

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Legislative Journal

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

SESSION OF 2020 204TH OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 47

SENATE

THURSDAY, November 12, 2020

The Senate met at 3:20 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the Chair.

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Hon. MEGAN MARTIN, Secretary of the Senate:

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we come to You today, some with heavy hearts and some with happy ones. Some filled with hope and some feeling hopeless. We turn to You for Your grace, Your mercy, and Your strength during this time. There is a beautiful passage I recently found that I hope will help all of us today who need healing and who need hope so that we can mend our great divide. I am Christ in you, the hope of glory. The One who walks beside you, holding your hand, is the same One who lives within you. This is a deep, unfathomable mystery. The light of My presence shines within you as well as upon you. I am in you and you are in Me. Therefore, nothing in Heaven or on Earth can separate you from Me. As you sit quietly in My presence, your awareness of My life within you is heightened. This produces the joy of the Lord, which is your strength. I, the God of hope, fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Me so that you may bubble over with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.)

GENERAL COMMUNICATION

RECALL OF REGULAR SESSION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

November 12, 2020

TO: President and All Members of the Senate
FROM: Senator JOE SCARNATI
President Pro Tempore
RE: Recall to Session
Thursday, November 12, 2020, 2:00 p.m.

Consistent with the recess motion made on October 21, 2020, the Senate is recalled for session on Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., for the purpose of electing the interim President Pro-Tempore.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR

NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following communications in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which were read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF
CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

October 23, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Nick Sherman, 2073 Majestic Drive, Canonsburg 15317, Washington County, Forty-sixth Senatorial District, for appointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of California University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, vice Roberta Betza, Gibsonia, whose term expired.

TOM WOLF
Governor

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF
LOCK HAVEN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
OF THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

October 23, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

In conformity with law, I have the honor hereby to nominate for the advice and consent of the Senate, Daniel Elby, 3535 Pebble Ridge Drive, York 17402, York County, Forty-eighth Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

TOM WOLF
Governor

**CORRECTION TO NOMINATION
REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, which was read as follows and referred to the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations:

MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES OF
CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA OF
THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

November 9, 2020

To the Honorable, the Senate
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Please note that the letter dated October 7, 2020, for the nomination of Susanne Burns, 2156 Route 66, P.O. Box 626, Shippenville 16254, Clarion County, Twenty-first Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of Clarion University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified, should be corrected to read:

Susanne Burns, 21576 Route 66, P.O. Box 626, Shippenville 16254, Clarion County, Twenty-first Senatorial District, for reappointment as a member of the Council of Trustees of Clarion University of Pennsylvania of the State System of Higher Education, to serve for a term of six years, and until the successor is appointed and qualified.

SENATE BILL RETURNED WITHOUT APPROVAL

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following veto communication in writing from His Excellency, the Governor of the Commonwealth, advising that the following Senate Bill had been returned without approval:

SB 1164, entitled:

An Act amending the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code, in coroner, further providing for coroner's investigation.

The Clerk read the veto message as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

November 3, 2020

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill 1164, Printer's Number 2006.

This legislation will add additional reporting requirements and cause delays in the reporting of public health information, which would jeopardize public safety. Currently, medical professionals are required to certify all natural deaths unless circumstances justify a referral to a coroner or medical examiner. Specifically, it is the responsibility of an attending physician who treated the last known illness of a decedent to certify a death, unless specified circumstances justify a referral. This bill changes this structure and adds an additional layer of reporting by health care facilities, nursing facilities, personal care homes, and physicians. Under this legislation, the requirement for coroners to investigate

the facts and circumstances of various types of death is broadened to include the requirement for coroners to investigate the facts and circumstances of every death suspected to be due to a contagious disease, including a disease constituting a health disaster emergency or pandemic. Given the substantial increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, this bill will delay the reporting and the access to public health information needed to make timely public health and safety decisions, as well as the issuances of death certificates.

In addition, this bill grants electronic access to various databases, which contain individually identifiable health information. Providing access to this information does not assist in determining whether an autopsy or inquest should be performed, but instead, risks the release of highly sensitive personal information without the protections guaranteed by the Vital Statistics Law.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from Senate Bill 1164, Printer's Number 2006.

Sincerely,

TOM WOLF
Governor

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill and veto message will be laid on the table.

