(The House of Representatives was called to order at 10:01 o'clock a.m., Representative Robert D. Godfrey of the 110th District, Deputy Speaker Pro Tempore of the preceding House in the Chair.)

CLERK:

The 2019 Session of the House of Representatives will convene immediately.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

(Gavel) Members Elect, please take your seats. Family, friends, guests, staff please find your places. We're about to begin. Please take your seats. Please take your places.

(Gavel) Please take your places.

(Gavel) Ladies and gentleman please take your places. We're about to begin. Kindly take your places.

(Gavel) Everybody, Members Elect please take
your seats. All of our guests, please find a place. I would encourage everybody, there's about 300 people in the room. There's probably 400 cell phones so as I'm about to do, if you could turn them into airplane mode or silent mode or that kind of thing we'd all appreciate it.

Pursuant to Article 3 of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, the 2019-2020 term of this House of Representatives is convened. (Applause)

Yeah. Welcome to all. You know in 1638 were adopted Connecticut's Fundamental Orders, which was the first written Constitution the world had ever seen and one of the reasons why we're called the Constitution State. They were based on a principal laid down by our State Founder, the Reverend Thomas Hooker, that the foundation of authority is laid in the free consent of the people. Not only did these fundamental orders mark the beginning of American Democracy that would culminate in the revolution of 1776 and be repeated by the Delegates of the Constitutional Convention in 1787 and thank you Buddy Altobello for this interesting piece of
information. On this day, January 9th in 1788, Connecticut was the fifth state to ratify the Constitution of the United States. So it's a day in Constitution history. (Applause)

Yes. And the fundamental orders begin for as much as it please almighty God and well knowing where people are gathered together, the word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people, there should be an orderly and decent government established according to God, to order and dispose of the affairs of the people at all seasons as occasion should require for ourselves and for our successors. Here it is 381 years later and we, those successors to those founders, gather here in our historic and beloved House Chamber to fulfill that hope, that promise to maintain the peace and union of our people as an orderly and decent government. So I ask all of you gathered here to please stand, Members Elect, families, guests and staff and in remembrance of the intentions of the Reverend Thomas Hooker and our Fundamental Orders, please give your attention to our Chaplain, Rabbi
Alan Lefkowitz, who will lead us in prayer.

RABBI ALAN LEFKOWITZ:

Good morning and Happy New Year. In the beginning this is the usual opening for the reading of Genesis as we begin to read the Bible. However, a more accurate translation is when God began to create. So as we open our new session with new leadership and newly divinely inspired people, we as God did are beginning to create newly. As we do, let us remember to keep ourselves above as spiritual beings and spirituality as our partner remembering that unlike as we think, spirituality is a verb to remind us that the truest fact of our very existence is that each of us is a happening of God. The happening is all happening.

Spirituality is progressive, a maturing rather just being just a mature spirituality. It isn't fixed. It is fluid, not as a final ah-ha but as a recurring wow. A maturing spirituality is active not as selfish but that each of us be a blessing to all people on earth. So as we pray to our God may we begin to create for the one and the one who created
us all, our highest power who desires for us to work for the highest good.

    Dear God, help us to be present and to see ourselves and others as waves of the infinite divine ocean, to be free by dropping those closed minded conditions of self-judgment that blinds ourselves to the judging others, to be compassionate by treating all beings with kindness and respect despite our differences. May each of us return to our true nature as models of God, and may we each live the ethic of godliness so that we can be a blessing to all those we serve and to all beings on earth. We say Amen.

ALL:

    Amen.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

    Please remain standing and I'm going to ask Representatives Elect Ritter and Klarides to please come to the dais to lead us all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

REP. RITTER (1ST) and REP. KLARIDES (114TH):
(All) I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Please remain standing while I have the Hartford Gay Men's Chorus come in and sing our National Anthem.

HARTFORD GAY MEN'S CHORUS:

(Singing)

(Applause)

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

Wow! Thank you gentlemen for such arousing inauguration of the House of Representatives and a great performance and a great arrangement of the, of our National Anthem. Please be seated.

Until such time later when the House is sworn in and elects its Clerk, I will appoint Assistant Clerk, Ann Clark as the Temporary Clerk. At this time will the Clerk please call the roll of Members Elect?

CLERK:
Good morning and congratulations to you all. When your name is called please rise, stand in place, say here or present. Please remain standing until all members are called upon so that you can be sworn in. And I would also ask our guests if you would hold out your applause until all the members names have been called.

Roll of the House of Representatives January Session 2019. Assembly District 1, Matthew Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 2, Raghib Allie-Brennan.

REP. ALLIE-BRENNAN (2ND):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 3, Minnie Gonzalez.

REP. GONZALEZ (3RD):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 4, Julio A. Concepcion.

REP. CONCEPCION (4TH):
Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 5, Brandon L. McGee.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 6, Edwin Vargas.

Assembly District 7, Joshua Malik Hall.

REP. HALL (7TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 8, Tim Hackert, Ackert, I'm sorry. Tim Ackert.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Thank you. Assembly District 9, Jason Rojas.

REP. ROJAS (9TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 10, Henry J. Genga.

REP. GENGA (10TH):
Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 11, Jeff Currey.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 12, Jeffrey Luxenberg.

REP. LUXENBERG (12TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 13, Jason Doucette.

REP. DOUCETTE (13TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 14, Tom Delnicki.

REP. DELNICKI (14TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 15, Bobby G. Gibson.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Here.

CLERK:
Assembly District 16, John Kennedy Hampton.

REP. HAMPTON (16TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 17, Leslee Hill.

REP. HILL (17TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 18, Jillian Gilchrest.

REP. GILCHREST (18TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 19, Derek Slap.

REP. SLAP (19TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 20, Joe Verrengia.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 21, Mike Demicco.

REP. DEMICCO (21ST):
Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 22, William A. Petit.

REP. PETIT (22ND):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 23, Devin R. Carney.

REP. CARNEY (23RD):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 24, Rick Lopes.

REP. LOPES (24TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 25, Robert Sanchez.

REP. SANCHEZ (25TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 26, Peter A. Tercyak.

REP. TERCYAK (26TH):

Here.
Assembly District 27, Gary Turco.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 28, Russell A. Morin.

REP. MORIN (28TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 29, Kerry Szeps Wood.

REP. SZEPS WOOD (29TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 30, Joe Aresimowicz. I believe he's in the anteroom.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

We'll get him later.

CLERK:

Assembly District 31, Jill Barry.

REP. BARRY (31ST):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 32, Christie M. Carpino.
REP. CARPINO (32ND):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 33, Joseph C. Serra.

REP. SERRA (33RD):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 34, Irene Haines.

REP. HAINES (34TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 35, Jesse MacLachlan.

REP. MACLACHLAN (35TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 36, Christine Palm.

REP. PALM (36TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 37, Holly H. Cheeseman.

REP. CHEESEMAN (37TH):

Here.
Assembly District 38, Kathleen M. McCarty.

REP. MCCARTY (38TH):

Present.

Assembly District 39 is vacant. Assembly District 40, Christine Conley.

REP. CONLEY (39TH):

Present.

Assembly District 41, Joe de la Cruz.

REP. DE LA CRUZ (41ST):

Over here. (Laughing)

Assembly District 42, Mike France.

REP. FRANCE (42ND):

Here.

Assembly District 43, Kate Rotella.

REP. ROTELLA (43RD):

Here.
Assembly District 44, Ann Dauphinais.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly, Assembly District 45, Brian Lanoue.

REP. LANOUE (45TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 46, Emmett D. Riley.

REP. RILEY (46TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 47, Doug Dubitsky.

REP. DUBITSKY (47TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 48, Linda A. Orange.

REP. ORANGE (48TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Thank you representative. (Laughing) Assembly District 49, Susan M. Johnson.
REP. JOHNSON (49TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 50, Patrick S. Boyd.

REP. BOYD (50TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 51, Ricky Hayes.

REP. HAYES (51ST):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 52, Kurt Vail.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 53, Patricia Wilson Pheanious.

REP. PHEANIOUS (53RD):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 54, Gregory Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54TH):
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
January 9, 2019

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 55, Robin Green.

REP. GREEN (55TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 56, Michael Winkler.

REP. WINKLER (56TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 57, Christopher Davis.

REP. DAVIS (57TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 58, Tom Arnone.

REP. ARNONE (58TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 59, Carol Hall.

REP. HALL (59TH):

Here.
Assembly District 60, Jane Garibay.

REP. GARIBAY (60TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 61, Tami Zawistowski.

REP. ZAWISTOWSKI (61ST):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 62, Bill Simanski.

REP. SIMANSKI (62ND):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 63, Jay M. Case.

REP. CASE (63RD):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 64, Maria Horn.

REP. HORN (64TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 65, Michelle L. Cook.

REP. COOK (65TH):
Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 66, David T. Wilson.

REP. WILSON (66TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 67, Bill Buckbee.

REP. BUCKBEE (67TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 68, Joe Polletta.

REP. POLLETTA (68TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 69, Arthur J. O'Neill.

REP. O'NEILL (69TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 70, Rosa C. Rebimbas.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Here.
Assembly District 71, Anthony J. D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO (71ST):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 72, Larry B. Butler.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Larry B. here. (Laughing)

CLERK:

Assembly District 73, Ronald Napoli.

REP. NAPOLI (73RD):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 74, Stephanie E. Cummings.

REP. CUMMINGS (74TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 75, Geraldo C. Reyes.

REP. REYES (75TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 72, John E. Piscopo.

REP. PISCOPO (72ND):
Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 77, Cara Christine Pavalock-D'Amato.

REP. PAVALOCK-D'AMATO (77TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 78, Whit Betts.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 79, Christopher Ziogas. Is she here? I didn't hear her. Assembly District 79, Christopher Ziogas?

Assembly District 80, Gale Mastrofrancesco.

REP. MASTROFRANCESCO (80TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 81, John Fusco.

REP. FUSCO (81ST):

Here.

CLERK:
Assembly District 82, Emil Altobello.

REP. ALTOBELLO (82ND):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 83, Catherine F. Abercrombie.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 84, Hilda E. Santiago.

REP. SANTIAGO (84TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 85, Mary M. Mushinsky.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 86, that would be Assembly District 86, Vincent J. Candelora.

REP. CANDELORA (86TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 87, David W. Yaccarino.
REP. YACCARINO (87TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 88, Josh Elliott.

REP. ELLIOTT (88TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 89, Lezlye Zupkus.

REP. ZUPKUS (89TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 90, Craig C. Fishbein.

REP. FISHBEIN (90TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 91, Michael D'Agostino.

REP. D'AGOSTINO (91ST):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 92, Patricia A. Dillon.

REP. DILLON (92ND):

Here.
CLERK:

Assembly District 93, Toni E. Walker.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 94, Robyn A. Porter.

REP. PORTER (94TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 95, Juan R. Candelaria.

REP. CANDELARIA (95TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 96, Roland J. Lemar.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 97, Alphonse Paolillo.

