

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely and without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Congratulations, you are now a Member of Congress of the United States.

C. Elected House Officers

§ 13. In General

Although the U.S. Constitution provides that the House “shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers,”⁽¹⁾ it does not enumerate these additional officers nor specify their duties. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule II,⁽²⁾ the officers of the House (other than Speaker) are the Clerk,⁽³⁾ the Sergeant-at-Arms,⁽⁴⁾ the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO),⁽⁵⁾ and the Chaplain.⁽⁶⁾ Pursuant to clause 4(d)(1)(A) of rule X,⁽⁷⁾ the Committee on House Administration provides policy direction for the Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, and CAO. Although the House has established different positions throughout its history, the principal officers of the House have remained remarkably static over the centuries.

Historical Background

When the First Congress met in 1789, the House quickly established the positions of Clerk,⁽⁸⁾ Doorkeeper, Assistant Doorkeeper,⁽⁹⁾ and (some weeks

1. U.S. Const. art. I, § 2, cl. 5; *House Rules and Manual* § 26 (2019).

2. *House Rules and Manual* § 640 (2019).

3. See § 14, *infra*.

4. See § 15, *infra*.

5. See § 17, *infra*.

6. See § 16, *infra*.

7. *House Rules and Manual* § 752 (2019).

8. 1 ANNALS OF CONG. 100, 1st Cong. 1st Sess. (Apr. 1, 1789). When the first rules were adopted, several provisions therein pertained to the duties of the Clerk. See 1 ANNALS OF CONG. 102–106, 1st Cong. 1st Sess. (Apr. 7, 1789).

9. 1 ANNALS OF CONG. 101, 1st Cong. 1st Sess. (Apr. 2, 1789). The Assistant Doorkeeper was an elected position as late as 1821, but was abolished soon thereafter. See 1 Hinds’ Precedents § 187 (fn. 1).

later) Sergeant-at-Arms.⁽¹⁰⁾ Originally, the distribution of mail was overseen by the Doorkeeper, but the House created a separate position of Postmaster in 1838.⁽¹¹⁾ Similarly, the position of Chaplain was not originally a House officer but became one in the years preceding the Civil War.⁽¹²⁾ The various rules and customs surrounding the election of these officers were consolidated in the major revision of the standing rules undertaken by Rep. Israel Washburn of Maine in 1860.⁽¹³⁾ Thus, for over a century, the five principal officers of the House (apart from the Speaker) were the Clerk, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the Doorkeeper, the Postmaster, and the Chaplain.

In the 1990s, several reform efforts aimed at improving House operations succeeded in modifying these elected officer positions—abolishing obsolete offices, creating new offices, and consolidating and transferring duties. In the 102d Congress in 1992, the Office of the Postmaster was abolished, and the responsibilities of that office transferred to other officers.⁽¹⁴⁾ At the same time, a new position of Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services was created. At the beginning of the 104th Congress in 1995, the position of Doorkeeper was abolished, and the Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services was replaced by a new CAO position.⁽¹⁵⁾ Since that time, the four elected officers of the House have been established as: the Clerk, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the CAO, and the Chaplain.⁽¹⁶⁾

Qualifications; Terms of Office

Although the Speaker of the House has always been selected from the sitting membership (despite there being no constitutional requirement to that effect), sitting Members of the House have never been elected to any of the other officer positions.⁽¹⁷⁾ All officers of the House are required to take an

10. 1 ANNALS OF CONG. 128, 129, 1st Cong. 1st Sess. (Apr. 14, 1789).

11. See 1 Hinds' Precedents § 270. The first Postmaster was appointed on April 5, 1838. See CONG. GLOBE 281, 25th Cong. 2d Sess. See also 1 Hinds' Precedents § 269 and 6 Cannon's Precedents § 34.

12. See 1 Hinds' Precedents § 275. See also § 16, *infra*.

13. See CONG. GLOBE 1178, 36th Cong. 1st Sess. (Mar. 15, 1860). DE ALVA STANWOOD ALEXANDER, OTHER OFFICERS AND THE WHIP, IN HISTORY AND PROCEDURE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES pp. 192–193 (1916).

