

OHIO

SENATE

JOURNAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023

FIRST DAY
Senate Chamber, Columbus, Ohio
Tuesday, January 3, 2023, 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-Fifth 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-Fourth General Assembly.

Prayer was offered by Rev. Dr. LaMont Monford, Sr., Philippian Baptist Church, Lima, Ohio. The colors were presented by the Ohio Air National Guard 179th Airlift 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 Lima Symphony Orchestra.

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-Fifth General Assembly, and the following named persons who were previously elected in 2020

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) – 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) - Niraj Antani.

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, Clark, Clinton – Bob Hackett.

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

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

Thirteenth District - Composed of: Erie (part), 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), Madison, Pickaway - Stephanie Kunze.

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 Cirino.

Nineteenth District - Composed of: Cochocton, 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) - Matt Dolan.

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: Stark (part), Summit (part) - Kristina D. Roegner.

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

Twenty-Ninth District - Composed of: Stark - Kirk Schuring.

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

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 - 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 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 Melody J. Stewart, Ohio Supreme Court.

Senator McColley moved that the oaths of office of absent members and 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, Vernon Sykes, 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/ **VERNON SYKES**

Vernon Sykes

28th Senatorial District

SWORN to before me and subscribed in my presence this 29th day of December, 2022.

/s/ **JUDGE DAVID HAMILTON**

David Hamilton

Judge

Akron Municipal Court

I, KIRK SCHURING, 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/ **KIRK SCHURING**

Kirk Schuring

29th Senatorial District

SWORN to before me and subscribed in my presence this 3rd day of January, 2023.

/s/ **WILLIAM COX**

William Cox

Deputy General Counsel

Ohio Senate

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 Hackett to preside during the election of the President.

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

Senator Dolan seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Matt Huffman be elected President?" 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	DeMora	Dolan
Gavarone	Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland
Huffman, S.	Ingram	Johnson	Kunze
Landis	Lang	Manning	McColley
O'Brien	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer	Smith
Wilkin			Wilson-30

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

Senator Hackett nominated Senator Kirk Schuring of the Twenty-Ninth District for the office of President Pro Tempore.

Senator Kunze seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Kirk Schuring 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

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	DeMora	Dolan
Gavarone	Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland
Huffman, S.	Ingram	Johnson	Kunze
Landis	Lang	Manning	McColley
O'Brien	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer	Smith
Wilkin	Wilson		Huffman, M.-31

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

The oath of office of the President Pro Tempore was spread upon the pages of the journal

I, Kirk Schuring, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United State, 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/ **KIRK SCHURING**
Kirk Schuring
29th Senatorial District

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 3rd day of January, 2023.

/s/ **WILLIAM COX**
William Cox
Deputy General Counsel
Ohio Senate

Senator Johnson nominated Senator Rob McColley of the First District for the office of Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Reineke seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator McColley 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	DeMora	Dolan
Gavarone	Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland
Huffman, S.	Ingram	Johnson	Kunze
Landis	Lang	Manning	O'Brien
Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner	Romanchuk
Rulli	Schaffer	Smith	Wilkin
Wilson			Huffman, M.-30

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

Senator Rulli nominated Senator Theresa Gavarone of the Second District for the office of Majority Whip.

Senator Reynolds seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Theresa Gavarone 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	DeMora	Dolan
Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland	Huffman, S.
Ingram	Johnson	Kunze	Landis
Lang	Manning	McColley	O'Brien
Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner	Romanchuk
Rulli	Schaffer	Smith	Wilkin
Wilson			Huffman, M.-30

Senator Theresa Gavarone 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 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 DeMora, 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 30, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Blessing	Brenner	Cirino
Craig	DeMora	Dolan	Gavarone
Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland	Huffman, S.
Ingram	Johnson	Kunze	Landis
Lang	Manning	McColley	O'Brien
Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner	Romanchuk
Rulli	Schaffer	Smith	Wilkin
Wilson			Huffman, M.-30

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 Smith seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator DeMora, 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 30, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	DeMora	Dolan	Gavarone
Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland	Huffman, S.
Ingram	Johnson	Kunze	Landis
Lang	Manning	McColley	O'Brien
Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner	Romanchuk
Rulli	Schaffer	Smith	Wilkin
Wilson			Huffman, M.-30

Senator Hearcel F. Craig having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Assistant Minority Leader.

Senator Hicks-Hudson nominated Senator Kent Smith of the Twenty-First

District for the office of Minority Whip.

