

OHIO

House

of

Representatives

JOURNAL

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2005

FIRST DAY

Hall of the House of Representatives, Columbus, Ohio
Monday, January 3, 2005 at 2:00 o'clock p.m.

This being the day designated by the Constitution of the State of Ohio for the meeting of the General Assembly in regular session, the members-elect of the House of Representatives assembled in the Hall of Representatives at 2:00 o'clock p.m. and were called to order by the Honorable Larry Householder, Speaker of the House of Representatives, One Hundred Twenty-Fifth General Assembly.

Prayer was offered by Father Todd Domenick, and the colors were presented by the Colonel White High School Color Guard.

Pursuant to Section 101.11 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Chair appointed Representative Widener of House District No. 84 to serve as clerk pro tempore.

The following named persons presented certificates of election as members of the One Hundred Twenty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Ohio, and having been administered the oath of office by the Honorable Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Justice of the Supreme Court, or previously having filed a sworn oath of office with the legislative clerk, entered upon the discharge of their duties:

#1-Columbiana		#51 - Stark(part)	
Chuck Blasdel	R	Scott Oelslager	R
#2 - Delaware		#52 - Stark(part)	
Jon Peterson	R	William J. Healy, II	D
#3 - Wayne		#53 - Butler(part)	
Jim Carmichael	R	Shawn N. Webster	R
#4 - Allen		#54 - Butler(part)	
John R. Willamowski	R	Courtney E. Combs	R
#5 - Fairfield		#55 - Butler(part)	
Tim Schaffer	R	Bill Coley	R
#6 - Wood		#56 - Lorain(part)	
Robert E. Latta	R	Joseph F. Koziura	D
#7 - Cuyahoga(part)		#57 - Lorain(part)	
Kenny Yuko	D	Earl J. Martin	R
#8 - Cuyahoga(part)		#58 - Huron, Lorain(part), Seneca(part)	
Lance T. Mason	D	Kathleen L. Walcher	R
#9 - Cuyahoga(part)		#59 - Mahoning (part)	
Claudette J. Woodard	D	Kenneth A. Carano, Sr.	D
#10 - Cuyahoga(part)		#60 - Mahoning(part)	
Shirley A. Smith	D	Sylvester Patton	D

#11 - Cuyahoga(part)		#61 - Carrol, Mahoning(part), Stark(part), Tuscarawas(part)	
Annie L. Key	D	John A. Boccieri	D
#12 - Cuyahoga(part)		#62 - Lake(part)	
Michael DeBose	D	Lorraine M. Fende	D
#13 - Cuyahoga(part)		#63 - Lake(part)	
Michael J. Skindell	D	Timothy J. Cassell	D
#14 - Cuyahoga(part)		#64 - Trumbull(part)	
Dale Miller	D	Randy Law	R
#15 - Cuyahoga(part)		#65 - Trumbull(part)	
Timothy J. DeGeeter	D	Sandra Stabile Harwood	D
#16 - Cuyahoga(part)		#66 - Clermont(part)	
Sally Conway Kilbane	R	Joseph Uecker	R
#17 - Cuyahoga(part)		#67 - Warren(part)	
James Peter Trakas	R	Tom Raga	R
#18 - Cuyahoga(part)		#68 - Portage(part)	
Thomas F. Patton	R	Kathleen Chandler	D
#19 - Franklin(part)		#69 - Medina(part)	
Larry L. Flowers	R	Charles E. Calvert	R
#20 - Franklin(part)		#70 - Greene(part)	
Jim McGregor	R	Kevin DeWine	R
#21 - Franklin(part)		#71 - Licking(part)	
Linda Reidelbach	R	David R. Evans	R
#22 - Franklin(part)		#72 - Clark(part)	
Jim Hughes	R	Merle Grace Kearns	R
#23 - Franklin(part)		#73 - Richland(part)	
Larry Wolpert	R	William J. Hartnett	D
#24 - Franklin(part)		#74 - Defiance(part), Fulton, Williams	
Geoffrey C. Smith	R	Stephen P. Buehrer	R
#25 - Franklin(part)		#75 - Defiance(part), Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert	
Daniel Stewart	D	James M. Hoops	R
#26 - Franklin(part)		#76 - Auglaize(part), Hancock, Hardin	
Mike Mitchell	D	Michael E. Gilb	R
#27 - Franklin(part)		#77 - Darke(part), Mercer, Preble	
Joyce Beatty	D	Keith L. Faber	R
#28 - Hamilton(part)		#78 - Auglaize(part), Champaign, Shelby	
Jim Raussen	R	Derrick Seaver	R
#29 - Hamilton(part)		#79 - Darke(part), Miami	
Louis W. Blessing, Jr.	R	Diana Fessler	R
#30 - Hamilton(part)		#80 - Erie, Ottawa(part)	
William J. Seitz	R	Chris Redfern	D
#31 - Hamilton(part)		#81 - Ottawa(part), Sandusky, Seneca(part)	

