greiner	Marcell	Schmitt
Briggs	Grove	Markosek	Schweyer
Brown, A.	Guenst	Marshall	Scialabba
Brown, M.	Guzman	Matzie	Scott
Bullock	Haddock	Mayes	Shusterman
Burgos	Hamm	McAndrew	Siegel
Burns	Hanbidge	McClinton	Smith
C Freytiz	Harkins	McNeill	Smith-Wade-El
Cabell	Harris	Mehaffie	Solomon
Causar	Heffley	Mentzer	Staats
Cephas	Hogan	Mercuri	Stambaugh
Cerrato	Hohenstein	Merski	Steele
Ciresi	Howard	Metzgar	Stehr
Conklin	Innamorato	Mihalek	Struzzi
Cook	Irvin	Miller, B.	Sturla
Cooper	Isaacson	Miller, D.	Takac
Curry	James	Moul	Tomlinson
Cutler	Jones, M.	Mullins	Topper
D'Orsie	Jones, T.	Munroe	Twardzik
Daley	Jozwiak	Mustello	Venkat
Davanzo	Kail	Neilson	Vitali
Davis	Kaufer	Nelson, E.	Warner
Dawkins	Kauffman	Nelson, N.	Warren
Deasy	Kazeem	O'Mara	Watro
Delloso	Keefer	O'Neal	Waxman
Delozier	Kenyatta	Oberlander	Webster
Diamond	Kephart	Ortitay	Wentling
Donahue	Kerwin	Otten	White
Dunbar	Khan	Owlett	Williams, C.
Ecker	Kim	Parker	Williams, D.
Emrick	Kinthead	Pashinski	Young
Evans	Kinsey	Pickett	Zabel
Fee	Klunk	Pielli	Zimmerman
Fiedler	Kosierowski	Pisciottano	
Fink	Krajewski	Probst	Rozzi,
Fleming	Krueger	Rabb	Speaker

ADDITIONS—0**NOT VOTING—0****LEAVES ADDED—1**

Jones, M.

LEAVES CANCELED—1

Jones, M.

EXCUSED—0

The SPEAKER. Two hundred and two members having voted on the master roll, a quorum is present.

RESIGNATION OF SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will come to order.

All members, please take your seats. Sergeants at Arms, please clear all the aisles. Sergeants at Arms, close the doors of the House.

I stand before you today with a feeling of gratitude, and I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your support last week for survivors of childhood sexual assault. The start of this session has not been easy, but ultimately, we came together in a bipartisan fashion for the victims and we passed what will be one of the most important pieces of legislation of this session.

We made it clear that no matter who you are, how much money you have, what standing you have in the community, or how long you delayed being caught, if you have abused a child in this Commonwealth, or aided and abetted the perpetrator, justice is coming for you. Making the welfare of children our first order of business this session is something we all can be proud of.

I wanted to take a moment to share with the members — particularly our new members — my story. When I was 13 years old, I was raped by my parish priest. Many of my childhood friends were also raped. Our innocence was stolen from us and we were left with a lifetime of trauma. Not a day goes by where I am not affected by what happened to me repeatedly as a boy. Some of my friends are not with us anymore; the trauma was too much. Drug and alcohol abuse is not uncommon in the survivor community. The pain is immeasurable, and there are far too few resources available for treatment. We need to do better for our survivor community. It is far more proactive and way more humane to provide survivors with treatment on the front end rather than deal with the consequences of a lifetime of trauma on the back end.

I came to Harrisburg not as an elected official, but as an advocate for victims. When I attended my first rally in the rotunda, hosted by Representative Mike McGeehan, I was astounded by how few Representatives were in attendance. Elected officials always talk about being there for our children, but it was time to stand up for them. Where were they? It was at that moment that I realized that Harrisburg was not actually working for the people, but it was working for itself.

I had no desire to become a State Representative, and I certainly never imagined being Speaker of the House. I was living the American dream. I was running a small family business and contributing to my hometown community. But I realized that the only way that Harrisburg could be fixed was from the inside. When my good friend, Representative Dante Santoni, decided to step down, I saw my opportunity, and thankfully, my community decided to send me to Harrisburg as their State Representative.

From day one my priority has not changed: to provide relief to survivors of childhood sexual assault. But my perspective has changed. While I knew that Harrisburg just worked for itself, I did not know how corrupt it actually was. I saw firsthand the power of money, special interests. Time and time again I saw how special interest groups would hold fundraisers for certain members of leadership and how those leaders would refuse to run legislation unfavorable to those special interests. I saw campaign dollars prioritized over relief to kids who were raped. But despite

being on the inside, as a rank-and-file member there was little I could do to change things. That is why when presented with the opportunity to become Speaker of the House, I jumped on it. I thought that finally I would be able to change things. I thought that finally I could place kids above special interests. But yet again, my perspective has changed.

