

FIRST DAY - JANUARY 8, 2025**LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL****ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION****FIRST DAY**

Legislative Chamber, Lincoln, Nebraska
Wednesday, January 8, 2025

PRAYER

The prayer was offered by Senator Arch.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

Presentation of Colors by the Nebraska State Patrol - Headquarters Troop Honor Guard.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered by Senator Andersen.

ROLL CALL

Pursuant to the provisions of Article III, Section 10 of the Constitution of Nebraska, the One Hundred Ninth 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 8, 2025, and was called to order by President Kelly.

The roll was called and the following members were present:

Andersen, Bob	Fredrickson, John	Moser, Mike
Arch, John	Guereca, Dunixi	Murman, Dave
Armendariz, Christy	Hallstrom, Bob	Prokop, Jason
Ballard, Beau	Hansen, Ben	Quick, Dan
Bosn, Carolyn	Hardin, Brian	Raybould, Jane
Bostar, Eliot	Holdcroft, Rick	Riepe, Merv
Brandt, Tom	Hughes, Jana	Rountree, Victor
Cavanaugh, John	Hunt, Megan	Sanders, Rita
Cavanaugh, Machaela	Ibach, Teresa	Sorrentino, Tony
Clements, Robert	Jacobson, Mike	Spivey, Ashlei
Clouse, Stan	Juarez, Margo	Storer, Tanya
Conrad, Danielle	Kauth, Kathleen	Storm, Jared

DeBoer, Wendy	Lippincott, Loren	Strommen, Paul
DeKay, Barry	Lonowski, Dan	von Gillern, R. Brad
Dorn, Myron	McKeon, Dan	Wordekemper, Dave
Dover, Robert	McKinney, Terrell	
Dungan, George	Meyer, Glen	

MOTION - Temporary Clerk and Sergeant at Arms

Senator Arch moved to appoint Mr. Brandon Metzler as temporary Clerk of the Legislature and Mr. Scott Black as temporary Sergeant at Arms.

The motion prevailed.

MOTION - Escort Chief Justice

Senator Quick moved 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 members of the Legislature.

The motion prevailed.

The Chair appointed Senators Conrad, M. Cavanaugh, Clements, Moser, and Riepe to serve on said committee.

MOTION - Committee on Credentials

Senator Sanders moved that we proceed to the election of five persons to serve as 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 in November 2024.

The motion prevailed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

State of Nebraska

United States of America,)	
State of Nebraska)	ss. Secretary of State

I, Robert B. Evnen, Secretary of State of the State of Nebraska do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the Official Roster of members of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature elected to serve in the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, First Session, 2025.

Further, I hereby certify that the members so listed on the Official Roster attached hereto are the duly elected or appointed members of the

Unicameral Legislature in the State of Nebraska for the One Hundred Ninth Legislature, First Session, 2025.

Finally, I hereby certify that all election returns, abstracts, and canvasses with reference to said members are on file in the office of the Secretary of State and are a matter of public record.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska on this date of January 8, 2025.

(SEAL)

(Signed) Robert B. Evnen
Secretary of State

DISTRICT/NAME	ELECTED
1 Robert Hallstrom	November 5, 2024
2 Robert Clements	November 8, 2022
3 Victor Rountree	November 5, 2024
4 R. Brad von Gillern	November 8, 2022
5 Margo R. Juarez	November 5, 2024
6 Machaela Cavanaugh	November 8, 2022
7 Dunixi Guereca	November 5, 2024
8 Megan Hunt	November 8, 2022
9 John Cavanaugh, Jr.	November 5, 2024
10 Wendy DeBoer	November 8, 2022
11 Terrell McKinney	November 5, 2024
12 Merv Riepe	November 8, 2022
13 Ashlei Spivey	November 5, 2024
14 John Arch	November 8, 2022
15 Dave Wordekemper	November 5, 2024
16 Ben Hansen	November 8, 2022
17 Glen Meyer	November 5, 2024
18 Christy Armendariz	November 8, 2022
19 Rob Dover	November 5, 2024
20 John A. Fredrickson	November 8, 2022
21 Beau Ballard	November 5, 2024
22 Mike Moser	November 8, 2022
23 Jared Storm	November 5, 2024
24 Jana Hughes	November 8, 2022
25 Carolyn Bosn	November 5, 2024
26 George C. Dungan III	November 8, 2022
27 Jason Prokop	November 5, 2024
28 Jane Raybould	November 8, 2022
29 Eliot Bostar	November 5, 2024
30 Myron Dorn	November 8, 2022
31 Kathleen Kauth	November 5, 2024
32 Tom Brandt	November 8, 2022
33 Dan Lonowski	November 5, 2024
34 Loren Lippincott	November 8, 2022
35 Dan Quick	November 5, 2024
36 Rick Holdcroft	November 8, 2022
37 Stanley Clouse	November 5, 2024

