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Contact: Katie Betta
(850) 487-5229

Senator Ben Albritton Unanimously Elected Senate President

Wauchula Senator sworn in as 91st Senate President, Senator Jason Brodeur of Sanford elected President Pro Tempore

Tallahassee—Senator Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula) was today unanimously elected President of the Florida Senate for the 2024-2026 Legislative Term. Senator Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford) was unanimously elected President Pro Tempore. Pursuant to the Florida Constitution, the Florida Legislature convenes 14 days following the general election for the purpose of organization, election of officers, and adoption of rules.

Condensed excerpts from President Albritton’s acceptance speech are below. His full remarks, as prepared for delivery, are available on the [Senate website](#).

“I’m a proud son of rural Florida, Florida’s Heartland, six generations deep. Our small, tight-knit, legacy communities are filled with some of the nicest, hardworking people you will ever meet...Our rural communities are full of opportunity. When I travel across the Panhandle, the Big Bend, and the Heartland, I see so much of that unrealized opportunity. Opportunity in rural Florida doesn’t just mean development. What I see are opportunities to improve our rural quality of life, while preserving the time-honored way-of-life that has been deeply cherished generation after generation after generation. I’m asking you to join me in the fight for a “rural renaissance” in Florida.

“Rural communities are strong and proud. I can tell you – the last place they’ll look for guidance is the government. But, I do believe there are things we can do to help. We can support innovation and help rural Florida invest in new technologies that expand education, health care, commerce, transportation, and support agriculture, and its supply chain. Technological advances have led to tremendous economic growth and innovation in other areas of Florida, its Rural Florida’s turn.”

“An important part of Florida’s Rural Renaissance includes an increased focus on our amazing farmers and the food supply chain in Florida. Farm families have always and continue to play an important role in our state. They serve all of Florida’s families, protect our environment, strengthen our national security, and feed the nation, and our state.

“As a 4th generation citrus grower, please join me in the fight to support our Florida farm families, our Florida food supply chain, and to save from extinction our iconic Florida citrus industry.

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“Our water is invaluable. It’s invaluable to our residents, our businesses, our economy, and our precious ecosystems. It’s invaluable to Florida’s DNA. We must continue to develop and advance

solutions to rid Florida's waterways of excessive nutrients from urban areas, septic tanks, wastewater, stormwater, and any other source harmful to nature.

"Few can deny we need more data about water. A renewed, data-driven focus on water will give us a close look at where we actually are, instead of where we think we might be. Fresh, accurate data will drive the solutions we need for the future.

"Efficiency and accountability are important to all of us in our daily lives. This holds true for state government as much as it does for Florida families making tough decisions about their own budgets. Florida has a great framework for accountability and transparency. And, we can leverage data and new technology to achieve even better outcomes; outcomes matter most. I believe in continuous improvement. We can always do better."

President Albritton was nominated by Senator Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee). His nomination was seconded by Senator Collen Burton (R-Lakeland).

During today's ceremony, President Albritton was accompanied by his wife of more than 30 years, Mrs. Missy Albritton. The President and Mrs. Albritton were joined by their three adult children: their daughter, Rebecca Goodwyn, her husband Dustin, and son, Brooks; their son, Joshua Albritton, his wife Emi, and son, Walker; and youngest son, Ryan Albritton. The President's parents, Pam and Benny Albritton, and Mrs. Albritton's mother, Patty Schreder, also attended, along with other extended family members and friends from Wauchula.

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Darin Canary, Senior Pastor of First Christian Church of Wauchula. Our National Anthem was performed by Ms. Avis Berry, a member of the FSU College of Music Faculty. Ms. Berry also performed the hymn "Amazing Grace."

Senator Jennifer Bradley (R-Fleming Island) led the Senate in a moment of silence in honor of Mr. John Passidomo, the First Gentleman of the Florida Senate (2022-2024), husband of President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples), who passed away earlier this year. A moment of silence was also held in honor of Harriet Sandra Fine, mother of Senator Randy Fine (R-Melbourne), who passed away Sunday evening.

The Colors were presented by the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. The Honor Guard included Team Leader Corporal James Murray, Sergeant Chad Fox, Corporal Adam Campbell, Deputy First Class Daniel Wharton, and Deputy First Class Peter Gerhart. Charlotte County Sheriff Bill Prummell accompanied the Honor Guard to today's event.

About President Albritton

President Ben Albritton is a fourth-generation farmer, born and raised in Florida's Heartland. After graduating from Florida Southern College, President Albritton continued to work for his family's citrus groves, expanding the business to support citrus grove ownership, grove management, payroll management and risk consulting. His lifelong work in agriculture fostered

his interest in public service and desire to serve as a voice for his fellow farmers and ranchers in Tallahassee.

President Albritton began his public service as a gubernatorial (Governor Bush) appointee to the Florida Citrus Commission. From 2010-2018, Senator Albritton served in the Florida House of Representatives. He was elected to the Senate in 2018, and reelected subsequently. During his time in legislative service, President Albritton has prioritized protection of Florida's natural resources and support for the agriculture industry. In 2023, he was designated by his Republican colleagues to serve as the next President of the Florida Senate.

President Albritton lives in Wauchula with his wife of 30 years, Mrs. Missy Albritton. The couple shares three adult children, and two – soon to be four – grandchildren. The Albrittons are lifetime members of the First Christian Church of Wauchula, where Senator Albritton serves as an elder.

President Pro Tempore Brodeur was nominated by Senator Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton). The nomination was seconded by Senator Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City). President Pro Tempore Brodeur was accompanied to today's session by his wife, Mrs. Christy Brodeur; parents, Tim and Rene Brodeur of Sanford, and Mrs. Brodeur's parents, Chuck and DeDe Daly, of Tallahassee.

About President Pro Tempore Brodeur

President Pro Tempore Brodeur worked for Procter & Gamble for over a decade before starting his own local health care consulting business headquartered in Sanford. A graduate of the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science degree in Food and Resource Economics as well as an MBA, and MPH from Dartmouth, Senator Brodeur is a member of Florida Blue Key.

President Pro Tempore Brodeur served in the Florida House from 2010-2018. He was elected to the Senate in 2020, and reelected subsequently. He has sponsored legislation to expand Florida's Right to Farm Act and Florida's iconic Wildlife Corridor, as well as increased protections for children in foster care. President Pro Tempore and Mrs. Brodeur live in Sanford with their dog, Oliver. They attend St. Andrews Chapel.

Video of today's session, including acceptance speeches by President Albritton and President Pro Tempore Brodeur can be found via the Florida Channel at www.TheFloridaChannel.org.

For more information, please visit www.FLSenate.gov.

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