Now in a position of leadership, while I can shepherd legislation through the House, I have no control over what the other chamber does. And rather than my leadership being a catalyst to do what is right, it has provided new opportunities for special interests to meddle. Knowing my commitment to statute of limitations reform, for the first time ever statute of limitations reform has been tied to constitutional amendments dealing with voter ID and regulatory reform. Special interests are betting that I will use my position as Speaker to force my colleagues to take a single vote on the constitutional amendments that will provide relief to survivors of childhood sexual assault, provide for voter ID, provide a legislative veto over executive regulations. But if I did that, I would be contributing to Harrisburg doing more of the same. I would be furthering a dysfunctional Harrisburg. No member should be forced to choose between providing relief to kids who were raped and disenfranchising untold numbers of their fellow Pennsylvanians.

It was all of these new perspectives that led me to realize that we needed a full overhaul of our House rules. I also knew that the answers to the dysfunction in Harrisburg could not come from Harrisburg. We needed to hear directly from the people. As such, myself and the members of the Speaker's Workgroup to Move Pennsylvania Forward went on a statewide listening tour. We traveled from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia to State College to Wilkes-Barre – and mind you, the pizza in Wilkes-Barre was pretty darn good; Alfredo's and Angelo's, sweet sauce. We heard from hundreds of people confirming what we already knew: Harrisburg is broken. But they also gave us a fresh perspective and a renewed spirit that strengthened our resolve to fix Harrisburg. This resulted in the Rozzi rules that I will be offering in the near future, which I believe will fundamentally change the way we operate moving forward. Central to these rules is that a majority of the members of the House, regardless of the political makeup of the majority, should be able to carry the day. Leaders should be first amongst equals, not first above all others.

I am proud of what I have been able to accomplish in these 2 months as Speaker of the House of Representatives. For the first time since Speaker Denny O'Brien's Speaker's Reform Commission over a decade ago, reform has been at the forefront of discussion in Harrisburg. While I have been able to do things differently and I undoubtedly upset people on both sides of the aisle, I think that was not only needed, but was a sign that I was doing something right.

Before you is a path to a different Harrisburg, one that can return to our founding principle of government of the people, by the people, for the people, but only if you take the next steps to safeguard it. Will you do what is right, or will you revert back to doing what is politically expedient? Is your ultimate allegiance to the people, or is it to a political party? Look, I know that I was not elected Speaker of the House by the people. The reality is, I am only standing at this rostrum because of what is wrong with Harrisburg, not what is right.

On November 8, 2022, Pennsylvanians voted to send a majority of Democrats to the House of Representatives. Amongst that majority of elected Democrats was a legend of this chamber, Chairman Tony DeLuca, who was recently deceased;

Pennsylvania's first African-American Lieutenant Governor, Austin Davis; and Pennsylvania's first African-American Congresswoman, Summer Lee. Rather than respecting the loss of a colleague and the historic achievements of others, party politics bore their ugly heads and there was a push to claim an unwon and undeserving temporary majority in the House. Fate sometimes has a way of stepping in, however, and when that temporary majority could not elect a Speaker of their own, they attempted to hoodwink the House and elect a member of the other party as Speaker to do their bidding for them. What they did not count on, however, is that there are good people here in Harrisburg who will not put self-interest over what is right. I was used as a child, and it has tormented me my entire life. I will never allow myself to be used again.

As previously mentioned, on November 8, 2022, there were historic elections in Pennsylvania. The people elected our first African-American Lieutenant Governor and our first African-American Congresswoman. But that is not all they did. They elected a Democratic majority of the House, expecting that it would result in the first African-American female Speaker of the House. On November 15, 2022, I, along with all my Democratic colleagues, ratified the will of the people and voted unanimously for the gentlelady from Philadelphia to lead us. I voted for that gentlelady not because our policies are in complete alignment, but because I believed she could fix our broken Harrisburg. On November 17, 2021, the gentlelady stood on this floor and made the following remarks: "Mr. Speaker, we can do better...we must do better. We are mere caretakers of the...House of Representatives. We have an obligation to pass this institution on to the next generation in a better condition than we received it, but if we continue down this path, we will not have an institution to pass on. We will have nothing more than a tyranny of the majority."

"Let us return to civility. Let us return to the democratic process. Let us return to the House of Representatives that Benjamin Franklin entrusted to us. Let us be decent. Let us be deliberative.... Let us be collegial. Let us be professional. And if we cannot do that, if we do not do everything necessary to achieve that, we are undeserving of the offices that we have been entrusted with. Let us do better."