REP. PAOLILLO (97TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 98, Sean Scanlon.
REP. SCANLON (98TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 99 is vacant. Assembly District 100, Quentin Phipps.

REP. PHIPPS (100TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 101, Noreen S. Kokoruda.

REP. KOKORUDA (101ST):

Here.

REP. GODFREY (110TH):

She's here.

CLERK:

She is here? Assembly District 102, Robin Comey.

REP. COMEY (102ND):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 103, Liz Linehan.

REP. LINEHAN (103RD):

Present.
CLERK:

Assembly District 104, Kara Rochelle.

REP. ROCHELLE (104TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 105, Nicole Klarides-Ditria.

REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA (105TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 106, Mitch Bolinsky.

REP. BOLINSKY (106TH):

Honored to be here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 107, Stephen G. Harding.

REP. HARDING (107TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 108, Richard A. Smith.

REP. SMITH (108TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 109, David Arconti.
REP. ARCONTI (109TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 110, Robert D. Godfrey.

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):

Still here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 111, John H. Frey.

REP. FREY (111TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 110, 112, I'm sorry.

Assembly District 112, J.P. Sredzinski.

REP. SREDZINSKI (112TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 113, Jason Perillo.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 114, Themis Klarides.

REP. KЛАRIDES (114TH):
Clerk: Assembly District 115, Dorina Borer.

Rep. Borer (115th):

Here.


Rep. Dimassa (116th):

Here.

Clerk: Assembly District 117, Charles J. Ferraro.

Rep. Ferraro (117th):

Here.

Clerk: Assembly District 118, Kim Rose.

Rep. Rose (118th):

Present.

Clerk: Assembly District 119, Kathleen Kennedy.

Rep. Kennedy (119th):

Present.
CLERK:

Assembly District 120, Philip L. Young.

REP. YOUNG (120TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 121, Joseph P. Gresko.

REP. GRESKO (121ST):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 122, Ben McGorty.

REP. MCGORTY (122ND):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 123, David Rutigliano.

REP. RUTIGLIANO (123RD):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 124, Andre F. Baker.

REP. BAKER (124TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 125, Tom O'Dea.
REP. O'DEA (125TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 126, Charles L. Stallworth.

REP. STALLWORTH (126TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 170, I'm sorry 2, 127, John Jack F. Hennessy.

REP. HENNESSY (127TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 128, Christopher Rosario.

REP. ROSARIO (128TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 129, Steven J. Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 130, Ezequiel Santiago.

REP. SANTIAGO (130TH):
Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 131, David K. Labriola.

REP. LABRIOLA (131ST):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 132, Brenda L. Kupchick.

REP. KUPCHICK (132nd):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 133, Cristin McCarthy Vahey.

REP. MCCARTHY VAHEY (133RD):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 134, Laura M. Devlin.

REP. DEVLIN (134TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 135, Anne Hughes.

REP. HUGHES (135TH):

Present.

CLERK:
Assembly District 136, Jonathan Steinberg.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 137, Christ Perone.

REP. PERONE (137TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 138, Kenneth Gucker.

REP. GUCKER (138TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 139, Kevin Ryan.

REP. RYAN (139TH):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 140, Travis Simms.

REP. SIMMS (140TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 141, Terrie E. Wood.

REP. WOOD (141ST):
Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 142, Lucy Dathan.

REP. DATHAN (142ND):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 143, Gail Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143RD):

Here.

CLERK:

Assembly District 144, Caroline Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 145, Patricia Billie Miller.

REP. MILLER (145TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 146, David Michel.

REP. MICHEL (146TH):

Michel.
Assembly District 147, Matthew Blumenthal.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 148, Daniel J. Fox.

REP. FOX (148TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 149, Livvy R. Floren.

REP. FLOREN (149TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 150, Stephen Meskers.

REP. MESKERS (150TH):

Present.

CLERK:

Assembly District 151, Fred Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151ST):

Present.

CLERK:

And we will again call the members who did not answer the first roll.
Assembly District 1, I'm sorry, Assembly District 79, Christopher Ziogas.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the roll of the House of Representatives.

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):

Thank you Madam Clerk. (Applause)

We are awaiting the arrival of the Secretary of the State. She was helping the Senate. You know what that's like. (Laughing) And she has arrived. (Applause)

They've all been called. Everybody who is going to be here is here.

DENISE W. MERRILL, SECRETARY OF THE STATE:

So we're ready to raise our right hands?

ALL:

Yes.

DENISE W. MERRILL, SECRETARY OF THE STATE:

You do solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Connecticut so long as you continue a citizen thereof, and that you will faithfully discharge according to law the duties of
the office of State Representative to the best of your abilities so help you God.

ALL:

I do.

DENISE W. MERRILL, SECRETARY OF THE STATE:

Congratulations, congratulations.  (Applause)

Can I say something?  I want to say something.

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):

Go ahead.

DENISE W. MERRILL, SECRETARY OF THE STATE:

One second.  And may I say congratulations to all of you?  I was in the House for many years.  It's a wonderful experience and you are now part of history, so congratulations from me too. (Applause)

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):

Thank you, Denise.  Thank you very much.  (Applause).

You may be seated.  Make yourself comfortable.  Madam Clerk, would you kindly post the names of the Connecticut House of Representatives on the board?  Congratulations!  It's official.  (Cheering and applause) Please be seated.  Make yourself
comfortable. We've got a lot of ceremony to conduct and some business. And I'd like to start. We have several very special guests who are joining, who have joined us today. I would like to introduce them. We have our former Speakers of the House here. We'll go in kind of a chronological order, only backwards. Brendan Sharkey is here, Mr. Speaker. (Applause)

Speaker Chris Donovan. (Applause)

Good to see you Mr. Speaker. Speaker Jim Amann. (Applause)

The first and only Madam Speaker Moira Lyons. There is another Ritter, Speaker Tom Ritter. I think I now know four generations of Ritters, it's frightening. Speaker Richard Balducci. (Applause)

Speaker Ernie Abate. (Applause)

And one of my role models from down Greater Danbury Way from Brookfield, Speaker Fran Collins. (Applause)

So our first order of business is the election of a Speaker of the House of Representatives. Are there any nominations? Representative Ritter.
REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm going to make some brief remarks and when I conclude I will put the name of Joe Aresimowicz in for nom-- to be placed into nomination. Joe, I hope you're watching back there in seclusion wherever you are. But we stood here two years ago and we all proudly voted to have Joe be our -- our next Speaker of the House. And what's interesting about electing a Speaker or any position really when it's new, is you're really not sure what's going to happen over those two years. I think what is a certainty over that two year period is that you will be challenged. Unexpected things will occur. And the question really is not so much where those things will happen. The challenges, the delays, the criticism, the second guessing, but how do you respond from that? And I don't know a more positive person, a more optimistic person in State Government than our current Speaker of the House, and I think it's never bad to be an optimistic person. To love the state
that you live in, to love the town that you live in and lead accordingly.

So it is really awesome to stand here today and be able to not only speak in favor of the current Speaker of the House but know that we did it right two years ago and we're going to have the full faith that he'll do the same great job these next two years.

I try to do it a little different. I'm kind of a history buff, Mr. Speaker, which might surprise some people with my sports interest by in large. But I wanted to know a couple of things about Joe and his place in history, okay? So I would be curious, maybe Representative O'Neill or Representative Godfrey know the answer to these questions, but I would be curious who actually knows it? How many Speakers of the House have we had in the history of the state of Connecticut? Governor Lamont will be the 89th Governor sworn in today. So you're all guessing, your over/unders. Joe will be the 115th person sworn in in a few minutes here to be the Speaker of the House of the state of
Connecticut. Fewer than I thought. And it's been about 200 years since we've had Speakers. So then the next question that I asked myself. I'm from Hartford, right? I know, I want to know how many Speakers have come from the town of Berlin. And you know, I know I'm from Hartford. We've had a few Speakers. The names don't roll off my tongue, we've had a few. (Laughter) And I was curious. So we did some research at the State Library. And by the way, it's not Berlin, that's in Germany. It's Berlin and they have T-shirts in the town that say that by the way. It's very true. Go to the football games. And Joe is the first Speaker of the House in the history of the state of Connecticut to come from Berlin, Connecticut. I think that deserves a round of applause. (Applause)

And he is undoubtedly the most successful football coach to ever hail from Berlin and be the Speaker of the House as well.

When we concluded the 2017 and 18 sessions on the last day, the entire Chamber, Republicans and Democrats stood and gave the Speaker a standing
ovation and I'm pretty sure it was not because everyone agreed with all the policies that he might have advocated for or pushed. That's natural, it's never going to happen. But I think it demonstrates the respect about how someone leaves the Chamber.

Bipartisanship, starting on time, for you new members you have no idea how critical it is to your lives. (Applause)

Not keeping us here all hours of the night, I can think of very few nights past midnight. Very few people slept at my house this time around, a mile away, so that's always a good sign. And, and the Speaker let us run the floor, myself and the Minority Leader. You know, do the business we had to do with-- with minimal interference understanding that his position is to kind of come in when need be but not to get involved too much in all the day-to-day activities that go on.

I think what makes the position of Speaker unique in our form of government, and we are electing someone to be the most powerful legislature in the state of Connecticut, is that you're not only
remembered for the things that you did and things you pushed for, but also how you lead the Chamber. That's a really tough, conflicting thing to judge somebody on. The ideas you pushed for, the values you believed in, which everybody is not going to agree on, but then you also have to earn the respect of 151 people. For the Speaker of the House is not elected by one side or the other. It is a full vote of the entire Chamber. And think about this place. Right now you're all, unless you're standing, slightly comfortable. It's not too loud. I would invite you all back in May, around May 28th and see what this place is like. (Laughing) And one is reminded of--of Tocqueville who visited the United States Congress in the 1830s and his book, Democracy in America where he wrote about the US House of Representatives. One is struck by the vulgar demeanor of that great assembly. (Laughing) It's true here in Connecticut. It's a very different place. And so with all that craziness and that madness and the emotion and the debating and the papers flying, you still have to have a legacy built
upon the things you advocated for and also how you ran the Chamber. And even when people disagree with you, they could look up and they could say, he or she was a very good Speaker for the following reasons, which had nothing to do with policy. I think that makes it maybe the most challenging job in state government.

So I know that history will look fondly upon my dear friend, Joe both in his legacy of accomplishment and how he's run the Chamber. He is a Speaker who is taking tremendous work with hospitals, made that one of his key moments in the last two years. He's focused on job readiness, preparing our workers for the new economy and I know he will get universal applause several more times in the next coming years. So it is with great happiness and admiration that I nominate our current Speaker of the House, Joe Aresimowicz to be the next Speaker of the House for the term ending January 2021. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):

Thank you, sir. (Applause)
For the purposes of a second, I would like to call on Representative Toni Walker.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Good morning, sir. Good morning.

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):

Good morning.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

Thank you, and good to see you today. Happy New Year.

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):

Good to be seen.

