

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
1st Legislative Day
Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Pursuant to Article IV, Part 3, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, the Representatives-Elect to the One Hundred and Thirty-Second Legislature assembled in the Hall of the House and were called to Order by ROBERT B. HUNT of Yarmouth, Clerk of the House of the One Hundred and Thirty-First Legislature.

Prayer by Reverend Paul Sullivan, S.J., Our Lady of Hope Parish, Portland.

National Anthem by Julia Gagnon, Cumberland.
Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATION

The Following Communication: (H.C. 1)

STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

December 2, 2024

To Robert B. Hunt, Clerk of the House in the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature:

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, pursuant to the provisions of Title 3 MRSA, Section 1, hereby certify that the following are the names and residences of the Representatives-elect to the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature, in accordance with the tabulation submitted to the Governor on November 25, 2024:

District 1	Lucien J.B. Daigle, Fort Kent
District 2	Roger C. Albert, Madawaska
District 3	Mark Michael Babin, Fort Fairfield
District 4	Timothy C. Guerrette, Caribou
District 5	Joseph F. Underwood, Presque Isle
District 6	Donald James Ardell, Monticello
District 7	Gregory L. Swallow, Houlton
District 8	Tracy Lynn Quint, Hodgdon
District 9	Arthur Kevin Mingo, Calais
District 10	William R. Tuell, East Machias
District 11	Tiffany Strout, Harrington
District 12	Billy Bob Faulkingham, Winter Harbor
District 13	Russell P. White, Ellsworth
District 14	Gary Friedmann, Bar Harbor
District 15	Holly Rae Eaton, Deer Isle
District 16	Nina Azella Milliken, Blue Hill
District 17	Steven M. Bishop, Bucksport
District 18	Mathew David McIntyre, Lowell
District 19	Richard H. Campbell, Orrington
District 20	Dani L. O'Halloran, Brewer
District 21	Ambureen Rana, Bangor
District 22	Laura D. Supica, Bangor
District 23	Amy J. Roeder, Bangor
District 24	Joseph C. Perry, Bangor
District 25	Laurie Osher, Orono
District 26	James F. Dill, Old Town
District 27	Gary A. Drinkwater, Milford
District 28	Irene A. Gifford, Lincoln
District 29	Kathy Irene Javner, Chester
District 30	James L. White, Guilford
District 31	Chad R. Perkins, Dover-Foxcroft
District 32	Steven D. Foster, Dexter
District 33	Kenneth Wade Fredette, Newport
District 34	Abigail W. Griffin, Levant
District 35	James E. Thorne, Carmel
District 36	Kimberly M. Haggan, Hampden

District 37	Reagan L. Paul, Winterport
District 38	Benjamin C. Hymes, Waldo
District 39	Janice S. Dodge, Belfast
District 40	D. Michael Ray, Lincolnville
District 41	Victoria W. Doudera, Camden
District 42	Valli D. Geiger, Rockland
District 43	Ann H. Matlack, St. George
District 44	William D. Pluecker, Warren
District 45	Abden S. Simmons, Waldoboro
District 46	Lydia V. Crafts, Newcastle
District 47	Wayne K. Farrin, Jefferson
District 48	Holly B. Stover, Boothbay
District 49	Allison Lee Hepler, Woolwich
District 50	David A. Sinclair, Bath
District 51	Rafael Leo Macias, Topsham
District 52	Sally Jeane Cluchey, Bowdoinham
District 53	Michael H. Lemelin, Chelsea
District 54	Karen L. Montell, Gardiner
District 55	Daniel Joseph Shagoury, Hallowell
District 56	Randall Adam Greenwood, Wales
District 57	Tavis Rock Hasenfus, Readfield
District 58	Sharon C. Frost, Belgrade
District 59	David M. Rollins, Augusta
District 60	William R. Bridgeo, Augusta
District 61	Alicia Carol Collins, Sidney
District 62	Katrina J. Smith, Palermo
District 63	Paul R. Flynn, Albion
District 64	Flavia M. DeBrito, Waterville
District 65	Cassie Lynn Julia, Waterville
District 66	Robert W. Nutting, Oakland
District 67	Shelley J. Rudnicki, Fairfield
District 68	Amanda Noelle Collamore, Pittsfield
District 69	Dean A. Cray, Palmyra
District 70	Jennifer Lynn Poirier, Skowhegan
District 71	John E. Ducharme III, Madison
District 72	Elizabeth M. Caruso, Caratunk
District 73	Michael A. Soboleski, Phillips
District 74	Randall C. Hall, Wilton
District 75	Stephan M. Bunker, Farmington
District 76	Sheila A. Lyman, Livermore Falls
District 77	Tammy L. Schmersal-Burgess, Mexico
District 78	Rachel A. Henderson, Rumford
District 79	Michael J. Lance, Paris
District 80	Caldwell Jackson, Oxford
District 81	Peter Conley Wood, Norway
District 82	Nathan J. Wadsworth, Hiram
District 83	Marygrace Caroline Cimino, Bridgton
District 84	Mark Walker, Naples
District 85	Kimberly Pomerleau, Standish
District 86	Rolf A. Olsen Jr., Raymond
District 87	David W. Boyer Jr., Poland
District 88	Quentin J. Chapman, Auburn
District 89	Adam R. Lee, Auburn
District 90	Laurel D. Libby, Auburn
District 91	Joshua K. Morris, Turner
District 92	Stephen J. Wood, Greene
District 93	Julia A.G. McCabe, Lewiston
District 94	Kristen Sarah Cloutier, Lewiston
District 95	Mana Hared Abdi, Lewiston
District 96	Michel A. Lajoie, Lewiston
District 97	Richard G. Mason, Lisbon
District 98	Kilton M. Webb, Durham
District 99	Cheryl A. Golek, Harpswell
District 100	Daniel J. Ankeles, Brunswick
District 101	Poppy T. Arford, Brunswick

District 102 Melanie Fleming Sachs, Freeport
District 103 Arthur L. Bell, Yarmouth
District 104 Amy B. Arata, New Gloucester
District 105 Anne P. Graham, North Yarmouth
District 106 Barbara A. Bagshaw, Windham
District 107 Mark C. Cooper, Windham
District 108 Parnell William Terry, Gorham
District 109 Eleanor Y. Sato, Gorham
District 110 Christina R.C. Mitchell, Cumberland
District 111 Amy D. Kuhn, Falmouth
District 112 W. Edward Crockett, Portland
District 113 Grayson B. Lookner, Portland
District 114 Dylan R. Pugh, Portland
District 115 Michael F. Brennan, Portland
District 116 Samuel Lewis Zager, Portland
District 117 Matthew Moonen, Portland
District 118 Yusuf M. Yusuf, Portland
District 119 Charles A. Skold, Portland
District 120 Deqa Abdi Dhalac, South Portland
District 121 Christopher J. Kessler, South Portland
District 122 Matthew D. Beck, South Portland
District 123 Michelle Nicole Boyer, Cape Elizabeth
District 124 Sophia Bailey Warren, Scarborough
District 125 Kelly Noonan Murphy, Scarborough
District 126 Andrew M. Gattine, Westbrook
District 127 Morgan J. Rielly, Westbrook
District 128 Suzanne M. Salisbury, Westbrook
District 129 Marshall F. Archer, Saco
District 130 Lynn Holland Copeland, Saco
District 131 Lori Kathryn Gramlich, Old Orchard Beach
District 132 Ryan M. Fecteau, Biddeford
District 133 Marc G. Malon II, Biddeford
District 134 Traci Gere, Kennebunkport
District 135 Daniel R. Sayre, Kennebunk
District 136 John M. Eder, Waterboro
District 137 Nathan M. Carlow, Buxton
District 138 Mark John Blier, Buxton
District 139 David C. Woodsome, Waterboro
District 140 Wayne R. Parry, Arundel
District 141 Lucas John Lanigan, Sanford
District 142 Anne-Marie Mastraccio, Sanford
District 143 Ann Marie Fredericks, Sanford
District 144 Jeffrey Sean Adams, Lebanon
District 145 Robert Alan Foley, Wells
District 146 Walter Gerard Runte Jr., York
District 147 Holly T. Sargent, York
District 148 Thomas Arthur Lavigne, Berwick
District 149 Tiffany Danielle Roberts, South Berwick
District 150 Michele Meyer, Eliot
District 151 Kristi Michele Mathieson, Kittery

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, given under my hand at Augusta this second day of December in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-four.

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

For the purpose of ascertaining the presence of a quorum, a certified roll of the Representatives-elect was called by the Clerk of the House of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature.

A roll was taken. 149 out of 151 members-elect answered to their names, and accordingly the Chair declared a quorum present.

Those absent were:

Representative-Elect GREENWOOD of Wales

Representative-Elect PERRY of Bangor

Motion by Representative-Elect KUHN of Falmouth, that Representative-Elect SARGENT of York, Representative-Elect CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Representative-Elect ZAGER of Portland, Representative-Elect FROST of Belgrade, Representative-Elect ARATA of New Gloucester, Representative-Elect BLIER of Buxton and Representative-Elect JAVNER of Chester be appointed a Committee to wait upon the Governor and inform her that a quorum of the members of the House of Representatives-Elect have assembled in the Hall of the House of Representatives and request her attendance to administer to them the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

The Governor, the Honorable JANET T. MILLS, entered and administered to the members-elect and they subscribed the oaths required by the Constitution to qualify them to discharge their official duties.

Governor **MILLS**: Good morning. Please be seated. I just want to welcome you, first of all; those of you returning, those of you who are new; I look forward to a terrific session, working on that new budget as we speak. And very pleased to welcome the new and the old and the returning, those who served before, bringing that life experience that you have, every one of you, from every region of the State of Maine. Always a delight to read about you, to meet you, to greet you and to welcome your families and friends here this morning. And it's an exciting day for all of us and for the State of Maine. So, now, I guess you have to rise again to take the oath, if you would. Please repeat after me and fill in your full name.

I, (Members stated their names) do swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, so long as I shall continue a citizen thereof. So help me God.

I, (Members stated their names) do swear, that I will faithfully discharge, to the best of my abilities, the duties incumbent on me as a Representative in the 132nd Legislature of the State of Maine, according to the Constitution and laws of this State. So help me God.

Thank you and congratulations once again.

The Governor retired.

Motion by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta, that Representative CARLOW of Buxton, Representative FOLEY of Wells, Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan, Representative SATO of Gorham, Representative RIELLY of Westbrook and Representative ABDI of Lewiston were appointed a Committee to receive, sort and count votes for the Speaker.

The CLERK: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Meyer.

Representative **MEYER**: Mr. Clerk, I move that the name of Ryan D. Fecteau of Biddeford be placed in nomination for Speaker of the House and wish to speak to my motion.

The CLERK: The Representative may proceed.

Representative **MEYER**: Women and Men of the House, it is with great respect for the honorable institution we serve that I rise today to place the name of Ryan Fecteau into nomination for the position of Speaker of the House.

