

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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



**THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026.**

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Thursday, January 22, 2026.

At nine minutes past six o'clock P.M., the two branches met in

Joint Session.

**JOINT SESSION**

In the Chamber of the House of Representatives, for the purpose of receiving such communication as Her Excellency Maura T. Healy, Governor of the Commonwealth, may be pleased to make relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth; and were called to order by the Honorable Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate.

*Order Adopted.*

Ms. Friedman presented the following order:--

*Ordered,* That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and House of Representatives to wait upon Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council and other distinguished guests of the Governor and inform them that the two branches are now in Convention and request the honor of their presence.

Notification of  
Constitutional  
officers, et al.

Senators Cyr, Kennedy, Rausch, Oliveira and Fattman were appointed on the part of the Senate; and Representatives LaNatra of Kingston, Scanlon of North Attleboro, Kilcoyne of Clinton, John Moran of Boston, Souza of Framingham, Kane of Shrewsbury and Muradian of Grafton were appointed on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Cyr, for the committee, reported that the Lieutenant Governor, Constitutional officers, the Executive Council and distinguished guests would immediately attend upon the convention.

Shortly thereafter, Her Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Kim Driscoll, the Constitutional officers, members of the Executive Council and other distinguished guests of the Governor entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

*Invocation.*

The President in the Chair, then introduced Most Reverend Richard G. Henning, Archbishop of Boston who delivered the following Invocation:

Invocation.

Blessed are you Lord Our God, King of the Universe, for through Your goodness, we receive the beauty of creation and find sustenance in the bounty of land, sea and sky. We praise You this night for the blessings of liberty and for the gift of a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people".

We give You praise for calling forth leaders from among us, and we ask Your blessing upon Governor Maura Healy, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, Senate President Spilka, and House Speaker Mariano. We ask Your blessing upon our congressional delegation, our state legislators, Chief Judge Budd and all justices and officers of the courts, and all of the elected officials of the state and in the counties, cities, towns, and villages across Massachusetts. We pray for first responders and all those who give themselves to public service. Give wisdom to our Governor and to

all of our leaders that they may see beyond appearances and apply their gifts to maintain the peace and foster the common good. Give them listening hearts and an abiding commitment to preserve liberty, promote justice, and practice mercy.

We ask Your blessing upon the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As a people "e pluribus unam," out of many one, we give You thanks for the gift of the many and varied communities of this state, and we ask the grace of unity in diversity. Help us to see and hear one another with humility and understanding. Inspire us to build up rather than tear down. May our hands be open in friendship and our hearts full with compassion.

May our communities and citizens be ever committed to the education and formation of the young and to the loving care of those who are sick, elderly, or infirm. Open our eyes to every kind of poverty and strengthen us to accompany and assist each other in any and all struggle and despair. Bring forth in us "the better angels of our nature" (Abraham Lincoln, *First Inaugural Address*) and make of us a society where the "widow, the orphan, and the stranger" (Deut. 10: 18) find a home. Teach us to turn away from selfishness and to ask what we might do for our nation and our Commonwealth (Cf. John F. Kennedy, *Inaugural Address*).

Bless our industry and labor, and if it is accord with Your holy will, grant us prosperity so that we may praise your bounty and employ such gifts to exercise charity, craft beauty, and offer opportunity.

Author of Life, Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Your everlasting love is our greatest hope and our most fundamental calling. Reveal to us the sacred dignity of every person and help us to protect and cherish the gift of life. Make of us "a more perfect union" (Preamble to the Constitution of the United States) and a Commonwealth where faith, hope, and love abound.

We ask this and all things with confidence in Divine Providence through your Holy Name, You Who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

*Order Adopted.*

The President in the Chair, Ms. Creem presented the following order:--

*Ordered*, That a committee be appointed to consist of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to wait upon Her Excellency the Governor and inform her that the two branches are now in Convention for the purpose of receiving such communication as she may be pleased to make to them, relating to the concerns of the Commonwealth.

Notification of the Governor.

