

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.
IN JOINT SESSION.**



THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2023.

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.
IN JOINT SESSION.

Thursday, January 5, 2023.

At four minutes before twelve o'clock noon, the two branches met in

Joint Session.

CONVENTION

in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of administering the oath of office to the Governor-elect, the Lieutenant Governor-elect and the several Councilors-elect, and were called to order by the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate.

Remarks of Senate President Karen E. Spilka.

This first joint meeting of the 193rd General Court.

Welcome to the members of House and Senate - particularly to our new members - to our first joint meeting of the 193rd General Court. Congratulations, it's a very exciting time full hope and opportunity.

Welcome also to family, friends, and distinguished guests of the Governor-elect and Lieutenant Governor-elect.

Today is a historic day in our Commonwealth's history.

As only the third woman Senate President in our history, it is a distinct honor and privilege to administer the oath of office to the first woman elected Governor of the Commonwealth – and the first woman team of Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

We should not let this moment pass without recognizing the contributions of generations of women who paved the way, who never stopped hoping for – or working towards – this momentous occasion.

Order Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Brownsberger,--

Ordered, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to wait upon the Governor-elect, the Lieutenant Governor-elect and the several Councilors-elect and inform them that the two branches of the General Court are now in convention for the purpose of administering oaths required to qualify them for the discharge of the duties of their offices.

Notify Governor.

Senators Creem of Norfolk and Middlesex, DiDomenico of Middlesex and Suffolk, Kennedy of First Worcester, Miranda of Second Suffolk and O'Connor of First Plymouth and Norfolk were appointed to the committee on the part of the Senate; Representatives Gregoire of Marlborough, Peake of Provincetown, Moran of Boston, Peisch of Wellesley, Fluker Oakley of Boston, Fiola of Fall River, Gonzalez of Springfield, Balsler of Newton, Day of Stoneham, Nguyen of Andover, Hogan of Stow, Kane of Shrewsbury, Ferguson of Holden and Gifford of Wareham were appointed to the committee on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Ms. Creem and Ms. Gregoire, for the said committee, reported that the Governor-elect, Lieutenant Governor-elect and the Councillors elect were

duly notified.

Subsequently, the Governor-elect, the Lieutenant-Governor-elect and the Councillors-elect, and William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, entered the Chamber, under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Presentation of Colors.

The President then introduced the Massachusetts State Police Color Guard and the National Guard Honor Guard, who presented the colors.

Presentation of colors.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The President then introduced the following Gold Star families who led the Convention in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Gold Star wife Patricia Sherman and Gold Star daughter Skylab May-Marie Sherman of Plymouth, family of Sergeant Benjamin Sherman, killed in action, Afghanistan, Gold Star sister Maura Durkin of Quincy, family of Corporal Ciara Durkin, Afghanistan, Gold Star parents Ernesto and Maria Cordoba of Taunton, family of Private First Class Aaron Cordoba Martinez, Global War on Terrorism Gold Star aunt Tanisha Meranda of Malden and Gold Star brother Kato Wise of Boston, family of Specialist Raymond Wise, Kuwait and Gold Star wife Peggy Griffin of Wellesley, family of Specialist Charles Sabatier, Jr., Vietnam.

Pledge of allegiance.

National Anthem.

The President then introduced Lydia Harrell, instructor and alumnus of the Berklee School of Music who sang the National Anthem.

National Anthem.

Invocation.

The invocation was offered by Bishop John M. Borders III from the Morning Star Baptist Church in Boston, as follows:

Invocation.

Almighty and Sovereign God, creator of new beginnings, we assemble for this historic event-the inauguration of Maura Tracy Healey as 73rd governor of Massachusetts. We praise your holy and righteous name because you are doing a new thing. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, State Treasurer, State Auditor as well as the Mayor of Boston are all women. You promised in the last days to pour out your Spirit on all flesh, sons and daughters old and young You chose a daughter of working parents and five brothers and sisters to become a daughter of democracy.

Lord, Maura may be small in stature, but she is a giant in spirit.

Bless Maura Healey with the calm, the consideration, and the courage to help construct a better quality of life for everyone across the social and political spectrum. Use Maura Healey to heal the wounds of division, discrimination, and desperation across our state. Afford Maura Healey the favor to champion the cause of diversity, equality, and justice for all. And empower Maura Healey to unite all of us from Mattapoissett to Mattapan for better education, better housing and healthcare, economic opportunity and ending violence.

