

OHIO

SENATE

JOURNAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007

FIRST DAY
Senate Chamber, Columbus, Ohio
Tuesday, January 2, 2007, 1:30 p.m.

This being the day fixed by law for the meeting of the General Assembly in regular session, the Senators and Senators-elect of the One Hundred Twenty-Seventh General Assembly of the State of Ohio, met in the Senate Chamber and were called to order by Senator Bill Harris, President of the One Hundred Twenty-Sixth General Assembly.

Prayer was offered by Pastor Dan Allan, Grace Brethren Church of Ashland, Ashland, Ohio.

The Colors were presented by the Ohio National Guard Joint Color Guard.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews of the Senators and Senators-Elect.

The National Anthem was sung by Ms. Jane Roland, Veterans' Benefits Counselor, Veterans' Service Office for Ashland County.

The President directed the Clerk to call the Senatorial Districts in their numerical order when the following named persons presented their certificates of election as Senators from their respective districts to the One Hundred Twenty-Seventh General Assembly, and the following named persons who were previously elected in 2004:

First District - Composed of: Auglaize (part), Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams - Steven Buehrer.

Second District - Composed of: Erie, Lucas (part), Ottawa (part), Wood - Randy Gardner.

Third District - Composed of: Franklin (part) - David Goodman.

Fourth District - Composed of: Butler - Gary Cates.

Fifth District - Composed of: Darke (part), Miami, Montgomery (part) - Tom Roberts.

Sixth District - Composed of: Montgomery (part) - Jeff Jacobson.

Seventh District - Composed of: Hamilton (part), Warren - Robert L. Schuler.

Eighth District - Composed of: Hamilton (part) - Patricia Clancy.

Ninth District - Composed of: Hamilton (part) - Eric Kearney.

Tenth District - Composed of: Clark, Greene, Madison - Stephen C. Austria.

Eleventh District - Composed of: Lucas (part) - Teresa Fedor.

Twelfth District - Composed of: Allen, Auglaize (part), Champaign, Darke (part), Mercer, Preble, Shelby - Vacant.

Thirteenth District - Composed of: Huron, Lorain, Seneca (part) - Sue Morano.

Fourteenth District - Composed of: Adams, Brown, Clermont, Lawrence (part), Scioto - Tom Niehaus.

Fifteenth District - Composed of: Franklin (part) - Ray Miller.

Sixteenth District - Composed of: Franklin (part) - Steve Stivers.

Seventeenth District - Composed of: Clinton, Fayette, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence (part), Pickaway (part), Pike, Ross, Vinton - John Carey.

Eighteenth District - Composed of: Cuyahoga (part), Geauga, Lake - Timothy J. Grendell.

Nineteenth District - Composed of: Ashland (part), Delaware, Knox, Morrow, Richland - Bill M. Harris.

Twentieth District - Composed of: Athens, Coshocton, Guernsey, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Washington - Joy Padgett.

Twenty-First District - Composed of: Cuyahoga (part) - Shirley Smith.

Twenty-Second District - Composed of: Ashland (part), Holmes, Medina, Wayne - Ron Amstutz.

Twenty-Third District - Composed of: Cuyahoga (part) - Dale Miller.

Twenty-Fourth District - Composed of: Cuyahoga (part) - Robert F. Spada.

Twenty-Fifth District - Composed of: Cuyahoga (part) - Lance T. Mason.

Twenty-Sixth District - Composed of: Crawford, Logan, Marion, Ottawa (part), Sandusky, Seneca (part), Union, Wyandot - Larry A. Mumper.

Twenty-Seventh District - Composed of: Summit (part) - Kevin J. Coughlin.

Twenty-Eighth District - Composed of: Portage, Summit (part) - Kimberly A. Zurz.

Twenty-Ninth District - Composed of: Stark (part) - J. Kirk Schuring.

Thirtieth District - Composed of: Belmont, Columbiana, Harrison, Jefferson, Tuscarawas (part) - Vacant.

Thirty-First District - Composed of: Fairfield, Hocking, Licking, Perry, Pickaway (part) - Tim Schaffer.

Thirty-Second District - Composed of: Ashtabula, Trumbull - Vacant.

