

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**Legislative Journal**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

SESSION OF 2021 205th OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

No. 2

**SENATE**

WEDNESDAY, January 13, 2021

The Senate met at 11 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.

The PRESIDENT (Lieutenant Governor John K. Fetterman) in the Chair.

**PRAYER**

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

Let us pray.

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." What beautiful words from Psalm 118. These words guide us to wake with joyful hearts each day, but, Lord, we come to You today because these days we are struggling to be joyful. The nation is divided, emotions are raw, and people are hurting. So, we come to You this day, Lord, seeking Your help. Lord, help us to find ways to work together, to work together as a Senate, as a nation, and as humanity to heal so that we can once again wake with joyful hearts and be glad. All this we ask in Your name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**GENERAL COMMUNICATION**

**RECALL OF REGULAR SESSION**

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

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

January 12, 2021

TO: President and All Members of the Senate  
FROM: Senator JAKE CORMAN  
President Pro Tempore  
RE: Recall to Session  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Consistent with the recess motion made on January 5, 2021, the Senate is recalled for session on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. for the purpose of swearing-in the 45th Senatorial district seat. No roll call votes are expected, however the reading of certain communications will be read across the desk.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE GOVERNOR**

**NOMINATIONS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

The PRESIDENT 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:

JUDGE, COURT OF COMMON PLEAS,  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY

January 8, 2021

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, Anne Gingrich Cornick, Esquire, 2311 Briarcliff Road, Harrisburg 17104, Dauphin County, Fifteenth Senatorial District, for appointment as Judge, Court of Common Pleas, Allegheny County, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable John A. Zottola, deceased.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

January 8, 2021

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Clearfield, Magisterial District 46-3-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Patrick N. Ford, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT JUDGE

January 8, 2021

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, Thomas J. Yablonski, Jr., 1408 Rose

Lane, Mechanicsburg 17055, Cumberland County, Thirty-first Senatorial District, for appointment as Magisterial District Judge, in and for the County of Schuylkill, Magisterial District 21-2-01, to serve until the first Monday of January 2022, vice the Honorable Christina Hale, resigned.

TOM WOLF  
Governor

**APPOINTMENTS BY THE  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair wishes to announce the President pro tempore has made the following appointments:  
Senator Camera Bartolotta as Majority Caucus Administrator.  
Senator Mario Scavello as Majority Policy Chairman.  
Senator Elder Vogel as Deputy President pro tempore.

**DESIGNATION OF MAJORITY CHAIRMEN  
OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

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

Senator Judy Ward as Majority Chair of the Committee on Aging and Youth.

Senator Elder A. Vogel, Jr., as Majority Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

Senator Pat Browne as Majority Chair of the Committee on Appropriations.

Senator John DiSanto as Majority Chair of the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

Senator Kristin Phillips-Hill as Majority Chair of the Committee on Communications and Technology.

Senator John T. Yudichak as Majority Chair of the Committee on Community, Economic and Recreational Development.

Senator Robert M. Tomlinson as Majority Chair of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

Senator Scott Martin as Majority Chair of the Committee on Education.

Senator Gene Yaw as Majority Chair of the Committee on Environmental Resources and Energy.

Senator Scott Hutchinson as Majority Chair of the Committee on Finance.

Senator Dan Laughlin as Majority Chair of the Committee on Game and Fisheries.

Senator Michele Brooks as Majority Chair of the Committee on Heath and Human Services.

Senator Doug Mastriano as Majority Chair of the Committee on Intergovernmental Operations.

Senator Lisa Baker as Majority Chair of the Committee on Judiciary.

Senator Camera Bartolotta as Majority Chair of the Committee on Labor and Industry.

Senator Mike Regan as Majority Chair of the Committee on Law and Justice.

Senator Cris Dush as Majority Chair of the Committee on Local Government.

Senator Kim Ward as Majority Chair of the Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations.

Senator Dave Argall as Majority Chair of the Committee on State Government.

Senator Wayne Langerholc as Majority Chair of the Committee on Transportation.

Senator Joe Pittman as Majority Chair of the Committee on Urban Affairs and Housing.

Senator Pat Stefano as Majority Chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness.

**WITHDRAWAL OF PETITION**

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

**FROM:** Matt Haverstick, Kleinbard LLC  
**SENT:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:12 AM  
**TO:** Megan Martin  
**CC:** Crystal Clark, C.J. Hafner

**SUBJECT:** Contest Petition

Secretary Martin:

On behalf of Nicole Zicarelli, by this email I withdraw Ms. Zicarelli's Contest Petition. I have copied counsel for each Caucus.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair would now take this opportunity to announce that permission has been granted for photographers from Democratic Communications to take photographs on the floor of the Senate during today's upcoming swearing-in ceremony.

**SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS  
SWEARING-IN OF NEW MEMBER**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that the election returns of the 45th Senatorial District be taken from the table and read by the Clerk.

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

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

**ELECTION RETURNS PRESENTED**

The PRESIDENT. The returns of the Senator will be read by the Clerk.

The Clerk read the election returns as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

I have the honor to present the returns of the General Election held November 3, 2020. The following has received the highest number of votes in the respective district and was duly elected as a Member of the Senate in the General Assembly:

Name	District
James R. Brewster	Forty-fifth

as the same has been certified to and filed with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by the two County Boards of Elections.

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

KATHY BOOCKVAR  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
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OFFICIAL RETURNS  
SENATOR IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
45th Senatorial District

November 3, 2020

VOTES

DEMOCRATIC	- James R. Brewster	66,261
REPUBLICAN	- Nicole W. Ziccarelli	66,192
WRITE-INS	- Scattered	153

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT**

The PRESIDENT. For the record, the Secretary of the Commonwealth has also certified that the Senator-elect has filed the accounts and affidavits as required by the election laws of the Commonwealth.

**ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, as a special order of business, I ask that the oath of office be administered to Senator-elect Brewster.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will now proceed to the administration of the oath of office to Senator-elect Brewster. It is an honor and privilege to have with us today the Honorable David Spurgeon, Judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Judge Spurgeon has kindly consented to be with us today to administer the oath of office to Senator-elect Brewster in accordance with Article VI, Section 3, of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Will the Senator-elect please present himself with your Bible at the bar of the Senate.

Members and guests will please rise.

Judge Spurgeon will now administer the oath.

Judge SPURGEON. Good morning. Senator Brewster, please place your left hand on the Bible, raise your right hand and repeat after me:

I, James Brewster, 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.)

**SENATE AT EASE**

The PRESIDENT. The Senate will go at ease briefly to allow for various congratulations.

(The Senate was at ease.)

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair would like to thank Judge Spurgeon for presiding at today's ceremony, and congratulates Senator Brewster.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SECRETARY**

The following announcement was read by the Secretary of the Senate:

SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021

11:00 A.M.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (to  
consider Senate Bill No. 2)

Senate  
Chamber  
(LIVE  
STREAMED)

**RECESS**

The PRESIDENT. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Westmoreland, Senator Kim Ward.

Senator K. WARD. Mr. President, I move that the Senate do now recess until Monday, January 25, 2021, at 1 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, unless sooner recalled by the President pro tempore.

The motion was agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate recessed at 11:18 a.m., Eastern Standard Time.