Joanna, I believe in your words. I believe in you. I and all Pennsylvanians are counting on you. I will not allow the allure of power or the trappings of office to keep me from doing what is right. I was not elected by the people for this office, and I will not stand in the way of the woman who was. I have said it before and I will say it again: I can count votes, and right now the gentlelady from Philadelphia has 101 votes of her Democratic colleagues to be Speaker of the House of Representatives. While I have kept my commitment to serve as the independent Speaker, in a few moments I will be resigning my Speakership, returning to the Democratic Caucus, and proudly casting the 102d vote for Speaker for one of the most intelligent and compassionate women I have met in politics – my friend and the hope of this Commonwealth, she who will be the first female, African-American Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, the gentlelady from Philadelphia, Joanna McClinton.

Right now I want to thank my macebearer, J.B. I want to thank my Parliamentarian, Dave Brogan. I would like to thank the Chief Clerk's Office for everything you guys have done and your entire team. I want to thank my fiancée, who is with me here today, Lisa, and my friend Shaun. I want to thank my friends and family

at home who are watching right now. I want to tell my daughter I love her. And I know my mother is watching right now from home and I just want to tell her I love her, and you have raised one heck of a good kid, Mom. I love you.

Madam Chief Clerk, I resign the Speakership effective immediately.

THE CHIEF CLERK (BROOKE WHEELER) PRESIDING

RESOLUTION

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The CHIEF CLERK. The House will come to order.

Being without a Speaker, the first order of business before the House shall be the election of a Speaker.

To that end, the Chair recognizes the gentlelady, Representative Mayes, who presents the following resolution, which the clerk shall read.

Rep. MAYES offered the following resolution, which was read, considered, and adopted:

In the House of Representatives
February 28, 2023

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.

For what purpose does the gentleman rise?

Mr. TOPPER. For the purpose of a nomination, Madam Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman will suspend.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Philadelphia, Representative Kenyatta.

Mr. KENYATTA. Thank you, Madam Clerk.

I rise first to say, delay is not denial. Delay is not denial. And I have the profound honor of nominating to lead this House the first woman, the second African-American, and my good friend, the gentlelady from Philadelphia, Joanna McClinton.

Madam Clerk, I have had the honor of knowing Leader McClinton well before she ever led this body as a lawyer over in the other chamber – but she had the good sense to come over instead – but as a lawyer in the other chamber, and she gave me a call and said, "There is an open seat and I'm thinking about running for State Representative." And I had previously run some campaigns in Philadelphia and said, I would love to talk to you about it. I think you would be fantastic. And she has held up to that. You have been a phenomenal member of this body. You have been an outstanding leader of our caucus. And you are such a leader that we need for such a time as this to lead Pennsylvania to a better place.

Leader McClinton started her career standing up for the least of these in Pennsylvania as a public defender, standing up for clients who needed somebody to go to bat for them to make sure

they got their fair due in court. She then came to this body to help make sure that the laws that every Pennsylvanian has to live under are fair and just. And in this chamber, she is somebody who is going to lead us with that same level of integrity, that same ability to lead with fairness, and as was said in the prayer this morning, to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with her God.

When President Clinton asked a poet, Maya Angelou, to come before the entire nation on his inauguration day, she read a poem that is seared into my memory. And she said a couple of things – and I will not read the whole thing – but I just want to quote a couple of parts. She said, "Sold, stolen, arriving on a nightmare, praying for a dream...." Joanna, you are our ancestors' dream. Today, on this last day of African-American History Month, you are that dream, and that dream will not be denied to the good people of Pennsylvania and to this body.

And I want to end with this final passage from that same poem. Maya Angelou said, "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, and if faced with courage, need not be lived again. Lift up your eyes upon the day breaking for you. Give birth again to the dream...."

"Here on the pulse of this new day you may have the grace to look up and out and into your sister's eyes, into your brother's face, your country and say simply very simply with hope good morning."

Good morning, my friends. Thank you.

The CHIEF CLERK. Representative Kenyatta places a nomination for office of Speaker the gentlelady from Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, the Honorable Joanna McClinton.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the minority whip, who requests a leave of absence for the gentleman from York County, Representative Mike JONES. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

NOMINATIONS FOR SPEAKER CONTINUED

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny County, Representative Frankel.

Mr. FRANKEL. Thank you, Madam Chief Clerk.

Colleagues, it is with enormous pride that I rise today to second the nomination of Joanna McClinton to be Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Colleagues, we are about to do something truly special. We gather here as the individuals chosen to fight for the people of this Commonwealth; to solve problems, to protect the vulnerable, and to help Pennsylvania fulfill its potential. We do not agree on everything. We reflect the magnificent diversity of our voters. But today the task before us is to honor centuries of tradition and choose one person to lead this chamber.

