

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate January 4, 2023

FOLEY: Good morning. Welcome to George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the first day of the One Hundred Eighth Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Dorn. Please rise.

DORN: Please join me in a word of prayer. Dear Heavenly Father, as we gather on this first day of a new session we thank you for giving each one of us the opportunity to serve the people of this state. We ask that you watch over each member, everyone in our families, and on our staff during the long hours and the miles that we will travel these next few months. We ask for your wisdom and your guidance as we deal with the many issues that will come before us. Thank you that we do not need to carry the important-- oop, excuse me, I'll go back here-- before us remembering that the citizens of Nebraska are depending upon us to make just and fair decisions. Thank you that we do not need to carry this important burden alone, but that we can depend on you for insight, strength, compassion, and understanding. We pray that you will grow the bonds of friendship among every member of this body and enable us to work together for the good of every one affected by our actions. We do not take our responsibilities lightly, and we humbly ask for your blessing on this One Hundred Eighth legislative session. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Dorn. If you could all please remain standing, we'll now have the presentation of the colors from the Nebraska State Patrol Color Guard. Senator Aguilar. Senator Aguilar, if you'd please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGUILAR: Please join me in the pledge. I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

FOLEY: Please be seated. Pursuant to the provisions of Article III, Section 10 of the Constitution of Nebraska, the One Hundred Eighth Legislature, First Session of the Legislature of Nebraska assembled in the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber of the State Capitol at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, is now called to order. Members, if you can please press your green button and check in. Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There's a quorum present, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Before proceeding, Senator Albrecht would like us to recognize Dr. David Hoelting of Pender, Nebraska, who is serving us today as family physician of the day. Dr. Hoelting is with us under the north

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balcony. Doctor, please rise, would like to welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. We'll now proceed to the appointment of temporary officers. The Chair recognizes Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Thank you. I move to appoint Mr. Brandon Metzler as temporary Clerk of the Legislature and Mr. Burdette Burkhart as temporary Sergeant at Arms.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Vargas. The motion before you is the appointment of temporary officers. All those in favor say aye. Any opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, do you have resignation and appointment letters, please?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. First, a communication from the Governor concerning the appointment of Senator Kauth to District 31. Additionally, a letter from former Senator Mike Flood on his notice of resignation and a letter from the Governor as well concerning the appointment of Senator Dover to District 19. A letter from-- excuse me-- Senator-- former Senator Mike Hilgers concerning his letter of resignation and a letter from the Governor concerning the appointment of Senator Ballard to District 21 in his place. It's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair recognizes Senator Hunt for a motion.

HUNT: Mr. President, I move that we proceed to the election of five persons to serve to the Committee on Credentials, who will forthwith report to the Legislature on the credentials of those claiming to be elected to the Legislature in the general election of November 2022. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hunt. Members, you heard the motion. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. I hereby appoint the following five members to the committee: Senators Aguilar, Conrad, Blood, Bostelman, and Erdman. All those in favor of that committee say aye. Those opposed say nay. Would those five members, please retire to the rear of the Chamber and join with the Clerk and the Secretary of State. Mr. Clerk, you're recognized.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a report from the Secretary of State certifying that all election returns, abstracts, canvasses, and appointment records with reference to said members are on file in the office of the Secretary of State and are a matter of public record. It's all I have at this time.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair recognizes Senator Brandt for a motion.

BRANDT: Mr. President, I move to approve the Committee on Credentials Report as certified and presented by the Secretary of State.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Brandt. The motion before you is to approve the report of the Committee on Credentials. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The report is adopted. Chair now recognizes Senator Murman for a motion.

MURMAN: Mr. President, I move that the committee of five be appointed to escort the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to the Legislative Chamber for the purpose of administering [SIC] oath of office to the members of the Legislature.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Murman. The motion before you is to select a committee of five to escort the Chief Justice. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. The Chair now appoints the following five senators to the escort committee: Senators Wayne, Slama, John Cavanaugh, McDonnell, and Geist. Will that committee of five, please retire to the Clerk of the Supreme Court's Office to escort the Chief Justice to the Chamber for the purposes of administering the oath. The Chair recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your Committee now escorting the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the great state of Nebraska, Mike Heavican.

FOLEY: The Chair recognizes the Chief Justice.

MIKE HEAVICAN: Thank you very much and you all can be seated, except those of you who need to be sworn in. And I will read those names: Senator Robert Clements, Senator Brad van-- von Gillern, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, Senator Megan Hunt, Senator Wendy DeBoer, Senator Merv Riepe, Senator John Arch, Senator Ben Hansen, Senator Christy Armendariz, Senator John Fredrickson, Senator Beau Ballard, Senator Mike Moser, Senator Janet-- Jana Hughes, Senator George Dungan III, Senator Jane Raybould, Senator Myron Dorn, Senator Kathleen Kauth, Senator Tom Brandt, Senator Loren Lippincott, Senator Richard Holdcroft, Senator David Murman, Senator Barry DeKay, Senator Mike Jacobson, Senator Teresa Ibach, Senator Danielle Conrad, Senator Brian Hardin. And I believe that is everybody. If there is anybody who has been elected or reelected whose name I did not call, please let, let us know. And you've all found a place down here in front. That's very good. Now, if you would please raise your right hand. Do each of you

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solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of Nebraska state legislators according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either I so swear or I so affirm. Thank you very much. Congratulations. You may take your seats.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice. Would the escort committee, please assist the Chief Justice as he departs the Chamber. Members, the next item of business is the consideration of temporary rules. Because we have such a large delegation of new members, I might just say a word or two about temporary rules. In your desk drawer in front of you, you'll find a book of this color. It is the rules of the prior Legislature. That's kind of a starting point for consideration of temporary rules. A Legislature cannot bind a future Legislature. So at this point in our proceedings, we've been operating under Mason's rules. Now we're going to make a transition to legislative rules. Mason-- Mason's rules for those of you who are not familiar, is a compendium of rules written about 85 years ago. It's been rewritten and edited over all these decades. It's published by the National Conference of State Legislatures. And we now transition from Mason's rules to legislative rules. Legislative rules, pursuant to Mason's can be adopted on a majority vote, which would be 25 votes in this case. It is an amendable motion. It is a debatable motion. I don't have any amendments pending. And when we get to permanent rules, which would be, I don't know, a week or so at the discretion of the Speaker, then you'll have another discussion of rules. But that will occur on permanent rules discussion later. With all of that as a background, I recognize Senator Clements for a motion.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the rules as now in our possession be adopted for today through day 12, Friday, January 20, 2023.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Clements. Members, you heard the motion to adopt temporary rule. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. We now move to the election of permanent officers. The Chair recognizes Senator Arch.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the following officers recommended by the Executive Board be elected to serve for the One Hundred Eighth Legislature: Clerk of the Legislature, Brandon Metzler; Assistant Clerk of the Legislature, Richard K. Brown; Sergeant at Arms, Burdette Burkhart.

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FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Now, for family members, we've enjoyed having your presence on the floor here today. However, at this time we'll now be proceeding to the election of Speaker. And we'll need to ask you to please move under the balconies and let the senators get on with their business. We'll take a moment just to allow you to do that. Members, please come to order. Senator Briese, you're recognized for a motion.

