



STATE OF WISCONSIN Senate Journal

One-Hundred and Sixth Regular Session

2:03 P.M.

TUESDAY, January 3, 2023

The Senate met.

The Senate was called to order by Senate President Kapenga.

The Senate stood for the prayer which was offered by Pastor Perrie Dralle from the Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Brookfield.

The Colors were presented by the VFW Day Post 7591 Color Guard Unit of Madison, WI.

The Senate remained standing and Senator Agard led the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

The National Anthem was performed by the St. Francis Xavier High School Orchestra.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 17 (6), the Chief Clerk made the following entries under the above date.

Remarks of Majority Leader LeMahieu

“Mr. President, Chief Justice Ziegler, Minority Leader Agard, fellow colleagues, distinguished guests, friends and dear family members:

It is with great honor that I stand before you today. I would like to thank my colleagues for their continued support as the Majority Leader and congratulate the Senator from the 33rd as he returns as the President. We also welcome the Senator from the 16th in her new leadership role. We look forward to building on the successes we had last session and look forward to the opportunities we have this session. It is uplifting to welcome seven new Senators today. With Senator Darling stepping down, we do now have one empty chair. We will miss her contributions to this body and we wish her the best in her retirement.

At this time, I return the floor to the President, who will now begin the proceedings.”

State of Wisconsin Wisconsin Elections Commission

December 12, 2022

The Honorable, the Senate:

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the official canvass of the November 8, 2022 General Election vote for

State Senator along with the determination by the Chair of the Wisconsin Elections Commission of the winners.

With this letter, I am delivering the Certificates of Election for the winners to you for distribution.

If the Elections Commission can provide you with further information or assistance, please contact our office.

Sincerely,
MEAGAN WOLFE
Administrator

Statement of Canvass for State Senator

GENERAL ELECTION, November 8, 2022

I, Commissioner Don M. Millis, chairperson of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, certify that the attached tabular statements, as compiled from the certified returns made to the Wisconsin Elections Commission by the county clerks of the several counties of the state, contain a correct abstract of the total number of votes given for the election of candidates for State Senator at a General Election held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards and election districts in said counties on the Eighth day of November, 2022.

I DO, THEREFORE, DETERMINE AND CERTIFY that the following candidates, having each received the greatest number of votes in their respective senatorial districts, are duly elected State Senator:

Senate District

Elected

1 st District	André Jacque
3 rd District	Tim Carpenter
5 th District	Rob Hutton
7 th District	Chris Larson
9 th District	Devin LeMahieu
11 th District	Steve Nass
13 th District	John Jagler
15 th District	Mark Spreitzer
17 th District	Howard Marklein
19 th District	Rachael Cabral-Guevara
21 st District	Van H. Wanggaard
23 rd District	Jesse James
25 th District	Romaine Robert Quinn
27 th District	Dianne H. Hesselbein
29 th District	Cory Tomczyk

31st District
33rd District

Jeff Smith
Chris Kapenga

Done in the City of Madison, this 30th day of November 2022.

DON M. MILLIS

Commissioner, Chairperson
Wisconsin Elections Commission

IN THE CHAIR

President Pro Tempore Testin in the chair.

2:12 P.M.

With unanimous consent, the party leaders introduced their newly elected respective members.

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Jacque

“André Jacque was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and graduated from Green Bay Southwest High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin– Madison, as well as a graduate certificate from the UW’s La Follette School of Public Affairs. André lives in De Pere with his wife Renée and their 6 children and has worked as an environmental consultant and communications director.

André is active with a number of charitable causes in the community and has served as a longtime board member of Green Bay Area Crime Stoppers and the Van Handel Foundation for Families of Children with Special Needs, as well as board Vice President of Family & Childcare Resources of Northeast Wisconsin. André was recently elected chair of the nonpartisan, bi-national 8-state, 2-Canadian province Great Lakes Legislative Caucus on water quality and has been recognized as legislator of the year by numerous groups advocating for public safety, veterans, and vulnerable populations. Sen. Jacque was first elected to the State Assembly in 2010 and will now begin serving his second term in the Wisconsin State Senate.”

