

State of Rhode Island

Journal of the Senate

JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Third day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Three.

Volume 150, No. 1

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

First Legislative Day

In accordance with Chapter 22-3-2 of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, the Honorable Senate is called to order at 4:10 o'clock P.M., by the Honorable Dawn Euer, being the senior member, in continuous service from the City of Newport, on the first Tuesday in January, A.D.2023 (being the first Tuesday of the Month).

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Honorable Dawn Euer asks that the members of the Senate have a Moment of Silence for *the 72nd Governor of Rhode Island, Lincoln Almond.*

SPECIAL GUEST

The Honorable Senate appoints Senators Goodwin, Lombardi, LaMountain, McKenney and Ujifusa to escort the Honorable Erin Lynch Prata, Justice on the Rhode Island Supreme Court, to the rostrum.

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer presents the Honorable Erin Lynch Prata, Justice on the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

RECESS

Upon the Motion of The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, the Senate moves to recess at 4:15 o'clock P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer at 4:20 o'clock P.M.

SPECIAL GUEST

The Honorable Senate appoints Senators Britto, Lawson, DiPalma and Cano to escort the Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State, to the rostrum.

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer presents the Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State.

OATH

The Oath of Office is administered to the foregoing Senators-elect by the Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State.



January 3, 2023

To the Honorable Senate

I, Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State, hereby certify the following list of members elected to the Senate in the General Assembly, in accordance with the certificate of election filed in this office by the Board of Elections on the twenty-second day of November 2022, as provided by Section 22-3-13 of the General Laws of 1956;

Maryellen Goodwin
Ana B. Quezada
Samuel D. Zurier
Dominick J. Ruggiero
Samuel W. Bell
Tiara T. Mack
Frank A. Ciccone, III
Sandra C. Cano
John P. Burke
Walter S. Felag, Jr.
Linda L. Ujifusa
Louis P. DiPalma
Dawn M. Euer
Valarie J. Lawson
Meghan E. Kallman
Jonathon Acosta
Thomas J. Paolino
Robert Britto
Ryan W. Pearson

Roger A. Picard
Gordon E. Rogers
David P. Tikoian
Jessica de la Cruz
Melissa A. Murray
Frank Lombardo, III
Frank S. Lombardi
Hanna M. Gallo
Joshua Miller
Anthony P. DeLuca, II
Mark P. McKenney
Matthew L. LaMountain
Pamela J. Lauria
Leonidas P. Raptakis
Elaine J. Morgan
Bridget G. Valverde
Alana M. DiMario
Virginia S. Sosnowski
Victoria Gu

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State of Rhode Island on this third day of January, A.D. 2023.

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Received and ordered to be placed on file.

ROLL CALL

As provided in Article III of the Constitution, the roll of the Senate, pursuant to Law, is read by the Honorable Secretary of State as follows:

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 37 Senators present and 1 Senator absent as follows:

PRESENT –37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, Mendes, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

ABSENT – 1: Senator Gallo.

INVOCATION

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents Father TJ Varghese from Mary Mother of Mankind Church in North Providence to deliver the invocation.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents the Providence Fire Department.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senate Majority Leader Pearson, to lead the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents North Providence Councilman Steven A. Loporchio to sing the National Anthem.

INTERIM RULES

Upon suggestion of Senate Majority Leader Pearson seconded by Senate Minority Leader de la Cruz the Senate will reinstate the 2023-2023 rules, pending the report of the rules committee and the adoption of a resolution embodying permanent rules for the 2023-2024 session,

Upon a roll call vote with 37 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows the ruling of the chair is sustained as follows:

YEAS - 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, Mendes, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Senator Goodwin, seconded by Senator DiPalma, moves that the floor be open to nominations.

The motion to open nominations prevails on a voice vote.

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer declares that nominations for the office of President of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Felag nominates Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio. The nomination is seconded by Senator Lawson.

Senator Raptakis, seconded by Senator Ciccone, moves that nominations be closed.

The motion to close nominations prevails on a voice vote.

The Honorable Senator Euer directs the Reading Clerk, to call the roll of the body.

The motion to elect Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio as President of the Senate is read and passed, upon a roll call vote with 36 Senators voting in the affirmative 1 Senator voting no and 0 Senators abstaining as follows:

YEAS - 36: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, Mendes, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 1: Senator Bell.

