



STATE OF WISCONSIN Senate Journal

One-Hundred and Seventh Regular Session

2:08 P.M.

MONDAY, January 6, 2025

The Senate met.

The Senate was called to order by Senate President Kapenga.

The Senate stood for the prayer which was offered by Pastor Emily Lueder from the First Presbyterian Church in Winneconne.

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

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

The National Anthem was performed by the New London High School Chamber Ensemble.

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

Remarks of Majority Leader LeMahieu

“Good afternoon, everyone, and thank you for joining us for the Inauguration of the 107th Regular Session of the Wisconsin State Senate. I’d like to especially welcome members of the Governor’s cabinet, the heads of the legislative services agencies, Senators and their friends and families, and Judge Maria Lazar for taking time to swear in the new members of the Senate today.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this body, in the State Senate. Our constituents count on us to lead and govern responsibly and honorably.

Thank you all again for being here for this special occasion.”

State of Wisconsin Wisconsin Elections Commission

December 9, 2024

The Honorable, the Senate:

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the official canvass of the November 5, 2024 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 5, 2024

I, Commissioner Ann Jacobs, 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 cities, villages, towns, wards and election districts in said counties on the Fifth day of November, 2024.

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

2 nd District	Eric Wimberger
4 th District	Dora Drake
6 th District	LaTonya Johnson
8 th District	Jodi Habush Sinykin
10 th District	Rob Stafsholt
12 th District	Mary Felzkowski
14 th District	Sarah Keyeski
16 th District	Melissa Ratcliff
18 th District	Kristin Alfheim
20 th District	Daniel Feyen
22 nd District	Robert W. Wirsch
24 th District	Patrick Testin
26 th District	Kelda Helen Roys
28 th District	Julian Bradley
30 th District	Jamie Wall
32 nd District	Brad Pfaff

Done in the City of Milwaukee, this 29th day of November 2024.

ANN JACOBS
Commissioner, Chairperson
Wisconsin Elections Commission

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

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Wimberger

“Born and raised in De Pere, Eric graduated from East De Pere High School and attended St. Cloud State University. There he served as student body president and graduated with a degree in criminal justice. He drove semi-trucks for Schneider National before enrolling in Marquette University Law School. Upon graduation, he commissioned in the United States Marine Corps and served as a Judge Advocate stationed in Japan and Washington DC. Eric was honorably discharged as a Captain and returned home to Green Bay in 2010 where he continued his service to the community by opening a local law practice.

Eric remains dedicated to giving back, including through his work as a board member with the philanthropic Cloud Family Foundation. He is also dedicated to helping his mom, Wendy, run Sweet Memories Candy Shoppe in Lakewood.”

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Drake

“Dora Drake is a born and raised Milwaukeean who grew up in the Graceland neighborhood. She was accepted into the Educational Opportunities Program at Marquette University and graduated with a Bachelor’s in Social Welfare and Justice in 2015. Dora, herself, was a first generation student who now focuses on tangible policies and strives to create results people can see in their daily lives.

By focusing on literacy and opportunities for our youth, fostering economic stability for families, building criminal justice initiatives, and creating a space for vital re-entry services, she paves the way for a brighter and more equitable future for her constituents. She was proud to represent the 11th Assembly District, which is located on the north side of Milwaukee. She enjoys connecting with her constituents to listen to any concerns for themselves and their community, supporting their aspirations, and being a resource for opportunities. She looks forward to continue representing those same constituents and more as a Senator now in the Brilliant 4th Senate District.

As a Senator, Dora will work as the ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Service while also working on the Senate Committees on Health and the Joint Committee on Criminal Penalties. Furthermore, she will lead as the Assistant Vice Chair of the Senate Democrat Caucus as well as the Chair of the Wisconsin Legislative Black Caucus.”

