

**OHIO**

**SENATE**

**JOURNAL**

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021

FIRST DAY  
Senate Chamber, Columbus, Ohio  
**Monday, January 4, 2021, 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-Fourth General Assembly of the State of Ohio, met in the Senate Chamber and were called to order by Senator Larry Obhof, President of the One Hundred Thirty-Third General Assembly.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. LaMont Monford, Sr., Philippiian Baptist Church, Lima, Ohio.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of the Senators and Senators-Elect.

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-Fourth General Assembly, and the following named persons who were previously elected in 2018:

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

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

Third District - Composed of: Franklin (part) - Tina Maharath.

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

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

Sixth District - Composed of: Montgomery (part) - Niraj Antani.

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

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

Ninth District - Composed of: Hamilton (part) - Cecil Thomas.

Tenth District - Composed of: Clark, Greene, Madison – Bob Hackett.

Eleventh District - Composed of: Lucas (part) - Teresa Fedor.

Twelfth District - Composed of: Allen, Auglaize (part), Champaign, Darke (part), Logan (part), Mercer, Shelby – Matt Huffman.

Thirteenth District - Composed of: Huron, Lorain - Nathan H. Manning.

Fourteenth District - Composed of: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Lawrence

(part), Scioto - Terry Johnson.

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

Sixteenth District - Composed of: Franklin (part) - Stephanie Kunze.

Seventeenth District - Composed of: Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence (part), Pickaway (part), Pike, Ross, Vinton (part) - Bob Peterson.

Eighteenth District - Composed of: Geauga (part), Lake (part), Portage - Jerry Cirino.

Nineteenth District - Composed of: Delaware, Franklin (Part), Knox - Andrew O. Brenner.

Twentieth District - Composed of: Athens (part), Fairfield, Guernsey, Hocking, Morgan, Muskingum, Pickaway (part) - Tim Schaffer.

Twenty-First District - Composed of: Cuyahoga (part) - Sandra R. Williams.

Twenty-Second District - Composed of: Ashland, Holmes (part), Medina, Richland - Mark Romanchuk.

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

Twenty-Fourth District - Composed of: Cuyahoga (part) - Matt Dolan.

Twenty-Fifth District - Composed of: Cuyahoga (part), Lake (part) - Kenny Yuko.

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

Twenty-Seventh District - Composed of: Stark (part), Summit (part), Wayne - Kristina D. Roegner.

Twenty-Eighth District - Composed of: Summit (part) - Vernon Sykes.

Thirtieth District - Composed of: Athens (part), Belmont, Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, Meigs, Monroe, Noble, Vinton (part), Washington - Frank Hoagland.

Thirty-First District - Composed of: Coshocton, Holmes (part), Licking, Perry, Tuscarawas - Jay Hottinger.

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

Thirty-Third District - Composed of: Columbiana, Mahoning - Michael A. Rulli.

The members affiliated with the Republican party appeared at the bar of the Senate and were administered the oath of office by the Judge Mary Katherine Huffman, Judge of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas.

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

Senator Schuring moved that the oaths of office of absent members-elect be accepted and spread upon the pages of the journal.

The question being, "Shall the motion be agreed to?"

The motion was agreed to.

I, Matt Huffman, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio and will faithfully discharge and perform all of the duties incumbent upon me as a member of the Ohio Senate, according to the best of my ability and understanding and do this as I shall answer unto God.

/s/ **MATT HUFFMAN**

Matt Huffman

12th Senatorial District

SWORN to before me and subscribed in my presence this 8th day of December, 2020.

/s/ **JOHN W. BARRON**

John W. Barron

Chief of Staff and General Counsel

Ohio Senate

I, MATT DOLAN, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio and will faithfully discharge and perform all of the duties incumbent upon me as a member of the Ohio Senate, according to the best of my ability and understanding and do this as I shall answer unto God.

/s/ **MATT DOLAN**

Matt Dolan

24th Senatorial District

SWORN to before me and subscribed in my presence this 3rd day of January, 2021.

/s/ **WILLIAM A. TOMKO**

William A. Tomko

Mayor

Village of Chagrin Falls

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 Peterson to preside during the election of the President.

Senator Steve Huffman nominated Senator Matt Huffman of the Twelfth District for the office of President.

Senator Hoagland seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Matt Huffman 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

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.
Johnson	Kunze	Lang	Maharath
Manning	McColley	O'Brien	Peterson
Reineke	Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli
Schaffer	Schuring	Sykes	Thomas
Williams	Wilson		Yuko-31

Senator Matt Huffman having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected President.