I have had the honor serving with Ryan and under his leadership as both Assistant Majority Leader and as Speaker in the 129th and the 130th Legislatures, respectively. Colleagues, many of you seated here today have served under Speaker Fecteau. Ryan has built relationships with many more of you as a senior policy advisor to the Chief Executive. We have, in his previous service, benefitted directly from his steady leadership, strong work ethic, quiet confidence, his insight, intelligence, procedural knowledge and expert management of this Chamber, and for his ability to unite us in our valuable service to the people of Maine. As Speaker, Ryan deftly navigated an ongoing pandemic with the skill and the agility needed to lead us from our temporary home at the Civic Center back to this Chamber to continue and conclude the work of the 130th. Keeping those of us working and serving under the State House dome safe and productive was no small feat, and required collaboration with fellow leadership, focus, vision, common sense and compassion; all traits Ryan embodies in his work as a legislative leader and as a human being. Our legislative achievements under Speaker Fecteau and under those circumstances were nothing short of extraordinary.

My friends, the times have found us. We are a big Chamber tasked with addressing big issues, complex and urgent. We will convene the 132nd Legislature as our nation begins a new chapter, at a time of heightened polarization. The Maine people have honored us with our seats here and look to us to work diligently on their behalf to improve lives, to promote policies that reflect Maine values and to safeguard their fundamental rights. That requires real leadership, tested and proven. The work is hard under the best of circumstances and will only benefit from Ryan's ability to relationship-build, to work across the aisle, to support this Body with leadership we can depend on, that we can trust and that we can be proud of.

Ryan is a good person; warm and engaging, passionate about improving lives through good, sound policy. He has a disarming sense of humor, often self-effacing, and he is generous with his time and willingness to listen to our ideas, discuss our viewpoints and position us to do the best work for the people we serve. His respect for this institution and the citizen legislators serving here will be reflected in the way this House is run; orderly, with decorum, propriety, respect for your lives outside of this Chamber, respect for your service within it, respect for your time.

The manner in which he conducted the work of Speaker of the House received high praise from his Republican counterpart, Minority Leader Dillingham, upon the conclusion of their work together in the 130th. From this House Floor, she noted his negotiation skills, his honesty and fairness, his integrity, his

ability to find common ground on behalf of the Maine people we serve. High praise, indeed. That's aspirational leadership.

My friends, the people whose trust and vote you earned expect you to make right and reasoned choices here, choices that will position this Legislature to best protect and improve their lives. For that, the right leadership is imperative. That begins with your vote for Speaker of the House, and I ask for your vote for Ryan Fecteau.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the name of RYAN D. FECTEAU of Biddeford be placed in nomination for the Speaker of the House.

The CLERK: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Camden, Representative Doudera.

Representative **DOUDERA**: I second the nomination of Ryan D. Fecteau for Speaker of the House and wish to speak to my motion.

The CLERK: The Member may proceed.

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you. Good afternoon, fellow Members of the Maine House of Representatives, and congratulations. I'm Vickie Doudera, starting my fourth term representing District 41, the people of Camden and Rockport, and I'm looking forward to serving with all of you.

Last week, we celebrated a day set aside for gratitude and, as we feasted on turkey and all of the trimmings, many of us paused to give thanks for this beautiful State and the hardworking, resilient, creative, amazing Mainers who call it home. Today, I find that feeling of gratitude welling up again, because one of these amazing Mainers, an outstanding man who many of you already know, has stepped forward to fill a critical role in this Chamber at a critical time in Maine's history.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Men and Women of the House, it's my honor and privilege to second the nomination of Ryan D. Fecteau for Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives. That the Good Representative from Biddeford is before us today is nothing short of serendipity. After serving four terms in the House from 2014 to 2022, Ryan experienced what will happen to all of us if we hang around long enough; he termed out. Even though he capped off his final term as Speaker and was the youngest presiding officer in the nation and the first openly gay Speaker in Maine's history, he was at the mercy of term limits, just like the rest of us. He got a job in the real world, continuing his passion for housing in our State, but then fate intervened; a seat opened up and Representative Fecteau came back to the House.

In the two years Ryan served as Speaker, we made incredible progress despite overwhelming odds. He led us through an unprecedented period of pandemic legislating, lighting the way in a dark time with strength, calm, good humor and compassion. He was respected by everyone in this building; yes, everyone; because he was fair and disciplined. He communicated with us and respected our time. He was inspiring and unflappable. Ryan knows what he's doing in this role and that really matters, because when a leader has mastery of the procedures, he or she can focus on other things, like managing the flow of legislation and committee assignments or smoothing ruffled feathers and egos. When a leader is skilled coming into this job, when he knows that rostrum like the back of his hand, he can then create a spirit of unity and common purpose among us; perhaps even start our sessions on time.

Lee Hamilton, a member of the U.S. House for 34 years, once said the Speaker's role is to make the Chamber work in spite of itself. With Ryan Fecteau's unique combination of experience and skill, we will do more than just make this Chamber work. We will make it a place where transformative things happen for the people of Maine; all the people of Maine.

A place of hope, healing and good health for our children and our woods, waters and wildlife. We are going to do great things with the right leadership, and I give thanks today that Ryan Fecteau has once again stepped up to be that leader. Thank you.

Representative DOUDERA of Camden seconded the motion.

The CLERK: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Mr. Clerk, I move that the name of Billy Bob Faulkingham of Winter Harbor be placed in nomination for Speaker of the House, and I wish to speak briefly to my motion, please.

The CLERK: The Representative may proceed.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, it is a great honor to offer the nomination of Billy Bob Faulkingham as Speaker of the House. I've had the privilege of working with Billy Bob for the past four years, and I know that he's a man of strong ethics and great integrity and faith. He embodies all of the characteristics of a strong and effective leader, including his ability and willingness to work with and, perhaps even more importantly, to listen to all of us, regardless of our political affiliation. This is what the people of Maine desire in a Speaker of the House; somebody willing to listen. Please join me and cast your vote for my leader, my colleague, my friend, Billy Bob Faulkingham, for Speaker of the House. Thank you.

Representative **POIRIER** of Skowhegan moved that the name of BILLY BOB FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor be placed in nomination for the Speaker of the House.

The CLERK: The Clerk recognizes the Representative from Monticello, Representative ArdeLL.

Representative **ARDELL**: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I second the nomination of Billy Bob Faulkingham for Speaker of the House and wish to speak very briefly to my motion.

The CLERK: The Member may proceed.

Representative **ARDELL**: Through the 131st Legislature, in his role as Minority Leader, I observed Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham to be a grounded and pragmatic leader. Representative Faulkingham was able to respectfully listen to different viewpoints before reaching a course of action that kept all parties in mind, excluding none. Representative Faulkingham would continue to manage this Body with a spirit of goal-oriented, mutual respectfulness and help represent not only all members, but all Mainers. I'm certain that Representative Faulkingham's track record of thoughtful, steady and inclusive leadership would continue as leader of this Body. Thank you.

Representative **ARDELL** of Monticello seconded the motion.

Representative **MOONEN** of Portland moved that nominations cease.

Subsequently, the Committee reported that it had attended to its duties and that the Representative from Biddeford, RYAN D. FECTEAU, having received a majority of the votes cast, had been elected Speaker of the House for the 132nd Maine Legislature.

The Sergeant-at-Arms escorted Speaker-elect Fecteau to his chair.

The Honorable ROBERT B. HUNT, Clerk of the House of the 131st Maine Legislature, administered the necessary oath of office to qualify the Speaker of the House to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

The House was called to order by Speaker Ryan D. Fecteau of Biddeford.

At this point, pursuant to his authority under House Rule 201, the Chair addressed the House.

Speaker **FECTEAU**: Good afternoon. Good morning; oh, yeah, not quite yet. I guess we did start somewhat on time today.

It is with great pride and humility that I stand before you today to once again serve this institution and our State as Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives. Just as I did four years ago, I want to begin by congratulating each of you. Whether you are returning or newly elected, you're here because of your commitment to the people of Maine. The effort it takes to run for office to represent your communities and to dedicate yourself to public service is no small feat, and it takes even more from your families, friends and supporters who stand behind you every step of the way. Let's take a moment to thank them.

My Mom, Grammy, Dad and his wife are here cheering me on today, and so is my husband, Dylan. Dylan, I'm blessed by our partnership and love, and I'm endlessly grateful for your support.

For those of you who may not know me, my name is Ryan Fecteau, and I'm proud to represent the City of Biddeford, the community where I was born and raised. My *Meme* and *Pepe* moved to Maine from Quebec in 1964, seeking a better life. Like many who came before them, they worked hard in Biddeford's textile mills and they had a vision of a brighter future. My mom is, to this day, a caregiver, and for many years, my dad worked in the dyehouse in those same mills. My parents instilled in me when I was young the value of hard work and perseverance. But it was not always easy to make ends meet; sometimes food wasn't always plentiful or nutritious, our car wasn't always reliable, but we always had a safe place to call home and a public education that lifted us up. When you're living on the edge, like my family was back then, it seemed like every financial crisis that could happen, did happen. For too many Maine people, this struggle is still a daily reality; when every month feels like a balancing act, figuring out which bills can be delayed just to put food on the table for one more week; when a car repair or a trip to the doctor can devastate an entire monthly budget and the worry of how to make it to the next paycheck never fully fades.

Everyone in this room has heard loud and clear that rising costs are top of mind for just about every Mainer. And that is what drives me to fight for policies that support working families. I don't want families to merely scrape by, I want them to have financial security and opportunity. No matter the district you represent or whether you're a Republican, Democrat or Independent, I'm certain that's what you all want as well. I believe that every single one of you here and serving in this role is doing so to make life better for the people in this State. I think each of you have incredibly important experiences and backgrounds that will impact our work, and I pledge to listen and learn from your stories, just as you have mine.

This day marks an opportunity like no other. It's a moment to set aside the divisions that too often define our political landscape and instead focus on common purpose; the common purpose that brought all of us here today, to make life better for the people of Maine. I know that politics in America today can feel bitter and divisive. We see it on the news, we hear it in our communities and, too often, we feel it in our hearts. Closer to home, even my own family, we have differences of political opinion that can feel difficult to bridge sometimes. But I also know that we right here in this room have the power to show that the government can work, that compromise is possible and that progress is within our reach. I will not stand up here and pretend that this work will be easy. Yes, the challenges we face are complex and sometimes daunting. The debates we can have will be spirited, sometimes even contentious. But in this Chamber, under my tenure, they will be conducted with respect and civility. I believe the strength of our democracy lies not in uniformity, but in the diversity of voices, perspectives and ideas that we all bring to the table. Let us use this session to prove what Maine has already known; that we are stronger when we work together; that solutions are found not in digging trenches, but in building bridges.

We have critical work ahead of us. Housing remains one of the greatest challenges our State faces. I've spent my public and professional life working on that very issue. The fact is, and we all know this, too many families are struggling to find an affordable place to live. We must work together to ensure that every Mainer has access to safe, stable and affordable housing. Because a home is more than just four walls, it's the foundation for opportunity, stability and dignity.