Steve Driehaus #32 - Hamilton(part)	D	Jeff Wagner #82 - Crawford, Marion(part), Wyandot	R
Catherine L. Barrett #33 - Hamilton(part)	D	Stephen Reinhard #83 - Logan, Marion(part), Union	R
Tyrone K. Yates #34 - Hamilton(part)	D	Anthony E. Core #84 - Clark(part), Greene(part), Madison	R
Tom Brinkman, Jr. #35 - Hamilton(part), Warren(part)	R	Chris Widener #85 - Fayette, Pickaway(part), Ross(part)	R
Michelle G. Schneider #36 - Montgomery(part)	R	John M. Schlicter #86 - Clinton, Highland, Pike	R
Arlene J. Setzer #37 - Montgomery(part)	R	David T. Daniels #87 - Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence(part), Ross(part), Vinton	R
Jon A. Husted #38 - Montgomery(part)	R	Clyde Evans #88 - Adams(part), Brown, Clermont(part)	R
John J. White #39 - Montgomery(part)	R	Danny R. Bulp #89 - Adams(part), Lawrence(part), Scioto	R
Dixie J. Allen #40 - Montgomery(part)	D	Todd Book #90 - Ashland(part), Knox, Morrow, Richland(part)	D
Fred Strahorn #41 - Summit(part)	D	Thom Collier #91 - Hocking, Licking(part), Perry, Pickaway(part)	R
Brian G. Williams #42 - Summit(part)	D	Ron Hood #92 - Athens, Meigs, Morgan, Washington(part)	R
John Widowfield #43 - Portage(part), Summit(part)	R	Jimmy Stewart #93 - Guernsey, Monroe, Muskingum(part), Noble, Washington(part)	R
Mary Taylor #44 - Summit(part)	R	Jennifer Garrison #94 - Coshocton, Muskingum(part)	D
Barbara Sykes #45 - Summit(part)	D	Jim Aslanides #95 - Belmont(part), Jefferson	R
Robert J. Otterman #46 - Lucas(part)	D	John Domenick #96 - Belmont(part), Harrison, Tuscarawas(part)	D
Mark Wagoner #47 - Lucas(part)	R	Allan R. Sayre #97 - Ashland (part), Holmes, Medina (part)	D
Peter Ujvagi #48 - Lucas(part)	D	Bob Gibbs #98 - Cuyahoga (part), Geauga	R

Edna Brown	D	Matthew J. Dolan	R
#49 - Lucas(part)		#99 - Ashtabula, Trumbull (part)	
Jeanine Perry	D	L. George Distel	D
#50 - Stark(part)			
John P. Hagan	R		

Representative Blasdel moved that the oaths of office and certificates of election of absent members-elect be accepted and that the oaths of office be spread upon the pages of the journal.

The motion was agreed to without objection.

The Chair then called to order the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Twenty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

Speaker Householder addressed the House as follows:

If I could I would like to take this time just to reflect a bit and look forward to the future. For those of you who are here for the first time, those members who are newly elected and entering this chamber for the first time taking your oaths of office, I reflect back to 8 years ago when I came into this chamber with my family and with my friends and what a special day that was for the Householders. As I saw those of you today in the hallways and here on the floor taking your special oaths, I had to think about how exciting it is to all of you to come here and enter this great body and look around and realize what a huge part of history, in a fantastic state, you are now in. There are tremendous challenges ahead for the state of Ohio. Tremendous challenges that you all are going to have to address, but for those new members I know how special this day is and how special it is for all of your guests and your family that are gathered here today. And I want to congratulate you especially on your election to the House of Representatives.

For those of you who are coming for a 2nd, 3rd, or maybe even a last term, each time we come to this body and each time we gather and take our oaths we gain a little bit of experience. We have a little bit more know how, a little bit more patience, a little bit more compassion about our great State. It is true that you represent your district but you also represent over 11 million Ohioans, Ohioans just like your families that have hopes, fears, desires, wants, and needs. It becomes very easy to get caught up in the legislative process. It becomes very easy to minimize issues and look at them through a special glass that maybe you only can see in the square block we know as the capital here in Columbus. My hope for all of us is that you continually go back to your neighborhoods, go back to the coffee shops, and on the street corners that make up your house districts and reflect those happenings that are occurring in Columbus, Ohio, in the weeks and months ahead you will become a much better legislator for that.

I remember just 4 years ago when I took the oath of office as Speaker of the House, I reflected back on what my father told me a long time ago which I think still is good advice today. My dad used to tell me that the good Lord

gave us two ears and one mouth and you should learn to use them accordingly. Good legislators listen. They listen for the concerns of their constituents and they act. And they act in what is the best interest of those people they represent.

