

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.**



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023.**

[1]

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE.

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

- Hon. Paul W. Mark of Becket..... in the *Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire 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. Pavel Payano of Lawrence .....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. Jacob R. Oliveira of Ludlow .....in the *Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester District.*
- Hon. John C. Velis. of Westfield .....in the *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 *Norfolk and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Karen E. Spilka of Ashland .....in the *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, Worcester 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 *Third Bristol and Plymouth District.*
- Hon. Michael D. Brady of Brockton .....in the *Second Plymouth and Norfolk District.*
- Hon. Patrick M. O'Connor of Weymouth .....in the *First Plymouth and Norfolk District.*
- Hon. Nick Collins of Boston .....in the *First Suffolk District.*
- Hon. Liz Miranda of Boston .....in the *Second Suffolk District.*
- Hon. Lydia Edwards of East Boston .....in the *Third Suffolk District.*
- Hon. William N. Brownsberger of Belmont ....in the *Suffolk and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Robyn K. Kennedy 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 and Hampshire District.*
- Hon. John J. Cronin of Lunenburg .....in the *Worcester and Middlesex District.*
- Hon. Ryan C. Fattman of Sutton .....in the *Worcester and Hampden 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.

The National Anthem was sung by Andrea Carr. She was accompanied by Steve Kirby on the guitar.

National Anthem.

The Chair, Mr. Pacheco recognized dignitaries in attendance including the Honorable Therese Murray and Robert E. Travaglini.

Dignitaries.

*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 4, 2023

*To the Honorable Senate:*

I have the honor to lay before you the returns of votes cast at the election held in this Commonwealth on the eighth day of November, 2022 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. Finegold,--

*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 Lovely of Salem, Gomez of Springfield and Fattman of Sutton were appointed to the committee.

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

- Hon. Paul W. Mark of Becket..... in the *Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin and Hampshire 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. Pavel Payano of Lawrence .....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. Jacob R. Oliveira of Ludlow .....in the *Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester*

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

- District.*
- Hon. John C. Velis. of Westfield .....in the *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 *Norfolk and Middlesex District.*  
 Hon. Karen E. Spilka of Ashland .....in the *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, Worcester 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 *Third Bristol and Plymouth District.*  
 Hon. Michael D. Brady of Brockton .....in the *Second Plymouth and Norfolk District.*  
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 Hon. Liz Miranda of Boston .....in the *Second Suffolk District.*  
 Hon. Lydia Edwards of East Boston .....in the *Third Suffolk District.*  
 Hon. William N. Brownsberger of Belmont .....in the *Suffolk and Middlesex District.*  
 Hon. Robyn K. Kennedy 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 and Hampshire District.*  
 Hon. John J. Cronin of Lunenburg.....in the *Worcester and Middlesex District.*  
 Hon. Ryan C. Fattman of Sutton .....in the *Worcester and Hampden District.*

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

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*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Ms. Jehlen,--

*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.

Senators-elect Crighton of Lynn, Comerford of Northampton, Edwards of East Boston and O'Connor of Weymouth were appointed to the committee.

Subsequently, Mr. Crighton, for the said committee, reported that the committee had waited upon His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, Her Honor Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant-Governor of the Commonwealth, 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 Her Honor Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant-Governor of the Commonwealth, 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 in the Senate Chamber.

The Chair, Mr. Pacheco recognized Mr. Larry Ellison and Mr. Larry Calderon,

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

POST Commission

inaugural members of the Massachusetts Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Commission.

members..

*Remarks of Senator-elect Marc R. Pacheco.*

Nearly two years ago, on January 6th, 2021, as the 192nd Massachusetts General Court was sworn-in, our United States Capital Building came under attack. Not by foreign operatives or enemy countries, but by a turbulent mob of our own citizens, attempting to undermine the results of the Presidential Election.

Remarks of Senator-elect Marc R. Pacheco.

While it would be easy to see such a clear demonstration of our national, partisan divide and assume this sentiment extends to our state government, the flame of democracy continues to burn bright here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Here in the Commonwealth, we can take pride in the fact that our state government – though far from perfect, has remained committed to the preservation of our fundamental democratic values, while welcoming progress with open arms.

So to Governor Charlie Baker, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, and the departing administration, to our outstanding legislative leaders from both the majority and minority parties, thank you all, for your part in establishing an environment where reasonable minds can – and ought to – differ.

Where respect and integrity remain inherent aspects of our official discourse.

Where substantive debate and public input are valued.

And where we continue to aspire to be a shining example of functional democracy.

Now as we look forward to a historic transition at the executive level...

With the inauguration of Governor-Elect Maura Healey and Lieutenant-Governor Elect Kim Driscoll. And as I stand here among so many dedicated public officials ready to embark on a new legislative session, I am reminded of our hard-fought achievements and the critical work that lies ahead.

For at this very moment, our Commonwealth, our country, and our world face significant challenges:

Persistent threats to our public health.

Economic uncertainty, brought on by global conflict and a fluctuating financial landscape.

Supply chain disruption, and major changes in our modern workforce.

Limited affordable housing, aging public transportation and infrastructure.

The rapid intensification of our global climate emergency and the existential consequences its worst effects will bring.

And the sentiment of deep partisan divide that continues to thrive throughout our country - especially at the national level.

We have witnessed the collective power of these chronic conditions, conditions which have shaken the foundation of our American Democracy.

But these daunting challenges can be overcome by working together.

And I am extremely proud to be serving alongside such passionate, insightful, and dedicated public servants assembled here today in this chamber.

And to the newest members of the Massachusetts State Senate - Senator Robyn Kennedy, Senator Paul Mark, Senator Liz Miranda, Senator Jake Oliveira, and Senator Pavel Payano:

Let me be the first to officially congratulate you and welcome you all to the Massachusetts State Senate!

You are now, and forever, part of this chamber's legacy, as we all are.

And with many daunting challenges to address, thank you for your willingness

to accept the responsibilities of office: to serve your constituents, speak truth to power, and provide your unique insight and perspective for the benefit of our chamber and the citizens we serve.