Education and health care and child care, too, must be at the forefront of our efforts. Maine's children deserve the best possible start in life, with safe, predictable, affordable care and schools that prepare them for success and opportunities that inspire their dreams. We owe it to our kids and to the future of this State to invest in our public schools, support our educators and expand pathways to higher education and career and technical training.

We must ensure our natural resources remain protected for years and decades to come. Our environment is not just a part of Maine's identity, it's a key driver of our economy and the heart of our way of life. From our working forests and heritage industries like fishing and farming, Maine's natural resources sustain our communities, drive key industries like tourism, outdoor recreation and renewable energy. This isn't just about conservation, it's about preserving jobs, supporting families and ensuring that future generations can thrive here just as we have.

There will be many opportunities for compromise in this Chamber, and we should embrace those moments when they arise. In fact, while it may not make the headlines, it will be the majority of the work that we do here. But let me be clear, there are lines that we will not cross. When it comes to civil rights, fundamental freedoms and the basic dignity of every person in this State, we will stand firm. These are not matters of partisan debate; they are the foundation of who we are as a people and as a nation. Protecting these principles is our moral obligation and is what ensures Maine remains a place where everyone can live with fairness, respect and opportunity. On these values, there is no compromise. Because remember, every decision here affects the lives of real people. People who may look or think just like we do, and also people who don't, but all equally deserving of representation and fairness. Families struggling to make ends meet, seniors trying to age with dignity, kids striving for a better, more secure future; we owe it to all of them to lead with courage, compassion and integrity.

This is a time for action, a time for hope, a time to show Maine and the nation that progress is possible when we come together in good faith and with a shared sense of purpose. I'm honored to serve alongside each of you, I'm ready to get to work, so, let's do it. Thank you.

Motion by Representative MONTELL of Gardiner, that Representative HAGGAN of Hampden, Representative PARRY of Arundel, Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta, Representative DODGE of Belfast and Representative RANA of Bangor were appointed a Committee to receive, sort and count votes for the Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Moonen.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that the name of Robert B. Hunt of Yarmouth be placed in nomination for Clerk of the House and wish to speak to the nomination.

The SPEAKER: The Representative may proceed.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I am pleased to nominate the Honorable Robert B. Hunt to continue to serve as Clerk of the House.

The role of the Clerk of the House in our success as a legislative Body would be difficult to overstate. The Clerk is central to facilitating our work in a fair and consistent manner. Rob takes that role incredibly seriously. His dedication to the institution of the Maine House is evident in everything he does. He is fair, even-handed and an individual of unquestionable integrity. As a former Member of this Body, Rob brings a unique combination of experience to his work. Over his past 10 years as Clerk and the two before that as Assistant Clerk, he has proven himself an unmatched resource and an admirable public servant. And it's not just us who know how awesome Rob is; his peers at the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, the folks in both parties who do this work in legislatures all across the country, recently elected Rob as their President. This is, of course, a tremendous honor for Rob and for Maine and a testament to how much he is respected.

We still have a long day ahead of us, so, I will wrap this up by saying that this one should be an easy decision for all of us. When it comes to people who know this Chamber better than Rob, there are none. When it comes to reasons to doubt Rob, there are none. Please join me in supporting the Honorable Rob Hunt to continue as Clerk of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that the name of ROBERT B. HUNT of Yarmouth be placed in nomination for the Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Gramlich.

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Mr. Speaker, I second the motion, and I would like to speak to my motion.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Colleagues of the House and honored guests, it is my privilege and honor to rise and second the nomination of Rob Hunt for the position of Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives.

As many of you know, Rob has served this Chamber with exceptional dedication and professionalism for over 12 years. He's a steadfast presence, a source of invaluable institutional knowledge and a model of impartiality and integrity. Rob's deep understanding of our legislative process has been instrumental

in ensuring that the business of this House runs smoothly and efficiently. Beyond his technical expertise, Rob embodies the qualities we hold in the highest regard; fairness, respect and a commitment to public service. Whether it's guiding new Members through their first session or assisting seasoned legislators with complex procedural questions, Rob approaches his work with patience, clarity and a genuine desire to support all Members, regardless of party or perspective.

I've had the good fortune of working with Rob for the past six years. In addition to the incredible work he does to assure this Chamber operates in a well-organized and efficient manner, Rob has also assisted with numerous groups eager to learn about our citizen Legislature. Whether it be hosting social work students who might not have considered a path in macro practice, to conducting mock legislative sessions for the fifth-grade students at Loranger Middle School from Old Orchard Beach, Rob's knowledge, expertise and ease in connecting with others is an invaluable asset that I have witnessed firsthand over and over. His unwavering commitment to this House, his years of experience and his dedication to upholding the values of democracy make him not only a qualified candidate, but the ideal candidate for this vital role.

It is with great confidence and respect that I nominate Rob Hunt to continue serving as the Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this nomination, ensuring that our Chamber remains in the capable hands of someone who truly exemplifies the best of public service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach seconded the motion.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor moved that the name of FRANK GLEASON of Cornville be placed in nomination for the Clerk of the House.

Representative SMITH of Palermo seconded the motion.

Representative BRENNAN of Portland moved that nominations cease.

At this point, a message was received from the Senate, borne by Senator DUSON of Cumberland of that body, that the Senate had been duly organized by the election of the Honorable MATTHEA DAUGHTRY of Cumberland as President, DAREK M. GRANT as Secretary and JARED T. ROY as Assistant Secretary, and the Senate was ready to transact such business as might come before it.

At this point, a message came from the Senate, borne by Senator DUSON of Cumberland of that body, proposing a Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held at 3:00 o'clock in the Hall of the House for the purpose of electing an Attorney General, a Secretary of State, a State Treasurer and a State Auditor.

Subsequently, the Committee reported that it had attended to its duties and that ROBERT B. HUNT of Yarmouth, having received a majority of the votes cast, had been elected Clerk of the House for the 132nd Maine Legislature.

The Speaker of the House administered the necessary oath of office to qualify the Clerk of the House of the 132nd Maine Legislature to enter upon the discharge of his official duties.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 3:00 o'clock and the Speaker appointed Representative MOONEN of Portland to convey this message to the Senate.

Motion by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook, that Representative CRAY of Palmyra, Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram, Representative MONTELL of Gardiner and Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk be appointed a Committee to receive, sort and count votes for Assistant Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Meyer.

Representative MEYER: Mr. Speaker, I move that the name of Michelle Dunphy of Old Town be placed in nomination for Assistant Clerk of the House and wish to speak to my motion.

The SPEAKER: The Representative may proceed.

Representative MEYER: Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House, I rise today to place the name of Michelle Dunphy into nomination for the position of Assistant Clerk of the Maine House of Representatives. When she was an educator, her high school students called her their favorite and still recall her positive influence on their lives. When she worked in the financial industry, they called her knowledgeable, detail-oriented, organized and ethical. They said the same about her when her career took her into the communications industry. She served for 25 years as the shop steward for CWA Local 1400, where they called Michelle collaborative, fair, a tenacious advocate and an expert negotiator.

She brought those same attributes here to Augusta, where she served four terms here in the House. Anyone privileged to have served with the Honorable Michelle Dunphy recalls the dignity and honor she brought to the role of State Representative and to this institution. In her second term, she was appointed the House Chair of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, where she quickly established herself as a skilled, decisive, effective and an asset to the Legislature in this area of policy and a role model for other Committee Chairs. She served as a member of Appropriations and, given her experience in and outside of the policy arena, she was an asset to the work of the Budget Committee. A fourth and final term brought us Majority Leader Dunphy, with her smart, supportive leadership, her knowledge of process and protocol, her care and concern for the legislative experience for all Members and the staff that support us. We called her Madam Awesome. She spent the 131st Legislature putting her own sparkle and shine on the Clerk's Office, joining us down in front of the Chamber during session to run the board and managing the office staff and calendar crew.

The Clerk's Office does so much to support the House and its Members, always with efficiency and a smile. The competence that arises out of solid experience, intelligence, a strong work ethic and a history of dedicated public service combine to underscore how important it is to continue to support an individual like Michelle Dunphy. Please join me in reelecting Michelle Dunphy for the position of Assistant Clerk of the House.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the name of MICHELLE DUNPHY of Old Town be placed in nomination for Assistant Clerk of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: I rise to second the nomination of Michelle Dunphy for the position of Assistant Clerk of the House, and I wish to speak to my motion.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **HASENFUS**: I rise to second the nomination of Michelle Dunphy for the position of Assistant Clerk of the House, and I wish to speak to my motion.

It was a Saturday night about a month ago, when I got a text from the current Assistant Clerk of the House, Michelle Dunphy, saying the Sentiment is in. What? What Sentiment? And then it hit me. The next morning, I was going to submit a Sentiment to be prepared, because we just won the State Championship game for field hockey and she already knew what I was going to do before I knew that I was going to do it. And that is exactly what we need in the Assistant Clerk of the House, is somebody who can know what me and every other legislator in this Body is going to do before we do it. And Michelle has the knack for that, and she makes our job seamless because of what she is doing behind that desk and the detailed preparation to make sure that every single move is prepared for and ready to go, so that we can represent the people of Maine.

Not only that, we don't often see it because she's hiding behind that little desk right there, but she's got an infectious smile. And that is the smile that all of us in this Body get when we are conversing with her, need help with Sentiments, need help with motions and things of that matter. But it is also the face that all of the people get, all of our constituents in the State of Maine get when they enter this Chamber or ask for assistance with the Clerk's Office.

There is no doubt in my mind that Michelle will continue to put this State and this institution first, do her homework so that we can do ours and will work perfectly for this Body. And if there's any remaining doubt, I challenge you to Google Michelle Dunphy and then, you will find that people also, after searching her, must've searched for Thomas Jefferson, because the two are so similar and anybody who is in company with Thomas Jefferson is going to be well suited to be our Assistant Clerk. So, please join me in voting for Michelle Dunphy as our Assistant Clerk.

Representative HASENFUS of Readfield seconded the motion.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that nominations cease.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that the Committee cast one vote for the House for MICHELLE DUNPHY.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 4)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

December 4, 2024

Robert Lindstrom

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Robert,

Pursuant to House Rule 201.1 (I) (b), I am pleased to appoint you as the Sergeant-at-Arms for the 132nd Legislature.

On behalf of the entire House membership, I would like to welcome you and wish you well as you carry out your duties and responsibilities.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Speaker of the House administered the necessary oaths of office to qualify the Assistant Clerk of the House and the Sergeant-at-Arms to enter upon the discharge of their official duties.

Motion by Representative LEE of Auburn, that Representative MATHIESON of Kittery, Representative STOVER of Boothbay, Representative BUNKER of Farmington, Representative PLUECKER of Warren, Representative COOPER of Windham, Representative HENDERSON of Rumford and Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield were appointed a Committee to notify the Governor of the organization of the House.

At this point, the Speaker appointed Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach to inform the Senate that the House was duly organized for business.

ORDER

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the following House Order: (H.O. 1)

ORDERED, that the House Rules of the 131st Maine House of Representatives are the House Rules of the 132nd Maine House of Representatives.

