

**OFFICIAL JOURNAL**  
**OF THE**  
**HOUSE OF**  
**REPRESENTATIVES**  
**OF THE**  
**STATE OF LOUISIANA**

**FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS**

**Organizational Session of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Legislature  
Since Admission to Statehood**

**Eleventh Organizational Session of the Legislature  
Under the Adoption of the  
Constitution of 1974**

House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Monday, January 8, 2024

The House of Representatives was called to order at 10:00 A.M., by the Honorable Francis Thompson, Acting Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**Morning Hour**

**ROLL CALL**

The roll being called, the following members-elect answered to their names:

**PRESENT**

|             |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Mr. Speaker | Edmonston   | McFarland   |
| Adams       | Egan        | McMahan     |
| Amedee      | Emerson     | McMakin     |
| Bacala      | Farnum      | Melerine    |
| Bagley      | Firment     | Mena        |
| Bamburg     | Fisher      | Miller      |
| Bayham      | Fontenot    | Moore       |
| Beaulieu    | Freeman     | Muscarello  |
| Berault     | Freiberg    | Myers       |
| Billings    | Gadberry    | Newell      |
| Bourriaque  | Galle       | Orgeron     |
| Boyd        | Geymann     | Owen        |
| Boyer       | Glorioso    | Phelps      |
| Brass       | Green       | Riser       |
| Braud       | Hebert      | Romero      |
| Brown       | Henry       | Schamerhorn |
| Bryant      | Hilferty    | Schlegel    |
| Butler      | Horton      | Selders     |
| Carlson     | Hughes      | St. Blanc   |
| Carpenter   | Illg        | Stagni      |
| Carrier     | Jackson     | Tarver      |
| Carter, R.  | Johnson, M. | Taylor      |
| Carter, W.  | Johnson, T. | Thomas      |
| Carver      | Jordan      | Thompson    |
| Chassion    | Kerner      | Turner      |
| Chenevert   | Knox        | Ventrella   |

|             |            |          |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| Coates      | LaCombe    | Villio   |
| Cox         | LaFleur    | Walters  |
| Crews       | Landry, J. | Wilder   |
| Davis       | Landry, M. | Wiley    |
| Deshotel    | Larvadain  | Willard  |
| Dewitt      | Lyons      | Wright   |
| Dickerson   | Mack       | Wyble    |
| Domangue    | Marcelle   | Young    |
| Echols      | McCormick  | Zeringue |
| Total - 105 |            |          |

The Acting Speaker announced that there were 105 members-elect present and a quorum.

**Prayer**

Prayer was offered by Father Hampton Davis, Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in Eunice.

The Louisiana National Guard presented the colors.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Rep.-elect Crews led the House in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Angela Smith sang "*The National Anthem*".

**Petitions, Memorials, and  
Communications**

The following petitions, memorials, and communications were received and read:

**Louisiana House of Representatives**

August 21, 2023

Speaker Clay Schexnayder  
House of Representatives  
PO Box 94062  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Speaker Schexnayder;

It has been a tremendous honor to serve as State Representative, District 85. I did not qualify for re-election and there will be a new Representative in the next term.

I hereby resign my position as State Representative, District 85 effective at the close of business on today, Monday, August 21, 2023.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH A. MARINO, III

**Louisiana House of Representatives**

December 12, 2023

Honorable Clay Schexnayder  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building (1st Floor)  
P.O. Box 94062  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Re: Resignation

Mr. Speaker:

Please accept my resignation from the House of Representatives, District 74 effective 12:00 am Sunday, December 17, 2023. It has been an honor and pleasure serving in the House of Representatives.

## Page 2 HOUSE

1st Day's Proceedings - January 8, 2024

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

LAWRENCE B. FRIEMAN

### Message from the Secretary of State

The following message from the Secretary of State was received and read:

#### State of Louisiana SECRETARY OF STATE

December 5, 2023

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
State of Louisiana

Dear Speaker Schexnayder:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, in compliance with R. S. 18:573, the name of the persons who have received the greatest number of votes cast for the office of State Representative in the Legislature of Louisiana from their respective Representatives Districts, and who have been duly proclaimed elected.