ABSTAINED – 0:

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer announces that Senator Dominick J. Ruggerio has been elected President of the Rhode Island Senate for the years 2023 and 2024.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Senator Euer introduces the Honorable Erin Lynch Prata, Justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court to administer the oath of Office to the Senate President.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

The Honorable President, Dominick J. Ruggiero, addresses the members of the Senate and their special guests.

(See Appendix for Presidential Remarks)

ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of the Secretary of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Ciccone nominates John E. Fleming, Jr. of North Providence as the Secretary of the Senate for the 2023 and 2024 sessions.

The nomination is seconded by Senator Tikoian.

The motion to elect John E. Fleming of North Providence as the Secretary of the Senate of the Senate for the 2023 and 2024 Sessions is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 37 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, Mendes, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS - 0:

ELECTION OF THE READING CLERK

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of Reading Clerk of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Cano nominates John S. Baxter of Pawtucket as Reading Clerk for the 2023 and 2024 sessions.

The nomination is seconded by Senator Britto.

The motion to elect John S. Baxter of Pawtucket as Reading Clerk of the Senate for the 2023 and 2024 Sessions is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 37 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, Mendes, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

OATH

The Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State, administers the Oath of Office to the Secretary of the Senate to John E. Fleming of North Providence and the Oath of Office to the Reading Clerk of the Senate, John S. Baxter of Pawtucket,

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of President Pro Tempore of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Burke nominates Senator Hanna M. Gallo, as President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the 2023 and 2024 Sessions.

The nomination is seconded by Senator Euer.

The motion to elect Senator Hanna M. Gallo from the city of Cranston as President Pro Tempore is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 37 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, Mendes, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The Honorable President declares that nominations for the office of Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate are now in order.

Senator Murray nominates Senator Roger A. Picard, as Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate for the 2023 and 2024 Sessions.

The nomination is seconded by Senate Majority Leader Pearson.

The motion to elect Senator Roger A. Picard from the city of Woonsocket as Deputy President Pro Tempore is read and passed, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote with 37 Senators voting in the affirmative and 0 Senators voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS - 37: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggerio, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, Mendes, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of the President of the Senate Ruggerio and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos, Attorney General Peter F. Neronha, Mayor of Pawtucket Don Grebien, and former Mayor of North Providence Richard Fossa.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Honorable President presents the following communications:

SENATOR
MARYELLEN GOODWIN
District 1

SENATE MAJORITY WHIP

Room 315
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

TEL: (401) 276-5507
FAX: (401) 222-1306
sen-goodwin@rilegislature.gov

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

Senate Committee on Commerce
Senate Committee on Education
Senate Committee on Environment & Agriculture
Senate Committee on Finance
Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
Senate Committee on Housing & Municipal Government
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senate Committee on Labor
Senate Committee on Rules, Government Ethics & Oversight
Senate Committee on Special Legislation & Veterans' Affairs

January 3, 2023

The Honorable Senate
Senate Chamber
State House
Providence, RI 02903

To the Honorable, the Senate:

This is to inform you that the Democratic Senators met at the Providence Marriott on November 10, 2022 to elect the Honorable Ryan W. Pearson of the Nineteenth Senatorial District as the Senate Majority Leader for the 2023-2024 term.

Sincerely,



Maryellen Goodwin
Senator ~ District 1
Democratic Caucus Secretary

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
SENATE CHAMBER

January 3, 2023

The Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered on this third day of January, A.D. 2023 the oath of engagement to John E. Fleming, Jr. of North Providence as Secretary of the Senate for the years 2023 and 2024.

Respectfully yours,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
SENATE CHAMBER

January 3, 2023

The Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered on this third day of January, A.D. 2023 the oath of engagement to John S. Baxter of Pawtucket as Reading Clerk of the Senate for the years 2023 and 2024.

Respectfully yours,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
SENATE CHAMBER

January 3, 2023

The Honorable Senate:

I have the honor to inform you that I administered on this third day of January, A.D. 2023 the oath of engagement was administered as President of the Senate of the State of Rhode Island to the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio.

Respectfully yours,

Gregg M. Amore

Secretary of State

Read and ordered to be placed on file.