REP. WALKER (93RD):

You know, let me begin first by welcoming everyone here to the General Assembly. The members, the new members, the families, the returning, all of our past Speakers, the people of the citizens of Connecticut here. Welcome to the People's House. The people in Connecticut have spoken and that's why we are all here today. We are in the People's House at the start of the 2019-2020 session. You know, I'm reminded of an African proverb that says, if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far,
go together. It is my great pleasure to second the
nomination of Joe Aresimowicz, Speaker of the House,
a man who has embraced the belief that together we
can make this a great state for the people of this
Connecticut.

I've had the good fortune of knowing Joe
Aresimowicz since 2004. When Joe and I were here
together he started, we were banished over there in
that corner, way over there in the nose bleed
section because we tended to ask too many questions
and challenge too many things, but that's okay. We
survived, we did well. All joking aside though,
it's been 14 years of witnessing Joe's growth and
development. He has championed things that we all
have participated in. He championed first working
for Veterans and housing and employment and working
to make sure that they have job training. He worked
on jobs for the state of Connecticut. He began the
-- the conversation about Bills that lead to the
first Paid Sick Day Bill here in Connecticut. Joe
has been an incredible champion for people here for
retirement. He worked on a Bill that helped over
600,000 Connecticut employees get retirement services. In education, Joe worked to expand high, technical high school programming and promote middle school manufacturing curriculum. He worked with us to pass legislation that helped -- helped college students reduce their college tuition and impact them so that we can grow this economy and the people that we work with.

And the list goes on because Joe has worked with all of hand in hand. John Quincy Adams said, if you inspire others to dream more, learn more, to do more, become more, then you are a true leader and that is Joe Aresimowicz. Joe exemplifies that a leader who inspires his people, inspires his team to work together for Connecticut is amazing and he does it so naturally. Each one of us this year is going to have some real challenges in what we're going to have to do. We're going to have to have some very tough choices. We're going to have to look at the impacts that we make with state even more and more critically. That is why it is with my pleasure that I second the nomination of my friend, Joe Aresiowicz
who, Aresimowicz who -- who pushes more for all of us to be more than what we expect out of ourselves. He makes sure that we embrace the belief and the understanding that Connecticut is a wonderful state and we are here to represent those citizens. So he has made sure that we work together tonight, tomorrow and going through to June to make sure that Connecticut is the one state that we all are so proud of. So I thank you to place in second nomination, Joe Aresimowicz for the Speaker of the House. (Applause)

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):

Thank you, Representative Walker. Are there any further nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations are closed. The question before the House is, shall Joe Aresimowicz be elected Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives? Let me try your minds. All in favor of electing Joe Aresimowicz as Speaker please signify by saying Aye.

ALL:

Aye.

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):
Opposed Nay. The Ayes have it. (Gavel) Joe Aresimowicz has been elected Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. Congratulations. (Applause)

I will -- I will appoint four members to wait upon the Speaker Elect and escort him to the dais to be sworn in. Representatives Ritter, Klarides, McCarthy Vahey, and Sredzinski. If you would please fetch the Speaker Elect. (Laughter) The House will stand at ease.

(Applause)

(Gavel)

SPEAKER GODFREY (11TH):

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Marion Sgrio-Varano who will administer the oath of office to Representative Elect and Speaker Elect Aresimowicz.

MARION SGROI-VARANO:

Representative Aresimowicz, please raise your right hand. You do solemnly wear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of Connecticut so
long as you are a citizen thereof. And that you will faithfully discharge the office of the House of Representative and the duties of the High House of Speaker of the House, so help you God.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

I do. (Applause)

Thank you. I'm going to take a page from my good friend, Nancy Wyman. Come on, sit down. We've got work to do. (Laughter)

Thank you very much. It truly is an honor to be before you today. I'm very humble that you all have trusted me once again to be your Speaker. I'd like to give a big thank you to the Hartford Men's Gay Choir who sang the National Anthem and I want to give them another round of applause. (Applause)

I also want to recognize Marion Sgroi-Varano behind me, her husband Donald. Marion was my mother's business partner and some of you remember two years ago she swore me in. They both started a business, a woman's owned business when it was a rarity. And they struggled for many years. They became best friends along the way. When my mom
passed a few years back I instantly told Marion that she now has a son and she's now my mom, so it gives me great pleasure to have her up here with me today. (Applause)

I also have my two sisters, Sherry and Shelly joining me up here and also, somebody who has been very influential in my life, especially the legislative process and now personally, Christy Scott. I would beg of you not to ask my sisters how I was as a teenager or older brother. They probably do have some stories but I think they've been sworn to secrecy. (Laughing)

I want to thank Majority Leader Ritter. When he first came into the General Assembly he and I talked almost on the first day but yet it felt like I'd known him for a long time. Sometimes it's very difficult for anybody to follow per say in their parents footsteps. As we know, one of the Speakers to my left is his dad, Speaker Ritter but he didn't come in that way. He came in that I want to represent the City of Hartford. I want to make a difference in the state. When he was elected to the
post of Majority Leader I instantly said you're going to be a way better Majority Leader than I was and he's proved it for two -- two years under difficult times. I made him an equal partner. Some Speakers have done it different. I thought if we're going to do this, we're going to have to do it together so those difficult times that he referred to, I always look to my left or right, depending on where we were sitting. The Minority Leader remembers him being to my left in that little room we seem to be locked in for -- forever, but it was knowing that I had a friend there and I had somebody that would always have my back. I appreciate your kind words. Other than saying I'm the winningest coach that's a Speaker, Coach Balducci has something to say about that. (Laughing) But he'll talk to you afterwards, Mr. Majority Leader. But it will be a pleasure working with you again.

Minority Leader Klarides, your job over the previous two years was a difficult one. You stepped up when you necessarily didn't have to. The numbers were close enough to where you could have turned
this Chamber into something that nobody would have desired. It could have turned to something that we see more common in Washington, D.C. but you didn't. You stepped up, you lead and you participated. For that I want to thank you and I look forward to working with you over the next two years.

(Applause)

To the new members. Remember this day. The feeling of excitement, the awe of being in this room, having your families surround you. Come May, as the Majority Leader referred to, it's not exactly like this. It will be a little bit different. But today is an exciting day. To the families. Thank you so very much. It is a big commitment not only for the elected officials but also the families. There will be birthdays, there will be family dinners, there will be anniversaries, hopefully they send a gift, but they may not be there for the anniversaries. And for the kids. Please look at Mom or Dad, uncle or aunt, grandfather, grandmother who is up here today. They are here because they had the courage to put their name on the ballot, to
accept the criticism, to put their ideas out there on how they want to make the state a better place. So to all the Reps that are newly elected, this is from me and your families, we should give you all a great round of applause. (Applause)

So it's a new day in the General Assembly and it's exciting. Today we'll have a new Governor that will be addressing us in a few hours. We have almost 30 new faces. Almost 20 percent of this Chamber is brand new with a wealth of new ideas and a lot of new perspectives. I look forward to working with all of you and regardless of how many years you've been here, regardless of what political party you came from, your ideas are needed, they're welcomed and we want you involved. (Applause)

Over the past couple of years we've worked very well across party lines. We've agreed on issues, we've disagreed but we've always done it with respect. This year will be no different. This year will absolutely be no different. When we operate in here we will operate with respect for each other.
We can disagree without being disagreeable. So let's talk -- (Applause)

Some of the things I'd like to work on this year, and I'd like your help. To strengthen our workforce by ensuring our students are prepared for the jobs that are needed here in the state of Connecticut. (Applause)

I want to streamline government services and expand access to capital for our small businesses so our businesses that are looking to grow and start here, ensure that they have the support they need. (Applause)

I also want to ensure that our hard-working residents have access to family medical leave and quality insurance. (Applause)

I also want to develop a new green deal to fund expand energy efficiency, renewable energy and resiliency measures in our communities. (Applause)

Look to be a lot of long nights. There will be a lot of long days. We will start on time and we will end at a decent hour. (Applause)
But no, and this is my pledge to you. I'm here to serve every single one of you. If there's any questions, anything I can do to help, anytime you have an idea, please just come forward. We genuinely do our best work when we do it together. Let's not look at DC as the example. Let's make DC look at Connecticut as the example. (Applause)

So again, Representative Klarides, I generally look forward to working with you again. You're a great leader and I know you'll lead your Caucus with distinction. Representative Ritter, Matt, my basketball partner, in case we didn't mention that. You truly are one of the best friends somebody could have. You truly are the best Majority Leader I've ever seen over here in this Chamber and I look forward to serving with you over the next two years. (Applause)

To the former Speakers that I'll be joining. (Laughing) It's right on this page. Jimmy, want to come look? (Laughing) As I walked up Brendan Sharkey kind of pointed to his chair and said, yeah, you'll be there next year or two years from now, and
if I'll be lucky enough to be with all of you. I know Speaker Godfrey recognized you but I still want to -- I want to call out your names. Who is my Speaker, Speaker Sharkey. (Applause)

My other Speaker who actually made me a Deputy Speaker. I'm not sure what you were thinking then Chris but, Chris Donovon. (Applause)

And my first Speaker and the one that shares my initials, Speaker Jim Amann. (Applause)

Speaker Moira Lyons. (Applause)

I'm going to go a little bit out of order, Speaker Ernie Abate. (Applause)

And Speaker Francis Collins. (Applause)

I save the other two because I have to share a little bit of a story. It was, which one? (Laughing) It was two years ago. It was late in the session. We all had the TVs on and we were watching the Senate. The Senate was bringing up the budget. Nobody was really sure what was going to happen. A couple of members stood up and spoke, one of them being a former Senator now. We instantly realized that the Republican budget was going to pass the
Senate and Majority Leader Ritter and I had a tough decision to make, or so it seemed. Do we call the Bill? Do we enter into negotiations? What do we do? I instantly thought, Matt, give your dad a call. I'm going to give Balducci a call. What would they have done? Matt looked at me and says, well we're going to call the Bill. I said, yeah I think we are but let's just make sure we're right. So to both Speaker Ritter and Speaker Balducci, as with the other Speakers, it's a close fraternity. We look at each other. We ask each other questions. I've learned something from all of you, whether it was reading the transcripts, watching the videos or just hearing from staff how you made decisions. I can't thank you enough for everything you've done for the State of Connecticut and it really is an honor to have you up on the stage with me today. Thank you. (Applause)

So you all will learn over the next two years I'm really about getting the work done. Most press conferences I'm going to slide to the side. I'm not going to talk all that much but let's do what the
State of Connecticut needs us to do. Let's stand up for working people. Let's ensure the businesses can grow and expand here in the state. Let's do what's right. That's what you all wanted to do. You didn't sign up for this for the fancy name plate or a chair in this room. You signed up because you generally believe you want to make a difference. That work starts today. Thank you. (Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter of the 1ST District, for what purpose do you rise, Sir?

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I've just got a couple quick announcements and thoughts and congratulations to -- to you again. We got done by 11:00, which is not bad based on the schedule you and I laid out. The first thing I was going to do and it's in bold type, is to recognize my wife, Marilyn and our beautiful children, Jack and Emma. They left. (Laughing) They actually said they'd rather go back to school than stay here, so.