As we begin the 193rd Massachusetts General Court, it is my hope and expectation that we will all continue to do our part to honor the sacred privileges conferred upon us by the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. To serve their best interests and to ensure that their government - of the people, by the people, and for the people remains dedicated to the proposition that “Truth, Justice, Liberty, and Humanity Will Prevail” – the words of Frederick Douglass, which are etched here on walls of our chamber.

God bless the Commonwealth and God bless everyone in attendance today.

Please join me now in welcoming his Excellency the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: Charles D. Baker, Jr.

Thank you, Governor, for your public service these past eight years.

I now turn it over to you for the swearing-in of the 193rd Massachusetts General Court!

Subsequently, on motion of Mr. Tarr, the above address was ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.

Ordered printed.

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 sixteen 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 the Senate Chamber.

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Ms. Creem,--

*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.

Mr. Brownsberger placed in nomination for President, of Ms. Karen E. Spilka of Middlesex and Norfolk.

*Nomination Speech for Karen E. Spilka to be Elected Senate President  
By Senator William N. Brownsberger.*

I rise to nominate Karen Spilka as President of the Massachusetts Senate.

Statement of Senator Brownsberger.

We need her continued steady leadership.

When we campaign for office, we present an agenda for action to the voters –

Education that lifts all our children,

Transportation that works.

A net zero energy future.

Housing for all.

Health care for all.

Justice for all.

Transparency and accountability in government.

Fiscal responsibility.

A positive vision for the future.

Most of us share a common agenda although we choose different words or choose a different emphasis.

Yet, almost always, when we take our seats, we face largely unanticipated

challenges. And it's when the winds suddenly shift that we most need an experienced captain at the helm.

Few ran for office anticipating a global pandemic.

Few ran for office anticipating the strangulation murder of George Floyd.

Few ran for office anticipating the enormous scope of changes the Supreme Court would make in our constitutional law.

No one ran for office amidst the grim financial forecasts in 2020 anticipating competition for an historic surfeit of state funds.

All of these storms have broken over the Senate while Karen Spilka was on the bridge. Together, we have weathered them under her steady leadership.

We need leadership that has felt the shock of heavy seas on the rudder.

We need leadership that has heard the sighs and groans of our historic vessel in the rolling waves and can sense what they foretell.

We need leadership that is unafraid to steer into the hard issues and rise over them.

We need leadership that can bring the best from every person -- every senator, every staff member -- as we trim the sails and navigate together.

Karen Spilka is that seasoned, wise, strong, and collaborative leader. She was that leader when she took the helm four years ago, as the Senate was reeling from the previous Senate presidency, and she is even more so today.

We can take pride in her leadership which we have chosen together. We can take pride in the diverse and capable team that we now comprise together -- senators and senate staff.

Let us move forward together to meet challenges known and unknown with Karen Spilka as our President.

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

*Seconding Speech for Karen E. Spilka to be Elected Senate President  
By Senator Joanne M. Comerford.*

Thank you, Mr. President, and through you to our colleagues.

I rise this morning for our shared future. For work that can't wait.

I rise for compassionate leadership.

For bold vision and steady direction. For courage and determination in the face of a global pandemic. For an unshakeable commitment to lasting racial, economic, and social justice.

For a woman -- a trail blazer -- who leads with her mind and her heart. For courage. Tenacity. And a lifetime of public service.

I rise to second the nomination of Karen E. Spilka for President of the Massachusetts Senate.

Extraordinary times demand extraordinary leaders.

Our Senate, under the leadership of Senate President Karen Spilka, has risen to meet these extraordinary -- often daunting, often perilous -- times, again and again.

As COVID continued to ravage the Commonwealth -- amid unending complexity and strife -- Senate President Spilka led the Senate to quickly enact policies which prioritized the wellbeing of frontline workers, small employers, and those disproportionately hit by the virus -- with record support for rental assistance, food security, sick leave, and unemployment insurance. Senate President Spilka listened to outcries from hospitals, community health centers, and public health officials to prioritize spending and policies to help them reach, vaccinate, test, and provide equitable care for our people.

Statement of Senator  
Comerford.

As Senate Chair of both the Public Health and COVID Committees, I witnessed the lady from Ashland's profound resolve up close. Hers was often the first text or call of the day and the last as she pushed herself – and the Senate – to do better. To rise to the immense challenges in front of us.

Further into the session, Senate President Spilka led historic work on mental health, drawing on her personal experience for the fortitude to lead this critical work in addition to COVID-related efforts, on top of an already daunting agenda.

An agenda focused on advancing care for veterans, voting rights expansion, economic recovery and growth, public transportation, affordable housing, the existential climate crisis, protecting reproductive and gender-affirming health care, ensuring that all immigrants have access to drivers' licenses, support for early education and care, access to universal school meals, common sense gun safety, prescription drug price control. And so much more.

This broad, difficult, and necessary work was led by our Senate President and forged and honed by members of this Chamber, because Karen Spilka believes this Senate is stronger when its members' priorities and abilities are at the center of policy creation.

Senator Spilka's faith and trust in us is yet another cornerstone of her presidency.

Author, activist, abolitionist Julia Ward Howe wrote in 1874, when contemplating the difference between ambition and mutual advancement, that "faithful people build." They don't climb alone. They build together.

To me, building together looks like the day when the Senate President put on big boots and spent hours in farm fields and cow barns listening to western Mass farmers talk about everything from how they're sequestering carbon in the soil to how best to get their produce and milk into our schools to feed our children.

Building together. Risking. Listening. Compromising when necessary to achieve results. Holding firm when core principles are at stake. Advancing a common agenda that meets the needs, hopes, and dreams of our constituents. Seizing opportunity. Easing hardship. That is the work of our Senate with Senator Spilka in the lead.

This is the beginning of a new day in our Senate and in our State House.

A new day of possibility – for everyone in our state. Everyone.

