

# Journal of the Joint Assembly

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IN JOINT ASSEMBLY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

10:30 A.M.

The Senate and House of Representatives met in the hall of the House of Representatives pursuant to a joint resolution which was read by the Clerk and is as follows:

**J.R.S. 38.** Joint resolution providing for a Joint Assembly for the election of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

***Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:***

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon to elect an Adjutant and Inspector General to serve a two-year term commencing on March 1, 2024 and expiring on March 1, 2026, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation to serve four-year terms commencing on March 1, 2024 and expiring on March 1, 2028. In case such election shall not be made on that day, the two Houses shall meet in Joint Assembly at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, on each succeeding day, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, and proceed in such election, until said vacancy is filled.

**Presiding Officer**

David E. Zuckerman, President of the Senate, in the Chair.

**Clerk**

John H. Bloomer, Jr., Secretary of the Senate, Clerk.

**Statement by Presiding Officer**

“Pursuant to our Constitution and statutes we are assembled here today in Joint Assembly for the election of an Adjutant and Inspector General, and two Trustees for the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

“With respect to the election of all of these officers, if a contest exists, then the voting must be done by written ballot. This mandate is set forth in 2

V.S.A. §12 and in Joint Rule 10(a). The Chair now calls to the attention of the Joint Assembly the text of Joint Rule 10(a) which applies to elections held by this assembly:

“Rule 10(a): Whenever a Joint Assembly is required to elect one or more persons to any office, the voting shall be by ballot, except that if there is only one candidate for any office, and if there is no objection, the Chair may put the question to the Joint Assembly by voice vote.

“If two or more offices are to be filled, each office will be voted upon and decided separately. If two or more vacancies for the same office are to be filled, nominations for all vacancies will be received before voting begins for the first vacancy, but each vacancy will be voted upon and decided separately. The Joint Assembly may limit the number and length of nominating and seconding speeches for each candidate.

“Election of any office is by majority of the votes casts, exclusive of spoiled and blank ballots. After two votes have been taken for any vacancy without an election, all nominees except the two having the highest number of votes on the second ballot shall be withdrawn, and voting shall then continue until a candidate is elected. In no event shall the involuntary removal of nominees result in fewer than two nominees in the contest.

“The person who first nominated a candidate may withdraw that candidate's name at any time; a withdrawal may be complete or may be limited to one or more vacancies. A candidate for any office having more that one vacancy who is defeated for the first vacancy shall automatically be a candidate for successive vacancies, unless the nomination is voluntarily withdrawn.

“The following rules shall apply to the conduct of these elections:

*First:* All nominations for these offices will be received by the Chair prior to voting, presented in alphabetical order.

*Second:* There will be only one nominating speech of not more than three minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one minute each for each nominee.

“We have two sets of elections today:

*First,* To elect an Adjutant and Inspector General.

*Second,* To elect two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation.

“For the elections, that are not contested, the provisions of Joint Rule 10(a) will apply.

“This means that election to these three positions may be by voice vote if there is no objection.

### **Tellers Appointed**

“In the event there is a contest, the Chair appoints as tellers:

Senator Ruth Ellen Hardy, of Addison District, as Chief Teller  
Senator Robert W. Norris, of Franklin District  
Senator Tanya C. Vyhovsky, of Chittenden-Central District  
Representative Matthew J. Birong, the Member from Vergennes  
Representative Mark A. Higley, the Member from Lowell  
Representative Julia Andrews, the Member from Westford  
Representative Jed Lipsky, the Member from Stowe.”

### **Election of Adjutant and Inspector General**

The Joint Assembly then proceeded to the election of an Adjutant and Inspector General.

For the office of Adjutant and Inspector General, Representative Laura Sibilica of Dover nominated *Gregory C. Knight* of Huntington.

The nomination was seconded by Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale of Chittenden-Southeast District.

There being no other nominations, the Chair declared that nominations were closed.

Whereupon, no other nominations being made, the vote was taken *viva voce* pursuant to Joint Rule 10(a), and the Chair declared that

### **Gregory C. Knight, of Huntington**

was unanimously elected to the office of Adjutant and Inspector General for a term of two years, from and including the first day of March, 2024, and until his successor is elected and has qualified.

### **Election of Vermont State Colleges Corporation Trustees**

The Joint Assembly then proceeded to the election of two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation, each for a term of four years, from and including the first day of March, 2024.

### **Statement by the Presiding Officer**

The Chair reminded the Joint Assembly that nominations for the office of Vermont State Colleges Corporation Trustees would be received in alphabetical order, with one nominating speech of not more than three minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one minute for each nominee.

“For the election of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation Trustees, we will be operating under the temporary rules set forth in J.R.S. 39.

“The adoption of J.R.S. 39 permits the Joint Assembly to elect two Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation on a plurality vote.

“A plurality voting procedure simply means that the two candidates receiving the greatest number of the total votes cast are elected.”

### **Nominations for Both Vacancies**

Representative David Durfee of Shaftsbury nominated *Representative Eileen G. Dickinson* of St. Albans Town. The nomination was seconded by Representative Kathleen James of Manchester.

Representative Sara Coffey of Guilford then nominated *Representative Marc B. Mihaly* of Calais. The nomination was seconded by Representative James Harrison of Chittenden.

There being no other nominations, the Chair declared that nominations were closed.

Accordingly, those names placed in nomination and on the ballot for the office of Trustee of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation were as follows:

Representative Eileen G. Dickinson of Saint Albans Town  
Representative Marc B. Mihaly of Calais

### **Vermont State Colleges Corporation Trustees Declared Elected**

There being two vacancies and two nominations, under Joint Rule 10(a), with no objection, the question, Shall Eileen G. Dickinson and Marc Mihaly be elected to the Office of Trustee of Vermont State Colleges Corporation? was agreed to *viva voce* pursuant to Joint Rule 10(a).

Whereupon, the Chair declared that

#### **Eileen G. Dickinson, of Saint Albans Town**

having received a plurality of the total votes cast, was duly elected a Trustee of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation, for a term of four years, commencing March 1, 2024.

Whereupon, the Chair declared that

#### **Marc B. Mihaly, of Calais**

having received a plurality of the total votes cast, was duly elected a Trustee of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation, for a term of four years, commencing March 1, 2024.

**Dissolution**

The purposes for which the Joint Assembly was convened having been accomplished, the Chair then declared the Joint Assembly dissolved.

JOHN H. BLOOMER, Jr.  
Secretary of the Senate  
Clerk of the Joint Assembly