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Johnson

“Senator LaTonya Johnson represents the 6th Senate District, which includes Milwaukee’s north and west sides as well as a portion of Wauwatosa. The district is home to some of Wisconsin’s most vibrant communities, universities and entertainment centers, including the Wisconsin Center District, Fiserv Forum, Marquette University and America’s Black Holocaust Museum.

First elected to the Wisconsin Senate in 2016, Senator Johnson previously served two terms in the State Assembly representing Milwaukee’s 17th District. As a former daycare owner, she also made history by helping to organize the state’s first child care union, AFSCME Local 502, she also served as president, and led efforts to improve the lives of children, their families, and in-home daycare providers throughout the state of Wisconsin. She remains a proud, dues-paying member to this day.

Born in La Grange, Tennessee, Senator Johnson moved to Milwaukee over 35 years ago. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice from the HBCU Tennessee State University. Senator Johnson lives in Milwaukee with the company of many four-legged companions and has one daughter, Sydney.”

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Habush Sinykin

“Senator Jodi Habush Sinykin is proud to be sworn in to represent Wisconsin’s 8th Senate District, which includes portions of Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties, and includes a beautiful stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline. A lifelong Wisconsinite, Jodi grew up in Fox Point, attended Nicolet High School, and went on to earn her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree from Harvard Law School. She lives in Whitefish Bay with her husband, Dan, and is the proud mother of their four adult children: Sam, Elliana, Zach, and Justin.

Before joining the State Senate, Senator Habush Sinykin built a career as an environmental attorney and policy expert, working on behalf of statewide coalitions to help enact landmark legislation like the Great Lakes Compact and Wisconsin’s Puppy Mill Bill. She has also taught water policy and environmental justice at UW-Milwaukee’s School of Freshwater Sciences and spent more than a decade as a trial lawyer in Chicago and Milwaukee, including at Habush Habush and Rottier. Additionally, Senator Habush Sinykin and her husband own a manufacturing business, bringing an important perspective to her work advocating for workers and small businesses. Senator Habush Sinykin has been active with many local and statewide environmental and community organizations, which has long been part of her passion for public service, protecting our natural resources, and improving people’s lives.

Senator Habush Sinykin’s commitment to bipartisanship and her belief in the importance of collaborative leadership have guided her journey into public service. Her decision to run for the State Senate in 2023 and again in 2024 was fueled by a desire to make government work for Wisconsin families and communities. With a focus on common-sense solutions and a dedication to serving her constituents, Senator Habush Sinykin brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for advancing the values that make Wisconsin strong.”

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Stafsholt

“A life long resident of St. Croix County, Rob Stafsholt graduated from New Richmond Public Schools and attended

the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

A proud father and dedicated community member, Rob has built a diverse career as a farmer, business owner, and coach. Rob has owned and operated a waste disposal company and a residential rental and real estate investment business. He was formally a co-owner of a salad and food dressings manufacturing company, and worked as a mortgage loan originator. He also gave back to the community as a volunteer coach for the New Richmond-Somerset High School trap team. An active member of numerous groups and associations, Rob is a life member of the NRA and a member of the New Richmond Chamber of Commerce. He previously served on the Erin Prairie Township planning commission and the Wisconsin Association of Mortgage Brokers.

Rob was first elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 2016 and 2018 before being elected to the State Senate in 2020 and 2024. He continues to advocate for his constituents and work for the betterment of Wisconsin.”

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Felzkowski

“Senate President Mary Felzkowski was born and raised in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. She is a graduate of Tomahawk High School and went on to receive her bachelor’s degree in economics and finance from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

Mary has owned and operated C.I.S. Insurance Group in Tomahawk for 40 years. She is married with five children and five grandchildren. Throughout the years, she served on various boards both local and national, and she is a lifetime member of the NRA.

Mary was first elected to the Assembly in 2012 and was the Assistant Majority Leader in 2019. She was elected to the Senate in 2020 where she has chaired committees on insurance, forestry, and small business. Senator Felzkowski has spent 4 sessions on the Joint Finance Committee, serving on the committee in both the Assembly and the Senate. Mary is beginning her second term in the State Senate and her first as Senate President.”