38 Dave Murman	November 8, 2022
39 Tony Sorrentino	November 5, 2024
40 Barry DeKay	November 8, 2022
41 Daniel D. McKeon	November 5, 2024
42 Mike Jacobson	November 8, 2022
43 Tanya Storer	November 5, 2024
44 Teresa J. Ibach	November 8, 2022
45 Rita Sanders	November 5, 2024
46 Danielle Conrad	November 8, 2022
47 Paul E. Strommen	November 5, 2024
48 Brian Hardin	November 8, 2022
49 Bob Andersen	November 5, 2024

MOTION - Credentials Committee Report

Senator DeKay moved to approve the Committee on Credentials Report as certified and presented by the Secretary of State.

The motion prevailed.

MEMBERS' OATH OF OFFICE

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss.
LANCASTER COUNTY)

Do you and each of 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 duties of members of the Legislature according to the best of your ability, and that at the election at which you were chosen to fill said office, you have not improperly influenced in any way the vote of any elector, and have not accepted, nor will you accept or receive, directly or indirectly, any money or other valuable thing from any corporation, company or person, or any promise of office, for any official act or influence (for any vote you may give or withhold on any bill, resolution, or appropriation).

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Andersen, Bob | Meyer, Glen |
| Ballard, Beau | Prokop, Jason |
| Bosn, Carolyn | Quick, Dan |
| Clouse, Stan | Rountree, Victor |
| Guereca, Dunixi | Sorrentino, Tony |
| Hallstrom, Robert | Spivey, Ashlei |
| Holdcroft, Rick | Storer, Tanya |
| Kauth, Kathleen | Storm, Jared |
| Lonowski, Dan | Strommen, Paul |
| McKeon, Dan | Wordekemper, Dave |
| McKinney, Terrell | |

The committee escorted the Chief Justice from the Chamber.

MOTION - Adopt Temporary Rules

Senator Hallstrom moved that the rules, as now in our possession, be adopted until such time as the permanent rules are adopted pursuant to Rule 2, Section 1; provided that the temporary rules shall not continue after the twelfth legislative day.

The motion prevailed.

MOTION - Election of Officers

Senator Hansen moved that the following officers, recommended by the Executive Board, be elected to serve for the One Hundred Ninth Legislature:

Clerk of the Legislature	Brandon Metzler
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature	Mike Hybl
Sergeant at Arms	Scott Black

The motion prevailed.

MOTION - Election of Speaker

Senator Ibach moved to proceed to the election of the Speaker of the Legislature.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Arch placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Arch.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Arch was duly elected Speaker of the Legislature.

MOTION - Escort Chief Justice

Senator Dover moved 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 Legislature.

The motion prevailed.

The Chair appointed Senators DeBoer, Dungan, Hansen, Holdcroft, and Hunt to serve on said committee.

OFFICERS' OATH OF OFFICE

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss.
LANCASTER COUNTY)

We, and each of us, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that we will support the constitution of the United States, the constitution of the State of Nebraska, and will faithfully discharge the duties of our respective offices to the best of our ability.