There are some people who seem to enter the world as future politicians, with every step taking them closer to higher office. For Joanna McClinton, whose ascent within this chamber is the fastest I have ever seen, I would argue that the opposite is true. In every job she has ever had – in her church, in the public defender's office, in the Pennsylvania Senate, and here – Joanna McClinton simply blew the doors off. She reached people in a

way that they had never been reached before. Her competence, her work ethic, her charisma, her creativity, her persistence – they thrust her forward and upward.

She will be the first to tell you that each of her historic new roles has somewhat taken her by surprise, but then she got to work and blew the doors off again. She was not marching towards higher office; higher office has come calling again and again because the people around Joanna McClinton could see that Pennsylvania needed her to serve.

Today we are those people. We are calling on Joanna McClinton to lead this chamber because she is brilliant, formidable, and she gives voice to our values in a way that rings so true it reverberates around this chamber. But she is also kind and honest and fair. She is driven by faith and compassion, something we can all admire and aspire to.

Today we are fortunate that Joanna McClinton is answering the call. We can never know how many gifted individuals before her never reached this place because our world made their gender or their race an insurmountable obstacle. But we do have the opportunity – every single one of us – to cast our votes to make sure that Joanna McClinton ends up exactly where she should be: in that Chair, with that gavel.

I second her nomination.

The CHIEF CLERK. Are there any other nominations?

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bedford County, Representative Topper.

Mr. TOPPER. Thank you, Madam Chief Clerk.

Thank you to my colleagues who have spoken with such passion, and congratulations to the lady from Philadelphia on her nomination.

Madam Chief Clerk, we have heard it said that we are the voice of the people in our districts, and I can think of no one who embodies that description more than Carl Metzgar. Representative Metzgar has been, and continues to be, an authentic and effective voice for his constituents in Somerset, and before redistricting, Bedford County.

He understands the problems that farmers face because he is one. He understands the issues of a small business owner because he is one. He understands the concerns of a father because he is one. In addition, he has a bright legal mind and a command of the rules and procedures that would serve this institution very well in the challenging months and years ahead. And that is why I am proud to nominate my friend, the gentleman from Somerset County, Mr. Metzgar, for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Thank you, Madam Chief Clerk.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentleman from Bedford County, Representative Topper, places a nomination for office of Speaker the gentleman from Somerset County, the Honorable Carl Walker Metzgar.

The Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Butler County, Representative Scialabba.

Ms. SCIALABBA. Madam Chief Clerk and my colleagues, I rise to second the nomination of my friend and colleague, Republican Representative Carl Metzgar, for Speaker of the House.

Carl is an excellent choice for this position. He is no frills, no fuss, yet tailored, sharp, effective, and distinguished. He tells the truth. He takes pride in being an American and a Pennsylvanian, and he is worthy of this position. I recognize and respect his authenticity and I am honored to second his nomination as our Speaker.

The CHIEF CLERK. The gentlelady from Butler County, Representative Scialabba, seconds the nomination of Carl Metzgar for the office of Speaker.

Are there any other nominations? Seeing none.

The Chair recognizes the gentlelady from Berks County, Representative Cepeda-Freytiz.

Mrs. CEPEDA-FREYITZ. Madam Chief Clerk, I move that the nominations now be closed. Thank you.

The CHIEF CLERK. Representative Cepeda-Freytiz 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 a Speaker. Those voting for the Honorable Joanna McClinton will vote using the green button. Those voting for the Honorable Carl Metzgar will vote using the red button. The votes will be tallied as follows: Every green vote will be tallied as a vote for Joanna McClinton; every red vote will be tallied as a vote for Carl Metzgar. Only those members in their seats will be permitted to vote.

(Members proceeded to vote.)

The following roll call was recorded:

YEAS—102

Abney	Fiedler	Kosierowski	Probst
Bellmon	Fleming	Krajewski	Rabb
Benham	Frankel	Krueger	Rozzi
Bizzarro	Freeman	Kulik	Salisbury
Borowski	Friel	Madden	Samuelson
Boyle	Gallagher	Madsen	Sanchez
Bradford	Galloway	Malagari	Sappey
Brennan	Gergely	Markosek	Schlossberg
Briggs	Giral	Matzie	Schweyer
Brown, A.	Green	Mayes	Scott
Bullock	Guenst	McAndrew	Shusterman
Burgos	Guzman	McClinton	Siegel
Burns	Haddock	McNeill	Smith-Wade-El
C Freytiz	Hanbidge	Merski	Solomon
Cephas	Harkins	Miller, D.	Steele
Cerrato	Harris	Mullins	Sturla
Ciresi	Hohenstein	Munroe	Takac
Conklin	Howard	Neilson	Venkat
Curry	Innamorato	Nelson, N.	Vitali
Daley	Isaacson	O'Mara	Warren
Davis	Kazeem	Otten	Waxman
Dawkins	Kenyatta	Parker	Webster
Deasy	Khan	Pashinski	Williams, D.
Delloso	Kim	Pielli	Young
Donahue	Kinhead	Pisciottano	Zabel
Evans	Kinsey		