Senator Agard Introduced Senator Carpenter

“Senator Tim Carpenter represents the 3rd Senate District which covers the South Side of Milwaukee, West Milwaukee, and portions of West Allis and Greenfield. The district is home to AmFam Field, the Harley-Davidson Museum, St. Josaphat’s Basilica, the Mitchell Park Domes, Zablocki Veterans Hospital, the Milwaukee County Zoo, and also includes the largest Latino population of any senate district in the state.

Senator Carpenter is entering his sixth term and is a lifelong resident of his district. He graduated from the Milwaukee Public School system and earned a Bachelor’s degree from UW - Milwaukee in Political Science & History and a Master’s degree from UW-Madison’s Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs.

Senator Carpenter was first elected to the State Assembly in 1984 at the age of 24 where he served nine terms. Counting

years served in both the Assembly and Senate, Senator Carpenter is now the 2nd longest serving Wisconsin State Legislator with 38 years, following Senator Rob Cowles.

Tim is a loyal Milwaukee Brewers fan and long-time season ticket holder at AmFam Field, which is just 3 miles from his house. A proud dad to three cats - Rufus, Logan and Perseus, who have served as unpaid interns in his office- Tim is especially interested in policies promoting the humane treatment of animals. The institutional knowledge that Tim brings to our caucus is invaluable and I deeply admire his commitment to the constituents of the 3rd Senate District and to the people of our state.”

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Hutton

“Rob was born in Milwaukee, grew up in Brookfield and is a graduate of Brookfield East High School where he met his wife Patti. He earned a history degree from UW-Whitewater and pursued a career in business with a Fortune 500 company. He then owned a logistics firm in Milwaukee, which provided national trucking and warehousing services for key Wisconsin industries.

He now owns two industrial coatings firms that serve Wisconsin’s manufacturing industry, employing over 75 people. Rob is also a partner in a metal fabricating firm in southeastern Wisconsin.

Rob served as a Waukesha County supervisor from 2005-2012. In 2012, he was elected to the State Assembly where he served for eight years representing the 13th District. In the Assembly he served on the Small Business, Corrections, and Education committees. He was elected to represent the 5th District in the State Senate in November 2022.

Rob and Patti have four grown children and two daughters-in-law. They reside in Brookfield and enjoy spending time together with family, serving in their church, and are active with various community organizations.”

Senator Agard Introduced Senator Larson

“Senator Chris Larson represents the 7th Senate District, which stretches from the Upper East Side of Milwaukee east of the Milwaukee River all the way south through St. Francis, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, Oak Creek, and parts of Franklin. The district is home to world-class higher education, our state’s flagship airport, the Port of Milwaukee, Wisconsin’s premier museum campus, the unmatched natural beauty of Milwaukee County Parks and Lake Michigan, and the Summerfest Grounds - home not just to the country’s largest music festival, but several ethnic festivals celebrating Milwaukee’s diverse cultural heritage.

Senator Larson is starting his 4th term in the State Senate. His tenure began as a member of the “Wisconsin 14” who fought vigorously to protect collective bargaining rights for our state’s dedicated public employees. He spent his first 12 years in the Senate fighting for high-quality public education, campaign and ethics reforms, and an end to drunk driving, among many other progressive priorities.

Senator Larson previously served as a County Supervisor with the Milwaukee County Board after graduating from the

UW-Milwaukee with a degree in Finance. He has private-sector experience as a business manager for a local running store and is a dedicated marathon runner. He has overcome asthma to run 45 marathons in 28 states with the goal of running a marathon in all 50. He has lived in Milwaukee County all of his life and currently resides with his wife Jessica, children Atticus and Stella, and dog Donut in the Bay View neighborhood of Milwaukee.

I continue to be inspired by Senator Larson's fierce advocacy for Wisconsin's progressive values and his ability to make the impact of these policies understandable through effective messaging."

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Nass

"Steve Nass was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin and graduated from Whitewater High School. He attended UW-Whitewater and received both his Bachelor of Science and Masters of Education in School Business Management from that university. Steve has one adult daughter who also resides in Whitewater with her husband.

Steve is the owner of a rental property business and previously worked as a payroll benefits analyst and negotiator.