14. H. Res. 423, 138 CONG. REC. 9040, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. (Apr. 9, 1992). See also § 13.3, *infra*.

15. H. Res. 6, 141 CONG. REC. 463, 104th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 4, 1995). For more information on the former position of Doorkeeper, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 § 20. See also § 13.2, *infra*.

16. Rule II, clause 1, *House Rules and Manual* § 640 (2019).

17. *Parliamentarian's Note*: Throughout the 19th century, and even into the 20th century, it was not uncommon for elected officers of the House to later take seats as Members

oath to support the Constitution of the United States, which is administered by the Speaker of the House following their election at the opening of a new Congress.⁽¹⁸⁾ All officers are required to attest to their commitment to the “true and faithful exercise of the duties” of their offices.⁽¹⁹⁾ Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XXV,⁽²⁰⁾ an individual may not be elected as an officer of the House if “acting as an agent for the prosecution of a claim against the Government or if interested in such claim, except as an original claimant or in the proper discharge of official duties.” In the 116th Congress, the Code of Official Conduct was amended to prohibit an officer or employee of the House from serving as an officer or director of any public company.⁽²¹⁾

Apart from the Speaker, the elected officers of the House “continue in office until their successors are chosen and qualified.”⁽²²⁾ This provision of the

of the House (or, alternatively, for Members who were unsuccessful candidates for reelection to take officer positions instead). Thus, various Clerks, Sergeants-at-Arms, Doorkeepers, Postmasters, and even Chaplains of the House have all served, at one time or another, as Members of the House. Asher Hinds of Maine and Clarence Cannon of Missouri, who compiled the first two series of precedents of the House, were both later elected as Members of the House. The last individual who served as both a Member of the House and an elected officer was William Pat Jennings of Virginia (a Member during the 84th through 89th Congresses, and Clerk of the House during the 90th through 94th Congresses).

18. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 2. The form of the oath is provided by statute. 5 U.S.C. § 3331.
19. Rule II, clause 1, *House Rules and Manual* § 640 (2019). Pursuant to this clause, all officers of the House are further required “to keep the secrets of the House.” This provision of the standing rules has its origin in the Twelfth Congress in 1811, when the Doorkeeper and Sergeant-at-Arms were required to subscribe to an oath of secrecy regarding secret sessions of the House conducted prior to the War of 1812. See 1 Hinds’ Precedents § 187. In the revisions to the House rules adopted in 1860 and 1880, this requirement was expanded to include all officers of the House. However, the rule quickly became obsolete, as no secret sessions of the House were held between 1830 and 1979. See Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 29 § 85 and *House Rules and Manual* § 969 (2019). Although the rule has remained in place for two centuries, it has been effectively superseded by clause 13 of rule XXIII (adopted in the 104th Congress in 1995) which requires all officers to subscribe to an oath of secrecy regarding access to classified information. *House Rules and Manual* § 1095 (2019). In modern practice, when the House conducts a secret session to discuss secret or classified information, all officers of the House attending such session must take the oath provided in clause 13 of rule XXIII. Copies of these executed oaths are retained by the Sergeant-at-Arms. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 2 § 1.
20. *House Rules and Manual* § 1102 (2019). This provision was originally adopted in 1842. See 5 Hinds’ Precedents § 7227. For an earlier treatment of qualifications for officers of the House, see Deschler’s Precedents Ch. 6 § 15.
21. *House Rules and Manual* § 1095 (2019).
22. Rule II, clause 1, *House Rules and Manual* § 640 (2019).

standing rules suggests that the officers elected in one Congress continue to hold that office until their reelection, or the election of new officers, in the next Congress. For a time (approximately 1860–1890), a House rule explicitly stated that “These rules shall be the rules of the House of Representatives of the present and succeeding Congresses, unless otherwise ordered.”⁽²³⁾ This provision thus provided a basis for considering the officers of the House as having retained their offices even upon the expiration of a Congress. However, this provision of the standing rules was consistently questioned during the years in which it purported to operate, and it was eventually eliminated from the House rules on February 14, 1890.⁽²⁴⁾ Since that time, it has been definitively established that the House, when a new Congress first convenes, operates under “general parliamentary law” (and not the rules of the prior Congress) until the standing rules are formally adopted.⁽²⁵⁾