READ and PASSED.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 2)

STATE OF MAINE**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

December 2, 2024

To the Speaker of the House in the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature:

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Maine, having tabulated the returns of the votes cast for State Representatives at the General Election held on the fifth day of November in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-four;

REPORT AS FOLLOWS; that the following named persons having received a plurality of the votes cast, appear to have been elected:

District 1

Daigle, Lucien J.B., Fort Kent.....3,170

Martin, John L., Eagle Lake.....1,698

District 2

Albert, Roger C., Madawaska.....2,734

Martin, Roland Daniel, Sinclair.....2,186

District 3

Babin, Mark Michael, Fort Fairfield.....2,577

McCrea, David Harold, Fort Fairfield.....2,202

District 4

Guerrette, Timothy C., Caribou.....3,480

Paradis, Samantha Phyllis, Caribou.....1,152

District 5

Freeman, Kevin Gregory, Presque Isle.....1,827

Underwood, Joseph F., Presque Isle.....2,210

District 6

Ardell, Donald James, Monticello.....3,130

Tompkins, Melanie A., Mapleton.....1,647

District 7

Swallow, Gregory L., Houlton.....3,518

District 8

Collins, Nicole J., Reed Plantation.....1,096

Quint, Tracy Lynn, Hodgdon.....3,865

District 9

McGaw, Darin L., Baileyville.....1,791

Mingo, Arthur Kevin, Calais.....2,878

District 10

Colman, Peter G., Lubec.....1,344

Tuell, William R., East Machias.....4,144

District 11

Rogers, Roland Eben III, Jonesport.....1,542

Strout, Tiffany, Harrington.....3,483

District 12

Bamford, Norman Edward, Sullivan.....2,152

Faulkingham, Billy Bob, Winter Harbor.....3,378

District 13

White, Russell P., Ellsworth.....2,768

Worth, J. Mark, Ellsworth.....2,317

District 14

Friedmann, Gary, Bar Harbor.....4,291

Gray, Sandra J., Lamoine.....1,989

District 15

Eaton, Holly Rae, Deer Isle.....3,112

Joyce, Jason M., Swans Island.....2,822

District 16

Milliken, Nina Azella, Blue Hill.....4,575

District 17

Bishop, Steven M., Bucksport.....2,862

Russell, Ronald B., Verona Island.....2,702

District 18

McIntyre, Mathew David, Lowell.....4,126

District 19

Campbell, Richard H., Orrington.....4,520

District 20

Jude, Patrick, Brewer.....2,456

O'Halloran, Dani L., Brewer.....2,575

District 21

Edelman, Reda H., Bangor.....1,429

Lapointe, Colby Michael, Bangor.....523

Rana, Ambureen, Bangor.....2,358

District 22

O'Neal, Colleen T., Bangor.....1,729

Supica, Laura D., Bangor.....2,081

District 23

Cartier, Justin P., Bangor.....2,296

Roeder, Amy J., Bangor.....2,961

District 24

LaPointe, Daniel, Orono.....1,697

Perry, Joseph C., Bangor.....3,104

District 25

Casey, Thomas J., Orono.....1,185

Osher, Laurie, Orono.....2,465

District 26

Dill, James F., Old Town.....2,958

Ouellette, Christina M., Bradley.....2,156

District 27

Crockett, Peter Alan, Argyle Township.....1,393

Drinkwater, Gary A., Milford.....3,770

District 28

DiPentino, Natalie D., Enfield.....1,210

Gifford, Irene A., Lincoln.....3,642

District 29

Javner, Kathy Irene, Chester.....3,117

York, Laurie E., TA R7 Wels (Dolby).....2,009

District 30

Sidell, W. Louis, Guilford.....1,688

White, James L., Guilford.....3,752

District 31

Brown, Joseph Thomas, Orneville Township.....1,781

Perkins, Chad R., Dover-Foxcroft.....2,960

District 32

Foster, Steven D., Dexter.....4,012

District 33

Fredette, Kenneth Wade, Newport.....4,307

District 34

Griffin, Abigail W., Levant.....4,268

District 35

Thorne, James E., Carmel.....4,624

District 36

Haggan, Kimberly M., Hampden.....3,319

Wright, Shelby D., Hampden.....2,712

District 37

Cuddy, Scott William, Winterport.....2,721

Paul, Reagan L., Winterport.....3,278

District 38

Ellis, Stephen B., Waldo.....2,249

Hymes, Benjamin C., Waldo.....2,769

District 39

Dodge, Janice S., Belfast.....3,932

Hemenway, Stephen J., Northport.....1,860

District 40

McLaughlin, Joseph M., Lincolnville.....2,675

Ray, D. Michael, Lincolnville.....3,187

District 41

Doudera, Victoria W., Camden4,556
 Raymond, Cory C., Rockport.....1,530

District 42

Geiger, Valli D., Rockland2,992
 Hopkins, Jamie L., Owls Head1,935

District 43

Matlack, Ann H., St. George.....3,161
 Sprague, Heather Anne, Cushing.....2,489

District 44

Pluecker, William D., Warren2,731
 Thombs, Ray A. Jr., Union.....2,369

District 45

Simmons, Abden S., Waldoboro.....3,082
 Stone, Jennifer A., Waldoboro.....2,377

District 46

Crafts, Lydia V., Newcastle.....4,186
 Daxland, Mary Lou J., Newcastle2,192

District 47

Farrin, Wayne K., Jefferson3,087
 Polewarczyk, Edward J., Wiscasset2,882

District 48

Hunt, James William III, Southport2,101
 Stover, Holly B., Boothbay.....4,058

District 49

Brown, Vincent E., West Bath.....2,471
 Hepler, Allison Lee, Woolwich3,923

District 50

Eames, Harold Alfred III, Bath1,486
 Sinclair, David A., Bath3,463

District 51

Brilliant, Leon C., Topsham2,289
 Macias, Rafael Leo, Topsham3,543

District 52

Cluchey, Sally Jeane, Bowdoinham2,748
 Guilmette, David W., Richmond.....2,734

District 53

Lemelin, Michael H., Chelsea.....3,250
 Tunkle, Judy E., Dresden2,247

District 54

Montell, Karen L., Gardiner2,683
 Williams, Scott Douglas, Gardiner.....2,261

District 55

Boyd, Joe N., West Gardiner.....2,863
 Shagoury, Daniel Joseph, Hallowell2,993

District 56

Ackley, Kent F., Monmouth2,558
 Greenwood, Randall Adam, Wales.....3,120

District 57

Hasenfus, Tavis Rock, Readfield.....3,245
 Piccininni, Donna L., Winthrop2,269

District 58

Frost, Sharon C., Belgrade.....3,159
 Newman, Daniel J., Belgrade3,116

District 59

Emerson, Marcus E., Augusta.....2,272
 Rollins, David M., Augusta.....2,601

District 60

Bridgeo, William R., Augusta.....2,701
 MacDowell, Wendy Lee, Augusta.....2,119

District 61

Collins, Alicia Carol, Sidney.....3,262
 Jones, Laura M., Vassalboro2,233

District 62

Smith, Katrina J., Palermo3,461
 Swift, Pamela Jo, Palermo1,942

District 63

Flynn, Paul R., Albion3,272
 Trahan, Lee A., Winslow2,200

District 64

DeBrito, Flavia M., Waterville2,679
 Malcolm, Ruth Ann, Waterville1,415

District 65

Brown, Tammy, Waterville1,609
 Julia, Cassie Lynn, Waterville.....2,295
 Others5

District 66

Barnes, Alicia, Oakland2,060
 Nutting, Robert W., Oakland3,205

District 67

Rudnicki, Shelley J., Fairfield2,537
 Townsend, Matthew C., Fairfield2,337

District 68

Blake, Brian J., Troy1,612
 Collamore, Amanda Noelle, Pittsfield3,250

District 69

Blanchard, Jessica B., Palmyra.....1,340
 Cray, Dean A., Palmyra3,572

District 70

Gray, Cecil R. III, Skowhegan1,508
 Poirier, Jennifer Lynn, Skowhegan.....2,549

District 71

Dorney, Ann E., Norridgewock1,717
 Ducharme, John E. III, Madison3,232

District 72

Caruso, Elizabeth M., Caratunk3,475
 Soma-Hernandez, Cynthia J., Anson1,324

District 73

Bond, Tiffany, Rangeley2,557
 Soboleski, Michael A., Phillips.....3,114

District 74

Hall, Randall C., Wilton3,610
 Kimber, Gregory M., Temple.....1,856

District 75

Bunker, Stephan M., Farmington.....2,317
 Gauvin, Randall D., Farmington2,310

District 76

Hoke, Tamara, Jay1,866
 Lyman, Sheila A., Livermore Falls.....3,271

District 77

Schmersal-Burgess, Tammy L., Mexico3,998

District 78

Giroux, Eric Lee, Rumford.....2,089
 Henderson, Rachel A., Rumford.....2,865

District 79

Lance, Michael J., Paris2,747
 Nutt, Charlotte, Woodstock2,383

District 80

Hill, Roberta J., Buckfield1,669
 Jackson, Caldwell, Oxford.....3,780

District 81

Beal, Joan S., Norway.....2,816
 Wood, Peter Conley, Norway2,840

District 82

Sekera, Nichole, Fryeburg2,355
 Wadsworth, Nathan J., Hiram3,206

District 83

Castleman-Ross, Carrye L., Bridgton2,870
 Cimino, Marygrace Caroline, Bridgton2,938

District 84

Dove, Cassandra Anne, Baldwin2,080
 Walker, Mark, Naples3,438

District 85

Pomerleau, Kimberly, Standish3,878

District 86

Messinger, Craig Robert, Raymond2,685
 Olsen, Rolf A. Jr., Raymond2,912

District 87

Boyer, David W. Jr., Poland3,752

District 88

Chapman, Quentin J., Auburn2,847
 Damien, Stefanie Mahr, Auburn2,336

District 89

Janelle, John G., Auburn1,325
 Lee, Adam R., Auburn1,764

District 90

Campbell, Daniel E., Auburn2,678
 Libby, Laurel D., Auburn2,832

District 91

Morris, Joshua K., Turner4,469

District 92

Girardin, Scott, Sabattus2,019
 Wood, Stephen J., Greene3,239

District 93

McCabe, Julia A.G., Lewiston3,156

District 94

Cloutier, Kristen Sarah, Lewiston2,128
 Snow-Black, Kendil E., Lewiston1,443

District 95

Abdi, Mana Hared, Lewiston2,160

District 96

Clement, Kerry Lee, Lewiston2,517
 Lajoie, Michel A., Lewiston2,556

District 97

Mason, Richard G., Lisbon3,425

District 98

Lebida, Guy M., Bowdoin2,942
 Webb, Kilton M., Durham2,996

District 99

Golek, Cheryl A., Harpswell3,643
 Hall, Sean N., Harpswell2,392

District 100

Ankeles, Daniel J., Brunswick4,490
 Prescott, Ivon H. Jr., Brunswick1,230

District 101

Arford, Poppy T., Brunswick4,932

District 102

Finegan, James J. Jr., Freeport1,828
 Sachs, Melanie Fleming, Freeport4,276

District 103

Bell, Arthur L., Yarmouth5,135

District 104

Arata, Amy B., New Gloucester3,422
 Strickler, Colleen D., New Gloucester2,485

District 105

Austin, Susan M., Gray2,914
 Graham, Anne P., North Yarmouth3,335

District 106

Bagshaw, Barbara A., Windham3,041
 Poland, Doris A., Windham2,659

District 107

Cooper, Mark C., Windham2,437
 Corey, Patrick Wayne, Windham820

Pringle, Jane P., Windham2,301

District 108

Moody, M. Thad, Gorham2,550
 Terry, Parnell William, Gorham2,647

District 109

Livingston, Alan R., Gorham2,552
 Sato, Eleanor Y., Gorham3,335

District 110

Jordan, Scott William, Cumberland2,305
 Mitchell, Christina R.C., Cumberland4,172