Ohio is a state on the move. Many people say that Ohio is a rustbelt state. I don't believe that any more than I believed that 10 or 15 years ago. It is true that our state is over 200 years old. It is true we have gone from an agricultural state to an industrial state and we are still moving forward in technology. The decisions that are going to be made in this room over the next 24 months are going to impact this state enormously. It's a new beginning, a new dawn for Ohio. My goal when I became Speaker was to make sure that nearly half of the body, who were new coming in, would be experienced, educated, and informed legislators when I left and to leave that body in better shape than it was when I came and I believe we've done that. We've done that together. I've often said that this is the most informed and educated body of legislators that at least I have serve in, I think it is for decades because none of you specialize in a particular piece of public policy. You are all informed and you are all educated in various pieces of public policy and care largely about the state of Ohio as a whole.

And so as I leave, I leave the state in good hands, I leave the body in good hands with soon to be Speaker Jon Husted at the helm, the leadership team that is going to be selected, the chairman, the minority party, the staff everyone that is here are great people who are going to have great impacts on Ohio. Don't minimize your ability to impact. Don't give up easily because if it's right, if you are right in your beliefs, fight for it. That is what these halls are for and that is what has made Ohio famous for over 200 years.

The House then proceeded to the next order of business being the election of officers in compliance with the provisions of Section 101.13 of the Ohio Revised Code.

With the election of Speaker being in order, Representative Latta of House District No. 6 nominated Representative Jon Husted of House District No. 37 for the office of Speaker.

Representative C. Evans of House District No. 87 seconded the nomination.

Representative Faber of House District No. 77 seconded the nomination.

Representative Setzer of House District No. 36 moved that the nominations of Speaker be closed.

The motion was agreed to without objection.

The House then proceeded to the election of Speaker.

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen

Barrett

Beatty

Blasdel

Blessing	Boccheri	Book	Brinkman
Brown	Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert
Carano	Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler
Coley	Collier	Combs	Core
Daniels	DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine
Distel	Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus
Evans C.	Faber	Fende	Fessler
Flowers	Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb
Hagan	Hartnett	Harwood	Healy
Hood	Hoops	Hughes	Husted
Kearns	Key	Kilbane	Koziura
Latta	Law	Martin	Mason
McGregor	Miller	Mitchell	Oelslager
Otterman	Patton S.	Patton T.	Perry
Peterson	Raga	Rausen	Redfern
Reidelbach	Reinhard	Sayre	Schaffer
Schlichter	Schneider	Seaver	Seitz
Setzer	Skindell	Smith G.	Smith S.
Stewart D.	Stewart J.	Strahorn	Sykes
Taylor	Trakas	Uecker	Ujvagi
Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher	Webster
White	Widener	Widowfield	Willamowski
Williams	Wolpert	Woodard	Yates
			Yuko-97.

Having received a constitutional majority of all votes cast, Representative Jon A. Husted was declared the duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Twenty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

The chair appointed Representatives Redfern, White, Uecker, Sykes, Wolpert, Blessing, Allen, Reinhard, and Peterson to escort Representative Husted to the bar of the House.

Upon being presented, Representative Husted was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Justice of the Supreme Court, and entered upon the discharge of his duties.

The Speaker then addressed the House as follows:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker for your kind words of support and for your service to the people of Ohio. And to my colleagues, thank you for electing me Speaker of the Ohio House for the 126th General Assembly.

I am honored and humbled by your vote of confidence. You have given me a great opportunity and I'm proud to accept this responsibility. I pledge to work as hard and smart as I can, recognizing that at the end of the day I will be accountable to you, the citizens of Ohio and to God.

Let me congratulate the new members joining us today and offer a warm welcome to those returning. Thank you for your willingness to serve your fellow Ohioans.

Let me welcome all of the friends and families here with us today. We deeply appreciate the sacrifice you make in the name of public service. I also want to recognize the service of so many courageous Ohioans serving in the armed forces and I want to make special mention of Senator Steve Stivers and Representative John Boccieri for their service to our country in Iraq.

This day would not be possible without the love and support of my family. I was blessed to have great parents that always supported and encouraged me as a child. Please help me welcome my brother Jeff and his wife Jessica and my Mom and Dad, Jim and Judy Husted. Thank you for being here to share this special day.

Finally, let me recognize the greatest blessing in my life, my son Alex. He is growing up so fast, and even nine year olds make a lot of sacrifices so their parents can serve as legislators. Thank you Alex.

Each of us in this chamber takes great pride in Ohio. And each of us must take great pride in the work we will do in this House.

I'm fortunate to have been raised in a family where common sense, hard work and persistence are held in high regard. I learned these traits from my father and I will pass them along to my son. They serve as the foundation of the great Ohio tradition. You won't find these traditions on the cover of a travel magazine or in pages of a marketing brochure but they live in the hearts of every Ohioan.

Ohio also has a great tradition of pulling together in tough times and you and I certainly face tough times ahead. Resources are few. Demands are many. If we are to accomplish the work ahead we must work harder and smarter than ever before.