Steve was a member of the Wisconsin Air National Guard and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant after 33 years of service. He served in the Middle East during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. Steve also deployed to support numerous missions to enforce no fly zones over Iraq and Bosnia.

He currently serves as Post Commander for Whitewater American Legion Post 173 and is a member of the VFW.

Steve was first elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1990 and served in that body until his first election to the State Senate in 2014. Today, he is commencing his third term in the Senate."

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Jagler

"John was born in Louisville, Kentucky and raised in Wisconsin. After graduating from Oak Creek High School, he attended the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, but later transferred and graduated from Trans-American School of Broadcasting in Madison.

Before being elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 2012, John served as Communications Director for former Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald. Previously, John worked in radio broadcasting for over 20 years, most of it spent at WTMJ in Milwaukee. John, who lives in Watertown with his wife Heidi, have three children. They own a family operated dog treat company. In addition, John is a licensed realtor and owns a communications consulting firm.

John is very active in his community serving as a member of Watertown Elks Lodge #666, Watertown Moose Lodge #830. He is also been given a commission as a Kentucky Colonel.

John was first elected to the Senate during a special election in 2021 and was just reelected for his first full term to represent the 13th Senate District."

Senator Agard Introduced Senator Spreitzer

"Senator Mark Spreitzer is succeeding Senator Janis Ringhand as the Senator for the 15th State Senate District, which includes parts of Dane, Green, and Rock counties.

Senator Spreitzer was first elected as the State Representative for the 45th Assembly District in 2014, and served four terms in the Assembly, including 3 terms as the Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair.

Prior to serving in the State Assembly, Senator Spreitzer served on the Beloit City Council from April 2011 until April 2015, and served as Council President from April 2014 until April 2015. He also worked in the Alumni Office for his alma mater, Beloit College.

Senator Spreitzer is an active member of the community and participates in nonprofit and community organizations, including serving as the Board President of the Wely Environmental Center and on the Finance and Facilities Board of the United Church of Beloit. He previously served on the board of Community Action Inc. of Rock and Walworth Counties.

Senator Spreitzer lives in Beloit with his husband, Philip, their cat, Otis, and a small flock of backyard chickens that are named after Supreme Court justices. They enjoy camping and hiking, cooking and baking, and spending time with their families - including their young nieces and nephews.

I'm proud to have served with Mark in the Assembly and have seen first hand his intelligence, dedication, and attention to detail that will be such an asset to our caucus and this body - welcome, Mark."

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Marklein

"Howard Marklein was raised on a dairy farm in rural Spring Green. He is the oldest of five children and attended St. Luke's and St. John's Grade Schools before graduating from River Valley High School in Spring Green in 1972.

Howard graduated from UW-Whitewater in 1976 with a BBA in accounting. In 1987, Howard received the Outstanding Recent Alumni Award from UW-Whitewater and recently received the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2022.

Howard has retired from active practice as a CPA and certified fraud examiner, but he brings these skills to work in the legislature every day. He serves on the Finance Committee of St. John's Catholic Church in Spring Green and is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Howard is married to Peggy, is the father of Nicole and Bill, and three stepchildren. Howard has six grandchildren with one on the way this month!

Howard was first elected to the State Assembly in 2010 and joined the State Senate in 2014. He was re-elected in 2018 and 2022.

Howard serves as Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance, Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Tourism and as a member of the Joint Committee on Employment Relations, Joint Legislative Audit Committee and the Joint Legislative Council. He has also serves on the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority Board of Directors.”

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Cabral-Guevara

“Rachael Cabral-Guevara is a mother of 4 (Alex 25, Emilio 21, Marion 19 and Lars 12) who lives on Stroebe Island in Fox Crossing. Rachael was born in Appleton and raised in the Air Force which gave her the opportunity to live across our country. She returned to attend college after high school and hasn’t left Wisconsin since.

Rachael is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner and a licensed Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber since 2008. Rachael has years of experience working in primary care throughout Wisconsin. She has practiced as a Family Nurse Practitioner within a community health center, student health center, urgent care clinic, and her own practice. Additionally, she taught at the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh nursing program for 13 years.

