
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020.

[125]*

JOURNAL OF THE HOUSE.

Wednesday, December 30, 2020.

Election of Speaker.

The Clerk announced that as a consequence of the resignation of Representative Robert A. DeLeo, as Speaker of the House and as a Representative in the General Court, a vacancy had occurred in the office of Speaker of the House.

Election of Speaker.

The House then was called to order at nineteen minutes before one o'clock P.M., by Representative Angelo M. Scaccia of Boston (a member of the House from 1973 to 1978, inclusive, and also from 1981 to 2020, inclusive), the oldest senior member present.

At the request of the Chair (Mr. Scaccia), the members, guests and employees joined with him in reciting the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Wagner of Chicopee,—

Ordered, That the House proceed to the election of a Speaker and that the election be held in the following manner: The roll shall be called by the Clerk by Division, and each Division Monitor shall report to the Clerk how each member participating remotely in their portion of the division responds to their name by announcing the name of the member for whom the member participating remotely votes; provided, however, that members physically present in the Chamber may respond when their name is called by the Clerk with the name of the member for whom they vote; and provided further that the Clerk shall repeat the name of the member voting and the name of the member for whom that member votes.

Election of Speaker.

The roll was called; and the following named members voted for Ronald Mariano of Quincy:

Arciero, James	LaNatra, Kathleen R.
Ashe, Brian M.	Lawn, John J., Jr.
Ayers, Bruce J.	LeBoeuf, David Henry Argosky
Balser, Ruth B.	Lewis, Jack Patrick
Barber, Christine P.	Linsky, David Paul
Barrett, John, III	Lipper-Garabedian, Kate
Biele, David	Livingstone, Jay D.
Blais, Natalie M.	Madaro, Adrian C.
Cabral, Antonio F. D.	Mahoney, John J.
Cahill, Daniel	Malia, Elizabeth A.
Campbell, Linda Dean	Mariano, Ronald
Capano, Peter	Mark, Paul W.
Carey, Daniel R.	Markey, Christopher M.
Cassidy, Gerard J.	McGonagle, Joseph W., Jr.
Chan, Tackey	McMurtry, Paul
Ciccolo, Michelle	Meschino, Joan
Connolly, Mike	Michlewitz, Aaron

Coppinger, Edward F.
 Cronin, Claire D.
 Cusack, Mark J.
 Cutler, Josh S.
 Day, Michael S.
 Decker, Marjorie C.
 Devers, Marcos A.
 Doherty, Carol A.
 Domb, Mindy
 Donahue, Daniel M.
 Donato, Paul J.
 Driscoll, William J., Jr.
 DuBois, Michelle M.
 Dykema, Carolyn C.
 Ehrlich, Lori A.
 Elugardo, Nika C.
 Farley-Bouvier, Tricia
 Fernandes, Dylan A.
 Ferrante, Ann-Margaret
 Finn, Michael J.
 Fiola, Carole A.
 Galvin, William C.
 Garballey, Sean
 Garlick, Denise C.
 Garry, Colleen M.
 Gentile, Carmine Lawrence
 Golden, Thomas A., Jr.
 González, Carlos
 Gordon, Kenneth I.
 Gregoire, Danielle W.
 Haddad, Patricia A.
 Haggerty, Richard M.
 Hawkins, James K.
 Hay, Stephan
 Hendricks, Christopher
 Higgins, Natalie M.
 Hogan, Kate
 Holmes, Russell E.
 Honan, Kevin G.
 Hunt, Daniel J.
 Kafka, Louis L.
 Kearney, Joseph Patrick
 Keefe, Mary S.
 Khan, Kay

Minicucci, Christina A.
 Miranda, Liz
 Mom, Rady
 Moran, Frank A.
 Moran, Michael J.
 Murphy, James M.
 Murray, Brian W.
 Nangle, David M.
 Naughton, Harold P., Jr.
 Nguyen, Tram T.
 O'Day, James J.
 Parisella, Jerald A.
 Peake, Sarah K.
 Peisch, Alice Hanlon
 Petrolati, Thomas M.
 Pignatelli, Smitty
 Puppolo, Angelo J., Jr.
 Robertson, David Allen
 Robinson, Maria Duaine
 Rogers, David M.
 Rogers, John H.
 Roy, Jeffrey N.
 Ryan, Daniel J.
 Sabadosa, Lindsay N.
 Santiago, Jon
 Scaccia, Angelo M.
 Schmid, Paul A., III
 Sena, Danillo
 Silvia, Alan
 Speliotis, Theodore C.
 Stanley, Thomas M.
 Straus, William M.
 Tosado, José F.
 Tucker, Paul F.
 Tyler, Chynah
 Ultrino, Steven
 Vargas, Andres X.
 Vega, Aaron
 Vincent, RoseLee
 Vitolo, Tommy
 Wagner, Joseph F.
 Walsh, Thomas P.
 Whipps, Susannah M.
 Williams, Bud L.
 Zlotnik, Jonathan D.

