

Journal of the Joint Assembly

IN JOINT ASSEMBLY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

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. 35. 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 19, 2026 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, 2026 and expiring on March 1, 2028, and two legislative Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation to serve four-year terms commencing on March 1, 2026 and expiring on March 1, 2030. 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

Honorable Philip E. Baruth, President *pro tempore* of the Senate, in the Chair.

Clerk

John H. Bloomer, 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 Legislative 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 which applies to elections held by this assembly:

(a) 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 at 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 successive vacancies, unless the nomination is voluntarily withdrawn.

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 only one nominating speech of not more than three (3) minutes and not more than two seconding speeches of not more than one (1) minute each for each nominee.

We have two sets of elections today:

a.. First, to elect an Adjutant and Inspector General.

b. Second, to elect two Vermont State Colleges Corporation Trustees.

For the election of the Adjutant and Inspector General and Trustees --- as there are contests the elections shall be by ballot.

Tellers Appointed

As stated before, our elections today are contested and must be decided by written ballot.

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

Senator Collamore, of Rutland District, as Chief Teller
Senator Vyhovsky, of Chittenden-Central District
Senator Plunkett, of Bennington District
Representative Birong, the Member from Vergennes
Representative Hango, the Member from Berkshire
Representative Carris Duncan the Member from Whitingham
Representative Donahue the Member from Northfield

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 Mary-Katherine Stone of Burlington nominated *Henry Harder Jr.*

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

For the office of Adjutant and Inspector General, Representative Daniel Noyes of Wolcott nominated *Roger Zeigler*.

The nomination was seconded by Senator Terry Williams of Rutland District.

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

Summary of Names Placed in Nomination

Both names placed in nomination and on the ballot for the office of Adjutant and Inspector General were as follows:

Henry Harder Jr.
Roger "Brent" Zeigler

Statement of Presiding Officer

Our Joint Rules permit nominations before the Joint Assembly.

Vermont statutes require the official ballot be that provided by the Secretary of State. By statute the requirement for inclusion on the ballot is timely notification to the Secretary of State.

The statutory authority determines the ballot for this election. As such the official ballots have been printed by the Secretary of State and contain the names of Henry Harder Jr., and Roger "Brent" Zeigler.

Results of Balloting for Adjutant General

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

Total votes cast.....	170
Necessary for election.....	86
Harder Jr.....	147
Zeigler.....	23
Write in.....	0

Whereupon, the Chair declared that

Henry Harder, Jr.

having received a majority of the total votes cast was duly elected to the office of Adjutant and Inspector General for a term of two years, from and including the first day of March, 2026, 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 Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation, each for a term of four years, from and including the first day of March, 2026.

Statement by the Presiding Officer

The Chair reminds this Joint Assembly that nominations for the office of Vermont State Colleges Corporation Trustee will 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.

Nominations for Vermont State Colleges Corporation Trustees

Representative Kathleen James of Manchester nominated *Representative Jana Brown* of Richmond. The nomination was seconded by Representative Peter Conlon of Cornwall.

Representative Lynn Dickinson of St. Albans Town then nominated *Representative David Durfee* of Shaftsbury. The nomination was seconded by Representative Robert Hunter of Manchester.

Representative Michael Marcotte of Coventry then nominated *Representative John Kascenska* of Burke. The nomination was seconded by Representative Theresa Wood. of Waterbury.

Summary of Names Placed in Nomination

The three members placed in nomination and on the ballot for the office of Trustee of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation are as follows:

Jana Brown, of Richmond

David Durfee, of Shaftsbury

John Kascenska, of Burke

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. 36, 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 two.

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

(3) In the event that the first balloting for the trustee vacancies results in a tie vote for a vacant positions, then voting shall continue on successive ballots for the unfilled position until the vacancy has been filled by election declared of the candidates receiving the largest number of votes.

Results of Balloting for Vermont State Colleges Corporation Trustees

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

Total ballots.....	170
Necessary for election.....	87
Brown.....	86
Durfee.....	87
Kascenska.....	110
Write-in votes.....	0

Whereupon the Chair declared that

JOHN KASCENSKA, of Burke

having received the most votes cast was duly elected a Trustee of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation for a term of four years, commencing March 1, 2026.

The Chair further declared that

DAVID DURFEE, of Shaftsbury

having received the second most votes cast was duly elected a Trustee of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation for a term of four years, commencing March 1, 2026.

Dissolution

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

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