

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021.**

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

At a General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, begun and holden at Boston on the first Wednesday, being the sixth day of January, in the year two thousand and twenty-one, and the two hundred and forty-fifth of the independence of the United States of America, and the one hundred and ninety-second General Court of the Commonwealth, the following named members-elect of the Senate, having been duly summoned by the Executive, assembled at sixteen minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., outside at Ashburton Park, to wit:-

- Hon. Paul R. Feeney of Foxborough .....in the Bristol and Norfolk District.
Hon. Michael J. Rodrigues of Westport .....in the First Bristol and Plymouth District.
Hon. Joan B. Lovely of Salem . ....in the Second Essex District.
Hon. Brendan P. Crighton of Lynn .....in the Third Essex District.
Hon. Bruce E. Tarr of Gloucester .....in the First Essex and Middlesex District.
Hon. Adam Gomez of Longmeadow .....in the Hampden District.
Hon. Eric P. Lesser of Longmeadow .....in the First Hampden and Hampshire District.
Hon. Cindy F. Friedman of Arlington.....in the Fourth Middlesex District.
Hon. Cynthia Stone Creem of Newton .....in the First Middlesex and Norfolk District.
Hon. Karen E. Spilka of Ashland .....in the Second Middlesex and Norfolk District.
Hon. Sal N. DiDomenico of Everett .....in the Middlesex and Suffolk District.
Hon. James B. Eldridge of Acton .....in the Middlesex and Worcester District.
Hon. Rebecca L. Rausch of Needham .....in the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District.
Hon. Walter F. Timilty of Milton .....in the Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth District.
Hon. John F. Keenan of Quincy .....in the Norfolk and Plymouth District.
Hon. Michael F. Rush of Boston .....in the Norfolk and Suffolk District.
Hon. Marc R. Pacheco of Taunton .....in the First Plymouth and Bristol District.
Hon. Michael D. Brady of Brockton .....in the Second Plymouth and Bristol District.
Hon. Patrick M. O'Connor of Weymouth .....in the Plymouth and Norfolk District.
Hon. Sonia Chang-Diaz of Boston .....in the Second Suffolk District.
Hon. Joseph A. Boncore of Winthrop .....in the First Suffolk and Middlesex District.
Hon. William N. Brownsberger of Belmont .....in the Second Suffolk and Middlesex District.
Hon. Michael O. Moore of Millbury .....in the Second Worcester District.
Hon. John J. Cronin of Lunenburg.....in the Worcester and Middlesex District.
Hon. Ryan C. Fattman of Sutton .....in the Worcester and Norfolk District.

And were called to order by the Honorable Marc R. Pacheco.

At the request of Senator-elect Pacheco, the Senators-elect, guests and employees then recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of allegiance.

Communication.

The following communication, together with the returns of votes and schedules referred to, was received from the Secretary of the Commonwealth and placed on file, to wit:

Return of votes for Senators.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02133

January 6, 2021

To the Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to lay before you the returns of votes cast at the election held

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in this Commonwealth on the third day of November, 2020 for Senators in the General Court in the several districts, together with schedules showing the number of ballots which appear to have been cast for each person voted for.

These returns have been duly canvassed by the Governor and Council, and are now transmitted for examination by the Senate, as required by the Constitution and General Laws.

Very Truly Yours,  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,  
*Secretary of the Commonwealth.*

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Lesser,--

*Ordered*, That a special committee of the Senate to be appointed for the purpose of canvassing the votes for Senators in the several districts.

Canvass votes for  
Senators.

Senators-elect Friedman of Middlesex and O'Connor of Plymouth and Norfolk were appointed to the committee.

The Chair, Mr. Pacheco recognized dignitaries in attendance including the Honorable William F. Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Dignitaries.

Subsequently, Ms. Freidman, for the said special committee, reported that the following named persons had been duly elected, to wit:

- Hon. Adam G. Hinds of Pittsfield..... in the *Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden District.*
- Hon. Paul R. Feeney of Foxborough .....in the *Bristol and Norfolk District.*
- Hon. Michael J. Rodrigues of Westport .....in the *First Bristol and Plymouth District.*
- Hon. Mark C. Montigny of New Bedford .....in the *Second Bristol and Plymouth District.*
- Hon. Julian Cyr of Truro .....in the *Cape and Islands District.*
- Hon. Diana DiZoglio of Methuen .....in the *First Essex District.*
- Hon. Joan B. Lovely of Salem . .....in the *Second Essex District.*
- Hon. Brendan P. Crighton of Lynn .....in the *Third Essex District.*
- Hon. Bruce E. Tarr of Gloucester .....in the *First Essex and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Barry R. Finegold of Andover .....in the *Second Essex and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Adam Gomez of Longmeadow .....in the *Hampden District.*
- Hon. Eric P. Lesser of Longmeadow .....in the *First Hampden and Hampshire District.*
- Hon. John C. Velis. of Westfield .....in the *Second Hampden and Hampshire District.*
- Hon. Joanne M. Comerford of Northampton ....in the *Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District.*
- Hon. Edward J. Kennedy of Lowell .....in the *First Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Patricia D. Jehlen of Somerville .....in the *Second Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Michael J. Barrett of Lexington .....in the *Third Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Cindy F. Friedman of Arlington.....in the *Fourth Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Jason M. Lewis of Winchester .....in the *Fifth Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Cynthia Stone Creem of Newton .....in the *First Middlesex and Norfolk District.*
- Hon. Karen E. Spilka of Ashland .....in the *Second Middlesex and Norfolk District.*
- Hon. Sal N. DiDomenico of Everett .....in the *Middlesex and Suffolk District.*
- Hon. James B. Eldridge of Acton .....in the *Middlesex and Worcester District.*
- Hon. Rebecca L. Rausch of Needham .....in the *Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Walter F. Timilty of Milton .....in the *Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth District.*
- Hon. John F. Keenan of Quincy .....in the *Norfolk and Plymouth District.*
- Hon. Michael F. Rush of Boston .....in the *Norfolk and Suffolk District.*
- Hon. Susan L. Moran of Falmouth .....in the *Plymouth and Barnstable District.*
- Hon. Marc R. Pacheco of Taunton .....in the *First Plymouth and Bristol District.*
- Hon. Michael D. Brady of Brockton .....in the *Second Plymouth and Bristol District.*
- Hon. Patrick M. O'Connor of Weymouth .....in the *Plymouth and Norfolk District.*
- Hon. Nick Collins of Boston .....in the *First Suffolk District.*
- Hon. Sonia Chang-Diaz of Boston .....in the *Second Suffolk District.*

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- Hon. Joseph A. Boncore of Winthrop .....in the *First Suffolk and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. William N. Brownsberger of Belmont .....in the *Second Suffolk and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Harriette L. Chandler of Worcester .....in the *First Worcester District.*
- Hon. Michael O. Moore of Millbury .....in the *Second Worcester District.*
- Hon. Anne M. Gobi of Spencer.....in the *Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. John J. Cronin of Lunenburg .....in the *Worcester and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Ryan C. Fattman of Sutton .....in the *Worcester and Norfolk District.*

**The report was read, and the report was considered forthwith and accepted.**

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*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Ms. Creem,--

*Ordered,* That a committee be appointed by the Chair to wait upon His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, Her Honor Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant-Governor of the Commonwealth, the Honorable Council and inform them that a quorum of the Senators-elect have assembled and are ready to be qualified.

Governor, et al,--  
inform that quorum is  
present in Senate.

Senators-elect Brownsberger of Suffolk and Middlesex and Fattman of Worcester and Norfolk were appointed to the committee.

Subsequently, Mr. Brownsberger, for the said committee, reported that the committee had waited upon His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, the Honorable Council, and the Constitutional officers and had conveyed to them the message of the Senate; and that the Governor had asked him to say that he would be pleased to attend forthwith upon the Honorable Senate, with the Honorable Council and the Constitutional officers, to administer the oaths of office. The report was accepted and the committee was discharged.

Soon after, His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor, Karen E. Polito and members of the Honorable Council, arrived at Ashburton Park; and the Senators-elect then took and subscribed the oaths of office required by the Constitution and a law of the United States to qualify them for the discharge of their duties as Senators at twenty-six minutes before twelve o'clock noon.

Qualifications of  
Senators.

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor briefly addressed the Senate.

His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor, Karen E. Polito and the Honorable Council then withdrew from Ashburton Park.

Subsequently, the following named members-elect of the Senate, having been duly summoned by the Executive, assembled and participated remotely in the Senate President's Suite in the presence of His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, Her Honor the Lieutenant Governor, Karen E. Polito and members of the Honorable Council to wit:-

- Hon. Adam G. Hinds of Pittsfield in the *Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden District.*
- Hon. Mark C. Montigny of New Bedford .....in the *Second Bristol and Plymouth District.*
- Hon. Julian Cyr of Truro .....in the *Cape and Islands District.*
- Hon. Diana DiZoglio of Methuen .....in the *First Essex District.*
- Hon. Barry R. Finegold of Andover .....in the *Second Essex and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. John C. Velis. of Westfield .....in the *Second Hampden and Hampshire District.*
- Hon. Joanne M. Comerford of Northampton ....in the *Hampshire, Franklin and Worcester District.*
- Hon. Edward J. Kennedy of Lowell .....in the *First Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Patricia D. Jehlen of Somerville .....in the *Second Middlesex District.*