Senator Peterson nominated Senator Jay Hottinger of the Thirty District for the office of President Pro Tempore.

Senator Gavarone seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Jay Hottinger be elected President Pro Tempore?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 30, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Huffman, S.	Johnson
Kunze	Lang	Maharath	Manning
McColley	O'Brien	Peterson	Reineke
Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer
Schuring	Sykes	Thomas	Williams
Wilson			Yuko-30

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

Senator Hackett nominated Senator Kirk Schuring of the Twenty-Ninth District for the office of Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Kunze seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Kirk Schuring be elected Majority Floor Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 30, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.
Johnson	Kunze	Lang	Maharath
Manning	McColley	O'Brien	Peterson
Reineke	Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli
Schaffer	Sykes	Thomas	Williams
Wilson			Yuko-30

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

Senator Gavarone nominated Senator Rob McColley of the First District for the office of Majority Whip.

Senator Rulli seconded the nomination.

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

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

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 30, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.
Johnson	Kunze	Lang	Maharath
Manning	O'Brien	Peterson	Reineke
Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer
Schuring	Sykes	Thomas	Williams
Wilson			Yuko-30

Senator Rob McColley 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 Mary Katherine Huffman, Judge of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas and Judge Denise McColley, Judge of the Henry County Court of Common Pleas.

Senator Thomas nominated Senator Kenny Yuko of the Twenty-Fifth District for the office of Minority Leader.

Senator Craig seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Kenny Yuko be elected Minority Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 30, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.
Johnson	Kunze	Lang	Maharath
Manning	McColley	O'Brien	Peterson
Reineke	Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli
Schaffer	Schuring	Sykes	Thomas
Williams			Wilson-30

Senator Kenny Yuko having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Minority Leader.

Senator Yuko nominated Senator Cecil Thomas of the Ninth District for the office of Assistant Minority Leader.

Senator Fedor seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Cecil Thomas be elected Assistant Minority Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 30, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.
Johnson	Kunze	Lang	Maharath
Manning	McColley	O'Brien	Peterson
Reineke	Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli
Schaffer	Schuring	Sykes	Williams
Wilson			Yuko-30

Senator Cecil Thomas having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Assistant Minority Leader.

Senator Williams nominated Senator Nickie Antonio of the Twenty-Third District for the office of Minority Whip.

Senator Fedor seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Nickie Antonio be elected Minority Whip?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 30, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Blessing	Brenner	Cirino
Craig	Fedor	Gavarone	Hackett
Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.	Johnson
Kunze	Lang	Maharath	Manning
McColley	O'Brien	Peterson	Reineke
Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer
Schuring	Sykes	Thomas	Williams
Wilson			Yuko-30

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



Senator Sykes nominated Senator Tina Maharath of the Third District for the office of Assistant Minority Whip.

Senator Williams seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Tina Maharath be elected Assistant Minority Whip?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted – yeas 30, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.
Johnson	Kunze	Lang	Manning
McColley	O'Brien	Peterson	Reineke
Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer
Schuring	Sykes	Thomas	Williams
Wilson			Yuko-30

Senator Tina Maharath 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, Ohio Supreme Court.

Senator Schuring nominated Vincent L. Keeran for the office of Clerk.

Senator Yuko seconded the nomination.

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

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

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

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.
Johnson	Kunze	Lang	Maharath
Manning	McColley	O'Brien	Peterson
Reineke	Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli
Schaffer	Schuring	Sykes	Thomas
Williams	Wilson		Yuko-31

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

Mr. Keeran appeared at the bar of the Senate and was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Kirk Schuring, Majority Floor Leader of the Ohio Senate.

Senator Schuring moved that the oath of office of the President be accepted and spread upon the pages of the journal.

The question being, "Shall the motion be agreed to?"

The motion was agreed to.

I, Matt Huffman, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio and will faithfully discharge and perform all of the duties incumbent upon me as President of the Ohio Senate, according to the best of my ability and understanding and do this as I shall answer unto God.

/s/ **MATT HUFFMAN**

Matt Huffman

12th Senatorial District

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 4th day of January, 2021.

/s/ **JOHN R. WILLIAMOWSKI**

John R. Williamowski

Judge

Ohio Third District Court of Appeals

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Thank you for honoring me with your votes for President of the Ohio Senate. I am very sorry I am not in attendance today, as I believe attendance is the foremost duty of everyone in any endeavor. For those of you who were breathing a sigh of relief at not having to hear a speech from me, I beg your pardon, and promise to keep this written version short.