Dr. Christina Royal, President of Holyoke Community College, said it best when she spoke to an early initiative of President Spilka's to tell the truth about the profound contributions of women of color to the Commonwealth. She said "[It is] time for us to recognize that the lived experiences of women in the Commonwealth matter, and that we are a diverse group of women of different races, ethnicities, social classes, abilities, educational levels, gender expressions, and sexual orientations. I am proud to share my story as a multiracial, queer woman so that girls and young women can see representation of themselves in society and grow up believing in their limitless potential."

Possibility. Limitless potential. Combined with Senator Spilka's commitment to opening doors – today and for future generations to come.

Mr. President, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in electing Senator Karen E. Spilka to the leadership of our Chamber, for a third term as our Senate President.

Thank you.

Mr. O'Connor placed in nomination for President, of Mr. Bruce E. Tarr of Essex and Middlesex.



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

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

I first want to welcome the new members of the Senate and congratulate my colleagues on being sworn in for a new term. I look forward to working together with all of you in this exciting session we have ahead of us.

Mr. President,

I rise today and offer my nomination to the Gentleman from Gloucester, Senator Bruce E. Tarr, for President of the Massachusetts Senate.

Bruce Tarr is one of the most effective legislators I've ever had the opportunity to work with.

- He forms relationships built on trust and respect.
- He researches every piece of legislation in the most thorough way imaginable.
- He's a talented orator who has a command of the English language that he's developed into an effective way to influence positive change.
- He's passed major legislation that:
  - protects victims of violent crime;
  - provides greater opportunity to Massachusetts students;
  - assists the most vulnerable in our communities;
  - cuts taxes, supports our veterans, saves our fishing industry, and so much more among the thousands of bills and amendments that the gentlemen from Gloucester has filed, passed, or negotiated.

And he's done all this as the leader of a caucus of 3.

In many other legislatures across the country, a caucus of three, and their members, whether Democrat or Republican, might not be looked at as equal or relevant to the body. But not here in Massachusetts, not here in the Senate. Here, our voices are heard, our opinions valued, and the goal of producing bi-partisan public policy that benefits the residents of the Commonwealth is always at the forefront.

The reason this happens, is in large part, because of the impact Bruce Tarr has had on the collaborative culture of this great institution.

He's seen the impact unprecedented division and vitriol has had in our nation's capital and in too many state houses and city halls across our country. His belief that here in Massachusetts we are capable of rising above politics as usual has proved true, time and again. We are a body that believes in conversations over arguments, people over politics, and working together for the better of our body, our constituents, our communities, and our Commonwealth.

We are so fortunate to have two candidates for Senate President who are honorable, compassionate, and people of high moral character. We are in challenging times where leadership is needed to chart the continued success of our great state and this amazing institution that we all have the honor of working in.

I respectfully ask for your support for my friend, one of the most genuine people I know, the gentleman from Gloucester Bruce E. Tarr.

The nomination of Senator Bruce E. Tarr for President was seconded by Mr. Fattman, who also briefly addressed the Senate.

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

Thank you.

Statement of Senator  
Patrick M. O'Connor

Statement of Senator

Welcome Family, Friends, new members, and returning colleagues.

To all who join us today, this is a solemn and momentous occasion - the biennial transfer of power vested in the people to their elected representatives - routinely takes place, and rarely do we sit back to observe how truly uniquely blessed we are.

Per our Constitution: The people of this Commonwealth have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state;

We have executed this Constitutional Authority 192 times in our history.

And, peacefully and purposefully, as we enter the 193rd, the Massachusetts Constitution turns our attention to Chapter 1, Section 2 - The Senate, in the words of Section 2, Article VII.

“The Senate shall choose its own president, appoint its own officers, and determine its own rules of proceedings,” and it is my honor to Second nomination of my friend, my colleague, the Gentleman from the First Essex and Middlesex Senate District, Senator Bruce E. Tarr as President of the Massachusetts State Senate.

Now make no mistake - my friend from Weymouth and I - we harbor no illusions of the odds before us today.

But our nomination and choice of the Gentleman from Gloucester is emblematic:

Its emblematic of a Massachusetts different from the makeup of this body:

The 48% of whom said no to raising taxes on people who work their entire life, only to watch their home, their business, their legacy taxed while their government rakes in revenues larger than ever.

Now after the fact, everyone is concerned with our seniors. But it was Senator Bruce Tarr on multiple occasions who pointed out over several Constitutional Conventions, that this tax would penalize seniors and hurt small businesses.

Our votes are representative of residents who have watched gas prices, home heating oil, diapers, daycare, groceries, and just about every good or service that is a day to say essential become more expensive due to inflation at home, and world events abroad.

And which Senator led the charge to help reduce the gas tax, to increase rental tax exemptions or increase the child care tax credit? Senator Bruce Tarr.

We stand, united, behind our leader, to say to everyone today that people of Massachusetts still need relief, whether it be tax relief, relief from high cost utilities, or relief and recovery from the damage inflicted by Covid.

When the pandemic impacted restaurants, the fishing industry was severely impacted as well, since a large percentage of fish are harvested and processed by Mass boats and businesses goes to restaurants.

An unyielding advocate for coastal communities, many of which are located in his district, the Gentleman from Gloucester organized fishing organizations and Massachusetts seafood processors to create the Massachusetts Seafood Collaborative, a groundbreaking collaborative effort to redirect fish underutilized by a shuttered restaurant industry directly to consumers and food banks, helping save the fishing industry as we know it.

The overall point is obvious, but this detail is important. While widely regarded for his extensive knowledge, accomplishment and advocacy in public policy matters, the one job that Senator Tarr - and his staff - regards above all else is helping the constituents of his district on a day-to-day basis.

Whether Moms or Dads, Large Families or Single parents, Democrats, Republicans, gay or straight, black, white, sister or brother, farmers or fisherman, the Gentleman from the First Essex and Middlesex Senate District knows his first

priority are those people he represents, and the geography he covers.

