

## State of Rhode Island

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# Journal of the Senate

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**JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Sixth day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty Six.**

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Volume 153, No. 7

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Seventh Legislative Day

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### CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to recess and is called to order by The Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, President of the Senate, at 4:05 o'clock P.M.

### ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 34 Senators present and 4 Senators absent as follows:

**PRESENT –34:** The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

**ABSENT – 4:** Senators de la Cruz, Kallman, Morgan, and Sosnowski.

### INVOCATION

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator DiPalma to deliver the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator DiPalma, to lead the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.



**APPROVAL OF RECORD**

The Senate Journal of the Sixth Legislative Day of the 2026 proceedings is read in part.

Upon suggestion of Senator DiPalma and by unanimous consent, further reading of the Journal is dispensed with and the Journal approved as recorded.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Honorable President of the Senate presents the following communications:

<p><b>SENATOR</b> <b>MEGHAN E. KALLMAN</b> District 15</p> <hr/> <p>Room 145 Rhode Island State House Providence, Rhode Island 02903</p> <p>MOBILE: 401-648-9422 OFFICE: 401-276-5535</p> <p>sen-kallman@rilegislature.gov</p>	<p><b>State of Rhode Island</b></p>  <p><b>Senate Chamber</b></p>	<p>Committee on Housing and Municipal Government</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Commerce</p> <hr/> <p>Committee on Environment and Agriculture</p>
<p><b>January 27, 2026</b></p>		
<p><b>Helena Reid</b> <b>Secretary of the Senate</b> <b>State House, Room 220</b> <b>Providence, RI 02903</b></p>		
<p><b>Dear Madame Secretary:</b></p>		
<p><b>I would like to take this opportunity to respectfully request that the following bill be withdrawn at the sponsor's request.</b></p>		
<p><b>The legislation I would like to have withdrawn is 2026 Senate Bill S-2138 which has been assigned to the Judiciary Committee. I appreciate your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.</b></p>		
<p><b>Sincerely,</b></p> 		
<p><b>Senator</b> <b>Senate District 15</b></p>		

Placed on file.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
OFFICE OF THE SENATE MINORITY LEADER  
ROOM 120, STATE HOUSE  
PROVIDENCE  
02903

JESSICA de la CRUZ  
MINORITY LEADER  
401-222-2708

January 27, 2026

The Honorable Valarie Lawson  
President of the Rhode Island Senate  
318 State House  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Madam President:

Please be advised and let the record reflect that I will be absent from the Senate session on Tuesday January 27, due to illness.

I would appreciate you recording my letter in the appropriate Senate Journal.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J de la Cruz".

Jessica de la Cruz  
Senate Minority Leader

Placed on file.

**GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator Mack and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber Briana Paliz, RIBLIA Caucus Intern from Providence.

**IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATIONS****Senate Resolution No. 2335**

**BY** Valverde

**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING JANUARY 27, 2026 TO BE  
“RHODE ISLAND FOOD INSECURITY AWARENESS DAY” IN THE STATE OF RHODE  
ISLAND  
{LC4097/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Valverde requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Valverde moves passage, seconded by The Honorable President Valarie J. Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Euer, Famiglietti, Felag, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Pearson, Quezada, Raptakis, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas, and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

**GUESTS**

Upon suggestion of Senator Valverde and by unanimous consent, the Honorable President, welcomes to the Chamber members of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank; Kate Mushipi of Good Neighbors Community Kitchen and Food Pantry in East Providence, Heather Hole Strout of Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center in Newport, and Dennis Larny constituent from East Greenwich.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Senate Majority Whip David P. Tikoian announces that the Legislative Workshop will meet at the Rise of the Senate.

Senate Majority Whip David P. Tikoian wishes Senator Stefano Famiglietti a Happy Birthday.

**TRANSMITTAL**

By unanimous consent, all matters on the Secretary's desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Secretary of State or to the Honorable House of Representatives forthwith.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon the Motion of Senate Majority Whip David P. Tikoian, seconded by Senate Majority Leader Frank A. Ciccone, III, the Senate adjourns at 4:15 o'clock P.M.

**HELENA S. REID**  
*Secretary of the Senate*

**Appendix**

**INVOCATION**

**SENATOR LOUIS P. DIPALMA**

Almighty God, bless those who serve in this Senate. Inspire us with your truth, surround us with your love, and fill us with your grace. Amen.