Nevertheless, a tradition dating back to the expiration of the First Congress in 1791⁽²⁶⁾ established the procedure whereby the Clerk of the previous House would preside over the organization of the new House—primarily to oversee the election of the Speaker.⁽²⁷⁾ This mode of proceeding has been the uniform practice of the House since that time, and has been codified in the standing rules of the House.⁽²⁸⁾ Thus, as a practical matter, the Clerk of one House does continue in office at least until the House is able to elect its Speaker. Under established House precedents, the Sergeant-at-Arms would preside over the opening of a new Congress in the absence of the Clerk, thus suggesting that the other officers continue in office as well.⁽²⁹⁾ However, as clause 1 of rule II is not in operation until after the standing rules are formally adopted (which generally occurs after the

23. See 5 Hinds’ Precedents § 6743.

24. *Id.*

25. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1 §§ 3–6.

26. See 1 Hinds’ Precedents § 235.

27. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1 § 3.

28. Rule II, clause 2(a), *House Rules and Manual* § 641 (2019). Despite the inclusion of this provision in the standing rules, such rules are not operative until formally adopted by the House at the opening of a new Congress, with the Clerk’s service as presiding officer preceding the adoption of rules. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1. The efficacy of this provision can thus only be ascribed to immemorial custom.

29. *Parliamentarian’s Note*: For statutory authority for the Sergeant-at-Arms to continue in office until a successor is chosen and qualified, see 2 U.S.C. § 5602. For an early example of officers of the previous Congress taking actions prior to the election of officers for the current Congress, see 1 Hinds’ Precedents § 244. For an example of officers of one Congress continuing in office in the next Congress due to the failure of the House to elect new officers, see 1 Hinds’ Precedents § 193.

election of officers), the authority for officers of the prior Congress to take actions in the new Congress may only be justified as consistent with long-standing custom—fortified by the consistent adoption of the provisions of clause 1 of rule II from Congress to Congress.

Election of Officers

The Constitution provides that the House shall choose its officers, but does not specify the method by which such selections are to be made.⁽³⁰⁾ Until 1839, the House elected its officers by ballot, but the standing rules were amended to provide that such elections proceed by viva voce vote instead.⁽³¹⁾ Although this provision of the rules was not altered until 1999, the custom (dating back to the 19th century)⁽³²⁾ has been to elect officers other than the Speaker via the adoption of a simple House resolution.⁽³³⁾

For well over a century, the resolution electing the officers of the House has been offered on a partisan basis.⁽³⁴⁾ Beginning in the 1870s, a member of the majority party (customarily the chair of the party caucus) would offer a resolution proposing that certain named individuals be elected to the various officer positions. A member of the minority party would then offer a substitute amendment, recommending a different slate of candidates.⁽³⁵⁾ Two votes would then be taken: first, a vote on the minority's substitute (which would be rejected),⁽³⁶⁾ and then a vote on the majority party's original selections (which would be adopted). This procedure has been used for many decades and is still the method used today.

Beginning in the 62nd Congress in 1911,⁽³⁷⁾ the minority party began a tradition of requesting a division of the question on the resolution electing

30. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1 § 5.1 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 3 § 2. See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 § 16.

31. DE ALVA STANWOOD ALEXANDER, *Other Officers and The Whip*, in *History and Procedure of the House of Representatives* 91 (1916).

32. See, e.g., CONG. GLOBE 10–11, 42d Cong. 1st Sess. (Mar. 4, 1871).

33. *Parliamentarian's Note*: There is a certain inconsistency in the sequencing of events on opening day of a new Congress with respect to the election of officers. Since the 19th century, the election of officers has preceded the adoption of the standing rules. However, the officer positions do not technically exist until the adoption of the rules creating them. This sequence can therefore only be countenanced as reflecting the independent constitutional mandate to elect officers (as distinct from the requirement to adopt rules of proceeding), as well as the unaltered custom of the House.