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Keyeski

“Senator Sarah Keyeski is the newly elected senator representing the 14th Senate District, which includes all of Richland and Sauk counties and parts of Adams, Columbia, Dane, Juneau, and Vernon counties. This district is primarily in the beautiful driftless region and is home to Devil’s Lake State Park, the Wisconsin Dells, Circus World Museum, the Dane County Airport, Lake Wisconsin and the Pine River Recreation Trail.

Senator Keyeski grew up on a family farm in Cashton, Wisconsin with her parents and four siblings. Her dad was a dairy farmer and a union railroad worker, and her mom was a registered nurse. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Luther College in Iowa and then her master’s degree in psychology from Northwestern University in Illinois and became a licensed professional counselor. She has worked as a mental health provider for the past 25 years at a rural clinic

and for the past six years she has also had her own private practice. Senator Keyeski was the founder of a local non-profit organization, “Lift Lodi,” which was formed following the COVID-19 crisis with the mission of cultivating a sense of community connectedness through devoted days of service uplifting Lodi’s shared environment.

Senator Keyeski has lived a life of service because of the example set by her parents. She finds deep purpose in improving the lives of others in her career and in a variety of volunteer efforts, from being a Girl Scout Leader to participating in mission trips and serving on multiple boards. Keyeski is honored and excited to serve in her new capacity as a legislator representing the 14th District.

Senator Keyeski is married to her husband, Rod, and together they raise six children, Max, Jack, Addison, Harrison, Josie and Ellie. She enjoys spending time with her family, doing anything creative and hiking on the Ice Age State Trail.”

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Ratcliff

“Senator Melissa Ratcliff has deep roots in the new 16th Senate District. The district includes Cottage Grove, Sun Prairie, Fitchburg, Stoughton, Cambridge, Fort Atkinson, an area on Madison’s far east side, two townships in Dodge County, and communities across eastern Dane County and western Jefferson County.

Senator Ratcliff brings a unique perspective to our work. She has served at multiple levels of government including on the Cottage Grove Village Board, the Dane County Board and in the State Assembly. Her commitment to her local communities is deep and extensive. She is an active volunteer for numerous civic groups...it is a long list! She was honored as Ally of the Year for 2024 by the Sun Prairie’s Colonial Club and is a founding member of the Miracle League of Dane County.

Throughout all her public service, Senator Ratcliff has focused on defending reproductive rights, advocating for the health and safety of our LGBTQ+ neighbors, expanding access to broadband, increasing housing affordability, and family friendly policies including access to affordable childcare.

Senator Ratcliff was born in Green Bay, grew up in Wausau and graduated from Wausau East High School. No stranger to hard work, she worked third shift before earning her Paralegal certificate. Senator Ratcliff lives in Cottage Grove with her two children Dan and Adeline and their two dogs, Lucy and Ricky. After starting a 10,000 step-a-day streak during the fall campaign (a streak that continues!), she gets outside often to hike and enjoys spending time with her family.”

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Dassler-Alfheim

“Joining the State Senate this year, Kristin Dassler-Alfheim represents Senate District 18, which encompasses the cities of Oshkosh, Neenah, Menasha, and Appleton. The district is home to two traditional four year universities, UW-

Oshkosh and Lawrence University, and a two-year tech school, Fox Valley Technical College.

Prior to serving as a State Senator, Dassler-Alfheim spent her career as an agency manager and retirement planner, working to help middle-class families navigate the complexities of retirement. For many years she was active as an advocate for both the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and the Alzheimer's Association, where she helped to build bipartisan coalitions in the statehouse.

In 2020, Dassler-Alfheim realized the importance of local government and chose to run for her local alderperson seat, winning and serving on the Appleton City Council. While in office, she worked to ensure that local government was responsive to the needs of its citizens, and helped to pass city ordinances that provided funds for a new library and ensured that the city's tax dollars were spent efficiently.