BRIESE: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the Speaker of the Legislature. Thank you.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to proceed to election of a Speaker. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We shall proceed. Members, as we consider candidates for various leadership positions, those interested in running for those positions through normal traditional practice would simply press their light indicating an opportunity to speak and nominate themselves. Senator Arch, you're recognized.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you. I rise today as a candidate for Speaker of the Legislature. I would consider it an honor to serve in this capacity. I believe that my experience in hospital administration as a career, as well as my experience in the Legislature by chairing the HHS committee and two other special committees in my first four years, have prepared me well for this position. I have successfully managed complex relationships and complex processes, both of which are critical to success as Speaker. As I see it, the role of Speaker has two essential functions. The first is the obvious, to manage the legislative process for consideration of bills and resolutions. This is an important role to the functioning of the body. But the second is less obvious. The Speaker can positively influence the culture of the Legislature to promote productive debate and decision-making. We have large issues in our society with a lack of respect for politicians and the political process, some of which unfortunately has been well-earned. I am deeply concerned that we strengthen trust in the institution which is done by our processes and our behavior. From my perspective after four years, I believe there are two essential components to creating a healthy culture that I would want to model and foster if elected Speaker. The first essential component is healthy relationships. There are 49 of us in this room who will make the decisions that come before us. Each one of us came with a desire to make the state of Nebraska a better place to live, work, raise a family, and retire. And we would almost certainly be unanimous on many desired outcomes. Some examples:

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excellent education for every student, equal justice under the law, a motivated and well-educated workforce, equal opportunity to improve lives, good stewardship of taxpayer dollars. My point is that we have a starting point for healthy relationships if we don't forget our agreement on the ultimate goals. Our debate then becomes the best way to achieve those goals, and we will have debate. The second essential component is healthy communication. Communication is hard work and takes time, and it is very hard to find the time when the session starts rolling. But there is no replacement for good communication amongst the members. Misunderstandings are the result of poor or lack of communication talking about each other instead of talking to each other. Misunderstandings lead to unnecessary conflict, which we need to avoid. So here's my commitment to you if elected your Speaker. I will work to listen. I will seek to understand. I will attempt to clearly communicate. I would consider it a privilege to serve you. And I ask for your vote today to serve as your Speaker. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Arch. Are there any further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders, you're recognized for a motion.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nomination be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Arch, Speaker.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Arch, Speaker by acclamation. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Speaker Arch. Chair recognizes Senator Ibach.

IBACH: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that a committee of five be appointed to escort the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to the Legislative Chamber for the purpose of administering the oath of office to the officers of the legislation [SIC].

FOLEY: Thank you. The motion before you is to select a committee of five to escort the Chief Justice to administer the oath of office to the officers who have been selected. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. The Chair now appoints the following committee to escort the Chief Justice: Senators Riepe, Sanders, Bostar, Halloran, and McKinney. If those five would please retire to the Clerk's Office of the Supreme Court to escort the Chief Justice back to the Chamber. Members, please come to order. Chair recognizes Sergeant at Arms.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your Committee now escorting the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the great state of Nebraska, Mike Heavican.

FOLEY: The Chair recognizes the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court.

MIKE HEAVICAN: Thank you very much, Mr. President. You may be seated. And now I will be swearing in the new Speaker of the Legislature, John Arch; the Clerk of the Legislature, Brandon Metzler, the Assistant Clerk of the Legislature, Richard Brown, and the Sergeant at Arms, Burdette Burkhart, beginning with the new Speaker of the Legislature, Senator John Arch. Senator Arch, please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duty of Speaker of the Legislature according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either I so swear or I so affirm.

ARCH: I so swear.

MIKE HEAVICAN: Thank you very much and congratulations. And now the new Clerk of the Legislature, Brandon Metzler. Do you-- please raise your right hand. Do you, Brandon Metzler, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of Clerk of the Legislature according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either I so swear or I so affirm.

CLERK: I so swear.

MIKE HEAVICAN: Thank you very much. Congratulations. And now the longtime Assistant Clerk of the Legislature, Richard K. Brown. Please raise your right hand. Do you, Richard K. Brown, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of Assistant Clerk of the Legislature according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either I so swear or I so affirm.

ASSISTANT CLERK: I so swear.

MIKE HEAVICAN: Thank you very much. Congratulations. And the Sergeant at Arms, Burdette Burkhart. Please raise your right hand. Do you, Burdette Burkhart, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of

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Nebraska and will faithfully discharge the duties of Sergeant at Arms according to the best of your ability? If so, please answer either I so swear or I so affirm.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: I so affirm.

MIKE HEAVICAN: Thank you very much. Congratulations. And that concludes this round of swearing-in.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chief Justice. Will the escort committee please assist the Chief as he departs the Chamber. Members, please come to order. Senator Geist, you're recognized for a motion.

GEIST: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of Committee on Committees.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to proceed with the election of the Chair of Committee and Committees. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We shall proceed. Senator Albrecht, you're recognized.

ALBRECHT: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues and friends, I rise to place my name in nomination for Chairperson of the Committee on Committees. First of all, I'd like to start by congratulating Speaker Arch on his election. I'm looking forward to working with him. Only six short years ago, I came to the Legislature in a class of 18 members. Throughout my time in the Legislature, I've served on many different committees. Over the past two years, I've served as a member of Committee on Committees representing the 3rd Caucus, and I feel that I'm ready to step up and chair Committee on Committees. Many decisions will be made regarding committee placements. It would be an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity for the One Hundred Eighth Legislative Session. We are not just making decisions for ourselves, but we are also for the citizenry of Nebraska. I humbly ask for your vote and we'll work together to keep Nebraska strong. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Albrecht. Are there any further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Joni Albrecht, Committee on Committees Committee Chair.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. Members, you heard the motion to cease nominations and declare Senator Albrecht Chair. Those in favor

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say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Albrecht. Senator Walz, you're recognized.

WALZ: I'm in my-- yeah, I have to get ready or acclimated to the new seat here. Thank you, Mr. President. I move to proceed to the election of the remaining 12 members of the Committee on Committees, and that we authorize the members residing within each of the three districts as enumerated in Rule 3, Section 2 to nominate four members to be elected by the legislative body to serve on Committee on Committees. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank, thank you, Senator Walz. The motion before you is to elect the remaining members of the Committee on Committees. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Will each of the three caucuses please submit your report to the Clerk at the front of the Legislature. I believe we have that. Mr. Clerk, you're recognized.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Communication from the 1st District Caucus announcing Senators Bruce Bostelman, Eliot Bostar, Rita Sanders, and Mike Moser to serve on the Committee on Committees. Communication from the 2nd District Caucus stating that Senators Tony Vargas, Senators Megan Hunt, Lou Ann Linehan, Brad von Gillern will serve on the Committee on Committees. And finally, communication from the 3rd District Caucus concerning the nominations of Senators John Lowe, Dave Murman, Mike Jacobson, and Steve Erdman as members on the Committee on Committees.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair recognizes Senator Wayne for a motion.

WAYNE: Good morning, everyone. I move the approval of the nominees to the Committee on Committees.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. We'll now proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board. Chair recognizes Senator Arch for a motion.

ARCH: I move to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion. All those in favor of the motion say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Senator Briese, you're recognized.

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BRIESE: Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning. I'd first like to welcome everyone here today: colleagues, friends, family, press, legislative employees, and the legislative family that's with us here today. And I rise to nominate myself to serve as Chair of the Executive Board. As Executive Board Chair, I envision my role to be that of facilitator, moderator, mediator. My goal will be to ensure that this Legislature and its divisions run as smoothly and seamlessly as possible. I will do my best to ensure that all members of the Legislature, all employees of the Legislature, employees of the divisions of the Legislature, and all members of the public are treated with fairness and respect. At the end of the day, I would like to ensure that this Legislature is one that all Nebraskans can be proud of. And I humbly ask for your vote and your support in that endeavor. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Briese. Are there any further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Briese, Executive Board.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is to close nominations and to declare Senator Briese as Chair the Executive Board by acclamation. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Briese. Senator Wishart, you're recognized.

WISHART: Mr. President, I move to proceed to the election of the Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wishart. Members, you've heard the motion. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Nominations are now open for the Vice Chair of the Executive Board. Senator Aguilar, you're recognized.

AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body and colleagues, I, I rise to humbly nominate myself for Vice Chair of the Executive Board. I've been a member of this esteemed body for almost 12 years now. I've served on a variety of committees. I've even served as Chair of a committee. And for these reasons and my known fairness that I will establish and work together with my colleague, Senator Briese, to make everything that he said move forward. Appreciate your vote. Thank you very much.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Aguilar. Are there any other nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

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SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Aguilar, Vice Chair, Executive Board.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion is to declare the nominations closed and to declare Senator Aguilar as the Vice Chair of the Executive Board by acclamation. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Aguilar. Senator Linehan, you're recognized.

