



STATE OF WISCONSIN Senate Journal

One-Hundred and Second Regular Session

2:09 P.M.

MONDAY, January 5, 2015

The Senate met.

The Senate was called to order by Senator Lazich.

The Senate stood for the prayer which was offered by Most Reverend Jerome Listeki, Archbishop of Milwaukee.

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

The National Anthem was performed by the Eisenhower School's "7th Position" String Ensemble of New Berlin.

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

State of Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

December 11, 2014

The Honorable, the Senate:

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the official canvass of the November 4, 2014 General Election vote for state senator along with the determination by the designee of the Chairperson of the Government Accountability Board of the winners.

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

If the Government Accountability Board can provide you with further information or assistance, please contact our office.

Sincerely,
KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

Statement of Canvass for State Senator

GENERAL ELECTION, November 4, 2014

I, Judge Thomas H. Barland, Chairperson of the Government Accountability Board, certify that the attached tabular statements, as compiled from the certified returns made to the Government Accountability Board by the county clerks of the several counties of the state, contain a correct

abstract of the total number of votes given for the election of candidates for State Senator, at a General Election held in the several towns, villages, cities, wards and election districts in said counties on the Fourth day of November, 2014.

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

Senate District

1st District
3rd District
5th District
7th District
9th District
11th District
13th District
15th District
17th District
19th District
21st District
23rd District
25th District
27th District
29th District
31st District
33rd District

Elected

Frank Lasee
Tim Carpenter
Leah Vukmir
Chris J. Larson
Devin LeMahieu
Steve Nass
Scott L. Fitzgerald
Janis Ringhand
Howard Marklein
Roger Roth
Van Wanggaard
Terry Moulton
Janet Bewley
Jon B. Erpenbach
Jerry Petrowski
Kathleen Vinehout
Paul Farrow

Done in the City of Eau Claire, this 1st day of December, 2014.

JUDGE THOMAS H. BARLAND
Chairperson
Government Accountability Board

With unanimous consent, the party leaders introduced their respective members as they came before the bar to be sworn in.

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Lasee

"Senator Frank Lasee has represented the people of the 1st Senate District since 2011. Prior to his election to the senate in 2010, Senator Lasee served in the Assembly from 1995 to 2009, representing the 2nd Assembly District.

While in the Assembly, Senator Lasee earned a reputation as a Taxpayer Watch Dog and an outspoken fiscal conservative. He has continued that legacy in the Senate as

the author and champion of numerous taxpayer protection proposals.

This session, Senator Lasee will chair the Committee on Insurance, Housing & Trade and serve as Vice Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources & Energy.

In the audience today is Frank's wife, Amy Joy."

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Carpenter

"Senator Tim Carpenter represents the Third Senate District which covers the Southside of Milwaukee, West Milwaukee, and portions of West Allis and Greenfield.

Senator Carpenter is entering his fourth term in the State Senate. Tim is a lifelong resident of his district. He graduated from the Milwaukee Public School system. He earned a Bachelor's degree from UW - Milwaukee in Political Science & History and a Master's degree from the La Follette School of Public Administration and Public Policy.

Tim was first elected to the State Assembly in 1984 where he served nine terms. Counting years served in both the Assembly and Senate, Tim is now the 3rd longest serving Wisconsin State Legislator in the Senate, following Sen. Rob Cowles – who was first elected to the Assembly in 1982 – and Sen. Fred Risser – who was first elected to the Assembly in 1956. Tim wants to thank Sen. Risser for 58 years of public service.

Tim serves as ranking Democratic member of both the Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs Senate and the Committee on Health and Human Services. Tim has enjoyed previously working on bipartisan legislation with the chairs of both committees, Sen. Jerry Petrowski and Sen. Leah Vukmir, respectively, and looks forward to productive committees this year as well."

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Vukmir

"This will be Senator Leah Vukmir's second term representing Wisconsin's 5th Senate District. A lifelong district resident, she previously served in the Assembly from 2003 to 2011.

Before her election to the Assembly, Senator Vukmir worked as a Registered Nurse and Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She brought her medical expertise and long record as a champion for children's health to the legislature, where she has been a leader in healthcare and education policy.

This session, Senator Vukmir will continue her work on healthcare issues as Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services. She will also have the honor of joining the Joint Committee on Finance and will serve as Vice Chair of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

Senator Vukmir would like to recognize her two children who are unable to be in attendance today: Elena who lives and works in New York City, and Nicholas who was just commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army—stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia."