BILLS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following Senate Bills numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which were read by the Clerk:

October 26, 2020

Senators J. WARD, COLLETT, MENSCH, COSTA, MUTH, SCHWANK, PITTMAN and TARTAGLIONE presented to the Chair **SB 1368**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L.1234, No.204), known as the Family Caregiver Support Act, further providing for title of act, for intent, for definitions, for primary caregiver support program, for reimbursements, for entitlement not created and for enforcement.

Which was committed to the Committee on AGING AND YOUTH, October 26, 2020.

October 30, 2020

Senators K. WARD, LANGERHOLC, MENSCH, KILLION, J. WARD, MARTIN, HUTCHINSON, ARGALL, PITTMAN and ARNOLD presented to the Chair **SB 1347**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 23, 1956 (1955 P.L.1510, No.500), known as the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, further providing for penalties, prosecutions and disposition of fines.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, October 30, 2020.

Senators MARTIN, STEFANO, AUMENT, KILLION, YUDICHAK, ARNOLD, J. WARD, MENSCH, SCAVELLO, ARGALL, PITTMAN, BAKER, REGAN and SCHWANK presented to the Chair **SB 1358**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in emergency COVID-19 response, providing for Food Service, Hospitality and Tourism Economic Emergency Grant Program and for appropriations from the account.

Which was committed to the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS, October 30, 2020.

Senators K. WARD, PITTMAN, J. WARD, STEFANO, MARTIN, ARGALL, MENSCH, YAW and ARNOLD presented to the Chair **SB 1360**, entitled:

An Act amending the act of April 17, 2016 (P.L.84, No.16), known as the Medical Marijuana Act, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions; in patients, further providing for prohibitions; and, in miscellaneous provisions, further providing for insurers and for protections for patients and caregivers and providing for enforcement, rules and regulations.

Which was committed to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, October 30, 2020.

Senators L. WILLIAMS, IOVINO, MUTH, KEARNEY, HUGHES, SANTARSIERO, FONTANA, BLAKE, HAYWOOD, A. WILLIAMS, COLLETT, BOSCOLA, SABATINA, COSTA, FARNESE, TARTAGLIONE, STREET, BREWSTER, SCHWANK and BROOKS presented to the Chair **SB 1369**, entitled:

An Act amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in employees, providing for medals honoring first responders.

Which was committed to the Committee on VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, October 30, 2020.

November 9, 2020

Senators DiSANTO, ARGALL, MASTRIANO, PHILLIPS-HILL, MARTIN, SCAVELLO, ARNOLD, PITTMAN and YUDICHAK presented to the Chair **SB 1335**, entitled:

A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in taxation and finance, providing for expiration of authority to levy or collect real property tax.

Which was committed to the Committee on FINANCE, November 9, 2020.

RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED AND REFERRED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following Senate Resolutions numbered, entitled, and referred as follows, which were read by the Clerk:

October 26, 2020

Senators FARNESE, FONTANA, SCHWANK, COSTA, MUTH and TARTAGLIONE presented to the Chair **SR 408**, entitled:

A Resolution designating the week of November 16 through 20, 2020, as "Pennsylvania Education for Students Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week" and November 20, 2020, as "Red Shirt Day" in Pennsylvania.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, October 26, 2020.

Senators A. WILLIAMS, BLAKE, FONTANA and SCHWANK presented to the Chair **SR 409**, entitled:

A Resolution adopting a temporary rule of the Senate relating to bills and amendments to be considered in session for the period November 1 through November 30, 2020.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, October 26, 2020.

November 9, 2020

Senators LEACH and KILLION presented to the Chair **SR 407**, entitled:

A Resolution condemning attacks by Azerbaijan against civilians in the Artsakh Republic.

Which was committed to the Committee on RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, November 9, 2020.

HOUSE MESSAGES

HOUSE BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

The Clerk of the House of Representatives presented to the Senate the following bills for concurrence, which were referred to the committees indicated:

October 26, 2020

HB 100 -- Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

HB 1342 -- Committee on Education.

HB 2478 and **2825** -- Committee on Transportation.

HB 2724 -- Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy.

HB 2861 -- Committee on Aging and Youth.

HB 2862 -- Committee on Banking and Insurance.

HB 2868 -- Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing.

