

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 5, 2005

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator. The question is the motion to approve the nominees. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Bourne for a motion.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I move to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Bourne. The question is the motion to proceed to the election of the Chairperson of the Executive Board. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. The floor is open for nominations. The Chair recognizes Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to place my name into nomination for the Chairperson of the Executive Board. I served on the board the last eight years, and the past two years as Chairman of it, and these last two years were very challenging for us, especially with the difficult decisions we had to make with the budget restraints and all. But the board's decisions were made with every effort to minimize the impact of these cuts and guarantee that the Legislature is able to conduct its constitutionally mandated duties. I believe we were very successful in those efforts. I also believe in the last two years I've been fair and impartial in my decisions, and will continue to do so if reelected. The next two years will require us to continue to carefully monitor the budget situation, but the greater upcoming challenge will be one that we all have been anticipating--term limits. I'd like to use my experience on the Executive Board to make certain the Legislature, as an institution, is ready for term limits. I believe it is imperative to have procedures in place to ensure that the Legislature is not weakened by term limits and that it stays a strong, equal branch of government. If I am Chairman of the Executive Board, I will put forth a great deal of effort to prepare the Unicameral for term limits and, with your help, move us forward into a new era. Thank you.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Engel. Are there any