

Boston Ward 5 Democrats
Meeting Date: June 19, 2018

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

Rep. Michael Capuano

The Chair recognized Congressman Mike Capuano who addressed the Ward, asking for Ward 5's support in the coming primary. Rep. Capuano spoke about his strong progressive record and the need for experienced leadership in Washington. If he goes back, and the Dems successfully take back the House, Rep. Capuano will have seniority in two important committees, Finance and Transportation. His voting records is something he's proud of, with a 100% rating from groups like Planned Parenthood, and a single F - from the NRA.

Rep. Capuano responded to Ward members' questions on gun control, the "blue wave", Nancy Pelosi, the war in Yemen, and possibilities for a new legislative agenda.

Approval of the Minutes

The Chair called for approval of the minutes. Marty Walz moved for approval of the May minutes as presented, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Update

The Chair recognized Ward 5 Treasurer Bob Binney, who reported that we have about \$4,000 in the Ward account. Bob urged those members who have not yet paid their dues to please pay by July. The Chair pointed out a primary purpose for the Ward account is to have funds to spend on elections, like those approaching. The Ward often spends on vote cards and travel for Ward sponsored political work.

Membership Matters

Jim Berkman moved that Olivia Cifrino be elevated to membership, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry. Motion passed.

Diane Barry moved that Aumory Dujardin be elevated to membership, which motion was seconded by Jim Berkman. Motion passed.

Gretchen Bennett moved that Dan Smith be elevated to membership, which motion was seconded by Rob Whitney. Motion passed.

Gretchen Bennett moved that Aaron Dy be elevated to membership, which motion was seconded by Sharon Durkan. Motion passed.

Endorsement - Gubernatorial Race

The Ward discussed the gubernatorial race, including possible advantages in beating Charlie Baker; the advantages of running a coordinated Campaign with other Dems like Elizabeth Warren; John Wash's piece on Baker's vulnerability; Opposed Question 2 and Charter Schools; Supported the millionaire's tax.

The Chair recognized Marty Walz, who spoke in favor of gubernatorial candidate Jay Gonzales.

The Chair recognized Bob Massie, candidate for Governor. Mr. Massie spoke about the need for new leadership and fundamental change in our democracy. He wants to be the People's Governor, the people's candidate. Mr. Massie answered Ward members' questions on topics such as the MBTA, wage and income inequality, social justice.

Sharon Durkan moved that we open nominations for the Ward's endorsement for Governor, which motion was seconded by Patricia Amend. Motion passed. Endorsements were opened.

Rob Whitney moved that the Ward endorse gubernatorial candidate Jay Gonzales, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry.

Andrea Burns moved that the Ward endorse gubernatorial candidate Bob Massie, which motion was seconded by Jim Berkman.

Gretchen Bennett moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Helen Cox. Motion passed.

Ward 5 discussed the candidates, after which Sharon Durkan moved for a roll call vote, which motion was seconded by Gretchen Bennett. Motion passed. Endorsements were closed.

By a vote of 18 for Gonzalez, 6 for Massie, and 2 Present, Ward 5 endorsed Jay Gonzalez for Governor.

Endorsement - Lt. Governor

The Chair recognized Quentin Palfrey, who spoke about his background in government; his commitment to fighting poverty; and his wish to use the office of Lt. Governor to be a bridge between the office of the Governor and local communities in Massachusetts. Mr. Palfrey answered questions from Ward members.

The Chair recognized Jimmy Tingle, who spoke about how government matters and government can change and save people's lives and can save people's lives. Mr. Tingle answered questions from Ward members.

Rob Whitney moved to open endorsement for Lt. Governor, which motion was seconded by Mollie Hitt. Motion passed and endorsements were opened.

Hilary Gabrieli moved that Ward 5 endorse candidate Quentin Palfrey, which motion was seconded by Rob Whitney.

Kenzie Bok moved that Ward 5 endorse candidate Jimmy Tingle, which motion was seconded by Sharon Durkan.

Rob Whitney moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Pat Amend. Motion passed, and nominations were closed.

The Ward discussed the candidates. Diane Barry called for a roll call vote, which motion was seconded by Tim Havel. Motion passed.

By a vote of 22 for Palfrey and 2 for Tingle, Ward 5 endorsed Quentin Palfrey for Lt. Governor.

Endorsement - Secretary of State

The Chair announced that she was unable to reach the Galvin campaign. The Chair asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of Galvin? No.

Molly Hitt moved for an acclamation vote to endorse Josh Zakim, which motion was seconded by Helen Cox. Tabled until after endorsements considered.

The Chair recognized Josh Zakim, candidate for Secretary of State. Candidate Zakim spoke about his pride in representing Ward 5 as part of his district for the Boston City Council and what it has meant to him to have the support of Ward 5. Josh spoke about his desire to change the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth to make it more proactive, expanding voting access and accountability. Josh wants to bring Progressive values to the Office.

Open endorsements: Diane Barry moved that we open endorsements for the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth, which motion was seconded by Molly Hitt. Motion passed.

Gretchen Bennett moved that Ward 5 endorse Josh Zakim, which motion was seconded by Grace Zakim.

Rob Whitney moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Jim Berkman. Motion passed.

The motion for an acclamation vote motion taken back up. Josh Zakim was endorsed by acclamation for Secretary of State.

Endorsement - 9th Suffolk State Rep Race

The Chair recognized Rep. Byron Rushing. Rep. Rushing spoke about how Ward 5 has endorsed him in the past every time he has run, and that he is asking for the Ward's support again now. Read a piece on why he runs for office; responded to Ward member questions..

The Chair recognized candidate Suezanne Bruce, who discussed her background and history with Boston and why she is running for this seat. She is a 5th generation Bostonian and is dismayed that we are still working to pass items that were important 25 years ago. She also pledges to be accessible, and not just during elections. Candidate Bruce responded to Ward 5 member questions.

The Chair recognized candidate Jon Santiago. Candidate Santiago opened with thanking Ward 5 for showing leadership in Boston politics, something he recalls from his days as vice chair of Ward 4. Candidate Santiago shared that he's running because he thinks we deserve more and he can do better. He thinks that it is not possible to be both progressive and to get along with the current house leadership. That needs to change; he would like to help change it, and he asks for Ward 5's support. Candidate Santiago responded to Ward 5 member questions.

Molly Hitt moved to open endorsements the State Representative for the 9th Suffolk District, which motion was seconded by Andrea Burns.

Marty Walz moved that the Ward endorse Rep. Byron Rushing, which motion was seconded by Gretchen Bennett.

Andrea Burns moved that the Ward endorse Jon Santiago, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry.

Kenzie Bok moved that the Ward endorse Suezanne Bruce, which motion was seconded by Gretchen Bennett.

Rob Whitney moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge. Motion passed.

Discussion of candidates by Ward 5

Rob Whitney moved for a roll call vote, which motion was seconded by Mollie Hitt.

With 21 votes, Ward 5 unanimously endorsed Rep. Byron Rushing for the 9th Suffolk District.

Endorsement - 3rd District Governor's Council

The Chair recognized incumbent Marilyn Petitto Devaney, who asked for Ward 5's continued