OHIO

SENATE

JOURNAL

MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025

FIRST DAY
Senate Chamber, Columbus, Ohio
Monday, January 6, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

This being the day fixed by law for the meeting of the General Assembly in regular session, the senators and senators-elect of the One Hundred Thirty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Ohio, met in the Senate Chamber and were called to order by Senator Matt Huffman, President of the One Hundred Thirty-Fifth General Assembly.

Prayer was offered by Pastor Peter Marcis, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio. The colors were presented by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Color Guard.

The children and grandchildren of the senators and senators-elect assembled in the well and led the Chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance following the presentation of the colors.

The National Anthem was performed by Gina Campbell.

The President directed the Clerk to call the Senatorial Districts in their numerical order when the following named persons presented their certificates of election as Senators from their respective districts to the One Hundred Thirty-Sixth General Assembly, and the following named persons who were previously elected in 2022:

First District – Composed of: Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Logan (part), Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams – Rob McColley.

Second District – Composed of: Erie (part), Huron (part), Lucas (part), Ottawa, Wood – Theresa Gavarone.

Third District – Composed of: Franklin (part), Madison, Pickaway – Michele Reynolds.

Fourth District – Composed of: Butler (part) – George F. Lang.

Fifth District – Composed of: Butler (part), Darke (part), Miami, Montgomery (part), Preble – Stephen A. Huffman.

Sixth District – Composed of: Montgomery (part) – Willis E. Blackshear, Jr..

Seventh District – Composed of: Hamilton (part), Warren – Steve Wilson.

Eighth District – Composed of: Hamilton (part) – Louis W. Blessing, III.

Ninth District – Composed of: Hamilton (part) – Catherine D. Ingram.

Tenth District – Composed of: Clark, Clinton, Greene – Kyle Koehler.

Eleventh District – Composed of: Lucas (part) – Paula Hicks-Hudson.

Twelfth District – Composed of: Allen, Auglaize, Champaign, Darke (part), Logan (part), Mercer, Shelby – Susan Manchester.

Thirteenth District – Composed of: Huron (part), Lorain – Nathan H. Manning.

Fourteenth District – Composed of: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Scioto – Terry Johnson.

Fifteenth District – Composed of: Franklin (part) – Hearcel F. Craig.

Sixteenth District – Composed of: Franklin (part) – Beth Liston.

Seventeenth District – Composed of: Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Perry (part), Pike, Ross, Vinton – Shane Wilkin.

Eighteenth District – Composed of: Cuyahoga (part), Lake – Jerry C. Cirino.

Nineteenth District – Composed of: Coshocton, Delaware, Holmes, Knox – Andrew O. Brenner.

Twentieth District – Composed of: Fairfield, Licking, Perry (part) – Tim Schaffer.

Twenty-First District – Composed of: Cuyahoga (part) – Kent Smith.

Twenty-Second District – Composed of: Ashland, Medina, Richland – Mark Romanchuk.

Twenty-Third District – Composed of: Cuyahoga (part) – Nickie J. Antonio.

Twenty-Fourth District – Composed of: Cuyahoga (part) – Thomas F. Patton.

Twenty-Fifth District – Composed of: Franklin (part) – William P. DeMora.

Twenty-Sixth District – Composed of: Crawford, Marion, Morrow, Sandusky, Seneca, Union, Wyandot – Bill Reineke.

Twenty-Seventh District – Composed of: Geauga (part), Portage, Summit (part) – Kristina D. Roegner.

Twenty-Eighth District – Composed of: Summit (part) – Casey Weinstein.

Twenty-Ninth District – Composed of: Stark (part) – Vacant.

Thirtieth District – Composed of: Athens, Belmont, Guernsey (part), Harrison, Jefferson, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Washington – Brian M. Chavez.

Thirty-First District – Composed of: Guernsey (part), Muskingum, Stark (part), Tuscarawas, Wayne – Al Landis.

Thirty-Second District – Composed of: Ashtabula, Geauga (part), Trumbull – Sandra O'Brien.

Thirty-Third District – Composed of: Carroll, Columbiana, Mahoning – Al

Cutrona.

The members affiliated with the Republican party appeared at the bar of the Senate and were administered the oath of office by Chief Justice, Sharon L. Kennedy, Ohio Supreme Court.