34. For a rare instance where the minority did not submit a substitute amendment, see 111 CONG. REC. 20, 89th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 4, 1965).

35. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 3 § 2.

36. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The losing minority party candidates are traditionally appointed to certain "minority employee" positions created by statute. For more on these "minority employees," see § 31, *infra*. See also Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 1 § 5.1 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 3 § 2.

37. See 47 CONG. REC. 8, 62d Cong. 1st Sess. (Apr. 4, 1911).

the officers of the House so that a vote could be taken separately on the Office of the Chaplain.⁽³⁸⁾ The impetus for this procedure appears to have been a desire to acknowledge the nonpartisan nature of the Office of the Chaplain via a unanimous vote on a previously agreed-upon candidate. This tradition has now been observed for over a century.

Removal or Resignation of Officers; Vacancies

A proposition to remove an officer of the House (typically taking the form of a simple House resolution) constitutes a question of the privileges of the House.⁽³⁹⁾ Throughout its history, the House has removed officers for a variety of reasons—most often due to some alleged misconduct or failure to properly execute the duties of the office.⁽⁴⁰⁾ Pursuant to clause 1 of rule II,⁽⁴¹⁾ the Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, and CAOs may be removed by the House or the Speaker. On one occasion, the Speaker exercised this authority to remove the CAO.⁽⁴²⁾ The House has removed officers on several occasions, although it has not done so in many years.⁽⁴³⁾

An officer of the House may resign the position at any time,⁽⁴⁴⁾ and such resignation is contingent upon acceptance⁽⁴⁵⁾ by the House.⁽⁴⁶⁾ However,

38. See § 16, *infra*.

39. 1 Hinds' Precedents § 284. For questions of privilege generally, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 11 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 11.

40. See 1 Hinds' Precedents §§ 284, 288–290; 6 Cannon's Precedents §§ 35–37; and Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 § 22.

41. *House Rules and Manual* § 640 (2019).

42. *Parliamentarian's Note*: At the time of this writing, Speaker Paul Ryan's removal of the Chief Administrative Officer has been the only invocation of the Speaker's authority to remove officers. The Chief Administrative Officer, Ed Cassidy, had submitted a letter of resignation that did not specify an effective date for the resignation. Thus, the Speaker exercised the authority in clause 1 of rule II to remove Cassidy from the position prospectively (so that it coincided with the end of the calendar year). See § 17.5, *infra*.

43. The last known instance of the House removing an officer appears to have occurred in 1890. See 1 Hinds' Precedents § 292 (declaring the Office of the Postmaster vacant). If there is controversy over an elected officer of the House continuing in that position, it is more common for the individual simply to resign the office. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 37 §§ 9, 10.

44. For resignations of officers generally, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 37 §§ 9, 10.

45. *Parliamentarian's Note*: There does not seem to be any evidence of the House ever having rejected the resignation of an officer. In one instance, the Postmaster of the House attempted to resign his office prior to the consideration of committee report recommending that the office be declared vacant. The House did not act upon the resignation, but instead adopted the resolution declaring the office vacant. See 1 Hinds' Precedents § 292.

46. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 27 § 9.2

under the precedents, the House does not formally accept the resignation of the Speaker.⁽⁴⁷⁾ Officers of the House have resigned both prospectively⁽⁴⁸⁾ and retroactively.⁽⁴⁹⁾

When an elected officer position (other than that of Speaker) becomes vacant, due to the removal, resignation, or death⁽⁵⁰⁾ of the incumbent, the House will typically move quickly to fill the vacancy. The most common method is for the House to elect a new officer to the vacant position via the adoption of a simple House resolution.⁽⁵¹⁾ However, a provision of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (as amended in 1953 and 1995)⁽⁵²⁾ authorizes the Speaker of the House to temporarily fill vacancies in the offices of Clerk, Sergeant-at-Arms, CAO, or Chaplain.⁽⁵³⁾ The individual appointed to the vacant office exercises all of the same authorities as an individual elected to the position.⁽⁵⁴⁾ In one instance, the Clerk of the House was elected to fill a vacancy caused by the death of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and the individual held both offices concurrently (though with no additional compensation for exercising the duties of Sergeant-at-Arms).⁽⁵⁵⁾ When a vacancy is filled (either by a new election or through the Speaker's statutory power of appointment), the newly-elected officer is administered the oath of office.⁽⁵⁶⁾

