

CONGRESS OF THE  
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



P.O. Box PS 3  
Palikir, Sokehs  
Pohnpei State, FM 96941  
Tel: (691) 320-2324 / 2325 / 2326 / 2327 / 2338 / 2707 / 5838  
Fax: (691) 320-5122  
[www.fsmcongress.fm](http://www.fsmcongress.fm)

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS REPORT

RE: CREDENTIALS OF CANDIDATES ELECTED  
TO THE 23<sup>rd</sup> FSM CONGRESS

SUBJECT: CREDENTIALS OF ELECTED CANDIDATES  
FROM THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON  
FEBRUARY 29, 2024

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Esmond B. Moses  
Speaker  
Twenty-Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia  
Palikir, Pohnpei FM 96941

Dear Speaker:

Your Committee on Credentials to which was referred the review of credentials for two members-elect to the Twenty-Third Congress from the February 2024 Special Election, begs leave to report as follows:

On March 1, 2024, the National Election Director transmitted to Congress the unofficial results of the February 29, 2024 Special Election. On March 4, 2024, the National Election Director certified the official results of the February 29, 2024 Special Election, certifying the winning candidates.

The members-elect are:

- 1) Julio M. Marar, Chuuk Election District #1  
(2-year term seat); and
- 2) Johnson A. Asher, Kosrae Election District #1  
(2-year term seat).

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS REPORT

RE: CREDENTIALS OF ELECTED CANDIDATES  
TO THE 23<sup>rd</sup> FSM CONGRESS

SUBJECT: CREDENTIALS OF ELECTED CANDIDATES  
FROM THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON  
FEBRUARY 29, 2024

APRIL 2, 2024

Your Committee on Credentials has carefully reviewed the eligibility and qualifications of the elected candidates.

Article IX, Section 9 of the FSM Constitution mandates that a person is eligible to run for election to be a member of Congress if the person is:

- at least 30 years old on the day of the election;
- an FSM citizen by birth;
- a domiciliary of the state from which elected; and
- residing in the FSM for at least 5 years prior to election.

A person is eligible to be a member of Congress under 9 FSMC §103 if:

- 1) 30 years or older by Election Day;
- 2) A resident from the state which seeking election for at least 5 years prior to Election Day;
- 3) FSM Citizen;
- 4) Not under a current judgment of mental incompetency or insanity; and
- 5) Not convicted of a felony by a FSM national court, FSM state court, or Trust Territory Government Court.

Your Committee reaffirms Congress exclusive authority as the sole judge of the elections and qualifications of its members. Article 9, Section 17 of the FSM Constitution dictates that "Congress shall be the sole judge of the elections and qualifications of its members, may discipline a member, and, by 2/3 vote, may suspend or expel a member."

**COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS REPORT**

**RE: CREDENTIALS OF ELECTED CANDIDATES  
TO THE 23<sup>rd</sup> FSM CONGRESS**

**SUBJECT: CREDENTIALS OF ELECTED CANDIDATES  
FROM THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON  
FEBRUARY 29, 2024**

**APRIL 2, 2024**

The Committee requested criminal background checks on the elected candidates from the FSM Department of Justice - National Police, FSM Supreme Court, and each state police chief, attorney general, and state court.

In a letter dated April 2, 2024, the FSM Department of Justice certified to Congress that Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher did not have any felony convictions and no pardon records. In a letter dated March 28, 2024, the FSM Supreme Court certified to Congress that Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher did not have any felony convictions and no pardon records.

The State Court of Yap certified to Congress that Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher did not have any criminal records. The Kosrae State Court certified to Congress that Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher did not have any pending nor prior records with the state court. Pohnpei State Supreme Court certified to Congress that Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher did not have any conviction records.

The Office of the Attorney General for Kosrae certified to Congress that there was no record of any violations of state criminal laws by Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher.

The Committee requested voter registration cards and candidate documentation submitted to the Office of the National Election Director to demonstrate FSM Citizenship by birth, permanent residence in state where elected, and physically residing in the FSM for the last 5 years.

In a letter dated January 22, 2024, the FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs reported to the Election Director that the Department did not have any record of Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher in their mental health data records.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS REPORT

RE: CREDENTIALS OF ELECTED CANDIDATES  
TO THE 23<sup>rd</sup> FSM CONGRESS

SUBJECT: CREDENTIALS OF ELECTED CANDIDATES  
FROM THE SPECIAL ELECTION HELD ON  
FEBRUARY 29, 2024


APRIL 2, 2024

Your Committee on Credentials finds, based on our careful review and deliberations, that elected candidates Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher meet the eligibility requirements under Article IX, Section 9 of the FSM Constitution and 9 FSMC § 103. Pursuant to Article IX, Section 17 of the FSM Constitution, your Committee finds that both elected candidates are qualified to serve and be seated as a member of Congress.

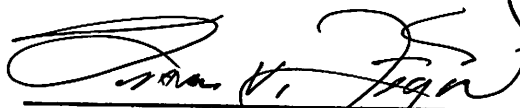
**CONCLUSION**

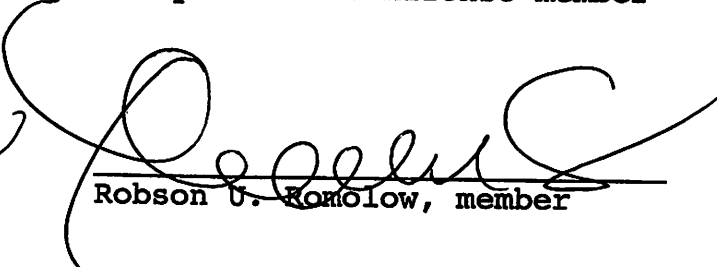
Your Committee on Credentials is in full accord with the credentials of Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher. Your Committee recommends that Julio M. Marar and Johnson A. Asher be permitted to take the Oath of Office, and be seated as a member and senator of the Twenty-Third Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Fabian Nimea, Chairman

  
Merlynn Abello-Alfonso member

  
Isaac V. Figir, member

  
Robson U. Romolow, member