State of Rhode Island



Senate Chamber

SENATOR
HANNA M. GALLO
President Pro Tempore
District 27

285 Meshanticut Valley Parkway
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

Room 318
Rhode Island State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

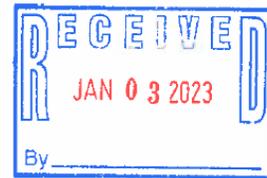
OFFICE: 401-276-5563
FAX: 401-222-2967

sen-gallo@rilegislature.gov

VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Committee on Education
Committee on Commerce
Committee on
Housing & Municipal Government

January 3, 2023

The Honorable Dominick J. Ruggerio
President of the Senate
Room 318, State House
Providence, RI 02903



Dear Mr. President:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Chamber on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

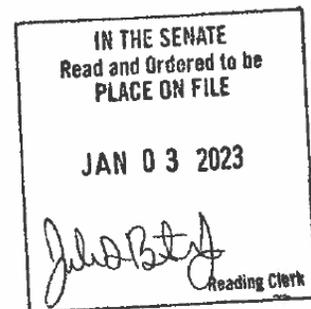
I would appreciate your recording my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Hanna M. Gallo
Hanna M. Gallo
Senator – District 27

HMG/tm

cc: John Fleming, Secretary of the Senate



Read and ordered to be placed on file.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Lombardi and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Goodwin, her sister Sheila Connelly and her husband Paul Connelly, her sister Maureen Larocque, her nieces Mary Grace Larocque, Tessie Larocque, her nephews Jack Larocque Liam Connelly, and Superior Court Justice Kevin McHugh.

Upon suggestion of Senator Lombardi and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the wife of Senator Raptakis, Dr. Donna Raptakis.

Upon suggestion of Senator McKenney and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Burke; Mary Burke, Billie Burke, Stephen Burke, Pat Burke, Mary White, Phoebe White, and Bill White.

Upon suggestion of Senator de la Cruz and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator DeLuca; his father Anthony DeLuca, Sr., his mother Juliann DeLuca, his son Anthony P. DeLuca, III, his daughter Catherine DeLuca and his daughter Emily DeLuca.

Upon suggestion of Senator de la Cruz and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Rogers; his wife Heidi Rogers, brother Ernie Lamontagne and his wife Melissa.

Upon suggestion of Senator Ujifusa and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber her family; husband J. Mark Ryan, MD and her daughter Kathryn Carey Ryan.

Upon suggestion of Senator Murray and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Valverde; her mom Kate Geraci, her husband William Valverde, and her sons Oscar Valverde and Elliot Valverde.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Lombardo; wife Patty Lombardo, son Frank Lombardo IV, daughter Victoria Lombardo Acetto, daughter-in-law Ashley Lombardo, grandson Hayden Lombardo, granddaughter Leila Lombardo, father Frank Lombardo, Sr., and his partner Anna Gomes.

Upon suggestion of Senator Mack and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Gu; Lisa Chen, Dr. Kenneth Gu, Christopher

Gu, Miranda Oakley, Dr. Yan Sun, and Westerly School Committee member Leslie Dunn, Madeline Labriola, Tim Otimo, Ryan Harackiewicz, Anne Pearce, and Lora Carnahan.

Upon suggestion of Senator Paolino and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Joy Eaton, mother of Senator Morgan and Christina Maria Lavigne

the Hopkinton Director of Public Welfare and Personal Assistant.

Upon suggestion of Senator Sosnowski and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the friends of Senator Ciccone; Frank DiMaio, Jr. and Jenna Achille.

Upon suggestion of Senator Kallman and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Elizabeth Frost from Cornwall, CT, Morgan Lord from Pawtucket, RI, Adam Westbrook from Cambridge, MA, and Donald R. Grebien, Mayor of Pawtucket.

Upon suggestion of Senator Felag and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber his sister Mary Johns, sister Jayne Balasco, brother Mark Felag, brother John Felag, sister-in-law Angie Felag, and nephew Brian Felag.

Upon suggestion of Senator Rogers and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator de la Cruz; her husband David de la Cruz, Sr., son David de la Cruz, Jr., son Jonathan de la Cruz, aunt Grace Massa, uncle John Mass, and mom Maria Ponte.