Speaker John Arch
Clerk of the Legislature Brandon Metzler
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature Mike Hybl
Sergeant at Arms Scott Black

The committee escorted the Chief Justice from the Chamber.

RESOLUTION(S)

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 1. Introduced by Arch, 14; Andersen, 49; Armendariz, 18; Ballard, 21; Bosn, 25; Bostar, 29; Brandt, 32; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Cavanaugh, M., 6; Clements, 2; Clouse, 37; Conrad, 46; DeBoer, 10; DeKay, 40; Dorn, 30; Dover, 19; Dungan, 26; Fredrickson, 20; Guereca, 7; Hallstrom, 1; Hansen, 16; Hardin, 48; Holdcroft, 36; Hughes, 24; Hunt, 8; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Juarez, 5; Lippincott, 34; Lonowski, 33; McKeon, 41; McKinney, 11; Meyer, 17; Moser, 22; Murman, 38; Prokop, 27; Quick, 35; Raybould, 28; Riepe, 12; Rountree, 3; Sanders, 45; Sorrentino, 39; Spivey, 13; Storer, 43; Storm, 23; Strommen, 47; von Gillern, 4; Wordekemper, 15.

WHEREAS, James Earl "Jimmy" Carter, Jr. served as the thirty-ninth President of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Former President Carter was born on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Former President Carter graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946 with distinction and was honorably discharged from the Navy with the rank of lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, Former President Carter established the Carter Center, a nonprofit organization that helps improve the lives of people in more than eighty countries; and

WHEREAS, Former President Carter won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 in recognition of his efforts to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development; and

WHEREAS, Former President Carter was a devoted public servant and a humanitarian; and

WHEREAS, Former President Jimmy Carter passed away on December 29, 2024, at the age of one hundred.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes, honors, and thanks Former President Carter for his service to the United States of America and to the people of the world.

2. That the Legislature offers its condolences to the family and friends of Former President Carter.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the family of Former President Carter.

Laid over.

MOTION - Chairperson of Committee on Committees

Senator Jacobson moved to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Committee on Committees.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Armendariz placed her name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Armendariz.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Armendariz was duly elected Chairperson of the Committee on Committees.

MOTION - Committee on Committees Members

Senator Wordekemper moved to proceed to the election of the remaining twelve members of the Committee on Committees, and that we authorize the members residing within each of the three districts, as enumerated in Rule 3, Sec. 2, to nominate four members to be elected by the legislative body to serve on the Committee on Committees.

The motion prevailed.

Senators Bosn, Bostar, Moser, and Sanders were nominated from District 1.

Senators J. Cavanaugh, Fredrickson, Hunt, and Spivey were nominated from District 2.

Senators Brandt, Ibach, Jacobson, and Murman were nominated from District 3.

Senator Rountree moved the approval of the nominees to the Committee on Committees.

The motion prevailed.

The Chair declared the nominees duly elected.

MOTION - Chairperson of Executive Board

Senator Fredrickson moved to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Hansen placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Hansen.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Hansen was duly elected Chairperson of the Executive Board.

MOTION - Vice Chairperson of Executive Board

Senator Clouse moved to proceed to the election of the Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Ibach placed her name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Ibach.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Ibach was duly elected Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board.

MOTION - Executive Board Members

Senator Kauth moved to proceed to the election of the other six members of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council as outlined in 50-401.01.

The motion prevailed.

Senators Ballard and Bostar were nominated from District 1.

Senators Fredrickson and McKinney were nominated from District 2.

Senators Dorn and Jacobson were nominated from District 3.

Senator Spivey moved the approval of the nominees to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

The motion prevailed.

The Chair declared the nominees duly elected.

MOTION - Standing and Select Committee Chairpersons

Senator Strommen moved to proceed to the election of the standing and select committee chairpersons, in accordance with Rule 3, Sec. 8(a).

The motion prevailed.

STANDING COMMITTEES

CHAIRPERSON - Agriculture

Senator DeKay placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator DeKay.

The motion prevailed.