LINEHAN: Mr. President, I move to proceed to the election of the other six members of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council as outlined in 50-401.01. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Members, you've heard the motion. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, reports from the 1st District Caucus concerning the nominations of Senator Suzanne Geist and Eliot Bostar to the Executive Board. Additionally, communication from the 2nd District Caucus concerning the nominations of Senator Tony Vargas and Merv Riepe to the Executive Board. Finally, a communication from the 3rd District Caucus concerning the nominations of Senator Julie Slama and John Lowe to the Executive Board.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator McDonnell, you're recognized.

MCDONNELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the approval of the nominees to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McDonnell. Members, you heard the motion. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The caucus reports have now been adopted. We'll now move to the elections of the standing committees and select committees chairpersons. Chair recognizes Senator Riepe for a motion.

RIEPE: Thank you, Mr. President, and all of those viewers here and my fellow senators. I move to proceed with the election of the standing and select committee chairpersons in accordance with the rules in Rule 3, Section 8(a).

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Riepe. Members, you heard the motion. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. We'll now start with the Chair of the Agriculture Committee. Senator Halloran, you're recognized.

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HALLORAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues, and good morning, Nebraska. It's a very solemn and serious day today, so I need to start off with something a little on the lighter side. I promise you I will be brief and I want you to understand and I want it to be perfectly clear that I know the difference between being brief and being short. [LAUGHTER] OK. This morning, I submit my name and nomination for Chair of the Agriculture Committee. I've had the honor of the Nebraska Legislature placing me and letting me into that position for the last four years, the last two terms. As Chairman, I have drawn upon my past experience as a fifth-generation farmer, now retired, and I have also drawn upon my experience as past national president of National Farmers Organization. Both experiences have enabled me to better understand this important industry we call agriculture. Agriculture is Nebraska's largest industry, crucially important to our state. The industry is made of farmers and ranchers, men and women who are hardworking, boldly independent stewards of our natural resources, rich soils, and abundant water. A blessing from our Creator, God. Nebraska's farmers and ranchers by their independent nature are natural problem solvers. They prefer to solve their own issues within the industry without government intervention. Kudos to them. Consequently, not a large number of bills are referenced to the Agriculture Committee, and I'm OK with that. On the other hand, there are occasional issues which need legislation to govern. That is where the Agriculture Committee becomes involved to sort out the proper legislation to resolve those issues. Colleagues, I would greatly appreciate your vote as I pursue once again Chairmanship of the Agriculture Committee. Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Halloran. Are there further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Halloran, Chair, Agriculture.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to declare Senator Halloran as Chair of the Committee on Agriculture by acclamation. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Halloran. We'll now proceed to nominations for the Committee on Appropriations. Senator Clements, you're recognized.

CLEMENTS: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to present my name as candidate for Chair of the Appropriations Committee. I have served six years on the Appropriations Committee. I've had a mathematics degree

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from the University of Nebraska with minors in actuarial science and economics with honors. I've been a banker for 44 years, working on budgets and cash flows and risk reserves, and I'm familiar with the budget process and comfortable with leading this committee. The Nebraska Constitution requires a balanced budget, and I will uphold that commitment to balance the state's budget by funding the agencies that need to be funded and treating everyone fairly with priorities. Thank you, Mr. President. I ask for your support for this committee Chair.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Clements. Are there further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Clements for Appropriations Chair.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. Members, the motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to declare Senator Clements Chair of the Committee on Appropriations by acclamation. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Clements. The next Chairmanship is the Chairmanship for the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. Nominations are open. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. I rise to nominate myself for Chairman of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee and ask for your support. Many of you don't know this, but my mom has worked for Auburn State Bank in southeast Nebraska for nearly 20 years. I bring that up for two reasons. First, my mom is retiring next month and I'm really proud of her. Second, it's given me the opportunity to get to know the wonderful people that work in this important industry. My sisters and I grew up at Auburn State. We were coached in sports by Jeff, Mike, David, and Kay's husband, Coach Oliver. Sheila made alterations to our homecoming dresses in the break room and Carol baked our wedding cakes. The Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee is one of the most technical and specialized committees, but I've found in my years serving on the committee that it thrives when we complete our work with the people behind the numbers in mind. The industries under the purview of this committee employ thousands of people statewide and impact the lives of almost all Nebraskans in some way or another. You have my word that as in the tradition of Chairmen past, I will run the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee with honesty, transparency, and diligence. It would be an honor to have your support.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Slama. Are there any further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Julie Slama, Committee Chairperson for Banking, Commerce and Insurance.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. Members, you heard the motion to declare the nominations closed and to declare Senator Slama as the new Chair of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee by acclamation. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Congratulations, Senator Slama. Proceeding now to the Chairmanship of the Business and Labor Committee. Nominations are now open. Senator Riepe, you're recognized.

RIEPE: Mr. President and fellow senators and those that are viewing today, I first of all want to thank the new Speaker for pushing my button to make sure that I got on the mike and it was live. That was very generous on his part. Today, I seek your vote to chair the Business and Labor Committee. I ask for that position based on experience. My experience started out as a farm kid where we learned hard work, solid values, trust, and integrity. I had experience in the U.S. Navy. I think all of these contribute to the committee as a hospital corpsman. I later experienced working full time as a student while going to school. That was before the days when you could have student loans. I also served as a hospital administrator for nearly four years, which is a shared experience with the new Speaker. So I'm sure that we're going to hit it off and I'll get some favorable leads. Maybe not. I also worked in that process with a number of professionals and both service workers. So I think from a standpoint of working with a \$250 million a year budget and also working with a lot of people, we work with a lot of workers' comp and dealt with a lot of issues that related to business and labor. As the Business and Labor Committee, I will see us as addressing workers' comp issues, both making that affordable and available. Also working with the Court of Industrial Relations, employment laws and equal opportunity as long as workforce development. I-- how I would manage the Business and Labor Committee, it would be with a sense of determination and respect, not only for the committee members but for each of you and the interest of your various districts. I am committed to promote success for large and small communities and also for business and labor in terms of being impartial and fair as we address our committee issues. With that, I ask for your vote. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Riepe. Are there any further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

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SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Riepe, Chairman of Business and Labor.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. Members, the motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to elect Senator Riepe by acclamation to Chairman of the Business and Labor Committee. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Riepe. We'll now proceed to the Chairmanship of the Education Committee. Nominations are now open. Nominations are now open for Education Committee. Senator Murman, you're recognized.

MURMAN: Good morning, Mr. President and colleagues. I rise today to ask for my colleagues' vote to chair the Education Committee in the One Hundred Eighth Nebraska Legislature. If you are new to the body or are-- or if you are not familiar with me, I am from Glenvil, Nebraska, and represent the 38th District covering eight counties in south central and southwest Nebraska. I am a farmer and former dairy farmer. My wife Kathy and I have raised three children, Kelsi, Whitney and Chase, all of whom have been brought up through the public school system. They've brought us the joy of five grandkids. Our daughter, Whitney, has been a major blessing in our lives. She has a neurological disorder called Rett Syndrome and needs full-time care. Her lived experience has provided me with an up close view of special education in Nebraska. I have a bachelor's degree from the University of Nebraska. My wife, Kathy, attended what was Kearney State College at the time. Our daughter Kelsi and her husband Grant are graduates of the University of Nebraska. And our son Chase is a graduate of Concordia University at Seward. Education has always been a top priority for my family, including my extended family. My uncle, Elmer Murman, was head principal at Hastings High when he retired. My sister is a retired elementary teacher and her husband is a guidance counselor at a large high school in Nebraska. I have at least five nieces and nephews teaching and I have a cousin who is a research professor at UNMC and his son and another of my nephews are both medical students at UNMC. Some time ago I had the pleasure of serving on the Sandy Creek High School Board of Education and I am a member of Nebraska LEAD IX. For the previous four years I have sat on the Education Committee. Sadly, by the end of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, I was the only senator on the committee from a truly rural district or from the 3rd Caucus. Proverbs says: Train up a child in the way they should go and when they are old, they will not depart from it. James Madison once wrote that education is the foundation of civil liberty. Without a robust knowledge of the great opportunity our state and our nation have to offer, we fail to put our best foot