Thirty-Third District - Composed of: Carroll, Mahoning, Stark (part), Tuscarawas (part) - John Boccieri.

The members affiliated with the Republican party, except Senator Clancy,

appeared at the bar of the Senate and were administered the oath of office by the Honorable Robert R. Cupp, Justice, Ohio Supreme Court.

The members affiliated with the Democrat party appeared at the bar of the Senate and were administered the oath of office by the Honorable Joseph J. Vukovich, Judge, 7th District Court of Appeals.

CLERK'S NOTATION

Senator Clancy, a duly sworn member of the Ohio Senate, being unable to attend session, filed a request to be excused under the rule.

OFFERING OF RESOLUTIONS

Senator Jacobson offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 1-Senator Jacobson.

Relative to the appointment of Keith Faber to fill the vacancy in the membership of the Senate created by the resignation of James D. Jordan of the 12th Senatorial District.

WHEREAS, Section 11 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, provides for the filling of a vacancy in the Senate by appointment by the members of the Senate who are affiliated with the same political party as the person last elected to the seat which has become vacant; and

WHEREAS, James D. Jordan of the 12th Senatorial District has resigned as a member of the Senate effective December 31, 2006, thus creating a vacancy in the Senate; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the members of the Senate who are affiliated with the Republican party, that Keith Faber (Republican), having the qualifications set forth in the Ohio Constitution and the laws of Ohio to be a member of the Senate from the 12th Senatorial District is hereby appointed, pursuant to Section 11 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, as a member of the Senate from the 12th Senatorial District, to fill the vacancy created by James D. Jordan; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the journal of the Senate together with the yeas and nays of the members of the Senate affiliated with the Republican party voting on the Resolution, and that the Clerk of the Senate shall certify the Resolution and the vote on its adoption to the Secretary of State.

The question being, "Shall the resolution, **S. R. No. 1**, be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 19, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz

Austria

Buehrer

Carey

Cates	Coughlin	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Jacobson	Mumper	Niehaus
Padgett	Schaffer	Schuler	Schuring
Spada	Stivers		Harris-19.

So the resolution was adopted.

Senator Faber appeared at the bar of the Senate and was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Robert R. Cupp, Justice, Ohio Supreme Court.

Senator Fedor offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 2-Senator Fedor.

Relative to the appointment of Jason H. Wilson to fill the vacancy in the membership of the Senate created by the resignation of Charlie A. Wilson, Jr. of the 30th Senatorial District.

WHEREAS, Section 11 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, provides for the filling of a vacancy in the Senate by appointment by the members of the Senate who are affiliated with the same political party as the person last elected to the seat which has become vacant; and

WHEREAS, Charlie A. Wilson, Jr. of the 30th Senatorial District has resigned as a member of the Senate effective December 31, 2006, thus creating a vacancy in the Senate; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the members of the Senate who are affiliated with the Democrat party, that Jason H. Wilson (Democrat), having the qualifications set forth in the Ohio Constitution and the laws of Ohio to be a member of the Senate from the 30th Senatorial District is hereby appointed, pursuant to Section 11 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, as a member of the Senate from the 30th Senatorial District, to fill the vacancy created by Charlie A. Wilson, Jr.; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the journal of the Senate together with the yeas and nays of the members of the Senate affiliated with the Democrat party voting on the Resolution, and that the Clerk of the Senate shall certify the Resolution and the vote on its adoption to the Secretary of State.

The question being, "Shall the resolution, **S. R. No. 2**, be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 10, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Boccieri	Fedor	Kearney	Mason
Miller D	Miller R	Morano	Roberts
Smith			Zurz-10.

So the resolution was adopted.

Senator Wilson appeared at the bar of the Senate and was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Joseph J. Vukovich, Judge, 7th District Court of Appeals.

Senator Fedor offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 3-Senator Fedor.

Relative to the appointment of Capri S. Cafaro to fill the vacancy in the membership of the Senate created by the resignation of Marc Dann of the 32nd Senatorial District.