47. See 1 Hinds' Precedents §§ 225, 232 and Deschler's Precedents Ch. 37 § 9.1.

48. See § 17.3, *infra*.

49. See § 16.5, *infra*.

50. See 1 Hinds' Precedents §§ 236, 266, and 267; 6 Cannon's Precedents § 32; and Deschler's Precedents Ch. 38 §§ 2.13, 2.14. For precedents relating to the death of the Speaker, see 1 Hinds' Precedents § 234; Deschler's Precedents Ch. 1 §§ 6.6–6.8; and Deschler's Precedents Ch. 38 §§ 2.2–2.4.

51. See, e.g., § 14.3, *infra*.

52. 2 U.S.C. § 5501. The provision regarding the appointment of officers to fill vacancies was added on August 5, 1953 (P.L. 83–197, 67 Stat. 387). The Act was amended in 1996 to remove references to abolished positions (Doorkeeper and Postmaster) and substitute a new position (Chief Administrative Officer). P.L. 104–186, 110 Stat. 1718.

53. *House Rules and Manual* § 640 (2019).

54. *Parliamentarian's Note*: The statute prescribes that the individual chosen to fill the vacancy is “to act as, and to exercise temporarily the duties” of the office, until the House is able to elect a permanent replacement. 2 U.S.C. § 5501. Thus, an individual appointed by the Speaker to temporarily fill such a vacancy does not need to be formally removed from the position before the election by the House of an individual to fill the position on a permanent basis. By contrast, where the House has elected an officer and subsequently wishes to elect a different person to that position, it must first create a vacancy in the office before proceeding to the election of the new officer.

55. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 §§ 16.3, 17.1, and 22.

56. The text of the oath may be found at: 5 U.S.C. § 3331. See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 §§ 17.1, 17.2. For oaths generally, see Deschler's Precedents Ch. 2 and Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 2.

Compensation

Compensation for House officers is a matter of statutory law.⁽⁵⁷⁾ Funding for House operations, including salaries and expenses for the elected officers of the House, is provided in the annual Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. Compensation for the Chaplain of the House is provided by statute⁽⁵⁸⁾ and is linked to the House Employees Schedule.⁽⁵⁹⁾ Federal law also prohibits the Sergeant-at-Arms from receiving additional fees, compensation, or emoluments relating to the performance of official duties.⁽⁶⁰⁾

Former Officers: Doorkeeper

Over the course of the House's history, several officer positions have been eliminated and their duties transferred to other officers or officials. For over 200 years (between 1789 and 1995), the Doorkeeper was an elected officer of the House.⁽⁶¹⁾ The Doorkeeper's duties were primarily concerned with the House Chamber (including the enforcement of rules relating to the privileges of the Hall of the House),⁽⁶²⁾ but ranged to other areas, such as maintaining furniture, books, and other property of the House and its committees. The Doorkeeper was responsible for preserving order in the House galleries (under the direction of the Speaker)⁽⁶³⁾ and for making announcements of messengers at the door of the House and visitors during joint sessions and meetings.⁽⁶⁴⁾ The Doorkeeper was also responsible for overseeing the House document room, the Publication Distribution System, and the cloakrooms.

Prior to the abolition of the office in 1995, a statute provided that the duty of composing the Clerk's roll at the commencement of a Congress

57. For more on compensation for officers, officials, and employees of the House, see § 29, *infra*. See also Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 § 27.

58. 2 U.S.C. § 5521.

59. 2 U.S.C. § 293.

60. 2 U.S.C. § 5601.