Jesus said, "*Work while it is day for the night is coming when no one can work.*"

Governor-Elect Maura Tracy Healey is ready, willing, and able to work for all the people of Massachusetts and we are ready to work with her.

Lord, end war and bring peace,

In the Spirit of the Christ we pray,

Amen

Oaths of Office.

Before the President of the Senate, and in the presence of the two Houses of Assembly, the oaths and affirmations of office were then administered to, and subscribed by Joseph C. Ferreira of Somerset, Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney of Watertown, Christopher A. Iannella, Jr. of Boston, Eileen R. Duff of Gloucester, Terrence W. Kennedy of Lynnfield, Paul DePalo of Worcester and Tara J. Jacobs of North Adams , as Councillors, at twenty-seven minutes past twelve o'clock noon.

Executive Councillors,--
oath of office.

Before the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and in the presence of the two Houses of Assembly, the oaths and affirmation of office were then administered to, and subscribed by Her Honor Kim Driscoll, as Lieutenant-Governor, at a half past twelve o'clock noon.

Lieutenant Governor,--
oath of office.

Before the President of the Senate, and in the presence of the two Houses of Assembly, the oaths and affirmations of office were then administered to, and subscribed by, Her Excellency Maura Healey, as Governor, at twenty-six minutes before one o'clock P.M.

Governor,--
oath of office.

After the certification of the oaths of office by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, a proclamation was made by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Proclamation.

Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll then addressed the convention, as follows (see Senate, No. 2):

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR KIM DRISCOLL

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Madam President, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature.

Governor Healey, Madame Chief Justice, members of our Judiciary, and members of the Governor's Council. Our incoming and outgoing Constitutional Officers and Cabinet Secretaries. Distinguished guests, family and friends.

Lieutenant-Governor Kim Driscoll,--
Inaugural Address.

It is the honor of a lifetime for this Navy brat, public higher ed grad, and Gateway City Mayor to be standing here as your Lieutenant Governor.

Thank you all for being here to mark this historic moment.

I'm so grateful to have members of my family here to share in this special day. My 89 year old Navy veteran father, Fred, flew in for this occasion along with my sister Chrystal, my niece, Aunts, uncles and cousins who are here from near and far. Thank you for being here.

And I owe a special debt of appreciation and thanks to my husband Nick and our kids Delaney, Ailish, and Nicky. You have always been there for me. Thank you for your patience, sacrifices, and all your help. I wouldn't be here without your love and support. I'm grateful and I love you.

Thank you to the talented individuals and groups who have honored us with their presence and performances today.

I also want to recognize members of the military, our Gold Star and bereaved military families, including members of the Ayube family who came here today from Salem.

To Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Murphy –

To Governor Jane Swift –

To Senate President Terry Murray –

To the dozens of women who I have not named but who have created a pathway in your fearlessness. You have my immense gratitude and great respect. Maura and I are honored to walk in the path you blazed. Thank you.

As we embark on the start of a new Administration, we begin on strong footing

thanks to the work of Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito.

At a time when our national politics are moving in the other direction, they chose a bipartisan, people-centered approach and governed with a wide lens, a big heart and an open mind.

I know both Governor Healey and I want to extend our gratitude for their support, encouragement and collaboration throughout the transition.

Please join me in thanking them for their years of dedicated service to our Commonwealth.

Madam President and Mister Speaker, the steady hands of this Legislature have helped to ensure that Massachusetts is not just surviving, but thriving in the face of today's global challenges. With your leadership, our state has provided safe haven and secured record resources to invest back into improving the quality of life in all our communities.

Thank you, the members of this Legislature from throughout our amazing Commonwealth, for the work you do every day. We are so grateful to join you in service to this place we are all fortunate enough to call home.

And to my partner and teammate ... Madam Governor! I really like the sound of that.

It is my great honor to make history with you, my friend. The voters have entrusted us with a tremendous responsibility and an awesome opportunity. Like so many residents of our Commonwealth, I've been inspired by your work as the People's Lawyer and I am thrilled to be by your side as you serve as the People's Governor.

Many of you know me as the Mayor of Salem and having served as a local leader from the 'get stuff done' branch of government for the last 17 years, I know firsthand that what happens in this building impacts the quality of life of the people who live within our 351 cities and towns.

Mayors and local officials are on the front lines doing some of the most important work residents rely on - educating our kids; keeping our neighborhoods safe; investing in the places where we make memories and supporting healthy and vibrant communities.

