

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

September 20, 2022, Meeting

Due to the declared Public Health 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 September meeting to order and led a discussion on the importance of the upcoming ballot initiatives.

The Coordinated Campaign – Democrats & Ballot Initiatives 1 & 4

Rep. Jay Livingstone gave a brief report on upcoming activities with the Democratic Coordinated Campaign, and Ballot Initiatives 1 and 4. Ward 5 will be sponsoring some canvassing and phone banking activities for each of these and will be in touch.

- **Yes on Question 1 – Millionaire’s Tax** – Ward 5 already endorsed for Yes on Question 1. Question 1 proposes to amend the MA constitution to authorize an increase in the tax on income over 1 million dollars, and that the funds raised be spent on transportation and education.
- **No on Question 4:** YES is the attempt to overturn the recent law passed to issue drivers’ licenses to anyone regardless of immigration status. Jay spoke about the reasons why we ought to be in favor of keeping the law rather than overturning it (No on 4).

Jay took questions from the Committee

Anjum Ansari - Yes on 2 Ballot Initiative –

Anjum Ansari is a Dentist. A Yes on 2 would require dental insurers to pay out at least 80% of what they take in in premiums on care rather than administrative or other costs. If they don’t, they would owe a refund on premiums. There’s already a requirement of this kind for ordinary medical insurers – extends it to dental. Ms. Ansari took questions from the Committee.

Ben Weiner - Ballot Initiative - Yes on 3

Ben Weiner runs a family-owned package store business. Would remove the limit of licenses a single entity can own (9). Wants to raise it to 18. Protects sales to minors by getting rid of certain self-check-out options. Questions from the Committee.

Ward 5 Monthly Meetings

The Chair and Bob Binney reported that Ward 5 is working on making our meetings hybrid – online but also an in-person component. We’re looking for a place to have it with a reasonable location and a reasonable price. If anyone has ideas on locations, please contact Bob or the Chair. Also, we are considering doing a floating meeting with at different places each month, to

make our meetings more accessible around the Ward. So, when you're considering possible venues, it doesn't need to be available every month.

Endorsement – Special Meeting

Diane Barry moved that we hold a special meeting to consider endorsement of Ballot Initiatives 2, 3 and 4, which motion was seconded by Pat Amend. Pat Amend moved that we vote by acclimation, which motion was seconded by Gretchen Bennett. Motion passed.

Announcements

We're working on a table for the annual Chinese Banquet MassDems fundraiser. Ward 5 group maybe going to support NH Dems. We'd need drivers and to pick a day.

Motion to Adjourn

Alex Bok moved that we adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Gretchen Bennett. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Attendance

Members	Guests
Pat Amend Hilary Bacon Gabrieli Diane Barry Gretchen Bennett Bob Binney Alex Bok Helen Cox Sharon Durkan Abigail Gabrieli Sharon Hucul Jay Livingstone Julie Livingstone Kristen Mobilia Lucy Rivera Susan Smith Jon Spillane	Sandra Singer