Senators Brownsberger, Lovely, Crighton, Comerford and Dooner were appointed to the committee on the part of the Senate; Representatives Garballey of Arlington, Duffy of Holyoke, Hamilton of Methuen, Arriaga of Chicopee, Worrell of Boston, Smola of Warren and Wong of Saugus were appointed to the committee on the part of the House.

Subsequently, Mr. Brownsberger, for the committee, reported that Her Excellency the Governor, Maura T. Healy, would immediately attend upon the convention.

*Presentation of Colors.*

The President introduced members of the Lynn English High School, Marine Corp Junior ROTC as the Honor Guard, who posted the colors.

Presentation of colors.

*Pledge of Allegiance.*

The President then introduced members of Gold Star families and

Pledge of allegiance.

Representative Xiarhos of Barnstable who led the Convention in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

*National Anthem.*

The President then introduced Vanessa Ford, who sang the National Anthem.

National Anthem.

Shortly thereafter, Her Excellency the Governor, Maura T. Healy entered the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The President then introduced Her Excellency the Governor, Maura T. Healy, who thereupon addressed the Convention relative to the concerns of the Commonwealth (Senate, No. 2).

State of the  
Commonwealth  
address.

*Benediction.*

The benediction was given by Rabbi Elaine Zecher of Temple Israel Boston, as follows:

Benediction.

A Blessing for the Search of True Kindness  
Holy One of Blessing, your presence fills all creation  
We stand before You,  
we who are divinely inspired yet human powered  
In pursuit of a compassion filled world.

We have a long way to go.

We surely know of pain  
caused by the mistreatment of the stranger,  
the vulnerable, those without safety and security.  
So much that is heart breaking  
and heart wrenching challenges our stability.  
When much has been lost,  
what remains is kindness,  
sacred and humane, everlasting and eternal,  
and always available as a balm for despair.

Help us, O God, to stand strong,  
to turn toward that which reaches  
further than ourselves.  
Help us to discover a path forward  
illuminated by the grace of goodness  
toward one another.  
Small gestures of kindness  
offered without the expectation  
of recognition make a profound difference.  
Kindness given unconditionally  
has the power to transform unconditionally.  
That's what makes it true.

We are mere human beings  
touched by the sacred.  
How can it be that though we are created in Your image  
we are not all the same?  
We are a varied kaleidoscope of humanity

dignified by our difference  
woven together by a sacred thread.

Teach us, O God  
to activate our capacity  
to respond with kindness,  
even with those whom we disagree.  
Your mercy and loving-kindness inspire us  
to consider how we care for one another,  
how we disturb our complacency  
to see that each person carries Your divinity  
even when it is difficult,  
even when we would rather look away.  
Let us not stand idly by.

Move us, Holy One of Blessing,  
in the presence of one another in this chamber,  
those who have devoted their lives  
to service of others as a civic responsibility  
to be the bridge between heaven and earth.  
Together, we demonstrate the potential  
of each person's capacity  
to bring goodness to one another

We have learned,  
leadership can mean tending  
to one's flock like a shepherd.  
The Psalmists called You a shepherd.  
It may not be possible to stand before a flock  
and expect everyone to obey or to agree,  
yet, leading from within  
as a shepherd must do  
can move everyone forward.  
And it is watching out for the those on the outside, exposed to danger  
that ensures their safety

May our governor feel Your presence  
lifting her in difficult moments  
and celebratory ones, too.  
May kindness surround her,  
hold her and strengthen her.  
May Governor Healy's compassion inspire others,  
and may it flow from the hands and hearts  
of those who reside in  
our glorious commonwealth  
to be active partners in our shared work  
to bring God's mercy to life,  
and in doing so, to bring life to each other  
So may it be. Amen

The President in the Chair, Her Excellency the Governor, Maura T. Healy, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Constitutional officers, the members of the Executive Council, members of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Adjutant General then withdrew from the Chamber under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Withdrawal from  
Chamber.

On motion of Mr. Collins at three minutes past eight o'clock P.M., the Convention of the Two Branches was dissolved; and the Senate withdrew from the Joint Session, under the escort of the Sergeant-at-Arms.