WHEREAS, Section 11 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, provides for the filling of a vacancy in the Senate by appointment by the members of the Senate who are affiliated with the same political party as the person last elected to the seat which has become vacant; and

WHEREAS, Marc Dann of the 32nd Senatorial District has resigned as a member of the Senate effective December 31, 2006, thus creating a vacancy in the Senate; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the members of the Senate who are affiliated with the Democrat party, that Capri S. Cafaro (Democrat), having the qualifications set forth in the Ohio Constitution and the laws of Ohio to be a member of the Senate from the 32nd Senatorial District is hereby appointed, pursuant to Section 11 of Article II, Ohio Constitution, as a member of the Senate from the 32nd Senatorial District, to fill the vacancy created by Marc Dann; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the journal of the Senate together with the yeas and nays of the members of the Senate affiliated with the Democrat party voting on the Resolution, and that the Clerk of the Senate shall certify the Resolution and the vote on its adoption to the Secretary of State.

The question being, "Shall the resolution, **S. R. No. 3**, be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 11, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Boccieri	Fedor	Kearney	Mason
Miller D	Miller R	Morano	Roberts
Smith	Wilson		Zurz-11.

So the resolution was adopted.

Senator Cafaro appeared at the bar of the Senate and was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Joseph J. Vukovich, Judge, 7th District Court

of Appeals.

The President announced that a quorum of the Senate was present and that the Senate was ready to transact business.

The President announced that the next order of business should be the election of the following officers: President, President Pro Tempore, Majority Floor Leader, Assistant Majority Floor Leader, Majority Whip, Minority Leader, Assistant Minority Leader, Minority Whip, and Assistant Minority Whip.

The election of the President being the first order, the Chair appointed Senator Mumper to preside during the election of the President.

Senator Spada nominated Senator Bill Harris of the Nineteenth District for the office of President.

Senator Carey seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Jacobson, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Bill Harris be elected President?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Boccieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Jacobson	Kearney	Mason
Miller D	Miller R	Morano	Mumper
Niehaus	Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer
Schuler	Schuring	Smith	Spada
Stivers	Wilson		Zurz-31.

Senator Bill Harris having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected President.

Senator Harris appeared at the bar of the Senate and was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Robert R. Cupp, Justice, Ohio Supreme Court.

Senator Harris took the chair.

Senator Padgett nominated Senator Jeff Jacobson of the Sixth District for the office of President Pro Tempore.

Senator Grendell seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Gardner, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Jeff Jacobson be elected President Pro Tempore?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Boccieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Kearney	Mason	Miller D
Miller R	Morano	Mumper	Niehaus
Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer	Schuler
Schuring	Smith	Spada	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

Senator Jeff Jacobson having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected President Pro Tempore.

Senator Jacobson nominated Senator Randy Gardner of the Second District for the office of Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Coughlin seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Spada, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Randy Gardner be elected Majority Floor Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Boccieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Goodman	Grendell
Jacobson	Kearney	Mason	Miller D
Miller R	Morano	Mumper	Niehaus
Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer	Schuler
Schuring	Smith	Spada	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

Senator Randy Gardner having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Carey nominated Senator Robert F. Spada of the Twenty-Fourth District for the office of Assistant Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Niehaus seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Jacobson, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Robert F. Spada be elected Assistant

Majority Floor Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Bocchieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Jacobson	Kearney	Mason
Miller D	Miller R	Morano	Mumper
Niehaus	Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer
Schuler	Schuring	Smith	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

Senator Robert F. Spada having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Assistant Majority Floor Leader.

Senator Schuler nominated Senator Stephen C. Austria of the Tenth District for the office of Majority Whip.

Senator Schaffer seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Jacobson, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Stephen C. Austria be elected Majority Whip?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Bocchieri	Buehrer	Cafaro
Carey	Cates	Coughlin	Faber
Fedor	Gardner	Goodman	Grendell
Jacobson	Kearney	Mason	Miller D
Miller R	Morano	Mumper	Niehaus
Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer	Schuler
Schuring	Smith	Spada	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

Senator Stephen C. Austria having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Majority Whip.

The duly elected officers of the Republican party appeared at the bar of the Senate and were administered the oath of office by the Honorable Robert R. Cupp, Justice, Ohio Supreme Court.