Dassler-Alfheim is proud to represent her 98 year old grandmother and beloved family who joins her in chambers today, and she feels privileged to be serving as a State Senator for her community. She is excited to bring her skills in coalition-building to work in the Capitol to pass pragmatic, bipartisan legislation that uplifts the people of Wisconsin."

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Feyen

"Dan Feyen is the Assistant Majority Leader of the Wisconsin State Senate, serving since 2019. First elected in 2016, he represents the 20th Senate District, which includes parts of Dodge, Fond du Lac, Ozaukee, Sheboygan and Washington Counties. He chairs the Senate committee on Government Operations, Labor and Economic Development and serves on several other committees. In addition to his legislative work, Senator Feyen serves on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and the Southeast Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District.

Born and raised in New Holstein, Wisconsin, he earned a degree in printing from Fox Valley Technical College. He resides in Fond du Lac with his wife, Lori, and their two children, a daughter who is a teacher and a son who is an auditor. Both are proud UW-Madison graduates."

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Wirsch

"Robert W. Wirsch was born in Kenosha in 1943 and never left, dedicating his life to the people of his community and the great state of Wisconsin. He attended Mary D. Bradford High School in Kenosha, and entered the workforce after graduation. While working at the American Brass Company, Senator Wirsch attended night classes at the University of Wisconsin – Parkside in order to obtain his bachelor's degree, which he did in 1970. On top of his job and studies, Wirsch served his nation as a member of the United States Army Reserves from 1965-1971.

Senator Wirsch's political career began with his work at American Brass, where he was a member of the United Steelworkers union, serving in multiple leadership positions in his local including as vice president. He served eight years

on the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors, and in 1992 was elected to his first term as a Representative in the State Assembly. After two terms in the Assembly, he was elected to the State Senate in 1996 and has held the seat ever since."

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Testin

"Patrick Testin grew up in Marinette, Wisconsin and graduated from Marinette High School in 2006. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from UW-Stevens Point in 2011, where he was active in student government.

Elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 2016, Patrick has served in leadership roles including President Pro Tempore and Majority Caucus Vice Chair. Patrick is an active member of his community, contributing his time and leadership to organizations like the Stevens Point Elk Lodge 641, the Ignite Leadership Network of Portage County, and the Wisconsin Wing of the Civil Air Patrol Legislative Squadron."

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Roys

"Senator Kelda Helen Roys is an attorney, entrepreneur, small business owner, and former nonprofit executive. She represents Wisconsin's 26th Senate District, which includes most of Madison and several surrounding communities.

Sen. Roys is entering her second term in the State Senate, where she will continue to fight for reproductive freedom, economic opportunity, and great public education for every child in Wisconsin.

Sen. Roys received her BA in Drama, Politics, and Cultural Studies magna cum laude from New York University and her JD magna cum laude from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she worked on the Innocence Project. After spending four years as executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin, she was elected twice to the State Assembly and served as Democratic Caucus Chair. In 2013, she founded OpenHomes, a real estate brokerage serving customers throughout southern Wisconsin, which she continues to run. Sen. Roys is a member of the Joint Committee on Finance, Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, and Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. Kelda has earned many legislative awards and fellowships and has been an active community leader for decades, serving on many boards.

Kelda and her spouse, Dan, live in Madison with their children. Kelda thanks her family for all their support and love, and for being here today, especially Arcadia and Avalon."

Senator LeMahieu Introduced Senator Bradley

"Julian Bradley knows the American dream is alive and well because he's lived it. Born into poverty, Julian learned the values of honesty, diligence and perseverance from his mother, who raised him and his two siblings by herself.

Julian's journey has taken him down many unique paths and all over the country. He first distinguished himself as a professional wrestler, leading to his eventual induction into the WXX Wrestling Hall of Fame. He successfully climbed the ladder in business, managing successful sales and

operations teams in both the telecommunications and insurance industries.