HOUSE RESOLUTION FOR CONCURRENCE

The Clerk of the House of Representatives presented to the Senate the following resolution for concurrence, which was referred to the committee indicated:

October 30, 2020

HR 1001 -- Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
Office of the Controller
1805 N. Broad Street (038-17)
11th Floor Wachman Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19122

October 23, 2020

The Honorable Megan Martin
Senate Secretary/Parliamentarian
Senate Box 203053
462 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3053

Dear Senator *[sic]* Martin:

In compliance with Act 5A dated May 29, 2020, I submit the audited consolidated financial statements for Temple University - Of The Commonwealth System of Higher Education as of and for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2020 and 2019.

Sincerely,

David N. Marino
Associate Vice President
& Controller

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. This report will be filed in the Library.

**PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT 2019 911 ANNUAL REPORT**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
Office of the State Fire Commissioner
1310 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

October 27, 2020

In accordance with 35 Pa.C.S. § 5303, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is required to report to the General Assembly annually on the revenue and distributions from the 911 Fund for the previous fiscal year and the compliance with the Commonwealth's 911 priorities.

PEMA is pleased to provide the attached Annual Report to the General Assembly detailing the revenue and distributions from the 911 Fund in 2019. The report also outlines the accomplishments of PEMA and the Pennsylvania 9-1-1 community in 2019 that demonstrate effective stewardship of 911 funding while making significant progress towards next generation 911.

Thanks,

Westburn S.T. Majors
Legislative and Policy Director

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. This report will be filed in the Library.

**2018-20 BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE
ORGAN DONATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Department of Health
625 Forster Street, 8th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

October 30, 2020

Please see the attached Biannual Report from the Organ Donation Advisory Committee.

Thank you,

Patty Dillon
Deputy Director
Office of Legislative Affairs

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. This report will be filed in the Library.

**PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NUCLEAR POWER FEES AND EXPENSE REVIEW**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate the following communication, which was read by the Clerk as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency
Office of the State Fire Commissioner
1310 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

November 10, 2020

In accordance with the Radiation Protection Act (Act 31 of 20017 *[sic]*), attached is a copy of the Triennial Report to the General Assembly. I believe that a hard copy was sent at the end of September. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Westburn S.T. Majors
Legislative and Policy Director

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. This report will be filed in the Library.

**APPOINTMENT BY THE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointment:

Mr. Gerald Delon to the Board of Directors of the Port Authority of Allegheny County.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Baker, and legislative leaves for Senator Killion, Senator Tomlinson, and Senator Vogel.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Dinniman.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Gordner requests a temporary Capitol leave for Senator Baker, and legislative leaves for Senator Killion, Senator Tomlinson, and Senator Vogel.

Senator Costa requests a legislative leave for Senator Dinniman.

Without objection, the leaves will be granted.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Senator COSTA asked and obtained a leave of absence for Senator IOVINO, for today's Session, for personal reasons.

JOURNALS APPROVED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journals of the Sessions of July 13, 2020, and July 14, 2020, are now in print.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journals of the Sessions of July 13, 2020, and July 14, 2020.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that further reading of the Journals be dispensed with and that the Journals be approved.

On the question,
Will the Senate agree to the motion?

The yeas and nays were required by Senator GORDNER and were as follows, viz:

YEA-49

Argall	Dinniman	Martin	Street
Arnold	DiSanto	Mastriano	Tartaglione
Aument	Farnese	Mensch	Tomlinson
Baker	Fontana	Muth	Vogel
Bartolotta	Gordner	Phillips-Hill	Ward, Judy
Blake	Haywood	Pittman	Ward, Kim
Boscola	Hughes	Regan	Williams, Anthony H.
Brewster	Hutchinson	Sabatina	Williams, Lindsey
Brooks	Kearney	Santarsiero	Yaw
Browne	Killion	Scarnati	Yudichak
Collett	Langerholc	Scavello	
Corman	Laughlin	Schwank	
Costa	Leach	Stefano	

NAY-0

A majority of the Senators having voted "aye," the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Journals are approved.

LEGISLATIVE LEAVE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I request a legislative leave for Senator Arnold.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Gordner requests a legislative leave for Senator Arnold. Without objection, the leave will be granted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to Senate Rule 21(b), the Chair is giving the Senators notice that photographers from the Republican Caucus have been granted permission to take still photographs on the floor of the Senate today during the election of the interim President pro tempore.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS
ELECTION OF INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The next order of business will be the election of interim President pro tempore as required by Article II, Section 9, of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which requires, in part, that the Senate shall, at the beginning and close of each Regular Session, elect one of its Members as President pro tempore.