Upon suggestion of Senator Valverde and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Murray; partner Michael Mineau, father John Murray and partner Audrey Pepin, and the Honorable Brian Thompson, Woonsocket City Councilor.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiMario and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Lawson; husband Len Rounds, sister Kathy McCabe, brother-in-law Don McCabe, cousin Joanne Mollica, and cousin Steve Mollica.

Upon suggestion of Senator Gu and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the friends of Senator Mack; Corey Jones, Reina Thomas, Ken Barber, Campaign Manager Kimika Ross, and mentor Gretchen Raffa.

Upon suggestion of Senator Ciccone and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator DiPalma; spouse Margaret DiPalma, daughter

Kellie Simeone, daughter Abigail Isom, grandson Graham Isom, grandson Tucker Isom, grandson Peter Simeone, and friend Cameron Ramsey.

Upon suggestion of Senator Lawson and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator DiMario; husband Eric DiMario, son Leo DiMario, son Samuel Dimario, daughter Morgan DiMario.

Upon suggestion of Senator Lawson and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Britto; wife Danielle Britto, daughter Isabel Britto, son Isaiah Britto, daughter Illianna Britto, bother John Britto, Jr., sister Donna Silva, sister Karen Britto, brother Tony Britto, friend Keith Oliveira, friend Tori & Violet Jessop - Crowley, niece John & Breana Dosantos, and nephew Bobby Britto Oliveira.

Upon suggestion of Senator Lawson and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Lauria; husband David Lauria, son Jacob Lauria, daughter Maddie Lauria, sister Christine Nareck.

Upon suggestion of Senator Zurier and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Acosta; Alyson Chatham, Leon Ernesto Acosta-Chatham, and Jonathan Andres Acosta- Chatham.

Upon suggestion of Senator Morgan and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Paolino; mother Marie Issa, father Louis Paolino, girlfriend Miranda Veliu, and the brother of Senator Morgan Bernard L. Eaton, III.

Upon suggestion of Senator Euer and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Gavin Black from Tiverton, Craig Graham from North Kingston, and Michael Boles from Newport.

Upon suggestion of Senator Raptakis and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Gregory Mozzi of Warwick, and Aiden Carey of Lincoln.

Upon suggestion of Senator Valverde and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the family of Senator Cano; Roberto Cano (dad), Isabel Franco (mom), Etna Trujillo (aunt), Karen Gomez (cousin), Camila Olega (goddaughter), Arianna Hallel Diossa (daughter) and her fiancé James Diossa.

Upon suggestion of Senator LaMountain and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber his family; wife Cassandra Aubin, son Desmond LaMountain, grandmother Marian Fox, brother Brandon LaMountain, and sister-in-law Jenn LaMountain.

Upon suggestion of Senator McKenney and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber his family; wife Tricia McKenney, daughter Caitlin Whalley, with her husband Kevin & sons Owen & Liam, son Dan McKenney & his wife Dionne Fabiatos.

Upon suggestion of the President of the Senate Ruggerio and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber United States Senator Sheldon Whitehouse.

Upon suggestion of the President of the Senate Ruggerio and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber the President of the North Providence Town Council Dino Autiello.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Lombardi announces that the Rhode Island Association of Nurse Anesthetists meeting for tomorrow has been postponed.

Senate Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin announces that a reception will immediately follow in the Senate Lounge.

Senate Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin announces that the Senate will meet next Tuesday, January 10th, 2023 at 4:00pm.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents Councilman Steven A. Loporchio to perform God Bless America.

BENEDICTION

The Honorable Senator Dawn Euer, by unanimous consent, presents Rabbi Sarah Mack, of Temple Beth-El in Providence for purposes of delivering the Benediction.

RECESS

Upon motion of Senator Goodwin, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, and the Senate stands in Recess at 5:30 o'clock P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by the Honorable Dominick J. Ruggiero, President of the Senate, on Tuesday, January 10th at 3:59 o'clock P.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 38 Senators present and 0 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT –38: The Honorable President Dominick Ruggiero, and Senators Acosta, Bell, Britto, Burke, Cano, Ciccone, de la Cruz, De Luca, DiMario, DiPalma, Euer, Felag, Gallo, Goodwin, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Lawson, Lombardi, Lombardo, Mack, Mendes, Miller, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Pearson, Picard, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Sosnowski, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, and Zurier.