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forward for Nebraska children. That's a large part of why I'm running for Chair of the Education Committee. Our state funding for education formula TEEOSA must be amended to support more students and more school districts than it is currently. There are 244 school districts in Nebraska. Sadly, only 87 of those 244 districts receive state aid in equalization funding. That is about 35.5 percent of all Nebraska state schools. This is unacceptable. The focus of the Education Committee for the upcoming session must have a clear direction. First, we, senators, must be willing to work with Governor-elect Pillen, the task force he has assembled, which includes two of our colleagues, Senator Briese and Senator Sanders, and with each other to enact meaningful change that values every student across our state. The statistic I mentioned a few, a few short moments ago only further underscores the problem which faces us. We must address it. We must reduce the burden on property owners who put forth the lion's share of funding for our state schools. We must do right by them, whether they be agricultural, residential, or commercial property owners. Second, parents must be recognized as the foremost decision maker in every child's upbringing. In Nebraska, we have some of the best schools and best teachers in the nation. We must work together with these great teachers and schools to give our kids the best education possible. We must have education policies that give our teachers a leg up in earning the trust of the students they educate through transparency and accountability. We must reduce the burden of bureaucracy and give parents a choice in choosing the right education for their children. Third, we must work together on a bipartisan basis to address the teacher shortage that is impacting most every school in Nebraska. In our approach, we must look at several incentive-based and certificate-altering approaches that respect and uphold the profession of education. And lastly, we must promote an educational system preparing Nebraska children for joining the workforce and being productive citizens. Our K-12 education must hammer down on the basics: reading, writing, math, science, history, and an appreciation of the God-given rights this nation has preserved for them. They must recognize the world's flaws and sins of the past while having a hopeful and bright outlook for days yet to come for the promise that is America. The committee must work to adequately fund special education and look to provide reimbursement opportunities for excess costs accumulated. We must give all students, regardless of color, creed or status, a fair chance to access, access the privilege that is education. We must have equal opportunity for all, and we must continue to work from the previous committee in retooling the lottery fund to adequately address the needs of our state today. Mr. President, I want to thank all my colleagues again and congratulate our new friends from across the state today. Regardless of the

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outcome, I know you will join me in problem-solving spirit and decorum our constituents and Nebraskans expect-- respect-- expect from all of us on everyday issues. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve this great state, and I ask for your vote. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Murman. Senator Walz, you're recognized.

WALZ: Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, good morning, colleagues, returning and new. It's great to see everybody is here safe. I rise to nominate myself for the Chair of the Education Committee. Before I begin, I just want to say that being in the State Capitol really never gets old. Every day as I'm walking up the steps, I look up and I can't believe it's the honor that I have to be able to work here. I'm reminded of the history that's taking place here in this Chamber and the trials and the challenges overcome as well as all of the accomplishments. It is truly an honor. And it inspires me to continue this work. It reminds me to push forward and to make sure the decisions we make are in the best interest of the people that we serve. It's that philosophy that drove me to run for the Chair of the Education Committee, and that is why I'm running again. When I ran for Chair in 2021, there were two things that I promised to this body. One was to bring a new perspective that brings educators, stakeholders-- and stakeholders in education together to communicate, to plan, and to strategize. I wanted to ensure that we could celebrate the successes of Nebraska's education system, and we can facilitate new opportunities and always look for ways to improve. The second promise I had was to always listen and have a dialog with you, even if we didn't see eye to eye. As Chair, I believe that I've kept the open dialog with colleagues, students, families, staff, education groups, and the Department of Education. I am a firm believer in listening. It's why you'll notice that I never hardly ever leave the Chamber when I have meetings with the lobby. I tend to do them right out there in the Rotunda. I can tell you that I've learned a lot about what it takes to be the Education Committee Chair, and one of those main tenets is listening and responding quickly to situations that arise. During my time as Chair, we were facing COVID pandemic and the learning challenges that came along with that, a significant teacher shortage, and we experienced one of the worst school shootings in America's history. I responded quickly to all of those issues. I worked closely with our education world to ensure that students could continue learning in a safe environment through a pandemic. Last year, the Education Committee passed LB1218, which helped our state add more qualified teachers to the workforce. After the Uvalde shooting, I called on the Department of Education to create a task force to review our schools current safety standards made up of law enforcement

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officials, city leaders, concerned parents, and both public and private educators. I can make you a promise now that I will continue that responsive nature to the complicated issues that arise in education. Being Chair of the Education Committee is not just about passing bills. It's about building bridges. It's about ensuring that all of us are on the same page when we're, when we're working to educate our kids in Nebraska. Last session we adopted LR335. And although it's a-- it's ceremonial in nature, it really sets a tone for our state. Currently, 58 percent of Nebraskans between the ages of 25 and 34 have completed some form of higher education. Myself, along with the Education Committee and with postsecondary education groups, worked together to a set-- to set a new attainment goal of 70 percent. That's a lofty goal, but I know that working together we can accomplish that. Goals like this are important. All education helps prepare students to become next leaders of our state, to become innovators, and to build problem-solving skills. We need leaders who are proactive and not reactive. Ones that are thinking about our state's future. Not only have I worked with postsecondary institutions to help retain the best and the brightest, I've also been working with business to better understand how we can develop our workforce and set our students up for success as they begin their careers. I've worked to build coalitions with all those who are impacted to-- in our education system, and I will remain committed to building those bridges. My work as Chair is anything but over, and I can assure you that I will continue to pursue legislation to restructure our school finance model and ensure true property tax relief. I'll also work to address the mental and behavioral health issues, the needs of our students. I'm carrying on our work from last year to address the severe teacher shortage. I will also be bringing forward legislation to address the identified needs from the School Safety Task Force. The Education Committee is a complex committee with ever-changing needs, and it deserves a leader who can meet that challenge. Before I was a state senator, I was a fourth grade teacher, a childcare provider, and a member of the Archbishop Bergan School Board. But most importantly, I'm a mother and a grandmother to students that are and have been through the Nebraska education system. I know that schools are the cornerstone of our communities. It's where we all gather to root on our hometown teams under the Friday Night Lights. It's where families go to celebrate their accomplishments, and it's where our children grow to become outstanding Nebraskans. As Chair, I will committed-- I will continue to showcase all of the good our schools do for our families, communities, and state. I'm a firm believer that there's always, always work to be done. I have been on the Education Committee for six years, two of them as Vice Chair and two as Chair. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and I'm dedicated to ensuring

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the success of every student in Nebraska. It's a big responsibility. It's about educating kids and also providing a future workforce and economic development to keep Nebraska staying competitive. It would be an honor to receive your vote and continue to lead the great work of the Education Committee. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Walz. Are there any further nominations? I see none. I declare the nominations closed. Members, because this is a contested race, I'll ask you each to present to the Clerk a written ballot. I believe there are pads of paper before you. Just write the name of the senator that you're voting for on that piece of paper, submit it to the Clerk. And I'm going to need three senators to please serve us as tellers. After you voted, please come forward and serve us as tellers: Senator Day, Senator von Gillern, and Senator Hansen. Members, please come to order. By a vote of 32 to 17, Senator Murman, you've been elected as Chair of the Education Committee. Congratulations. The next office is Chair of the General Affairs Committee. Nominations are now open. Senator Lowe, you're recognized.