Senator DeKay was duly elected Chairperson of the Agriculture Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Appropriations

Senator Clements placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Clements.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Clements was duly elected Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Banking, Commerce and Insurance

Senator Jacobson placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Jacobson.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Jacobson was duly elected Chairperson of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Business and Labor

Senator Kauth placed her name in nomination.

Senator J. Cavanaugh placed his name in nomination.

The Chair declared the nominations closed.

The Chair appointed Senators DeBoer, Holdcroft, and Lippincott as tellers.

Senator Kauth	31
Senator J. Cavanaugh	<u>18</u>
	49

Senator Kauth was duly elected Chairperson of the Business and Labor Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Education

Senator Murman placed his name in nomination.

Senator Hughes placed her name in nomination.

The Chair declared the nominations closed.

The Chair appointed Senators Dorn, Hallstrom, and McKinney as tellers.

Senator Murman	29
Senator Hughes	<u>20</u>
	49

Senator Murman was duly elected Chairperson of the Education Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - General Affairs

Senator Holdcroft placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Holdcroft.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Holdcroft was duly elected Chairperson of the General Affairs Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

Senator Sanders placed her name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Sanders.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Sanders was duly elected Chairperson of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Health and Human Services

Senator M. Cavanaugh placed her name in nomination.

Senator M. Cavanaugh withdrew her nomination.

Senator Lippincott nominated Senator Hardin.

Senator Hardin accepted the nomination.

Senator Riepe placed his name in nomination.

The Chair declared the nominations closed.

The Chair appointed Senators Dover, Fredrickson, and Storer as tellers.

Senator Hardin	28
Senator Riepe	<u>21</u>
	49

Senator Hardin was duly elected Chairperson of the Health and Human Services Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Judiciary

Senator Bosn placed her name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Bosn.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Bosn was duly elected Chairperson of the Judiciary Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Natural Resources

Senator Brandt placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Brandt.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Brandt was duly elected Chairperson of the Natural Resources Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Nebraska Retirement Systems

Senator Conrad placed her name in nomination.

Senator Ballard placed his name in nomination.

The Chair declared the nominations closed.

The Chair appointed Senators Raybould, Rountree, and Strommen as tellers.

Senator Conrad	24
Senator Ballard	<u>24</u>
	48

The Chair announced that a second ballot would be cast between Senator Conrad and Senator Ballard.

The Chair appointed Senators Raybould, Rountree, and Strommen as tellers.

Senator Conrad	24
Senator Ballard	<u>25</u>
	49

Senator Ballard was duly elected Chairperson of the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Revenue

Senator Dungan placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern placed his name in nomination.

The Chair declared the nominations closed.

The Chair appointed Senators McKeon, Spivey, and Quick as tellers.

Senator Dungan	15
Senator von Gillern	<u>29</u>
	44

Senator von Gillern was duly elected Chairperson of the Revenue Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Transportation and Telecommunications

Senator Moser placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Moser.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Moser was duly elected Chairperson of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Urban Affairs

Senator McKinney placed his name in nomination.

Senator von Gillern moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator McKinney.

The motion prevailed.

Senator McKinney was duly elected Chairperson of the Urban Affairs Committee.

SELECT COMMITTEES

CHAIRPERSON - Rules

Senator DeBoer placed her name in nomination.

Senator Lippincott placed his name in nomination.

The Chair declared the nominations closed.

The Chair appointed Senators Clouse, Hunt, and Lonowski as tellers.

Senator DeBoer	22
Senator Lippincott	<u>27</u>
	49

Senator Lippincott was duly elected Chairperson of the Rules Committee.

CHAIRPERSON - Enrollment and Review

Senator Ballard nominated Senator Guereca.

Senator Ballard moved the nominations be closed and a unanimous vote by acclamation be cast for Senator Guereca.

The motion prevailed.

Senator Guereca was duly elected Chairperson of the Enrollment and Review Committee.