61. Former rule V enumerated the duties of the Doorkeeper. *House Rules and Manual* § 652 (1993). See also 1 Hinds' Precedents §§ 260–268; Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 § 20; and *House Rules and Manual* § 663b (2019). The first rule detailing the duties of the Doorkeeper was adopted in 1838 and amended in 1880. For several early Congresses, the House also elected an Assistant Doorkeeper, but the position was abolished sometime after 1821. 1 Hinds' Precedents § 187 (fn. 1). For a list of Doorkeepers of the House, see <http://history.house.gov/People/Office/Doorkeepers/> (last visited Oct. 24, 2019).

62. See Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 4 § 5. The Doorkeeper was also responsible for closing or locking the doors to the Chamber under certain circumstances. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 §§ 20.6, 20.7.

63. See Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 §§ 20.1–20.5.

64. See 5 Hinds' Precedents § 6591.

would fall to the Doorkeeper (if the Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms were both unable to fulfill this function).⁽⁶⁵⁾ The Doorkeeper of the House has served as presiding officer at the organization of a new Congress, when the Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms were both unavailable to assume that duty.⁽⁶⁶⁾ Following the elimination of the office in 1995,⁽⁶⁷⁾ most of the duties of the Doorkeeper were assumed by the CAO of the House⁽⁶⁸⁾ and the Sergeant-at-Arms.⁽⁶⁹⁾

Former Officers: Postmaster

The Postmaster of the House was an elected officer from 1838 until 1992.⁽⁷⁰⁾ Originally, the Doorkeeper of the House was authorized to hire a postmaster to assist in mail delivery duties, but the position became an elected office soon after. As early as 1802,⁽⁷¹⁾ the House requested that the Postmaster of the United States establish a post office at or near the Capitol. Postmasters of the House supervised the operations of the post office and facilitated the delivery of mail to Members' offices. When the position was eliminated⁽⁷²⁾ in the 102d Congress in 1992, mail duties were transferred to the new Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services (who supervised the Director of Postal Operations).⁽⁷³⁾ On January 5, 1993, the Chair laid before the House a communication from the chair of the Committee on House Administration from the prior Congress, informing the Speaker that all of the responsibilities of the Office of the Postmaster had

65. This provision of law was found at 2 U.S.C. § 26 before it was amended by P.L. 104–186, 110 Stat. 1718.

66. Deschler's Precedents Ch. 6 § 20.8.

67. See 138 CONG. REC. 9039–40, 9074–75, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. (Apr. 9, 1992). For proceedings relating to the resignation of a Doorkeeper, see § 13.2, *infra*. See also *House Rules and Manual* § 640 (2019).

68. For more information on the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, see § 17, *infra*.

69. For more information on the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms, see § 15, *infra*.

70. Former rule VI, *House Rules and Manual* § 654 (1991). See also 1 Hinds' Precedents § 270 and 6 Cannon's Precedents § 34. For a list of Postmasters of the House, see <http://history.house.gov/People/Office/Postmasters/> (last visited Oct. 24, 2019).

71. 1 Hinds' Precedents § 270.

72. For more on the circumstances leading to the dissolution of the Office of the Postmaster, see Precedents (Wickham) Ch. 12.

73. *House Rules and Manual* § 668 (2019). The resolution authorizing the transfer was House Resolution 423 of the 102d Congress, adopted on April 9, 1992. See 138 CONG. REC. 9040, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. See also H. Rept. 102–713, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. On several occasions, the House by unanimous consent authorized extensions of the deadline to transfer these authorities. See 138 CONG. REC. 18307, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. (July 8, 1992) and 138 CONG. REC. 24373–74, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. (Sept. 10, 1992). See also 138 CONG. REC. 27726–27, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. (Sept. 25, 1992).

been successfully transferred to other officers. Ultimately, postal operations were transferred to the Office of the CAO when that position was created in 1995.⁽⁷⁴⁾

Former Officers: Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services

The Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services was a short-lived officer position in the House. It was created in 1992 by the adoption of House Resolution 423.⁽⁷⁵⁾ The Director was not an elected officer, but was instead to be appointed jointly by the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader. The Director could be removed by the House or the Speaker, and was subject to the policy direction and oversight of the Committee on House Administration. Various administrative functions and subsidiary offices of the House were transferred to the Director by the operation of House Resolution 423.⁽⁷⁶⁾