The following named members voted for Bradley H. Jones, Jr., of North
 Reading:

Barrows, F. Jay
 Berthiaume, Donald R., Jr.
 Boldyga, Nicholas A.
 Crocker, William L., Jr.
 DeCoste, David F.
 D'Emilia, Angelo L.
 Dooley, Shawn
 Durant, Peter J.
 Ferguson, Kimberly N.

Kane, Hannah
 Kelcourse, James M.
 Lombardo, Marc T.
 McKenna, Joseph D.
 Mirra, Lenny
 Muradian, David K., Jr.
 Muratore, Mathew J.
 Orrall, Norman J.
 Poirier, Elizabeth A.

Frost, Paul K.
 Gifford, Susan Williams
 Harrington, Sheila C.
 Hill, Bradford
 Howitt, Steven S.
 Hunt, Randy
 Jones, Bradley H., Jr.

Smola, Todd M.
 Soter, Michael J.
 Sullivan, Alyson M.
 Vieira, David T.
 Whelan, Timothy R.
 Wong, Donald H.

[Ms. Provost of Somerville answered “Present” in response to her name.]

The Chair (Mr. Scaccia of Boston) announced the result of the vote as follows:
 Whole number of votes 154
 Necessary for a choice 78
 Ronald Mariano of Quincy had 123
 Bradley H. Jones, Jr., of North Reading had 31
 Therefore Mr. Mariano of Quincy was declared elected.

Orders.

On motion of Mr. Wagner of Chicopee,—

Ordered, That a special committee be appointed to inform His Excellency the Governor and the Council that the House of Representatives has been organized by the election of a Speaker.

Governor
 notified of
 election of
 Speaker.

Representatives Wagner of Chicopee, González of Springfield and Wong of Saugus were appointed the committee.

Subsequently Mr. Wagner then reported that the committee had successfully completed its task; and the committee was discharged.

On motion of Mr. Golden of Lowell,—

Ordered, That the Clerk be directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has been organized by the election of a Speaker.

Senate
 notified.

On motion of Mr. Wagner of Chicopee,—

Ordered, That a special committee be appointed to notify Speaker Mariano of his election as Speaker.

Speaker
 Ronald
 Mariano.

The committee then reported that they had attended to the duties assigned to them; and the committee was discharged. The Speaker, who was seated in the Chamber, then was conducted to the Chair, under escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

On motion of Mr. Wagner of Chicopee,—

Ordered, that, notwithstanding the provisions of House Rule 4A to the contrary, the member appointed as Speaker pro-Tempore on February 14, 2019 shall remain as Speaker pro-Tempore until the conclusion of the 191st General Court.

Speaker pro-
 Tempore.

Remarks of Speaker Mariano of Quincy.

Speaker Mariano then made remarks to the members and employees, and to the citizens of the Commonwealth; and, on motion of Mr. Wagner of Chicopee, the remarks were spread upon the records of the House, as follows:

Remarks of
 the Speaker.

Today is really the culmination of decades of my life in public service. And I’m so grateful for the opportunity to mark this occasion with you all, whether you’re here

in the chamber or watching from home. But I'm also mindful that because of this pandemic, we will not be able to celebrate the distinguished careers of so many of our colleagues with the traditional farewell addresses.

Those members who are leaving this session are: Representatives William Crocker; Dan Cullinane; Stephan Hay; Jonathan Hecht; Randy Hunt; Louis Kafka; Dave Nangle; Hank Naughton; Thomas Petrolati; Elizabeth Poirier; Denise Provost; Teddy Speliotis; José Tosado; Aaron Vega; and RoseLee Vincent.