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Hon. Michael J. Barrett of Lexington .....in the *Third Middlesex District*.  
Hon. Jason M. Lewis of Winchester .....in the *Fifth Middlesex District*.  
Hon. Susan L. Moran of Falmouth .....in the *Plymouth and Barnstable District*.  
Hon. Nick Collins of Boston .....in the *First Suffolk District*.  
Hon. Harriette L. Chandler of Worcester .....in the *First Worcester District*.  
Hon. Anne M. Gobi of Spencer .....in the *Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex District*.

The above Senators-elect then took and subscribed the oaths of office required by the Constitution and a law of the United States to qualify them for the discharge of their duties as Senators at twenty-one minutes before twelve o'clock noon.

Qualifications of Senators.

*Recess.*

At twenty-nine minutes past eleven o'clock A.M., the Chair (Mr. Pacheco) declared a recess subject to the call of the Chair; and, at twenty-eight minutes past one o'clock P.M, the Senate reassembled, Mr. Pacheco in the Chair.

Recess.

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Rush,--

*Ordered*, That, pursuant to the provisions of Senate Rule 4A, the Senate shall proceed forthwith to the election of a President.

Election of a President.

Ms. Lovely placed in nomination for President, Ms. Spilka of Middlesex and Norfolk.

*Nomination Speech for Karen E. Spilka to be Elected Senate President  
By Senator Joan B. Lovely.*

Thank you, Mr. President, and through you to the members.

I am truly honored to nominate my dear colleague and friend, Senator Karen Spilka, for President of the Senate for the 192nd General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Statement of Senator Joan B. Lovely.

During her first full term as President, President Spilka led our body through a public-health crisis the likes of which have not been seen in more than a century.

Confronted with incredible challenges, President Spilka has been a consistent, steady, strong, compassionate leader through all that has come our way.

While I have known President Spilka since I first came to the Senate, I got to know her well when I had the opportunity to serve as her Vice Chair of Ways and Means.

During the many long hours we spent together, I came to know the many sides of President Spilka.

She impressed me so deeply by how well she knew every account in the senate budget, how well she worked with her staff, and how diligently she worked to support every member of the Senate.

Yet even while undertaking grueling and daunting work, the hours passed with productive discussions and a little laughter.

I would soon come to realize that President Spilka cultivates this kind of community in her office, with her leadership team, and with all members of the Senate.

In President Spilka's Senate, people's opinions are heard and valued; colleagues and staff support one another; and the hardest of work is done with determination and zeal.

Whether hearing about her dog, Lincoln, or her husband and sons; or discussing the many deserving budget priorities, I came to know the President as someone

unwaveringly concerned with helping our most vulnerable citizens; someone who thinks critically about the actions of government; and someone who believes that we here on Beacon Hill have a great responsibility to act boldly and prudently to improve the lives of all residents.

Those beliefs have made her an excellent lawmaker and leader.

As I sit here today in my office, speaking to all of you through my computer screen, I reflect on Opening Day just 2 years ago.

We all stood in our newly renovated chamber, the words of Frederick Douglass above us, our sights on all we wished to accomplish in the coming session.

We did not and could not know then that the 191st would be a session unlike any other.

In March of 2020, this body, this Commonwealth, and the rest of the world, had to pivot quickly to address the global public health emergency and the resulting fiscal crisis that continues today.

We have changed our lives dramatically to combat the spread of COVID-19.

People continue to lose their jobs, businesses are struggling, and sick patients overwhelm our world-class public health system.

Under President Spilka's leadership, this Senate has responded with agility, creativity, and grit, three qualities that President Spilka embodies.

The Senate has taken many meaningful steps to alleviate the difficulties and suffering of so many.

And while the distance could have isolated us as a Senate, today, I feel closer to my colleagues than ever before.

That closeness stems from the tireless work of President Spilka to keep the Senate together, working collaboratively throughout a year that could have proven polarizing, but instead has united this body.

As President Harry Truman once said: "Men make history, and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

I am incredibly grateful for President Spilka's leadership and guidance every day that helps us "seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

The track record of President Spilka proves that women make history, too.

100 years ago women gained the right to vote through determination and grit.

100 years later, a woman leads the Massachusetts State Senate with the same determination and grit as our foremothers.

Madam President, I know I can speak for all of us and say we look forward to a very productive session under your leadership.