District 111

Jones, John L., Falmouth2,039
 Kuhn, Amy D., Falmouth4,583

District 112

Crockett, W. Edward, Portland4,196
 Wolejko, Steven Alan, Portland1,655

District 113

Lookner, Grayson B., Portland3,625

District 114

Pugh, Dylan R., Portland3,337
 Wakem, Jacob Murray, Portland1,103

District 115

Brennan, Michael F., Portland4,714

District 116

Zager, Samuel Lewis, Portland4,537

District 117

Moonen, Matthew, Portland3,720

District 118

Yusuf, Yusuf M., Portland3,323

District 119

Doyle, Peter Ignatius, Portland852
 Skold, Charles A., Portland4,913

District 120

Dhalac, Deqa Abdi, South Portland3,342

District 121

Kessler, Christopher J., South Portland4,024
 Walter, Tammy B., Cape Elizabeth1,516

District 122

Beck, Matthew D., South Portland4,327
 Pock, Michael R., South Portland1,009

District 123

Boyer, Michelle Nicole, Cape Elizabeth4,861
 Christy, Annie, Cape Elizabeth1,710

District 124

Rosenblatt, Annalee Z., Scarborough2,039
 Warren, Sophia Bailey, Scarborough4,003

District 125

Murphy, Kelly Noonan, Scarborough3,806
 Sterling, Kayla A., Scarborough2,320

District 126

Gattine, Andrew M., Westbrook3,785

District 127

Poitras, Ryan C., Westbrook1,352
 Rielly, Morgan J., Westbrook3,027

District 128

Ellis, Charles William, Westbrook1,792
 Salisbury, Suzanne M., Westbrook3,359

District 129

Archer, Marshall F., Saco4,043

District 130

Copeland, Lynn Holland, Saco3,209
 Sirois, Theodore L., Saco2,031

District 131

Eccleston, Scott Benedetto, Old Orchard Beach.....2,224
Gramlich, Lori Kathryn, Old Orchard Beach3,739

District 132

Fecteau, Ryan M., Biddeford.....3,524

District 133

Malon, Marc G. II, Biddeford.....4,007

District 134

Gere, Traci, Kennebunkport3,801

Jordan, Elizabeth A., Kennebunkport2,330

District 135

Craig, Scott E., Kennebunk2,653

Sayre, Daniel R., Kennebunk3,925

District 136

Connors, Michelle Kathryn, Waterboro2,386

Eder, John M., Waterboro.....3,143

District 137

Carlow, Nathan M., Buxton.....3,359

Gleason, Elizabeth Jane, Buxton2,386

District 138

Barden, Michael Thomas III, Limington977

Blier, Mark John, Buxton.....2,892

McKinney, Michael Anthony, Cornish.....1,626

District 139

Krolick, Clifford T., Parsonsfield1,722

Woodsome, David C., Waterboro3,594

District 140

Nedeau, Jason, Arundel2,373

Parry, Wayne R., Arundel3,435

District 141

Kidder, Patricia E., Sanford2,477

Lanigan, Lucas John, Sanford2,478

District 142

Bell, Amy C., Sanford1,874

Mastraccio, Anne-Marie, Sanford1,938

District 143

Fredericks, Ann Marie, Sanford2,596

Manende Hall, Kathryn Theresa, Sanford1,930

District 144

Adams, Jeffrey Sean, Lebanon3,317

Cole, Corinna, Lebanon.....1,667

District 145

Foley, Robert Alan, Wells3,534

Smith, James Nelson, Wells.....3,265

District 146

Moulton, Bradley S., York2,655

Runte, Walter Gerard Jr., York.....3,365

District 147

Sargent, Holly T., York4,334

District 148

Lavigne, Thomas Arthur, Berwick3,220

Lozuaway-McComsey, Tristan, Berwick2,197

District 149

Davis-Rouillard, Kelly A., North Berwick.....2,486

Roberts, Tiffany Danielle, South Berwick.....3,219

District 150

Meyer, Michele, Eliot3,841

Zimmer, Mark Frederick, South Berwick.....2,246

District 151

Johnson, Suzanne C., Kittery1,676

Mathieson, Kristi Michele, Kittery3,993

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast for State Representatives at the General Election, as reported to me on the returns from the cities, towns, and plantations of the State.

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 3)

STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE OF THE

SECRETARY OF STATE

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0148

December 2, 2024

The Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0003

Dear Clerk Hunt:

The following is a summary of the results of the November 5, 2024, Referendum Election, which were submitted to the Governor on November 25, 2024.

Question 1: Citizen Initiative

Number of Votes in Favor600,191

Number of Votes Opposed.....201,034

Question 2: Bond Issue

Number of Votes in Favor433,394

Number of Votes Opposed.....365,100

Question 3: Bond Issue

Number of Votes in Favor410,979

Number of Votes Opposed.....391,176

Question 4: Bond Issue

Number of Votes in Favor440,560

Number of Votes Opposed.....354,626

Question 5: State Referendum

Number of Votes in Favor358,912

Number of Votes Opposed.....451,366

Sincerely,

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The SPEAKER: From the Chair, it is strictly forbidden to touch another Member's voting device. You will not touch your seatmate's voting device. Only the Member is permitted to vote. And this was a quorum call, so, this is not a recorded vote, for those of you who are new here, so, none of you who are walking in now have missed a vote, but it's our great Committee, so, we'll recognize them.

Subsequently, Representative MATHIESON of Kittery reported that the Committee had attempted to deliver the message with which it was charged.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Speaker of the House is authorized, at the Speaker's discretion, to permit radio or television in the Hall of the House of Representatives during joint conventions.

READ and PASSED.

Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 2)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that there be prepared by the Legislative Information Office, under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, after adjournment of the present session, a compilation of all the Bills and Resolves considered by both branches of the Legislature, showing the history and final disposition of each Bill and Resolve.

READ and PASSED.

Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following House Order: (H.O. 2)

ORDERED, that each adjournment of the House be until 10 o'clock of the following morning unless otherwise ordered.

READ and PASSED.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the following House Order: (H.O. 3)

ORDERED, that the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to furnish each member of the House with a copy of the Advance Journal and Calendar of the House, said copy to be on the desk of each member or electronically distributed at the opening of each daily session.

READ and PASSED.

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following House Order: (H.O. 4)

ORDERED, that the remaining subordinate officers of the House be appointed to serve for the present biennium as follows: by the Clerk of the House, a Chief Calendar Clerk, 2 Advance Journal and Calendar Clerks, an Administrative Assistant, a Journal Copy Clerk, a House Reporter, a Senior Systems Support Coordinator, a Telephone Receptionist and a Chamber Activities Coordinator; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Clerk of the House is hereby authorized to accept resignations and fill any vacancies of said subordinate officers during the biennium.

READ and PASSED.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the following House Order: (H.O. 5)

ORDERED, that the Clerk of the House is authorized to invite the clergy of Augusta, Hallowell and Gardiner to officiate as Chaplains of the House or to invite clergy from other areas of the State as requested by any member of the House; and be it further

ORDERED, that all clergy acting as Chaplains of the House shall receive \$30 for each officiation, to be paid on payrolls to be approved by the Clerk of the House.

READ and PASSED.

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following House Order: (H.O. 6)

ORDERED, that the Speaker of the House is authorized, at the Speaker's discretion, to permit radio or television in the Hall of the House of Representatives while the House is in session.

READ and PASSED.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the following House Order: (H.O. 7)

ORDERED, that Representative Ryan D. Fecteau of Biddeford be declared Speaker of the House of Representatives for a term to expire on December 2, 2026; and be it further

ORDERED, that Robert B. Hunt of Yarmouth be declared Clerk of the House of Representatives for a term to expire on December 2, 2026; and be it further

ORDERED, that Michelle Dunphy of Old Town be declared Assistant Clerk of the House of Representatives for a term to expire on December 2, 2026.

READ and PASSED.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 1)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules of the 131st Legislature are the Joint Rules of the 132nd Legislature, except for the following changes.

Joint Rule 202 is amended by striking out all of the first paragraph and inserting in its place the following:

All requests for bills and resolves submitted by Legislators for a first regular session must be submitted in complete form, as provided in Joint Rule 208, to the Revisor of Statutes by 4:00 p.m. on January 10, 2025.

Joint Rule 301 is amended by amending the 2nd indented paragraph to read:

There are established 17 joint standing committees, which must be appointed at the commencement of the first regular session and which exercise jurisdiction in the following areas:

Agriculture, conservation and forestry
Appropriations and financial affairs
Criminal justice and public safety
Education and cultural affairs
Energy, utilities and technology
Environment and natural resources
Health and human services
Health coverage, insurance and financial services
Housing and economic development

Inland fisheries and wildlife
~~Innovation, development, economic advancement and business~~
Judiciary
Labor and housing
Marine resources
State and local government
Taxation
Transportation
Veterans and legal affairs
Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

At this point, the Chair recognized the Representative from Wales, Representative GREENWOOD, and he was added to the roll call of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 3)
ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall purchase such services, supplies and equipment as may be needed to carry on the business of the Senate and House, respectively.
Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 4)
ORDERED, the House concurring, that all printing and binding authorized by the Legislature shall be under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.
Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 5)
ORDERED, the House concurring, that a sufficient number of copies of the Legislative Record for the 132nd Legislature be printed, one copy for each of the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives who so desires, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House, with the remainder to be deposited with the State Law Librarian for exchange and library use; and be it further ORDERED, that a suitable index be prepared for such Legislative Record, under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House.
Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 6)
ORDERED, the House concurring, that there be paid to the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives as advances on account of compensation established by statute, 12 payments on a biweekly basis commencing January 15, 2025, according to lists certified to the State Controller by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, respectively.
Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 7)
ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Executive Director of the Legislative Council, with the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, is authorized and directed to prepare weekly, from expense accounts to be submitted to the Executive Director by the members of the Senate and House, expense rosters showing the entitlement of each member for meals allowance and lodging reimbursement and to transmit the same to the State Controller for processing and payment, in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Interim Committee of the 101st Legislature created to study and report on a method of implementing the administration of the provision of law relating to the mileage and expenses for members of the Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that the Executive Director of the Legislative Council is authorized and directed to provide the forms necessary for such purpose and to provide suitable space in the Executive Director's office for the filing and safekeeping of all such expense accounts and other papers and records pertaining thereto.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 9)
ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.
Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.
READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

Subsequently, Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

Subsequently, Representative MOONEN of Portland reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry, in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

The CHAIR: Nominations are now in order for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2025 and 2026. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Boothbay, Representative Stover.