Senator Miller, R. nominated Senator Teresa Fedor of the Eleventh District for the office of Minority Leader.

Senator Roberts seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Kearney, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Teresa Fedor be elected Minority Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Boccieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Gardner	Goodman	Grendell
Jacobson	Kearney	Mason	Miller D
Miller R	Morano	Mumper	Niehaus
Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer	Schuler
Schuring	Smith	Spada	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

Senator Teresa Fedor having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Minority Leader.

Senator Fedor nominated Senator Tom Roberts of the Fifth District for the office of Assistant Minority Leader.

Senator Miller, D. seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Kearney, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Tom Roberts be elected Assistant Minority Leader?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Boccieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Jacobson	Kearney	Mason
Miller D	Miller R	Morano	Mumper
Niehaus	Padgett	Schaffer	Schuler
Schuring	Smith	Spada	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

Senator Tom Roberts having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Assistant Minority Leader.

Senator Roberts nominated Senator Ray Miller of the Fifteenth District for the office of Minority Whip.

Senator Smith seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Kearney, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Ray Miller be elected Minority Whip?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Bocchieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Jacobson	Kearney	Mason
Miller D	Morano	Mumper	Niehaus
Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer	Schuler
Schuring	Smith	Spada	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

Senator Ray Miller having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Minority Whip.

Senator Smith nominated Senator Lance T. Mason of the Twenty-Fifth District for the office of Assistant Minority Whip.

Senator Kearney seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Bocchieri, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall Senator Lance T. Mason be elected Assistant Minority Whip?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Bocchieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Jacobson	Kearney	Miller D
Miller R	Morano	Mumper	Niehaus
Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer	Schuler
Schuring	Smith	Spada	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

Senator Lance T. Mason having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Assistant Minority Whip.

The duly elected officers of the Democrat party appeared at the bar of the Senate and were administered the oath of office by the Honorable Joseph J. Vukovich, Judge, 7th District Court of Appeals.

Senator Harris nominated David Battocletti for the office of Clerk.

Senator Fedor seconded the nomination.

On the motion of Senator Gardner, the nominations were closed.

The question being, "Shall David Battocletti be elected Clerk?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 32, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Boccieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Jacobson	Kearney	Mason
Miller D	Miller R	Morano	Mumper
Niehaus	Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer
Schuler	Schuring	Smith	Spada
Stivers	Wilson	Zurz	Harris-32.

Mr. Battocletti having received a majority of the votes cast was declared the elected Clerk.

Mr. Battocletti appeared at the bar of the Senate and was administered the oath of office by the Honorable Joseph J. Vukovich, 7th District Court of Appeals.

Senator Harris took the chair and addressed the Senate:

Justice Cupp, Judge Vukovich, former Senate President Richard Finan, former Lieutenant Governor and State Senator Bruce Johnson, honored guests, fellow senators, staff members, families and friends.

As president of the Ohio Senate, it is my honor to welcome you to the first day of Session for the 127th General Assembly.

I would also like to recognize and thank Pastor Dan Allan and our soloist Jane Roland -- both from my hometown of Ashland, Ohio.

You may remember that Pastor Allan and Jane led us in prayer and song at the beginning of the last General Assembly and with your encouragement, I asked them to come back and get us started on the right path for the 127th General Assembly. Thank both of you again for your

help. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Ohio National Guard Joint Color Guard both for their participation today and their service to our state and nation.

As we renew our oaths and accept the responsibilities bestowed upon us as elected members of this body, I think it is also important to remember the men and women who fight to defend the democracy in which we are privileged to participate. Please keep members of our nation's armed services in your thoughts and prayers today and every day.

I also want to say a word to our families gathered here today.

We all know, it isn't easy sharing your loved ones with the Ohio Senate. It means long nights and family events without us, late phone calls and increased scrutiny...and yet, all of you are here today continuing to lend your support and encouragement to us.

On behalf of all the members of the Senate...thank you. Your love and understanding make it possible for all of us to fully-participate in this process and to serve Ohio and our constituents.

Let's give them a well deserved applause.

When it comes to our loved ones, we probably don't say thank you enough...I'd like to take a moment to thank my own personal support system, headed up by my wife, Cay.