Our varied backgrounds and differences provide great opportunity to generate new ideas. We should debate the big issues of our day, but we must always take care to do so respectfully. Let us not be judged by what we say in this historic chamber, but by what we accomplish here and by the manner in which we conduct ourselves.

Let me recognize Representative Chris Redfern for his dedicated leadership of his caucus. Minority Leader Redfern, my door is open to you and your members so that we may work together for the betterment of Ohio. I also want to extend recognition to Representative Barbara Sykes who was recently elected to serve as President of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus. I look forward to our opportunities to work together.

As some of you know, the game of football has played a significant role in my life. The lessons I learned on and off the field impact who I am, how I approach life and how I will lead this House.

To win in football, you must have a game plan, understand your role, work hard, be self-disciplined, and no matter how tough it gets you can never quit and let your team down.

I'm so pleased that two people who helped me learn these lessons could join us today. Please help me recognize my high school coach Hip Klotz from Montpelier and my college coach, Mike Kelly from the University of Dayton.

In the past few years, we've wrestled with school funding, debated measures on the definition of marriage and Ohioans' second amendment rights, provided seniors relief from the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs and addressed civil justice and campaign finance reforms. We've also dealt with some of the most serious budget challenges in Ohio's history.

Yes, these have been difficult challenges, but the 126th General Assembly promises even greater challenges and even more important decisions. But I believe in you, I believe in the people of the State of Ohio and I believe our state can begin a new era of prosperity. And on behalf of the House, I pledge to work together with Governor Taft and Senate President Bill Harris to move Ohio toward a new beginning.

Meeting these challenges will not be easy, nothing worth doing ever is.

Today I want to discuss the priorities that will command our attention. These are not just House priorities, they are Ohio priorities.

There is no more important task for us than to transform and revitalize Ohio's economy. We've taken action to improve Ohio's competitiveness. Reforming our civil justice laws last month was a step in the right direction. But this is not enough. If we're going to truly transform Ohio's economy we must have the courage to change the way we do business in this state. We must create an economic environment where businesses want to locate and grow, creating good jobs today and better jobs for the future, so that our children and grandchildren have the opportunity to prosper right here in Ohio.

The road to prosperity must start by exercising fiscal discipline in the upcoming budget. If we do so, we will then have the opportunity to reform our tax code. Reforming the tax code will not be easy. If it was, it would have been done by now. But reforming our tax laws must be among our highest priorities if we want Ohioans to continue to live, work and invest in our state. And while we must keep an open mind to the many ideas there are for bringing Ohio's tax code into the 21st Century, there are common goals we must share. The goal of simplicity, a tax code that is easier to understand and less costly to comply with. And the goal of creating a system where everyone pays their fair share and where government does not decide who wins and who loses.

If we are serious about creating the next generation of jobs in Ohio, it is only logical that we should also make it less expensive for businesses to employ people. We can accomplish this through extensive reforms to our regulatory system, making it simpler and more affordable to operate a business and employ more Ohioans.

The upcoming two-year state budget that will soon demand our full attention will require unparalleled fiscal discipline. We have an obligation to

pass a responsible balanced budget; one that provides state government the needed resources to accomplish its essential duties: caring for those in need, protecting our citizens, and providing a sound infrastructure.

But like Ohio's businesses and families, state government must prioritize. State government must continue to become more efficient. The explosive growth of Medicaid will bankrupt Ohio unless we take difficult but decisive steps. We will continue to be a good partner with those who depend on state government, but they, like us, must do a better job of streamlining and consolidating services.

For Ohio to prosper in the years ahead, we must continue to improve education for every Ohio student. Ohio is doing a good job in improving primary and secondary education. We are seeing proficiency scores rising and graduation levels at an all time high. We spend more today for instruction and buildings than ever in our history. There is no doubt that our education system today is better than it was 10 years ago. But more needs to be done.

We must continue investing in educational excellence, targeting resources to those children most in need, providing parents and students with more choices, and demanding accountability for parents, students and educators, alike. There is no question that grade school, middle school and high school are the fundamental building blocks for a competitive state. But increasingly, higher education and the higher skills of our workforce are what will set us apart. Ohio is blessed with great institutions of higher learning. Their ability to produce a skilled workforce, innovative discoveries and to enhance our quality of life are essential to our economic future. We must be a strong partner with our colleges and universities. We must renew this commitment with a focus on our students and Ohio's future.

Tuition increases must be kept under control so higher education is accessible to all Ohio families. State colleges and universities must consistently demonstrate results, and we all must try to change the culture so that higher educational attainment becomes the norm, not the exception for Ohioans.

As we know from our recent budget challenges, government will never have enough money to do everything. So whether it's primary and secondary education or higher education, we should not strive to have the most expensive education system, but the most effective education system in America. As I said at the outset, our resources are few and the demands are many. We have an ambitious agenda to restore Ohio's promise. We will have to call upon Ohio's traditions of hard work, teamwork and creativity, and pledge to operate in a respectful manner. Individually we can do what's good for Ohio, but together we can accomplish what's great.