The members affiliated with the Democrat party appeared at the bar of the Senate and were administered the oath of office by Justice Jennifer Brunner, Ohio Supreme Court.

The President announced that a quorum of the Senate was present and that the Senate was ready to transact business.

The President announced that the next order of business should be the election of the following officers: President, President Pro Tempore, Majority Floor Leader, Majority Whip, Minority Leader, Assistant Minority Leader, Minority Whip, and Assistant Minority Whip.

The election of the President being the first order, the Chair appointed Senator Wilson to preside during the election of the President.

Senator Roegner nominated Senator Rob McColley of the First District for the office of President.

Senator Manchester seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Reineke, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Rob McColley be elected President?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Lang	Liston	Manchester	Manning
O'Brien	Patton	Reineke	Reynolds
Roegner	Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith
Weinstein	Wilkin		Wilson-31

Senator Rob McColley having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected President.

Senator Brenner nominated Senator Bill Reineke of the Twenty-Sixth District for the office of President Pro Tempore.

Senator Reynolds seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Wilson, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Bill Reineke be elected President Pro Tempore?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Lang	Liston	Manchester	Manning
O'Brien	Patton	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith	Weinstein
Wilkin	Wilson		McColley-31

Senator Bill Reineke having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected President Pro Tempore.

Senator Huffman nominated Senator Theresa Gavarone of the Second District for the office of Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Reynolds seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Wilson, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Theresa Gavarone be elected Majority Floor Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman	Ingram
Johnson	Koehler	Landis	Lang
Liston	Manchester	Manning	O'Brien
Patton	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith	Weinstein
Wilkin	Wilson		McColley-31

Senator Theresa Gavarone having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Romanchuk nominated Senator George F. Lang of the Fourth District for the office of Majority Whip.

Senator Reynolds seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Wilson, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator George F. Lang be elected Majority Whip?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Liston	Manchester	Manning	O'Brien
Patton	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith	Weinstein

Wilkin	Wilson	McColley-31

Senator George F. Lang having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Majority Whip.

The duly elected officers of the Republican party appeared at the bar of the Senate and were administered the oath of office by Judge Denise Herman McColley, retired Judge of the Henry County Court of Common Pleas and Sharon L. Kennedy, Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court.

Senator Craig nominated Senator Nickie J. Antonio of the Twenty-Third District for the office of Minority Leader.

Senator Smith seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Liston, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Nickie J. Antonio be elected Minority Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner	Chavez
Cirino	Craig	Cutrona	DeMora
Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman	Ingram
Johnson	Koehler	Landis	Lang
Liston	Manchester	Manning	O'Brien
Patton	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith	Weinstein
Wilkin	Wilson		McColley-31

Senator Nickie J. Antonio having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Minority Leader.

Senator Antonio nominated Senator Hearcel F. Craig of the Fifteenth District for the office of Assistant Minority Leader.

Senator Ingram seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Hicks-Hudson, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Hearcel F. Craig be elected Assistant Minority Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Cutrona	DeMora
Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman	Ingram
Johnson	Koehler	Landis	Lang
Liston	Manchester	Manning	O'Brien
Patton	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith	Weinstein
Wilkin	Wilson		McColley-31

Senator Hearcel F. Craig having received a majority of the votes cast was

declared the elected Assistant Minority Leader.

Senator Weinstein nominated Senator Kent Smith of the Twenty-First District for the office of Minority Whip.

Senator Hicks-Hudson seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Blackshear, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Kent Smith be elected Minority Whip?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 32, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Lang	Liston	Manchester	Manning
O'Brien	Patton	Reineke	Reynolds
Roegner	Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith
Weinstein	Wilkin	Wilson	McColley-32

Senator Kent Smith having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Minority Whip.

Senator DeMora nominated Senator Beth Liston of the Sixteenth District for the office of Assistant Minority Whip.

Senator Craig seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Smith, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Beth Liston be elected Assistant Minority Whip?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Lang	Manchester	Manning	O'Brien
Patton	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith	Weinstein
Wilkin	Wilson		McColley-31

Senator Beth Liston having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Assistant Minority Whip.

The duly elected officers of the Democrat party appeared at the bar of the Senate and were administered the oath of office by Justice Jennifer Brunner, of the Ohio Supreme Court.