In 2020, Julian made history becoming the first black republican elected to serve in the Wisconsin State Senate. He came in with a mission to put his conservative principals to work in order to solve problems and get results for his constituents. He's done just that. He's earned a reputation as a taxpayer champion, a public safety advocate, and a leader for literacy. He's also had a hand in authoring two successful constitutional amendments to help improve our justice system and election security. In his second term, he's looking forward to being a member of the Joint Finance Committee and crafting a budget that strengthens Wisconsin.

A resident of New Berlin, Julian is an avid sports fan, namely football and baseball and enjoys giving back to his community. When he's not attending various games or events with his family and friends, Julian spends his free time volunteering with a particular focus on helping young people with career readiness and literacy."

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Wall

"Jamie Wall is the new senator from the 30th District in the heart of Brown County, including Ashwaubenon, Allouez, Bellevue, and De Pere, almost all of Green Bay, and portions of the Towns of Ledgeview and Rockland. The district is home to Lambeau Field, Bay Beach, the National Railroad Museum, and Heritage Hill State Historical Park. US News recently named the Green Bay metro as the single best place to live in America.

Senator Wall was born in Green Bay and raised on his family's small dairy farm in southern Brown County. A first-generation college student, Jamie earned degrees from UW – Madison and Oxford and worked on both coasts before coming home to Green Bay, where he has lived most of his adult life. He started and ran his own small business advising companies in Wisconsin and throughout the country on how to find and implement solutions to difficult problems. He also spent a couple of years running Wisconsin's economic development programs, working with large and small businesses across the state to create jobs.

Jamie is active in his community, serving as vice president of the Green Bay Water Commission and as treasurer of his local neighborhood association. He is a former board member of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation and the Clean Wisconsin Action Fund. He and his cat Gertrude live in the Astor East River neighborhood of Green Bay."

Senator Hesselbein Introduced Senator Pfaff

"Senator Brad Pfaff serves the people of the 32nd Senate District, which includes all of La Crosse and Vernon Counties, along with parts of Monroe and Trempealeau Counties. He is beginning his second term in the Wisconsin State Senate representing the Driftless Region.

Senator Pfaff is a proud son of the rolling hills, coulees, and valleys of northern La Crosse County where his family has lived since they first came this country in the mid-1800s. He learned the value of hard work, resilience, appreciation

for the land, and respect for his community while growing up on his family's dairy farm.

Brad has spent the majority of his career working for the people of Wisconsin. He served in senior positions with the US Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency in the Obama Administration and as the Secretary-designee of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Previously, Senator Pfaff held positions in the Offices of US Representative Ron Kind and US Senator Herb Kohl.

Brad met his wife, Betty, a West Salem native, while he was a senior in high school at a 4-H leadership luncheon. They are the proud parents of two children."

OATH OF OFFICE

Upon the calling of the newly elected Senators on Monday, January 6, 2025 the following appeared before the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office in the Senate Chamber, which was administered by the Honorable Maria S. Lazar, Wisconsin Court of Appeals Judge, District 2:

Eric Wimberger	Dora Drake
LaTonya Johnson	Jodi Habush Sinykin
Rob Stafsholt	Mary Felzkowski
Sarah Keyeski	Melissa Ratcliff
Kristin Dassler-Alfheim	Dan Feyen
Robert W. Wirsch	Patrick Testin
Kelda Helen Roys	Julian Bradley
Jamie Wall	Brad Pfaff

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 Bradley, Cabral-Guevara, Carpenter, Dassler-Alfheim, Drake, Felzkowski, Feyen, Habush Sinykin, Hesselbein, Hutton, Jacque, Jagler, James, L. Johnson, Kapenga, Keyeski, Larson, LeMahieu, Marklein, Nass, Pfaff, Quinn, Ratcliff, Roys, Smith, Spreitzer, Stafsholt, Testin, Tomczyk, Wall, Wanggaard, Wimberger and Wirsch - 33.