As I look up at Coach Kelly, I am reminded of what he always used to tell our team when we faced a challenge, "Don't tell me how rough the sea is, just bring the ship in." The sea before us is going to be rough, but we can't make excuses, we just need to get the job done.

That's the Ohio tradition, established by the men and women who came before us. Their times were marked by war and recession, growth and innovation. But whether poverty or prosperity, each generation blazed the trail of a better Ohio and passed along the proud Ohio traditions we hold sacred today.

We do not know what our times will hold, but the ability resides in each of us to overcome adversity, embrace opportunity and create a better Ohio for our children and grandchildren. With term-limits, we know our time here is precious. Let the generation of legislators that follows us remember our service here in the 126th General Assembly as a time when we showed the courage to tackle the tough issues. That in the time we served here, we laid the foundation for a growing, prosperous economy. That we helped more Ohioans access good jobs, become more secure and better educated than at any time in history, and that we turned a pessimistic outlook for Ohio's future into one of hope and optimism.

This is a future that is dependent on our actions, and I thank you for the opportunity to lead the House on behalf of this cause. Thank you and may God bless this House of Representatives and the Great State of Ohio.

The House then proceeded to the next order of business being the election of Speaker Pro Tempore.

Representative Schneider of House District No. 35 nominated Representative Charles Blasdel of House District No. 1 for the office of Speaker Pro Tempore.

Representative J. Stewart of House District No. 92 seconded the nomination.

Representative Law of House District No. 64 moved that the nominations of Speaker Pro Tempore be closed.

The motion was agreed to without objection.

The House then proceeded to the election of Speaker Pro Tempore.

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 93, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen	Barrett	Beatty	Blessing
Boccieri	Book	Brinkman	Brown
Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert	Carano
Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler	Coley
Collier	Combs	Core	Daniels
DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine	Distel
Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus	Evans C.
Faber	Fende	Fessler	Flowers
Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb	Hagan
Hartnett	Harwood	Healy	Hood
Hoops	Hughes	Husted	Kearns
Key	Kilbane	Koziura	Latta

Law	Martin	Mason	McGregor
Miller	Oelslager	Otterman	Patton S.
Patton T.	Perry	Peterson	Raga
Raussen	Redfern	Reidelbach	Reinhard
Sayre	Schaffer	Schlichter	Schneider
Seaver	Seitz	Setzer	Skindell
Smith G.	Smith S.	Stewart D.	Stewart J.
Strahorn	Taylor	Trakas	Uecker
Ujvagi	Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher
Webster	White	Widener	Widowfield
Willamowski	Williams	Wolpert	Yates
			Yuko-93.

Having received a constitutional majority of all votes cast, Charles Blasdel was declared the duly elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Twenty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

The chair appointed Representatives Kearns, Flowers, DeWine, Carmichael, Schneider, Raussen, Seitz, and Raga to escort Representative Blasdel to the bar of the House.

Upon being presented, Representative Blasdel was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Justice of the Supreme Court, and entered upon the discharge of his duties.

The next order of business being the election of the majority floor leader, the assistant majority floor leader, the majority whip, and the assistant majority whip of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Twenty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

Representative Blasdel offered the following resolution:

H. R. No. 1-Representative Blasdel.

Relative to the election of the majority floor leader, the assistant majority floor leader, the majority whip, and the assistant majority whip for the 126th General Assembly of Ohio.

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly of Ohio have been advised that the caucus of Republican members have chosen Merle Grace Kearns of House District #72 as majority floor leader, Larry L. Flowers of House District #19 as assistant majority floor leader, Kevin DeWine of House District #70 as majority whip, and Jim Carmichael of House District #3 as assistant majority whip; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly that Merle Grace Kearns be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of majority floor leader; that Larry L.

Flowers be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of assistant majority floor leader; that Kevin DeWine be, and upon the adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of majority whip; and that Jim Carmichael be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of assistant majority whip.

The question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen	Barrett	Beatty	Blasdel
Blessing	Bocchieri	Book	Brinkman
Brown	Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert
Carano	Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler
Coley	Collier	Combs	Core
Daniels	DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine
Distel	Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus
Evans C.	Faber	Fende	Fessler
Flowers	Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb
Hagan	Hartnett	Harwood	Healy
Hood	Hoops	Hughes	Husted
Kearns	Key	Kilbane	Koziura
Latta	Law	Martin	Mason
McGregor	Miller	Mitchell	Oelslager
Otterman	Patton S.	Patton T.	Perry
Peterson	Raga	Raussen	Redfern
Reidelbach	Reinhard	Sayre	Schaffer
Schlichter	Schneider	Seaver	Seitz
Setzer	Skindell	Smith G.	Smith S.
Stewart D.	Stewart J.	Strahorn	Sykes
Taylor	Trakas	Uecker	Ujvagi
Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher	Webster
White	Widener	Widowfield	Willamowski
Williams	Wolpert	Woodard	Yates
			Yuko-97.