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Larson

"Senator Chris Larson represents the Seventh Senate District which includes communities on the eastern edge of Milwaukee County. This is an area that embodies Wisconsin's greatest values and traditions, including: higher education with UW-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and Milwaukee School of Engineering; commerce and economic development with our state's premier airport, the Port of Milwaukee, and Downtown Milwaukee; artistic expression with the Milwaukee Art Museum; natural resources with the county park system near Lake Michigan; and cultural diversity with ethnic festivals at the Summerfest Grounds.

Senator Larson won his first re-election campaign to the State Senate this past November. In his first four years in the Senate, Senator Larson focused on strengthening public education and public transit, and supporting increased access to healthcare for all of Wisconsin's citizens. Senator Larson also had the honor and privilege to serve as the Senate Democratic Leader in the 2013-14 Session.

Previously, Senator Larson served as a County Supervisor with the Milwaukee County Board. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a degree in Finance. Senator Larson has experience as a business manager for a local running store and is a dedicated marathon runner. He has run 25 marathons and his goal is to run a marathon in each state across America. He has lived in Milwaukee County all of his life and resides with his wife and two children in the Bay View neighborhood.

Joining Senator Larson today is his wife Jessica, his two year old son Atticus James Larson, and one month old daughter Stella Louisa Larson."

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator LeMahieu

"Senator-elect Devin LeMahieu joins the legislature for the first time this session, representing the 9th Senate District. An Oostburg native and small business owner, Senator-elect LeMahieu has a long record of serving his community as a member of the Sheboygan County Board, Oostburg Chamber of Commerce, Oostburg Kiwanis Club, and more.

He brings his local government experience to the Senate this session as Chair of the Committee on Elections & Local Government, as well as Co-chair of the Joint Survey Committee on Tax Exemptions.

In attendance today are Senator-elect LeMahieu's mother, Rosemary, and father, State Representative Dan LeMahieu, who has served 12 years in the state assembly—including as a member of Joint Finance. Over 20 family members are present today, including his sister's family from Holland Michigan: Jim and Rebecca Peterson, Wendy, Lydia, Asha, and Kai."

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Nass

"Senator-elect Steve Nass joins the senate this year after a long career in the Assembly, where he served from 1991 to 2015. A Whitewater Native and veteran of the Wisconsin Air National Guard, Senator-elect Nass served in the Middle East in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In the assembly, Senator-elect Nass won a reputation for his work on higher education issues as Chair of the Committee on Colleges and Universities.

He brings his long record of leadership to the Senate this session, where he will serve as Chair of the Committee on Labor and Government Reform, Co-chair of the Joint Committee for Review of Administrative Rules, and Vice Chair of the Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges.

Senator Nass would like to welcome his daughter Ashleigh and her husband Steve Nordin, as well as Sheila Reiff, the Walworth County Clerk of Circuit Courts and future wife of Senator Nass.

The next two gentlemen joining Senator Nass today served with him in the 128th Air Refueling Wing during wartime and peacetime: Master Sergeant Dan Lewis and his wife Alice, and Senior Master Sergeant Ross Otto. Due to health issues, Korean War combat veteran Robert Gertsch was unable to attend. Master Sergeant Lewis, Senior Master Sergeant Otto, Sergeant Gertsch, and Chief Master Sergeant and Senator Nass --- thank you for your service to our nation and the great state of Wisconsin.

Also joining Senator Nass are guests from Jefferson County -Jim Schilbach and his wife Ellen, and Lee Pitzner and his wife Dianna.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Ringhand

“Senator Janis Ringhand represents the 15th Senate District which includes parts of Green, Dane, Rock, Walworth and Jefferson Counties. Senator Ringhand is entering her first term in the Wisconsin State Senate and previously served two terms in the Wisconsin State Assembly. Prior to that, she served as Evansville Mayor and Alderwoman.

In addition to owning her own business of making and selling her homemade beer mustard, for just over 17 years, she helped run the family small business, Ringhand Meat and Beverage in Evansville. Having earned her degree in Finance from Madison Area Technical College, returning to school after raising her two children, she also has several years of experience in small business accounting.

A champion for workforce training, education and economic development in the State Assembly, Senator Ringhand looks forward to continuing to work on these interwoven issues in the coming session here in the Senate. She will be serving on the Wisconsin State Building Commission, the Committee on Economic Development and Commerce and the Committee on Revenue, Financial Institutions and Rural Issues.

Joining Senator Ringhand today is her husband Gordon Ringhand, her daughter, Shawn Dunphy, and son, Dan Ringhand. Her grandchildren Haley and Jayden Dunphy, Makenna Ringhand are here in addition to Sen. Ringhand’s sister Anne Oestreich.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Marklein

“Senator-elect Marklein joins the Senate after having served in the Assembly from 2011 to 2015.

A practicing Certified Public Accountant and Certified Fraud Examiner, Senator-elect Marklein brought his financial savvy to the Assembly where he served as Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, and as Vice Chair of the Assembly Audit Committee.