And the voters have recognized his dedication, returning him to Beacon Hill with an average of 70% of the vote.

It would be an amazing testament to bipartisanship and our collaborative spirit if we - here today - voted Bruce Tarr President of the Senate with 70% of the vote.

Joking aside, today marks a return to normal Senate business.

Our state, our society and our Senate have felt the impacts of a tumultuous few years. But through it all, Senator Bruce Tarr has dedicated himself, his time, talent and energy to making Massachusetts more affordable, more accountable and more livable for all people, and he has done so working against the odds, bipartisanly, openly, and transparently for “ we the people.”

It’s been said, what one gets is how you make a living. What one gives is how you make a life. The Gentleman from Gloucester gives his life to the selfless service of this Senate every day, and by way of it, to the people of the Commonwealth. I can think no better person to lead the first branch of the legislature as President than Senator Bruce E Tarr.

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

The Chair, Mr. Pacheco recognized dignitaries in attendance including Governor-elect Maura Healey, Lieutenant Governor-elect Kim Driscoll, United States Senator Elizabeth Warren and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu.

Dignitaries.

The roll was called at twelve minutes past twelve o’clock noon, and the following named members voted for Karen E. Spilka of Middlesex and Norfolk:

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Barrett, Michael J.      | Keenan, John F.       |
| Brady, Michael D.        | Kennedy, Edward J.    |
| Brownsberger, William N. | Kennedy, Robyn K.     |
| Collins, Nick            | Lewis, Jason M.       |
| Comerford, Joanne M.     | Lovely, Joan B.       |
| Creem, Cynthia Stone     | Mark, Paul W.         |
| Crighton, Brendan P.     | Miranda, Liz          |
| Cronin, John J.          | Montigny, Mark C.     |
| Cyr, Julian              | Moore, Michael O.     |
| DiDomenico, Sal N.       | Moran, Susan L.       |
| Edwards, Lydia           | Oliveira, Jacob R.    |
| Eldridge, James B.       | Pacheco, Marc R.      |
| Feeney, Paul R.          | Payano, Pavel         |
| Finegold, Barry R.       | Rausch, Rebecca L.    |
| Friedman, Cindy F.       | Rodrigues, Michael J. |
| Gobi, Anne M.            | Spilka, Karen E.      |
| Gomez, Adam              | Timilty, Walter F.    |
| Jehlen, Patricia D.      | Velis, John C. ---36. |

The following named members voted for Bruce E. Tarr of Essex and Middlesex:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Fattman, Ryan C.     | Tarr, Bruce E. --- 3 |
| O’Connor, Patrick M. |                      |

The Chair announced the results of the votes as follows:

Whole number of votes .....	40
Necessary for a choice .....	21
Karen E. Spilka of Middlesex and Norfolk had .....	36

Bruce E. Tarr of Essex and Middlesex had ..... 3

The following named members were absent or not voting:

Rush, Michael F. --- 1

**The roll call having been completed at sixteen minutes past twelve o'clock noon, Ms. Spilka was declared elected as President of the Senate.**

Mr. Tarr moved that it be the sense of the Senate that the vote for Karen E. Spilka for President should be made unanimous and that this expression of opinion be made a part of the records of the Senate.

Sense of the Senate.

There being no objection, this motion was entertained; and it was unanimously adopted.

Ms. Spilka was escorted to the Chair by Senator Moran of Plymouth and Barnstable and Senator Cronin of Worcester and Middlesex.

The President then addressed the Senate as follows:

Good morning, and welcome. First and foremost, I would like to thank all of you, my Senate colleagues, for placing your faith and trust in me – for the fourth time – to serve as your Senate President. I am humbled to be standing here before you as Senate President – and so proud of what we have been able to accomplish together.

Remarks of Senate President Karen E. Spilka.

Thank you also to Senator Brownsberger and Senator Comerford, for those kind words – and for all your great work in this chamber. I'd also like to thank our Minority Leader, Bruce Tarr, for offering this body's unanimous, bipartisan support – and for your partnership. I'd like to extend a welcome to our dignitaries who joined us today.

I'd like to welcome our new members -- and welcome back our returning members for what we know will be another productive session...congratulations to all of you!

I also can't start today without thanking the Senate Clerk's office, the Office of Senate Counsel, our court officers and all of the staff who worked so hard late into the night last night to close out our previous session.

Two years ago, we gathered outside for the swearing in of the 192nd legislative session. Instead of being together in the warmth and comfort of this Senate chamber, we stood outside – apart – so that we could keep each other healthy and, in turn, keep our friends and loved ones alive. We were still reeling from the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we stood, determined, to fulfill our duties as public officials and elected leaders.

Little did we know, on that bright January day, that another shock was coming for our nation starting just a few hours later. The January 6th siege of the United States Capitol would shake all of us to our core and make us question whether the American experiment of democracy would even survive.

The past few years have been among the most turbulent in our nation's history, as we have lost more than one million lives to COVID, witnessed the traumatic murder of George Floyd and others and the subsequent long-overdue racial reckoning, which we are just starting to scratch the surface of, experienced the stripping away of reproductive rights by the US Supreme Court and in far too many states, lost sleep over the continued reluctance to meaningfully address climate change nationally and globally, and stood with our allies as an anti-democratic autocrat waged a brutal war on a free Ukraine.

Against this backdrop, there are many reasons why we may find ourselves giving into sadness, anger, and despair, especially as we, and the people we serve,

face more uncertainty, including potential economic instability and a deeply divided nation.

And yet, as I stand here today, in the beauty of this historic Senate chamber, surrounded by friends, loved ones and all of you, my Senate colleagues, I cannot help but feel one thing: and that is hope!

American poet – and Amherst native – Emily Dickinson once wrote, “Hope is a thing with feathers, that perches in the soul ... and never stops at all.”

While I always have hope perched in my soul, it is not enough for us to just feel hope. We must be hope -- we must live hope -- and we must make hope happen!