Good cities and good towns, they don't happen by accident. It takes intentional and thoughtful leadership and a whole lot of hard work and collaboration - among state and federal governments, private and public sector partners, and institutions of all sizes and magnitude.

Those of us in this room elected to represent people throughout Massachusetts know that it's possible to meet our collective needs in housing, in education, in transportation and climate. After all, we're a state with a rich history of firsts - from sparking a revolution at home to sharing life-saving vaccines around the world.

Now, more than ever in our state's history, we must lean into our roots and embrace the opportunities to grow, change, innovate - to bring people together in advancement of our shared vision.

THAT is the promise of Governor Healey and THAT is what we are committed to delivering with you every day - these next four years.

It can't be overstated that Massachusetts is at an important inflection point as we turn the corner on the pandemic. Our ability to support thriving communities - and, as a result, have a thriving Commonwealth - will require a new commitment to embracing necessary change as we transition into a new America - one where you don't have to live in the same place you work, where long, congested commutes, expensive housing and childcare shouldn't dictate where you grow your roots, start your business, age or retire.

Simply stated, we can't be a thriving state if we're not meeting our housing and transportation needs; if we're not addressing education and childcare inequities; or leading the nation and frankly the world when it comes to clean energy, life sciences and advanced manufacturing.

The next 4 years are critical. A robust Massachusetts economy is not automatic and despite strong fiscal balances, we're still leaving too many folks behind.

The upshot is we have the tools right here to make a meaningful impact on our most pressing challenges and we're ready to get stuff done.

I am grateful that the people of Salem put their faith in me 17 years ago - an underdog candidate in a city that had never voted to put a woman in charge, let alone someone who hadn't grown up there. My dad, sitting proudly up there, he was a chef in the Navy. My mom was from Trinidad. I was born in Hawaii and, as a military family, we moved quite a bit.

But it wasn't until I came to Salem and got the chance to attend public college at Salem State that I finally felt like I had a home town. Like many of you, I could have called anywhere home after graduating but I fell in love with this place.

This amazing tapestry of people and places called Massachusetts.

Rich with history and natural beauty, a restlessness that comes when there's an abundance of energy and ideas filling a place...a unique cultural vibrancy that runs through our great sports teams and our classical musical halls. And most importantly, the people – their values, compassion, intelligence, creativity – always striving to do better – that's what made me want to call this place home.

And it's why I care about making our collective communities, our state, a better place for people to live and work, to go to school, to start a business, to raise a family and to grow old with dignity.

Governor Healey and I stand before you today with hope and gratitude.

We are excited to get to work with our new cabinet, and with all of you to build on our current success; to bring people together toward an aligned vision for a Commonwealth that works for and welcomes all.

It's truly an honor.

Now, let's get to work.

Thank you.

Her Excellency the Governor Maura Healey, thereupon submitted her address upon the general concerns of the Commonwealth, as follows (see Senate, No. 1):

GOVERNOR MAURA HEALEY

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Mr. Speaker, Madame President, and members of the Legislature,
Madame Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary, Members of the Governor's Council and the Cabinet, Former Governors, First responders, members of the armed services, veterans, and distinguished guests, Residents of our beloved Commonwealth,

We gather today to transfer the power of government and to renew the miracle of democracy.

We gather in the public trust, and commit ourselves once more to the work of the people.

I thank Governor Baker, who has led this Commonwealth with a steady hand. He has governed with integrity and care — eager to study problems and work together on solutions. The example he set for eight years was in the best traditions of public service, and it now becomes his legacy. Governor Baker, I thank you, and

Governor Maura T.
Healey,--
Inaugural Address.

our state thanks you.

I thank Kim Driscoll, the best teammate I could ask for. In Salem, she has led with an eye to the future — protecting the coastal treasure of our state, and making sure we preserve it for generations to come. Kim, I can't wait to get to work.

I thank my family, many of whom are with me in this chamber. And so many teachers, coaches, mentors, and friends, who are in my heart.

I assume this office with humility — mindful of the weight of history and lightened by the gift of gratitude. It is the honor of my life to lead this state.

My family's story is a Massachusetts story, more than three centuries in the telling. My ancestors landed on a river bank in Newbury. On the journey they were borne along by dreams of greater freedom, and hope for the blessings of life. Decades later, in the Massachusetts Constitution — the first of its kind — those same dreams were written into a covenant and protected for all time. A model for a young nation.