LOWE: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise today and ask for your vote to be the next General Affairs Chair. This position has opened because Senator Briese has decided to seek a different Chairmanship. Senator Briese has done a great job over the last four years as Chair of the General Affairs Committee and it has been a great experience serving as his Vice Chair. It would be an honor to be chosen today to serve as Chair so I can continue the great work that was done by Senator Briese before me. The General Affairs Committee deals with several subject matters, but over the last few years, the biggest areas of concern have been tobacco, liquor, and gambling legislation. Most of my professional career has been spent working in the alcohol industry. I have built, owned, and operated five different bars over the last few years. The background gives me a perspective in the alcohol industry that few others have, have and will allow me-- that few others have. And this will allow me to be an advocate for the many small businesses that make up this industry while ensuring that we have oversight and regulations to keep Nebraskans safe. Over the last five years, I have also brought several pieces of legislation that have worked to improve our liquor laws. Many of these bills have been passed into law after working with interested parties to find a compromise. Many other liquor bills have been brought by other senators that I have, that I have taken an active role in negotiating to try to find a path forward that all will-- could be satisfied with. In my time as a state senator, I have been opposed to expanded gambling in Nebraska. But in 2020, the people voiced a different opinion. Since that time, I have worked with senators and ensured-- and interested parties to ensure

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the Legislature is following the voters' mandate. As Chair, I will continue to work to ensure our gambling laws are what the voters expected them to be when they made their voices heard in 2020. I have also brought bills or detailed conversations about each other-- of the areas the General Affairs Committee deals with. I believe my professional experience, plus my four years serving as Vice Chair of the committee, will allow me to work closely with my colleagues to create the best possible legislation. With that, I ask for your support as the next Chair of the General Affairs Committee.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Lowe. Are there any further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Lowe, Committee Chairperson for General Affairs.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to elect Senator Lowe by acclamation to the Chairmanship of the General Affairs Committee. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Lowe. The next Chairmanship is the Committee on Government, Military and Veterans Affairs. Senator Brewer, you're recognized.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm not going to turn on my light to read because I have nothing to read. I think that I'm rising here today to ask for your vote to be the Chair of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs because I gave 37 years to wearing the uniform of this country. I spent two years working with wounded veterans after I left service and six years in this body, two as the Vice Chair and four as the Chair. So that's the credentials I'm going to give you on why I think you should vote for me to be the Chairman of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs. And for those that haven't been here to see the Government Committee in action, I would invite you to do that. I am blessed with a staff that keeps it a very efficient and professional committee, and it's not one of the committees that necessarily is very easy. A lot of issues come before it. This will be no different year with voter ID. But we owe it to the people of Nebraska as the second house to hear their voice, even if it means long, long days and doing that and still maintaining a professional presence and a pleasant presence for those testifying is a challenge as a Chairman. So I would ask for your vote, and I would just promise that that is what I will do as the Chairman. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Brewer. Are there any further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

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SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Brewer, Chair, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to elect Senator Brewer as Chair by acclamation of the Committee on Government, Military and Veterans Affairs. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Brewer. The next Chairmanship is for the Committee on Health and Human Services. Nominations are now open. Senator Hansen.

HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I think maybe a lot of you know, I typically don't get too nervous when I get up here and speak, but I have my six-year-old daughter standing next to me eyeballing me this whole time. So I hope this isn't like the first memory she has of me burned in her head, so I better not mess up. Thank you, Mr. President, and fellow colleagues. I appreciate the opportunity to come up here and speak to you about this position. My reason for wanting to be the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee ties closely to the rationale I gave here on this floor two years ago while seeking the Chair of the Business and Labor Committee. I feel my personal philosophy, experience, and goals would lend themselves well to the responsibility as Chair of HHS, for which I would describe in the following. First, I have always believed in fostering a healthcare system that encompasses efficiency, empathy, and effectiveness, cultivating the concept of personal responsibility, protecting the rights and lives of those under our care, prioritizing parental rights, reducing burdensome and overbearing red tape in healthcare that hinder the free market to drive cost and forces healthcare workers to spend more time doing paperwork instead of doing the job they love and making sure the most vulnerable are taken care of in collaboration with family and community. All these are worth-- worthwhile direction we can point our compass to when associating HHS Nebraska as a whole. Second, when it comes to experience, I have been involved in the healthcare industry for the last 16 years, own multiple chiropractic clinics with multiple doctors and staff, and have been on the HHS committee for the last four years. I think this is experience, most especially in the provider aspect of healthcare, the collaboration of Speaker Arch's knowledge and guidance in the administrative side of health-- healthcare and the HHS Committee's varied background and expertise will work in concert to better serve the committee and the people of Nebraska. Lastly, I feel I've learned a great deal the last four years here in my varying roles. I also believe that my career as a business owner, a healthcare professional,

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a father, and resolved to listen, act with my head and my heart will benefit the Legislature in this capacity. I can tell you with no reservation that my goal as Chair would be to always be thoughtful to my fellow senators, our constituents, the healthcare community, and the institution when making decisions on behalf of the community. I would appreciate your consideration and humbly ask for your vote for the great duty and honor of chairing the Health and Human Services Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Are there further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nomination be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Hansen, Health and Human Services Chair, Committee.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to elect Senator Hansen by acclamation to the Chairmanship of the Health and Human Services Committee. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Hansen. We'll now proceed to the Chairmanship of the Committee on Judiciary. Nominations are now open. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. And before I-- well, I would like to nominate myself for Judiciary Chair, but I got a couple of things I want to say. One, I need some WD-40 for my chair back here. Every time I move when Clements was talking, it was really weird and so. Second, for those watching at home, you'll notice when Senator Clements was elected to Appropriations Chair, everybody from the front ran up and shook his hand. That won't happen for Judiciary, so don't expect that. The last six years, I was honored to serve this body as Urban Affairs Chair. I also want to say, Senator Briese, you have a great legal counsel on the Exec Board with Trevor Fitzgerald as he served for Urban Affairs Chair for a little over ten years. My six years and my success would not have happened without him. But outside of Urban Affairs, as we grew Urban Affairs, as we handled everything from TIF to regional transit, I want to talk a little bit more about outside Urban Affairs. This body was able to pass tax relief. We had some very big debates. Many of you know that whether it was Urban Affairs or not, I was always a part of trying to make sure we move the ball going forward. And last year we successfully had the biggest investment from the state of Nebraska in north and south Omaha with little over \$300 million. That's the same approach that I plan on taking these last two years as I serve in this body as hopefully Judiciary Chair. We are dealing with some of the toughest issues in Judiciary. Everybody in there knows that. I will run it the same way I ran Urban Affairs,

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which is fair, transparent, and everybody will know what bills are coming up, where your bills are, and when Exec Sessions are. You will know if you don't have the votes. I will tell you, you don't have the votes to get it out of that committee and you need to go and do some more work. My approach is real simple. It's a commonsense approach to prison reform. We have an overcrowded prison system, one of the worst in the country. My approach to criminal justice reform is very simple. We have to be smart and conservative on crime, not just tough on crime. This body knows we cannot build our way out of our prison situation. So it's going to take this entire body to come up with a solution everywhere from Appropriations, which is why I decided to sit right next to him, so I know what's going on, but also just overall reform throughout the system. And that's going to take a lot of work for everybody in here. And these last two years, I know we can rise to this challenge. I know we can get it done. And for those who came in with me, we only have 150 days left, including today on this floor. We have 150 days to change Nebraskan's lives and make Nebraska a place for the future. It goes by quick. And if you don't know if it goes by quick, we've already spent 450 days on this floor. So I look forward to these conversations. I look forward to leading Judiciary. I look forward to solving some of these tough issues that are facing Nebraska. But understand, I'm only as good as everybody else on this floor coming together and working together. And I hope I can do that again over these next two years as Judiciary Chair. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Are there any further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Wayne, Committee Chairperson for Judiciary.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to elect Senator Wayne by acclamation as Chair of the Committee on Judiciary. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Wayne. The next Chairmanship is the Committee on Natural Resources. Members, please come to order. Nominations are now open for Chair of Natural Resources. Senator Bostelman, you're recognized.

BOSTELMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. And good morning, colleagues. And good morning, Nebraska. Colleagues, welcome back. And to all the new senators, welcome. And a special welcome to all of our family members who are here with us today. It's a time for celebration and a time of recognition. Thank you for supporting those who are sitting here in the seats today and those who will spend some long days, some long

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nights together to try to figure things out. But we have to do the work before us. Thank you for your support of those and continued support of those as we move forward the next two years. I rise this morning to nominate myself for the position of Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. I have served on the Natural Resources Committee the last six years, my first four as the Vice Chairman of the committee and the last two as the Chairman of Natural Resources Committee. During this time, the committee has conducted hearings both in the Capitol and across the state. In specific, 2019 bomb cyclone. Senator Pansing Brooks and myself cochaired a committee that investigated and looked at the devastation that happened across our state, which resulted in the statewide flood mitigation plan. We also, this last session addressed flood control in the Platte River Basin, and also we addressed a 100-year-old aging surface water projects in western and central Nebraska with a grant program, which is vital to our farmers and those areas. Also, during-- after Uri happened, we held two lengthy hearings. I want to thank my committee members for that. We spent a lot of hours, probably about ten hours on that to understand what happened, had the SPP come up and our public power districts come in and it was well worth the time and, and effort that we put into them. I want to thank you for that. More recently, I completed the study with LEHI, the Legislative Energy Horizon Institute, both in Pacific National Labs out in Washington State and also on policy in Washington D.C. on the Hill. As Chairman, I will continue to work on providing an open and welcoming committee to all testifiers, treating them with respect and dignity. I pledge to you that every bill brought before the committee will receive a fair, efficient, and professional process. I'll continue to ensure that all bills advanced from the committee are ready for the-- for, for floor debate and that each bill has a committee statement. I respectfully ask for your vote as Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Bostelman. Are there further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Bostelman, Committee Chairperson for Natural Resources.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you, members, is to declare the nominations closed and to elect Senator Bostelman by acclamation to the Chairmanship of the Natural Resources Committee. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Bostelman. Next Chairmanship is the Committee on Retirement

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Systems. Nominations are now open. Senator McDonnell, you're recognized.

McDONNELL: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Welcome, new senators. Thank you for your willingness to serve and thank you for your family's sacrifice that they'll make while, while you're serving the, the citizens of Nebraska. I am proud to announce my candidacy for Chair of Nebraska's Retirement Committee. I've been a member of the committee since 2020 and played an active role in improving our state administered retirement plans, which are now some of the best funded in the country. In my time as a member of the committee, I have introduced and supported legislation that improves options for pretax and after-tax contributions, ensured the long-term sustainability of the judges' retirement system, streamlined administration efforts, and promoted the responsible use of early retirement incentives by school districts. As Chair, I will continue to prioritize the sustainable retirement benefits for Nebraska public employees, while also mindful of the taxpayers dollars. If elected Chair of the Retirement-- Nebraska Retirement Committee, I promise to use my leadership skills, collaborative nature for the betterment of the public employees and taxpayers. This is an important role that I take seriously, and I look forward to continuing my work on behalf of Nebraskans. I ask for your support and your vote. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McDonnell. Are there further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator McDonnell, Committee Chairperson for Nebraska Retirement Systems.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to elect Senator McDonnell by acclamation to the Chairmanship of the Retirement Systems Committee. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator McDonnell. Proceeding now to the Chairmanship of the Revenue Committee. Nominations are now open. Senator Linehan, you're recognized.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to ask for your vote to continue to be Chair of the Revenue Committee. I have been blessed in many ways during my time here in the Legislature.

FOLEY: Senator Linehan, that microphone is not functioning properly. Maybe you can move over to the next one.

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LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Does this work?

FOLEY: Very good. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you. I rise to ask for your vote to continue to be the Chair of the Revenue Committee. I also want to congratulate all the new members here today and their families. This is an incredible experience and I wish you all the very best of luck. And I'm very excited about our new class. I've been blessed in many ways serving the Legislature. First, I would like to thank the Speakers I have been honored to serve with, starting with Senator Scheer, Senator Hilgers, and now Senator Arch. We have had fantastic leadership which has made this place run. I have also been blessed with incredible group of people on the Revenue Committee the last few years. Thank you to Senator Friesen. Senator Pahls, God bless him. Senator Flood who is now back in D.C. having so much fun. Senator Lindstrom. Senator Briese, who is still here, thank goodness. Senator Albrecht and Senator Bostar. We've got a lot done. I feel like we've accomplished a lot. And today is so different for my class than when we got here, which I'm looking at Senator McDonnell, he'll remember, he's on Appropriations. We had no money. We were the whole so deep, a billion short. Now we're upside down. So we have unprecedented opportunities in front of us to do really great things for Nebraska, get our tax code in a situation that we're truly competitive, address school finance, and make sure that we're prepared if there's a downturn, which there always-- we all know, there will be a downturn at some point. But we also need to be brave and really look at all the great opportunities we have that serve the people of Nebraska to take care of our greatest resource, which is our kids. Whether that's education, their opportunities, and keeping them here. We want Nebraskans to stay in Nebraska, and we can do so much in this session and the next session of the One Hundred Eighth Legislature to get there. So thank you and thank you all for being here.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Are there further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Linehan, Committee Chairperson for Revenue.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to elect Senator Linehan by acclamation to the Chairmanship of the Revenue Committee. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Linehan. Nominations

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are now open for the Chairmanship of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. Senator Brandt, you're recognized.

BRANDT: Thank you, Mr. President. And good morning, Nebraska. First, congratulations to my new colleagues. I look forward to working with you in the next four years. Together, we are about to embark on a journey of public service to the people of Nebraska. Today, I'm asking for your vote for Chair of Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. I am beginning my fifth year in the Legislature, and over that time, the bills and issues that have made their way to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee have only grown in importance, especially rural broadband and the maintenance, building, and funding of our roads and bridges across the entire state. Over the past few years, there have been a lot of challenging issues that have made their way to the committee. From infrastructure damage due to the flooding in 2019 and then the need to move critical work and meetings to video calls and online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We saw students learning from home or trying to depending on their level of connectivity, some having to drive into town to sit in the McDonald's parking lot or sit on a hilltop to gain signal strength. Our children's education should not be compromised because they live in a digital desert. Some of this is self-inflicted because the power-- because of the power incumbent telecom providers have to cancel competitive growth in areas they control while providing little or poor service. This needs to change. In 2003, the same group worked to pass restrictions on our public power providers to keep them out of the broadband arena. Let me ask you, how is that working? Broadband is a utility just like electricity, and the state needs to work harder to provide this service to all unserved and underserved citizens across the state from north Omaha to Harrison. The state will soon be receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding to expand our broadband footprint. It will be exciting to work with a new administration and the PSC to target and efficiently and effectively disperse broadband money. I am here to report that I am up to the challenge and will tackle these issues head on working to get consensus from the committee and addressing them. I am one of three candidates for Chair of this committee. I promise to be focused on the people's business and my attention will not be divided. You deserve a Chair who will be focused on transportation and telecommunications from day one. In the past four years, I have introduced four broadband bills and two bridge bills. I'm ready to hit the ground running as I work on these same issues for the next four years. So, colleagues, we have a challenge ahead of us and a tone to set. I have built relationships with the NDOT, with the telecoms, with public power, and together we go forward. We have a lot of work to do and we will get it

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done. With that, I ask for your vote as Chair of Transportation and Telecommunications. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Brandt. Further nomination? Senator Machaela Cavanaugh.

M. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I wasn't intending to speak this soon because I know that there are others, but I guess I was the only one in the queue. I rise today to nominate one of our colleagues for Chair of Transportation. I know that there are three individuals that have put their names forward via email and letters to all of us, and I appreciate that so much. I've really kind of struggled as to who I was going to support in this position, and I realized that the crux of that struggle is that there was one other person that I thought should be considered, and that's Senator Wendy DeBoer. I've served on this committee for four years. I've served on it alongside of Senator Geist for four years and Senator DeBoer four years, Senator Moser for two years. And I appreciate the service that all of them have brought. This next couple of years, we're going to see a massive infusion into broadband, and I haven't seen anyone work as diligently and consistently on the issue of addressing broadband as Senator Wendy DeBoer. She has brought her heart and soul to that and she also is one of the most fair-minded people in this body. And I think everyone who's worked with her over the last four years would agree that she works harder to collaborate with everyone, no matter what position you take on any issue. She and I have butt heads many times and are still friends at the end of the day, and she just brings her intelligence and grace to every aspect of this committee and the work on it. I, I know that it is unusual to nominate somebody on the floor like this, but I just didn't think it was right to go without at least pushing her a little bit even if she declines to stand up and, and speak to this issue because she has worked so hard and with so much grace on this committee. And I just, I just value you so much, Senator DeBoer, and I thank you for your work and I hope you will consider this nomination. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator DeBoer, you're recognized.