(Laughing) (Applause)
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

That's a sign of good parenting Representative.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Or it's a sign about us, Mr. Speaker. But I would say that I love them all very dearly and I'm very fortunate to have a partner in life like Marilyn and great kids like Jack and Emma, so. I want to thank the Caucus, my Democratic Caucus. I promise not to be too partisan, but you don't be Majority -- Majority or Minority Leader from your Caucus and so for the faith that you have put in for me the next two years, I already know all your names. I've already talked to you a thousand times. I really do work for you and I live for you and you know that and I will always have your back for the next few years, and I really thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your support. (Applause)

I would remiss if I also didn't mention a few folks who are not here. You see some vacancies on the Board. We have two legislatures who did not get sworn in from our side of the aisle and I did want to at least take a chance to recognize them.
Starting with Representative Chris Soto who has taken a job with the new administration. I met Chris two years ago on Route 85 at a very old pizza place where we shared a turkey grinder and I remember telling Joe, this was you know, that Chris was running for the first time. I said, he will be whatever he wants to be and he chose what he wants to be right now and we're going to miss him very dearly in this Chamber. (Applause)

And then there's some guy named James Albis, I believe is how you pronounce his last name (laughter) who I've had the great pleasure of being a very, very, very close friend for almost eight years now. We sat next to each other as freshman over kind of by Representative Vargus over there. Obviously he was the Chair of Screening of the last two years and had a little bit of authority and did a pretty good job with it I think. I also had the great honor of performing the marriage for James Albis and Kim Glassman some years ago. I will miss you buddy and I love you dearly and I wish you a lot of luck in the future. (Applause)
Just some of the outgoing Constitutional Officers. I just think it would worth mentioning some of the folks who have served this state so well from as many as 20 years to as few as 8, but I wanted to thank Governor Malloy and Lieutenant Governor Wyman for all of their service the last eight years. Governor Malloy has been saying that he's anxious to get back to driving so I -- I wish him luck at 8:00 in the morning like the rest of us without the police sirens. And to a Hartford resident and someone that my family has known a very long time, 20 years our State Treasurer, Denise Nappier. (Applause)

And last but not least, our outgoing Attorney General for the last eight years, George Jepsen. (Applause)

All right. Two more -- two more thank yous and I'll sit down and let Representative Klarides go. I would also like to thank the folks of the first district in the City of Hartford of which Treasure Nappier and Secretary of State Merrill are. It is the first district because it is the best district
with the best constituents you could ever have, but
I would like to thank them for a second and
appreciate them sending me back up here for two more
years. (Applause)

To the new members, I think the Speaker but I --
-- I hope you also get a chance to just exhale for a
second. I know that the -- the crush of getting
your office and your parking space and your
committee assignments and just feeling like you've
been running for almost a year now, and this goes to
everybody in the Chamber. I really do hope that
tonight or tomorrow you take a deep breath, you
thank you loved ones, your family, put your feet up
and relax. You've accomplished something that is
very, very difficult to do. There are three and a
half million people in this state and only 151
people are in this Chamber right now as sworn in
legislatures. Don't forget that while you're up
here. And again, congratulations to you and your
family. (Applause)

And I will -- I will end with this before I
turn over to my -- my good friend on the other side
of the aisle. And really I also have to mention Vinnie of course too, Representative Candelora. We really do have a special relationship. The things we're able to do and move in this Chamber are not because one side does it. Everyone okay back there? Okay. (Laughing) I got kids so I'm quick like that. (Laughing) And I would just say that it's going to continue. I appreciate how often we speak, the issues about which we speak, the trust that we have in one another. You know you have a very good friend over here and up there and it will continue same as it did like the last two years. I look forward to serving with you again. (Applause)

And the last thought for everyone in this Chamber who is new and even the public. This is something that a new member got elected and he was reading the rules, he's the only one I think, but that's okay. And he asked me in a text message, I thought it was really interesting. I think it's a powerful statement about this Chamber and what we're talking about. And he said, I'm looking in the rules and I don't see the rule about calling to
question to which I replied, there is no rule about calling to question. I'm not sure what you're referring to. He said, well it's my understanding that no one in the House ever calls to question, that there's unlimited debate and if people filibuster for 14 hours, they filibuster for 14 hours. So there must be a rule that allows that. And we just did our rules, or we're going to do our rules pretty soon. But he said, that doesn't make any sense. You meant to tell me that for generations and for decades from Speakers to different Speakers, Majority Leaders to Minority Leaders, it's all changed Republican hands, Democratic hands, you haven't had to put a rule in to prevent people when all they have to do is stand up and call to question. I said, we don't need a rule for that. Because this Chamber is not about the names here because they all change year to year or every two years.

It's about the Institution. So how cool is it that you serve in a body over which the most sacrosanct rule of letting unlimited debate happen
is not buried in some statute. It's not buried in a rule that prevents you from doing it. It's our own good angels that prevent us from doing that. That is a really cool thing here in the State of Connecticut ladies and gentleman and it's not going to change this year. So, yeah I think it deserves a little bit of a round of applause, I think.

(Applause) And I think we've put people on notice of what a dangerous precedence of what that might be at the same time. So congratulations to everybody.

Mr. Speaker, congratulations and I look forward to hearing remarks from the other side of the aisle.

Thank you everybody. (Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Sir. Representative Klarides of the 114TH. You have the floor Madam.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and congratulations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):
Thank you for those kind words. I know there will be many of day that I go storming in your office or you come storming in my office and lead in as we both often do with, we have a problem. I'm not happy. What did you do? (Laughing) We take turns doing that and I'm sure we'll continue to do so but we will do so because we have respect when that conversation is over and when that conversation starts so congratulations and thank you for those kind words. (Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Thank you.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

I also want to thank the Majority Leader. Hold on, I'm a little stuck here. The Majority Leader for his kind words and his words to this Chamber and to the State of Connecticut. This is a body of the people for the people, and we have our disagreements and we have our problems, but we are all here for the same reason. So thank you. That is always our intention to make sure we move forward with care for
the State of Connecticut and as residents as our foremost concern.

I want to welcome everyone, all the new legislatures, all the returning legislatures and all of their families. I also want to thank my amazing Caucus for electing me leader again to lead this wonderful Caucus and this wonderful body. And I want to say a special congratulations to the new Governor Elect. He is expecting a fresh start as are we, and we will move forward with new ideas and new fixes for this great state that they desperately need. We have a lot of challenges as we all know. And as I said and we all mentioned, our plan is to work together. But guys remember one thing. And this is to the new people in particular. This is a place you will never forget. You will have experiences you will never forget. You will have happiness, sadness. You will have a thrill and disappointment. You will have victories and defeats and often times all of those things will happen in one day. (Laughing) In one day. But the one thing you know going through all of that. You're laughing
but it's true. The one thing you know going through all of that is you will have an experience that almost nobody will have in this state. You get to come up here and serve the great people of this state and you get to do it in this amazing building, in this amazing historic place where great things have happened and great things will continue to happen. So please embrace those emotions on the days that you have the disappointments and you have the losses and you have the feeling like, why did I do this, which you will have. Look up there. Look outside when you drive in because that's why you're doing it. Because we live in the most amazing government in the world, in a democracy where we can be here. Where women can stand here. Where people of color can stand here. Where every religion can stand here. We have a wonderful woman as a passed Speaker of this House, and we can all do it together. And that is why we're here, to make sure that democracy continues. (Applause)

I would like to take the opportunity to briefly introduce my family who I'm very thrilled to joint
me. I will start out actually in the back row for those of you who don't know my sister, Nicole Klarides-Ditria who is starting her second term. You know as an amazing opportunity as it is to be here in general, the fact that I get to start with my sister makes me so proud I can't even express to you. And yes, we fight all the time. (Laughing) Next to her is her husband, Steven Ditria who is like a brother to me and I thank him for all he's done. Next to him is my nephew, Cade Klarides-Ditria who I remember in 2001, he was three months old. We were getting sworn in and I remember right out there, since he was three months old he wasn't going to stay in here because he was screaming and yelling and then, Attorney General Blumenthal was standing there and my sister was hold Cade up over the Attorney General's head and he was screaming and yelling and I was like, don't bring him in, just keep him out there. But from those days he has become a young man somebody would have been very proud of. (Applause)
And we will go down to the front row where my cousin, Karin Klarides-Marinaro is. I see cousin but I mean sister because that's what she is to us. Next to her we have Greg Butler who I've been very fortunate to share my life with, all the crazy experiences and finally find somebody who gets me. (Laughing) Translation, deals with my craziness, so thank you. And then my mom and my dad. Peter and Theodora who I love very much and quite frankly without them, I would not be here. Not just physically but the person that I am. And you know what? You can maybe thank them for that or maybe not be too thrilled but that's the reality of where we are. Mom and Dad I love you. (Applause)

So thank you again to all my family. Thank you to my House Republican family. I could be no prouder than to serve this amazing group of people and I will leave you all with this. In this Chamber, Republicans may be the opposition on certain days or Democrats may be the opposition but the Senate is always the enemy. (Laughing) Thank you. (Applause)
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. I just want to add something in about your family. Your nephew is also the accomplished football player who I believe just earned All-State Honors for Seymour High School so congratulations. (Applause)

Representative Ritter of the 1ST District.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Yes, before we get to the first order of business I did note that Representative Klarides made her remarks at the end, we had two members over here not stand. I'll leave that be, but, anyway so. (Laughing) The next order of business here is for me to place the name Mr. Speaker of Fred Jortner a nomination to serve as the House Clerk.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much Representative. Are there any further nominations? Any further nominations? Hearing none I declare nominations are closed. There being only one nominee I direct the Temporary Clerk to please cast the ballet for Fred Jortner as the Clerk of the House.
Mr. Speaker, the ballot has been cast.

(Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ:

Fred Jortner is the next Clerk of the House.

Mr. Clerk, will you please come forward?  Mr. Clerk, if you would raise your right hand?  Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Connecticut so long as you continue a citizen thereof and that you will faithfully discharge according to law the duties of the Office of Clerk to the best of your ability, so help you God?

CLERK FREDERICK JORTNER:

I do.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Congratulations.  (Applause)

There's no time for a break.  He's got to get down there and do his work now.  Will the Clerk please call and read House Resolution No. 1.

CLERK:
House Resolution NO. 1. RESOLUTION APPOINTING
CHARLES AUGUR OF MIDDLEFIELD AS ASSISTANT CLERK OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES introduced by
Representative Ritter.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):
Mr. Speaker, Attorney Charles Augur is the
former first selective of Middlefield and he served
as Assistant House Clerk with great distinction for
the past six years and I urge adoption of the
resolution.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Thank you very much, sir. Question before the
Chamber is: Adoption of House Resolution No. 1.
Will you remark? Will you remark? If --
Representative Klarides of the 114TH.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Augur is certainly
qualified for this role and I look forward to
working with him again this session. I encourage
the Chamber to adopt this resolution.
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Will you remark further? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of Resolution please signify by saying Aye.