With best wishes,

R. KYLE ARDOIN  
Secretary of State

#### United States of America STATE OF LOUISIANA R. Kyle Ardin Secretary of State

*As Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana, I do hereby Certify that the following candidates are declared elected by the people to the office set above their names:*

|      |                         |                            |
|------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1st  | Representative District | Danny McCormick            |
| 2nd  | Representative District | Steven Jackson             |
| 3rd  | Representative District | Tammy Phelps               |
| 4th  | Representative District | Joy Walters                |
| 5th  | Representative District | Dennis Bamburg, Jr.        |
| 6th  | Representative District | Michael Melerine           |
| 7th  | Representative District | "Larry" Bagley             |
| 8th  | Representative District | Raymond J. Crews           |
| 9th  | Representative District | "Dodie" Horton             |
| 10th | Representative District | Wayne McMahan              |
| 11th | Representative District | Rashid "Mon" Young         |
| 12th | Representative District | Christopher "Chris" Turner |
| 13th | Representative District | Jack G. McFarland          |
| 14th | Representative District | Michael Echols             |
| 15th | Representative District | Foy Gadberry               |
| 16th | Representative District | Adrian Fisher              |
| 17th | Representative District | Patricia "Pat" Moore       |
| 18th | Representative District | Jeremy S. LaCombe          |
| 19th | Representative District | Francis Thompson           |
| 20th | Representative District | Neil Riser                 |
| 21st | Representative District | C. Travis Johnson          |
| 22nd | Representative District | "Gabe" Firmant             |
| 23rd | Representative District | Shaun Mena                 |
| 24th | Representative District | Rodney Schamerhorn         |
| 25th | Representative District | Jason Dewitt               |
| 26th | Representative District | "Ed" Larvadain, III        |
| 27th | Representative District | "Mike" Johnson             |
| 28th | Representative District | Daryl Deshotel             |
| 29th | Representative District | Edmond Jordan              |

|      |                         |                                 |
|------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 30th | Representative District | Charles A. Owen                 |
| 31st | Representative District | Troy Hebert                     |
| 32nd | Representative District | Dewith Carrier                  |
| 33rd | Representative District | "Les" Farnum                    |
| 34th | Representative District | Wilford Carter, Sr.             |
| 35th | Representative District | Brett Geymann                   |
| 36th | Representative District | Phillip E. Tarver               |
| 37th | Representative District | Troy D. Romero                  |
| 38th | Representative District | Rhonda Leger Butler             |
| 39th | Representative District | Julie Emerson                   |
| 40th | Representative District | Dustin Miller                   |
| 41st | Representative District | Phillip R. DeVillier            |
| 42nd | Representative District | Chance Henry                    |
| 43rd | Representative District | "Josh" Carlson                  |
| 44th | Representative District | Tehmi Chassion                  |
| 45th | Representative District | Brach Myers                     |
| 46th | Representative District | Chad M. Boyer                   |
| 47th | Representative District | Ryan Bourriaque                 |
| 48th | Representative District | "Beau" Beauillieu               |
| 49th | Representative District | Jacob Landry                    |
| 50th | Representative District | Vincent St. Blanc, III          |
| 51st | Representative District | Beryl Amedee                    |
| 52nd | Representative District | Jerome "Zee" Zeringue           |
| 53rd | Representative District | Jessica Domangue                |
| 54th | Representative District | Joseph Orgeron                  |
| 55th | Representative District | Bryan Fontenot                  |
| 56th | Representative District | Beth Billings                   |
| 57th | Representative District | Sylvia Taylor                   |
| 58th | Representative District | Kendricks "Ken" Brass           |
| 59th | Representative District | "Tony" Bacala                   |
| 60th | Representative District | Chad Brown                      |
| 61st | Representative District | C. Denise Marcelle              |
| 62nd | Representative District | Roy Daryl Adams                 |
| 63rd | Representative District | Barbara West Carpenter          |
| 64th | Representative District | Kellee Hennessy Dickerson       |
| 65th | Representative District | Lauren Ventrella                |
| 66th | Representative District | Emily Chenevert                 |
| 67th | Representative District | Larry Selders                   |
| 68th | Representative District | Dixon McMakin                   |
| 69th | Representative District | Paula Davis                     |
| 70th | Representative District | Barbara Reich Freiberg          |
| 71st | Representative District | Roger Wilder, III               |
| 72nd | Representative District | "Robby" Carter                  |
| 73rd | Representative District | Kimberly Landry Coates          |
| 74th | Representative District | Peter Egan                      |
| 75th | Representative District | John Wyble                      |
| 76th | Representative District | Stephanie Hunter Berault        |
| 77th | Representative District | Mark Wright                     |
| 78th | Representative District | John "Big John" Illg., Jr.      |
| 79th | Representative District | "Debbie" Villio                 |
| 80th | Representative District | "Polly" Thomas                  |
| 81st | Representative District | Jeffrey F. "Jeff" Wiley         |
| 82nd | Representative District | Laurie Schlegel                 |
| 83rd | Representative District | Kyle M. Green, Jr.              |
| 84th | Representative District | Timothy Kerner                  |
| 85th | Representative District | Vincent E. Cox, III             |
| 86th | Representative District | Nicholas "Nick" Muscarello, Jr. |
| 87th | Representative District | Rodney Lyons, Sr.               |
| 88th | Representative District | Kathy Edmonston                 |
| 89th | Representative District | Kim Carver                      |
| 90th | Representative District | Brian Glorioso                  |
| 91st | Representative District | Mandie Landry                   |
| 92nd | Representative District | "Joe" Stagni                    |
| 93rd | Representative District | Alonzo L. Knox                  |
| 94th | Representative District | Stephanie Hilferty              |
| 95th | Representative District | Shane Mack                      |
| 96th | Representative District | Marcus Bryant                   |
| 97th | Representative District | Matthew Willard                 |
| 98th | Representative District | Aimee Adatto Freeman            |
| 99th | Representative District | Candace Newell                  |