DeBOER: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Machaela Cavanaugh, for your kind words. I will decline the nomination at this time, but I do appreciate all that you said, and I think I might be suited more towards the Vice Chair role. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator DeBoer. Are there further nominations? Senator Moser.

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MOSER: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I consider it an honor to serve with all the returning senators and the new senators. And I appreciate your willingness to serve as we try to solve the issues that affect all the citizens of Nebraska. The Chairmanship of Transportation and Telecommunications is important to me for a number of reasons. We have some competent people running and I consider them to be friends, and I hope that we're still friends when this is all resolved here in a few minutes. But I couldn't stand back and not attempt to be Chair of the committee and wait a couple of years when that Chairmanship may come open again later. I think the issues that face us are bigger than what can be solved in two years. Even if we, you know, had the same goals, the people running, I think some of us have different passions and have different motivations for running. For me, my passion has been and will continue to be to improve roads in Nebraska, especially in my district, because it's so important to have good roads to build economic development in our area for safety to get to and from Omaha and Lincoln for manufacturing to bring in their raw materials and their finished goods and get them where they need to be for agriculture so that we can allow the shipment or facilitate the shipment of chickens, hogs, cattle, both to the production buildings and to processing. And we've been waiting since 2003 when the expressway was supposed to be completed, and now it's 2022 and the expressway is about 70 percent done. I've cosponsored several bills and entered several bills to try to address the speedier completion of the expressway and the Department of Roads opposed, I think, every bill that I either cosponsored or introduced myself. So we need to work on the relationship between the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee and the Department of Roads to get a better understanding of what our goals are and how we can help them to accelerate the completion of the expressway system. The, the areas that I think we need to work on is I think we need to shorten the timeline on the expressway. I think we need to increase funding for roads. I think we need to authorize bonding. Almost every other state allows bonding for road building. It's only sensible to allow people who are going to use those roads in the future to pay for them when they're using them ten years from now or even five years from now. I, I just to think of paying for those as we go is a, a hindrance to the completion of roads. If we had done the South Beltway around Lincoln, pay as you go, you'd be a mile or two from 77 and the road would end in a cornfield like our north arterial did in Columbus before I got elected there. But it's done. I drove on it the other day. It's a beautiful road. We probably have seven or eight payments of \$30 million to make, but I think that was a good decision. I voted for it. I think that we should allow bonding. In broadband, I think we have had kind of a patchwork of grant programs that added some citizens to

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the high-speed Internet world. And then we have others that have been left in the, the dust. I think we need to widen the scope of the programs we're going to do, work on public and private partnerships to increase the number of people and reduce the cost of adding people to the high-speed Internet world. I was mayor of Columbus from '04 to 2016, and we built bridges and viaducts that had been on the, on the-- in consideration for 75 years. We had shelves full of reports and studies, engineering studies, feasibility studies, and we never could get it done. And I created a committee that looked at the problem, got it solved. We've got two viaducts now built and the arterial that ended in a cornfield by Walmart when I first got elected was completed in 2011. We used some bonding. We used some local option sales tax. We used some federal and state funding to pay for it. But we got a four-lane expressway built around the north side of Columbus. We got it designed, permitted, constructed, and it is currently in use. So I have experience in building roads and bridges in, in complicated situations. And I think that's why I think I would be the best candidate to lead Transportation and Telecommunications. You know, I think at this point I, I will conclude by just saying that some of the senators I talked to said that they were going to vote for a member of our body based on who they think the majority of people are going to support. In other words, kind of go along, get along. Couple or three of them said they don't want to rock the boat and vote for somebody who's not-- who, you know, who-- who's not up next to be Chair of Transportation. I'd encourage you to vote for the person you think that has the best chance of getting the problems addressed and solved. And I, I would appreciate your support if you find that you believe that I would be that person. Thank you very much.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Moser. Senator Lowe, you're recognized.

LOWE: Thank you, Mr. President. And Senator Cavanaugh, you ruined-- I thought I was going to be the only one that would nominate someone else. But I'm glad ladies went first. I would like to nominate Senator Geist. I have three friends in this race so far, and it is hard for me to nominate just one person because they are all good friends. But I gave Senator Geist my vote early and I said I would continue with that. Senator Geist has been-- is running for the Chair of Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. Her six years of experience on the committee and four years as Vice Chair have proved her with the experience and the knowledge to be an effective Chair. Senator Geist has proven that she will listen to people from all sides of the issue which is also good quality for the Chair. And even though I did give it to her first, I will give it to her now and I would always give it to her. Thank you.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Lowe. Senator Geist, you're recognized.

GEIST: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Senator Lowe. It's an exciting morning, and I do welcome all the new senators, our new Clerk, our new Speaker. And actually, we have a number of new additions to the Legislature. So I welcome all of you. And it's an honor to serve with you. And I look forward to a productive session. I also do want to salute the colleagues who have run for this position as well. I appreciate their contribution. I know it's been a, a good discussion among the body and I appreciate the process. Today, I am running for the Chair of Transportation and Telecommunications. I have served on the committee for six years and getting ready to serve on this on the seventh year and Vice Chair for four. My past work experience, which I'll bring up, also includes six years in the telecom industry, and I bring that up to let you know that my work experience also lends to the experience beyond just serving on the committee. The committee handles a broad span of issues and I commit to be focused on each one of those Day 1, just as I have been focused on those since I got elected. One of the things, as you've heard from the other candidates that we'll be focusing on is broadband and the deployment of that. Part of that consists of the broadband bridge program, which is run by the PSC, which is a state-run program. We also have the BEAD program, which gives hundreds of millions of dollars to the state from the federal government. But I want you to understand about that as we bring some bills to the floor that will address that. That is a federal program that allows capital investment. It doesn't say anything about maintaining our capital investment. So there is some work to be done as we walk through the BEAD program. And we do have a, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that's going to present great numbers of money to the state. However, we have to answer the question with the industries that will, that will be involved with this. How are we going to maintain this broad network that the money is going to come in? It's important that we do that in a strategic way because we don't want to in ten years be back in the same place wondering how we're going to deploy broadband to those who are unserved and underserved. That's an important thing the committee will focus on. We also work closely with the Department of Transportation and its priorities. The department's most recent milestone, which I just can't let be unsaid, was the opening of the South Beltway in Lincoln. Senator Hilgers and I partnered together to bring legislation that would bring that project to fruition in a shorter span of time that's been done in the past. It was creative. It was out-of-the-box thinking and the kind of thinking that we need to push forward in the future to do more of and ask more questions of how can we be creative about building new roads and bridges? And I commit

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to doing that with my committee as well. And I'm also committed to working with the aeronautics division of our state's Transportation Department. This is a newer part of the committee. I-- last interim, I visited, visited several state smaller airports to learn about how they contribute to their community, their agriculture, and their economic development. It was really interesting and something that I'm committed to work with and continue to learn more about. As Chair, I will also commit to work with the committee members to understand their concerns and facilitate good and fair conversation. I've always treated my colleagues and the public testifiers with dignity and respect, and I will continue to do that. I will also continue to encourage debate and out-of-the-box thinking. I believe the combination of work experience, past committee experience, involvement in issues and negotiations and passion for these make me uniquely qualified to be the Chair of this committee. I appreciate your consideration and I ask for your support. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Geist. Are there any further nominations? I see none. I declare the nominations closed. We'll now proceed to voting. If members could please take a written ballot and write the name of the senator that you're going to vote for, give that ballot to the Clerk, and I'm going to ask three senators to vote and then step forward to serve us as tellers: Senator Ibach, Senator Erdman, and Senator John Cavanaugh. Senator Geist has secured 29 votes and is declared the Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. Congratulations, Senator Geist. Chairmanship of the Urban Affairs Committee. Nominations are now open. Senator McKinney, you're recognized.