Representative **STOVER**: Madam Chair, I nominate Shenna Bellows of Manchester for the Office of the Secretary of State for the political years 2025 and 2026 and wish to speak to my motion.

The CHAIR: The Member may proceed.

Representative **STOVER**: Congratulations to everyone gathered here today. Serving in this esteemed Body is both an honor and a sacrifice, reflecting your unwavering commitment to Maine and her people. Your dedication embodies the spirit of our State motto; *Dirigo*, I lead.

It is with profound honor and enthusiasm that I rise today to nominate Secretary of State Shenna Bellows for a third term. Shenna Bellows truly exemplifies the spirit of *Dirigo*, demonstrating leadership grounded in the highest standards of public service, innovative, responsive, and deeply attuned to the needs of Maine people. I have had the privilege of knowing and working alongside Shenna Bellows for nearly 20 years, from her time leading the ACLU of Maine to her current role as Secretary of State, her dedication to civil rights and voting rights has been unwavering. Together, we partnered on legislation to establish Maine's first-ever Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, providing long overdue full-time support to a Commission I once served on when it was entirely volunteer driven.

This collaborative spirit defined Shenna's leadership, but it is her ability to respond with compassion and efficiency in times of crisis that truly sets her apart. In late October, two of my constituents faced unimaginable loss when a devastating fire destroyed their home and belongings, including their driver's licenses. As they struggled to rebuild their lives, I reached out to Secretary Bellows late on a Friday night. By Monday morning, her team had processed same-day replacement licenses, ensuring my constituents could access critical services. This is the essence of Shenna's leadership. In moments of greatest need, she is there. Not just for some, but for all, regardless of party or position.

From day one, Secretary Bellows has prioritized exceptional customer service with the people of Maine. It's just one of the many reasons I am proud to nominate her for this role. She works tirelessly and brings extraordinary expertise to every aspect of her job. As the House Chair of the State and Local Government Committee during the 131st Legislature, I had the honor of working closely with Secretary Bellows on initiatives supporting the Maine State Archives and the Board of Corporations, Elections and Commissions. Time and time again, she has proven to be an invaluable legislative partner; deliberative, accessible and transparent. When questions arise, Shenna does not evade them; she provides honest and timely answers. For example, when space constraints in the Bureau of Corporations became a concern, Shenna just didn't present data, she invited legislators to see the problem firsthand, fostering bipartisan collaboration and building trust across the aisle. This commitment to partnership and practical problem-solving is a hallmark of her leadership.

Shenna's vision extends far beyond legislative collaboration. Under her leadership, Maine's achieved the highest voter turnout in the nation in 2022 and set new records for participation in the most recent elections. These accomplishments are no accident; they reflect her relentless pursuit of innovation, from implementing automatic voter registration at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to launching online voter registration and expanding voter education statewide. Four years ago, Secretary Bellows promised modernization and she delivered. Across every bureau she oversees, Shenna has driven changes that make government smarter, more efficient and more accessible for the people of Maine, from pioneering a state-of-the-art digital record system at the State Archives to enhancing identity security at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and modernizing corporate filing and notarization systems. She has redefined what it means to lead with a vision and results.

For these reasons and more, I am honored to nominate Shenna Bellows of Manchester for a third term as Maine's Secretary of State. Her record speaks for itself and her dedication inspires all of us. I urge you to join me in re-electing Shenna Bellows as Maine's Secretary of State. Thank you.

On motion of Representative STOVER of Boothbay, the Honorable Shenna Bellows of Manchester was placed in nomination for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2025 and 2026.

The CHAIR: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI**: Madam Chair, I second the nomination of Shenna Bellows of Manchester and wish to speak to my motion.

The CHAIR: The Member may proceed.

Senator **GROHOSKI**: Good afternoon, Esteemed Colleagues of the Maine House and Senate. It is truly a pleasure to be with you here today, after having all of us just been duly sworn in to this important role and this important responsibility that we all share and will carry together.

As the Senator for Hancock County, it is a pleasure to second the nomination of Shenna Bellows, also originally from Hancock County, to her third term as Maine's Secretary of State. Not only are we both from Hancock County and graduates of Middlebury College, but we are also the daughters of businessmen who made a living in the trades. Indeed, our fathers; hers, a carpenter and mine, an electrician; worked on the same job site a number of times. When you grow up as we did in Downeast Maine, you gain an important understanding of the challenges, opportunities and culture of rural Maine. That's one reason why I appreciate the work Secretary Bellows has done over the last four years to strengthen and modernize elections, to improve services at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, to make historical records at the Maine State Archives accessible to people statewide and to celebrate small businesses and institutions through her work in corporations. These efforts benefit urban and rural Mainers alike.

A couple of years ago, Secretary Bellows invited me to join her at an American Legion event in Bar Harbor. It was a great honor to award four local World War II veterans with Sentiments and flags that had been flown over the State House, including one gentleman who had served on the USS Missouri, the same battleship my *Pepe* served on. Celebrating milestones like the service of our veterans and the centennial commemorations of businesses and nonprofits across the State is something that Secretary Bellows prioritizes, because she understands that our work includes lifting up our constituents and connecting them with State government.

Her customer service on behalf of our constituents is excellent. Earlier this year, a small business owner in my district who sells antique cars was deeply concerned about a policy change regarding dealer license plates; something I really did not know anything about. Secretary Bellows reassured me that she would personally see to it that he got what he needed, and she certainly did. To say that he was grateful to have the plates back that he had had for the nearly 50 years he had been in business would be an understatement. I think I hope someday, he might ride us around in a parade in one of those antique vehicles; my personal goal.

This same experience reminds me of a constituent that Representative Milliken and I share. He had a license plate that was deemed inappropriate under recent law by the Secretary of State's office; and no, I'm not going to read it out loud here, don't get your hopes up. This constituent, unfortunately, has ALS, and the plate featured an expletive that made it clear how he felt about this disease. Secretary Bellows called him personally to talk through a few options. She hand-delivered him a new license plate that reads "IH8ALS," with cool-like eight in it, and in exchange, he gave her a bumper sticker replica of his old license plate, which was one of the options that she had suggested to him, and she still has that on her refrigerator to this day.

As I hope these examples illustrate, Secretary Bellows understands that the work of her Department is really about making government work for Maine. She brought online appointments to the BMV, so that working people could get in and out very quickly. She deployed an electronic lien and titling solution which supports banks, credit unions, car dealers and customers. She implemented remote online notarization to help Realtors facilitate transactions between remote buyers and sellers. These are just examples of a few of the modernizations that she's overseen that have especially benefitted rural Mainers. I for one have benefitted from and appreciated that it only took me 10 minutes last summer to renew my driver's license at the Ellsworth BMV, because I had made an appointment first. So, please, do tell all your constituents about this great service.

In my experience, when Secretary Bellows makes a promise, she follows through. When she talks about her vision over her next term for mobile BMV units and BMV kiosks and a new central voter registration system to improve efficiency and security for election officials, I know she will deliver. I have firsthand experience working with her to make a policy proposal a reality. Three years ago, Maine was one of the last states without a post-election audit program, and Secretary Bellows worked with me on a bipartisan law to implement post-election audits to strengthen our integrity of our elections and to improve voter confidence.

Secretary Bellows is an honest and courageous leader and an independent thinker. I'm not the only legislator in this room who has been on the opposite side of her in an issue. Indeed, I'm not even the only legislator in this room who has been on the opposite side of her in a lawsuit. These experiences have made it crystal clear to me that she is exactly who we need as Secretary of State, because she approaches every issue for what it is and not who is presenting it. We need leaders who are thoughtful, independent thinkers and willing to work with all of us in our work for Maine people. I think that's who Secretary Bellows is, and it's why I encourage you to vote yes to re-elect Shenna Bellows as our Secretary of State. Thank you all.

Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock seconded the motion.

The CHAIR: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: I nominate Sawin Millett and would like to speak to my nomination.

The CHAIR: The Member now may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you. I am honored to nominate Sawin Millett for the Constitutional office of Secretary of State for the 132nd Legislature. Following years of partisan division and acrimony, the Maine people deserve a Secretary of State who embodies impeccable ethics and is held in the highest regard for their trustworthiness and transparency. Sawin Millett, who is known by most of us in this Body, embraces the qualities that we value most as public servants.

Sawin Millett, Jr., was born in Waterford, Maine, in Oxford County, and his family settled on a farm in Dixmont in Penobscot County when he was in the fourth grade. To this day, Sawin Millett is an active farmer. He graduated from Carmel High School in 1955 and, like his father before him, attended Bates College. After graduating, he returned to Penobscot County and began teaching at Hermon High School and continued teaching there until 1971.

Sawin spent decades serving as a trusted advisor to Maine's Chief Executives. He served in the administrations of four previous Chief Executives; Longley, McKernan, King and LePage; with two different political affiliations, two Independents and two Republicans. He was Commissioner of Education for Maine's first Independent Chief Executive, James Longley. He was Commissioner of the State Finance Department for Chief Executive John McKernan. He served as Associate Commissioner on the Department of Mental Health for Independent Chief Executive Angus King and, most recently, he served as the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services in the administration of Paul LePage.

Sawin also served honorably in the Maine Legislature. He first served in '69, '72 and in 2002, he once again won the seat in the Maine House of Representatives. In 2018, he served for a third time in the Maine House until the 131st Legislature.

Sawin is Maine's foremost budget expert. As a longtime Republican Lead on the Joint Committee of Appropriations and Financial Affairs, he has worked on Maine's budget, taxation and financial affairs. Ryan Low, who served as the Commissioner of Finance under Democrat Chief Executive John Baldacci, said of Sawin, I would do just about anything for him. There's no one more of an expert on budgeting and legislative process, but even more than that, he's a genuinely nice person.

Regardless of party affiliation, Sawin earned the trust of this legislative Body and the Maine people during his decades of service to the State. Sawin is a magnificent choice. As Secretary of State, he would represent the Body well and serve the Maine people with complete trust, confidence and provide fairness in our electoral process. Please join me in voting for Sawin Millett as Maine's next Secretary of State.

On motion of Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor, the Honorable Sawin Millett of Waterford was placed in nomination for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2025 and 2026.

The CHAIR: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise to second the nomination of H. Sawin Millett, Jr., to the position of Secretary of State and wish to speak to my motion.

The CHAIR: The Member may proceed.

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you. With thanks to Leader Moonen for his hospitality. Fellow Members of the 132nd Maine Legislature, I am so pleased to offer a few words to recognize

and congratulate Sawin Millett on decades of service to this State and to put his name in nomination for this important post. As you've heard, Sawin Millett has dedicated his life to serving his community and our State, and Maine is much better off because of his service.