And for these reasons, I am humbled, privileged, and honored to nominate you as our Senate President for the 192nd General Court. Thank you.

The nomination of Senator Spilka for President was seconded by Mr. Boncore, who also briefly addressed the Senate.

*Seconding Speech for Karen E. Spilka to be Elected Senate President  
By Senator Joseph A. Boncore.*

Thank you Mr. President, through you to the Members and the people of this Commonwealth. I rise today in support of transparency and progress, I rise in support of bold leadership, I rise in support of government working for the people; that we — as a body — will continue to guide this Commonwealth on a path of renewal and rebuilding in the 192nd convening of this great and General Court.

Statement of Senator  
Joseph A. Boncore.

And Mr. President, it is in that spirit — with those tenants in mind — that I rise today with the privilege and honor to Second the nomination of the Gentlelady from Second Middlesex and Norfolk, Karen E. Spilka, for President of the Massachusetts State Senate.

At the start of this session, the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world find ourselves still confronting a great darkness that has stolen into this world. The compounded crises of a global pandemic, economic downturn, and civil unrest bear heavy on the shoulders of our constituents.

Still, here in the Commonwealth and in this body, we have reason for hope. Under the leadership of President Spilka, this Legislature has met the moment.

As a leader in this body, she has prevailed in the face of crisis. During the Great Recession, her service as Economic Development Chair guided the Commonwealth towards recovery. Her steady hand went on to lead the distinguished Committee on Ways and Means. She began the presidency with a Chamber in crisis and guided us back to strength. And now — in the face of a global health crisis — she has led the Commonwealth back to stability, health, and recovery.

Karen Spilka's leadership in these moments is not an accident nor a coincidence. Rather, it is a representation of an imitable talent for combining compassion with common sense to make good policy that works for the people of the Commonwealth. Compassion borne from steering her own course through peril in her childhood — compassion that shaped her career in social work — compassion which allowed her to excel as an attorney and conciliator helping others reach compromise — and the same compassion as a policymaker who is willing to forfeit her individual goals to achieve shared goals.

Leadership reminiscent of suffragists Louise Parker Mayo and Josephine Collins — women from MetroWest who were “jailed for freedom” in 1916 and 1919 by protesting for the expanded right to vote. With their arrests, Mayo and Collins briefly sacrificed their personal freedoms in an effort to forever expand freedoms for all women.

Mr. President, I offer that the Gentlelady from Second Middlesex and Norfolk, who leads with compassion and common sense — who is willing to make sacrifices to achieve progress — and who is dedicated to ideals larger than our individual self, exemplifies the spirit of Louise Parker Mayo and Josephine Collins.

In this General Court, we aspire to turn the promise of progress into policy and our ideals into law. Last summer, when our nation marched for equity — and our laws were silent — this Chamber took action. Many derided our efforts as overly idealistic and without Karen Spilka that may have been true. But in echoing the oath we take today, she endeavored to “bear true faith and allegiance to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts” by ensuring equity and justice as law.

The Gentlelady from the Second Middlesex and Norfolk sees equity and justice not as the goal, but the very foundation with which we must approach each policy we undertake. In transportation, she led the effort on non-binary identification for drivers licenses, emphasized a new regionalized approach to public transit, and made our roads safer in passing the hands free driving law. Through her ability to see possibility where others see problems — and her ability to see opportunity where others see obstacles — she has shepherded long-stalled progressive policies into law.

Mr. President, above all, I rise in support of a compassionate leader — who has demonstrated through crisis and novel policy — a fierce commitment to equity and justice. She has led the progress of this Commonwealth by endeavoring to relieve others' discomfort, because she remembers her own. Under her leadership,

this body has sought policies to make the Commonwealth healthier, stable, and more prosperous for all its residents.

For these reasons — and so many more — I ask my colleagues to join me in continuing to do what is self-evident and re-elect the Gentlelady from the Second Middlesex and Norfolk, Karen E. Spilka, as our Senate President.

Mr. Fattman placed in nomination for President, of Mr. Tarr of Essex and Middlesex.

*Nomination Speech for Bruce E. Tarr to be Elected Senate President  
By Senator Ryan C. Fattman.*

Thank you, Madam President, and through you to the members.

Today, as we have every two years, the members of the State Senate will be choosing the leader of our body. While this has been a commonplace occurrence, there is nothing common about today or the times in which we serve.

Challenging times abound. and in these moments we seek leaders who can rise and meet the challenge ahead. For our caucus, that choice is Senator Bruce E. Tarr as President of the Massachusetts State Senate.