My great-great-grandfather grew up in Newburyport. When he was 16, his father signed a permission slip so he could fight for the Union in the Civil War. My grandmother as a young girl would visit the Grand Army of the Republic Hall to hear their stories, and she'd later share them with my brothers and sisters and me. I think about them as I look at the servicemembers here and honor the sacrifices they make each day.

My grandparents met on the fishing docks in a Gloucester summer. She was in nursing school; he worked at the GE factory. Later, when I was to be born at a naval hospital in Maryland, they worried that I wasn't starting my life on Massachusetts soil. So she dug up a little dirt from the woodlot, caught a plane, sneaked into the hospital room, and put the little bag under the delivery table.

Massachusetts is my home. Its natural gifts take my breath away, and its people fill me with inspiration in return. The majesty of Mount Greylock and the hairpin turn at North Adams on the Mohawk Trail. The light at Cape Ann and the cranberry bogs of Plymouth. The port of New Bedford and the sparkling waters of the Quabbin. Long Point Peninsula and the Boston harbor islands guiding us on a flight home.

We share a legacy in this state. Our nation was born here, not with a whimper but with the spark of revolution. A hunger for something new and a demand for something better. We established the first public park and the first American public library. The first American lighthouse, railroad, and subway. The first basketball game.

Our state Constitution recognized our natural and essential rights and declared them to the world. The people of Massachusetts have always believed in protecting these rights, and dedicating them to a higher purpose. We were the first to guarantee that health care is universal, and, twenty years ago now, that love is, too. It is in that spirit of common humanity that I stand before you today, representing another historic first.

This state achieves its higher purpose when the bedrock of individual freedom meets the bond of the public spirit. This is our common wealth, in the truest sense — equally ours, equally yours, whether your Massachusetts story began in an older time or in our own time.

This is why people come to Massachusetts. To write their own story, to become their own first, to take up the common good.

What do they see?

They see the shared heritage of our beautiful land. They see a call to higher learning, to enlightenment. They see research and innovation, joined to build a better future. They see culture and charity. They see the granite dignity of hard work and an everlasting commitment to equality. They see people reaching for something

better, something more.

But they also see barriers that are holding back our people and our state. Keeping just out of reach what might be, what could be.

We have untold wealth in Massachusetts. But record public revenue does little good when families can't pay the rent, or buy a house, or heat their homes, or hire childcare.

Our health system is the envy of the world. Yet our hospitals are desperate for staff. Patients are boarding in emergency rooms — spending hours and days in an agonizing wait for care. We sense the shadows of a mental health crisis, and too many suffering from substance use.

Our companies are eager to expand, but they can't find workers with the skills they need.

Communities and people are yearning to grow and thrive, but they haven't been given the tools to do it.

This is the greatest state in the union. But people are leaving at some of the highest rates in the country. Giving up on the Massachusetts story.

All this would be challenge enough at any time. But we meet today as our state and our country feel their way toward the other side of the Covid pandemic. This crisis has brought out and lifted up the best of our state. Our companies, our ingenuity, created vaccines and saved lives. We came together, all of us, with courage and caring, patience and persistence.

Together we are healing, but we must acknowledge the scars. Our people have lost loved ones. Their lives and livelihoods have been disrupted. The toll on our physical and mental health is real. The pandemic exposed and widened gaps in learning and health care and equity.

I also think people are tired. We can speak honestly about that. We've come through difficult days.

But here's what you and I both know.

The people of Massachusetts are resourceful. And resolute. And hopeful. They're ready for what comes next. They're ready to walk forward. We just have to set the path. We just have to light the way.

If we do this right — if we act and choose in a way worthy of this state's proud history and its great people — we will make a difference right now. And we will lay a foundation of success for generations to come.

So let's chart a path forward, and walk it together. Into the next chapter of our Massachusetts story.

Many challenges are before us, but let's start here.

We love this state because it's our home. A home for us all.

We want people to come here. And we want people who grow up here to stay here. Our country looks on Massachusetts as a gleaming example of liberty and equality and success. But too many states are beginning to pass us by.

We have to make Massachusetts a place that people can afford to call home. Our people can't realize their dreams until we end the nightmare of high costs.

The average rent in our state is 50% higher than the national average. We have some of the lowest homeownership rates and some of the highest housing prices.

Now, one reason for this is that Massachusetts is a great place to be. People do want to live here. That's a good thing. But the cost of housing is also out of control because we simply don't have enough of it. If we want Massachusetts to be a home for all, we need to build more places to live, and we need to make sure those homes are within reach.