Before taking up nominations for the office of interim President pro tempore, the Chair would again like to suggest, if there is no objection, in the event there is only one candidate for the office, the Chair will dispense with the calling of the roll and ask for a voice vote on the motion.

The Chair hears no objection.

The Chair will now accept nominations for the office of interim President pro tempore.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Lancaster, Senator Aument.

Senator AUMENT. Mr. President, I am pleased this afternoon to stand in support of and am honored to formally nominate Senator Jake Corman to serve as interim President pro tempore. The last time I took to this floor, I spoke of the importance of this Chamber to the future of our Commonwealth. I said then, and I believe even more so today, that when our Commonwealth faces difficult challenges, when our people are divided, lively debate in this institution can help bring us together. This body must be led by a Member who understands this and can lead us in that spirit. The gentleman from Centre County is that Member. As Majority Leader, and as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations before that, he has demonstrated time and time again that he will lead this Chamber in a thoughtful and prudent manner. He is a leader who has respect for and is respected by Members on both sides of the aisle.

On a more personal level, just this morning as I was looking for a specific picture on my phone, I came across a picture taken of me and my children seated here during my second swearing in. It is the one picture I have of Jack and June from that day sitting still. As I looked over my shoulder in that picture, seated next to me that day was Senator Corman's father. I had a terrific conversation with him about his love for this institution and his love for his son. Having lost my own father 2 years ago, Jake, I know that your father is with us here today in spirit, and I know he would be so proud of you this day for all that you have accomplished, how you have accomplished it, and the exertions you will now make on behalf of the residents of this Commonwealth as our interim President pro tempore.

Mr. President, I do now formally place the name of the gentleman from Centre County before the Senate to serve as our interim President pro tempore.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Allegheny, Senator Costa.

Senator COSTA. Mr. President, I rise today to second the nomination of the gentleman from Centre County, Senator Jake Corman, to serve as our interim President pro tempore for the remainder of this legislative Session into next year. I have had the pleasure of working closely with Senator Corman dating back to when we both began our service as chairmen of the Committee on Appropriations at a time when our Commonwealth and our country probably faced one of its most significant economic downturns since the Great Depression. In 2009 and 2010, we both cut our teeth serving as chairpersons during this difficult time, and I can remember many evenings when we spent time at the Governor's residence with Governor Rendell looking at us and scrutinizing every single department and agency with respect to how we were going to close and address the shortfall that we were dealing with at that point in time.

It was at that point I recognized the seriousness and thoughtfulness that he approached the work he did in that position. A few years later, we both ascended to the position of Leader of our respective Caucuses, and it has been a pleasure working and serving with him during that period of time. We both have the challenge of dealing with and managing sometimes a very diverse Caucus, but being able to manage it in a way to be able to move the Caucus and the Chamber forward in a productive way is something we have always been able to see and something I

have seen along those lines. In my view, he has been someone who has always been fair, open, and transparent with respect to some of the things we would be doing as we tried to manage our respective Caucus and the Chamber together.

Mr. President, I have no doubt as we go forward, as interim President pro tempore, and likely to be President pro tempore going forward for our next legislative Session, I know that Senator Corman will continue to exhibit some of the traits and things that have occurred under the previous President pro tempore, Senator Joe Scarnati. Senator Scarnati was also known for his fairness, thoughtfulness, and approach in how he managed this whole body. He was not managing one Caucus, he was managing this whole body, and he did it in a way that was fair to our Members despite the fact that we were consistently in the Minority. I have no doubt that will be the continued role we will play in this regard and know Senator Corman will uphold the same high standards that Senator Scarnati has set with respect to how we manage this Chamber.

So, Mr. President, I rise and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the nomination of Senator Jake Corman as interim President pro tempore, and I second that nomination.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I will echo the themes of Senator Aument in regard to institution and family. Not too long ago in caucus, Jake talked about the institution. I get to be the chair of the Capitol Preservation Committee, and it is quite an honor to be the one to make sure we are preserving this Capitol and that we continue to oversee the preservation and maintenance of it. But we also have the institutions of the House and the Senate. For those of us, and I have mentioned it before, who served with Representative Matthew Ryan, he was a giant as a House Speaker. He was, again, someone who looked at both the Democratic Caucus and the Republican Caucus and helped Members of both parties, depending upon what the situation was in regard to their roles. I see Jake doing the same thing here in the Senate in regard to the institution of this body, the history of it, and the maintenance of it for all of us. All 50 of us, as Members, are a part of this institution. We need to make sure it is honored, preserved, and our responsibilities are kept intact.