The consummate public servant who has served as a former prosecutor, state representative and now state senator, Bruce Tarr has dedicated his life to serving and helping others.

He's often the first person in this building and the last to leave, often times consulting on the difficult issues of our time. Traditionally, you may see his knowledge of this institution through his advocacy for Melissa's Law, transmission interlocks, our police, fire and first responders, funding our schools or ensuring the wellbeing of our pets. This past year, in the midst of an unprecedented global pandemic, the institutional knowledge that Senator Tarr holds was put to the test as we navigated numerous crises that unfolded. He worked tirelessly to develop solutions that would benefit all the residents of the Commonwealth, often times by asking the members of this body difficult, thought-provoking questions that needed answers.

At the center of a great leader is the desire to share knowledge. Senator Tarr epitomizes this concept through his leadership. If you have a question on procedure: he can answer it. If there is a problem on policy: he will solve it. And perhaps most important; if you need someone to talk to, he will lend a listening ear and offer sage advice.

So long as America is good and our leaders act accordingly, we will be able to weather whatever challenges come our way. As we work to bring the COVID-19 crisis to an end in this new session, we are reminded about the need for trust, honesty, and integrity in this body after a long fog dissipates from the trials of the previous session. Senator Tarr possesses the attributes necessary to lead this great body forward into a brighter tomorrow.

Aristotle once said, "Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; It represents the wise choice of many alternatives." I can think of no other who strives to achieve excellence through those means more than the Gentleman from Gloucester, and I hope you will join me in supporting his candidacy for President. Thank you.

The nomination of Senator Tarr for President was seconded by Mr. O'Connor, who also briefly addressed the Senate.

Statement of Senator  
Ryan C. Fattman.



*Seconding Speech for Bruce E. Tarr to be Elected Senate President  
By Senator Patrick M. O'Connor.*

“It is my honor to second nominate the gentleman from Gloucester, my good friend, Senator Bruce Tarr, to be the next President of the Massachusetts State Senate.

Statement of Senator  
Patrick M. O'Connor.

Throughout my time in the Senate, as a staffer and having the honor to serve as a member, I have been able to witness and experience firsthand the leadership of the Senator from the North Shore. His fingerprints are on almost every significant piece of public policy that has passed the legislature for more than two decades and he has proven to be a steadfast collaborator and a compassionate leader.

He is someone you can rely on at any time for anything.

It's not a coincidence that Massachusetts has the best public education system in our nation or that people from across the globe seek care through our health care system or that our investments into growing biotech here in Massachusetts are now helping the world to heal.

These ideas manifested themselves in this chamber and have sent reverberations around our country and our world.

This is what we do in Massachusetts.

This is what Bruce Tarr has dedicated his professional life to. To making our state not just better, but a leader and making sure our Commonwealth plays big when it matters most.

We're fortunate here in Massachusetts that the two candidates we have for President of our esteemed body are consensus builders, and genuinely good people who are running for the position for all the right reasons.

As unnecessary chaos ensues at this very minute in our nation's capital, we strive to find common ground. As Republicans and Democrats tear each other down in state capital buildings in chambers such as these across our country, we build each other up.

The reason we are able to do this is because of the path that Bruce Tarr has paved through years of proven leadership, hard work, courage and listening to people with integrity and in a bipartisan manner.

By working in a bi-partisan fashion our state Senate has set itself apart from the divide that cracks at the very foundation of our democracy. We have set ourselves apart not just in rhetoric, but in action and those actions have yielded results that are making the lives of the people we represent better.

And that's what this is all about. That's what Bruce Tarr is all about. And that is why, I'm honored to nominate my friend, Bruce Tarr for President of the Massachusetts State Senate.”

**On motion of Mr. DiDomenico, the nominations were closed.**

The roll was called at seven minutes before two o'clock P.M., and the following named members voted for Karen E. Spilka of Middlesex and Norfolk:

Barrett, Michael J.  
Boncore, Joseph A.  
Brady, Michael D.  
Brownsberger, William N.  
Chandler, Harriette L.  
Chang-Diaz, Sonia

Gobi, Anne M.  
Gomez, Adam  
Hinds, Adam G.  
Jehlen, Patricia D.  
Kennedy, Edward J.  
Lesser, Eric P.



services. We worked collaboratively, across the aisle and across branches, to respond to the needs of our residents when the pandemic hit – and we continue to do so today. Because remembering that government is a force for good in people’s lives matters.

