

# Journal of the Joint Assembly

IN JOINT ASSEMBLY, MARCH 1, 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.H. 8.** Joint resolution providing for an election to fill a vacancy in the Office of Sergeant at Arms.

Whereas, Sergeant at Arms Janet Miller has announced her retirement and has provided a retirement date of Friday, March 1, 2024, which will cause a vacancy in the office on that date, *and*

Whereas, 2 V.S.A. § 11 provides that the General Assembly shall fill a vacancy in office existing or occurring while it is in session, where the incumbent is by law elected by the General Assembly, and such an officer so elected shall hold the respective office during the unexpired term, *now therefore be it*

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

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Friday, March 1, 2024 at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon, to elect a Sergeant at Arms for the remainder of the unexpired term. In case the election of Sergeant at Arms 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 the officer is elected.

**Presiding Officer**

Honorable 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 a Sergeant at Arms.

“With respect to the election of this officer, 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 which applies to elections held by this assembly, and which in part provides as follows:

“(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.

“(c) Election to any office is by a majority of the votes cast, exclusive of spoiled and blank ballots.”

“The following rules shall apply to the conduct of this election:

“First: All nominations for this office 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 one election today, the election of a Sergeant at Arms. As there is a contest, the election shall be by ballot.”

### **Tellers Appointed**

“Accordingly, we will need tellers, and the Chair now appoints as tellers:

Senator Ruth E. Hardy, of Addison District, as Chief Teller  
Senator Tanya C. Vyhovsky, of Chittenden-Central District  
Senator Robert W. Norris, of Franklin District  
Representative Melanie Carpenter, of Hyde Park  
Representative Kenneth W. Goslant, of Northfield  
Representative Elizabeth Burrows, of West Windsor  
Representative Troy Headrick, of Burlington”

### **Election of Sergeant at Arms**

The Joint Assembly then proceeded to the election of a Sergeant at Arms.

For the office of Sergeant at Arms, Senator Russell H. Ingalls of Essex District nominated *Michael “Mike” Ferrant*, of Williamstown.

The nomination was seconded by Representative Laura H. Sibilia of Dover.

For the office of Sergeant at Arms, Representative Diane M. Lanpher of Vergennes nominated *Agatha Kessler*, of Barre Town.

The nomination was seconded by Representative Michael J. Marcotte of Coventry.

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

Accordingly, those names placed in nomination and on the ballot for the office of Sergeant at Arms were as follows:

Michael "Mike" Ferrant, of Williamstown  
Agatha Kessler, of Barre Town

#### **Results of Balloting for Sergeant at Arms**

The ballots were taken and counted and the result was as follows:

Total votes cast.....	166
Necessary for a choice.....	84
Michael "Mike" Ferrant.....	82
Agatha Kessler.....	84

Whereupon, the Chair declared that

#### **AGATHA KESSLER, of Barre Town**

having received a majority of the total votes cast, was duly elected to the office of Sergeant at Arms for a term to February 20, 2025, and until her successor is elected and has qualified.

#### **Recess**

Upon request of Representative Sibilis of Dover, the Chair declared a recess until the fall of the gavel.

#### **Call to Order**

The Chair called the Joint Assembly to order. Thereupon, the Chair explained the process of reconsideration. No further motions were received from the floor.

#### **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