100th Representative District Jason Hughes  
101st Representative District Vanessa Caston LaFleur  
102nd Representative District Delisha Boyd  
103rd Representative District "Mike" Bayham  
104th Representative District "Jay" Galle  
105th Representative District Jacob Braud

*In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of my office to be affixed at the City of Baton Rouge on December 5, 2023*

R. KYLE ARDOIN  
Secretary of State

The Chair called for the voicing of objections to the qualifications or elections of the members-elect.

Hearing no objections, the Chair declared each member-elect duly qualified and elected.

### Oath of Office

The membership-elect presented themselves before the bar of the House and took the following oath, administered by Mrs. Michelle D. Fontenot, Clerk of the House of Representatives:

"I, ..., do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of this state and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, according to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God".

### Personal Privilege

Rep. Hilferty led the House in bestowing of the 2024-2028 Member Identification Lapel Pins.

### Election of the Clerk of the House

Rep. Davis placed in nomination the name of Mrs. Michelle D. Fontenot for the Clerk of the House.

Rep. Willard seconded the nomination of Mrs. Michelle D. Fontenot.

Rep. Bourriaque moved the nominations be closed.

### Motion

There being but one nominee, Acting Speaker Thompson moved Mrs. Michelle D. Fontenot be duly elected Clerk of the House of Representatives, which motion was agreed to.

### Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered to Mrs. Michelle D. Fontenot by Mr. Alfred "Butch" Speer.

### Election of the Speaker of the House

Rep. Emerson placed in nomination the name of Rep. DeVillier for Speaker of the House.

Rep. Miller seconded the nomination of Rep. DeVillier.

Rep. Bourriaque moved that the nominations be closed.

### Motion

There being but one nominee, Acting Speaker Thompson moved Rep. DeVillier be duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives, which motion was agreed to.

### Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered to Rep. DeVillier by Michelle D. Fontenot, Clerk of the House of Representatives.

### Speaker DeVillier in the Chair

### Election of the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House

Rep. Schlegel placed in nomination the name of Rep. Mike Johnson for Speaker Pro Tempore of the House.

Rep. Firmont seconded the nomination of Rep. Mike Johnson.

Rep. Bourriaque moved that the nominations be closed.

### Motion

There being but one nominee, Speaker DeVillier moved Rep. Mike Johnson be duly elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the House, which motion was agreed to.

### Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered to Rep. Mike Johnson by Michelle D. Fontenot, Clerk of the House of Representatives.

### Appointment of the Sergeant at Arms of the House

Pursuant to House Rule 2.11, the Speaker appointed Mr. Jaubert G. Ambeau, III, for Sergeant at Arms of the House.

### Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered to Mr. Jaubert G. Ambeau, III, by Michelle D. Fontenot, Clerk of the House of Representatives.

### Petitions, Memorials, and Communications

The following petitions, memorials, and communications were received and read:

### LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Office of the Clerk

January 8, 2024

To: All Members of the House of Representatives

From: Michelle D. Fontenot

Re: Appropriations Committee Election Results

BESE District 1 - Representative Stephanie Berault – Elected without opposition

BESE District 2 - Representative Jason Hughes – Elected without opposition

---

## Page 4 HOUSE

1st Day's Proceedings - January 8, 2024

---

BESE District 3 - Representative Jerome Zeringue – Elected

BESE District 4 - Representative Dodie Horton– Elected

BESE District 5 - Representative Francis Thompson– Elected due to withdrawal

BESE District 6 - Representative Kimberly Coates – Elected

BESE District 7 - Representative Troy Romero – Elected without opposition

BESE District 8 - Representative Roy Daryl Adams – Elected

### **Adjournment**

On motion of Rep. Thompson, at 11:15 A.M., the House agreed to adjourn *sine die*.

The Speaker of the House declared the House adjourned *sine die*.

MICHELLE D. FONTENOT  
Clerk of the House

ANGELA S. SMITH  
Assistant Clerk of the House / Journal Clerk