We continue to rely on data, and trust science and support our health care professionals, as we navigate the very difficult terrain of reopening and recovery. And the Senate, through its bipartisan Working Group, engaged on every aspect of the state’s COVID response – from concerns about childcare to personal protective equipment to the reopening of businesses – all the way through to the vaccine roll out – and we will continue to be deeply engaged. Because when people are anxious, when families are suffering, and the world seems unsure – responsive, compassionate government matters.

Now more than ever, it our job as legislators – as leaders – to say what we mean and then get it done.

I’m proud to say that the many priorities I outlined in my first term – ensuring equity in education funding, addressing climate change, promoting economic resiliency, updating our transportation infrastructure, and creating greater access to quality health care – including telehealth and permanent rate parity for mental health care – have been signed into law.

At the same time, the Senate has responded to a number of events that simply could not wait: the threat of COVID-19, the moral imperative of racial justice, and the need to protect access to reproductive health care in Massachusetts. Because leading with our values matters.

We have indeed accomplished a lot in the past two years – and a lot has been asked us of. But there is still so much important work left to do

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, we must not let up on our efforts to extend lifelines to our residents, our communities and our businesses. It is clear that the time is now for emergency paid leave, and so the Senate will begin working on solutions with our partners in government, business and labor as soon as this session is underway.

We must also continue to support the efforts of every single person, at every level of government, in every facet of our healthcare system, and throughout our economy who is fighting to ensure our health and safety – and our economic recovery – during this ongoing crisis. We must commit ourselves to expanding COVID testing, tracing and vaccination, particularly for our most vulnerable, and ensuring those on the front lines have what they need to fight this virus. Because paying attention to the details when people are calling on us for help matters.

Finally, we must recommit ourselves to the hard work of ensuring racial justice and equity in Massachusetts. The police reform bill signed into law on New Years Eve was an important start; it is the sprint portion of the marathon we must run, listening to the voices of people of color as we go.

As we begin our work this Senate session, we do so against a backdrop of national hardship – and those who would seek to divide us along political, ideological or racial lines. At this crucial, precarious time, however, there is no room in government for ‘us’ against ‘them.’ Here in Massachusetts, at least, there is no ‘them,’ there is only ‘us.’ And we will all rise and fall together.

So as I stand here today with deep gratitude, once again, for the opportunity to lead the Senate and to serve every single resident of the Commonwealth, I also charge us all with the task of doing our jobs as legislators with compassion, seriousness, dedication, and, most of all, with humility. Our residents are looking to us to do the jobs they sent us here to do. And I, for one, am eager to get to work.

Thank you all again.

Mr. Tarr asked unanimous consent to make a statement; and, there being no objection, he addressed the Senate as follows:

Well, well, well. Thank you, Madame President and good afternoon.

Madame President it seems like it was just a short time ago that we were gathered in this chamber and now we come together again. Madam President I want to thank you for your friendship, your partnership, the tone that you set in this chamber and your willingness to always receive and understand the perspective of those of us in the minority party. Madame President, it speaks volumes that when we were befallen with a pandemic, the likes of which we have never seen before in our lives, your first act was to put together a bipartisan structure so that all of us could play a role in responding to this unprecedented crisis; and for that, I and the members of the minority caucus are grateful. Thank you, Madame President and congratulations. I also want to say thank you to my colleagues, to Representative, Senator rather, I'm sorry, to Senator Fattman for his commitment to good government and his passion for ensuring that we have fiscal discipline and innovation in ways to move forward that ensure we do so with effectiveness and efficiency; and I want to thank Senator O'Connor as well for his work to always understand the details that are so important in the legislation and the issues we face; and I want to express my deepest appreciation to both of them for the confidence they placed in me by allowing me to continue to serve as the leader of this caucus. You know, when you carry the burden of representing the minority perspective in a legislative chamber it's important that you have partnership and you have strength; and when I look to Senator O'Connor and Senator Fattman, I feel not only partnership and strength, I feel inspiration and I thank them for that. I'm humbled by the words that both of you have offered today on my behalf, and I pledge my very best efforts to continue our work together to be meaningful and effective in the legislative process. I also want to say thank you to the people of the First Essex and Middlesex District for the trust they have placed in me in returning me to this body and I want to say thank you to my staff for enduring all of the many challenges that we have to face every day and most of all, for putting up with me. Madam President I want to congratulate all of the members of the chamber, those who are returning on your re-election, and those who come to our chamber as senators for the first time. To the Senator Cronin; the Senator Gomez, please know that my phone line is always open and hopefully soon, when time allows and circumstances permit, my door will also always be open to you as it is to all members of this body. Congratulations.