NAYS—99

Adams	Fritz	Lawrence	Rigby
Armanini	Gaydos	Leadbeter	Roae
Banta	Gillen	Mackenzie, M.	Rossi
Barton	Gleim	Mackenzie, R.	Rowe
Benninghoff	Gregory	Major	Ryncavage
Bernstine	Greiner	Mako	Schemel
Bonner	Grove	Maloney	Scheuren
Borowicz	Hamm	Marcell	Schlegel

Brown, M.	Heffley	Marshall	Schmitt
Cabell	Hogan	Mehaffie	Scialabba
Causar	Irvin	Mentzer	Smith
Cook	James	Mercuri	Staats
Cooper	Jones, T.	Metzgar	Stambaugh
Cutler	Jozwiak	Mihalek	Stehr
D'Orsie	Kail	Miller, B.	Struzzi
Davanzo	Kaufer	Moul	Tomlinson
Delozier	Kauffman	Mustello	Topper
Diamond	Keefer	Nelson, E.	Twardzik
Dunbar	Kephart	O'Neal	Warner
Ecker	Kerwin	Oberlander	Watro
Emrick	Klunk	Ortitay	Wentling
Fee	Krupa	Owlett	White
Fink	Kutz	Pickett	Williams, C.
Flick	Kuzma	Rader	Zimmerman
Flood	Labs	Rapp	

NOT VOTING—0

EXCUSED—1

Jones, M.

The CHIEF CLERK. The Honorable Joanna McClinton received 102 votes; the Honorable Carl Metzgar received 99 votes.

The Honorable Joanna McClinton, having received the majority of the votes cast, is elected Speaker.

Congratulations, Speaker-elect McClinton.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT SPEAKER-ELECT TO ROSTRUM

The CHIEF CLERK. The Chair appoints the gentleman from Philadelphia County, Representative Harris, the gentleman from Montgomery County, Representative Bradford, and the gentleman from Lancaster County, Representative Cutler, to escort Speaker-elect McClinton to the rostrum.

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

The committee to escort the Speaker to the rostrum shall include Representative Tina Davis, Representative Leanne Krueger, Representative Donna Bullock, Representative Maureen Madden, Representative Morgan Cephas, Representative Jennifer O'Mara, Representative Mary Jo Daley, Representative Patty Kim, Representative La'Tasha Mayes, and Representative Carol Hill-Evans.

The Chair recognizes the chair of the committee, Representative Jordan Harris.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chief Clerk, I have the distinct honor and privilege to present the Speaker-elect the gentlelady from Philadelphia and Delaware Counties, Representative Joanna E. McClinton.

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO SPEAKER-ELECT McCLINTON

The CHIEF CLERK. The oath of office to the Speaker-elect will now be administered by the Honorable Lydia Kirkland, judge of the Philadelphia Municipal Court.

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

JUDGE KIRKLAND. Good morning, everyone.

Today we are witnessing healing, history, happiness, and hope. Today is indeed yet another new beginning for the citizens of this great Commonwealth and this esteemed body.

As State Representative Joanna McClinton steps into this historic role, as some have already said, as the first woman and the second African-American to hold this position, it was an absolute honor and privilege for me to have been asked to administer the constitutional oath of office – you all will have to excuse me. I am so emotional. I have known Joanna so long, so excuse me for a minute – the constitutional oath of office to my dear friend, a young woman whom I have known for over 10 years and have watched her grow from a fiery public defender, protecting the rights of those accused of criminal offenses and become this phenomenal woman warrior.

This occasion does not come as a complete surprise to me because she has been groomed for greatness long before holding any elective position. Have we all not seen that person who has just that extra little thing that you cannot exactly put your finger on but you know it separates and distinguishes them from the crowd? Representative McClinton is clearly one of those people.

To be clear, however, the trajectory to her life has led her to past and current successes, and will continue into the future, and put her in a posture where doors will be opened and will not and cannot be closed. Based on this moment in time and many others, she is destined to fill spaces of influence and places of power, both of which require grace and greatness, compassion and compromise, a strategic mind and inner strength – all of which she possesses and more. In addition to those intangibles has been the high-voltage village – her real, not proverbial, village – the very uncompromisable, unwavering, and unyielding infrastructure of her very being: her faith in God, our Father; the church in which she serves as an ordained minister; her family, in particular, her mother, Rachel; her friends; and her colleagues. This is a tried-and-true formula and is the kind of village that every child, no matter their race, creed, color, religion, hue, political affiliation, background, sexual orientation, or politics, should have.