MOTION - Election Returns

Senator Storer moved that a committee of three be appointed to escort the Secretary of State to the Chamber to deliver the election returns of the General Election of November 2024.

The motion prevailed.

The Chair appointed Senators Brandt, Dorn, and Raybould to serve on said committee.

The committee escorted Secretary of State, Robert B. Evnen, to the rostrum where he delivered the following report:

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

January 8, 2025

Speaker of the Legislature
One Hundred Ninth Legislature, First Session 2025
State Capitol
Lincoln, Nebraska

Honorable Speaker:

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, I have the honor of herewith delivering to you, under Seal, the abstract of votes cast in the ninety-three counties of the State of Nebraska at the General Election held on November 5, 2024 for the offices of Public Service Commissioner, State Board of Education, and Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska. These votes are required by law to be canvassed by the Nebraska State Legislature pursuant to Section 32-1039 as submitted to me for delivery to the Honorable Speaker of the Legislature.

I also deliver to you, under Seal, the list of candidates receiving the highest vote for each particular office enumerated. The certificate of the Secretary of State accompanies this list.

The original abstracts containing the tabulation of votes from the ninety-three counties with reference to one Referendum and four Initiative Measures is on file in this office. A certification of these returns is also attached.

CERTIFICATE

State of Nebraska

United States of America,)) ss.	Secretary of State
State of Nebraska)		

I, Robert B. Evnen, Secretary of State of the State of Nebraska do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct listing of Referendum and Initiatives Ordered by Petition of the People showing the number of votes cast for and against at the General Election in the State of Nebraska held on November 5, 2024.

Nothing further is certified.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska on this date of January 8, 2025.

(SEAL)	(Signed) Robert B. Evnen
	Secretary of State

2024 General Election

Initiative Measure 434

A constitutional amendment to provide that, except when a woman seeks an abortion necessitated by a medical emergency or when the pregnancy results from sexual assault or incest, unborn children shall be protected from abortion in the second and third trimesters.

For	509,288
Against	417,624

Referendum Measure 435

A referendum measure on Section 1 of Legislative Bill 1402, enacted by the Nebraska Legislature in 2024, which provides for \$10 million annually to fund education scholarships to pay all or part of the cost to educate eligible students attending nongovernmental, privately operated elementary and secondary schools in Nebraska.

For	382,921
Against	508,140

Initiative Measure 436

A statutory initiative which: (1) provides eligible employees the right to earn paid sick time for personal or family health needs; (2) entitles

employees of employers with fewer than 20 employees to accrue and use up to 40 hours of such time annually and those employed by employers with 20 or more employees to accrue and use up to 56 hours of such time annually; (3) specifies conditions regarding paid sick time; (4) prohibits retaliation against employees for exercising such rights; (5) adopts documentation requirements; and (6) establishes enforcement powers and a civil cause of action for violations.

For 662,348
Against 225,974

Initiative Measure 437

A statutory initiative that makes penalties inapplicable under state and local law for the use, possession, and acquisition of an allowable amount (up to five ounces) of cannabis for medical purposes by a qualified patient with a written recommendation from a health care practitioner, and for a caregiver to assist a qualified patient with these activities.

For 637,126
Against 259,643

Initiative Measure 438

A statutory initiative that makes penalties inapplicable under state law for the possession, manufacture, distribution, delivery, and dispensing of cannabis for medical purposes by registered private entities, and that establishes a Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission to regulate such activities.

For 600,481
Against 291,867

Senator Murman moved to approve the report of the Secretary of State and the candidates stated therein be declared duly elected.

The motion prevailed.

The Secretary of State was escorted from the Chamber.

MOTION - Inaugural Ceremonies

Senator Sorrentino moved to arrange to hold the inaugural ceremonies for the newly elected state officials on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

The motion prevailed.

VISITOR(S)

The Doctor of the Day was Dr. Pat Hotovy of York.

ADJOURNMENT

At 1:24 p.m., on a motion by Senator Bostar, the Legislature adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 9, 2025.

Brandon Metzler
Clerk of the Legislature