The resolution was adopted.

The majority floor leader, Representative Kearns; the assistant majority floor leader, Representative Flowers; the majority whip, Representative DeWine; the assistant majority whip, Representative Carmichael, were escorted to the bar of the House by Representatives Seaver, Daniels, Fessler, Dolan, Taylor, and Willamowski were administered the oath of office by the Honorable Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Justice of the Supreme Court, and entered upon the discharge of their duties.

The next order of business being the election of minority leader of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Twenty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

Representative Blasdel offered the following resolution:

H. R. No. 2-Representative Blasdel.

Relative to the election of the minority leader for the 126th General Assembly of Ohio.

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly of Ohio have been advised that the caucus of Democrat members has chosen Chris Redfern of House District #80 as minority leader; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly that Chris Redfern be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of minority leader.

The question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen	Barrett	Beatty	Blasdel
Blessing	Bocchieri	Book	Brinkman
Brown	Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert
Carano	Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler
Coley	Collier	Combs	Core
Daniels	DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine
Distel	Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus
Evans C.	Faber	Fende	Fessler
Flowers	Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb
Hagan	Hartnett	Harwood	Healy
Hood	Hoops	Hughes	Husted
Kearns	Key	Kilbane	Koziura
Latta	Law	Martin	Mason
McGregor	Miller	Mitchell	Oelslager
Otterman	Patton S.	Patton T.	Perry
Peterson	Raga	Raussen	Redfern
Reidelbach	Reinhard	Sayre	Schaffer
Schlichter	Schneider	Seaver	Seitz
Setzer	Skindell	Smith G.	Smith S.
Stewart D.	Stewart J.	Strahorn	Sykes
Taylor	Trakas	Uecker	Ujvagi
Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher	Webster
White	Widener	Widowfield	Willamowski
Williams	Wolpert	Woodard	Yates
			Yuko-97.

The resolution was adopted.

Having received a constitutional majority of all votes cast, Chris Redfern was declared the duly elected minority leader of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Twenty-Sixth General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

The chair appointed Representatives Hartnett, Driehaus, Mason, Beatty, Strahorn, Key, and Garrison to escort Representative Redfern to the bar of the House.

Upon being presented, Representative Redfern was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Justice of the Supreme Court, and entered upon the discharge of his duties.

Representative Blasdel offered the following resolution:

H. R. No. 3-Representative Blasdel.

Relative to the election of the assistant minority leader, the minority whip, and the assistant minority whip for the 126th General Assembly of Ohio.

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly of Ohio have been advised that the caucus of Democrat members has chosen Joyce Beatty of House District #27 as assistant minority leader, Steve Driehaus of House District #31 as minority whip, and Lance Mason of House District #8 as assistant minority whip; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly that Joyce Beatty be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of assistant minority leader; that Steve Driehaus be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of minority whip; and that Lance Mason be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of assistant minority whip.

The question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen	Barrett	Beatty	Blasdel
Blessing	Bocchieri	Book	Brinkman
Brown	Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert
Carano	Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler
Coley	Collier	Combs	Core
Daniels	DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine
Distel	Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus
Evans C.	Faber	Fende	Fessler
Flowers	Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb
Hagan	Hartnett	Harwood	Healy
Hood	Hoops	Hughes	Husted
Kearns	Key	Kilbane	Koziura
Latta	Law	Martin	Mason
McGregor	Miller	Mitchell	Oelslager
Otterman	Patton S.	Patton T.	Perry
Peterson	Raga	Raussen	Redfern
Reidelbach	Reinhard	Sayre	Schaffer
Schlichter	Schneider	Seaver	Seitz
Setzer	Skindell	Smith G.	Smith S.
Stewart D.	Stewart J.	Strahorn	Sykes

Taylor	Trakas	Uecker	Ujvagi
Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher	Webster
White	Widener	Widowfield	Willamowski
Williams	Wolpert	Woodard	Yates
			Yuko-97.

The resolution was adopted.

The assistant minority leader, Representative Beatty; the minority whip, Representative Driehaus; the assistant minority whip, Representative Mason, were escorted to the bar of the House by Representatives Redfern, Hartnett, Sykes, Strahorn, Key, Fende, and Garrison, were administered the oath of office by the Honorable Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Justice of the Supreme Court, and entered upon the discharge of their duties.

The next order of business being the election of officials of the House of Representatives and empowering the chief administrative officer to sign vouchers.

Representative Blasdel offered the following resolution:

H. R. No. 4-Representative Blasdel.

Relative to the election of officials of the House of Representatives and empowering the Chief Administrative Officer to sign vouchers.

