

Boston Ward 5 Democrats - November 20, 2018. 7 pm

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

Approval of the Minutes

Kathy Judge moved that we accept the minutes as presented, which motion was seconded by Pat McDonough. The motion passed.

Membership Matters

Matt Maddalo nominated Jason Ewas for associate membership Kathy Judge seconded. Motion passed. Jason Ewas is now a Ward 5 Associate Member.

Post Election Recap: Scott Ferson of The Blue Lab

Scott Ferson spoke about the changing electorate, As of 2020, whites are likely to be a minority and the trending majority is voters 18-25 and in particular minority votes of that age. And turnout in the most recent election cycle was off the charts, including younger and minority groups that don't always turn out.

Democrats are seeing the voting trends going their way. The voting trends indicate that unless the GOP drastically changes how they do things, the growing body of young and minority voters are likely to be Democrats, and Dems will win. What Dems need to do to ensure that this happens: they must come up with and communicate a message rather than just being staunchly anti-GOP. What is moving voters is message. Voters are voting more with emotions in the last few election cycles. If Dems have a good message, communications will take care of themselves. Message will win with the target voters.

Local level is where people are really engaged. National level where people are message voting. The Blue Lab's goal is to help candidates with the highest barriers to entry. Elections are a billion dollar industry that close up shop at the end of a cycle; wait; start again from scratch the next election season. (Example: it take about a million and a half to run for Congress.). The Lab is working to be an incubator for first time, and particular minority first time candidates. What do they need to get started? A web page; demographics of their target district; volunteers to knock on doors and make phone calls for them. These are the kinds of services the Blue Lab can provide for someone who thinks they want to run.

Q&A with Ward 5

Annissa Essaibi-George - Boston City Councilor-at-Large

Councilor-at-Large Essaibi-George chairs two committees for the City Council: Alcohol and Recovery; Education. She informed Ward 5 about some of the compelling agenda items those committees are working on. This week, Boston School Committee held a hearing on whether it should be an appointed body or an elected body. (Right now, it's appointed.). Councilor-at-Large Essaibi-George has led/is leading a series of Town Halls on education. The next in this area will be on Monday Dec 10. The City Council is also working on the opioid crisis here in Boston. The Alcohol & Recover Committee is working to improve needle disposal. In the last year, they have doubled the size of the mobile sharps team, and they're working to expand the places where sharps can be turned in. They're working to make pharmacies take sharps back. One of the items the City Council is working on is to get non-profits make payments in lieu of taxes and larger payments at that. Councilor-at-Large Essaibi-George believes that we need to reassess the real estate values for non-profits and base the ask for payments in lieu of taxes on reassessments. The City Council knows that access to affordable housing units needs improvement. They are working to increase the number of units coming online.

Q&A with Ward 5

Recognition for Ward Service

The Ward recognized Ross Levanto for over a decade of service to the ward, first as a committee member, then as a member of the executive committee, and also as Chair.

The Ward also recognizes Marty Walz for over 30 years of services to the Ward.

Ranked Choice Voting Follow Up

Voter Choice Massachusetts would like Ward 5 to endorse Ranked Choice Voting.

Discussion by Ward 5:

Ward 5 doesn't usually endorse a cause. We usually endorse specific bills or propositions. Jay Livingstone let us know that there will be a ranked choice voting bill in January. The Chair suggested that perhaps we could invite Voter Choice Massachusetts back in February and address the possibility of endorsing the bill once we've seen it.

Ranked Choice Massachusetts is also definitely looking for people to host community gatherings and living room parties to demystify ranked choice voting. Those interested should contact Ranked Choice Massachusetts directly.

Other Business Announcements

By-Law Review Committee: the Chair will be calling it together and will be sending out an email to the Ward to see if there are others who would like to participate in the committee.

The Chair is seeking members for a by-laws subcommittee. Jim Berkman, Anthony Lombardi and Kathy Judge are already on that committee. The Chair will send out an email to see if others would like to join that effort.

Closing the Meeting

Pat Amend moved we close the meeting, which motion was seconded Jay Livingstone, and passed.

Attendance

Members

Pat Amend
Hilary Bacon-Gabrieli
Diane Barry
Kenzie Bok
Bob Binney
Jason Ewas
John Gabrieli
Andrew Hall
Kathy Judge
Jay Livingstone
Matt Maddalo
Pat McDonough
Kristen Mobilia

Guests

Councilor Essaibi-George
Scott Ferson
S. Hamilton
Ross Levanto
Charles Mason
Jen Migliore
Mary Ryan
Sandra Singer
Martha Stuart