ALL:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it. And the Resolution is adopted. Congratulations sir, will you please come forward? (Applause)

Will you please raise your right hand? Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Connecticut so long as you continue a citizen thereof and you will faithfully discharge according to law the duties of the Office of the Assistant Clerk to the best of your ability, so help you God?

CLERK CHARLES AUGUR:

I do.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Congratulations. (Applause)
Will the Clerk please call House Resolution No. 2 concerning the House Rules?

CLERK:

House Resolution No. 2. RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE HOUSE RULES introduced by Representative Ritter, Representative Klarides.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am -- these are the House Rules. They're very similar to what we saw and traditionally adopt each session. I would note Attorneys Baltimore and Perry noted two things have changed they thought the Chamber might find of note. The Chair Person of Reg Review, it goes back and forth who appoints that person. This time it will be the Speaker of the House. Last time it was the Minority Leader. And also we have just updated some dates to reflect the new biennium and I would urge adoption of the Rules, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Thank you very much. So the question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Resolution No. 2. Will you remark? Will you remark? Representative Piscopo of the 76TH.

REP. PISCOPO (76TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and congratulations. Good to see you up there.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Thanks Pal.

REP. PISCOPO (76TH):

Mr. Speaker, we -- I -- we were with a group of people talking last week and it was universal agreement that we have a -- we share a frustration and that's the dreaded strike all amendment process we go through. You'll see a Bill come up. It will be strike everything after an enacting clause and it's -- and it's somewhat of a frustration. This -- this -- these aren't partisan remarks. Both sides do it, I recognize that, but it is -- it seems there, Sir, our whole Committee process and it kind of -- it's inefficient and it's -- and it lacks transparency so I just wanted to voice that -- that
that opinion. I was going to draft an amendment and I would look forward to that debate maybe in the future, but I just wanted to voice that concern and maybe ask those that are bringing out the Bills to be cognoscente of that -- of that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Thank you very much, sir and I think you would find if you have the conversation with both the floor leaders from both sides, maybe we can come up with a system to where maybe we bring the Bill out, say that there's a strike all and then we can PT it and then come back to it later to give people an opportunity to review it. But I agree, I think it's something we should do so thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? Will you remark further on the Resolution before us?

Representative Klarides of the 114TH. You have the floor, Madam.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this year as we adopt the rules I'd like to bring your
attention to a rule that we have adopted in the past but many of us have not really paid much attention to because there hasn't been any need. This is Rule 19, which allows the Speaker to put together a committee of four, two Republicans and two Democrats to deal with a contested election. This year this rule is very important because we do in fact have a contested election in House District 120, and pursuant to that rule the Committee on Contested Elections will take into consideration the contested election, the circumstances around it and go and investigate exactly what happened. I look forward to this Committee working to find a fair resolution to the 120TH District that will ensure that member of the public were not in fact disenfranchised and denied their ability to vote for the candidate of their choice. I urge adoption of the House Rules, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

    Thank you very much, Madam. Will you remark further? Representative Ritter of the 1ST District, you have the floor, sir.
REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I appreciate the good remarks from across the aisle. As we move down we will get to House Resolution No. 4 which will indeed pursuant to the rules and pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Connecticut will establish that Committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

ALL:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Pursuant with House Rule No. 32, I will appoint a Committee on Seating. The Committee will be comprised of Representative Butler, Representative Cook, Representative Case and Representative Yaccarino. It's quite normal to see them both on the phone and we're all going to look,
what are they talking about?  (Laughing)

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker I move for the Suspension of our Rules for the immediate consideration of House Resolutions 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Question is on Suspension of our Rules for immediate consideration of House Resolution 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.  Is there objection? Is there objection? Hearing none, the Rules are suspended. Will the Clerk please call and read House Resolution 3.

CLERK:

House Resolution No 3. RESOLUTION RAISING A COMMITTEE TO CANVASS THE VOTES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVES introduced by Representative Ritter.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Representative Ritter, will you remark further?

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I believe the resolution is self-explanatory and I move it to adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):
Question is on adoption of the Resolution.
Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor by saying Aye.
ALL:
Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it the Resolution adopted. At this time I will appoint the Committee of Canvass. Representative Mushinsky, Representative Billie Miller, Representative Terrie Wood. Will the Clerk please call and read House Resolution 5?
CLERK:
House Resolution No. 5. RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PRINTING OF THE JOURNAL introduced by Representative Ritter.
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Representative Ritter.
REP. RITTER (1ST):
I believe the Resolution is self-explanatory, Mr. Speaker and I move adoption.
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Thank you very much, sir. Question is on adoption of the Resolution. Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

ALL: Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call and read House Resolution 6?

CLERK:


SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Again, congratulations Rabbi and Mr. Speaker, I move adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor signify by saying Aye.
ALL:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Resolution 7?

CLERK:


SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate both of the -- the fine gentleman listed in House Resolution 7. I would move adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Question before the Chamber is on adoption of the Resolution. Will you remark? Will you remark?
If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

ALL:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Senate Joint Resolution No. 1?

CLERK:

Senate -- Senate Joint Resolution No. 1.


SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are our Joint Rules. We did our House Rules earlier. I would note three or four things of interest perhaps in the change from previous sessions. Again, we're back to the pre-2017 rules. There was a Power Share and Agreement in the Senate that no longer needs to
assist. So the rules were updated to reflect that. They were updated to reflect new Committee deadlines, depending on the Committee for the session. There's also, based upon the bipartisan agreement reached last year, new rule voting -- regarding the Voting of Collective Bartering Agreements and Arbitration Awards by this Chamber and by the Senate. And last, we've accommodated the new Constitutional Amendment that passed by a wide margin by the voters of the State of Connecticut pertaining to the sale of public land. We've tried to put together a process by which we'll comply with that Constitutional Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I urge adoption of the new Senate Joint Rules.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Would you care to remark on the Resolution before us? Care to remark on the Resolution before us? If not -- oh, Representative Klarides of the 114TH. Ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker for many years the House Republicans have requested that the General Assembly House Rules be required to vote on Collective Bargaining Agreements. We are very pleased that the request will now become a reality in the passage of the Rules today based on our budget negotiations in previous years. And further, I'm pleased that we'll be providing more transparency in the legislative process by requiring public hearings and approval by two-thirds of our membership on land conveyances. We heard overwhelming from our constituents and I'm very happy to say that I'm proud to support this message. I move adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Will you remark further? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

ALL:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):
Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Senate Joint Resolution No. 2?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 2. RESOLUTION CONCERNING PUBLICATION OF A LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN, PRINTING OF BILLS AND EXPENSES OF THE 2019 SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY introduce by Senator Duff, Representative Ritter.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, I notice the Chamber is not as interested at this point in time with Senate Joint Resolution 2, but it is pretty self-explanatory. I urge adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor signify by saying Aye.

ALL:
Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it. The Resolution is adopted. (Gavel) I would now like to call upon the Committee to canvass the votes for State Representative for the report and the Chair would recognize Representative Mushinsky of the 85TH, the Dean of the House. You have the floor, Madam.

REP. MUSHINSKY (85TH):

Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Committee appointed to canvass the votes reports that they have canvassed the votes and recommends all vote tallies be accepted pending the report of the Committee on Contested Elections. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Thank you very much. I appreciate your report and the journal will so note. At this time the Chair would recognize Representative Butler for the purposes of the report of the Committee on Seating.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):
Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a report on the Committee on Seating.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Mr. Speaker, we have met and examined the seating plan as requested and we would like to report the seating plan is adequate and that all Representatives are properly seated. (Laughing)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Are they happy with their seats, Representative Butler? (Laughing)

REP. BUTLER (72ND):

Well, we were going to do musical chairs but it might get a little chaotic (laughing) so we're going to skip that and actually go with the formality already put together.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Thank you very much. Thank you very much Representative Butler. Will the Clerk please call and read House Resolution No. 4.

CLERK:
House Resolution No 4. RESOLUTION RAISING A COMMITTEE ON CONTESTED ELECTIONS introduced by Representative Aresimowicz and Representative Ritter.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As previously eluded to when we remarked on the House Rules, this Resolution and I would move its adoption, will create a Committee on Contested Elections. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? Representative Klarides of the 114TH, you have the floor Madam.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke briefly about this a little earlier. I urge the members of the Contested Election Committee to work fairly and diligently in finding a resolution for this problem. I cannot stress enough that all the
residents of the 120th House District were not given a fair opportunity to vote. There were 76 people who did not get the proper ballots. This election was decided by only a handful of votes. You and I have spoken. We are putting this Committee together. It is our obligation to do so. It will be those four peoples on that Committee's obligation to make sure all their due diligence is done, all the information is found, and the proper result we come to. I look forward to this Resolution and I urge adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Madam. Will you remark further? Representative Ritter of the 1ST, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Speaker. I would -- would note two things just to highlight for the Chamber of interest. We are asking this Committee to report back at the close of business on Monday, February 4th so there will be ample time for this Committee to do its work. I believe I know the four members
that will be appointed by the Speaker. They are all well-respected people who have worked across the aisle throughout their careers. We also are very mindful of the Connecticut Supreme Court's oral argument that we heard and the recommendations that they made and they were thinking about this Committee would do. And I have no doubt, based upon the four people being appointed that that will occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the Resolution before us? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

ALL:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those opposed Nay. The Ayes have it. The Committee is formed. (Gavel) Pursuant to House Rules we adopted earlier today the Resolution that we just passed raised the Committee on Contested Election. Representative Ritter referred to who I
would be naming so I think it's time for me to name those individuals. I will appoint Representative D'Agostino, Representative Haddad, Representative Candelora and Representative Perillo to that Committee. Good luck in your deliberations and I'm looking forward to seeing your final report. Thank you.

Ladies and gentleman in a few minutes we'll be recessing so folks can go over the inauguration but we do have a few minutes to be over there. I would like to take the indulgence of the Chamber to at least introduce some of my Deputy Speakers and a couple key members of my team. Two of the people that I've spent a lot of time with over the past two years and really were the strength that I needed in the budget negotiations. First of all, Representative Rojas of the East Hartford. He will be the Finance Chair. Jason, thank you for your friendship and all of your hard work on the budget. (Applause)

I also would like to thank my very good friend, my spiritual advisor at times and also the person
that seconded my nominating speech. Toni, we share a lot of laughs -- laughs, occasionally tears. We fuss at each other once in a while but I truly do love you. You are an awesome person. You're a great Appropriations Chair and I appreciate all your work. (Applause)

    Jason, I know how you are. I love too.