McKINNEY: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues, and everyone else in the balcony. I rise to ask for your support for Chairmanship of the Urban Affairs Committee. During my short time in the Legislature, I have committed myself to working for the people of Nebraska, working hard to listen, learn, and advocate on their behalf. Having served as a member of the Judiciary Committee and Education Committee over the past two years, I am no stranger to lengthy and contentious committee hearings and working on tough issues that make this job fun for us all. I also recognize the importance of working across the aisle to craft good public policy, which can be shown in multiple bills that I've been able to get passed over the last couple of years. The Urban Affairs Committee has taken great strides to update and modernize the statutes under the committee's jurisdiction and to address the lack of affordable housing, workforce housing in both rural and urban communities and economic recovery. If elected as Chair, I commit myself to, to continue this important work and to work

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collect-- collectively with you all to help move our state forward in the right direction. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you all during the session. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McKinney. Are there further nominations? I see none. Senator Sanders.

SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move the nomination be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator McKinney, Committee Chairperson for Urban Affairs.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Sanders. The motion before you is to declare the nominations closed and to elect Senator McKinney by acclamation to Chairmanship of the Urban Affairs Committee. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator McKinney. We'll now move to the Chairmanship of the Rules Committee. Nominations are now open. Senator Erdman, you're recognized.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and Lieutenant Governor. I submitted my name for the Rules Chairman, and I'll make comments about that in a minute. But I think before I proceed with those, I would like to thank Mike Foley for his years of service as Lieutenant Governor. Thank you, Mike.

FOLEY: The Legislature will come to order, please. Thank you all very much. I appreciate that.

ERDMAN: You're welcome. You know, he had an idea that I may do that. And so forgiveness is far easier than permission. So let me begin with my remarks about the Rules Chairman. First of all, I want to thank Senator DeBoer for pointing out to me for sending out a letter that said I was Vice Chair for four years. What I did when I decided to do that, I called my staff and I said you have those little books that show who serves on every committee. They said, yes, we do. I said review and see how many times I was Vice Chair and they wrote back and said four years. And I said, OK. So I wrote the letter up with four years, and Senator DeBoer was kind enough to send me an email and say, hey, just a heads up, you weren't Vice Chair last year. I was. And so she could have let that ride and not said anything and I'd have probably not known it. But I appreciate that Senator DeBoer. Thank you for doing that. So the Rules Committee is a very important position. What I've done over the last couple of years is try to review those to understand what the rules mean and how to apply them. If I am Rules Committee Chairman, I will send to the Rules Committee those changes or adjustments that I think need to be made to the rules in advance. So you'll have a chance to look at those and study those and come with

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your opinions on the ideas that I have. I found one typo that needs to be changed, and I believe there'll be some other changes that the Clerk's Office may want to make to the rules. So I will commit to you that I will make those rule changes to you available as soon as I get them from the other members of the body so that you can review those and have a discussion about how we should go forward with either changing or amending the rules. So I will treat you fairly, as I always have. I appreciate the fact that you've been here all this time this morning, sitting here until 12:30, and I am probably the only one and maybe Senator Cavanaugh standing between you and lunch. And my wife is going to be surprised that I said lunch because I call it dinner. But anyway, between food, so. But I'd appreciate your vote today. And, and I seen this morning-- I heard this morning when they announced that the rules are to be completed by the 12th day, which is January 20. That's our goal. And so we need to move forward to get the rules done. And I hope it doesn't become like it did in '17 when it took us 28 days. I know it won't because we can figure out how to do this efficiently and quickly. So I appreciate your vote. Thank you very much and Happy New Year.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Further nomination? Senator John Cavanaugh.

J. CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I rise to, I guess, place my name in nomination for Rules Chair and I appreciate Senator Erdman running. He and I spoke earlier about, as Senator Moser said, having no hard feelings. And this is an important role to undertake. And the Rules is a short-term committee that only meets as necessary, though last session we did meet in extra time. I was on the Rules Committee along with Senator Erdman, and in that capacity we reviewed rules and necessary changes. We made the changes to that special committee with reference to Committee on Committees. But the reason I'm running for the Rules Chair is, this is an extremely important job that requires fairness, it requires objectivity, and it requires a commitment to the integrity of the body and the rules irrespective of your desired outcome. The rules protect this body. They protect the Legislature and it protects everyone. And they can be used by people to stymie laws or bills, and they can be used by people to advance them. And having a mastery of the rules is important, but making sure that the rules are fair to everyone regardless of which side you're on because you never know whether you're going to end up on the other side next time. So my objective in being Rules Chair and serving on the Rules Committee and serving in this body has always been to make sure that the rules are equitably enforced for everyone and that everyone has an opportunity to be heard. And so in that capacity, I

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will make sure that every rule that gets proposed to the Rules Committee gets a fair hearing, gets a fair opportunity to be presented to the body, and that above all that we pursue rules that will protect the integrity of this body into the future. We are given a gift here in the Nebraska Legislature. This-- the unique Unicameral is just that, it is unique in all of the country. Anybody who's met somebody from another state knows how much better it is to be a senator in the Nebraska Unicameral than any other elected body in the country. And so we need to make sure that the rules continue to preserve that situation. And so I ask for your vote for Chair of Rules, because that's what I'm dedicated to as the Chair of the Rules Committee. And Senator Erdman and I both agreed to give short speeches. I think mine is shorter so I will sit down.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Are there any further nominations? I see none and declare the nomination closed. Members, once again if you can complete a written ballot. Provide your written ballot to the Clerk and I'll ask three senators to please step forward and serve us as tellers: Senator Hunt, Senator Ballard, and Senator Lippincott. If you could come forward and serve us as tellers. On a vote of 33 to 15, Senator Erdman, you've been elected Chair of the Rules Committee. Congratulations, Senator Erdman. Members, we'll now move to the Chairmanship of the highly coveted Enrollment and Review Committee. Senator McKinney, you're recognized for a motion.

McKINNEY: Mr. President, I nominate Senator Ballard as the next E&R Chairman.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McKinney. The motion before you is to declare Senator Ballard a winner by acclamation. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Congratulations, Senator Ballard. You will enjoy the work. Pursuant to the provisions of Article IV, Section 4 of the constitution, I recognize Senator Jacobson for a motion.

JACOBSON: Hello? Yep. Thank you, Mr. President. I move that a committee of three be appointed to escort the Secretary of State to the Chamber to deliver an election returns of the general election of November 2022.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Jacobson. The question is the adoption of the motion to appoint a committee to escort the Secretary of State. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. I appoint Senators Halloran, Dorn, and Machaela Cavanaugh to escort the Secretary of State to, to the Chamber to deliver the election results. Would the committee of three please retire to the

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rear of the Chamber and escort the Secretary of State. I recognize the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your Committee now escorting the Secretary of State, Bob Evnen.

FOLEY: Chair recognizes Secretary of State. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Senator Dorn, you're recognized for a motion.

DORN: Mr. President, I move to approve the report of the Secretary of State and the candidate stated therein be declared duly elected.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Dorn. The question is the adoption of the motion to accept the report from the Secretary of State pursuant to the provisions of Article IV, Section 4 of the Nebraska Constitution. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Members, we had many, many members of family with us today. I wasn't able to recognize them. But there are two special family members I do want to recognize. With us today is my wife, Susan, and my middle son, Peter. If those two guests could please rise. Thank you for being here today. Senator Arch, you're recognized for a motion.

ARCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I move to arrange to hold the inaugural ceremonies for the newly elected state officials on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Arch. The question is the motion to hold inaugural ceremonies. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, do you have any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Note from the Committee on Committees that they will meet in Room 1524 at-- in an hour and a half from now. Hour and a half from now, Committee on Committees meet in Room 1524. Finally, Mr. President, an adjournment motion. Senator Wishart would move to adjourn the body until January 5, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to adjourn. Those in favor say aye.

_____: Point of order, point of order. Are we reading bills today?

FOLEY: No, we're not reading bills today. Those in favor of adjourning say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are adjourned.