

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

May 18, 2021 Meeting

Due to the declared State of Emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 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 meeting to order.

Thanks to all who attended and worked on the April Mayoral Candidate Forum! It was a great success.

Kelly Bates – Candidate for Boston City Councilor At Large

Kelly Bates discussed her candidacy and issues that are important to her as a candidate to represent Boston. She will be attending our At-Large Forum on June 24.

Membership

The Chair reviewed our procedures on how to become a member.

Ben Starr qualifies for nomination to membership, as this is his third meeting in the last year. Ben addressed the committee. Diane Barry nominated, and the motion seconded by Kathy Judge. Ben Starr is nominated and now qualifies for an associate membership vote at the next regular monthly meeting he attends.

Meetings

We will have a June meeting, in addition to the Boston City Councilor Forum. It's not our usual date, so please take note of the date. The Forum is on June 24. The June meeting is June 29 at 7 pm – the 5th Tuesday rather than the 3rd.

Sharon shared that we are considering having an outdoor in-person meeting for the July 20 meeting. We are talking with First Church about using their outside space for the meeting. If we are able to arrange that, we will also have a virtual option for that meeting. Attendance will be important, as we will be considering endorsement that night for Mayoral and City Councilor At Large.

The August meeting will be virtual.

Approval of Minutes

Diane Barry moved to approve the March minutes as presented, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge. Motion passed. Minutes are approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Binney gave his Treasurer's Report. We have about \$6,000 in the bank, including the membership fees for this year. We are having very few expenses, so we're in good financial shape. We spent about \$466 on support items for the Mayoral Candidates Forum. The majority

of the cost was the close captioning, and we had to upgrade our Eventbrite account to handle the large, expected attendance. We are splitting the financial responsibility with Ward 4 for the two forums we're co-sponsoring. We handled the expenses for the April Mayoral Candidate Forum; Ward 4 will handle the expenses for the June City Councilor At Large Forum.

Mayoral Candidate Forum

The April Mayoral Candidate forum was a great success! We had more than 600 people sign up through Eventbrite and over 500 signed into the Zoom, plus live streaming on FaceBook. We were written up in the local papers. Please share the link and information for the June At Large Forum with your networks!

Votes Act – Rep. Jay Livingstone

The Votes Act was extended to cover the elections in the spring. It is scheduled for a vote and is likely to pass again prior to the next expiration at the end of June. If it passes, it will make permanent the voting additions from last year.

Patrick Roath – The Votes Act

Patrick summarized The Votes Act for us. The legislature enabled Automatic Voter Registration, Vote by Mail, Drop Boxes, and Early Voting. As a result, we had record turnout in the middle of a pandemic! The reforms run out on June 30. We need a permanent reform rather, than sprinting from election to election. The Votes Act will make these reforms permanent.

The real fight is going to be Election Day registration, which is a reform that would really increase voting access and participation for communities of color. Studies show it's the one that does that best. We also need to make sure that incarcerated persons, who have not been convicted, are able to vote.

Q&A with the Committee

John Spillane – Candidate for Boston City Councilor-At-Large

Just dropping in to say hello, and he'll see us at the forum with Ward 4.

Kenzie Bok – Boston City Councilor

She's halfway through the 35 budget hearings she's chairing. Anyone who wants to can attend. Of interest this year is planning for how to spend the Federal recovery money.

Motion to Adjourn

Diane Barry moved to adjourn the meeting, a motion that was seconded by Pat McDonough. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

<u><i>Members</i></u>	<u><i>Guests</i></u>
Hillary Bacon-Gabrieli	Sandra Singer
Diane Barry	Colleen Stadelmann
Gretchen Bennett	Kelly Bates
Bob Binney	Ben Starr

Kenzie Bok
Helen Cox
Sharon Durkan
Molly Hitt
Kathy Judge
Cindy Korb
Jay Livingstone^[L]_{SEP}
Patrick McDonough
Kristen Mobilia
David Xiao

Shibani
Abigail Gabrieli