He will continue his work on fiscal issues in the Senate as Chair of the Committee on Revenue, Financial Institutions, and Rural Issues and will have the honor of serving on the Joint Committee on Finance. He will also act as Vice Chair of the committee on Transportation & Veteran’s Affairs.

Joining Senator-elect Marklein in attendance today are his wife, Peggy, his children, multiple siblings and other members of his big farm family.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Roth

“Before his recent election to the Senate, Senator-elect Roger Roth served in the Assembly from 2007 to 2011, where he gained a reputation as a champion of fiscal responsibility. Prior to joining the Assembly, the Fox Valley native worked for and eventually led his family homebuilding business, which he and his brother still co-own.

A veteran of the Iraq War, Senator-elect Roth served four tours in the Middle East as a member of the Wisconsin Air National Guard, deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

He will continue his career of service in the Senate as the Chair of the Committee on Workforce Development, Public Works, & Military Affairs as well as the Vice Chair of the Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining & Forestry.

Senator Roth would like to thank his family members in the audience today: his wife Rebecca, sons Roger and Oliver, his father Roger Roth Senior and mother Karen, as well as numerous others joining him today: Joe Roth, Kevin Roth, Kasper Roth, Emmett Long, Madalyn Long, Bob Giesen, and Catherine Giesen.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Wanggaard

“Senator Van Wanggaard returns to the senate after previously serving from 2011 to 2012. He will represent the people of the 21st Senate District.

Senator Wanggaard has a long record of public service, with four terms on the Racine County Board of Supervisors and nearly 40 years in law enforcement—first as a security guard and police liaison and later as an appointee to the Racine Police and Fire Commission where he served as Secretary, Vice Chairman, and Chairman.

Senator Wanggaard will bring his long record of law enforcement experience to the Senate, where he will act as Chair of the Committee on Judiciary & Public Safety, Co-chair of the Joint Review Committee on Criminal Penalties and Vice Chair of the Committee on Labor & Government Reform. He will also join our caucus leadership as Majority Caucus Vice Chair.

Senator Wanggaard would like to extend his thanks to Wife MaryJo, Daughter & Son-in-law Kathleen & John Jensen, Son & Daughter-in-law Joshua and Amy Wanggaard, granddaughters Hattie Kay & Elouise Mae Wanggaard, Brother & sister-in-law Kevin and Sandra Wanggaard, Sister Gail Wanggaard; and extended family Michael & Jean Ottelein and numerous brothers and sisters who are unable to be here in person.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Moulton

“Senator Terry Moulton begins his second term representing the 23rd Senate District after serving in the Assembly from 2005 to 2008.

As a small business owner and avid outdoorsman, Senator Moulton brought his expertise to the Assembly, where he served as Chair of the Small Business Committee and Vice-Chair of the Natural Resources Committee.

This session he will continue to put his knowledge from those areas to work, retaining his posts as Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Small Business & Tourism and Vice Chair of the Committee on Health & Human Services.

Senator Moulton would like to thank his wife, Sue Kay for joining him here today.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Bewley

“Senator Janet Bewley represents the 25th Senate District, the largest of the 33 Senate Districts. The 25th borders two states, includes all of Wisconsin’s Lake Superior shoreline, contains watersheds of both the Great Lakes and the Mississippi, four tribal nations, state and national parks, large cities and small towns; farms, forests, and factories - sea caves and snowmobile trails.

Senator Bewley is starting her first term in the State Senate. Prior to her election to the Senate, she served two terms in the State Assembly after serving on the Ashland City Council.

Senator Bewley was born in Cleveland, Ohio, the second of four children. Her father was a truck driver, and her mom ran the house. Janet was the first member of her family to graduate from college. After a few years working in the ocean freight business, Janet went on to graduate school and earned a Master’s in Academic Administration from the University of Maine in 1977. And then she moved to Ashland and found her home.

During her varied professional career Janet has served as the Dean of Students at Northland College, Executive Director of the Mary H. Rice Foundation and Senior Community Development Officer/ State Tribal Liaison at the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority.

Joining Senator Bewley today are her husband, David Saetre, her three daughters, Timothy, Eyleen and Claire, her three grandchildren, Pryor, Silas and Blythe, and many friends from Northern Wisconsin.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Erpenbach

“Senator Jon Erpenbach represents the 27th Senate District which touches five counties; Columbia, Dane, Green Iowa

and Sauk with a rich tapestry of diverse communities and geographical destinations. Sen. Erpenbach is entering his fifth term in the Senate.

Senator Erpenbach begins work on the Joint Committee on Finance this session and has also served his caucus as Senate Minority Leader in the 2003 session. Priorities of his Legislative work include advancing policies to improve access to affordable quality health care for all, consumer rights and protections, and high quality education and higher education.