Senator Craig seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Kent Smith 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	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	DeMora	Dolan
Gavarone	Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland
Huffman, S.	Ingram	Johnson	Kunze
Landis	Lang	Manning	McColley
O'Brien	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer	Wilkin
Wilson			Huffman, M.-30

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

Senator Smith nominated Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson of the Eleventh District for the office of Assistant Minority Whip.
Senator Craig seconded the nomination.

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

The question being, "Shall Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson 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	DeMora	Dolan
Gavarone	Hackett	Hoagland	Huffman, S.
Ingram	Johnson	Kunze	Landis
Lang	Manning	McColley	O'Brien
Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner	Romanchuk
Rulli	Schaffer	Smith	Wilkin
Wilson			Huffman, M.-30

Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson 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 Melody J. Stewart of the Ohio Supreme Court.

President Huffman nominated Vincent L. Keeran for the office of Clerk. Senator Antonio seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Gavarone, 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	DeMora	Dolan
Gavarone	Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland
Huffman, S.	Ingram	Johnson	Kunze
Landis	Lang	Manning	McColley
O'Brien	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer	Smith
Wilkin	Wilson		Huffman, M.-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 Matt Huffman, President of the Ohio Senate.

MOTIONS

Senator Gavarone moved that Senators absent the week of Sunday, January 01, 2023, 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 Schuring offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 1-Senator Schuring.

Cosponsors: Senators Antonio.

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	DeMora	Dolan
Gavarone	Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland
Huffman, S.	Ingram	Johnson	Kunze
Landis	Lang	Manning	McColley
O'Brien	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer	Smith
Wilkin	Wilson		Huffman, M.-31

So the resolution was adopted.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Cirino, Craig, Hackett, Hicks-Hudson, Hoagland, Johnson, Landis, Lang, McColley, O'Brien, Reineke, Rulli, Wilson."

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

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

Senator Schuring offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 2-Senator Schuring.

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
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
Theresa Gavarone	Wood	240
Bob Hackett	Madison	56
Frank Hoagland	Jefferson	270
Matt Huffman	Allen	180
Stephen A. Huffman	Miami	146
Catherine D. Ingram	Hamilton	210
Terry Johnson	Scioto	166
Al Landis	Tuscarawas	248
George Lang	Butler	182
Nathan H. Manning	Lorain	242
Rob McColley	Henry	308
Sandra O'Brien	Ashtabula	384
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
Kent Smith	Cuyahoga	308

Vernon Sykes	Summit	250
Shane Wilkin	Highland	162
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 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Antani	Antonio	Blessing	Brenner
Cirino	Craig	DeMora	Dolan
Gavarone	Hackett	Hicks-Hudson	Hoagland
Huffman, S.	Ingram	Johnson	Kunze
Landis	Lang	Manning	McColley
O'Brien	Reineke	Reynolds	Roegner
Romanchuk	Rulli	Schaffer	Smith
Wilkin	Wilson		Huffman, M.-31

So the resolution was adopted.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Antonio, Cirino, Hackett, Hoagland, Landis, McColley, Rulli, Wilson."

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

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

Senator Huffman, M. offered the following concurrent resolution:

S. C. R. No. 1-Senator Huffman, M.

Cosponsors: Senators Antonio.

Relative to convening in Joint Convention

BE IT RESOLVED, That the two houses of the General Assembly convene in joint convention on January 3, 2023, at 4:30 p.m., under Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Ohio and section 3505.34 of the Ohio Revised Code, to witness the opening, announcing, and canvassing of the abstracts of the votes cast for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor of State, Treasurer of State, and Attorney General at the general election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2022.

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

So the concurrent resolution was adopted.

The title was amended as follows:

Add the names: "Cirino, Hackett, Johnson, Rulli."

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

The motion was agreed to and the title so amended.

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 McColley, the Senate recessed until 4:15 p.m.

The Senate met pursuant to the recess.

Message from the House of Representatives

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives is now in session and ready for the transaction of business.

Attest:

Bradley J. Young,
Clerk.

Message from the House of Representatives

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform you that the House of Representatives has concurred in the adoption of the following concurrent resolution:

S. C. R. No. 1 -Senator Huffman, M.

Cosponsor: Senator Antonio, Cirino, Hackett, Johnson, Rulli

Relative to convening in Joint Convention.

Attest:

Bradley J. Young,
Clerk.

On the motion of Senator McColley, the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Attest:

VINCENT L. KEERAN,
Clerk.