(Laughing) My Deputy Speakers. I -- I have the position of Deputy Speaker Pro Tem, which was initiated by me. Bob Godfrey is serving his 16th term, understands the rules inside and out. In an effort to right size this Chamber I no longer have an attorney up here assisting me on the dais but I've given that appointment to Bob Godfrey. When there are rules interpretation, when there are other things. Bob Godfrey, I want to thank you for your service and thank you for being my Deputy Speaker. (Applause)

    A new Speaker to the bull pen that you will see him up on the dais many years the Chair of the Housing Committee, from Waterbury 22ND District, Larry Butler. (Applause)
Juan Candelora, another very good friend. I actually still think I owe you a little bit of money, Juan but you know, we'll talk about that later. He's been on my leadership team since I came in. Thank you very much for agreeing to be my Deputy Speaker again. Michelle Cook of the 65TH Assembly District. I think Michelle and I have been going back and forth with close elections. We share very similar Districts but she's always the first one to set me straight when I get out of line. Michelle, you're a great friend and I appreciate your service as Deputy Speaker. (Applause)

Jack Hennessey from the 127TH of Bridgeport. Jack, your many years Veterans Chair. We appreciate all the work you did with Veterans. We know you're passing that title off. We look forward to seeing you up on the dais and I appreciate your friendship, thank you. (Applause)

Chris Rosario. (Applause)

When Chris Rosario first got elected one of our first conversations instantly went to football. We both shared the same position on the offense line,
which is a non-glory position. The only time we get to touch the football is when we're handing it to the Ref, but he said he would always be my pulling guard, so I'm glad on the team Chris, and I'm happy to have you. (Applause)

Kevin Ryan from the 139th District. I always like to pause to make him a little -- a little nervous. Kevin was in my row. As a matter of fact he sat right where Representative Haddad sits now. I sat where Representative Hughes sits. One of the first days I said, Kevin why are you so rough with me? It seems like you don't like me. He just looked at me and said, because I don't and he looked the other way, so. (Laughing) Kevin, I'm glad we've progressed since then. You really are a great guy. I'm glad to have you on my team, thank you. (Applause)

Representative Linda Orange. There's very few voices to where when it's on the dais you have to wonder who's up there. When she does come up here you'll know right away. Representative Orange for the past couple of years has really been dealing
with some issues. Her son was very ill. He just recently passed but Linda was here. Linda was representing her District. She was out running for re-election. She was able to balance both, so to you Linda, I tell you all the time. I genuinely love you. I'm proud of you that you were able to do what you did and how well you cared for your son in his last days. Thank you for everything.

(Applause)

Representative Russ Morin, another very good friend. He's assuming a seat in the Chamber that I think there's probably a golf club under there somewhere, you might want to take a look. I see former Representative Burger sitting behind you. I think that was his seat, correct? (Laughing) Russ, you are one of my neighboring towns, very good friend, very similar interests. You stand up and fight for working people every day. I'm pleased to have you on my leadership team, thank you.

(Applause)

For my Assistant Deputy Speakers. I have Buddy Atobello. Buddy, where are you at? Oh, he's not
here. Buddy undoubtedly is somewhere already crunches the numbers for the Finance Committee. Jason will tell you that he'll come into the caucus with these questions that nobody else has ever thought and Buddy really is dedicated to this Chamber. He's now serving probably his 14th session, so Buddy, thank you very much and it's a pleasure to have you on the team. (Applause)

We're getting there so I'll move a little quicker here. Representative Mary Mushinsky, also Assistant Deputy Speaker and the Dean of the House. Thank you Mary for being on the team. (Applause)

And Representative Peter Tercyak. Another voice you will not mistake. You will know when he's up here on the dais. My neighbor, my original town, born in New Britain, fine Representative from the city of New Britain, Representative Peter Tercyak. (Applause)

Freddy, you ready with 8? Will the Clerk please call and read House Resolution No. 8?

CLERK:
House Resolution No. 8. RESOLUTION RAISING A COMMITTEE TO INFORM THE SENATE THAT THE HOUSE IS ORGANIZED AND READY TO MEET IN JOINT CONVENTION introduced by Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

I'm always glad to inform the Senate, Mr. Speaker. I urge adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Thank you very much. Question before the Chamber is on adoption. It is the rule that we have to invite them here Representative Ritter, so I know why you like it. All those in favor please signify by saying Aye.

ALL:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Those opposed Nay, the Ayes have it. Oh. (Laughing) Well played, very well played. The Resolution is still adopted. (Gavel) I will now appoint the Committee to inform the Senate. It will be Representative Orange, Representative Rosario and Representative Harding. Representative Ritter?
REP. RITTER (1ST):

Okay. So just quickly for the -- the Chamber. If I can have your indulgence for one second. We're going to recess and we're going to come back in at, about 2 o'clock, 2:15. The Governor and the other Constitutional Officers are getting sworn at the Armory so some of us are going to go there. If you are not going there, then we'll see you back around 2:00 or 2:15. Then we'll have Governor Lamont's address. So I would urge that we be in recess subject to the call of the chair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

The motion is to recess subject to the call of the chair. Is there objection? Hearing none, the House stands in recess. (Gavel) (Applause)

(On motion of Representative Ritter of the 1st District, the House recessed at 11:51 o’clock a.m., to reconvene at the Call of the Chair).
(The House reconvened at 2:15 o’clock p.m., Speaker Aresimowicz in the Chair).

CLERK:

The House of Representatives will reconvene immediately. Members to the Chamber.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) As we wait for the Senate to arrive we are to give opportunity for the Majority Leader and Minority Leader to introduce their leadership teams so if members can please take their seat, we will begin. Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Klarides of the 114th, you have the floor, Madam.

REP. KLARIDES (114TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're now taking the opportunity to introduce our leadership teams and in the interest of brevity, although I would love to get into the detail of people's lives as you did, I'm going to introduce everyone and I'm going to say that they all have shown amazing leadership and work ethic and commitment to this caucus and this state
and that's why they were chosen in these positions.

(Gavel) First we have our Deputy Republican Leader, Vin Candelora. (Applause)

But I will say he is my right-hand guy and we couldn't do it without him. Deputy Leaders at Large, Tom O'Dea, Noreen Kokoruda, Arthur O'Neill and Lezlye Zupkus. (Applause)

House Republican Caucus Chair this year will be Christie Carpino. (Applause)

House Republican Policy Chair will be Richard Smith and Terrie Wood. (Applause)

House Republican Whips. Our Chief Whip is the wonderful John Piscopo. (Applause)

Our Senior Whips will be Tony D'Amelio, John Frey and Jason Perillo. (Applause)

To round out the rest of the House Republican Whips will be Whit Betts, Brenda Kupchick, David Labriola, Rosa Rebimbas, Dave Rutigliano and David Yaccarino. (Applause)

And last but not least, the Assistant House Republican Leaders. Tim Ackert, Mitch Bolinsky, Devin Carney, Fred Camillo, Jay Case, Christ Davis,
Livvy Floren, Gail Lavielle, Ben McGorty and Bill Simanski. A big round of applause to everyone and thank you for helping us lead this caucus.

(Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Ritter of the 1ST District, you have the floor, sir.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm going to do the same thing. Again, an equally long list so I cannot describe all of the wonderful leaders that we have and I do apologize because of time constraints. So let me start with the eight Deputy Majority Leaders that will be joining my team for this particular session. We'll be going in alphabetical order. To my direct left from the great city of East Hartford, Representative Jeff Currey, Pat Dillon from the city of New Haven, my neighboring district and the city of Hartford from the 3rd State Rep Minnie Gonzalez, Christ Perone from the city of Norwalk who is around, Emmett Riley from Norwich who is behind me, Representative Gerry Reyes from
Waterbury who is also behind me, the nicest woman alive Hilda Santiago from Meriden, behind me, and Charlie Stallworth from the great city of Richport. (Applause)

I'm now going to read a bunch of other titles if we can just hold the applause to the end to kind of get through this. Our Majority Caucus Chair, Mr. Speaker, Derek Slap. Our Deputy Majority Caucus Chair, Jillian Gilchrest. Our Chief Majority Whip, Rick Lopes. Our Majority Whips at Large, John Hampton and Chris Ziogas. Our Deputy Majority Whips at Large, Andre Baker and Henry Genga. Our Assistant Majority Whips, Christine Conley, Joe de la Cruz, Mike DiMassa, Joe Gresko, Al Paolillo, and Gerry Reyes. And finally our Assistant Majority list. Raghib Allie-Brennan, Tom Arnon, Jill Barry, Pat Boyd, Robin Comey, Julio Concepcion from the great city of Hartford, Josh Elliott, Bobby Gibson, Ken Gucker, Josh Hall from the equally great city of Hartford, Maria Horn, Geoff Luxenberg, David Michel, Patricia Billie Miler, Kara Rochelle, Gary Turco, Mike Winkler and in record time, Phil Young, Mr.
Speaker. Thank you very much. (Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Thank you very much, sir. The Chair recognizes Representative Linda Orange.

REP. ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you, sir.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Good afternoon, Madam.

REP. ORANGE (48TH):

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Committee to inform the Senate that the House is organized has met and called upon Lieutenant Governor and told the Senate that we are ready to meet in Joint Convention.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Thank you very much for your report, Madam. I see I'm joined by a special guest up here on the dais. It was a few years ago she was in the House so now she's just returning to the House and we're very glad to see her. Susan Byseiwicz has been active in this state for many years. Today she's
now assuming the role of the Lieutenant Governor and
she will have the honor and privilege to address us
but also take the dais to conduct the joint session.
With that, I introduce our Lieutenant Governor,
Susan Byseiwicz. (Applause)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

Good afternoon ladies and gentleman of the
House. It is, and our friends from the Senate, it
is such a pleasure. I was just sworn in in the
Senate but my heart is in the House (cheering) and
it's nice to see my colleagues here. (Applause)

And it is such a pleasure to join Speaker
Aresimowicz. Thank you so much for that kind
introduction and if we are ready I will -- yeah,
well good. So we are ready to call the Joint
Convention to order and I would like to invite to
the podium for a prayer, Senate Chaplain, the
Reverend Father James Nock. Father Nock.

SENATE CHAPLAIN, REVEREND JAMES NOCK:

Let us pray. Almighty Father, we ask your
blessing on this Joint Convention as they come
together this afternoon to begin a new legislative
session of 2019. This is a new beginning for all of us together as well as a new beginning for a new Governor. Let us start again remembering that in the state of the Long Title River, there is so much we can accomplish if we just work and act together. Here we ask this of you live and rein forever and ever. Amen.

ALL:

   Amen.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

   Thank you Father and let us all please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance and I would invite Speaker Aresimowicz to lead us, please.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

   Thank you, Madam.

   (All) I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Thank you.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

   Thank you. You may be seated ladies and gentleman. And we are joined by so many dignitaries
and we have some very distinguished former colleagues and Speakers of the House. Richard Balducci, Tom Ritter, Chris Donovan, Brendan Sharkey. Can we show them a little appreciation?