Absent with leave - None - 0.

INTRODUCTION, FIRST READING, AND REFERENCE OF PROPOSALS

Read first time and referred:

Senate Joint Resolution 2

Relating to: requiring photographic identification to vote in any election (second consideration).

By Senators Wanggaard, Bradley, Cabral-Guevara, Felzkowski, Feyen, Hutton, Jacque, Jagler, James, Kapenga, Marklein, Nass, Quinn, Stafsholt, Testin, Tomczyk,

Wimberger and LeMahieu; cosponsored by Representatives Snyder, Donovan, Allen, Armstrong, August, Behnke, Born, Brooks, Callahan, Dallman, Dittrich, Duchow, Goeben, Green, Gundrum, Gustafson, Hurd, B. Jacobson, Kitchens, Knodl, Kreibich, Naylor, Maxey, Melotik, Moses, Murphy, Mursau, Nedweski, Neylon, Novak, O'Connor, Penterman, Petersen, Piwowarczyk, Sortwell, Spiros, Steffen, Summerfield, Swearingen, Tittl, Tucker, Tusler, Vos, Wichgers, Wittke, Zimmerman, Kaufert, Rodriguez and Kurtz.

To the committee on **Judiciary and Public Safety**.

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 2025-2026 senate is organized.

Read.

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

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 21; noes, 12; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes - Senators Bradley, Cabral-Guevara, Felzkowski, Feyen, Habush Sinykin, Hutton, Jacque, Jagler, James, Kapenga, LeMahieu, Marklein, Nass, Quinn, Ratcliff, Stafsholt, Testin, Tomczyk, Wall, Wanggaard and Wimberger - 21.

Noes - Senators Carpenter, Dassler-Alfheim, Drake, Hesselbein, L. Johnson, Keyeski, Larson, Pfaff, Roys, Smith, Spreitzer and Wirch - 12.

Absent or not voting - None - 0.

Adopted.

SENATE OFFICERS OATH OF OFFICE

The President, Mary Felzkowski, the President Pro Tempore, Patrick Testin, 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 Honorable Maria S. Lazar, Wisconsin Court of Appeals Judge, District 2.

IN THE CHAIR

Senate President Felzkowski in the chair.

3:02 P.M.

Remarks of President Felzkowski

"First, I would like to thank all the people who made today happen: our Senate Sergeant and his staff, Mr. Rick Champaign for again stepping into the role of Chief Clerk, Pastor Emily Lueder from Winneconne, the New London High School Chamber Ensemble, VFW 7591 Color Guard, and all of the families, without whom none of us would be here today.

The gravity of this role does not escape me, nor does the short list of those who have come before me in it. As only the second woman to take the gavel, I would be remiss if I did not single out and thank Sen. Mary Lazich for her dedication and strength to blaze the trail and become the first woman to do so. Today also marks the first time a Senator who resides, and whose district is entirely, north of Highway 29 takes the gavel as Senate President. I was born and raised in Tomahawk, and will bring common-sense, Northwoods values to this body.

I will emphasize, as Sen. Lazich did, the importance of fair, honest, and open debates on this floor. In this time of sensationalized politics and 30 second Twitter clips, true debate on the Senate floor is needed more than ever. From this chair, I will ensure the right of the minority to be heard as they argue their case, while at the same time ensure that the will of the majority reigns. I will expect and encourage robust debate, but will require the dignity and respect for the rules that our constituents expect of us. To have a government of, by, and for the people, we must respect this body. As President, I will demand this respect and adherence to its rules.