Joining Senator Erpenbach today are his wife Christine Bellport-Erpenbach, his parents Liz and Bill Erpenbach, and his children Joe and Amy Erpenbach.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Petrowski

“Today, Senator Jerry Petrowski begins his first full term in the Senate; he previously served two years after winning a Special Election in 2012 to represent the 29th Senate District where he is a lifelong resident. Before he joined the Senate, he had a distinguished career in the Assembly where he served from 1999 to 2012.

A Wausau native, small business owner, and farmer, Senator Petrowski also served 6 years in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1968 to 1974.

He will continue his leadership as Chair of the Committee on Transportation & Veterans Affairs And Vice Chair of the Committee on Economic Development & Commerce.

Joining Senator Petrowski here today are his wife, Ellen, and their family.”

Senator Shilling Introduced Senator Vinehout

“Senator Kathleen Vinehout represents the sprawling 31st Senate District which includes dairy farms nestled among the majestic bluffs of the Mississippi River, the bustle of Water Street and the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire.

A passion for establishing affordable health care for all brought this former dairy farmer to the Senate back eight years ago. Since 2006, Senator Vinehout has been a tireless advocate for making western Wisconsin the kind of place where people want to live, play, start a business and raise a family.

From her work on the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to make sure government does what it was created to do; to writing alternative budgets that made investments in what makes our communities strong such as great public schools, safe bridges and roads and a clean environment, Senator Vinehout works hard to improve the quality of life for all Wisconsin citizens.

Senator Vinehout is joined today by her husband Doug, son Nathan and other family members.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Farrow

“Senator Paul Farrow first joined the legislature in 2011, when he served in the Assembly until his Special Election to the 33rd Senate District in 2012. He joins the Senate for his first full term today.

Prior to joining the legislature, Senator Farrow—a lifelong resident of Waukesha County—had a long career as a small business owner and local government representative, holding positions on the Richmond School Board and in the Town of Lisbon.

In addition to being elected Assistant Majority Leader for this session, Senator Farrow will serve as Chair of the Committee on Education Reform & Government Operations, Vice Chair of the Committee on Elections & Local Government and Vice Chair of the Committee on Revenue, Financial Institutions & Rural Issues.

Today, Senator Farrow is being joined today by his Wife, Amy. His parents, former State Senator & Wisconsin’s Lt Governor Margaret Farrow and her husband, John Farrow. Senator Farrow would also like to recognize his brother, Peter, his business partner Dave Lehman and his guest Michelle Przybyla. Senator Farrow would also like to recognize his sons, Andrew & Jarod.”

Senator Farrow Introduced Senator Fitzgerald

“Senator Scott Fitzgerald returns this year once again to head the Wisconsin State Senate as Majority Leader.

Since Senator Fitzgerald’s first election to the Legislature in 1994, he has distinguished himself through his exemplary leadership. He has been selected by his colleagues four times as Majority Leader, three times as Minority Leader, and has held numerous other leadership positions, including Co-Chair of the Joint Committee on Finance and Chair of the Senate Corrections Committee.

A graduate of UW-Oshkosh, before his long tenure in the Wisconsin Legislature, Senator Fitzgerald owned and operated a local newspaper in his home of Juneau, Wisconsin, where he and his wife still reside.

A veteran of the US Army Reserves, Senator Fitzgerald served since 1981 and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Army branch in 1985. In 2009, he retired with 27 years of service at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Senator Fitzgerald brought his background in service to the Legislature where he has been recognized as a champion of veteran’s issues.

Joining Senator Fitzgerald today are his wife Lisa, mother Bonnie, and father Steve, a lifelong public servant and current superintendent of the Wisconsin State Patrol. He would also like to recognize his three sons Scott, Brennan, and Connor.”

OATH OF OFFICE

Upon the calling of the newly elected Senators on Monday, January 5, 2015, the following appeared before the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office which was administered by the Honorable Annette Ziegler, Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Frank Lasee | Tim Carpenter |
| Lean Vukmir | Chris Larson |
| Devin LeMahieu | Steve Nass |
| Scott Fitzgerald | Janis Ringhand |
| Howard Marklein | Roger Roth |
| Van Wanggaard | Terry Moulton |

- Janet Bewley
- Jerry Petrowski
- Paul Farrow

- Jon Erpenbach
- Kathleen Vinehout

CALL OF ROLL

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

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

Senators Bewley, Carpenter, Cowles, Erpenbach, Farrow, S. Fitzgerald, Gudex, Hansen, Harris Dodd, Harsdorf, C. Larson, Lasee, Lassa, Lazich, LeMahieu, Marklein, Miller, Moulton, Nass, Olsen, Petrowski, Ringhand, Risser, Roth, Shilling, L. Taylor, Tiffany, Vinehout, Vukmir, Wanggaard and Wirch - 31.