ABSENT – 0:

OATH

The Oath of Office is administered to the foregoing Senator elect Gallo by the Honorable Gregg Amore, Secretary of State.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon the Motion of Senator Goodwin, seconded by Senator de la Cruz, the Senate adjourns at 4:03 o'clock P.M.

JOHN E. FLEMING, JR.
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix

INVOCATION

FATHER TJ VARGHESE

MARY MOTHER OF MANKIND CHURCH IN NORTH PROVIDENCE

Appendix

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

January 3, 2023

**Dominick J. Ruggerio**

Senate President

Thank you, Wally and Val, for your kind words.

To all my colleagues ... I am truly grateful for your support.

Congratulations to each of you for being elected to serve in the Rhode Island Senate.

Thank you for entrusting me to continue leading this Chamber for another two years.

Serving as Senate President is an incredible honor ... and a responsibility I take seriously.

I pledge to continue working collaboratively with each of you to accomplish our goals ... to serve our constituents ... to build consensus ... and to move Rhode Island forward.

I want to take a moment to thank my family for all of their support over the years. I wouldn't be here without you.

Two years ago, at Rhode Island College's Sapinsley Hall, we convened the 2021-22 session under very different ... and very *difficult* circumstances.

I am thankful that as we embark on the 2023-2024 legislative session, our situation has improved ... and that we have returned here, to the people's house, to do the people's business.

And I am proud of the incredible progress we made last session.

Working together, we acted to improve the lives of our neighbors ... and made Rhode Island a better place.

We provided needed tax relief to Rhode Islanders struggling under the weight of inflation.

But we continue to face many challenges ... and we have unfinished business.

Our focus remains unchanged:

Ensuring every student, in every city and town, receives a quality education and a strong foundation for future success.

Ensuring every Rhode Islander can access health care ... especially the mental health resources that are needed now more than ever.

Ensuring our children inherit a cleaner, more resilient environment.

Ensuring all Rhode Island families have the opportunity to prosper.

And ensuring our small businesses can create jobs and thrive.

We will continue to strengthen and expand Rhode Island's early childhood care and education system ... including universal pre-kindergarten access.

We will undertake a much-needed review of our education funding formula to ensure resources are being distributed equitably and effectively.

We will take up the recommendations of Chairman Joshua Miller and our commission on health and human services ... to ensure these critical systems are serving our most vulnerable neighbors to the best degree possible.

We will address the mental health crisis among our children ... take action to replace all of Rhode Island's lead pipes ... and continue our work to ensure all Rhode Islanders have access to safe and affordable housing.

These are some of the challenges we can ... and will ... address together in the session that lies ahead.

Please join me in welcoming our seven new members and one returning member to the chamber ... please stand and be recognized when I call your name:

- Sen. Robert Britto
- Sen. Anthony DeLuca
- Sen. Victoria Gu
- Sen. Matthew LaMountain
- Sen. Pamela Lauria
- Sen. Mark McKenny
- Sen. Linda Ujifusa
- Sen. David Tikoian

I want to recognize and thank Michael McCaffrey, our outgoing Majority Leader, who was my right hand in leadership, and who served the Senate with great distinction. I relied on him to navigate the most difficult issues we faced.

I also want to thank Dennis Algiere for his service and friendship. He is a statesman, a gentleman, and a great public servant.

I am grateful for their leadership, and wish them every happiness as they move on to new chapters in their lives.

I am privileged and excited to welcome Ryan Pearson as the new Senate Majority Leader. Ryan is an enormously talented and incredibly hard-working individual.

Time and again, he has shown that he brings people together ... and he knows how to get results for the people of Rhode Island.

I look forward to working with him, Senate Majority Whip Maryellen Goodwin, the new Minority Leader, Jessica de le Cruz, and each and every member of this chamber, towards the betterment of our state.

With last year's elections behind us, we begin the hard work of governing.

Together, in the spirit of service and collaboration, let us find common purpose in our shared commitment to our communities ... our shared love for our state ... and our shared hope for a better future.

To my new colleagues: today is the best that it gets.

Today, we get sworn in.
Tomorrow, we get sworn at.

We are fortunate to have a great team in the Senate ... and I am humbled to once again serve as President of this chamber.

Thank you all.