I also want to recognize our children – between the two of us we have 11 children and 17 grandchildren and I am pleased that a few of them could be here to celebrate with us today.

On behalf of the Senate, I would also like to express our appreciation to newly-elected Supreme Court Justice Robert Cupp and Judge Joseph Vukovich of the 7th District Court of Appeals for their time and willingness to administer the oaths of office today.

Both of you are Ohio Senate alumni and I know it means a lot to all of us to have you be a part of the ceremonies today. Thank you.

Being President of this Ohio Senate the last two years has been an outstanding, rewarding experience for me and I want to thank all of you for your vote of confidence today and solicit your continued counsel, encouragement, support and cooperation that you have provided me these past two years.

As a body we are blessed with members of all different backgrounds, talents and divergent points of view – all of which come together to make us both strong and successful.

Each Senator here has a role to play and I believe that my role, as President is to facilitate and encourage your continued involvement, participation and input.

Your work will be crucial as we seek to work with the Ohio House, as well

as with our new Governor, Ted Strickland, and his administration.

I want to take a moment to thank our newly elected Minority Leader Teresa Fedor and her leadership team for their service to this body.

My sincere belief is that even with our differences, we can find common ground on the issues that will move this state forward – a stronger economy, better schools and a renewed focus on empowering working families so that they and future generations can fully enjoy the benefits of living in this great state.

In the last two years alone, we have made tremendous progress:

We reformed our state tax code to reflect positive changes in the economy and to boost the state's ability to attract new companies and good-paying, high-tech jobs to Ohio.

As we continue to implement these changes, employers throughout the nation are already taking notice of our state's more favorable tax climate and we are becoming much more competitive in economic development initiatives.

Through tax reform, we also provided for real tax relief to families, approving a 21 percent across the board income tax cut. This has allowed families to keep more of their hard-earned dollars and empowered them to spend it on their own priorities.

In the years ahead, we must ensure this progress continues and that our tax reform plan is fully phased in, an essential component of the 2007-2008 Operating Budget. Using common sense reform ideas, we also were successful in reforming the state's Medicaid program.

The runaway growth in this program was in danger of taking resources from other key priorities, such as education and public safety. We must continue to be vigilant in the years to come, while ensuring our neediest citizens continue to have access to necessary health care services.

Recognizing the need for our state to capitalize on research in new technology and the evolution of new industries and jobs, Republicans and Democrats worked together to encourage Ohio voters to approve the \$2 billion Jobs for Ohio Initiative.

Already these funds are being strategically-invested in projects and communities all around this state.

Over the next two years, we must continue to put these dollars where they make the most difference. I believe that means not only in research and development, but in the commercialization of new products so that Ohio businesses and Ohio workers benefit from the technologies we are developing and producing.

Undoubtedly our more favorable tax climate, responsible budgeting and investments in technology will pay great dividends for Ohio in the way of a

stronger economy and more jobs.

I am proud that members of this body have had the foresight to recognize that our workforce must be well-prepared to fill the jobs that will be created and compete in the global marketplace.

Just in the last few weeks, we voted to raise the bar on what our students must learn before they enter the workforce or institutions of higher education through the passage of the new Ohio CORE curriculum.

To be successful adults, we know that our children must learn the concepts in science and math and foreign language enabling them to compete in the world economy for the jobs of the future. Passage of the Core was another major step toward that goal. But, together we have much more work to do to strengthen our educational goals, from pre-K through the 16th year.

Education funding and student achievement must continue to be a focus of this Senate throughout this biennium and I look forward to us working together with the House, the Governor and the Education Community in making significant accomplishments in improving the education of Ohio's children.

As we have raised the standards for our high school students, we must also work to ensure our primary schools and teachers have the educational tools and ability and to meet this challenge and to get our young people excited about learning and achieving. Additionally, I believe we need to lead the charge to refocus the education paradigm toward comprehensive learning and knowledge development.

We must also continue to work to remove the barriers for Ohioans, that are seeking the training they need to secure good jobs right here in Ohio -- whether through having the resources to go to college or more access to workforce development training.

As I mentioned before, some issues require us to come together to meet our shared goals and our children's education, I submit, should be at the top of the list.

