

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

June 18, 2024, Meeting

The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee was held online via Zoom.

Bob Binney called the meeting to order after establishing quorum.

Membership Matters

May meeting minutes

Corrections to May meeting minutes: Kristen M Abigail, Sharon Durkan, Rob added to attendees
Corrected Rob's last name spelling where listed as calling the meeting together
Hilary motioned to approve May, Kathy Judge seconded the motion.
-May minutes approved with above edits

Associate Member Nominations Elected Member

Associate member

No new nominees eligible for membership

Treasurer's Report

Current Balance as of 6/18/2024 is **\$8,042.11**

Member 2024 dues were due in March; 20 members have paid so far for 2024 total \$1220 in membership fees collected.

-Possible buses to canvas in NH or ME this fall, need to build-up funds now

Ward 5 website has a link to pay for membership (ActBlue).

If not able to pay full amount, contact Bob and/or Rob or Hilary.

TO PAY YOUR 2024 BOSTON WARD 5 DUES ONLINE, GO TO:

<https://bostonward5dems.org/membershipmeetings/>

and click on "ActBlue Contribute" tab; or

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/boston-ward-5-democratic-committee-1>

General Membership Dues: \$60. First Year Membership: \$25; Student: \$25.

Guest Speakers

State Senator Will Brownsberger

-Noted: still represents a portion of Ward 5

Update on MA Gun Laws

Noted gun owners are the most excited over gun laws.

Regulation of ghost guns.

-Make easier to arrest people

Rapid fire (glock switch).

Red flag law.

What are assault weapons?

Will increase safety in the state?

Senate bill not changing wording?

House rewrites gun laws: the more words change, the more meaning changed.

Question about MA ranking with gun laws: MA has strong gun laws.

Housing

-Constituents are frustrated and upset with position with housing.

-Subsidies, rent control, increasing options state-wide, address barriers to get structures for more housing.

-Shortage of labor linked to housing shortage.

-Impacting healthcare due to labor shortages in hospitals.

-Housing bill addresses some of the key gaps recognized by most MA representatives.

Question about transportation problems impacting housing problems. Note transportation could be part of the solution but only a small part, especially with MBTA issues.

-Additional transportation carbon footprint impact with current proposals are not strong ROIs.

Need to first get MBTA functioning reliably.

-Internal improvements within MBTA positive; better internal management.

-Need to fund MBTA next year.

State Senator Lydia Edwards

Multi-billion dollar Housing bill

-Noted MA is losing residents between ages 20-44 at high rates because of housing.

-Also supporting the Senior housing commission.

-While establishing infrastructure, need to ensure ground water quality, supports ensuring ground water quality when planning any infrastructure as well as correction to infrastructure to ensure quality ground water for communities.

Climate issues

-For too long, standards have been dictated by industries; standards need to come from the communities.

-Supporting the plastics bottle bill: includes moving toward retailers only providing plastic bags if requested.

General

-Promoting protecting communities impacted by celebration events, such as parades —and ensure people come to the communities to celebrate and not destroy.

-Added a toilet to the Common, through work with Friends of the Public Garden, for Shakespeare in the Park.

-Working to get additional funding for places like Women's Lunch Place and soup kitchens.

Question about stance on the MAID death with dignity option to end one's life.

-Concern there is not enough investment to fix other areas of healthcare and efforts need to be made to

ensure protecting the most vulnerable population.
-Risk of restricting care, but then assist in dying.
*Additional comments from members adding to this concern.

Alex Bausch-MassDems

-Organizing watch parties.
-NH requesting Mass people to support between now and November to canvass. Various shifts Saturday and Sunday.
-If interested in canvassing, contact: contact@massdems.org

Future Scheduled Speakers

July meeting- Representation from the AG's office

Reminder to contact Mark Mantell with any ideas about guest speakers

Review Recent Events

MassDems Convention

-Bob reviewed the convention.
-Very positive, Ward 5 had a strong representation there.

Forum for the D3/D4 Governor's Council and Suffolk Superior Court Clerk

-More wards want to join into these events.
-Great discussion.

Candidates

Biden/Harris Workshop—Now called: The Boston Ward 5 Action for Democracy.

-Held first meeting, 6 people joined to brainstorm what can do
-Sundays 1-4 at Community Church

Kathy joined MassDems call support for Biden/Harris.

-Every Saturday and Sunday there will be canvassing in NH.
-Anyone interested in canvassing, contact Alex.

Endorsement Vote Motion

Endorsement Vote

Lydia Edwards for reelection, has a Republican running against her.
Sharon Durkan motioned to endorse by acclamation, Kenzie Bok seconded.
-Approved endorsement.

Candidate for Governor's Council, D3 (Dolan, Devaney)
Kenzie Bok motioned to open nominations.

Candidates Dolan and Devaney nominated.
 Sharon Durkan motioned to close nominations and open for discussion.
 Bob Binney motioned to close discussion; Rob Whitney seconded closing discussion.
 Roll call taken for vote.
 Mara Dolan endorsed.

Candidate for Clerk of Supreme Judicial Courts
 Kathy Judge motioned to nominate both candidates Allison Cartwright and Erin Murphy: Sharon Durkan seconded.
 Discussion that Allison is a lawyer and more qualified for the position.
 Sharon Durkan motioned to close discussion
 Roll call vote
 Allison Cartwright endorsed.

John Powers for Clerk of Courts, Civil business.
 Bob Binney nominated John Powers for endorsement.
 Kenzie Bok motioned to vote by acclamation, Sharon Durkan seconded.

Pat offered to create endorsement palm cards to hand to voters
 -Noted need to activate for early voting, possibly set up to hand out at the Boston Public Library.

Other Items/Events

2024 Get Involved!

Volunteer opportunities: handout with ways to get involved, also noted kept up to date on the website

Social Media Support

Joshua Calianos and Kelly Zeilman are leading the subcommittee.

Upcoming Events

Noted Sundays from 1-4 at the Community Church to do activities such as letter or postcard writing
 -Contact Hilary if interested in joining for canvassing in NH.

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Attendance

Members	Guests
<u>In Person</u> Bob Binney Hilary Bacon Gabrieli Sharon Durkan Kate Gallivan Katherine Judge Kelly Zeilman Kristen Mobilia	<u>In Person</u> Mary Colette Garippo Ann LaFrance Alex Bausch <u>Online</u> Sandra Singer

Online

Sheila Murray

Patricia Amend

Mark Mantell

David Crossman

Rob Whitney

Jay Livingstone

Hemal Sampat

Suzanne Comtois

Sharon (Shari) Franzetta