Among our many roles as Senators, I believe that being good stewards of taxpayer dollars is chief. As Mr. Thomas Jefferson said, "I... place economy among the first and most important republican virtues, and public debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared." As we begin the policy debates of this session, we must remember that regardless of party, we are all here on behalf of the people of Wisconsin. They have put us in this body with the expectation of leading them, protecting our State, and ensuring that Wisconsin stays true to our values of hard work and level-headedness. This is an incredible responsibility, and a burden that I know does not fall lightly on the shoulders of every person in this body.

Again, I want to thank my colleagues for entrusting me with this Chair, my husband and children for their support, all of our fantastic Legislative staff, and the people of Wisconsin for the honor that they have given each and every one of us."

President Felzkowski introduced the Senators returning from the 106th Session: Senators Jacque, Carpenter, Hutton, Larson, LeMahieu, Nass, Jagler, Spreitzer, Marklein, Cabral-Guevara, Wanggaard, James, Quinn, Hesselbein, Tomczyk, Smith and Kapenga.

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

Remarks of Majority Leader LeMahieu

“Thank you, Mrs. President. So two years ago, I stood in this chamber and talked about the opportunity ahead of this body. I’m proud to stand here today and say that we seized it. In this chamber, we deliberate and delivered legislation that overhauled the funding of local government to make it more equitable and inflation proof. We provided K-12 schools with the largest increase in spendable resources ever, and approved the largest expansion of the school choice program since its inception. We made sure that Wisconsin remained a major league state by keeping the Milwaukee Brewers until 2050. The legislature also passed a series of tax cuts that would have benefited our economy, had not Governor Evers vetoed them. Today more opportunity awaits us. Wisconsin is approaching a crossroads. In one direction, we can create prosperity and in the other direction, we can create hardship. More than 4 billion dollars of taxpayer money is sitting in a bank account here in Madison while rising prices impact the families who sent us here to serve them. Governor Evers has made his position clear. He wants to use that money to grow the size of government and send Wisconsin backwards. In 2010, the state was facing a multibillion-dollar deficit. Schools, local governments, and the state itself were broke. It took remarkable discipline and important reform to pull Wisconsin off its path of financial ruin and put us on the path we are still on today. In this chamber, we will do everything in our power to keep Wisconsin moving on that path forward. Our top priority is returning the surplus to the taxpayers, strengthening our economy, and passing a responsible balanced budget. Outside forces will try to knock us off that path and push us toward failed liberal policies, higher taxes, bloated government, and multibillion-dollar deficits. They will fail. We will move forward by remembering where we have been. Prosperity is a policy decision. It doesn’t happen by accident, and in this chamber, we will choose prosperity for Wisconsin families through limited government and lower taxes. May god continue to bless Wisconsin and our great nation. Thank you.”

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

Remarks of Minority Leader Hesselbein

“Hello - It is an honor standing before you as the Senator of the 27th Senate District and leader of the Senate Democrats.

A warm welcome to the Senators standing before me, their staff, family and friends and those watching on Wisconsin Eye at home. This is an exciting day for the State of Wisconsin.

I’m standing before you with six new Democratic members. My colleagues, new and seasoned are eager to work across party lines to improve the lives of people living in their districts and those living across our state.

I’ve been thinking about this day for weeks, and how excited I am to work with YOU for the people of Wisconsin. I know you share that enthusiasm.

I firmly believe that - at the end of the day - more unites us than divides us. We typically agree on the goal, right? We want people to have affordable healthcare and prescription drug coverage, we want folks to live with financial security, we want parents to have healthy families, and we believe our kids should be safe in school and thrive. We want people to retire with dignity.

However, we often disagree on how we can reach solutions. My goal for this year and my challenge to each of my colleagues is to work with each other, our constituents, and experts in the field to achieve the solution.

There is a lot of dysfunction happening in Washington DC. I think we all agree on that. Let’s make a promise today that we won’t let the partisan bickering, public squabbles, nonsense, and nastiness to get into our chamber. That’s going to take work. Let’s commit to having an open door policy, to listen to ideas no matter who has them, and talk about the real issues impacting people’s lives.

