

**Boston Ward 5 Democrats**  
**Meeting Date: April 17, 2018**

**MINUTES**

The regular and duly noticed April meeting of the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee was called to order by Chair Kenzie Bok (The Chair).

The Chair recognized Rahsaan Hall of the American Civil Liberties Union, Massachusetts. Mr. Hall spoke about the multiple upcoming races for District Attorneys and the opportunity they afford for reforming the criminal justice system. For many years, the norm in Massachusetts has been that many D.A.s run uncontested. This year, 6 of the races are contested. The ACLU is working to raise awareness of the power and purpose of the Office of the District Attorneys, and the impact they can have on communities of color. The name of the campaign is "What a Difference a D.A. Makes." The ACLU is looking forward to the coming election, as it believes that the large number of contested races shows a raised level of engagement and an opportunity for significant change. Mr. Hall closed with encouraging Ward 5 to visit the "What a Difference a D.A. Makes" website and view suggested questions and issues of importance in the D.A. campaigns.

The Chair next recognized Linda Champion, candidate for Suffolk County District Attorney. Ms. Champion is currently on leave from her position as assistant general counsel for the Workers Compensation Trust Fund in order to run for the position as Suffolk County D.A. Ms. Champion discussed her background as both a private and public attorney, and the changes she hoped to make in the Office of the District Attorney. With new funds coming into the office, she would like to expand the staff to include counsel for other areas of the law to help A.D.A.s understand how those issues affect the criminal justice system, and vice versa: immigration counsel; mental health professionals; more language skills; etc. Her goal is to humanize the process and help the Office of the District Attorney better reflect and better serve the community.

The chair next recognized Jennifer McAuliffe, candidate for Suffolk County District Attorney. Ms. McAuliffe discussed her long history of work in the area of criminal justice reform, starting in California and then moving back to Massachusetts. She has not worked as a prosecutor, but she has worked as a public defender, and says that she understands the injustice and systemic racism that is reflected in our criminal justice system. She pointed out that she is the only non-prosecutor running for this office, and that her perspective is needed. She is particularly interested in early interventions in youth communities, to help turn them away from crime - before they are caught up in the criminal justice system.

The Chair called the attention of the meeting to the minutes for the last meeting. Dan Lyons asked that the minutes be corrected to remove the indication that he had attended the last meeting, as he had not. Jay Livingston moved to accept the minutes with the suggested amendment, which was seconded by Gretchen Bennett. Approval was unanimous.

### Nomination of Guests who qualify for associate membership in Democratic Ward 5

Sharon Durkan nominated Coleman Lynds for associate membership in the Ward, which was seconded by Jim Berkman.

Rob Whitney nominated Tim Havel for election to associate membership in the Ward, which was seconded by Mollie Hitt. Vote by acclamation.

Gretchen Burns nominated Dan Smith for associate membership in the Ward, which was seconded by Andrea Burns.

Dan Lyon nominated Michael Pizziferri for associate membership in the Ward, which was seconded by Tony Lombardi.

Diane Barry nominated Aumaury Desjardins for associate membership in the Ward, which was seconded by Jim Berkman.

The Chair spoke briefly about the upcoming event for Candidates for Suffolk County District Attorney, which Ward 5 is co-hosting with Wards 3 and 4, and the need to sign up for the free tickets on Eventbrite.

The meeting then heard reports on issues and initiatives that members of the ward have been working on.

The Chair spoke about the current state of the “Yes on 5” initiative which she worked on in 2016. That initiative, and the current bill to add funding to the program, make millions of dollars available in our community for parks, affordable housing and historic preservation.

The Chair recognized Gretchen Bennett who counsels the judiciary and has been intimately involved in the passage of the recent criminal justice reform bill, which is a significant legislative achievement for Massachusetts. Gretchen explained the role of the Council of State Governments in urging Massachusetts to take up criminal justice reform, and with the goal of reducing recidivism in the commonwealth. Ms. Bennett outlined dozens of laws and aspects of the criminal justice system which have been adjusted, revised, removed and updated. Of particular impact will be the removal of many mandatory minimum sentences, and revising the commonwealth’s scheme of fees and fines associated with parole.

The Chair recognized Tim Havel and Laura Gang of We The People. Tim ceded the floor and time to Ms. Gang. Ms. Gang explained the proposed We The People Act, and it’s goal of amending the U.S. Constitution to overturn Citizens United. She explained how the bill was structured, and the constitutional amendment process it was attempting to set in motion. If it

passes the Massachusetts Legislature, the Commonwealth would be the 6th state to pass the We The People bill.

Pat Amend moved to lay on the table any vote to endorse the We The People Act, which was seconded by Gretchen Bennett. The motion passed, with one nay vote by Kate Gallivan. The Chair announced that a motion to amend would be on the agenda for the next Ward meeting, and commended the meeting to use the interim month to learn more about the bill so that the endorsement vote would be able to move off the table.

The Chair recognized Pat Amend, who announced that she is doing a walk for hunger, and seeks sponsors and walking buddies. Any other business?

The Chair announced two upcoming events for the Ward

- April 21 - 1-5 pm - pizza and phone banking for AZ democratic candidate Hiral Tipirneni
- May 3 - The Forum for Suffolk County D.A. Candidates with Wards 3 and 4.

Gretchen Bennett made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Tony Lombardi. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Attendance

Members	Guests
Pat Amend	Zoe Atchison
Hillary Bacon Gabrieli	Aumaury Desjardins
Diane Barry	Jason Eaves
Gretchen Bennett	John Gabrieli
Jim Berkman	Tim Havel
Bob Binney	Brn Lebttag
Alex Bok	Michael Pizziferri
Kenzie Bok	Sandra Singer
Andrea Burns	Dan Smith
Helen Cox	Helene Vincent
Sharon Durkan	

Kate Gallivan	
Mollie Hitt	
Liam Holland	
Sharon Hucul	
Katherine Judge	
Jay Livingston	
Anthony Lombardi	
Coleman Lynds	
Dan Lyon	
Karen Mobilia	
Rob Whitney	
David Xiao	