I am grateful to be part of the Representative's community and village and understand clearly what my village has meant to me and still does. We would be remiss, however, if we did not take a moment and remember the first African-American Speaker of this House, Kirkland Leroy Irvis, who served for approximately 7 years. But we also would be remiss if we did not look back to the shadows of the approximately 1500 African-American men who were elected to office, including Senators and United States Congressmen, during the bright but dimming period of the Reconstruction era of this United States, and imagine that they would be joining us today and whispering today along with us now in celebratory voices. Congratulations, Madam Speaker, Joanna McClinton. Thank you.

Place your hand on the Bible and repeat after me: I – state your name – do solemnly swear 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 McClinton asserted oath.)

JUDGE KIRKLAND. Congratulations, Madam Speaker.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL

The CHIEF CLERK. Members and guests may be seated.

The Chair requests Representative Mark Rozzi to come to the podium for the purpose of presenting the gavel to Speaker McClinton.

Mr. ROZZI. Joanna, the decision was easy and the choice is clear. Congratulations.

THE SPEAKER (JOANNA E. McCLINTON) PRESIDING

ADDRESS BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Can I try it out?

I am so incredibly grateful today. I am in complete awe. I am truly humbled. First and foremost, I give honor to God. God is the head of my life, the source of my strength. When I got in the car this morning, the first song playing was "God Does The Impossible."

I am so very grateful to my family. To my mother, who is watching, thank you, Mom, for always instilling in me to love all of God's children and to show love every single day of my life. Thank you to my late father, Rev. Paul McClinton. If there is PCN (Pennsylvania Cable Network) in heaven, my dad is making a lot of noise right now, right with my granny and my late Uncle Ray.

I am so very grateful to the folks who have been in my life that are like family. My pastor, Bishop Maureen L. Davis, thank you to my pastor for being one of the premier women showing me from childhood that you can be a woman and you can help people, in ways that cannot even be imagined, and you can defy stereotypes, and as Maya Angelou once said, defy odds and Gods and sing your song. Thank you to my pastor and her family; her parents, who did so much for me and my family throughout my childhood. I am grateful for your leadership and your example. To my grade and high school principal, Dr. Marilyn Miles. We used to go toe to toe. I guess I was getting ready for Harrisburg as a teenager. Dr. Miles, thank you for being another courageous woman in my life for my entire life. What you have done in my now district for children to have pathways to success and also be reared, learning at the same time our faith traditions, is just exemplary.

To Her Honor, who was able to take the trip up the turnpike, thank you for being another amazing woman in my life. I remember I was about 22 years old, doing a summer at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, and everyone said I needed to get into courtroom 806 because that judge is just amazing and she is really gentle with the interns. When I finally got to 806, she was not there. Someone else was there – and I will just leave that conversation – and I will tell you, I was rather disappointed. And then in the spring semester of my last semester of law school, I was an intern at the defender, and my boss at the time, Maia Silvestro, she said, oh, we are going to spend a lot of time in 806. I am glad you have heard of Judge Kirkland, who we affectionately called The Kirk. And it was so exciting to practice in front of her, and fast-forward once I got to the office and finally got mature enough in my practice to be in her area of misdemeanor trials, once again I could never seem to get scheduled back to 806. But fast-forward, she was invited to come to my church and worship with us one day when I was getting an

opportunity to speak at our 11 o'clock service, and we have been inseparable ever since that Sunday. She has been a mentor to me and a friend like none other.

To my incredible district office staff, who have come up here twice in a matter of weeks with a lot of excitement and hope and prayers, thank you for all you do in the 191st Legislative District. You show our neighbors that while we have challenges, we also can work collectively on solutions. I appreciate you all showing up to 52 South 60th Street, 8:30 in the morning, day in and day out – not just answering the phones, but going above and beyond, especially when I am in Harrisburg or Pittsburgh or Allentown, making sure our community knows that we are responding to their needs.

To our Harrisburg staff, so many incredibly talented people who have given their lives to public service. Thank you for what you do every day for all of Pennsylvania. To my entire caucus, but especially our leadership team, we have been able to accomplish so much good work together. To my special election classmates – they were part of the court who brought me up here – Representatives Donna Bullock and Leanne Krueger, thank you for us becoming sister Reps in the front of this House almost 8 years ago.

I can recall when my State Senator – who is now my constituent, not just my Senator – encouraged me to think about running – and happy birthday, Tony. Today is his birthday – I was one of those women that was not interested at all. I said I enjoyed my time downtown in court. I am finally getting settled in the Senate with this role and understand how I can best advance your agenda. There is no need for me to leave my comfortable private life and launch into the public. But not withstanding all of the challenges I had personally about getting my head around pursuing becoming a State Representative and competing in a special election asking my neighbors for a chance, I am so very grateful that I did and that I had the support of my neighbors and at this moment have the support of my neighbors.