Rachael was elected to the Assembly in 2020 and served as the Vice Chair on the Mental Health Committee. Rachael will be entering her first term in the State Senate.”

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Wanggaard

“Senator Van Wanggaard was first elected to serve the 21st Senate District, in 2010, and is beginning his fourth term in the State Senate. Van is only person ever elected to four full terms in the 21st Senate District.

Growing up in Racine, Van Wanggaard is a lifelong public servant. For nearly 30 years, he served as a police officer and traffic investigator for the Racine Police Department. In addition, he owned and operated several small businesses during this time. His law enforcement career was cut short and he was forced to retire when he was seriously injured in a car accident by a federal fugitive fleeing custody. Still dedicated to community service, Van successfully ran for four terms on the Racine County Board of Supervisors, where he served prior to his election to the state Senate in 2010.

Van is married to his high school sweetheart, Mary Jo. Together they have 2 grown children and 3 granddaughters.”

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator James

“Jesse L. James was born and raised in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. After serving in the U.S. Army for six years, Jesse attended Chippewa Valley Technical College, where he studied police science. Jesse served as the Police and Fire Chief of Altoona, Wisconsin, before being elected to the Wisconsin Assembly. During his tenure, Jesse was the Chair of the Assembly Substance Abuse and Prevention Committee and dedicated himself to pursuing his legislative passions in the areas of the opioid epidemic, mental health, and protecting Wisconsin’s children.

Jesse and his wife Vicki currently reside in Altoona, where they enjoy their four children, two granddaughters, and own a small business together. Jesse still works as a part-time police officer in the Village of Cadott, and is currently the only active law enforcement officer in the Wisconsin Legislature.”

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Quinn

“Romaine Quinn was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin and is a graduate of Rice Lake High School. He attended UW-Eau Claire and UW-Green Bay, where he graduated with an interdisciplinary B.A. in Political Science and Public Leadership. Romaine is a real estate agent and currently lives in Cameron, WI with his wife Racquel and their two sons -- his most recent being born just weeks ago. He is a member of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Realtors Association, and a member of St. Joseph’s Catholic Church parish council in Rice Lake.

Romaine is also a former member of the Rice Lake City Council, the former Mayor of Rice Lake, and previously served in the state assembly from 2014 to 2020, where he held the role of caucus vice-chair. At 24 years old, he was the youngest serving state representative in Wisconsin in 2014. Romaine will be serving his first term in the state senate this session.”

Senator Agard Introduced Senator Hesselbein

“Joining the State Senate this session is Senator Dianne Hesselbein, succeeding outgoing Senator Jon Erpenbach. Senator Hesselbein was born and raised in Dane County where she attended LaFollette High School. She graduated from UW-Oshkosh and later completed a Master’s Degree in Religious Studies at Edgewood College.

Senator Hesselbein possesses a rich background of public service and truly lives her values. Before being elected to the State Legislature, Senator Hesselbein was elected to the Middleton Cross Plains Area School District Board of Education in 2005; elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in 2008 and served 3 terms.

Senator Hesselbein and her husband Bob, a retired airline pilot and retired member of the Wisconsin National Guard live in Middleton and have three children, Will, Annika and Katie.

I’ve had the great pleasure of knowing Dianne since high school when we met during a summer theater program. She and I served on the Dane County Board together and were later elected to the State Assembly in 2012, motivated by our dedication to our great state and lifting up the voices of Wisconsinites. She has been a fabulous partner in the legislature for years and a fierce advocate for veterans and public education. I know she will diligently represent her constituents as State Senator of the beautiful 27th Senate District.”

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Tomczyk

“Cory was born in Rudolph, WI and lived there until 5th grade when his family moved to Wisconsin Rapids, graduating from Lincoln High School in 1980.

He is married to his wife Becky and they have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Cory has lived in Mosinee, WI since 1988. He and his wife started a recycling business, IROW, in 1989. IROW serves businesses throughout northcentral Wisconsin by providing industrial recycling services, confidential shredding services, and record storage services.

Cory has served his community as a youth sports coach for many years and is a former member of the Mosinee School Board. He has been active in the Republican Party of Marathon County; he was also an original board member of Get Involved Wisconsin Inc.”