For me, however, hope cannot exist without opportunity. Opportunity is the spark that keeps the flame of hope burning brightly. That is why I am calling on all of us gathered in this chamber to work this session to spread opportunity to every corner of our Commonwealth.

One thing about Massachusetts that gives me hope is that we have proven, time and time again, that we have what it takes to tackle big, systemic challenges. During COVID, not only did we lead the way on developing a vaccine, we proved that – against the backdrop of a dysfunctional national landscape – state government can work by working together -- across branches and across the aisle -- to help the people of the commonwealth.

We have consistently been a leader in public education, health care, civil rights ... you name it! And just last session we passed not one -- but two -- nation-leading bills to address climate change.

In the shadow of COVID and a national realization that mental health needs are acute in every demographic, the Massachusetts Senate led the way by passing a sweeping reform of our mental health care delivery system to ensure that everyone will get the mental health care they need, when they need it!

With the signing of the Mental Health ABC Act into law this past summer, now all residents are guaranteed a free annual mental health assessment, we have tools to finally enforce true parity for mental health coverage, and we can take significant steps toward addressing the emergency room boarding crisis... and so much more.

I have heard from many, many people everywhere I go – particularly from parents in MetroWest and beyond, who are very grateful for this law.

I have also heard from providers – and – from those in the Biden Administration – who believe that this reform can and will serve as a model for the country. This is a credit to each of you and to the decades of hard work that went into making this landmark bill a law, giving us an important opportunity to provide hope to not only Massachusetts -- but to the entire nation.

This hope cannot come soon enough.

In December of 2021, the U.S. Surgeon General warned that young people are facing “devastating” mental health effects as a result of the challenges experienced by their generation. While reforms to our mental health care delivery system here at home will help our young people get the care they need, we must do more.

We must tackle the challenges that are before us, so that we can make hope happen and overcome the anxiety too many young people see in their present – and in their future.

If this sounds daunting -- it’s because it is. But we did not aspire to become Senators to only take on the easy tasks. Together, our job is to build hope -- through opportunity and through action.

One of our greatest ways to create opportunity is through public education. Indeed, the name of the law that brought long needed reform to our K-12 public schools, is the “Student Opportunity Act.” After 20 years of working to change our

K-12 public education formula to make it more equitable, passing the Student Opportunity Act soon after I became Senate President remains one of my proudest accomplishments in office.

But our young people, their families, and our businesses that will one day hire these young people need more than just ONE “Student Opportunity Act.” To truly to succeed as a Commonwealth, what we need is an entire “Student Opportunity Plan”: a plan that lays the educational cornerstone for our youngest learners and opens doors for continued learning beyond high school. Education, after all, has always been our lodestar – and the key to our Commonwealth’s success far into the future.

Like many young people today, there was a time when I wasn’t sure I’d be able to afford to go college. Luckily, when I was finishing high school, the public higher education system in New York State gave me the seed I needed to start my college education, which I was then able to grow into a diploma from Cornell and a law degree from Northeastern.

Public higher education was, quite simply, a life-changing opportunity for me—one that I want to ensure every young person in Massachusetts has, no matter who they are or where they grew up. But continually rising costs mean that this vital opportunity is out of reach for far too many students.

The need for investment in public higher education is greater than ever before – and similarly our need to lead in this area is more important than ever.

According to the economist Heather McGee, our country began under-investing in public higher education just as more Black and brown students enrolled in these very institutions to help carve a path to the middle class. This has contributed to the striking and indefensible racial inequities that we now face as a nation. And so we cannot say we are serious about closing the racial wealth gap here in Massachusetts without redoubling our efforts to support public higher education.

Further, we know that our continued economic vitality depends on ensuring that the workforce for our many innovative industries comes from Massachusetts schools, community colleges and universities. And that is why we must build upon our critical investments including in quality K-12 education to early college, technical and vocational schools as well as public colleges, universities, and workforce training.

The people of Massachusetts agree. They have told us loud and clear, through the passage of the Fair Share amendment, that the time to for the Senate to lead is now in public higher education, just as we have with K-12 and with early education and care.

According to a recent article in The Boston Globe, enrollment in community colleges is declining, as potential students must decide between paying for and attending classes or working to put food on the table. Community college students are often working parents, recent immigrants and those from low-income backgrounds. They are the very people we picture when we think of the words “American Dream” and “opportunity.” That is why, this session, as part of the senate’s new “Student Opportunity Plan,”— I am calling on us to make community college free for all students, and for us to determine how we can dedicate more funds to public higher education institutions all across our state so that every young person can fulfill their dreams for their futures.

We can all agree that Massachusetts is well-known for its world-class private colleges and universities. But we should also be shouting from the rooftops about our world-class public colleges and universities. After all, these schools are working to provide solutions to the very challenges we grapple with in this chamber and

around the country.

At MassBay Community College's new Framingham campus, which will open soon, the Center for Health Science, Early Childhood, and Human Services will serve as a "central regional pipeline of trained health care workers, early childhood educators, and human services professionals" – all careers that we are in desperate need of.

In Springfield, students in the Mechanical Engineering Technology program of Springfield Technical Community College are preparing to be the next generation of workers in precision manufacturing – another segment of the workforce we are in desperate need of.

And – at UMASS Amherst, I recently had the opportunity to visit the Water and Energy Technology Center with Senators Comerford and Cyr. Right now, it's a small operation, currently housed in two trailers welded together, but it is working on the big problem of dangerous "forever chemicals" known as PFAS. Through its research and work with municipalities, this tiny but mighty lab may hold the key to making PFAS a worry of the past.

And, the next generation of life-saving mRNA vaccines, similar to the scientific miracle that is the COVID-19 vaccine, are being developed right now at UMASS Medical Center.

It is clear that we have, right here in this Commonwealth, the people and the institutions we need to ensure the workforce of our future and tackle the challenges that we face, if only we see this opportunity for what it is and are brave enough to seize it.