The second part is family. One of the things I am most proud of with Jake is his commitment to family. We joked a little bit, a number of folks do not remember Bob Jubelirer anymore, it is incredible how long he has been gone and how long he served as President pro tempore. We joked that Bob would cry from time to time when he spoke, and Joe was not much of a cryer that I have seen, but I think the next person sometimes shows his emotions on his sleeves and we may see that from time to time. I have no doubt that we will see it on January 5. For those of you, again, who knew his dad, Doyle, and knew, frankly, the political brains of the family, which was Becky--Becky was, and is, a force in regards to politics in the Corman family. But Doyle and Becky are both role models.

He has been a great role model as a father. I am not sure if you know how many times he has left a little early just to make sure he got home to an event that his kids were in. I just happened to notice him look at the phone, and before he was able to get to what he wanted to, he had to swipe up to the picture of his three kids, which are right there on his phone, Bella, Davis, and

I am going to say Jake. I know he goes by Jakey, but he is getting pretty tall and big, so we will go with Jake for your youngest. But with Kelli and those three kids, those four individuals have kept this guy grounded in so many ways. Whether it is going to events, traveling out of State to be at those things, I remember when they were in swimming. If you have ever been a swimming parent, you know how horrible it is, to some degree, because you are there for 6 hours and you get to see 2 minutes while you are in this sweaty natatorium, but that is what you do as a parent. I am very proud that my good friend, Jake, is grounded in his family. I cannot wait until they are here on January 5 to be part of the process of swearing in their dad and all of that that goes with it.

So, for his love of the institution and for his love of his family and the example that he sets, as his dad set, and now he is setting for his three children, I am proud to second the nomination of Jake Corman as interim President pro tempore.

NOMINATIONS CLOSED

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other seconds? Any other nominations? The Chair hears none and declares the nominations are closed.

The candidate for office of interim President pro tempore is the Honorable Jake Corman of Centre County. All those in favor of Senator Jake Corman for the office of President pro tempore please say "aye"; those opposed, "nay."

A voice vote having been taken, the question was determined in the affirmative.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair takes pleasure in declaring Senator Jake Corman unanimously elected as our new interim President pro tempore of the Senate.

(Applause.)

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ESCORT INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE TO THE ROSTRUM

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair now names as a committee to escort the interim President pro tempore-elect to the rostrum the following Senators: the gentleman from Montgomery County, Senator Mensch; the gentleman from Allegheny County, Senator Costa; and the gentleman from York County, Senator Regan. The committee will proceed to escort Senator Corman to the rostrum.

(Whereupon, the interim President pro tempore-elect was escorted to the rostrum of the Senate.)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE-ELECT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. It is an honor and privilege to have with us today the Honorable J. Andrew Crompton, Judge of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. Judge Crompton has kindly consented to be with us today to administer the oath of office to Senator Corman.

Please rise.

Judge CROMPTON. Place your left hand on your Bible, raise your right hand, and repeat after me:

I, Jacob D. Corman III, 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.

Congratulations, Senator.
(Applause.)

GAVEL PRESENTED TO INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair wishes to thank Judge Crompton. It is now my privilege to present the interim President pro tempore of the Senate of Pennsylvania, the Honorable Jacob D Corman III.

(Applause.)

The Interim President pro tempore (Senator Jacob D. Corman III) in the Chair.

REMARKS BY INTERIM PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The Interim PRESIDENT pro tempore. We will keep this short and sweet, and I am very upset at Senator Aument and Senator Gordner for trying to make me cry, but I thank them both for their kind words and their mention of my family. They have both been great friends. I thank you for your kind words, and I thank Senator Costa as well. The one story you did not tell about 2008 is how we used to have secret meetings at the Lieutenant Governor's house, when Senator Scarnati was Lieutenant Governor, to solve the budget. I always give you and Senator Mellow, at the time, a lot of credit for finally resolving that long budget.

Just real briefly, in June 1977, I sat in the back of this Chamber when my father was first elected to the Senate. They elected, at that time, Martin Murray as President pro tempore. It was my first President pro tempore election to watch, and I have watched them through to Henry Hager, Bob Jubelirer, and Joe Scarnati. I only hope to uphold the same great standards of which they did during their career. They were all great statesmen, and I hope I can fill their shoes.