Senator Agard Introduced Senator Smith

“I am honored to read Senator Smith’s biography today, specially prepared by his wife and family.

Jeff Smith has served as senator in the 31st district since 2019. He is here today with his wife Sue, and their daughters, Emily and Sarah. Jeff is known for the phrase ‘I can fix that.’ Whether it is a broken dinner plate or a broken voter access policy, he puts his head down and does his best to correct the situation.

Jeff was born and raised in Eau Claire, one of six brothers and one sister. He and his dad operated Bob Smith Window Cleaning and eventually Jeff took over the business. Recently, one of his former employees reminded Jeff how, even though he owned the business, Jeff never asked his employees to do something he wouldn’t do. Which included cleaning windows on multi-story buildings.

The year he and Sue were married, they built their own home, much of which was learned by following instructions page by page in a home building book. When things went wrong that ‘I can fix that’ determination resulted in the hobby farm which they still enjoy. As a public school teacher, Sue encouraged Jeff to be involved with the schools their daughters attended. He went from volunteering in classrooms to P.T.A. president. When Jeff saw the need for more widespread parental involvement, he created the parent advisory council for the Eau Claire Area School District. The council, renamed family advisory council, is still in operation. When Jeff saw issues that needed fixing in the township in which he lives he ran and was elected to Brunswick Town Chair. This led to the realization that in order to make real change, he needed to work at the state level and so he was elected to the state assembly in 2006.

In 2018 when Jeff saw many things still needed fixing at the state level, he ran and was elected to the State Senate. Jeff fixed the issue of accountability and availability by elected officials by creating his signature ‘Stop and Talk’ sessions, parked on the roadside with his old red pickup and talking with anyone who wanted to stop. While Sue has lots of things she would like Jeff to fix around home, he is determined to continue to prioritize health care access and affordability, fair redistricting maps and environmental issues such as clean water.”

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Kapenga

“Senator Chris Kapenga has worked for a Fortune 500 company and as a CPA in one of the largest public accounting firms in the world. He owns several businesses and has served in public office for the past 12 years.

Growing up on a family farm, Chris was the first member of his family to graduate college. His wide-ranging professional experience has empowered his understanding of how organizations function effectively, how to achieve reform, and how to gain efficiencies through planning and execution of process change.

Chris was elected to serve as a member of the state Assembly in 2010 and has been serving in the state Senate since 2015. In 2020, he was elected by his peers to Senate President and currently serves as Co-Chair on the Joint Legislative Counsel, Joint Committee on Legislative Organization, Joint Committee on Employment Relations, and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Senate Organization.

Chris and his wife, Cari, reside in Delafield, WI. They enjoy spending time with their two grown daughters, serving in their church community, and traveling.”

Senator Feyen Introduced Senator LeMahieu

“Devin LeMahieu is a native of Sheboygan County, having attended Sheboygan County Christian High School before graduating with a BA in Business Administration and Political Science from Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Devin currently resides in Oostburg and is the publisher and owner of the Lakeshore Weekly, a family-owned small business that serves the Sheboygan County area. He has previously served on the Sheboygan County Board and continues to serve his community as a member of the Oostburg and Sheboygan County’s Chambers of Commerce and Bethel OPC.

In his free time, Devin is an avid golfer and Ironman competitor. Devin has successfully completed nine Ironman triathlons.

Devin was elected to serve a member of the State Senate in 2014. In 2020, Devin was elected by his colleagues to serve as the Senate Majority Leader and currently serves on the Committee of Senate Organization, the Joint Committee of Employment Relations, the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization and the Joint Legislative Council.”

OATH OF OFFICE

Upon the calling of the newly elected Senators on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 the following appeared before the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office in the Senate Chamber, which was administered by the Honorable Annette Kingsland Ziegler, Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court:

André Jacque
Rob Hutton
Devin LeMahieu

Tim Carpenter
Chris Larson
Steve Nass

John Jagler
Howard Marklein
Van H. Wanggaard
Romaine Robert Quinn
Cory Tomczyk
Chris Kapenga

Mark Spreitzer
Rachael Cabral-Guevara
Jesse James
Dianne H. Hesselbein
Jeff Smith

Honorable Annette Kingsland Ziegler, Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

IN THE CHAIR

Senate President Kapenga in the chair.