- Absent with leave - Senator Darling - 1.
- Vacancies - 20th Senate District - 1.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Senator Fitzgerald, with unanimous consent, asked that Senator Darling be granted a leave of absence for today's session.

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Resolution 1

Relating to: notifying the assembly and the governor that the 2015-2016 senate is organized.

By Senators S. Fitzgerald, Lazich, Farrow, Shilling and Hansen.

Read.

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

The ayes and noes were demanded and the vote was: ayes, 31; noes, 0; absent or not voting, 1; as follows:

Ayes - Senators Bewley, Carpenter, Cowles, Erpenbach, Farrow, S. Fitzgerald, Gudex, Hansen, Harris Dodd, Harsdorf, C. Larson, Lasee, Lassa, Lazich, LeMahieu, Marklein, Miller, Moulton, Nass, Olsen, Petrowski, Ringhand, Risser, Roth, Shilling, L. Taylor, Tiffany, Vinehout, Vukmir, Wanggaard and Wirch - 31.

Noes - None.

Absent or not voting - Senator Darling - 1.

Adopted.

Remarks of President Lazich

“I am tremendously honored by the faith and trust put in me by my colleagues to preside over this body. In the Senate, the expectation is debate will be robust and orderly. My job as president is to ensure everyone is heard and the agenda is completed. I will do my best to be fair and uphold the dignity of this body.

I want to thank the Most Reverend Jerome Listecky Archdiocese of Milwaukee for offering the opening prayer for this session, the New Berlin Eisenhower School’s string ensemble from my hometown of New Berlin for performing the national anthem as well as providing music for our reception earlier. Thank you to the VFW Post 7591 Madison for presenting the colors earlier today.

I want to thank and introduce the important people in my life my family. My husband, Glenn. Glenn could not join us today because he is assisting his 94 year old father, Emil; a World War II veteran, a very important person in our lives. I thank my children, my son Glenn and his wife Dana and their three children Autumn, Grayson, and Macie, my daughter Bernadine with her husband John and my daughter Rhonda, watching on Wisconsin Eye because she is with her husband Steve and her four daughters, Caitlin, Maddy, Ashley and Carolyn. Steve is stationed with the United States Navy. Everyone in this chamber knows the tremendous roles our families play in our lives and careers. For many of us, our families are the reason we ran for office and obtain success. If you have not already done so, please take a moment and thank your families today.

I spoke with our dear friend Senator Alberta Darling not with us today because she with her husband Bill tending to healthcare needs. Please keep Alberta, Bill, and family in your thoughts and prayers.

For the first 131 years of its history, the Wisconsin State Senate relied on the Lieutenant Governor and a President Pro Tempore to preside over debate. In the 36 years since the office of President of the Senate was created, only four other senators have served in the capacity. Senators Brian Rude, Alan Lasee, Mike Ellis, and sitting with us today Fred Risser have all served as Senate President bringing dignity and honor to this body. As the first woman to hold this office, I plan to follow in their footsteps and example by leading the Senate in fair, open debates.

Two years from now, my hope is we all look back on this session and remember not just the policy also the civility we brought to the debate. Thank you again for entrusting me to be the President of the State Senate.”

SENATE OFFICERS OATH OF OFFICE

The President, Mary Lazich, the President Pro Tempore, Richard Gudex, the Chief Clerk, Jeffery Renk, and the Sergeant at Arms, Edward A. Blazel, having been duly elected by the adoption of **Senate Resolution 1**, appeared together before the bar of the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office which was administered by the Honorable Annette Ziegler, Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

President Lazich introduced the Senators returning from the 101st Session: Senators Cows, Taylor, Harris Dodd, Darling, Harsdorf, Tiffany, Olsen, Miller, Gudex, Wirsch, Lassa, Risser, Lazich, Hansen, and Shilling.

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

Remarks of Majority Leader Fitzgerald

“As we begin the important duty of conducting the work of the people of Wisconsin, I would like to welcome and congratulate the 17 Senators whose oaths were renewed or taken for the first time today. Your constituents have entrusted you with the great privilege and responsibility of representing their interests here in Wisconsin’s statehouse, and I look forward to working with each and every member of this body, new and returning.

Over the most recent legislative sessions, we have conducted the difficult work of repairing our state. We balanced the budget, eliminated the deficit, and created a surplus. We shored up Wisconsin’s Rainy Day fund to the largest balance in state history, reduced unemployment to the lowest level in six years, and put over \$2 billion back into the pockets of Wisconsin’s taxpayers. We have worked to ensure that Wisconsin is moving forward—continually becoming a better place for workers, taxpayers, and businesses.