The one thing I did want to leave with, this would be better if our Lieutenant Governor was here, but I can remember in 2006 when we elected Senator Scarnati for the first time as the President pro tempore; Catherine Baker Knoll was Lieutenant Governor at the time. If you remember Catherine, a wonderful woman who was not particularly tall, so they had a riser put in here behind the dais that they could raise up so she could see over the top. I am thinking, with our Lieutenant Governor today, how far we have come because when Senator Scarnati stood on this riser and looked down, I think his first words as President pro tempore were: I look very tall right now but I am not really this tall.

Anyway, you have given me the honor of my lifetime. This institution, next to my family, is the most important thing to me, and I look forward to working with all of you to move Pennsylvania forward. As Senator Scarnati said on his first day, we will be judged by our results, and it is incumbent upon all of us, now that the elections are behind us, to figure out a way to move Pennsylvania forward so all, no matter what part of the Commonwealth, what your economic background is, that all Pennsylvanians can thrive.

Thank you all very much, and God bless.
(Applause.)

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Senator Joseph B. Scarnati III) in the Chair.

CALENDAR OVER IN ORDER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Columbia, Senator Gordner.

Senator GORDNER. Mr. President, I move that all of the bills and resolutions on today's Calendar go over in their order without prejudice as to day.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY

The following announcements were read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Off the Floor	APPROPRIATIONS (to consider Senate Bills No. 792 and 1350; and House Bills No. 630, 1808 and 2065)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)
Off the Floor	RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS (to consider Senate Bill No. 790; and certain Executive Nominations)	Senate Chamber (LIVE STREAMED)

PETITIONS AND REMONSTRANCES

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator Tartaglione has submitted remarks for the record. Without objection, the remarks will be spread upon the record.

(The following prepared remarks were made part of the record at the request of the gentlewoman from Philadelphia, Senator TARTAGLIONE:)

Mr. President, today marks 5,240 days since the Pennsylvania legislature last raised the minimum wage. That is more than 14 years, and it is far too long.

Mr. President, I rise today for the purpose of dispelling the long-held and often blindly accepted presumption that raising the minimum wage is a partisan issue, that conservatives, including the Republican Party, generally oppose a higher minimum wage, in contrast with those who lean left on the political spectrum and who support the not-so-novel idea that employers should be required to pay workers enough to support themselves and their families, and that our standard of living as a nation is directly proportional to the prosperity of our middle class. I need not remind anyone that the standard of living for the American middle class peaked more than a half century ago, that the percentage of Americans living in the middle class has been shrinking for decades, and that the median income of the shrinking middle class has remained stagnant for the last 20 years, despite the rising costs of goods and services that we use.

That said, it is not surprising that survey after survey on the minimum wage issue have produced very similar and increasingly predictable results in recent years. Just last year, Pew Research found that two-thirds of Americans--67 percent of them, to be specific--said they favor raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. That figure includes Republicans, Democrats, and Independents. It includes red States and blue States. We saw even more hard evidence of this pan-partisan support for raising the minimum wage just last week in Florida, which is among the most Republican-leaning States in the Union. Florida has a Republican governor and large Republican Majorities in both Chambers of its State

legislature. In Presidential elections, Florida leaned toward Donald Trump twice, George W. Bush twice, George H. W. Bush twice, Ronald Reagan twice, and Richard Nixon three times. Last week, Trump defeated Joe Biden by more than 3 percentage points and almost 400,000 votes in Florida. Yet, Floridians also voted overwhelmingly in favor of raising their minimum wage from \$8.56 an hour to \$15 by 2026. They also voted for automatic raises in the minimum wage from that year forward, based on the consumer price index. Those measures were included in a ballot question known as Amendment 2. It garnered 61 percent of the vote. Almost 6.4 million Floridians voted for a \$15 minimum wage at the very same time that most voters in their State opted to keep a Republican in the White House.