And I want to pay a special tribute to the Dean of the House, who is retiring after 23 terms. I want to thank Representative Angelo Scaccia, forever the Gentleman from Readville, for joining us today through extremely challenging personal circumstances.

As many of you know, this man is a Marine, and a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, who came home and decided to continue to serve his community by seeking elected office. For decades, he has been a steadfast champion of social services, of the safety net for the most vulnerable, and of the many programs that are a quiet lifeline to so many.

We've served together for a long time. And during that time we've been on the same side of many issues. We certainly haven't been in agreement on every issue. But I've always, and will always, hold a deep respect for his service to our country, and to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I'm grateful for your participation here today, Angelo.

It's a true honor to be elected Speaker of the House and to have earned the trust and confidence of my esteemed colleagues. And it's not lost on me that I accept this great honor in a historic chamber that is nearly empty. But even with our members scattered throughout the Commonwealth, these walls still inspire a sense of awe and reverence.

And as I stand at this rostrum as your next Speaker, I'm reminded of my very first day in this chamber. I was born and raised by the shipyards of Quincy, where my father earned his living, after his father left Italy with his sights set on the American dream. When I first took the oath of office, I did so on their shoulders, and under the watchful reminders of our founding moments, depicted in the scenes above me.

These scenes reflect an undeniable truth, that should both humble and inspire us: America follows Massachusetts' lead. From the founding years of this country, to the social and scientific advances of modern times, Massachusetts has always been the spearhead of progress.

As State Representative for Quincy, Weymouth, and Holbrook, and as Majority Leader, I have had the privilege of serving my constituents in this House and playing a part in that Massachusetts mantle of leadership.

It was not too long ago that access to high-quality, affordable health care was out of reach for hundreds of thousands of uninsured people in our Commonwealth. But our Health Care Reform Law of 2006 changed that, and it went on to serve as a template for the Affordable Care Act nationally. I was Chairman of Financial Services at that time, and served on the conference committee that got that law to the governor's desk.

Massachusetts is the greatest incubator for innovative thinking. In our world-class universities and research institutions and, yes, right here in the House of Representatives.

Whether it's health care policy, the groundbreaking victory of same-sex marriage, or implementing the toughest gun laws in the country, other states turn to Massachusetts for leadership in matters of public policy.

In recent years, the House has much to be proud of. And for that, every member of this body, and all the residents of the Commonwealth, owe a debt of gratitude to Speaker Bob DeLeo.

During the nearly 12 years of his leadership, Speaker DeLeo brought to this chamber an unprecedented level of stability, respectful debate, and consensus-building. The result of that has been an impressive list of accomplishments.

After years of disciplined investment in our Rainy Day Fund, his steadfast fiscal leadership made possible a strong Fiscal Year 2021 budget, in an otherwise struggling economy. That rainy day has come, and those funds have been used to avoid major cuts to vital programs.

He also helped establish Massachusetts as a model for gun control laws; raised the minimum wage to \$15 an hour; and guaranteed paid sick leave for workers.

He worked to protect the rights of transgender people, and then helped beat back a referendum seeking to repeal the law. He put us on the path toward racial justice with comprehensive criminal justice reform, and guided us through the adoption of modern standards for training and accountability in law enforcement.

Public school teachers, like my wife Eve and I, know more than anyone the dire need to increase state support for our schools. The Student Opportunity Act makes a long-overdue update to the current funding formula, along with increased support of other vital education aid programs. And we must renew this commitment to our students during our economic recovery.

But while we may be proud of our history of leadership and the gains we've made, there is no question that we find ourselves in a moment of reckoning.

No family, no community, no one has been left untouched by this pandemic. Ten months in, we remain in a state of uncertainty at best, and in far too many cases dealing with grief or job loss.

All of us have faced challenges, whether it be with at-home learning, providing for the oldest and youngest in our care, or with maintaining our own mental health. And certainly no one has sacrificed more than our frontline health care workers, public safety personnel, and even our grocery store clerks.

The climb back to where we were just one year ago will be a long one, but this is job number one: meeting the needs of each resident throughout this time of crisis.

That has been the focus of our work over these past 10 months. The members of our Covid-19 Working Group have guided us through the daunting logistical challenges of gathering virtually.

