

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee September 15, 2020 Meeting

Due to the declared State of Emergency, and upon the advice of the State Democratic Party, this monthly meeting of the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee was held online via Zoom.

Sharon Durkan (The Chair) called the September meeting to order.

Biden-Harris 2020 Campaign

Cam Charbonnier – Biden/Harris State Director

Cam addressed the Committee explaining things we can do to support the Biden/Harris 2020 campaign between now and Election Day. There are phone banking and texting opportunities pretty much all day and night until the election. The Chair noted that we'll be joining the phone bank sponsored by Jay Livingstone and Kenzie Bok on the evening of September 30.

Lauren Mattison – Biden/Harris organizer

Lauren is the Boston Captain for Biden/Harris. She has six (6) standing phone banks every week - something for every schedule. There are special opportunities such as reaching out to swing states or Spanish speaking voters.

Members who are interested can contact the Chair regarding upcoming opportunities to work with other Ward 5 members to support the Biden/Harris campaign.

Deb Otis – Yes on 2

The Chair noted that Ward 5 Democratic Committee endorsed Ranked Choice Voting in principle, and specifically endorsed the recent Massachusetts legislation on this topic. Deb thanked us for the endorsement of the RCV legislation. She discussed the recent race in Congressional District 4, where the winner won the primary with less than 50% of the vote and in fact won with only about 23%. Ranked Choice Voting would enable candidates to win with a stronger mandate – 50% plus of the vote every time, even in a field of multiple candidates. Deb discussed how Ranked Choice Voting encourages participation while the current system discourages candidates who are afraid of splitting the vote. She noted that people who've heard about RCV are generally for it. It's the voters who haven't heard about it before who tend to be against it. She invited Ward 5 to participate in the education and outreach efforts through phone banking and texting. Members who are interested can contact the Chair regarding upcoming opportunities to support Ranked Choice Voting.

Grey Black – Boston Rally for Basic Income

Grey Black addressed the Committee to explain how his organization envisions Basic Income working in Massachusetts and beyond. Essentially, Basic Income would provide a basic security safety net and allow individuals to meet their own needs in a way that a

more general program can't. Boston Rally for Basic Income is planning educational and other events in the near future and will send us information.

Jerom Mariani – Invest in Our Recovery

Jerom explained the campaign for Invest in Our Recovery and the need to raise the level of funding available to pay for necessary initiatives. The Fair Share plan won't be on the ballot until 2022. The current campaign strives to raise revenue now and to set the stage for the 2021 budget cycle. Jerom explained the three approaches Invest in Our Recovery is promoting to raise current revenue:

- Increase the tax rate for corporate profits. The current MA tax rate for this category is 8%, when it used to be 9.5%. The tax rate should be raised back to the former level of 9.5%.
- GILTI (Global and tangible taxed income). We should couple our state tax to the federal process that taxes profits that are shipped overseas.
- We should increase the state tax rate for unearned income.

Approval of August Minutes

Coleman Lynds moved that we approve the August draft minutes, which motion was seconded by Pat Amend. The motion passed and the minutes are approved.

Membership

Christina Pierce is eligible for nomination to membership. Pat Amend moved that we nominate Christina for Associate Membership, which motion was seconded by Kristen Mobilia. Motion passed. She will be eligible for election to Associate Membership at the next meeting she attends.

Campaign Activities

The Chair reported that our endorsed candidates did well in the primaries and that the campaigns have been in touch to thank us. The Robbie Goldstein campaign contacted us to let us know that our phone banks made a real difference in who turned out and voted. The Markey Campaign noted with approval that Senator Markey took all precincts in Ward 5. Chair Sharon Durkan thanked members personally for outstanding work on our endorsed primary campaigns.

Primaries were the warm up! Now... NOVEMBER!

We have a list of elections that need our help. In addition to the Biden/Harris campaign, we have several progressive electeds who need our help to defend and support them in the upcoming election. We can help send them back to Beacon Hill to continue to do good work.

Coleman Lynds shared a sheet explaining the two ballot questions, which will be on the November ballot. We're going to try to have people from those campaigns come in to explain them to us at the October meeting. There are also good summaries on the WBUR website.

Rob Whitney discussed the possibility of road trips to do stand outs in other places like Maine.

Pat Amend discussed upcoming opportunities to help with voter protection in swing states such as Wisconsin. Trump took Wisconsin by about 20,000 votes. It's a state we can get back. In the primary, it was clear that the vote was being depressed. They drastically shrank the number of available polling places. We'll be sending out information to Ward 5 members and friend about opportunities to work on phone banks to help recruit poll workers and polling place observers in Wisconsin.

Motion to Adjourn

Diane Barry moved that we adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Rajan Nanda. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Pat Amend	
Hillary Bacon-Gabrieli	
Diane Barry	
Gretchen Bennett	
Bob Binney	
Lauren Brody	
Olivia Cifrino	
Jeremy Cushman	
Sharon Durkan	
Jason Ewas	
Natalie Heer	Sandra Singer
Molly Hitt	Lauren Mattison
Sharon Hucul	Sharon Franzetta
Kathy Judge	Ross Velanto
Cindy Korb	Christina Pierce
Jay Livingstone	Jeron Mariani
Julie Livingstone	
Coleman Lynds	
Patrick McDonough	
Kristen Mobilia	
Rajan Nanda	
Michael Pizziferri	
Sue Smith	
Rob Whitney	
David Xiao	