Sawin began his career in the Legislature, as mentioned, by getting elected to the House in 1966. He served for two terms and then returned home to serve in the position of Principal and Assistant Superintendent in his home school district. He then became the first Executive Director of the Maine School Management Association. An incredible analytical mind, Sawin has worked for and with people from all ideological and political backgrounds. In 1975, he was appointed by Chief Executive Jim Longley to be Maine's Commissioner of Education. Chief Executive 'Jock' McKernan placed Sawin in charge of school finances, and then the Commissioner of DAFS. He served in that role for two terms, and then served Chief Executive Angus King as legislative director and then as finance director for the Mental Health Department. In 2002, during Chief Executive Baldacci's administration, he returned to the Legislature and served a full two terms. As mentioned, he also served as DAFS Commissioner for Chief Executive LePage's first term. When he left that job, he actually joined the staff of Senate President Mike Thibodeau and the Senate Republicans to help them tackle the budget, and he came back to the Legislature after winning election in 2018 and served until yesterday.

Throughout all of that service, all those many decades, Sawin returned home every night to the mountains of western Maine, his home of Waterford, to tend to his cows the following morning before coming back to Augusta. Through all of that, he maintained a great deal of demeanor, patience, calmness and taught many of us how to be not only better at the budget and finances, but how to be better legislators. He always explained things slowly and methodically, which I personally appreciated a lot. He carefully considers incredibly complex budgetary matters, all policy issues. It's simply a marvel watching Sawin's brain work.

He has served at every level of government. In fact, he was just recently elected unopposed by acclamation to the Oxford County Commission. So, it is with that in mind that I ask you all to think about voting for this incredible man for this important post and I hope you will do so in joining me, because simply put, Sawin Millett is the best Maine public servant I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Senator BENNETT of Oxford seconded the motion.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that nominations cease.

The CHAIR: The nominees are the Honorable Shenna Bellows of Manchester and the Honorable Sawin Millett of Waterford for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2025 and 2026. The Chair will appoint a committee to receive, sort and count votes for the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2025 and 2026.

Subsequently, the Chair appointed:

The Representative from Boothbay, Rep. STOVER

The Senator from Hancock, Sen. GROHOSKI

The Representative from Winter Harbor, Rep. FAULKINGHAM

The Senator from Oxford, Sen. BENNETT

The Chair announced the result. 181 votes having been cast, 91 votes necessary for choice, the Honorable Shenna Bellows of Manchester having received a majority of all votes cast, the Chair declared the Honorable Shenna Bellows of Manchester duly elected to the office of Secretary of State for the political years 2025 and 2026.

The CHAIR: Nominations are now in order for the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2025 and 2026. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACCI**: Thank you, Madam Chair. I nominate Joseph Perry of Bangor for the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2025 and 2026 and wish to speak to my motion.

The CHAIR: The Member may proceed.

Senator **BALDACCI**: Thank you, Madam Chair, and congratulations to everyone here. It's an honor for me to be able to address you in the House, a very high privilege.

You know Joe Perry, so, do I need to say more? But I've known him for almost 50 years, as incredible as it may seem. We were in CCD together and he was able to convince the nuns that he was a good student while Baldacci was not a good student. So, our relationship goes back many, many decades. But I have served with him on the City Council, I have worked with him on a number of community projects, he's served 14 years on Taxation, he's served six years on Business and Insurance, he has a great knowledge and experience in terms of financial issues and, I think, he also has the honesty and integrity and I've known him almost his entire life; honesty, integrity and hard work. And he will work for everybody in this Legislature; Republican, Democrat, Independent; that is the way Joe Perry is, that is the way Joe Perry has always been. He operates a small business and has for 30 years in Bangor, and in the neighborhood which we both grew up in, he is really an important lifeline for many people. I don't like to say this often in front of him, but he is one of the kindest, nicest people. There are people that have needed some genuine emergency assistance and he's not been afraid to help out, and I think that's made him; obviously, it's made him a good politician, but it's also made him a really decent and honorable public servant, and I think he will serve us well and I ask you to consider him. Thank you.

On motion of Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot, the Honorable Joseph Perry of Bangor was placed in nomination for the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2025 and 2026.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Rana.

Representative **RANA**: Madam Chair, I second the nomination of Joseph Perry of Bangor, and I wish to speak to my motion.

The PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Representative **RANA**: Congratulations to my Esteemed Colleagues for being sworn in to office today. I am delighted to be rising today to second the nomination of Joseph Perry of Bangor to the position of State Treasurer. Joe has over two decades of experience in this building. That experience has been vital in supporting his colleagues make sound and informed judgments with every piece of legislation that we analyze. The institutional knowledge that he holds and his deep understanding of complex policy areas will serve us well in the Treasurer's role. As many of you know and have experienced, Representative Perry is; or Joseph Perry, I should have said; is a friend to everyone regardless of political party or background.

This extends to our constituents, who I know he will help whenever we ask him to. This is exactly what we need in a Constitutional Officer; someone who is able to work with everyone and get the job done. He's qualified and knowledgeable and absolutely fit for this position. I hope you will all join me in supporting him for this role. Thank you.

Representative RANA of Bangor seconded the motion.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that nominations cease.

On further motion of the same Representative, one vote was cast, on part of the Convention, for the Honorable Joseph Perry of Bangor for the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2025 and 2026.

The Chair declared the Honorable Joseph Perry of Bangor duly elected to the office of State Treasurer for the political years 2025 and 2026.

The CHAIR: Nominations are now in order for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026. The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE**: Thank you, Madam Chair. I nominate Aaron Frey of Bangor for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026 and wish to speak to my motion.

The CHAIR: The Member may proceed.

Senator **LAWRENCE**: Thank you. And I'm kind of at a loss here, because the person that was going to nominate Aaron Frey for Attorney General, Senator Brenner, had to leave and so, she gave me all her notes. I'm still trying to figure out how Joe Perry got elected as State Treasurer and then re-elected three seconds later. That, to me, is the most amazing thing I've ever seen in the Legislature.

Senator Brenner gave me wonderful remarks about Aaron Frey, none of which I'm going to read. I told Aaron if he dropped this on me, I was going to do a roast of him rather than nomination. But I do want to talk a little bit about the Aaron Frey that I know and why I support him so strongly for the position.

I came back to the Legislature; I was elected back to the House several years ago and I sat where the Good Representative from Portland, Representative Brennan, is sitting, where they put, you know, all former lawyers and presidents, so they can keep their eye on them, so they don't get up to any mischief, and behind me was Speaker Martin and Representative Aaron Frey, who were on the Appropriations Committee. And so, I had both of them yacking in my ears that first session. But I got to know Aaron pretty well because he, like me, was a small-town attorney, ran an office himself and he had tons of questions for me about how I ever served in the Legislature and ran a law office back home and how I survived. And Aaron did a lot of, if you know, the court-appointed work, which was the most difficult work to do because it paid hardly anything, it was very demanding work, but a very critical and essential part of our legal system and I understood it, because I had been both a court-appointed attorney for criminal defendants as well as a District Attorney and I knew things don't work unless those two positions work very well. So, Aaron and I talked a long time.

You know, Maine has a tradition that no other state does; we elect the Attorney General by the Legislature. Other states have Chief Executives appoint them, one has the Supreme Court appoint it, others are elected popularly at large. But one of the unique things about Maine is because it's elected by the

Legislature, we have a tendency to select very pragmatic and practical people for that office. We have a great tradition, going all the way back to Jim Erwin, who was a Republican from down my way who got elected as Attorney General, all the way up through Jim Tierney and others. And the reason why is we don't choose, always, you know, people have served in government service for a long time, we don't choose people who graduated at the top of their law school or the best law school; we elect people who understand how our legal system works. And that's why I support Aaron Frey so much. The work he did in private practice is something you cannot experience if you're in the Attorney General's Office or a DA's office or any other place. It's a practical understanding of what happens to people in our legal system in this country.

The Attorney General is our top law enforcement officer in the State of Maine and it's essential they have an understanding not only of representing the State of Maine, but representing the people of the State of Maine in the legal system and understanding how to protect their rights. And that's what Aaron Frey has done; I'm very impressed in the six years he's been Attorney General, he has grown into the position. Somehow, he has lost weight. For a minute, you know, I almost thought about running for Attorney General because if it meant I'd lose 50 pounds, you know, that was a good thing. But I still haven't found out from him how he did it, but he's done an excellent job and has an excellent staff there. But the key to why he does such a great job is unlike anybody else in the office, he understands what it's like to run a small law firm. He understands what it's like to represent average citizens in the legal system and that's a key essential element to understanding how to be the top law enforcement officer in the State of Maine. So, I hope you will join with me in supporting Aaron Frey for reelection as Attorney General. Thank you.

On motion of Senator LAWRENCE of York, the Honorable Aaron Frey of Bangor was placed in nomination for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026.

The CHAIR: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Madam Chair, I second the nomination of Aaron Frey of Bangor and wish to speak to my motion.

The CHAIR: The Member may proceed.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you. Esteemed Colleagues, it's my honor to second the nomination of Aaron Frey to continue to serve as Maine's Attorney General. Attorney General Frey brings a strong background of professional experience to this nomination, having served 10 years as an attorney in private practice, six years as a legislator on the Appropriations Committee and six years as Maine's Attorney General.

During his time as Attorney General, AG Frey has helped to advance a number of important policies. I will name just a few. First, Attorney General Frey has been a strong partner in addressing the opioid crisis, securing settlement funds that will support a wide range of prevention and treatment programs over the next 18 years. He has also promoted more humane drug policy by supporting a number of legislative efforts to reduce the criminalization of individuals with substance use disorder. Second, Attorney General Frey has initiated and supported important litigation to hold corporations accountable for damage to our environment and our human health, including contamination from PFAS and PCBs and the role of fossil fuel products in causing climate change. Third, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, I can speak to Attorney General Frey's efforts to advance important bills towards greater tribal

sovereignty. This includes expansion of the tribal criminal court jurisdiction, preparation of the Maine version of the Indian Child Welfare Act and support for an amendment to the Maine Constitution to publish Maine's treaty obligations.

In addition to these important policy areas, I can also speak to Attorney General Frey's accessibility, collaboration and support for legislators, so that we can do our jobs well. As an example, for several months, Attorney General Frey has made himself and his office available to help consider emerging law in other states on data privacy. This is a complex and technical area of law; having access to expertise is greatly beneficial in ensuring that proposed legislation is brought to this Body that is thoughtfully considered and carefully drafted. Attorney General Frey arrives at this moment with years of experience on the job, a strong team here in Maine and a network of Attorneys General across the country, all ready to do the work. I ask that you join me in supporting Aaron Frey for Attorney General. Thank you.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth seconded the motion.

The CHAIR: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART**: Thank you, Madam Chair. It is my honor to nominate the Honorable William Schneider of Durham for the office of the Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026 and I wish to speak to my motion.

The CHAIR: The Member may proceed.

Senator **STEWART**: Thank you, Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen of the newly sworn-in Maine Legislature. First, I'd echo my congratulations to you all as we embark on this two-year journey together. And it strikes me that we do so much of the important work right out of the gate in the Legislature. You may not know who or have even had the chance to meet some of the people who you are voting on today. But it's my honor to introduce to some of you this man known as the Honorable William Schneider, and Maine's former Attorney General.

