

REP. RYAN D. FECTEAU
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132nd MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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SEN. JILL DUSON
SEN. HAROLD "TREY" STEWART, III
SEN. MATTHEW HARRINGTON
REP. MATTHEW MOONEN
REP. LORI GRAMLICH
REP. BILLY BOB FAULKINGHAM
REP. KATRINA SMITH

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MEETING SUMMARY**
September 24, 2026
Approved October 22, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Speaker Fecteau called the September 24, 2026 meeting of the 132nd Legislative Council, which was held via Zoom, to order at 9:06 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Senators:	President Daughtry, Senator Pierce, Senator Duson, Senator Stewart, and Senator Harrington (arrived after roll call)
Representatives:	Speaker Fecteau, Representative Moonen (arrived after roll call), Representative Gramlich, and Representative Smith
Absent:	Representative Faulkingham
Legislative Officers:	Suzanne Gresser, Executive Director of the Legislative Council Darek Grant, Secretary of the Senate Rob Hunt, Clerk of the House Ed Charbonneau, Revisor of Statutes Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Luke Lazure, Acting Director, Office of Fiscal and Program Review Alex Burnett, Acting Director, Law and Legislative Reference Library

Speaker Fecteau convened the meeting at 9:06 a.m. with a quorum of members present.

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL 14, 2026 MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Motion: That the Meeting Summary for April 14, 2026 be accepted and placed on file. Motion by Senator Stewart. Second by President Daughtry. **Motion passed (8-0-0-2**, with Representative Moonen and Representative Faulkingham recorded as absent).

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OFFICE DIRECTORS

Fiscal Report

Luke Lazure, Acting Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, presented the fiscal report found in the agenda packet.

Studies Report

Danielle Fox, Director of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, presented the studies report found in the agenda packet.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Personnel Committee

Speaker Fecteau reported that the Personnel Committee met on August 18, 2026, to consider the following matters:

1. Recruitment of Director, Law and Legislative Reference Library

Speaker Fecteau described the recruitment process outlined in the memo on Page 19 of the agenda packet and conveyed to the full Council that the Personnel Committee had reached consensus on its recommendation that Alex Burnett, currently serving as the Acting Director of the Law and Legislative Reference Library, be appointed to the position of Director of the Law and Legislative Reference Library.

Motion: That, upon the consensus recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council approve the appointment of Alex Burnett to the position of Director of the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Motion made by Senator Pierce. Second by President Daughtry. **Motion passed (8-0-0-2,** with Representative Faulkingham and Representative Moonen recorded as absent).

2. Recruitment of Director for the Office of Fiscal and Program Review

Speaker Fecteau described the recruitment process outlined in the memo on Page 18 of the agenda packet and conveyed to the full Council that the Personnel Committee had reached consensus on its recommendation that Luke Lazure, currently serving as the Acting Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, be appointed to the position of Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review.

Motion: That, upon the consensus recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Legislative Council approve the appointment of Luke Lazure to the position of Director of the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. Motion made by President Daughtry. Second by Representative Gramlich. **Motion passed (8-0-0-2,** with Representative Faulkingham and Representative Moonen recorded as absent).

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1: Council Actions Taken by Ballot

Legislative Council Decisions:

Motion: **That the Legislative Council accept the funds contributed for the Commission to Study the Need to Codify or Recodify Laws Regarding Residential Community Ownership Associations by Adopting the Uniform Common Interest Ownership Act.**

Motion by: Speaker Fecteau Second: President Daughtry
Date: May 19, 2026
Vote: 6-1-0-3 Passed (with Representative Smith opposed, and Senator Stewart, Senator Harrington, & Representative Faulkingham recorded as absent)

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1: Staffing of Informal Caucuses

Speaker Fecteau drew members' attention to letter in the packet written by Sen. Stewart in response to a Bangor Daily News article that a group of lawmakers had solicited private funding to hire a staff member.

The members of the Council discussed the many questions raised by the proposal, including the employment status of the private staff person; whether any of the restrictions, requirements, and protections of the Legislative Council's Personnel Policies would apply to the staff person; the application of the Maine Freedom of Access Act to the staff person's records; whether services from the private staff person would constitute a gift under the law; whether the work performed by the staff person would constitute lobbying under the law; whether the identities of the donors should be publicly disclosed; what other States do regarding staffing of issue caucuses; and what policies the Legislative Council should put in place to provide guidance and clarity in the event a group of lawmakers ultimately hire a private staff member that is funded through private donations.

The Speaker invited Rep. Gary Friedman and Rep. Dan Sayre, two of the lawmakers exploring this proposed staffing, to discuss with the Council the questions raised. After a lengthy discussion regarding the various issues, the members of the Legislative Council expressed their general discomfort with the proposal, and requested Director Gresser to (1) determine what other states do regarding the staffing of issue caucuses; (2) send formal letters with the Council's questions to the Attorney General's Office and the Executive Director of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Elections Practices; and (3) based on the issues raised by the Council, develop a draft policy that would provide guidance in the event a group of lawmakers ultimately hires private staff funded through private donations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMARKS

With no other business to consider or further announcements, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

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