Mr. President, Florida is not an outlier. In many ways, it is a lot like Pennsylvania. Last year, a Franklin & Marshall College poll found that 69 percent of Pennsylvanians favor raising our minimum wage at least to \$12 an hour. Pennsylvanians overwhelmingly support raising the minimum wage because it is not a partisan issue. It is an issue of fairness and human dignity. It makes sense for the people toiling for barely \$15,000 a year in wages and it makes sense for local businesses, the mom-and-pop stores where low-wage consumers do their shopping. Pennsylvanians gain nothing by the continued refusal of the Leadership of our General Assembly to advance any meaningful minimum wage legislation. Instead, we continue to fall further behind 28 other States, including all our immediate neighbors and Florida, where they are trying to rebuild the middle class and where the overwhelming will of the electorate is being served.

As we in the General Assembly transition into the 2021-22 legislative Session, I strongly urge both the Senate and House to raise the minimum wage. It is long overdue.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Montgomery, Senator Collett.

Senator COLLETT. Mr. President, I rise today to implore my colleagues to consider the dangerous effects that the Majority party's insistence on prolonging the myth of mass voter fraud is having, and will continue to have, on our constituents, our Commonwealth, our country, and the democratic ideals we have all sworn to uphold. It is time to stand up as the leaders you were elected to be and level with your constituents: Republicans in Pennsylvania had a good year; Trump did not. Indeed, my colleague, the gentleman from Dauphin County, the chairman of the Committee on State Government, won his reelection bid by less than 5,000 votes. Is the legitimacy of that result in question, too?

In Bucks and Montgomery Counties, which I represent and where much of the suspicion and animus is focused, Republican candidates overperformed almost across the board. While it does not bring me any joy to admit that, facts are facts. But the relentless refrain from the Republicans across our Commonwealth and in our legislature that mass voter fraud must be to blame for President Trump's defeat begs the question: why are the Auditor General-elect, Treasurer-elect, and my colleague, the gentleman from Dauphin County, who many people thought would not prevail in this election, why are they not getting the credit for their hard-fought and legitimate victories?

In 2019, when the Committee on State Government convened to consider the requirement that every county invest in new voting machines, my colleague, the Senator from Columbia County, suggested that members of the committee consider that our mandate called into question the very legitimacy of the most recent election. If those machines were not good enough to be trusted going forward, how can we trust the validity of previous results? Applying that Senator's logic, how is this different? If last week's election was not open and secure enough to trust the legitimacy of the outcome in the Presidential contest, where is your outrage

over illegal votes and mass fraud in all of the other PA races? I think I already know the answer to that.

Let the counties finish their work and let whatever legal challenges the Trump campaign, or any other campaign, decides to bring run their course. The fact is, you know the President's legal challenges are without merit and the people of Pennsylvania have spoken. They have spoken out against bloviating autocracy in favor of a return to civility, collaboration, and action.

We are staring down a dangerous new phase of the COVID-19 crisis. We have a budget to pass, we have people who are still unemployed, businesses that need ongoing support, and more than \$1.3 billion in CARES funds that need to get into the hands of people and businesses who have been, and continue to suffer. Instead of using your bully pulpit to sow fear and discord and tear this Commonwealth further apart, why not use your powerful position to set an example? Acknowledge the mixed bag that this year's election results brought and thank the hard-working people who administered the election and actually counted these votes, and get back to the work of improving the lives of everyday Pennsylvanians. If we want to discuss improvements to the Election Code based on lessons learned this year, there will be time for that, but that time is not now.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Bucks, Senator Santarsiero.

Senator SANTARSIERO. Mr. President, I rise in defense of no less than our American democracy, as well as our electoral system here in Pennsylvania, and, specifically, in defense of my friend and constituent, who has been unfairly maligned in the last week and a half or so, Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar. Mr. President, in her book *Twilight of Democracy: The Seductive Lure of Authoritarianism*, Anne Applebaum talks about the phenomenon of the big lie. The big lie is an untruth that a political movement or party propagates in order to slowly amass power and take a democratic institution and turn it into an authoritarian one. In the book, Applebaum talks about the big lie that was propagated in recent years in Hungary, Poland, Russia, and a number of other countries that, until relatively recent times, had at least a semblance of democratic institutions and democratic elections. Alas, in those places and others, those democratic institutions, if not already undone, are under great threat.

It is not hyperbole to say that we stand in the United States, and in this Commonwealth today, at a dangerous moment. A moment in which the very outcome of this election, and as my colleague from Montgomery and Bucks Counties just noted, despite clear evidence to the contrary, is being questioned. A moment in which Vice President Biden, now President-elect Biden, is not even being given the ability to have national security briefings because of a big lie that is being propagated throughout this country, that somehow the votes he received last Tuesday, over 5 million votes more than Donald Trump, were not actually votes that happened in a legal way. Because we hear that term "legal" as a qualifier in almost every comment from many people on the other side of the aisle, including here in Pennsylvania and in our State Senate.