It is time to put aside partisan differences and recognize that we all share this concern and have a stake in the quality of all of Ohio schools.

We will undoubtedly have different ideas and vigorous debate over these matters and that is exactly what this body is designed to sustain and overcome through the committee process.

In closing, we have both challenges and opportunities ahead of us and lots of work to do.

As we take our oaths and proceed in this session, we are reminded by Solomon, whether in life or politics, to always do what is right, his words are recorded in Proverbs 3:3-4:

“Let not mercy and truth forsake you;

Bind them around your neck,
 Write them on the tablet of your heart,
 And so find favor and high esteem
 In the sight of God and man.”
 God Bless all of you and God Bless the Ohio Senate!

OFFERING OF RESOLUTIONS

Senator Jacobson offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 4-Senator Jacobson.

Relative to the salaries of the officials and employees of the Senate.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the employees of the Senate be assigned titles as determined by the Chief of Staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That employees be compensated as determined by the Chief of Staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That pay increases shall be made only upon the determination of the Chief of Staff; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all such employees, property, premises, and expenditures of the Senate shall be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Staff and the Clerk, and these officials are hereby authorized to make such changes and such assignments of duties of said employees as will result in the highest efficiency and best serve the interests of the State. The Chief of Staff and the Clerk are also authorized to discharge and replace said appointees and are authorized to appoint any additional staff as may be necessary to facilitate the work of the Senate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all of the foregoing salaries be paid from the appropriate funds of the Senate.

The question being, "Shall the resolution, **S. R. No. 4**, be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Boccieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Jacobson	Kearney	Mason
Miller D	Miller R	Morano	Mumper
Niehaus	Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer
Schuler	Schuring	Spada	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

So the resolution was adopted.

Senator Jacobson offered the following resolution:

S. R. No. 5-Senator Jacobson.

Relative to mileage reimbursement.

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate is hereby authorized to pay the following named persons mileage reimbursement for mileage as provided by section 101.27 of the Revised Code.

NAME	COUNTY	MILEAGE ROUND TRIP
Ron Amstutz	Wayne	198
Steve Austria	Greene	133
John Boccieri	Mahoning	370
Steve Buehrer	Fulton	318
Capri S. Cafaro	Trumbull	354
John Carey	Jackson	156
Gary Cates	Butler	196
Patricia Clancy	Hamilton	218
Kevin J. Coughlin	Summit	270
Keith Faber	Mercer	212
Teresa Fedor	Lucas	278
Randy Gardner	Wood	244
Timothy J. Grendell	Geauga	310
Bill Harris	Ashland	155
Jeff Jacobson	Montgomery	140
Eric Kearney	Hamilton	207
Lance T. Mason	Cuyahoga	286
Dale Miller	Cuyahoga	270
Sue Morano	Lorain	252
Larry A. Mumper	Marion	116
Tom Niehaus	Clermont	238
Joy Padgett	Coshocton	156
Tom Roberts	Montgomery	154
Tim Schaffer	Fairfield	64
Robert Schuler	Hamilton	192
Kirk Schuring	Stark	252
Shirley Smith	Cuyahoga	302
Robert F. Spada	Cuyahoga	258
Jason H. Wilson	Columbiana	368
Kimberly A. Zurz	Summit	260

The question being, "Shall the resolution, **S. R. No. 5**, be adopted?"

The yeas and nays were taken and resulted - yeas 31, nays 0, as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were: Senators

Amstutz	Austria	Boccieri	Buehrer
Cafaro	Carey	Cates	Coughlin
Faber	Fedor	Gardner	Goodman
Grendell	Jacobson	Kearney	Mason
Miller D	Miller R	Morano	Mumper
Niehaus	Padgett	Roberts	Schaffer
Schuler	Schuring	Spada	Stivers
Wilson	Zurz		Harris-31.

So the resolution was adopted.

Message from the House of Representatives

Mr. President:

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

Attest:

Laura P. Clemens,
Clerk.

On the motion of Senator Jacobson, the Senate adjourned until Wednesday, January 3, 2007, 1:30 p.m.

Attest:

DAVID A. BATTOCLETTI,
Clerk.