Their work allowed us to pass crucial legislation in response to the ongoing pandemic. We provided tax relief to small businesses. We increased unemployment benefits, and implemented the strongest eviction and foreclosure moratorium in the country. We've made telehealth a permanent fixture in our health care system, and expanded the options available for voters to cast their ballots.

But make no mistake. Getting back to where we were a year ago is not enough. There is another crisis this pandemic has revealed. The great divide between rich and poor, Black and White, rural and urban, has been made all too obvious. The disproportionate suffering of communities of color, in particular, has exposed the frailty of our safety net and the inequality that has been hiding in plain sight.

We must turn this crisis into an opportunity to make lasting, positive change. President-Elect Joe Biden has said that his presidency will be focused on "building back better." Well I say, "Look to Massachusetts, Mr. President!"

It's a Massachusetts company that has given the world one of the vaccines that promises a return to normalcy. And it was this Legislature that made the billion-dollar investment so that the biopharmaceutical industry could take root right here.

We should be proud to say this recovery will be “Made in Massachusetts.”

That recovery begins by getting people back to work and investing in our community colleges—placing them at the center of the retooling of Massachusetts workers.

And when people do go back to work, there’s no reason that anyone’s commute should be longer than one-hour. That means strengthening our infrastructure. Not just the rails, roads, and bridges that carry workers to their offices and job sites, but the broadband, and high-speed internet that will allow more people to work from home.

In a modern economy, everyone needs access to affordable, high-speed internet.

We’ve invested millions in laying cable to reach the rural and oftentimes overlooked areas of our state. But we have failed to appreciate the depth of the digital divide in our most populated cities.

We are also at a breaking-point in terms of our housing infrastructure. People want to live and work in Massachusetts, but we don’t have the housing stock to welcome them. Meaningful zoning reform can change that.

The one-hour-or-less commute also means we can’t create all the jobs in one small corner of the Commonwealth. We need to create opportunity in each county, from Berkshire to Barnstable, and everywhere in between.

The path to that reality is making Massachusetts a leader in the green economy. We are on the cusp of an offshore wind energy revolution, and it will begin off of our shores.

It also means strengthening our community hospitals, which not only form an important part of our health care landscape, but are also critical economic engines in the gateway cities where they’re located.

I’m also committed to addressing the biggest health care dilemma facing this country: the skyrocketing cost of pharmaceuticals. The challenge we face is curbing the cost of the generic drugs millions need to live, while also encouraging the scientific breakthroughs that are giving new hope to people suffering from rare diseases.

This is a tall order, but I know how the work gets done: by listening first, and understanding where people are coming from. Only then can we build consensus around legislation that can make the lives of people better. And that can be passed and signed by the governor. This is often frustrating work. But it does work.

The House benefits from a wide range of passionate voices. After years of frustrating results from Washington, a new generation of advocates have focused their energies on state government. We have, and we must continue, to rise to the occasion.

Although we may approach issues differently, it is our partnership that gets things done. I welcome those new voices, hungry for change, who are not afraid to press for more, and who expect us to be bold.

But it’s also my job to know that just agreeing in principle to calls for bold change is not enough. In the reality of governing, we must live in the world of the possible, and to not make perfection the enemy of progress.

While this may be an introduction for most people outside this chamber, for my colleagues, this isn’t the first time you’ve heard me talk about these issues. The truth is, one of the most rewarding parts of my job has been building relationships with each of you.

I’ve kept my door open, and whether you’ve been here for decades or only a few weeks, you’ve walked in to pay me a visit. And we start where all important change begins: with a conversation.

I pledge to all of you that my door will continue to be open. I look forward to our continued collaboration and exchange of ideas. We have a lot of work to do together.

Paper from the Senate.

A petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2993) of Barry R. Finegold, Marc Laplante, Maria De La Cruz, Estela Reyes and others (with approval of the mayor and city council) for legislation relative to the office of the mayor in the city of Lawrence, was referred, in concurrence, to the committee on Election Laws.

Lawrence,—
mayor.

Order.

On motion of Mr. Wagner of Chicopee,—

Ordered, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next at eleven o'clock A.M.; and that notwithstanding the provisions of House Rule 12, the Clerk be authorized to dispense with the printing of a Calendar for said sitting.

Next
sitting.

At four minutes after two o'clock P.M., on motion of Mr. Jones of North Reading (the Speaker being in the Chair), the House adjourned, to meet the following Monday at eleven o'clock A.M.