I am proud of all that we have been able to accomplish, but more than that, I am proud that we have achieved all of this with a spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation. Last session, 97 percent of the bills that passed through these chambers and were signed into law in Wisconsin garnered support from both sides of the aisle. I call on all of my colleagues gathered here today to enter into the 102nd legislative session with that renewed spirit.

In this new session, we must build upon all of the achievements of the last. While Wisconsin’s voters are confident that our responsible stewardship has put Wisconsin on the right track, this session we must renew our commitment to improving our business climate, developing our workforce, and creating jobs.

As we embark on the process of crafting the next biennial budget, we will ensure that the best interests of Wisconsin’s taxpayers remain a priority. Wisconsin has already seen over \$3 billion in savings thanks to the reforms of Act 10, and we will continue to search out instances of waste, fraud, and abuse within our state government and ensure that they are eradicated. Meanwhile, we will continue to reform our education system, defend public safety, invest in infrastructure, and prove that we are responsible stewards of Wisconsin’s finances.

As members of the legislature, we are so often characterized by our divisions—from house, to district, to party affiliation; but all of us here today are united by our shared desire to make our state a better place. It is in this spirit that I welcome all of you to the 102nd Session of the Wisconsin State Senate.”

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

Remarks of Minority Leader Shilling

“Madame President, friends and colleagues. I am honored to join you here today as we begin a new legislative session and address the challenges facing our state.

I would like to welcome our new and returning members as well as their families. I especially want to recognize my husband Chris and two boys, Nathan and Zachary, who are here with me today. Thank you for your unconditional love, support and encouragement.

I also want to welcome everyone watching from home on WisconsinEye as well as our guests here in the Senate chamber.

While today marks the start of a new session, it also provides our legislature with a clean slate and the opportunity to chart a new course for our state.

We all know that Wisconsin is a unique, vibrant and hardworking state full of amazing people and unparalleled potential, but we need a clearer plan to invest in our future and ensure long-term economic success.

While our state has seen modest economic growth, too many workers remain unemployed, family wages are stagnant and our aging infrastructure is preventing many businesses from expanding. Additionally, Wisconsin’s \$2.2 billion budget shortfall and the state’s fiscal uncertainty continues to present significant challenges. While our neighboring states are enjoying budget surpluses and reaping the benefits of the national economic recovery, Wisconsin communities, businesses and residents are already bracing for another round of difficult budget cuts and sacrifices.

As we seek to balance Wisconsin’s budget deficit and build a brighter future, my Senate Democratic colleagues and I are committed to focusing on the important issues at hand. We will put forward thoughtful proposals to improve workplace flexibility, increase economic freedom and invest in pro-growth policies to strengthen the middle class. We recognize that these aren’t Democratic or Republican issues. They’re Wisconsin issues and we must find ways to work together on these key priorities.

In this new session, it is important to recognize the shortcomings of past policies and look for new ways to deliver on legislative promises. Without adequately investing in our future, Wisconsin will continue to lag our neighboring states in job growth and prosperity. We know that a quality education is the foundation for lifelong success, yet state cuts, local funding challenges and the massive increase of student loan debt have become significant burdens for families. By making targeted investments in our schools, we can improve education outcomes at all levels from pre-K programs to our technical colleges and universities.

Senate Democrats will also look for ways to help businesses improve workplace productivity, reduce employee turnover and provide greater workplace flexibility. We want to focus on increasing access to affordable childcare and reducing health care costs in order to eliminate the barriers that prevent employers and employees from succeeding in a competitive global marketplace.

We also recognize that our government has a responsibility to strengthen communities and private enterprise by maintaining a strong public infrastructure. From repairing aging roads and bridges to encouraging broadband access in urban and rural areas, we need to ensure that our infrastructure is an asset, not a liability, to businesses growth and expansion.

Each of the members in this chamber represents a unique district and geographic area of our state, but we are united in our desire to do what’s best for everyone. Rather than focusing on policies that will divide communities, I hope that we will seize this opportunity to set a new tone and find commonsense solutions to the challenges we face. As the Senate Democratic Leader, I look forward to working with Gov. Walker, my legislative colleagues, community leaders and local advocates to strengthen relationships and move Wisconsin forward. By working together, I know that we can provide greater economic opportunity, prosperity and freedom for all to enjoy.

Thank you.”

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

The joint committee on **Legislative Organization** reports and recommends:

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2015–2016 biennial session period.

Introduction.

Ayes: 10 – Senators Lazich, Fitzgerald, Farrow, Shilling, and Hansen. Representatives Vos, Steineke, Knodl, Barca, and Shankland.