2:48 P.M.

CALL OF ROLL

The roll was called, disclosing the presence of a quorum.

Pursuant to Senate Rule 15, the official attendance for session was:

Senators Agard, Ballweg, Bradley, Cabral-Guevara, Carpenter, Cowles, Felzkowski, Feyen, Hesselbein, Hutton, Jacque, Jagler, James, L. Johnson, Kapenga, Larson, LeMahieu, Marklein, Nass, Pfaff, Quinn, Roys, Smith, Spreitzer, Stafsholt, Stroebel, Taylor, Testin, Tomczyk, Wanggaard, Wimberger and Wirch - 32.

Absent with leave - None - 0.

Vacancies - 8th Senate District - 1.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS NOT REQUIRING A THIRD READING

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Resolution 1

Relating to: notifying the assembly and the governor that the 2023-2024 senate is organized.

By Senators LeMahieu, Kapenga, Feyen, Agard and Smith.

Read.

The question was: Adoption of **Senate Resolution 1**?

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 29; noes, 3; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes - Senators Agard, Ballweg, Bradley, Cabral-Guevara, Carpenter, Cowles, Felzkowski, Feyen, Hutton, Jacque, Jagler, James, L. Johnson, Kapenga, LeMahieu, Marklein, Nass, Pfaff, Quinn, Smith, Spreitzer, Stafsholt, Stroebel, Taylor, Testin, Tomczyk, Wanggaard, Wimberger and Wirch - 29.

Noes - Senators Hesselbein, Larson and Roys - 3.

Absent or not voting - None - 0.

Adopted.

SENATE OFFICERS OATH OF OFFICE

The President, Chris Kapenga, the President Pro Tempore, Patrick Testin, the Chief Clerk, Michael J. Queensland, and the Sergeant at Arms, Tom Engels, having been duly elected by the adoption of **Senate Resolution 1**, appeared together before the bar of the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office which was administered by the

Remarks of President Kapenga

“As Senate President, I want to thank the members for allowing me the privilege of being in the chair again.

As we begin the 2023-24 session of the Wisconsin State Senate, and look forward to what will be accomplished, I thought it would be prudent to take a look back at why this body was created, and what our purpose is while temporarily serving in this role.

It goes back to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. We can see the discussion of the Senate in Federalist 62. One house would be, in the words of Virginia’s George Mason, the “grand depository of the democratic principle of government.” This is the Wisconsin State Assembly.

To counter this popular influence, James Madison of Virginia proposed another house that would be small, deliberative, and independent from the larger, more democratic house. It would be a body “requiring greater extent of information and stability of character”. This is the Wisconsin State Senate.

Madison’s concern was that proposed legislation would come from the larger house in an emotional state, and the Senate would vet that emotion with sound and wise logic to ensure proper checks and balances were being applied.

Note that we, as the Senate, are of equal power to the Assembly. It isn’t about power then, but it is about quality of law that our citizens must abide and live with. The purpose of law is to protect our rights as individual citizens, and nothing more.

So as we move into this session, I look forward to directing vigorous debate as we work together to serve those who elected us to this position. My responsibility is to ensure the voice of the minority is heard and that the will of the majority is carried out.

Thank you for once again allowing me the honor of this position.”

President Kapenga introduced the Senators returning from the 105th Session: Senators Cowles, Taylor, Johnson, Stafsholt, Felzkowski, Ballweg, Agard, Feyen, Stroebel, Wirch, Testin, Roys, Bradley, Wimberger, and Pfaff.

With unanimous consent, Senator LeMahieu addressed the members from the rostrum.

Remarks of Majority Leader LeMahieu

“A new year and a new legislative session brings with it opportunity. Opportunities to work together to address issues that are faced by all Wisconsinites. An opportunity to build common sense policy that improves how our government functions. Opportunities to reform our laws to better serve the future needs of the State.