I am grateful to every single one of our colleagues across the aisle, but especially my Democratic colleagues from Erie to Scranton, from Beaver County to the City of Brotherly Love. You put your faith in me for the past 2 years to be our collective voice, and that was quite a leap for our caucus to make some history. Thank you for that privilege and the opportunity. And to our immediate past Chair, talk about trying to get a girl to cry at work. Thank you to our immediate past Chair, our former Speaker, the Representative from Berks County, Mark Rozzi. Thank you.

I am so very grateful for all who have come before me and all who have fought and sacrificed and persevered so that one day this opportunity could come as something that is actually possible. From our great Speaker K. Leroy Irvis to the first Black woman ever elected to House leadership, Rosita C. Youngblood, there has been great sacrifice for these types of opportunities to arrive, and I am wise enough to understand that it is only on their shoulders that I am standing here today.

And finally, I am grateful to every single one of you, all of you who decided to put Pennsylvania above our party, all of you who have chosen courage over cynicism, all of you who have instilled your confidence in me to govern this chamber with fairness, with conviction, with diplomacy. For those who might be disappointed or frustrated, or even skeptical, I will ask you what I asked my neighbors eight summers ago: give me the chance. Give me the opportunity to show you what I can do for this chamber, for this great institution. Give me the chance and the opportunity to do the work off the floor to get to know you,

to find out what your priorities are, to get to know what you are passionate about and what even brought you to compete to come into this chamber in the first place. I am prepared. My sleeves are rolled up to do the work off the floor so we have a very productive time when we are on the floor.

It has been nearly 250 years that our institution has achieved great things for people all across this Commonwealth. But there have been times that we have suffered setbacks and where the credibility of this institution and public trust, at moments, were lost. When I was the leader for my caucus, I talked about how things changed in just the short years that I have been here, and that sometimes there was not enough civility in this chamber. And we know that there were principles that guided folks from Benjamin Franklin to K. Leroy Irvis, and it is my goal and desire that those principles are restored, that those values that we all do all share, that we see them exemplified day to day in our hard work that we will have to do on the floor of the House. Those principles are decency, those principles are respect, those principles are professionalism and collegiality.

I am confident that we can collaborate; we do not have to criticize. I am confident that we can debate; we do not have to disparage each other. I am confident that we can replace our shortsighted political game with sincere and productive cooperation. This body can and will do better. Today is a fresh start. Each of us is here because our neighbors put their trust in us. They sent us to this Capitol Building, and that collective trust is what empowers us to act in the interest of our communities and to advance Pennsylvania for the common good. Rather than seeing our slim margin in this chamber as an obstacle, we can reframe it as an opportunity.

The majority will no longer silence the minority party or disrespect anyone's role as a legislator. The House, by necessity, will have to operate differently than in years past. The State House is the people's House. It is where policy ideas should be debated, where they can be explored, where they can be improved in committee, and where they can be introduced by any member regardless of the letter that is next to your name. That is for good governance and that is what Pennsylvanians voted for in November. And it is the will of the Pennsylvania voters that has the ultimate authority. These voters live next door to me in Cobbs Creek, and some are miles away in Carbondale, but they have called on each of us to lead. They have called for an institution that respects their values and that operates with both respect and cooperation. They are ready to see a State House that puts their interests at the forefront of every policy debate and with every public dollar spent.

I want to offer a very, very special welcome once again to all of our newest colleagues, especially the three that just joined us last week. You all have an incredibly impressive class of lawmakers – 52 people who came here last November. Let us celebrate that. To all 52 of you, each of you has your own skill set, your own gifts, your own priorities, your own ideas, and your voice. And working together, your voices, combined with ours, will strengthen our chamber and the work that we will do together. While I have not yet had the opportunity to meet all of you, I look forward to sitting down with you and learning from you as we work together.

Finally, today's significance is not lost on me. In my career I have been so blessed. I remember starting my application for law school saying, "statistically doomed for failure," because at that time, in 2002, at 5617 Hadfield Street, there were very few

folks taking the LSATs (Law School Admission Test) and applying to law school. I remember saying I had so many obstacles growing up in a single-parent home that I never knew if any dream I had as a child would ever be achieved. And for those that have not heard this, you will just have to listen. From second grade, I wanted to be a lawyer, a preacher, an actress, and a hairdresser. Now, I did not know what that would entail, but I can specifically remember working on my personal statement for a couple months trying to compel these admissions folks that I needed an opportunity because I had already been blessed by the grace of God to overcome the statistic for my life.