Noes: 0 – None.

MARY LAZICH
Senate Chairperson

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2015-2016 biennial session period.

By joint committee on **Legislative Organization**.

Read.

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

The ayes and noes were demanded and the vote was: ayes, 31; noes, 0; absent or not voting, 1; as follows:

Ayes - Senators Bewley, Carpenter, Cowles, Erpenbach, Farrow, S. Fitzgerald, Gudex, Hansen, Harris Dodd, Harsdorf, C. Larson, Lasee, Lassa, Lazich, LeMahieu, Marklein, Miller, Moulton, Nass, Olsen, Petrowski, Ringhand, Risser, Roth, Shilling, L. Taylor, Tiffany, Vinehout, Vukmir, Wanggaard and Wirch - 31.

Noes - None.

Absent or not voting - Senator Darling - 1.

Adopted.

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

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Messaged.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

**State of Wisconsin
Office of the Secretary of State**

December 19, 2014

The Honorable, the Senate:

I, DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the following proposed amendments to the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin have been approved by the regular session of the 2013-14 legislature and duly published as required by Section 1 of Article XII of the Constitution.

Enrolled Joint Resolution 16 (first consideration)

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADJOURNMENT
HONORS AND REMARKS UNDER SPECIAL
PRIVILEGE**

Senator Larson, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of his wife Jessica, 2 year old son Atticus James Larson, and 1 month old baby girl Stella Louisa Larson.

Senator Harris Dodd, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of Cindy McGinnis.

Senator Lasee, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2015 inaugural; Lark Wartenberg, Vicky Gilsoul, Jim and Ying La Court, Fred and Marian Krumberger, Ron Antonneau, Pat Schillinger, Chris La Rowe, Rich Woldt, and his wife, Amy Joy Lasee.

Senator Farrow, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2015 inaugural; his wife, Amy, his parents, former State Senator and Wisconsin's Lieutenant Governor Margaret Farrow and her husband John Farrow, his brother, Peter, his business partner Dave Lehman and his guest Michelle Przybyla, and his sons, Andrew and Jarod.

Senator Vinehout, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2015 inaugural; Mari Frenier, Erika Frenier, Monica Nava-Frenier, Alejandro Nava-Frenier, Ivan Nava-Frenier, Katie Frenier-Lopez, Kelly Vineout, Douglas Smith, Jeremiah Anderson, Douglas Kane, and Nathan Vinehout-Kane.

Senator Marklein, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2015 inaugural; his wife, Peggy Marklein, Nicole and Luke Bacher, Bill and Stacy Marklein, Julie Hautala, Lori and Bob Ederer, Lynn and Jeff Palmer, Dick Marklein, Jeanne Bohl, Christina Bohl, Brad Ederer, Derrick Bohl, Randy Hartung, Tom Harlan, Bill Wall, William Biefer, and Adrian Roberg.

Senator Erpenbach, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of his wife Christine Bellport-Erpenbach, his parents Liz and Bill Erpenbach, his Uncle Jon Erpenbach and aunt Diane Erpenbach, his son Joe Erpenbach with his girlfriend Katie Sauer and his daughter Amy Erpenbach.

Senator Vukmir, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2015 inaugural; Paul Schmidt, Sally Sprenger, Gary Sprenger, Anna Marie Dickrell, Tim Martin, Deanna Friedrich, and Barry Marshall.

Senator Gudex, with unanimous consent, introduced his guest attending the 2015 inaugural; Alexana Gudex.

Senator Shilling, with unanimous consent, asked that then the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of her husband Chris Shilling, their two sons Nathan and Zachary Shilling, and her aunt Ann Ehlenfeldt. Senator Shilling would also like to adjourn in honor of her parents, Richard and Lynn Ehlenfeldt, who are always in her thoughts.

Senator Taylor, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of the career and memory of the late Annette "Polly" Williams. Annette Polly Williams was a zealous legislator and an unapologetic supporter of the African-American community. She was also a leader, role model, and dedicated public servant. Polly was only the second African American woman elected to serve in the Wisconsin State Assembly, and when on to become the longest serving female legislator in either house, having served the 10th Assembly District from 1980 to 2010. Polly was determined to bring equality to education to every child in the state and worked tirelessly to help level the playing field for children of low-income families. Polly led the charge to increase the quality of life from birth into adulthood, whether it be through education, health care, or civil rights. She helped to lay the groundwork for future black elected officials, through mentorship, guidance, and political support. Her tireless work at the city, county, state and national levels assisted in highlighting that African American contributions should be valued and supported. Polly was a devoted wife and mother; her children were her greatest priority, and she worked tirelessly to ensure that they would have a better life. Annette Polly Williams passed away last November in Milwaukee at the age of seventy-seven.