A significant commitment to public higher education will ensure that every resident, regardless of zip code, will have access to the spark of opportunity to create a hopeful future. However, it is not enough to set our young people up for great jobs if they cannot afford to live, work and start a family here in Massachusetts. That's why I am committed to re-introducing transformational early education and care legislation as part of the Senate's comprehensive "Student Opportunity Plan" and working with stakeholders at every level, both public and private, as well as our partners here in government, to get this important piece over the finish line. We know how important early education and care is, both to addressing the "she-cession" that worsened during the pandemic AND preparing our children to learn. Simply put, it is past time to update the way we imagine and support this crucial sector.

Last session's bill, which drew on the recommendations made by the Special Legislative Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission, sought to make early ed and care more accessible and affordable for families, to provide high-quality care for young children, and strengthen the support to early education providers and workers, among other things. In the same way the Senate worked with and learned from stakeholders and others to strengthen the Mental Health ABC Act over two sessions, I look forward to taking a similar approach to building upon and passing an even stronger reform bill on early education and care this session.

Together with the historic Student Opportunity Act, we have a chance to transform our education landscape with a deeper commitment to public higher education AND early education and care in our expanded "Student Opportunity Plan." With this more inclusive and far-reaching plan, we can create a pipeline of hope for our students, workforce, business leaders, public servants and – ultimately – for all of us.

As we do so, we must continue to chip away at the challenges that threaten our state's competitiveness and quality of life. First, I remain committed to enacting permanent progressive tax relief, which will provide tangible benefits to low and

middle income families, seniors and residents, and I am hopeful that the Legislature will pass this soon in the New Year.

We must also put our minds and hearts together to solve our continuing housing crisis. The Senate has led the way here, by championing Housing Choice and insisting that multi-family housing in MBTA communities is prioritized, and we can point to a nearly billion-dollar investment to help ensure residents get the housing help they need.

We must also find the will and the way to expand safe, reliable and affordable public transit throughout the commonwealth. Once again, we must seize the opportunity given to us by the people of the Commonwealth through the passage of the Fair Share Amendment to build a transportation system that is safe first and foremost -- but also -- accessible, sustainable, connected, and regionally equitable.

There is no time like the present for these new investments -- and -- by the way -- I can assure you that as long as I'm Senate president, every last Fair Share dollar will go to new investments in transportation and education.

Finally, dear colleagues, I look forward to working with all of you to continue to pursue reforms, big and small, that will allow us to further address the existential threat of climate change. I'm proud of what we have accomplished in the Senate on this issue -- but -- there is no amount of opportunity that can build hope if our planet's very survival is on the line.

My last story of hope is deeply personal.

A little over a year ago, I was preparing to board a plane to the White House for the bi-partisan infrastructure bill signing. Instead, I found myself in a hospital bed, recovering from a mild stroke. I was lucky to have acted quickly, and I was lucky to be in Massachusetts, where we have access to extraordinary health care. With the support of my incredible family, friends, colleagues and medical providers, I was very soon back to work and in this beloved Senate chamber.

In this moment of personal struggle, I saw my own opportunity to provide hope. And so I publicly told my story. By not keeping this story to myself, I was able to influence at least one person -- that I know of -- who sought out care for a stroke when he otherwise would not have. I will never forget his letter to me, and I will always remember how important it is that we all use our voices to create hope.

But we must be completely honest -- it's hard to have hope for the future when one unplanned medical expense or the cost of prescription drugs threatens to wipe out everything you have worked for and saved for. And that's why the Senate will once again pass a bill to lower the cost of prescription drugs -- hopefully three time's a charm -- and we will work to expand health care quality and access and ensure that health care providers can work to the top of their licenses, so that Massachusetts can continue to provide the national leadership in healthcare we all deserve.

Tomorrow, I will be the first woman Senate President to have the distinct honor and privilege of swearing in the first woman elected Governor of the Commonwealth--and the first woman team of Governor and Lieutenant Governor. I cannot let this moment go by without recognizing the generations of women who came before us, who never stopped hoping for -- or working toward -- this day. I join them in celebration!

But I also know that with this amazing opportunity there can also be trepidation, as women leaders everywhere, still face harassment and even hate. I hope you will join me in speaking up and speaking out in the face of this harassment and hate, so that all of our elected leaders and -- frankly -- everyone in the Commonwealth can live here and thrive, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, ability or sexual orientation.



**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

I look forward to working with the new Healey-Driscoll Administration, as well as my partner Speaker Mariano in the House, and all of you to create a ‘Pipeline of Hope’ for the residents of our Commonwealth. As we begin this legislative session, I am awed by the opportunities before us – and therefore I am filled with hope. And I am reminded of the words of National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman:

“The new dawn blooms as we free it... For there is always light if only we’re brave enough to see it, if only we’re brave enough to be it.”

Thank you and congratulations 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, Madam President, it is wonderful to be gathered with all of you here at the start of this new year. To think about the blessings and the opportunities that we have for public service. And I hope that today at this moment in time we can reflect on those things before we go forward.

I am still adjusting to the results of the election that just occurred. I was up late last night and the line coming in from Las Vegas, which I now pay close attention to because of legalized gaming in Massachusetts for sports, it said that somebody with the middle initial of E was going to be the next Senate President in Massachusetts. So, I knew that I had at least a 50 percent chance.

Madam President, when it comes to my colleagues in this body, and when it comes to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts I’ll take that bet every time. I want to thank you for your partnership and the tone you set in this chamber and your willingness to fully engage with each of us in the Minority Caucus. It is a great honor to serve in this august Senate Chamber and it is certainly an honor to serve here on the first day of the new session, an occasion that has happened 192 times before.

You have earned the respect of all members. In the time that you have been our President, we have faced many unexpected challenges and your leadership and professionalism have helped to guide us through the storms.

You know that I am a very fond student of the rules, I could have spent time going through the rules trying to seek a way to alter the results of the election, Madam President, I’m not going to do that. I will instead express my appreciation for your leadership and your friendship that have both reflected so positively on this institution. And want to wish you the very best from the rostrum.