That being said, I recognize there have been so many women who have come before me in this chamber and all across Pennsylvania that have also been first and have also opened up doors for each and every one of us. Pennsylvania is where democracy was born. Pennsylvania is where our nation started. Pennsylvania has been at the forefront of advocating for women to have rights. It was immediately after the 19th Amendment passed in America that Pennsylvania voters sent eight women to this House – more than any other State. Sixteen years later Pennsylvania voters in West Philadelphia elected the first African-American woman to any State legislature in the country, but right here to the House, Crystal Bird Fauset.

This year we have seen a record number of women elected to the General Assembly. The first Dominican-American woman from Berks County, the first woman from Lawrence County – so many firsts in this class of 52 people. It is amazing to know that even in our congressional delegation, we made a great deal of history by sending our former sister Rep, Congresswoman Summer Lee, to Washington, DC, as the first African-American woman. While Pennsylvania voters have elected women to be Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer, and Attorney General, we have yet to see women have an opportunity to compete seriously and win for United States Senator, for Governor. We have even seen women elected to our State's Supreme Court, the highest court in our Commonwealth, but there is still so much farther for us to go. And we, in this moment in time right now, have to pinch ourselves, because it was almost 250 years before a woman could stand at this desk – not just to give a prayer, but to get the gavel. That is pretty incredible.

And while I am standing before you truly humbled and truly honored, I recognize the time calls for real reform and real change. There have been times when we have had policy debates where we have not agreed on everything, but I encourage us to find the issues where we have common denominators, where we have opportunities to improve lives in every part of our Commonwealth, and let us focus and emphasize those types of legislative bills and move them out of this chamber, send them to the Senate, and to Governor Shapiro's desk.

I recognize, as we prepare to formally organize regular session, as a former Senate staffer, we for the first time, we will not be penalizing folks from communities like we sadly did to trans children just a few months ago, but we are going to stand up against every form of discrimination – every form against discrimination. We are going to have rules that protect women, people of color, LGBTQIA+, because this is Pennsylvania, where democracy was born. It should not matter whom you love. It should not matter whether you pray. And it should not matter how you were born and the color of your skin. So while we did not have opportunities to pass those types of rules before, today is a fresh start. It is a new day. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE CANCELED

The SPEAKER. The Speaker is in receipt of information that the gentleman from York County is here and can be placed back on the master roll call, Representative Jones.

PARLIAMENTARIAN APPOINTED

The SPEAKER. In compliance with the laws of the Commonwealth authorizing the Speaker to appoint a Parliamentarian, the Chair appoints David Brogan, Esq., as Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the majority caucusman, Chairman Dan Miller, for a caucus announcement.

Mr. D. MILLER. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I cannot tell you the honor of being the first person to say that.

Democrats will caucus immediately. We will be back in 1 hour.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the minority caucus chairman, Representative Dunbar, for a caucus announcement.

Mr. DUNBAR. Thank you, Madam Speaker, and congratulations.

Republicans will be at ease. We will be back on the floor in an hour. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. Thank you, Chairman.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. The House stands in recess until 1:30, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

AFTER RECESS

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF
MAJORITY LEADERSHIP**

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the new majority caucus chairperson, Representative Schlossberg, to introduce the new Democratic Caucus leadership team.

Mr. SCHLOSSBERG. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It is my honor, on behalf of the Democratic Caucus, to introduce our new leadership team. The new majority leader will be Matt Bradford, the gentleman from Montgomery County. The new Appropriations chairman will be Jordan Harris, the gentleman from Philadelphia County. The new majority whip will be Dan Miller, the gentleman from Allegheny County. The new caucus administrator will be Leanne Krueger, the gentlelady from Delaware County. Secretary Tina Davis will remain as

caucus secretary. Policy Chairman Ryan Bizarro will remain as Policy chairman. And I have the distinct honor of serving as caucus chairman. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair congratulates the new leaders.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair now recognizes the majority caucus chairman for a caucus announcement.

Mr. SCHLOSSBERG. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

House Democrats will caucus in the majority caucus room at 2:15.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the minority caucus chairperson.

Mr. DUNBAR. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Parliamentary inquiry?

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

Mr. DUNBAR. Will the caucus be for our rules, and if so, will we be getting a copy of these rules?

Mr. SCHLOSSBERG. Yes and yes.

Mr. DUNBAR. Thank you.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

Mr. DUNBAR. Republicans will caucus tomorrow morning at 9:30 virtually; 9:30 tomorrow morning, Republican caucus. Thank you.

The SPEAKER. The Chair thanks the gentleman.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER. The Chair is in receipt of a motion by the gentleman from Dauphin County, Representative Fleming, that this House now adjourn until Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 11 a.m., e.s.t., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

On the question,

Will the House agree to the motion?

Motion was agreed to, and at 1:43 p.m., e.s.t., the House adjourned.