Senator Taylor, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of the career and memory of the late Geneva McGee-Harris. Geneva McGee-Harris, who was a lifelong Milwaukee resident and fully immersed herself in service to the community, understood the impact of segregationist laws on the quality of black life in every social indicator from civil rights to healthcare. Geneva had a close relationship with God, to direct her purpose in life, raise her four children, and equip her with the strength

and resolve to be a voice and change agent for those in need or impaired by what she viewed as one of the greatest barriers to a quality life, access to health services. Geneva was inspired by the Black Panther Party and worked to improve health outcomes by opening “The Peoples’ Free Health Clinic,” in 1970 and some forty-five years later, now known as the Isaac Coggs Health Center, is still standing. Geneva’s life work included co-founding and directing the Prescription Advocacy Referral Service and advocating for issues impacting the elderly. She married Hesakiah Harris in 2001 and continued serving others through her work at Mercy Missionary Baptist Church and has left a personal and family legacy of leadership and civic engagement. Geneva McGee-Harris passed away on December 30, 2014 in Milwaukee at the age of seventy-nine.

Senator Taylor, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of the late Dontre Hamilton. Last April, Dontre was shot in Red Arrow Park in Milwaukee. Dontre was sleeping on a park bench when he was awoken by an officer. After an improper pat down and physical altercation began, it ended with Dontre being shot 14 times. At the end of last year, the DA decided not to charge the officer involved in the death of Dontre. This news came at a time when nationally we were seeing, and continue to see, cases of black men being killed by police, with no justice. Dontre was not breaking the law and had a history of mental illness. His story highlights so many of the challenges that our state faces. Sky high black unemployment, the last of mental health services, and a mistrust in minority communities and government officials. Senator Taylor would like to adjourn today in the hopes that we reevaluate diversity and cultural training given to officers, in the hopes that communities come together to work on better strategies for police-community relations, in the hopes that mental health training is a requirement for all officers, and in the hopes that no individual is needlessly gunned down in our state again.

Senator Lazich, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns it do so in honor of and thanks the Most Reverend Jerome Listecki, Archbishop of Milwaukee, for providing the opening prayer, and thanks the members of the New Berlin Eisenhower’s “7th Position” String ensemble for providing music for the inauguration. Members of the Ensemble are Teresa Snyder, Tina Snyder, Emma Klahorst, Rachael Wilkowski, Serina Louey, Jamie Schara, Heather Browne, and Andrew Schrom. In addition Senator Lazich thanks the new Berlin Eisenhower Interim Principle Nicole Jones for chaperoning the group.

Senator Lazich with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of the special people in her life; Glenn Lazich, Glenn Lazich II, Dana Lazich,

Autumn Lazich, Grayson Lazich, Macie Lazich, Bernadine Fletcher, John Fletcher, Rhonda Warner, Steven Warner, Kaytlyn Warner, Madyson Warner, Ashley Warner, Caroline Warner, and Emil Lazich. Senator Lazich also acknowledged and thanked her special guests in attendance Howard Fletcher, Georgene Fletcher, Dave Meister, Rick Meister, Cathy Waller, and Gladys Manke.

Senator Carpenter, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of Milwaukee’s Hunger Task Force, and its Director of Advocacy, Maureen Fitzgerald, for helping others and upholding their dignity when they are at their most vulnerable.

Senator Carpenter, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourns it do so in honor of Sister Ann Catherine, who reminds him by her example, the honor in a life serving others.

Senator Petrowski, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2015 inaugural; his wife, Ellen Petrowski, his daughter Amy and her husband Chris and son Jaxon Kuckarik, and his daughter Alane Petrowski and her fiancé Francois Brunet.

Senator LeMahieu, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2015 inaugural; his parents Representative Daniel and Rosemary LeMahieu, sister Rebecca and Jim Peterson with children Wendy, Lydia, Asha and Kai, uncles and aunts Ruth Ann Ebberts, Arvin and Doris Meerdink, Jim and Donna LeMahieu, Rev. Larry and Fay TenHaken, Bob and Kay Wilterdink, cousins Lynnette Johnson with son Eli, Scott and Dawn LeMahieu with son Justin, and 2nd cousins Jack and Mary Hoffman.

Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Ted Blazel, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of his parents Robert and Mary Kay Blazel, his in-laws Dale and Dotty Heinecke, and his wife Hanna and sons Benjamin and William.

Senate Chief Clerk Jeffrey Renk, asked that when the Senate adjourns, it do so in honor of his sister-in-law Peggy Mairet and friend Judith Sweers who attended today’s inauguration.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Fitzgerald, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate stand adjourned pursuant to **Senate Joint Resolution 1**.

Adjourned.

3:15 P.M.