Let’s focus for a moment on what we have done in the past to put Wisconsin in the unique position that we are in today. In 2010 we inherited a multi-Billion dollar deficit. Over the last 12 years we have focused on investing in core priorities, responsible budgeting, reducing the tax burden on the hard-working families of Wisconsin and passing meaningful legislative reforms. Today we are looking at a projected surplus approaching 7 Billion.

There are challenges that we face. Challenges the people of Wisconsin expect us to tackle. Education, taxes, healthcare, public safety and our State’s infrastructure are all items that we need to address. Families and businesses are facing inflationary pressures. The rising costs of gas, groceries and energy are hurting Wisconsin families. The best way to help them out is by reducing their tax burden.

We have a chance to reshape our tax policies. We can also take this opportunity to streamline and simplify interactions with State agencies. We look forward to finding solutions to difficult topics such as the mental health issues being faced by all too many of our friends and neighbors. We are in a good position to take bold and decisive action to ensure our best days remain ahead of us.

Last session we passed a budget that was supported by both sides of the aisle and signed by the Governor. Let’s work toward that again. As we go through the budget process, we need to understand inflationary pressures. This includes local governments, education, transportation, corrections and healthcare. Fortunately, we have set ourselves up with resources to address these needs.

We need to remember why we are in our current position. We have worked on legislation to advance the best interest of Wisconsin while remaining fiscally conservative. We look forward to working with the Governor and Assembly to make sure that we not only provide transformational tax relief, but also solutions that benefit the great state of Wisconsin.

God bless Wisconsin and God bless America.”

With unanimous consent, Senator Agard addressed the members from the rostrum.

Remarks of Minority Leader Agard

“Mr. President, friends, and colleagues. I am honored to join you here today as we begin a new legislative session.

I want to welcome our new and returning members as well as their families. Welcome to our guests watching on the floor and in the galleries, and welcome to everyone watching at home on Wisconsin Eye.

So before I get started, I need to give a special shout out to my four boys: Devin, Bailey, Keanan, and Trystan - thank you for being you. I often say you’re as different as the four points of a compass and that’s what makes you so unique. I’m so proud to be your mom.

The beginning of each legislative session is the most hopeful time of our two-year cycle. We are here today with optimism in our hearts and a willingness in our spirit to do great things.

Like me, I’m sure you all knocked on a lot of doors during the recent election. And I’m sure you heard the same things I did. While we may put up political lines around our districts - the people of Wisconsin are one. They share the same values, hopes, and dreams whether they live in Superior or Elkhorn. Ellsworth or Oconto.

At the end of the day, Wisconsinites generally want the same things out of their state government - affordable health care and prescriptions, housing that doesn’t break the bank, clean air and water, the ability to live with purpose and with the freedoms we expect as Americans.

Now a common theme I heard on doorsteps across Wisconsin were frustrations over the state of our politics and how divided we’ve become.

They want us to stop arguing, stop the partisanship, and instead - focus on getting things done.

My Senate Democratic colleagues and I are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

Make no mistake, we will hold true to our values but we are genuine in our interest in creating a better discourse.

We do this with a sense of duty, a sense of hope, and with an eye to the future of our state.

We are privileged to hold these positions. They are positions of consequence and possibility.

History will remember the policies we undertake that create long-term investments for our state.

History will remember our hard work toward sustainable improvements in people’s lives.

History, however, will not remember the cheap politics of the moment.

I am hopeful we can rise above our divisive times and strive to be better.

With Governor Evers’ re-election, I am hopeful we can work together in pursuit of the commonsense policies the people across our state voted for when they elected him to a 2nd term with an even larger margin than 2018: strong public schools, strengthening our democracy, continuing to invest in our transportation infrastructure, and supporting our local units of government.

These are not Democratic values or Republican values. Just Wisconsin values.

Let us all aim to make this session one that is remembered for the positive work we do for the people. And for building a better way of doing things as colleagues.

Thank you, Mr. President.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

The joint committee on **Legislative Organization** reported and recommended:

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2023-2024 biennial session period.

Introduction.

Ayes: 9 – Senator Kapenga, Representative Vos, Senators LeMahieu, Feyen and Agard, Representatives August, Plumer, Neubauer and Haywood.

Noes: 1 – Senator Smith.

CHRIS KAPENGA

Senate Chairperson

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2023-2024 biennial session period.