The first Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services (Leonard Wishart) was appointed on October 23, 1992, and reappointed to the position on January 5, 1993.⁽⁷⁷⁾ His resignation of the position was accepted by the House effective January 21, 1994.⁽⁷⁸⁾ The second (and last) Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services (Randall Medlock) filled the vacancy created by the resignation of the previous Director, and held the position for the remainder of the Congress. The office was abolished in the following Congress and replaced by a new elected officer position: the Chief Administrative Officer.⁽⁷⁹⁾

Resolution Electing Officers

§ 13.1 At the beginning of a Congress, the House elects the officers of the House by the adoption of a privileged resolution.

On January 3, 2017,⁽⁸⁰⁾ the following privileged resolution was adopted and the officers-elect were sworn in by the Speaker:

ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. [Cathy] McMORRIS RODGERS [of Washington]. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

74. See § 17, *infra*.

75. 138 CONG. REC. 9040, 102d Cong. 2d Sess. (Apr. 9, 1992).

76. See § 13.3, *infra*.

77. See 139 CONG. REC. 104, 103d Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 5, 1993).

78. See 140 CONG. REC. 1047, 103d Cong. 2d Sess. (Feb. 3, 1994).

79. See H. Res. 6, 141 CONG. REC. 463, 104th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 4, 1995). See also § 17, *infra*.

80. 161 CONG. REC. H6 [Daily Ed.], 115th Cong. 1st Sess.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1

Resolved, That Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Paul D. Irving of the State of Florida be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives;

That Philip George Kiko of the State of Ohio be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and

That Father Patrick J. Conroy of the State of Oregon be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for the purpose of offering an amendment.

Mr. [Joseph] CROWLEY [of New York]. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the resolution, but before offering the amendment, I request that there be a division of the question on the resolution so that we may have a separate vote on the Chaplain.

The SPEAKER.⁽⁸¹⁾ The question will be divided.

The question is on agreeing to that portion of the resolution providing for the election of the Chaplain.

That portion of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. CROWLEY

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the remainder of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. CROWLEY:

That Robert D. Edmonson of the District of Columbia be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives;

That Wyndee Parker of the State of Maryland be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives; and

That James Fleet of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York.

The amendment was rejected.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the remainder of the resolution offered by the gentlewoman from Washington.

The remainder of the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER. The Chair will now swear in the officers of the House.

The officers presented themselves in the well of the House and took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

81. Paul Ryan (WI).

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

Former Officers

§ 13.2 The Speaker laid before the House the resignation of the Doorkeeper (a former elected officer of the House).⁽⁸²⁾

On December 20, 1974,⁽⁸³⁾ Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma laid before the House the resignation of the Doorkeeper and appointed a temporary replacement:

RESIGNATION AS DOORKEEPER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Doorkeeper:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 18, 1974.

Hon. CARL ALBERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to tender my resignation as Doorkeeper, U.S. House of Representatives at the close of business December 31, 1974.

It has been my pleasure over the years to be of service to you and the other illustrious and distinguished Members of Congress.

With kind regards, I remain

Faithfully yours,

WILLIAM M. MILLER,
Doorkeeper,
U.S. House of Representatives.

APPOINTMENT AS DOORKEEPER

Pursuant to the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended by Public Law 197, 83d Congress (67 Stat. 387; 2 USC 75a-1(a)), the Chair appoints, effective at the close of business on December 31, 1974, James T. Molloy, of New York, to act as and to exercise temporarily the duties of Doorkeeper of the House of Representatives.

§ 13.3 The Chair laid before the House a communication from the chair of the Committee on House Administration from the prior Congress, notifying the House that the functions and duties of the House Postmaster under former rule VI⁽⁸⁴⁾ of that Congress had

82. The Office of the Doorkeeper was eliminated at the beginning of the 104th Congress.

See *House Rules and Manual* § 663b (2019).

83. 120 CONG. REC. 41855, 93d Cong. 2d Sess.