There was nothing illegal about the votes that have elected Joe Biden to be the 46th President of the United States. There was nothing fraudulent or improper about the process here in Pennsylvania that delivered our 20 electoral votes to Joe Biden to make him the next President of the United States. Arguments

to the contrary notwithstanding, because not one shred of evidence has been put forth. Instead, Secretary Boockvar's integrity has been assailed. Instead, vague arguments about voter fraud have been made. Instead, we have heard that audits need to happen. We have heard that the process was not countenanced by Pennsylvania law, when, in fact, Act 77 that this very legislature passed last year provided for the process that was followed by the Wolf administration and the county elections offices in all 67 counties of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I can speak from personal experience, at least with respect to Bucks County, because my wife was one of the Democratic lawyers watching the vote count and the process on Election Day at the administrative office building in Doylestown. I can tell you in that room as well as former State Representative Gene DiGirolomo, now one of the county commissioners, as well as the vice chair of the Bucks County Republican Committee, Joe Cullen, and I can tell you that the process went forward smoothly. Both Commissioner DiGirolomo and Vice Chair Cullen would acknowledge that. That very process played out county after county across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Again, not one shred of evidence has been put forward to dispute the fact that votes were legally counted, legally received, and, in the case of these votes that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has said could be received after Election Day through 5 o'clock last Friday, that those were, in fact, segregated. Even without those votes, we know Joseph R. Biden was chosen by a majority of Pennsylvanians to be the next President of the United States and, as a consequence, come December when the Electoral College convenes, our 20 electoral votes will go to him.

But, Mr. President, that has not stopped members of the Republican Party, both here in Pennsylvania and across the United States, from propagating the big lie. I want to remind you that 20 years ago, when many of us on our side of the aisle were upset because we knew that Al Gore had actually gotten more votes in the State of Florida and, therefore, should have been elected President of the United States, and that would have been confirmed had the United States Supreme Court not stopped the recount in that State, that despite our anger, our disappointment over that decision, when former Vice President Gore stood up in December and conceded the election and asked the country to come together to support George W. Bush as the next President of the United States, despite our disappointment, we knew that the institutions of our democracy were indeed strong.

Yet, here we are 20 years later, we have a current occupant of the Oval Office who is replacing, as we speak, key positions in the Pentagon, who is encouraging his followers to propagate the lie that somehow this election was stolen, and who has refused to concede and extend the courtesy to President-elect Biden to begin an orderly and peaceful transition that will culminate at noon on January 20, 2021. We cannot control what happens in other States of this Union, but we can control what happens here in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Every single one of us, Democrat or Republican, has an abiding interest in making sure the institutions of our democracy remain strong, and that we acknowledge the will of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the people of the United States. Some may not be happy about that outcome. In no election is everyone pleased, at least not in a democracy. But at the end of the day, if we intend to pass to the next generation the strong democracy and republic which was passed to us from previous generations, then

it is time for us to stand up and be counted. It is time for us to make it clear that we stand for the rule of law, we stand for protecting the rights of the majority of people when they speak, to have their voices not only heard but, ultimately, to have that result become effective.

It is hard to believe that anyone needs to stand at this point to make that plea, but that is the place to which we have come. I urge the newly elected interim President pro tempore, all the Leaders on the other side of the aisle, all of the Republican Leaders, whether they are in Congress or the State legislature, in county or municipal governments across Pennsylvania, to join with us and acknowledge that the people have spoken and now it is time for us to come together as Americans. Secretary Boockvar has truly done courageous work in helping to shepherd our counties and our State through a new system of voting. She has earned our respect and our thanks, not calls for her resignation or attempts to assail her character and integrity. It is time for us to stand for democracy. I believe the people of Pennsylvania and the people of the United States will expect no less, accept no less, and we will see through this hour and we will see a better day, but I call upon all of you to stand up for what you know in your heart is right.

Thank you, Mr. President.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Fayette, Senator Stefano.

Senator STEFANO. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess to the call of the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

AFTER RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of recess having expired, the Senate will come to order.

RECESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Centre, Senator Corman.

Senator CORMAN. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, November 16, 2020, at 1:10 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 10:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.