By the joint committee on **Legislative Organization**.

The question was: Adoption of **Senate Joint Resolution 1**?

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 26; noes, 6; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes - Senators Agard, Ballweg, Bradley, Cabral-Guevara, Cowles, Felzkowski, Feyen, Hutton, Jacque, Jagler, James, L. Johnson, Kapenga, LeMahieu, Marklein, Nass, Quinn, Roys, Stafsholt, Stroebel, Taylor, Testin, Tomczyk, Wanggaard, Wimberger and Wirch - 26.

Noes - Senators Carpenter, Hesselbein, Larson, Pfaff, Smith and Spreitzer - 6.

Absent or not voting - None - 0.

Adopted.

Senator LeMahieu, with unanimous consent, asked that all action be immediately messaged to the Assembly:

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Messaged.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADJOURNMENT HONORS, AND REMARKS UNDER SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

Senator Jacque, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2023 inaugural; Bill and Sue Vanevenhoven of Wrightstown.

Senator Carpenter, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate adjourn in honor and memory of Dorothy Helmenstine who sadly passed away on December 26, 2022. Dorothy was a beloved friend and always provided tremendous support to Senator Carpenter, who will cherish her memory.

Senator Carpenter, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn in honor of the constituents of the 3rd State Senate District, and his staff for their support, as well as extend his gratitude for the work of the nonpartisan staff of the legislative service agencies. He looks forward to the opportunities to work together in the new session.

Senator Larson, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2023 inaugural; wife Jessica, daughter Stella, and son Atticus.

Senator Nass, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2023 inaugural; Sheila Reiff, Ashleigh Nordin, Jim Schildbach, and Zachary Malisow.

Senator Spreitzer, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2023 inaugural; his husband, Philip Gorman; his parents, Richard and Carole Spreitzer; his brother, Tony Spreitzer; his mother-in-law, Marilee Gorman; retiring Senator Janis Ringhand; former Senator Judy Robson and John Kalkirtz; friends Vito Gabriele and Zak Williams; and his staff, Doug Hyant, Laura Pratt, and Trinity Fandre.

Senator Cabral-Guevara, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2023 inaugural; Jean Hlavacek, Emilio Guevara, Lars Cabral, Dan Faestel, and Brian McKinnon.

Senator Wanggaard, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2023 inaugural; his son Joshua V. Wanggaard, brother-in-law John J. Mizer, nephew Max A. Hynek, and Family friend from the Netherland, Johannes Amtz.

Senator Wanggaard, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate adjourn in honor of his brother Kevin Wanggaard who died unexpectedly of a stroke/aneurysm in april and sister Lynn Wanggaard – Laetner who succumbed to complications from cancer this past 2022 year, Both will be sadly missed but not forgotten.

Senator Wanggaard, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate adjourn in honor of his daughter Kathleen D. Jensen who has been diagnosed with cancer these past several weeks and remains firmly committed to a positive attitude and faithful to her faith that Jesus will heal her from this illness. Her genuine compassion for others and ability to build relationships has brought hundreds of people together of numerous denominations and church communities in prayer in her healing.

Senator Wanggaard, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate adjourn in honor of all the courageous victims of cancer, their families and friends and the many medical providers who offer support, understanding, and compassionate care every day.

Senator James, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2023 inaugural; Vicki James, Ally James, Jon and Christian Dircks, Victoria Casola, Nate Cera, Mitch Goettl, and Maddy Hunt.

Senator Hesselbein, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2023 inaugural; Bob Hesselbein, Will Edmundson, Annika Edmundson, Katie Hesselbein, Megan Kennedy, Mike Chapman, and Natalie Kobe.

Senator Kapenga, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2023 inaugural; Sophie Kapenga, Cari Kapenga, Wendy Szafranski, Luke Szafranski, Cal Szafranski, Millie Szafranski, Vianne Szafranski, and Stella Szafranski.

Senate Chief Clerk Mike Queensland, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate adjourns in honor of his wife, Liz, and his sons, Grayson and Hunter.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator LeMahieu, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate stand adjourned until Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

Adjourned.

3:12 P.M.