Let’s show Wisconsinites that their legislators, that this Senate body is a force of good and has their best interests at heart.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

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

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2025-2026 biennial session period.

Introduction.

Ayes: 6 – Senator Felzkowski, Representative Vos, Senators LeMahieu and Feyen, and Representatives August and Krug.

Noes: 4 – Senators Hesselbein and Smith, and Representatives Neubauer and Haywood.

MARY FELZKOWSKI

Senate Chairperson

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2025-2026 biennial session period.

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

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 19; noes, 14; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes - Senators Bradley, Cabral-Guevara, Dassler-Alfheim, Felzkowski, Feyen, Hutton, Jacque, Jagler, James, Kapenga, LeMahieu, Marklein, Nass, Quinn, Stafsholt, Testin, Tomczyk, Wanggaard and Wimberger - 19.

Noes - Senators Carpenter, Drake, Habush Sinykin, Hesselbein, L. Johnson, Keyeski, Larson, Pfaff, Ratcliff, Roys, Smith, Spreitzer, Wall and Wirth - 14.

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 Cabral-Guevara, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2025 inaugural; Rev. Emily Lueder, Pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Winneconne and Weyauwega, New London High School Chamber Ensemble and Director Alex Rambo, New London Chamber Ensemble band members: Cash Allen, Zach Esser, Sydney Garza, Aubree LeClair, Addison Marsh, George Metko, Charles Sloma, Danielle Tank, and Kylee Van Pattern.

Senator Felzkowski, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2025 inaugural; her husband, Jeff Felzkowski and Dan and Darla O'Toole.

Senator Feyen, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2025 inaugural; Lori Feyen, Lacey Lakin, Fond du Lac County Executive Sam Kaufman, Washington County Executive Josh Schoemann, and Fond du Lac County District Attorney Eric Toney.

Senator Habush Sinykin, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2025 inaugural; Daniel Sunykin, Elliana Sinykin, Zachary Sinykin, Justin Sinykin, Robert Habush, Susie Sinykin, Carrie Steinberger, David Steinberger, Robert Abrahamian, Talia Gottlieb, Jim Hirsch, Laurie Laz Hirsch and Amy Mueller.

Senator Kapenga, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2025 inaugural; his wife, Cari Kapenga.

Senator Keyeski, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate adjourn in honor of her husband, Rodney, and her six

remarkable kids, Maxwell, Jackson, Addison, Harrison, Josephine and Elizabeth. Anyone who has ever run for office knows it is truly a family affair, and Senator Keyeski is so grateful to have had them in her corner over the past year. They had to forgo a lot of time with their mom during the campaign, but her hope is they saw an example of how to live your values and be of service to the greater good. Senator Keyeski couldn't be prouder to have them sitting on the Senate Floor watching her be sworn in, and she will work tirelessly to protect and promote our state for their futures and the futures of all our children."

Senator Nass, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2025 inaugural; Sheila T. Reiff, Caryn Rothschild and Don Rutkowski.

Senator Pfaff, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2025 inaugural; his wife, Betty Pfaff, and his daughter, Lizzie Pfaff.

Senator Ratcliff, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2025 inaugural; Adeline Ratcliff, Daniel Ratcliff, Edward J. Wreh, II, Kim Turner, Natalie Naze, Jennifer Moran, Emma Moran, Nicki Vander Meulen, Madison Kriener, Thomas Parr, Heidi Murphy and Steve J. Eisenberg.

Senator Roys, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2025 inaugural; her parents, Krista Roys and William O'Connor, her husband Dan Reed, and her daughters, Arcadia and Avalon.

Senator Spreitzer, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2025 inaugural; his husband, Philip Gorman.

Senator Wimberger, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2025 inaugural; Fred Krumberger, Marian Krumberger and Wendy Wimberger.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator LeMahieu, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate stand adjourned until Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Adjourned.

3:17 P.M.