BE IT RESOLVED, By the members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly, that Kimberly M. Flasher be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of Chief Administrative Officer; that Laura P. Clemens be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of Clerk; and that Thomas F. Brandt be, and upon adoption of this resolution is, hereby elected to the office of Sergeant-at-arms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the terms of office of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Clerk, and the Sergeant-at-arms shall be for a period of two years; and be it further

RESOLVED, That except in cases in which the signature or approval of the speaker is required by law, the Chief Administrative Officer of the House is hereby directed and empowered to sign all vouchers to be presented to the auditor of state for the payment of any claim or claims against the state for service rendered, supplies furnished, money expended, or liabilities incurred in connection with the proper operation of the House of Representatives.

The question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen	Barrett	Beatty	Blasdel
Blessing	Bocchieri	Book	Brinkman
Brown	Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert
Carano	Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler
Coley	Collier	Combs	Core
Daniels	DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine
Distel	Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus
Evans C.	Faber	Fende	Fessler
Flowers	Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb
Hagan	Hartnett	Harwood	Healy
Hood	Hoops	Hughes	Husted
Kearns	Key	Kilbane	Koziura
Latta	Law	Martin	Mason
McGregor	Miller	Mitchell	Oelslager
Otterman	Patton S.	Patton T.	Perry
Peterson	Raga	Rausen	Redfern
Reidelbach	Reinhard	Sayre	Schaffer
Schlichter	Schneider	Seaver	Seitz
Setzer	Skindell	Smith G.	Smith S.
Stewart D.	Stewart J.	Strahorn	Sykes
Taylor	Trakas	Uecker	Ujvagi
Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher	Webster
White	Widener	Widowfield	Willamowski
Williams	Wolpert	Woodard	Yates
			Yuko-97.

The resolution was adopted.

Having received the constitutional majority of all votes casts, the above named persons were duly elected officers of the House of Representatives, and having been administered the oath of office by the Honorable Evelyn Lundberg Stratton, Justice of the Supreme Court, and entered upon the discharge of their duties.

Representative Blasdel offered the following resolution:

H. R. No. 5-Representative Blasdel.

Relative to the appointment of a special committee on Rules.

BE IT RESOLVED, By the members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly, that the speaker shall appoint a committee of eight members to prepare the rules for the conduct of business of the House and to confer with a like committee from the Senate to prepare joint rules and to report at the earliest date practicable; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in the interim all questions on procedure shall be determined on the basis of the rules of the House of Representatives adopted by the House during the 125th General Assembly.

The question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen	Barrett	Beatty	Blasdel
Blessing	Bocchieri	Book	Brinkman
Brown	Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert
Carano	Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler
Coley	Collier	Combs	Core
Daniels	DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine
Distel	Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus
Evans C.	Faber	Fende	Fessler
Flowers	Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb
Hagan	Hartnett	Harwood	Healy
Hood	Hoops	Hughes	Husted
Kearns	Key	Kilbane	Koziura
Latta	Law	Martin	Mason
McGregor	Miller	Mitchell	Oelslager
Otterman	Patton S.	Patton T.	Perry
Peterson	Raga	Rausen	Redfern
Reidelbach	Reinhard	Sayre	Schaffer
Schlichter	Schneider	Seaver	Seitz
Setzer	Skindell	Smith G.	Smith S.
Stewart D.	Stewart J.	Strahorn	Sykes
Taylor	Trakas	Uecker	Ujvagi
Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher	Webster
White	Widener	Widowfield	Willamowski
Williams	Wolpert	Woodard	Yates
			Yuko-97.

The resolution was adopted.

Representative Blasdel offered the following resolution:

H. R. No. 6-Representative Blasdel.

Relative to employment and compensation of employees of the House of Representatives preparatory to and during House organization.

BE IT RESOLVED, By the members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly, that the chief administrative officer of the House of Representatives is hereby authorized to pay all employees actually employed preparatory to House organization of the 126th General Assembly from December 31, 2004 to January 3, 2005, the date of the convening of the 126th General Assembly, at the same salary that was paid them during the 125th General Assembly.

The question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen	Barrett	Beatty	Blasdel
Blessing	Bocchieri	Book	Brinkman
Brown	Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert
Carano	Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler
Coley	Collier	Combs	Core
Daniels	DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine
Distel	Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus
Evans C.	Faber	Fende	Fessler
Flowers	Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb
Hagan	Hartnett	Harwood	Healy
Hood	Hoops	Hughes	Husted
Kearns	Key	Kilbane	Koziura
Latta	Law	Martin	Mason
McGregor	Miller	Mitchell	Oelslager
Otterman	Patton S.	Patton T.	Perry
Peterson	Raga	Raussen	Redfern
Reidelbach	Reinhard	Sayre	Schaffer
Schlichter	Schneider	Seaver	Seitz
Setzer	Skindell	Smith G.	Smith S.
Stewart D.	Stewart J.	Strahorn	Sykes
Taylor	Trakas	Uecker	Ujvagi
Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher	Webster
White	Widener	Widowfield	Willamowski
Williams	Wolpert	Woodard	Yates
			Yuko-97.