Madam President it is important as we embark forward that we continue the work of doing so together in a collaborative fashion. We in the minority remain committed to doing that. And in fact, Madame President, as we arrive in the chamber today, we arrive here not primarily as partisans but also people who believe in the principles of democracy. We took the oath that we took just a short time ago because we believe in the efficient and effective authority of an organized government that listens to and responds to the people in our cities and towns we represent. Their beliefs must be supported and strengthened. Ms. President, each of us brings our own unique set of experiences and perspectives into the chamber. Yet as we bridge from one legislative term to another, and one year darkened by a global pandemic and the loss of far too many. To another, it is what we share in common that should drive us forward, not hold us back.

Madame President, we have an incredible, nearly indescribable loss as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic. And as we embark on this new legislative session, I

Remarks of Senate  
Minority Leader  
Bruce E. Tarr.

would hope that we would all take a moment of silence to recognize the loss that has been suffered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Madame President, the lessons we've learned here in the Senate has helped guide us to produce meaningful and timely results even as we face the pain, turmoil and impact of an unrelenting virus. We've passed major legislation to expand access to healthcare, to ensure safety for public elections, to respond to both our immediate public health needs and our more systemic needs for the equal and fair application of justice and the protections of our environment, not only for us, but for generations to come. We've repeatedly overcome major obstacles because we have worked together. In fact, when there was a time to evolve new rules to be able to allow us to meet in sessions like this we did it together, hand in hand, crossing new thresholds but always keeping in mind the importance of respect, collaboration, and innovation.

Madame President, I'm mindful of the fact that we've entered the 192<sup>ND</sup> General Court of the Commonwealth, but I want to turn to for just a moment, to a century ago to the 140<sup>TH</sup> Massachusetts General Court as that legislature entered a new year following the onslaught of a world ravishing flu virus. Madame President, World War I had ended, it took the lives of 100,000 Americans. The influenza pandemic ultimately killed another 650,000 and Madame President while the estimates are difficult to get accurately, at least 28% of Americans were affected. There was racial unrest, there was displacement of the workforce, there were bombings and acts of terror. But Madam President, Massachusetts stood tall. Madame President, then as today there were closings of public buildings, theaters, and gathering places and institutions. But spurred on by Lieutenant Governor and then Acting Governor Calvin Coolidge who had been a member and President of the Senate, and others and elected officials all across the Commonwealth action was taken. In fact, Madame President, on January 10, 1919 there was a spending bill adopted to pay for the expense of the war and the epidemic of influenza. Now the numbers, Madame President were very different, I'll read them. The bill said, being enacted by the Senate and House of Representative and the General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows the sum of 10,000 dollars is hereby appropriated to be expended under the direction of the Governing Council for the reception and entertainment of Massachusetts soldiers and sailors on their return from the present war. And the further sum of 5,000 dollars is hereby appropriated to be expended under the direction of the State Board of Health for certain expenses incident to the spread of influenza in the Commonwealth. And of course, Madame President, there was an emergency preamble. Then as now, the Senate has risen to the challenge, and we must continue to rise to the challenge that faces us. And Madame President, as we think about all of the things that have been endured and been faced and addressed by this chamber, I am compelled to think of a story that President Lincoln once told to a gathering. It goes something like this. It is said an eastern monarch once charged his wise men to invent him a sentence, to be ever in view, and which should be true and appropriate in all times and situations. They presented him the words, And this, too, shall pass away. How much it expresses, how chastening in the hour of pride, how consoling in the depths of affliction, and this too shall pass away, and yet let us hope it is not quite true. Lincoln continued, let us hope rather to find the best cultivation of the physical world and anything around us and the intellectual and moral world within us, we shall secure an individual, social and political prosperity and happiness whose core shall be onward and upward, and which while the earth endures, and shall not pass away. Madam President the words of President Lincoln were true then and they are true today still. And so as we come forth from Minority Crescent we pledge to continue

to fulfill our responsibility and our obligation to represent faithfully, truthfully, compassionately, and collaboratively the voice and thoughts of those in the minority. And Madam President we pledge to continue to confront division with efforts to collaborate and we promise to confront whatever incivility may be outside this building with respect and dignity inside this building. Madame President, we have a great many things to do lying before us. Mitigating economic harm, protecting public health, making sure that we do everything within our power to eradicate racism and injustice and intolerance. We pledge to do those things with you. With that respect and civility and a sense of collaboration. Lastly, Madame President, I want to thank everyone in the chamber for their collaborative approach to work with us. For your supportive words, for your offer of consultation, for hearing us and letting us ask to hear your views. That's the way it should work. Madam President, Martin Luther King said almost always the creative, dedicated minority has made the world better. We intend to be that creative, dedicated minority. We are grateful for the opportunity to do so and honored to be able do it with all of you. Happy New Year, congratulations again, and we look forward to travelling the road ahead with each and every one of you. Thank you.