High housing costs are unacceptable for our people, our businesses, and our

state's future. To fix that, we need to think big. We will build a state with room for all its people.

To lead this effort, in my first 100 days, I will file legislation to create a Secretary of Housing. The Secretary will work across government and support every city and town, to make sure we meet our goals.

We'll use property that belongs to the people ... to help the people. I've already directed my Secretary of Administration and Finance to identify unused state-owned land and facilities that we can turn into rental housing or homes within one year.

We'll get first-time homebuyers the help they need, and reduce costs for renters by expanding tax deductions.

This is a fine start, but we need to do more — and we need your help. We rise and fall as a state with the choices and commitments of every neighborhood. Today I'm asking every citizen to join this cause. That means building more housing next to transit hubs, taking another look at zoning, and preserving the housing we already have.

Loosening the grip of rising costs also means tax reform. I know the Speaker and Senate President share this goal, and I thank them for that.

I've already proposed a child tax credit for every child, for every family. The legislature also put forward several worthy tax cut proposals during the last legislative session.

This would mean real relief for the people who need it most. Let's get this done.

The strength of Massachusetts is its families. And they sorely need our help. Our state has some of the highest childcare costs in the country. Our care workers don't make a livable wage.

So today, let us pledge to be the first state to solve the childcare crisis. Let's finally pass legislation in line with Common Start to make sure every family pays what they can afford, and that care workers are paid what they deserve. This is something our families, workers, and businesses all agree on.

We also need to build a Massachusetts economy for the future.

We can't lead tomorrow if we settle for what's good enough today. To keep attracting the best workers in the world, our economy has to compete.

Let me speak directly to the business community. You help drive our economy and you will help build our future. In me, you will have a partner every step of the way.

That begins with making sure you have the work force you need. Tens of thousands of jobs in health care, transportation, and technology are going unfilled because the skills of our workers don't match the demands of our economy. Let's work with our community colleges and vocational schools, and make sure the training we offer meets the needs of our companies in every region.

In my first budget, I will create and fund a new program called MassReconnect. This will offer free community college to students over 25 who don't have a college degree. We'll also enhance early college opportunities and increase funding to our state university system so everyone can afford a higher degree.

What we're talking about is an investment — and it's the most precious kind because it's an investment in our people.

But it can't wait until college. We must make Massachusetts a place where every child — every child — can reach their potential. The first free public school in America was established in our state almost 400 years ago. Public education has been guaranteed ever since. Today, we need an equal guarantee for our children: That we will continue to offer not just an education but the best education.

That means funding the Student Opportunity Act to make sure every student

and every school gets the resources they deserve. It means doing more for mental health care and food security. Our students can't reach their potential if they are homeless or hungry or suffering from untreated mental illness.

To support our state, we have to support our children. And we will.

Ensuring we have the best workforce also means ensuring our workers have the training and protections they deserve, and workers will have a partner and a seat at the table every step of the way.

Now, we can't get our state where it needs to go until our people can get where they need to go.

And let's face it: The state of our trains and roads and bridges today is unacceptable.

Let's acknowledge that we can't have a functioning economy without a functioning T. So I will appoint a GM with deep experience and a laser focus on making our transit safe and reliable. In the next 60 days, we'll appoint a Safety Chief to inspect our system, top to bottom and track by track.

We know the MBTA is woefully understaffed — and we know that lack of staffing has had grave consequences. My first budget will include funding to hire 1000 additional workers focused on the operation of the MBTA within the first year of our administration.

The roads and bridges that get us from here to there are falling apart. Billions of dollars in federal funding are available to fix it, but we are competing with every state for those dollars. So I am forming an interagency task force — the first of its kind — to compete for federal infrastructure money.

We want to win every available dollar for shovel-ready projects across our state.

The people of this state deserve the best transportation system we can offer. So let's build it.

Finally, our greatest strength is our people, but we can not reach our potential as a state when so many are held back from reaching their own. People of color, people with disabilities, women, LGBT residents - they continue to face barriers that have held them back for generations.

We must center equity in all we do. I will be directing each agency in my administration to conduct a full equity audit. Let Massachusetts be the place that shines a light on every systemic barrier, and then does the hard work to break them down. Because that's who we are.

I've talked about our shared history, the pride of this state and every citizen. Now we must devote ourselves to cherishing and protecting our shared future — and meeting the climate crisis.