84. *House Rules and Manual* § 668 (2019).

been transferred to the newly-established Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services.⁽⁸⁵⁾

On January 5, 1993,⁽⁸⁶⁾ the following communication was laid before the House, informing Members that the functions of the Postmaster (a former elected officer of the House) had been successfully transferred (and the position eliminated):

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE CHARLIE ROSE, CHAIRMAN OF
THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on House Administration:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 28, 1992.

Hon. THOMAS S. FOLEY,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
H-204, the Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This letter is to inform you that, pursuant to the authority vested in the Committee on House Administration by House Resolution 423 (102nd Congress), and other laws, rules and regulations, the Committee has directed the following effective just prior to noon on January 3, 1993:

1. All functions, entities, duties and responsibilities under the House Postmaster are transferred to the Director of Non-legislative and Financial Services.

2. There is established an Office of the Director of Non-legislative and Financial Services, which office shall be comprised of the Director of Non-legislative and Financial Services (Director) appointed pursuant to House Rule 52, an Executive Assistant to the Director to be appointed by the Director, an Administrative Assistant to be appointed by the Director, and a Director of House Postal Operations to be appointed by the Director, subject to the following requirement: the Committee directs that the initial appointee to the position of Director of House Postal Operations shall be the person serving as House Postmaster immediately prior to the abolition of the position of House Postmaster by virtue of the transfer made pursuant to paragraph 1 above.

3. Until otherwise provided by law, the above positions under the Director, and all positions transferred to, or created for the Director, are hereby approved by the Committee and the Director pursuant to the criteria established in the House Employees Position Classification Act and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. The Committee will establish the appropriate grade and level for the positions so transferred or created.

By copy of this letter, the Clerk of the House has been authorized and directed to disburse from the contingent fund or other appropriate account, such sums as may be necessary for salary disbursement for the above personnel, and for supplies and materials

85. The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer supplanted the Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services in the 104th Congress. See H. Res. 5, 145 CONG. REC. 47, 106th Cong. 1st Sess. (Jan. 6, 1999). See also § 17, *infra*.

86. 139 CONG. REC. 104, 103d Cong. 1st Sess.

reasonably necessary for the operation of the Office of the Director of Non-legislative and Financial Services until otherwise provided by law.

With my very best wishes,

Sincerely,

CHARLIE ROSE,
Chairman.

§ 14. The Clerk

Second only to the Speaker, the Clerk of the House is arguably the most significant of all of the elected officer positions in the House. The Clerk's responsibilities cover a wide range of areas, both legislative and administrative in nature. The primary duties of the Clerk relate to the legislative process and involve: (1) handling legislative measures introduced by Members and referred to committees of the House; (2) accepting legislative and other reports following committee action; (3) executing legislative actions on the floor of the House (including reading proposals for the body, distributing legislative text, and conducting votes and quorum calls); (4) maintaining a record of House legislative activities (including supervising the production of the House Journal, the *Congressional Record*, and the Calendars of the House); and (5) managing the receipt and transmittal of formal messages between the House and Senate, and between the House and the executive branch (including the engrossment and enrollment of legislation, and presentation to the President for signature or veto).

Additional duties of the Clerk involve a variety of record-keeping and administrative matters. The Clerk is responsible for maintaining House documents and records, and (where appropriate) providing public access to such material. The Clerk's Office also assists with financial audits and other reviews of House operations, and manages a range of additional miscellaneous functions related to the organization of the House.

History; Internal Organization of the Office of the Clerk

The Clerk is the oldest officer position in the House, apart from the Speaker. After the House first achieved a quorum on April 1, 1789, its second order of business (after the election of a Speaker) was to appoint a Clerk of the House.⁽¹⁾ The Office of the Clerk has been an integral part of House operations since that time, and its role has gradually expanded to encompass a diverse range of legislative and administrative services.

The Office of the Clerk comprises several distinct subentities that each fulfills a particular role within the administrative framework of the

1. 1 ANNALS OF CONG. 100, 1st Cong. 1st Sess. (Apr. 1, 1789).