(Applause)

All right. We're getting warmed up here in the House. And it is so delightful to see our newly minted Constitutional Office colleagues who were just sworn in. Our Attorney General, William Tony. (Applause)

All right. There you go. (Applause)

All right. There's the House enthusiasm and rowdiness I remember. All right. And we have our Controller, Kevin Lembo. (Applause)

And our new State Treasurer, Shawn Wooden. (Applause)

And our Secretary of the State, Denise Merrill. (Applause)

And we are joined by the members of our Supreme Court, our Judiciary. Members of the Judiciary, welcome. It's nice to see you. (Applause)

And we have all of our distinguished colleagues
in the State Senate. Senators, thank you for joining us. And we've already acknowledged Speaker Aresimowicz. We have Majority Leader, Matt Ritter. (Applause)

We have -- where is he? (Applause) And we have the President of our Senate, Martin Looney. Majority Leader, Bob Duff. (Applause) Senate Leader, Len Fasano. (Applause) And House Leader, Themis Klarides. (Applause) And we have so many local leaders. Our Municipal Leaders will you please raise your hand? There are so many of you. Thank you so much for joining us and thank you for your service. (Applause)

It is delightful to have all of you here. And with that, I would like to ask the Clerk if there is any business on the desk?

CLERK:

We have business on the desk. Joint Convention Resolution No 1. RESOLUTION INVITING THE GOVERNOR TO ATTEND THE JOINT CONVENTION.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:
I'd like to recognize Senate Majority Leader, Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President and good to see you back in the House again and as former House members it's always good to come back to where we started. And certainly want to welcome and congratulate all of the new members and returning members of the General Assembly. Madam President, I would ask that the Clerk please call Joint Commission Resolution No. 1.

CLERK:

Joint Commission Resolution No. 1. RESOLUTION INVITING THE GOVERNOR TO ATTEND THE JOINT CONVENTION.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Madam President move adoption of the Resolution.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

All -- and let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Resolution please signify by saying Aye.
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

Opposed Nay. It is adopted. And now I would like to appoint the Majority Leaders and our Minority Leader, Senator Duff, Senator Fasano, Representative Ritter, Representative Klarides to invite the Governor to attend the Joint Convention and I would declare our Joint Convention at ease while the Committee is discharging their duty.

(Applause)

Ladies and gentlemen it is my privilege to call us back into the Joint Convention and we now no longer need the Committee. The Committee has discharged its duties appropriately and now it is an incredible honor and pleasure to introduce my partner in government, a dear friend, our Governor, Ned Lamont. (Applause)

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT:

We keep this bipartisan good will going, we're going to get a lot done. Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Senator Fasano, Representative Klarides, my
fellow state officials, members of the General Assembly and the Judicial Branch, Lieutenant Governor Byseiwicz, honored guests, and people of the great state of Connecticut. Thank you for welcoming me to the room where it happens.

(Laughing) I'm especially proud to be here with my family, Annie, Emily, Lindsey, Teddy. Sometimes it gets pretty feisty at the Lamont dinner table.

We're all in it together and we're not shy. And at the end of the day I feel the same way about the people of the great state of Connecticut and you're my extended family and we're all in it together.

I want to say to Dan Malloy for your decades of public service. And to Nancy Wyman, you're not going far. We're going to keep you pretty busy. And where is George Jepsen? I thought you were down here somewhere, yeah. (Applause)

George you're just across the street from me now. You can run but you can't hide. (Laughing) You know, because we are just getting started.

A few weeks ago, as you heard, Susan and I joined a couple of thousand high school students at
the Bushnell for a performance of Hamilton. And before the curtain went up we discussed with the students the meaning of my favorite song, My Shot sung by young Alexander Hamilton, a good teenager from the Caribbean, young, scrappy and hungry like the nation he is joining and he's not going to throw away his shot. And what I love about America is every generation we get a chance to re-invent ourselves. And every election gives us a fresh start. And this is our chance to re-invent Connecticut, to think big and act boldly.

(Applause)

And Connecticut has always been the state where it happens. We are an inventive state. We shaped the defense industry with the invention of the world's first submarine in --

ALL:

Groton.

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT: Old Saybrook. No! (Laughing) I thought you knew your history. Then we re-invented it with the first nuclear submarine in -- now you've got it. We revolutionized multiple
industries with the invention of rubber that could withstand cold and heat. We did that in --

ALL:

   New Haven.

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT:

   There you go. We redefined the workplace with the invention of the portable typewriter in Stanford.

ALL:

   Stanford.

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT:

   You guys, you're reading the teleprompter. That's not going to impress anybody. (Laughing) (Applause)

   And the world first helicopter was designed and piloted by Igor Sikorsky in --

ALL:

   Stratford.

GOVERNOR NED LAMONT:

   That's it. And a century later Sikorsky's factory is still there and Electric Boat remains the largest submarine manufacturer in the world and
they're two of Connecticut's largest employers.

(Applause)

A proud piece of Connecticut's history. But over the last generation Connecticut's entrepreneurs has slipped a bit. We're no longer a place that is viewed as hospitable or encouraging to new businesses. Connecticut it's time to return to inventive and entrepreneurial roots. Our future lies in doubling down. What makes us great is re-imagining our unique potential and it starts with the best educated workforce in the world.

(Applause)

Look, I always go visit our schools because that's where I get a look at the future. My first stop, I'm so often in Bridgeport at Harding High School where I helped out many years ago and whose band just help lead our parade up here to the State Capitol. Their old high school was pretty beat. But you should have seen the excitement in the eyes of those kids, and their parents, and their teachers just a few months ago on opening day at the new Harding High School. (Applause)
You know the custodians told me something I remember. That the old Harding was a mess at the end of the day, but the new Harding was still pretty neat at days' end. And that just reminded me that showing the students that we believe in them, they showed pride in themselves and their school and a lot of you helped make that happen. Remember you make a difference. And it's the same optimism and pride that I saw at the new Career Academy in Waterbury where nearly 98 percent of the students graduate. And many of the students go on to great colleges. Many go on to apprenticeships and healthcare and advanced manufacturing. These are the Connecticut jobs for Connecticut students. I saw a lot of that same optimism as a professor for many years at Central Connecticut State University. (Clapping) Somebody was from CCSU. (Laughing) (Applause)

But my favorite day during the campaign, because it was after one of those interminable debates, was at Yukon where we saw the Black Hawk helicopters flying low overhead, and I joined all
the students and we ran to check out the action. And we say the choppers landing at the Yukon School of Engineering. It was a Sikorsky Job Recruitment Drive encouraging Connecticut students to start their careers right here in this state. Anybody recruit you that way? It didn't happen to me.

But none of this would be possible without the dedication of Connecticut's teachers. We have the greatest teachers in the world and sometimes we ought to tell them that. Thank you for what you do, teachers. (Applause)

Thank you. Exactly. That's it. (Applause)

Because you know Connecticut, we don't have silicon, we don't have natural gas but we've always had the best-trained, the most-educated, the most-productive, the most-entrepreneurial workforce in the world. That is our strategic advantage. It is more important in the 21st century than ever before. (Applause)

You know the companies roam the globe looking for talent. Look no further. You can stop right here. And so at this point you're probably
thinking, you're probably thinking that's all well and good, Gov, but the budget is a mess. And how can we be a laboratory for democracy when we have such a hard time paying our bills? We cannot afford to let the next four years be defined by a fiscal crisis. The fate of our great state is on an ice edge. If we choose an action and more of the same, we fail. But if we choose to be creative and bold leadership, a commitment to make the hard, difficult choices necessary to right the wrongs of the past, we will succeed. Let's fix the damn budget once and for all. Are you with me? (Applause)

Thank you. I'm putting the pressure on you. (Applause)

So here's the deal, in six weeks I present you with a budget which is in balance, not just for a year but for the foreseeable future so that Mayors and selectman and business and labor leaders, teachers and police officers know what to expect. And together we are -- we will deliver on what we say, a budget on time honestly balanced. And I want to be clear. No more funny math. No more budgetary
gamesmanship, and I come from the world of small business where at the end of the month the numbers have to add up or the lights can go out. And don't tell me you hear from some consultant there's a billion dollars of easy spending cuts. I'll say show me the money or I show you the door.

(Applause)

And unlike in Washington D.C. our government doesn't shut down and we don't play those games here, right? (Applause)

We can't tell students that school is closed today. Police and fire departments can't say, we'll respond to that call another time. We can't tell the most vulnerable that their services that they depend upon, maybe we'll re-open later in the year. We don't do that. We don't do that. (Applause)

And I refuse to invest any time in the blame game. Who's responsible for this crisis? Who's to blame? Who cares? It's real, it's here and it's time to confront it head on. (Applause)

And one last thing. Please don't tell me you've done your share and now it's somebody else's
It's all of our turns. (Applause)

Fix the budget, invest in the future and nothing can stop us.

All right. How do you do it? Fixing the budget does require a big table and an open door, and I'm ready to listen to any good idea. I'll take the heat and I'll share the credit. And I know the budget vote is going to be a tough one, no doubt. It will be easy to vote no but I have a responsibility to get us to yes and we only get there by working together.

Okay, business leaders. Some of you have already stepped up and ready to take the lead when it comes to workforce development and positioning Connecticut students for these Connecticut jobs and I thank you, but there's more to do. And I thank my Business Advisory Counselor, some of whom are here, which is already reaching out to new companies which may be a great fit for the state of Connecticut.

Thank you. (Applause)

And I say to the volunteers out there and the filling profit leaders, giving back is the highest
form of citizenship. Ask what you can do for your state? (Laughing) I'm excited by your willingness to invest in your future and I am looking forward to great things ahead. More on that to come. Thank you. (Applause)

To our state employees and our labor leaders. First of all, thank you for the incredible work you do on behalf of the people of the great state of Connecticut. People don't thank you enough for what you do. (Applause)

And I'm a strong believer in labor and the right to organize and collective bargaining. So is Julie. But now is our time to show that collective bargaining works in tough times as well as good times. It is my job as liabilities grow faster than assets to make the changes necessary to ensure that retirement security is a reality for our younger as well as our older state employees and we've got to do that without breaking the bank. (Applause)

And Mayors and First Selectman, nothing will compromise your feisty independent, I heard that. But so many services and back office functions could
be delivered at a much lower cost and much more efficiently if they're operated on a shared original basis. We need -- (Applause)

We will break down those silos, engage in bulk purchasing, everything from healthcare to technology. The taxpayers of our state can no longer afford to subsidize inefficiency. (Applause)

So Connecticut is a land of steady habits and we will return to the habits which made us such a great economic powerhouse a generation ago. But we also need to change the game and create new habits that capitalize on our strengths.

Our great state is strategically located between two super cities. We need to harness our highly educated workforce and create a new Connecticut for tomorrow. And how do we do this? I'll be focusing on four priorities. First, I'm going to take the lead investing in the first all-digital government. A reverse engineer every transaction for the taxpayer to choose. The entry point to E-Connecticut will be through a digital front door, a one-stop shop for everything our
citizen needs. We will be on line, not in the line. (Applause)

It won't be done overnight so let's start today.

