

JOINT SESSION JOURNAL
SEVENTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF SAN ANDREAS
NOVEMBER 2025

1 Prayer by Senator Benny Harrison, Los Santos.

2 1:00 p.m. THE JOINT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY was called to order

3 in the House Chamber of the State Capitol, with Lieutenant Governor Michael Hayes

4 presiding.

5 Pledge of Allegiance led by Representative Colleen Bowman, Rockford Hills.

6 1:03 p.m. The Chair directed the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate to

7 conduct a concurrent roll call of both chambers.

8 The roll was called with the following result:

9 Present: 58 Absent: 0 Excused: 0

10 The presiding officer declared the required quorum present to conduct business.

11

12 1:07 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER read aloud the relevant provisions of Article VI,

13 Sections 2 and 5 of the San Andreas Constitution concerning the appointment and

14 legislative confirmation of judges to the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

15

16 1:10 p.m. THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE read House Resolution 25-268, 25-270,

17 25-271, and 25-272, concerning the confirmation of: The Honorable Elaine D. Bennett,

18 and The Honorable Avery L. Cortez to the San Andreas Supreme Court, and The

19 Honorable Joshua D. Vandiver, and The Honorable Olivia R. McNeill to the San

20 Andreas Court of Appeals

21

22 1:18 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER recognized Judge Elaine Bennett for her address

23 to the Joint Session.

24

25 1:18–1:32 p.m. JUDGE BENNETT delivered remarks regarding judicial independence,

26 the appellate record, and her commitment to constitutional fidelity.

27

28 1:32 p.m. THE FLOOR WAS OPENED FOR DEBATE.

29

30 1:33 p.m. REPRESENTATIVE WOOD delivered remarks in support of the nominee.

31

32 1:40 p.m. SENATOR STEINBECK delivered remarks in opposition.

1 1:48 p.m. REPRESENTATIVE BARNES delivered remarks in support.

2

3 1:55 p.m. SENATOR HARRISON delivered remarks in support.

4

5 2:02 p.m. DEBATE WAS CLOSED by order of the Presiding Officer.

6

7 2:02 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER ordered a roll call.

8

9 2:06 p.m. THE CLERK READ THE RESULTS:

10 Yes: 32 No: 26 Percent: 55.17%

11

12 2:08 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER declared Judge Elaine D. Bennett
13 CONFIRMED.

14

15 2:09 p.m. JUDGE AVERY CORTEZ was recognized for her pre-confirmation address.

16

17 2:09–2:24 p.m. JUDGE CORTEZ spoke on appellate jurisprudence, judicial restraint,
18 and modern legal challenges.

19

20 2:24 p.m. THE FLOOR WAS OPENED FOR DEBATE.

21

22 2:25 p.m. REPRESENTATIVE BOWMAN delivered remarks in support.

23

24 2:30 p.m. SENATOR STIMPSON delivered remarks in opposition.

25

26 2:38 p.m. REPRESENTATIVE HUFF delivered remarks in support.

27

28 2:45 p.m. SENATOR ROBERTSON delivered remarks in support.

29

30 2:52 p.m. DEBATE WAS CLOSED by order of the Presiding Officer.

31

32 2:53 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER ordered a roll call.

33

34 2:56 p.m. THE CLERK READ THE RESULTS:

35 Yes: 37 No: 21 Percent: 63.7%

36

37 2:57 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER declared Judge Avery L. Cortez CONFIRMED.

38

39 2:59 p.m. JUDGE JOSHUA VANDIVER was recognized for his address.

40

1 2:59–3:14 p.m. JUDGE VANDIVER spoke on judicial temperament, appellate
2 uniformity, and his 20-year career.

3

4 3:14 p.m. THE FLOOR WAS OPENED FOR DEBATE.

5

6 3:15 p.m. REPRESENTATIVE ARNOLD delivered remarks in support.

7

8 3:21 p.m. SENATOR FORBES delivered remarks in opposition.

9

10 3:28 p.m. REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDS delivered remarks in support.

11

12 3:34 p.m. DEBATE WAS CLOSED by order of the Presiding Officer.

13

14 3:34 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER ordered a roll call.

15

16 3:37 p.m. THE CLERK READ THE RESULTS:

17 Yes: 33 No: 25 Percent: 56.8%

18

19 3:40 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER declared Judge Joshua D. Vandiver
20 CONFIRMED.

21

22 3:41 p.m. JUDGE OLIVIA MCNEILL was recognized for her remarks.

23

24 3:41–3:58 p.m. JUDGE McNEILL addressed the Joint Session regarding sentencing
25 philosophy, family law experience, and appellate readiness.

26

27 3:58 p.m. THE FLOOR WAS OPENED FOR DEBATE.

28

29 3:59 p.m. REPRESENTATIVE SCHNEIDER delivered remarks in support.

30

31 4:04 p.m. SENATOR SHAW delivered remarks in opposition.

32

33 4:11 p.m. REPRESENTATIVE LARSON delivered remarks in support.

34

35 4:17 p.m. DEBATE WAS CLOSED by order of the Presiding Officer.

36

37 4:18 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER ordered a roll call.

38

39 4:20 p.m. THE CLERK READ THE RESULTS:

40 Yes: 34 No: 24 Percent: 58.6%

1 4:23 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER declared Judge Olivia R. McNeill
2 CONFIRMED.
3
4 4:25 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER invited final comments from chamber leaders.
5
6 4:27 p.m. REMARKS were offered by House Speaker Arnold and Senate President
7 Brinkerhoff.
8
9 4:31 p.m. THE CLERK ENTERED INTO THE RECORD the certification of all four
10 confirmations.
11
12 4:40 p.m. THE PRESIDING OFFICER thanked members for their participation in the
13 constitutional process of judicial selection.
14
15 5:30 p.m. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS before the Joint Session,
16 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MICHAEL HAYES ADJOURNED the Joint Session of
17 the General Assembly.
18

-End of Record-

I hereby certify that the above record is true and accurate, and no omissions were made.

Chelsea J. Martinelli
Clerk of the Senate

Date