

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

September 17, 2024, Meeting

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

Bob Binney called the meeting to order.

Membership Matters

Meeting Minutes

July meeting minutes:

Kenzie Bok motioned to approve the July minutes, Hilary Bacon Gabrieli seconded to approve the July Minutes. Approved

August meeting minutes:

Sharon Durkan's last name misspelled, and Abigail Gabrieli missing from attendee list
Sharon Durkan motioned to approve August minutes with amendments, Hilary Bacon Gabrieli seconded to approve with edits. Approved.

Associate Member Nominations Elected Member

Associate Member

No new nominees eligible for membership

Treasurer's Report

Current Balance as of 9/17/2024 is \$7----

Member 2024 dues- reminder to participate in endorsement votes, you must pay your dues.
21 members have paid so far for 2024 total \$1,281 in membership fees collected.
Noted some of the 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 Spokesperson

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 for restaurant workers count towards the minimum wage?

Future Scheduled Speakers

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

Question 2: MCAS spokesperson: Lisa Guisbond

- Yes vote eliminates the requirement to pass the MCAS to graduate but does eliminate the test to measure schools.
- The MCAS would continue to be used to maintain education standards
- Maintaining the graduation requirement does not close gaps for groups of students struggling.
- Schools would certify each student met all graduation requirements.
- History: 1993 MA education reform act initially set the MCAS requirement.
- Natural test during COVID where the graduation requirement was relaxed for 3 years, the struggling students benefited by getting their degree. Between 700-1,200 students/year are negatively affected by the graduation requirement.
- MCAS does not measure career or college readiness.

Question 4: Legalizing psychedelic drugs spokesperson: Aayush Bajpai

- Yes vote legalizes the use of natural psychedelics for treatment.
- Has been found to be successful in treating suicidal veterans, breakthrough clinical treatment treating severe depression.
- What it does: Momentarily increases cognitive flexibility
- Legalizing would provide the option to use in facilities, not to the public
- If approved, the regulatory board would take 18-24 month to establish the rules
- Aiming to have one substance available for use in 2026.
- Not expecting a huge demand.
- Home-grown provision: people grow now illegally, regulation would regulate.
- Because the only use will be in specific facilities, do not see a risk to public safety
- No data showing a risk to public safety or DUIs.

Question 5: Should tips count towards the minimum wage spokesperson: James Wu (Yes)

- Yes vote increases the minimum wage for tipped worker to \$15/hr. (+tips)
- Wage increase will increase over 5 years.
- An option to include housekeepers.
- Many employers are already doing; 7 other states have the higher minimum wage and tips stayed the same.
- The lower wage from companies means customers are subsidizing the low wages.
- Confusion
 1. What happens to tips? They stay the same.
 2. Price will increase. Prices are increasing now due to other reasons, the small incremental increase will not impact.
 3. Pooling for outside server labor will not create a wage theft issue.

Question 5 No: La Nita Ann Dykes

- Pooled tip enforced by employers will reduce tips.
- Over time, management can take part in the tip pooling.
- Pooling tips is the biggest negative aspect for servers.

Other Items/Events

2024 Get Involved!

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

Sunday workshop from 1-4 at the Community Church to do activities such as letter or postcard writing.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Rob, Seconded by Kenzie

Meeting adjourned.

Attendance

Members	Guests
<u>In Person</u> Bob Binney Hilary Bacon Gabrieli Rob Whitney Patricia Amend Kenzie Bok Kelly Zeilman Josh Calianos Kristin Mobilia Mark Mantell Lucy Rivera	<u>In Person</u> Lisa Guisbond Aayush Bajpai James Wu Lanita Ann Dykes Matthiew Naudin

Online

Jay Livingstone

Nancy Street

Creelea Pangaro

Abigail Gabrieli

Sharon Hucul

Sharon Durkan

Kathleen Gallivan

Sharon (Shari) Franzetta