Madam President, I also want to thank my nominators. As the Minority Leader I always have to look for opportunities to find the positive in everything so let the record reflect that I was nominated for Senate President by 100 percent of my colleagues.

Senator Fattman, thank you. You have always been conscious of your obligations to the people, you have always been courageous in his stand on issues impacting the public interest, and you have always well-informed in matters of local and state government and you are grounded in the foundation of strong family values and traditions.

I also want to extend my appreciation to Senator O’Connor. As a city councilor in his hometown of Weymouth and as a State Senator he has consistently been self-guided with this refrain: “The bottom line is people come before politics.” He has been a significant contributor not only in this Chamber but also on numerous hallmark conference committees that have advanced economic growth, education opportunities, substance use treatment, veteran services, protections for the environment, and advocacy for individuals with intellectual and developmental

Remarks of Senate  
Minority Leader  
Bruce E. Tarr.

disabilities.

I am humbled by the kind and generous words from my colleagues in nominating me. And, I want to express my deepest appreciation to both of them for the confidence they place in me by allowing me to continue to serve as the leader of this caucus.

The members of the Minority Caucus, as I have said many times in these type of remarks, have three guiding principles: to always seek common ground, to present principled arguments on the floor, and to disagree respectfully and not through obstruction.

We are committed to working with our colleagues in local, state, and federal government to create a responsive government that serves the needs of all of our constituents.

I want to welcome the new members who join us today; Senator Liz Miranda, Senator Pavel Payano, Senator Robyn Kennedy, Senator Paul Mark, and Senator Jacob Oliveira. It is truly wonderful to have you join us and I would point out that on many occasions, your predecessors have voted with the Minority Caucus. I welcome and invite you to do the same, as often as possible, and I also invite you to engage with us, test the value of our proposals, see that our aim of achieving working solutions to our challenges are well considered - and to join us with your vote just as often as we have joined with you on many occasions.

I also want to welcome the returning members it is wonderful to see you all again. I want to thank the Dean of the Senate for introducing the concept of just sharing a few words, it is appreciated. I want to congratulate Senator Marc Pacheco, today marks his 30th year of membership in the Senate.

I want to say how wonderful it is that we are joined by our colleagues in government, my friend the Governor-elect Maura Healey and the Lieutenant Governor-elect Kim Driscoll and also our Auditor-elect who is here and also our U.S. Senator and the Mayor of Boston. It is wonderful to have you here with us to share this day when we prepare to embark on the next journey in the chapter of this incredible institution.

I want to recognize Michael Hurley as our clerk and James DiTullio as our Senate Counsel.

I also want to express my gratitude to all of our staff we know how hard they work. We also know that it is not a glamorous role, it's certainly not enjoyable to redraft the same Amendment 142 times and still not know if it will see the light of day oh, but you are critical to the operations of the Senate and we need to express our gratitude to you.

Madam President, I want to express appreciation for my staff you can imagine what it's like to be in our office as we get involved and just about every issue that comes before this body. We pride ourselves on having an open door to work with all of you not only at the elected level but also at the staff level and my staff does an incredible job and every couple of years on the day like this they have to sign up for another tour of duty. I want to say thank you to them for all the work that they do.

Madame President, today I want to talk about change because as we come into this chamber change is all around us. Four out of our six Constitutional Officers are changing - our first-ever woman elected to serve as Governor of the Commonwealth - Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll will take the oath of office tomorrow and the Attorney General-elect Andrea Campbell and Diana DiZoglio, the auditor-elect will take their oaths soon thereafter.

Five new Senators are joining the chamber, and there are new members of the House of Representatives as well. To some extent, change is ever-present in our

lives. Heraclitus said, “There is nothing permanent except change.”

But, to some extent the change we are experiencing now is different than maybe any of us have seen before in our adult lives. Beyond the confines of the State House, and beyond the confines of state government, a gale of profound and persistent change swirls around our entire society, and certainly, our state - the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic for so many aspects of our lives continue to unfold.

Our world is experiencing great uncertainty, war in Europe, strained economic conditions, a national political discourse that amplifies the provocative. All of this causes us think about how we live, how we work, how we learn, how we express our stewardship of the planet that we have inherited and we will pass on to the next generation, and for many of us that have gone to the pandemic which is taking such a terrible toll, is causing us to think about how we live our very lives.

We are at an historic moment which presents us with incredible opportunities. There has been a litany of issues which have been referred to in remarks today but, just to recite a few of the things in the expression of change that we are going to have to deal with; we have a pandemic stress-tested health care system for hospitals and nursing homes; long waiting lists for treatment for both physical and mental health; our nursing homes are immersed in daily challenge of keeping personnel; a rapidly changing climate which presents us with a wide range of negative consequences if we don't act; we have serious issues with energy supply and the costs of energy supply; we have a workforce that is changing the way it works; and all of those things have the ramifications of a transportation system that is aging and all too often unreliable.

A change in workforce patterns and where people are living have dramatic impacts on the housing issue and ensuring that folks have access to one of the most basics of human needs -homes that they can afford that are safe and clean. We have to consider all of the ramifications of these changes that are swirling around us. When it comes to education, we have to think about the changes in the demographics particularly in our suburban communities and we have to think about the changing needs that have been identified with regard to our student population. Students have gone through isolation and distance from their cohorts as no cohort of students as ever seen before.

Against the backdrop of all of these evolving changes, the people of our state need not only a Beacon but also a touchpoint to hold firmly in the storm. Our Senate is, and must be, both. Our shared values have fortified us for challenges of all kinds in the past, and they are essential to us fulfilling our leadership role in the days ahead.

Those values include; fostering vigorous, well-reasoned debate; operating with transparency and accountability, an area the Senate has led on time and again; having an unrelenting quest for common ground amidst diverse opinions and perspectives; respect for every member, and valuing individual points of view because it gives greater strength to the policy that is forged from the mosaic that weaves them together; and the inclusion of the Minority Caucus as a full and engaged partner in the affairs of the Senate.