**On motion of Mr. Rodrigues, all the above addresses were ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.**

Ordered printed.

*Election of Clerk.*

Mr. Collins moved that the Senate proceed to the election of a Clerk and that the President cast one ballot for Michael D. Hurley of South Boston as Clerk of the Senate; and this motion prevailed.

Clerk election.

Accordingly, after remarks, the ballot was cast and Mr. Hurley was declared elected, and was then qualified by taking the oaths and affirmation as prescribed by the Constitution and also the following oath, which was administered by the President:

*“Whereas, you MICHAEL D. HURLEY, are chosen Clerk of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you do swear that you will truly enter all the votes and orders thereof, and in all things relating to your office that you will act faithfully and impartially accordingly to your best skill and judgement. So help you, God.”*

*Communications.*

The following communications were severally received, as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
SENATE  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

January 6, 2021

Senator Ryan C. Fattman.

Michael D. Hurley,  
*Clerk of the Senate*  
State House, Room 335  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk:

As the Chair of the Republican party Caucus, I wish to inform you that the caucus has unanimously appointed Bruce E. Tarr of First Essex and Middlesex District as the Minority Leader in the Senate for the 2021-2022 legislative session.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Ryan C. Fattman  
State Senator

*Swearing in of Senate Counsel.*

The President announced that she has appointed Jennifer L. Miller of Ipswich as Senate Counsel. Ms. Miller was escorted to the Rostrum by Mr. Tarr of Essex and Middlesex where she took and subscribed the oaths of office required by the Constitution and a law of the United States to qualify her for the discharge of her duties as Senate Counsel.

Senate Counsel  
appointment.

*Orders Adopted.*

On motion of Ms. Comerford,--

*Ordered,* That a committee be appointed to notify His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, Her Honor Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant-Governor of the Commonwealth and the Honorable Council of the organization of the Senate; and that the Honorable Karen E. Spilka of Middlesex and Norfolk had been elected President of the Senate, and Michael D. Hurley of South Boston had been elected Clerk of the Senate.

Governor,--  
organization of the  
Senate.

On motion of Ms. Lovely,--

*Ordered,* That the Senate Rules of the last session be observed as the temporary Senate Rules for the present General Court.

Temporary  
Senate Rules.

On motion of Ms. Gobi,--

*Ordered,* that a committee be appointed to inform the House of Representatives of the organization of the Senate; and that the Honorable Karen E. Spilka of Middlesex and Norfolk has been elected President of the Senate; and Michael D. Hurley of South Boston has been elected Clerk of the Senate.

House of  
Representatives,--  
organization of the  
Senate.

On motion of Ms. Rausch,--

*Ordered,* That the Clerk begin the daily printing of the Journal of the Senate, as authorized by Senate Rule 6, and that the daily reading thereof be dispensed with; that, under authority of Section 22A of Chapter 3 of the General Laws, copies of the Journals of the entire session be printed and bound with the customary appendices and an index; and that a certified copy thereof be deposited with the Secretary of the Commonwealth as the official bound Journal of the Senate.

Daily printing of  
the Journal.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE.

The following House Orders were considered forthwith, as follows, to wit:

*Ordered,* That a convention of the two Houses be held at a half past eleven o'clock A.M. on Thursday, January 7, for the purpose of administering the oaths of office to the several Councillors-elect.

Joint convention of  
the two branches.

**The rules were suspended on motion of Ms. Lovely and the order was adopted, in concurrence.**

*Ordered,* That the joint rules of the 190th General Court (2019-2020) be observed as the temporary joint rules of the two branches for the present General Court until the adoption of permanent joint rules and that Joint Rule 12 be amended , in line 511, by striking out the words "third Friday in January" and inserting in

Temporary  
Joint Rules.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

place thereof the words “third Friday in February”.

**The rules were suspended on motion of Ms. Lovely and the order was adopted, in concurrence.**

Notice was received from the House of Representatives by a committee thereof, of the organization of that branch, the House having chosen Ronald A. Mariano of Quincy as Speaker, Bradley Jones of North Reading as Minority Leader and Steven T. James of Swampscott as Clerk.

Organization of the  
House of  
Representatives.

On motion of Mr. Boncore,--

*Ordered,* That when the Senate adjourns today, it adjourn to meet again tomorrow at half past eleven o'clock A.M.

Time of meeting.

On motion of Mr. Gomez, at fourteen minutes before three o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at a half past eleven o'clock A.M.