The resolution was adopted.

Representative Blasdel offered the following resolution:

H. R. No. 7-Representative Blasdel.

To provide for the offering of the pledge of allegiance to the flag by the members of the House of Representatives at the opening session of each week.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the House of Representatives of the 126th General Assembly shall make the following pledge of allegiance to the flag at the opening session of each week.

"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."

The question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen	Barrett	Beatty	Blasdel
Blessing	Bocchieri	Book	Brinkman
Brown	Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert
Carano	Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler

Coley	Collier	Combs	Core
Daniels	DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine
Distel	Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus
Evans C.	Faber	Fende	Fessler
Flowers	Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb
Hagan	Hartnett	Harwood	Healy
Hood	Hoops	Hughes	Husted
Kearns	Key	Kilbane	Koziura
Latta	Law	Martin	Mason
McGregor	Miller	Mitchell	Oelslager
Otterman	Patton S.	Patton T.	Perry
Peterson	Raga	Raussen	Redfern
Reidelbach	Reinhard	Sayre	Schaffer
Schlichter	Schneider	Seaver	Seitz
Setzer	Skindell	Smith G.	Smith S.
Stewart D.	Stewart J.	Strahorn	Sykes
Taylor	Trakas	Uecker	Ujvagi
Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher	Webster
White	Widener	Widowfield	Willamowski
Williams	Wolpert	Woodard	Yates
			Yuko-97.

The resolution was adopted.

Representative Blasdel offered the following resolution:

H. C. R. No. 1-Representatives Husted, Redfern.

Relative to a committee to wait upon the Governor to let him know the 126th General Assembly is in session.

BE IT RESOLVED, By the House (the Senate concurring), that a committee of eight on the part of the House of Representatives and eight on the part of the Senate be appointed to wait upon and inform the Governor that the two houses of the 126th General Assembly have organized and are ready to receive any communication he may desire to transmit.

The question being, "Shall the concurrent resolution be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Representatives

Allen	Barrett	Beatty	Blasdel
Blessing	Bocchieri	Book	Brinkman
Brown	Bubp	Buehrer	Calvert
Carano	Carmichael	Cassell	Chandler
Coley	Collier	Combs	Core
Daniels	DeBose	DeGeeter	DeWine
Distel	Dolan	Domenick	Driehaus
Evans C.	Faber	Fende	Fessler
Flowers	Garrison	Gibbs	Gilb
Hagan	Hartnett	Harwood	Healy

Hood	Hoops	Hughes	Husted
Kearns	Key	Kilbane	Koziura
Latta	Law	Martin	Mason
McGregor	Miller	Mitchell	Oelslager
Otterman	Patton S.	Patton T.	Perry
Peterson	Raga	Raussen	Redfern
Reidelbach	Reinhard	Sayre	Schaffer
Schlichter	Schneider	Seaver	Seitz
Setzer	Skindell	Smith G.	Smith S.
Stewart D.	Stewart J.	Strahorn	Sykes
Taylor	Trakas	Uecker	Ujvagi
Wagner	Wagoner	Walcher	Webster
White	Widener	Widowfield	Willamowski
Williams	Wolpert	Woodard	Yates
			Yuko-97.

The concurrent resolution was adopted.

Message from the Senate

Mr. Speaker:

I am directed to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate is now in session and ready to transact business.

Attest:

Matthew T. Schuler, Clerk.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPEAKER

Pursuant to House Resolution No. 5, the Speaker hereby appoints the following members to the Special Committee on Rules:

Representatives Blasdel (chair), Kearns, DeWine, Flowers, Carmichael, Beatty, Driehaus and Mason.

MESSAGE FROM THE SPEAKER

Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 1, the Speaker hereby appoints the following members to the Committee to wait upon the Governor:

Representatives Blasdel (chair), Kearns, DeWine, Flowers, Carmichael, Beatty, Driehaus and Mason.

Pursuant to the motion of Representative Blasdel, the following oaths of office were entered upon the journal:

State of Ohio

County of Licking

I, David R. Evans, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and

that I will faithfully and with fidelity discharge and perform all duties incumbent upon me as Representative of the 71st district of the Ohio House of Representatives to which I have been elected, to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God.

/s/ DAVID R. EVANS
David R. Evans

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, this 13th day of December, 2004.

/s/ THOMAS M. MARCELAIN
Thomas M. Marcelain, Judge
Licking County Common Pleas Court

State of Ohio

County of Coshocton

I, Jim Aslanides, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Ohio, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of State Representative for the 94th district of Ohio.

/s/ JIM ASLANIDES
Jim Aslanides

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 29th day of December, 2004.

/s/ JOHN WISE
John Wise, Judge
Fifth District Court of Appeals
State of Ohio

On motion of Representative Blasdel, the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 4, 2005 at 11:00 o'clock a.m.

Attest:

LAURA P. CLEMENS,
Clerk.