

# Journal of the Joint Assembly

IN JOINT ASSEMBLY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

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. 12.** Joint resolution providing for the election of a Sergeant at Arms and three Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

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

That the two Houses meet in Joint Assembly on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at ten o'clock and thirty minutes in the forenoon to elect a Sergeant at Arms and three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College. In case election of all such officers 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 all such officers are elected.

**Presiding Officer**

Honorable Virginia V. Lyons, temporary President *pro tempore* 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, a Sergeant at Arms and three Trustees for the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

“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 which applies to elections held by the 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.

“(b) 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.

“(c) Election to any office is by a majority of the votes cast, 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 remaining in the contest.

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for the first vacancy shall automatically be a candidate for success vacancies, unless the nomination is voluntarily withdrawn.”

#### **Number and Length of Nominating and Second Speeches**

“For purposes of this Joint Assembly all nominations for these offices will be received by the Chair prior to voting, presented in alphabetical order.

“And there will be 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.”

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

“We have three sets of elections today:

“a. First, To elect a Sergeant at Arms.

“b. Second, To elect three Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.

“For the first election, that for the Sergeant at Arms, since there is no contest the provisions of Joint Rule 10(a) will apply.

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

“For the elections of the three trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, as there is a contest, the election shall be by ballot.”

### **Tellers Appointed**

“As stated before, one of our elections today is contested and must be decided by written ballot.

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

Senator Brian P. Collamore, of Rutland District, as Chief Teller  
Senator Tanya C. Vyhovsky, of Chittenden-Central District  
Senator Anne Elizabeth Watson, of Washington District  
Representative Kirk White, of Bethel  
Representative Ashley R. Bartley, of Fairfax  
Representative Jed Lipsky, of Stowe  
Representative Ela Chapin, of East Montpelier”

### **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, Representative Mollie S. Burke of Brattleboro 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 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

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

was unanimously elected to the office of Sergeant at Arms for a term of two years, from and including the first day of March, 2025, and until her successor is elected and has qualified.

### **Election of UVM Trustees**

The Joint Assembly then proceeded to the election of three Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, each for a term of six years, from and including the first day of March, 2025.

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

“The Chair reminded the Joint Assembly that nominations for the office of three University of Vermont and State Agricultural College 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 these trustees, we will be operating under the temporary rules set forth in J.R.S. 13.”

### **Nominations for UVM Trustees**

Representative Thomas S. Stevens of Waterbury nominated *Representative John L. Bartholomew* of Hartland. The nomination was seconded by Representative Matthew E. Walker of Swanton.

Senator Thomas I. Chittenden of Chittenden-Southeast District then nominated *Senator Scott L. Beck* of Caledonia District. The nomination was seconded by Representative Emilie K. Kornheiser of Brattleboro.

Representative Michael Mrowicki of Putney then nominated *Representative Kevin B. “Coach” Christie* of Hartford. The nomination was seconded by Representative Elizabeth Burrows of West Windsor.

Senator Rebecca E. White of Windsor District then nominated *Representative Troy Headrick* of Burlington. The nomination was seconded by Representative Conor Casey of Montpelier.

Representative Martin J. LaLonde of South Burlington then nominated *Representative Carole Ode* of Burlington. The nomination was seconded by Representative James F. Harrison of Chittenden.

### **Summary of Names Placed in Nomination**

The five members placed in nomination and on the ballot for the office of Trustee of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College are as follows:

John L. Bartholomew, of Hartland  
Scott L. Beck, of Caledonia District  
Kevin B. “Coach” Christie, of Hartford  
Troy Headrick, of Burlington  
Carole Ode, of Burlington

### **Review of Voting Procedure**

Prior to the taking of any ballots, the Chair reviewed the “plurality” procedure for choosing candidates, by quoting verbatim from the text of J.R.S. 13, as follows:

(1) All candidates for the office of trustee shall be voted upon and decided on the same ballot; members may vote for any number of candidates up to and including the maximum number of vacancies to be filled, which in this case shall be three.

(2) The three candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected to fill the three vacancies.

(3) In the event that the first balloting for the trustee vacancies results in a tie vote for one or more of the three vacant positions, then voting shall continue on successive ballots until the vacancies have been filled, again by election declared of those candidates receiving the greatest number of votes.

**Results of Balloting for University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Trustees**

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

Total ballots.....	172
Necessary for election.....	<b>three greatest numbers of votes</b>
Bartholomew.....	65*
Beck.....	115*
Christie.....	43
Headrick.....	58
Ode.....	90*
Write-in votes.....	2

Whereupon the Chair declared that

**SENATOR SCOTT L. BECK, of Caledonia District**

having received the most votes cast was duly elected a Trustee of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College for a term of six years, commencing March 1, 2025.

The Chair further declared that

**REPRESENTATIVE CAROL ODE, of Burlington**

having received the second most number of votes cast was duly elected a Trustee of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College for a term of six years, commencing March 1, 2025.

The Chair further declared that

**REPRESENTATIVE JOHN L. BARTHOLOMEW, of Hartland**

having received the third most number of votes cast was duly elected a Trustee of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College for a term of six years, commencing March 1, 2025.

**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