Let me be clear about this. Where others may see hopelessness and resignation, I see unparalleled opportunity. We can protect our climate and create jobs. It's not too late to do either. It's urgent that we do both. And I believe Massachusetts can lead the world.

The legislature has already laid out ambitious goals. I share that ambition. I've pledged to double our offshore wind and solar targets, and quadruple our energy storage deployment. In transportation, we will electrify our public fleet, and put a million electric vehicles on the road by 2030.

Meeting these goals will take unprecedented focus, and a leader who can get the job done. Tomorrow, I am submitting an executive order to create the country's first Cabinet-level climate chief — reporting directly to me. She will work across government and with every city and town to meet our climate goals and achieve our economic potential.

We will match our ambitions with our investments. For the first time in our

state's history, we will commit at least 1% of the state budget to environmental and energy agencies. We will triple the budget of the Clean Energy Center. We'll create a Green Bank to foster investment in resilient infrastructure and attract new businesses to Massachusetts.

I know we can do this. Over a decade ago, Governor Patrick and the legislature made a bet on life sciences in this state — offering funding and support and leadership to make Massachusetts a leader in biotech. Now, the results are nothing short of remarkable.

Let's commit to making climate innovation our next big investment, our next first, our next frontier.

Let's build a Climate Corridor that stretches from the Berkshires to Barnstable harnessing research, innovation and manufacturing. We'll create thousands of new jobs in clean tech and blue tech, coastal resiliency, and environmental justice. And I believe 10 years from now, we will look back and see the undeniable benefits for our workers, our economy, and our planet.

We can do this. We will do this.

The plans I've just described to you are bold. And I'm mindful of the moment. This is a time in our nation of poisoned discourse and ugly politics. Governors are using people — using children — as props for their cynical political agendas. Elected officials are putting partisanship over the interests of the people they serve.

But not in Massachusetts. That's not who we are.

In Massachusetts, we come together. We lift people up. And we lead.

No matter what challenges we face, no matter what lies ahead, we will stay true to the best of ourselves. We will act with empathy and with equity. We will work together.

As your Governor, I can promise you that these principles will be my North Star.

Let the word go out to people and businesses here and in every part of this country. In Massachusetts, you are welcomed. You are included. You are protected.

This is a state where we will never relinquish the right to reproductive freedom. Where we prize and protect human rights. And civil rights. And gay rights. And equality. And democracy.

That is the Massachusetts we love. And we will make it stronger than ever before.

I think about the people arriving in Massachusetts just today, just now, to make a go of it. Their hopes echo back through our history. Their dreams are the dreams of those who came before me. To live in freedom and equality. In safety and in happiness. To go forward with grateful hearts and pursue the blessings of life.

Those are the words of our state Constitution. Perhaps the proudest of our many firsts.

I assume this office as the first woman and first gay person elected governor of our state.

But every one of us, every citizen, is a first. You may be a first-generation immigrant, choosing Massachusetts as the foundation of your American dream. You may be the first in your family to go to college, or to send your child there. The first in your neighborhood to start a business.

In this state, we are all trailblazers. We are all leaders. That's why we live in Massachusetts.

What story will we write together?

Today is a day to celebrate, to think about how far we've come and where we need to go.

UNCORRECTED PROOF.

But I'm even more excited about tomorrow. Because tomorrow we get to work. We get to work in the greatest state, for the greatest people, at a moment when we can make the greatest difference — now and for a generation to come.

So with great optimism and pride, I thank you all, and now let's come together and get this done.

God bless you, and God bless this Commonwealth.

Thank you.

A proclamation was issued by William F. Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth attesting to the election and swearing-in of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and the several Councillors.

Qualification of
Governor and
Lieutenant-Governor.

Benediction.

The benediction was given by Bishop John M. Borders III from the Morning Star Baptist Church in Boston, as follows:

Benediction.

To the new Healey- Driscoll Administration, to all the officers and members of the House and Senate, to the all those who work in Massachusetts state government, I offer you the blessings of the apostle Paul.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 NIV: Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.

Amen.

Berklee College of Music graduate, Precious Perez, performed *America the Beautiful*.

Precious Perez.

Her Excellency the Governor, Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor, the Constitutional Officers and the Honorable Executive Council then withdrew from the Joint Session, under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Withdrawal from
Chamber.

On motion of Mrs. Creem, at twenty-five minutes before two o'clock P.M., the Convention of the Two Branches was dissolved; and the Senate withdrew from the Joint Session, under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.