President McColley nominated Vincent Keeran for the office of the Clerk.

Senator Antonio seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Wilson, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Vincent Keeran be elected Clerk?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 32, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Lang	Liston	Manchester	Manning
O'Brien	Patton	Reineke	Reynolds
Roegner	Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith
Weinstein	Wilkin	Wilson	McColley-32

Vincent Keeran having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Clerk.

Vincent Keeran appeared at the bar of the Senate and was administered the oath of office by the Senator Rob McColley.

OFFERING OF RESOLUTIONS

Senator Reineke offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 1-Senator Reineke.

Cosponsors: Senators Antonio, Brenner, Cirino, DeMora, Ingram, Johnson, Lang, Wilson.

Relative to the salaries of the officials and employees of the Senate.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the employees of the Senate be assigned titles as determined by the Chief of Staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That employees be compensated as determined by the Chief of Staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That pay increases shall be made only upon the determination of the Chief of Staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all such employees, property, premises, and expenditures of the Senate shall be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Staff and the Clerk, and these officials are hereby authorized to make such changes and such assignments of duties of said employees as will result in the highest efficiency and best serve the interests of the State. The Chief of Staff and the Clerk are also authorized to discharge and replace said appointees and are authorized to appoint any additional staff as may be necessary to facilitate the work of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all of the foregoing salaries be paid from the appropriate funds of the Senate.

The question being, “Shall the resolution, **S. R. No. 1**, be adopted?

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 32, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Lang	Liston	Manchester	Manning
O'Brien	Patton	Reineke	Reynolds
Roegner	Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith
Weinstein	Wilkin	Wilson	McColley-32

So the resolution was adopted.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Brenner, Cirino, DeMora, Ingram, Johnson, Lang, Wilson."

The question being, “Shall the motion be agreed to?”

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

Senator Reineke offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 2-Senator Reineke.

Cosponsor: Senator Antonio.

Relative to mileage reimbursement.

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate is hereby authorized to pay the following named persons mileage reimbursement for mileage as provided by section 101.27 of the Revised Code.

NAME	COUNTY	MILEAGE ROUND TRIP
Nickie J. Antonio	Cuyahoga	273
Willis E. Blackshear Jr.	Montgomery	142
Louis W. Blessing III	Hamilton	214
Andrew O. Brenner	Delaware	64
Brian M. Chavez	Washington	254
Jerry C. Cirino	Lake	322
Al Cutrona	Mahoning	352
Theresa Gavarone	Wood	240
Paula Hicks-Hudson	Lucas	300
Stephen A. Huffman	Miami	146
Catherine D. Ingram	Hamilton	210
Terry Johnson	Scioto	166

Kyle Koehler	Clark	114
Al Landis	Tuscarawas	248
George Lang	Butler	182
Susan Manchester	Logan	150
Nathan H. Manning	Lorain	242
Rob McColley	Henry	294
Sandra O'Brien	Ashtabula	384
Thomas F. Patton	Cuyahoga	252
Bill Reineke	Seneca	174
Kristina D. Roegner	Summit	274
Mark Romanchuk	Richland	132
Tim Schaffer	Fairfield	64
Kent Smith	Cuyahoga	308
Casey Weinstein	Summit	266
Shane Wilkin	Highland	148
Steve Wilson	Warren	168

The question being, “Shall the resolution, **S. R. No. 2**, be adopted?

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 32, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antonio	Blackshear	Blessing	Brenner
Chavez	Cirino	Craig	Cutrona
DeMora	Gavarone	Hicks-Hudson	Huffman
Ingram	Johnson	Koehler	Landis
Lang	Liston	Manchester	Manning
O'Brien	Patton	Reineke	Reynolds
Roegner	Romanchuk	Schaffer	Smith
Weinstein	Wilkin	Wilson	McColley-32

So the resolution was adopted.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Blackshear, Cirino, DeMora, Ingram, Weinstein, Wilson."

The question being, “Shall the motion be agreed to?”

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

Gina Campbell performed God Bless America.

Benediction was offered by Pastor Peter Marcis, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio.

On the motion of Senator Reineke, the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

Attest: VINCENT L. KEERAN,
Clerk.