And secondly to attract those millennials and top talent leading companies, Connecticut will have to advise wisely in our urban centers making them affordable and lively where families want to live, work and play. And that means great schools, safe streets, and making our cities the first 5G in New England. (Applause)

The telecommunication companies are ready to start building. Let's harness that excitement and by the way, let's get Wi-Fi access to all of our local town squares. That's something we can do. (Applause)

Third, none of this is possible unless we have a 21st century transportation system. (Applause)

When the Merritt Parkway opened in 1940 it wasn't uncommon for people to pull over to the side of the road and picnic, it was so beautiful. Well, I've spent a lot of time on these roads and so have
you. And when we pull over it's because we're so
damn frustrated by gridlock. (Laughing) That
bumper-to-bumper traffic. Let me tell you, gridlock
not only causes headaches, it costs us jobs and
we're not going to let that happen. You know what
we do? I believe in the 30/30/30. I want the
following to be a reality. 30 minutes from Hartford
to New Haven. 30 minutes from New Haven to Stanford
and 30 minutes from Stanford to New York.
(Applause)

That's right. (Applause)

Don't worry Neill, we're going to have spurs
from Waterbury and New London as well. This is
going to be interconnected. And this isn't a pipe
dream. This is a necessity. A moderate
infrastructure by road, rail, air and water to
unlock the full economic potential of our state.

Fourth, Connecticut's economic revival cannot
be only about creating opportunities for some of our
people. It's going to be an economy that works for
everyone. (Applause)

We'll bring our workforce into the 21st
century, closely aligning with job training starting with STEM and coding in K-12, access to higher education, Vo Tech and apprenticeships; good paying jobs for our Connecticut students. That also means bringing not just the workforce into the 21st century but bringing the workplace into the 21st century and that starts with making paid family leave a reality for all of our parents (cheering), all of our parents. (Applause)

For all of our parents so they don't have to choose between the child they love and the job they need. And the 21st century workplace also means moving to a $15.00 minimum wage. (Applause)

We will. We're going to do it responsibly. We're going to do it over time so those same parents can afford to be able to provide for their children and still have a little time leftover to actually see their children. We're going to get that done.

Okay. One of the first Governors who comes from the world of business. I think I know how to get this done. I'm going to be hyper focused on job creation and my primary objective is to get this
economy moving again.  (Applause)

And how do we extend opportunity for those being left behind?  Growth.  What's a long-term fix to our budget?  Growth.  How do we attract the next generation of talent to Connecticut?  Growth.  Now - - (Applause)

Somebody like that.  Now all that economic growth takes time to nurture which is why again, we start today and we start together.

All right.  I'm a new Governor.  You're a new legislature.  Even some of you have been around for a while.  It's a new day here and what can you expect from me?  I think I'm a straight shooter.  I think I'm an honest broker.  I think I'm a pretty good listener.  I know what I know and I know what I don't know.  But I do have a strong sense of where we need to go and what the people of Connecticut expect from us.  And last November thousands of people waited forever, sometimes hours, in the pouring rain.

You know, Google told me that the number one search was, how do I vote?  And they waited in those
long lines and voted with extraordinary turnout because they know that their vote makes a difference. They believe that they can make a difference and we will make a difference and we're going to do that together. (Applause)

So let's work together and produce a budget for the people that doesn't borrow from the future but invests in the future. And like those kids from Harding High who believed in themselves, I believe in Connecticut and you're here because you believe in Connecticut. Let's get Connecticut growing again. (Applause)

History has its eyes on you, all of us. Let's do this together. May God bless you and may God bless the hard-working people of the great state of Connecticut. Love you all. Thank you. (Applause)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

Thank you, Governor Lamont. (Applause)

And with that I would ask the Clerk if there is any business on the desk.

CLERK:

One initial item. Joint Commission Resolution
No. 5.  A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PRINTING OF THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

    Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

    Thank you, Madam President.  Madam President, would the Clerk please call the Resolution, please?

CLERK:

    Joint Commission Resolution No. 5.  RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE PRINTING OF THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

    Let me try your minds.  All in favor of the Resolution, please signify by saying Aye.

ALL:

    Aye.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

    Opposed?  Motion carries.  Resolution is adopted.  And with that it is my pleasure to bring to the podium, Father Nock for the benediction and I would ask that everyone please stand.  Father Nock.

SENATE CHAPLAIN, REVEREND JAMES NOCK:

Amen.  (Applause)

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President.  Madam President, I believe our business is completed today and I move that we adjourn the Joint Convention.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

All in favor?

ALL:

Aye.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SUSAN BYSEIWICZ:

I declare the Joint Convention dissolved.  Go forth in peace.  (Applause)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The House will come back to order.  The House will come back to order.  Representative Ritter of the 1st District, sir you have the floor.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Yeah, I know it's chaotic but House members we have a couple of quick things we have to do.  Is
there any business on the Clerk's desk, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Mr. Clerk? The Clerk is in procession of the readings. Representative Ritter, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK:

Communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives, INTERIM COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Order printed in journal.

CLERK:

Communication from the Speaker of House Representatives, EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Also printed in the journal. Oh, I'm sorry. Refer to Executive Nominations.

CLERK:

Communication from Retiring Chair Ranking Member of the Transportation Committee.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Refer to the Committee on Executive Nominations.
CLERK:

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Speaker order is printed in the journal, sir.

CLERK:

Introduction of Bills lists No.1 dated January 9, 2019.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

I make a motion, Mr. Clerk that we waive a reading of the Bills listed therein.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

And referred to the Committees necessary. So ordered. And that is it, Mr. Clerk? Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Demicco of the 21st District, you have the floor.

REP. DEMICCO (21ST):

Mr. Speaker for purposes of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) Ladies and gentleman, if we wrap this up it will be a few speakers and we can go about our day. Please allow the Chairs to be heard. Representative Demicco of the 21ST, you have the
floor, sir.

REP. DEMICCO (21ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of hard work just wanted to announce that the Environment Committee will have an organizational meeting on Friday, January 11th at 11:00 a.m. in Room 1D. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Friday, January 11, Environment Committee Organizational Meeting. Thank you, sir. Are there other announcements or introductions?

Representative Ezequiel Santiago of the 130th.

REP. SANTIAGO (130TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the purposes of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Please proceed.

REP. SANTIAGO (130TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Banks Committee will be having their Organizational Meeting, tomorrow, Thursday the 10th, 12:00 p.m. Room 2A. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you and thank you for the loud voice, sir. Representative Verrengia of the 20th. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purpose of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. VERRENGIA (20TH):

The Public Safety and Security Meeting will be holding an Organizational Meeting tomorrow at 1:00 in Room 2B.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Representative Stafstrom of the 129TH. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):
Mr. Speaker, the Judiciary Committee will convene with its Organizational Meeting on Friday at 2:00 in Room 2C.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Friday, 2:00, 2C. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Representative Sanchez of the 25TH. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. SANCHEZ (25TH):

Thank -- Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker for purpose of announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. SANCHEZ (25TH):

Mr. Speaker, the Education Committee will be holding an Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, January 16th at 10:00 a.m. in Room 1D.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Wednesday, January 16th.

REP. SANCHEZ (25TH):

Room 1D.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

1D. Thank you, sir. Representative
Abercrombie of the 83RD, you have the floor.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purpose of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Please proceed.

REP. ABERCROMBIE (83RD):

Mr. Speaker, the Human Services Meeting will conduct tomorrow, Thursday at 10:00 in Room 2A and then we will do Medicaid 101 at 11:00 a.m. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Sounds exciting. Thank you, Madam Chair.

Representative Porter of the 94th. You have the floor.

REP. PORTER (94TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purpose of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

It's not the first time you're arising today. I saw a little excitement from you, Madam. Please proceed.
REP. PORTER (94TH):

Yes, very excited. I just want to announce that the Labor Committee will have a meeting tomorrow morning, 10:00 a.m. 2E, Organizational.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

2E 10:00 a.m. Thank you, Madam.

Representative Ryan of the 139TH).

REP. RYAN (139TH):

For the purpose of announcements, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Please proceed.

REP. RYAN (139TH):

Mr. Speaker, the Role of Caucus will be meeting tomorrow morning at 11:00 in Room 2D. We ask all members to come. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Rural -- Rural Caucus tomorrow 2B. What time Representative?

REP. RYAN (139TH):

11:00.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):
11:00 a.m. Thank you, sir. Representative Verrengia for the second time?

REP. VERRENGIA (2OTH):

No.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

Representative Borer of the 115th. Madam, you have the floor.

REP. BORER (115TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

I don't know where you new seat is though. I can't see. Oh, you're in the scrum back there. Go ahead, Madam.

REP. BORER (115TH):

For the purpose of an announcement. The Veterans Committee will be meeting on Tuesday, January 15 at 11:00 in Room TBT. To be determined.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

TBT. Thank you, Madam. Representative McGee of the 5th District. Sir, you have the floor.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

Mr. -- Mr. Speaker, I rise for the purpose of
an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. MCGEE (5TH):

For the Housing Committee we're going to be meeting on Tuesday, January 15th at 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 2D, as in day.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Done. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Representative Turco of the 27th District. You have the floor, sir.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Mr. Speaker, I rise for purpose of an announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Mr. Speaker, the Higher Education Committee will meet Tuesday, January 15th at 1:00 p.m. in Room 2A.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Wow look at that. Representative Haddad is
already giving you over the authority. Thank you very much, sir.

REP. TURCO (27TH):

Thank you very much, Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Lamar of the 96TH. Sir, you have the floor. No? Okay. My good friend from the great city of Blumfield. Town? Town, it's a town. Representative Gibson of the 15TH. You have the floor, sir.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

It's nice to see you up there again.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you. It's good to be here.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Mr. Speaker, on this Friday, January 11th from 10:00 to 12:00 there will be a panel discussion on the importance of African American history in the
Representative hold on. Hold on one second, please. (Gavel) Ladies and gentleman of the Chamber. This is not your ordinary announcement of a Committee Meeting that will be printed. This is a special event if we can give Representative Gibson our attention, please. Please proceed, sir.

REP. GIBSON (15TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker on this Friday, January 11th from 10:00 to 12:00 p.m., there will be a panel discussion on the importance of African American history in the classroom. It will be in the Legislative Office Building, Room 1A.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (3OTH):

1A. Thank you very much, sir. Are there any other announcements or introductions?

Representative Currey of the 11TH District. You have the floor.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I arise for
purpose of a journal notation.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you. Representative Chris Ziogas absent during business in District.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The journal will so note. Are there any announcements or introductions? Oh, Representative Steinburg of the 136TH. I've got to find your new seat.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Oh, there you are.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Late breaking news from the Public Health Committee. We'll be meeting Wednesday, next week at 1:00 p.m.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Public Health, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. next week. What room, sir?
REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Bear with me. Room to be determined.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

TBT.

REP. STEINBERG (136TH):

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Ritter, the moment we've all been waiting for.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Okay. We are all done here. Congratulations everybody on a great opening day. Good luck with your Committees. I move that we adjourn subject to the call of the chair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Motion before us is to adjourn subject to the call of the chair. We'll see you at the party tonight. Have a great night. (Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Ritter of the 1st
District, the House adjourned at 3:13 o'clock p.m.,
sine die.)
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing 143 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

I further certify that the digital sound recording was transcribed by the word processing department employees of Alpha Transcription, under my direction.

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