I can honestly say that I have never before looked forward more happily to a professional challenge as I do now. I believe we have a singular opportunity to solve many current problems and to create a long lasting framework for good government.

To any member of the Senate, if there is a service I can provide you in my

position, you need only ask and, if I am fairly able to comply, I shall.

I have a few requests of each of my 32 colleagues:

I ask that you consider that we have unique control in the manner and tone in which this body operates. Those from all parts of the political spectrum understand that their aims are often more easily obtained if we disregard the proper and moral way to treat each other. When our passions are inflamed it is easy to do this.

I ask you, therefore, to refrain from excoriating each other. To first pause before considering requests by outside groups and individuals designed to embarrass or harass your colleagues. And finally to receive the well-meaning criticism and requests of each other in the vein in which they are intended.

When President Lincoln asked that the nation move forward with "malice toward none, with charity to all", the situation they were in was much more grave than anything in our recent past or our near future.

One author said of Lincoln that he had the ability to overcome egotism, to avoid taking things personally, to accept his shortcomings and those of others with equanimity. He was strong willed without being willful, righteous without being self-righteous, and moral without being moralistic.

These are lofty standards. But we have hindsight that Lincoln did not have. And more importantly, a fresh slate that the 134th General Assembly provides.

We may not have Lincoln in our midst, though he once roamed these grounds. But we are not prevented from being like Lincoln in the treatment of each other and the truth.

If you ever begin to doubt that you can live up to those high ideals, please remember: "With God, all things are possible."

## MOTIONS

Senator Rob McColley moved that Senators absent the week of Sunday, January 03, 2021, be excused, so long as a written explanation is on file with the Clerk pursuant to Senate Rule No. 17.

The question being, "Shall the motion be agreed to?"

The motion was agreed to.

**OFFERING OF RESOLUTIONS**

Senator Hottinger offered the following resolution:

**S. R. No. 1-Senator Hottinger.**

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 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.
Johnson	Kunze	Lang	Maharath
Manning	McColley	O'Brien	Peterson
Reineke	Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli
Schaffer	Schuring	Sykes	Thomas
Williams	Wilson		Yuko-31

So the resolution was adopted.

The question being, "Shall the title be agreed to?"

The title was agreed to.

Senator Hottinger offered the following resolution:

**S. R. No. 2-Senator Hottinger.**

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
Niraj Antani	Montgomery	164
Nickie J. Antonio	Cuyahoga	273
Louis W. Blessing, III	Hamilton	214
Andrew O. Brenner	Delaware	58
Jerry C. Cirino	Lake	322
Matt Dolan	Cuyahoga	296
Teresa Fedor	Lucas	300
Theresa Gavarone	Wood	240
Bob Hackett	Madison	56
Frank Hoagland	Jefferson	270
Jay Hottinger	Licking	78
Matt Huffman	Allen	180
Stephen A. Huffman	Miami	146
Terry Johnson	Scioto	166
George Lang	Butler	182
Nathan H. Manning	Lorain	242
Rob McColley	Henry	308
Sandra O'Brien	Ashtabula	384
Bob Peterson	Fayette	102
Bill Reineke	Seneca	174
Kristina D. Roegner	Summit	274

Mark Romanchuk	Richland	132
Michael A. Rulli	Columbiana	344
Tim Schaffer	Fairfield	64
Kirk Schuring	Stark	252
Vernon Sykes	Summit	250
Cecil Thomas	Hamilton	208
Sandra R. Williams	Cuyahoga	294
Steve Wilson	Warren	168
Kenny Yuko	Cuyahoga	300

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

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

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	Fedor	Gavarone
Hackett	Hoagland	Hottinger	Huffman, S.
Johnson	Kunze	Lang	Maharath
Manning	McColley	O'Brien	Peterson
Reineke	Roegner	Romanchuk	Rulli
Schaffer	Schuring	Sykes	Thomas
Williams	Wilson		Yuko-31

So the resolution was adopted.

The question being, "Shall the title be agreed to?"

The title was agreed to.

A benediction was offered by Rev. David M. Ross, Director of Community Engagement for Lima Central Catholic High School and Parochial Administrator of St. Rose and St. John Parishes in Lima, Ohio.

On the motion of Senator Schuring, the Senate adjourned until Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Attest:

VINCENT L. KEERAN,  
Clerk.