

# **Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee**

## **October 15, 2024, Meeting**

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

Bob Binney called the meeting to order.

### **Membership Matters**

#### **September Meeting Minutes**

Holding off until November to review/approve due to low attendance.

#### **Associate Member Nominations Elected Member**

No new nominees eligible for membership.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Current Balance as of 10/14/2024 is **\$\$4,664.32**

Member 2024 dues- reminder to participate in endorsement votes, you must pay your dues.  
21 members have paid so far for 2024 total \$1,280 in membership fees collected.  
Budget is covering the stamps for the postcard being sent.

Payment: 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**

#### **Ballot Question Spokespersons**

Ballot Question spokespersons

In bold the questions covered in this meeting

Question 1: Should the State Auditor audit the State Legislature?

**Question 2: Eliminating the MCAS graduation requirement.**

**Question 3: A union for rideshare drivers.**

**Question 4: Legalizing psychedelic drugs.**

Question 5: Should tips count towards the minimum wage?

### Guest Speakers

Reminder to contact Mark Mantell with any ideas about guest speakers.

#### **Question 2 Ballot question spokesperson: Marty Walz**

- No vote would remove statewide standard for graduation.
- Prevents a replacement test to use as a graduating requirement, even if a local district wanted to use an alternative test for a graduation requirement.
- Has been in place for the last 20 years as a graduation requirement. Meant to promote equality across all local school districts.
- 1% of all high school seniors did not get diploma because of not passing MCAS.
- Range of scores with a passing grade.
- Testing to see if the teacher has taught to meet standards, not meant to be like SAT tests.
- There are alternative pathways for students who do not pass.
- If do not pass in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, have 4 more times to pass.
- Removing the standard would put MA with MS and AL level of standards.

#### **Question 3: A union for rideshare drivers spokespersons:**

No vote: **Jason Salgado**

UAW opposed because it feels this does not create a real union.

-Promoting a bill to give all rideshare drivers the same rights the UAW has.

-Promoting to resolve at the legislative level to ensure stronger rights for drivers.

Yes vote: **Pablo Ruiz**

- Drivers currently not unionized.
- Drivers have low pay for high-risk jobs.
- Driver polling highly in favor.
- Over 100 organizations supporting.
- The Boston Globe* endorsed.

#### **Question 4: Legalizing psychedelic drugs spokesperson: Sally Reyerling**

Yes vote

-Regulate the use for therapy.

No vote

- Mass Medical Society against.
- Has shown potential benefits in tightly controlled environment.
- Passing would allow individuals to grow plants at home.
- Large pharmaceutical industry backing a yes vote.

-No solid evidence of benefits.

Sharon Durkan motioned tabling endorsing all ballot questions. Approved.

### Other Items/Events

#### 2024 Get Involved!

Noted again the volunteer opportunities: handout with ways to get involved. This is kept up to date on the website

-Urging to do what you can to 'Do Something'

#### Upcoming Events

Workshop on Sundays from 1-4 at the Community Church to do activities such as letter or postcard writing.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Sharon Durkan.

Seconded by Pat Amend.

Meeting adjourned.

### Attendance

Members	Guests
<u>In Person</u> Bob Binney Pat Amend Katherine Gallivan Kristen Mobilia Josh Calianos Kelly Zeilman Sharon Durkan Kenzie Bok	<u>In Person</u> Jason Salgado Will Glihdmeyer Sally Reyering Kevin Gehl Marty Waltz Joel Rivera Vasl Kohusat-Younit
<u>Online</u> Creelea Pangaro Sharon Hucul Hilary Bacon Gabrieli Nancy Street Jon Spillane Sharon (Shari) Franzetta	<u>Online</u> Chris Keohen Joe Meyer Pablo Ruiz Linda Stone Pam Street