I think this is incredibly important because what you need to know is that Bill is not a partisan guy. And as we look at this Body of people collected here to make some of these really important decisions on behalf of the people of the State of Maine, you have a choice to make. And some of you, for my friends on the left, do you follow someone and vote for them just because of the letter next to their name, or because you feel that they are most qualified? I hope it's the latter. And if it is the latter today, we will have a new Attorney General who will lead our State's law enforcement and be our advocate in the judicial system for law enforcement.

Bill has the most amount of experience that one can hope to have in this position. Not only was he a practicing attorney, he was also a member of the Special Forces in the United States Army. He has prosecuted terrorists on behalf of this country. He has engaged in drug enforcement efforts against those who bring illegal narcotics into our State and into our country. He served in this Body with some of you who are still here today. He served as a judge in the State of Maine. He serves, and some of you might be familiar with him, on the Ethics Commission in the State of Maine. He is regarded with the utmost integrity of perhaps anybody I know in Maine politics. He's not going to be an Attorney General for Republicans or Attorney General for Democrats; he's the Attorney General for the State of Maine. His rapport even within the Office of the Attorney General is so high, I had Democrats that work there now saying he would be a good choice, he would be one you could be proud of, he could be one that we can all be proud of.

I hope sincerely that, right out of the gate, we make the right decision in this Legislature to truly set partisanship aside and do what is, without question, the best thing that we can do for the people of the State of Maine, the Office of the Attorney General and for our future. I hope you'll join me in selecting the Honorable William Schneider as Maine's next Attorney General. Thank you.

On motion of Senator STEWART of Aroostook, the Honorable William Schneider of Durham was placed in nomination for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026.

The CHAIR: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I second the nomination of William Schneider of Durham and wish to speak to my motion.

The CHAIR: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Madam Chair, as most of you are aware, Mr. Schneider was here today or yesterday briefing us on ethics and briefing us on our responsibilities from an ethical point of view in regards to our responsibilities as Representatives in this Body. So, I must begin by apologizing in telling the good William Schneider that in voting for him, I'm voting against myself, because the good candidate on the Democratic side practices in my court in Newport. And so, if we elect him, he's going to come back and take all those clients back and I'm going to be losing all those clients. And so, I don't know if that's a conflict of interest or not, Mr. Schneider, but I can only tell you that Mr. Schneider has been an honorable servant for the State of Maine. I think that the Good Senator from Presque Isle spoke to his attributes as being appointed both in this Body as a former Republican Leader, as someone appointed to the judgeship, and I think he would be an honorable person and I second his nomination and ask for you to vote for him.

Representative **FREDETTE** of Newport seconded the motion.

Representative **MOONEN** of Portland moved that nominations cease.

The CHAIR: The nominees are the Honorable Aaron Frey of Bangor and the Honorable William Schneider of Durham for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026. The Chair will appoint a committee to receive, sort and count votes for the office of Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026.

Subsequently, the Chair appointed:

The Senator from York, Sen. LAWRENCE

The Representative from Falmouth, Rep. KUHN

The Senator from Aroostook, Sen. STEWART

The Representative from Newport, Rep. FREDETTE

The Chair announced the result. 181 votes having been cast, 91 votes necessary for choice, the Honorable Aaron Frey of Bangor having received the majority of all votes cast, the Chair declared the Honorable Aaron Frey of Bangor duly elected to the office of Attorney General for the political years 2025 and 2026.

The CHAIR: Nominations are now in order for the office of State Auditor for the political years 2025 through 2028. The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Ingwersen.

Senator **INGWERSEN**: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I nominate Matthew Dunlap of Old Town for the office of State Auditor for the political years 2025 through 2028, and I wish to speak to my motion.

The CHAIR: The Member may proceed.

Senator **INGWERSEN**: I'm honored to stand before you all here today to nominate Matt Dunlap as State Auditor. I've only known Matt for a little over six years, when I first came here, but Matt has been here 30, and his qualities as a human being make me wish that I had been here far longer just to know him.

Matt began his 30-year career here at the State House when he was elected in 1996 as State Representative from Old Town, where he served until 2004. In 2004, Dunlap was elected to serve as Maine's 47th Secretary of State, for the first of what became seven terms; the second-longest serving Secretary in Maine's history. He was the first person since 1880 to serve non-consecutive terms as Maine's Secretary of State. He then took up his present job as our State Auditor.

Matt's reputation here around these halls centers on the incredible service that he's always provided to us as Members and to our constituents. It's what has made his time as State Auditor just as successful; he focuses on helping people, and this success shows. One of the requirements in Audit that I didn't know about is that they have to pass a national peer review; you could call it an audit for Audit; of their work every three years. The last review team from Missouri, South Carolina and Virginia gave Maine its highest-ever rating for the quality of their work. The folks at Audit will tell you that it's due in no small part to the good humor and support Matt brings to that office every day and the special dishes he cooks for the staff as well. That is Matt through and through.

Most of all, what I love about Matt Dunlap is the same thing that many of you who have known him for a while love about him; it's his dedication to serving the public, his curiosity, his sense of humor, his deep historical knowledge and his absolute, absolute generosity. When I first met him as a very busy Secretary of State, I found him sitting under one of the more obscure State House portraits that he had given me a long historical monologue about. In a brief bout of inspiration, and with no understanding at all of how busy the Secretary of State job was, I asked him if he would host a group of fourth graders coming up for a tour of my district. Without hesitation, he looked at me and said, sure. That is, in essence, Matt Dunlap. To whatever service that he has given to Maine, he's not just brought intelligence and hard work there, he's also brought with him what we need so very much these days; kindness, caring and good humor. And that is why I hope you will all join me in enthusiastically re-elect that man as our State Auditor. So, thank you all very much.

On motion of Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, the Honorable Matthew Dunlap of Old Town was placed in nomination for the office of State Auditor for the political years 2025 through 2028.

The CHAIR: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, the incredible Representative Sargent.

Representative **SARGENT**: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm delighted and proud to rise to second the nomination of Matthew Dunlap of Old Town to continue to be our State Auditor. I echo everything my good friend and the esteemed Senator from York has said already, and I am painfully aware that I am the final speaker of this Convention, so, I will hit only on some highlights

of what could be a very long salute to this very incredible man. But let me say a few things that I find incredibly striking.

Number one, Matt Dunlap is a hopeless overachiever. From the time that he says he was the section leader of both the concert band and the marching band of Mount Desert Island High School, to the two constitutional offices he has held for Maine. He is only one of five people in Maine's history to have held two constitutional offices, and he does it because of his relentless commitment to excellence and his hunger to learn and climb every mountain. He's also what I would call an indefatigable and skilled public servant. As the Senator mentioned, eight years in the Legislature, 14 years as Secretary of State, two years as State Auditor; I also went through his extensive resume and found that he has served on nearly 70; 7-0; committees and boards of Maine NGOs and national committees regarding electoral integrity. He also has been recognized with citations and honors from over 30 organizations at home and across the country for his excellence in government service. Among those was, of course, he was elected President of the National Association of Secretaries of State.

Another point is that Matt is a passionate champion of Maine. He loves everything about Maine. He loves our deer, he loves our salmon, he loves our trees and he loves all of our people, particularly the Native tribes, all the way through new Mainers. He also, of course, is a ferocious protector of our State, and he will continue to protect us by dotting all the I's and crossing the T's for all of our accounts, for all of our evaluations on federal grants, so that we can optimize what we can get for our State.

My final thing I love about Matt is; because I share it; is that he is a zealous historian. He just loves it. He will happily recount tales of varied Civil War Maine regiments who saved the Union. Those stories relayed how those men from rural Maine rose to the challenge and demonstrated the best versions of themselves.

My friends and colleagues on both sides of the aisle, this is our turn to demonstrate the best versions of ourselves, for the good of our State. I believe that Matt Dunlap of Old Town sets the example for us to follow. I hope you'll join me in supporting him.

Representative **SARGENT** of York seconded the motion.

Representative **MOONEN** of Portland moved that nominations cease.

On further motion of the same Representative, one vote was cast, on part of the Convention, for the Honorable Matthew Dunlap of Old Town for the office of State Auditor for the political years 2025 through 2028.

The Chair declared the Honorable Matthew Dunlap of Old Town duly elected to the office of State Auditor for the political years 2025 through 2028.

The purpose for which this Joint Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its chamber.

(After the Joint Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those that don't know me here in the House, my name is Representative Jim Thorne from Carmel, and I'm retired from the United States Air Force. I've talked to a lot of Representatives here over the years. Even though they may not have spent time in the military, they have relatives, parents, brothers, sisters, cousins that have spent time in the military, and if you'll please indulge me, I would like to share something with you.

In 2007, my father passed away. A couple months before he passed away, I sat him down at my camp and I interviewed him on a video recorder. I talked to him about many things. One of the things that I talked to him about is, does he remember Pearl Harbor Day? He said, yes. He says that was a very difficult time and period for everybody. It was not long after the Depression, they did a ration on everything. They rationed sugar, they rationed rubber tires, they rationed gasoline. Everybody pitched in to do what they could to win that war.

Today, we stand together to honor the memory of the men and women who gave their lives on December 7, 1941, an ordinary day that became extraordinary in its sorrow and its call to action. At 7:55 a.m. that morning, the quiet of Pearl Harbor was shattered by the sounds of explosions, the roar of planes overhead and the tragic realization that our nation was under attack. The surprise assault left 2,403 of our fellow citizens dead and nearly 1,200 more wounded. Ships sank, aircraft were destroyed, but most importantly, the sense of security in the United States was shaken. The attack on Pearl Harbor was not just an assault on a military base, it was an assault on our very way of life.

However, in the darkest hours of that day, we witnessed the unbreakable resolve of the American people; those who survived, those who rushed to the aid of their comrades, those who knew the fight ahead and the fight would be long and hard. They chose to stand tall and fight back. It was not fear that they saw in the eyes, but courage. It was not despair, but the relentless pursuit of justice and freedom. In the days that followed Pearl Harbor, Americans from every walk of life, every corner of this great land answered the call of arms. In the years that followed, the legacy of Pearl Harbor was not just one of loss, but one of triumph. We rose from the ashes of that tragedy to defeat the forces of fascism and imperialism. We rebuilt our nation and our alliances, securing a peace that would endure for generations to come, to this day. We did all of this, not because we were forced into it, but because we believed that freedom was worth fighting for. We believed in a world where justice would prevail.

As we reflect on Pearl Harbor today, we must not only remember the sacrifices of those who served and gave their lives, we must also renew our commitment to the values they fought to defend. We must remember that the strength of our nation lies not just in the might of our military, but in the resilience of our people and our ability to unite in the face of challenges. On this solemn anniversary, I ask you to join me in a moment of reflection to honor the bravery of those who fought and to renew our resolve to protect the freedoms that make this

country and this world a beacon of hope. May God bless the souls of those who fell at Pearl Harbor, and may God continue to bless the State of Maine and the United States of America. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

On motion of Representative MALON of Biddeford, the House adjourned at 5:38 p.m., until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 9) and in honor and lasting tribute to the memory of all those who served at Pearl Harbor.