Madam President, we are eager to collaborate. Members of the Minority Caucus will ask the important questions; we will share our points of agreement and disagreement; we will offer thoughts and ideas that may be different from others; we will always work to find common ground where it is possible; we will invite you to join us at times in the Senate Reading Room or the situation room behind the Rostrum for conversations; we will employ provocative visual aids to highlight an issue. I want to say to the Governor-elect and Lieutenant Governor-elect that the Minority Prop Department has developed a burlap sack of tax reforms, in

collaboration with the Senate President and the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and I cannot wait to bring that burlap sack to your office so we can unpack it and talk about ways we can work together.

We will also remember the special power provided in the Senate Rules which affords great opportunity to the minority, and we will always be mindful of using that power responsibly.

The real strength of this chamber lies in the power of ideas, and we have many of them. We will strive for discipline in our budgeting, promote an economy that works for all, and continue to lead the nation with cost-effective energy policies. We will also work to protect our citizens from harm by enhancing their safety, supporting our cities and towns, providing funding for essential services, and ensuring that our children receive access to a best-in-the-nation education. If a lot of these things sound familiar it is because they are, we share in those priorities.

The ability to collaborate and compromise with those who hold different views is not a weakness - it is a hallmark of Senate and it is a strength. We may not always agree, but we can disagree with each other without becoming close-minded or intolerant. The legacy of this Senate deserves that and the future of this country needs that.

I am also humbled by the support of the people of the First Essex and Middlesex District and I want to express my gratitude to my constituents for entrusting me to represent them. My hometown of Gloucester is celebrating its 400 birthday this year, it is the oldest fishing port in America. Founded in 1623 it is older than the General Court itself.

In all of those years Gloucester has had a proud maritime tradition and it has witnessed many changes. The boats have largely changed, the gear has changed, and the technology has changed. But one thing has never changed – the boats still leave Gloucester Harbor guided by a compass. It marks the way to a true course, and it bears true in fair winds and in storms.

In this historic chamber, you will see the symbol of the compass in the ring that crowns the ceiling. The three hundred and sixty pieces of carved wood above us represent a degree of a compass with the Golden Dome directly above serves as our hub. These compass points radiate in every direction and, because what we do here radiates as well, we must let shine our commitment to good government and our best efforts for our residents and for generations yet to come.

When it comes to change, we must think not only of rising to meet its challenges, but also of leading the change we want for our state, our nation, and our communities.

Mahatma Gandhi said, “You must be the change you want to see in the world.” By holding firm to the values of this body and operating in a bipartisan, respectful manner, we can lead that change and be the beacon for others to follow.

Let us reflect on that and prepare to go forward, holding aloft the shared values of this Senate. Let's remember those who have to pay the bills as well as those who depend on us for impactful services in their lives. Let's set the best example we can to try to change the world and make it the place we want it to be.

Happy new year to everyone it is truly an honor to serve with you.

Thank you very much.

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

Ordered printed.

*Election of Clerk.*

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

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.”

*Swearing in of Senate Counsel.*

The President announced that she has appointed James DiTullio of Arlington as Senate Counsel. Mr. DiTullio was escorted to the Rostrum by Ms. Friedman of Arlington where he took and subscribed the oaths of office required by the Constitution and a law of the United States to qualify him for the discharge of his duties as Senate Counsel.

Senate Counsel appointment.

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Barrett,--

*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.

Senators Cyr of the Cape and Islands, Velis of Hampden and Hampshire, Rausch of Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex, Mark of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden and Fattman of Worcester and Hampden were appointed the committee.

Subsequently, Mr. Cyr, for the committee reported that the committee had performed the duties assigned to it. The report was accepted and the committee was discharged.

*Communications.*

The following communications were severally received, as follows:

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
SENATE  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

January 4, 2023

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

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

caucus has unanimously appointed Bruce E. Tarr of First Essex and Middlesex District as the Minority Leader in the Senate for the 2023-2024 legislative session.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Ryan C. Fattman  
State Senator

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
SENATE  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133

January 4, 2023

Senator Michael F.  
Rush.

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

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Today I am unable to be present in the Chamber.

I am sorry to miss two important votes during today's swearing-in ceremony and formal session. Had I been present, I would have voted to name Karen E. Spilka as Senate President and name Michael D. Hurley as Senate Clerk.

I respectfully request that this latter be printed in the Senate Journal as part of the official record.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Michael F. Rush  
State Senator

**On motion of Mr. Tarr, the above communications were ordered printed in the Journal of the Senate.**

*Orders Adopted.*

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. Lovely,--  
*Ordered,* That the joint rules observed in the preceding General Court (2021-2022) 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 February" and inserting in place thereof the words "third Friday in January".

Temporary  
Joint Rules.

On motion of Mr. Montigny,--  
*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.

**UNCORRECTED PROOF.**

Senators Gobi of Worcester and Hampshire, Moore of Worcester, Feeney of Bristol and Norfolk, Oliveira of Hampden and Hampshire and O'Connor of Plymouth and Norfolk were appointed the committee.

Subsequently, Ms. Gobi, for the committee reported that the committee had performed the duties assigned to it. The report was accepted and the committee was discharged.

On motion of Mr. Eldridge,--

*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.

On motion of Mr. Brownsberger,--

*Ordered,* That a convention of the two Houses be held at a quarter past eleven o'clock A.M. on Thursday, January 5, for the purpose of administering the oaths of office to the Governor-elect, Lieutenant Governor-elect and several Councillors-elect.

Joint convention of the two branches.

*Committee of the House.*

The President welcomed a committee of the House of Representatives that arrived to declare that the House of Representatives is now assembled and ready to proceed to business and that the House had 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.

*Order Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. Pacheco,--

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

Time of meeting.

On motion of Mr. Keenan, at thirteen minutes before two o'clock P.M., the Senate adjourned to meet again tomorrow at a quarter past eleven o'clock A.M.