

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

January 21, 2025, Meeting

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

Bob Binney called the meeting to order.

-The group first addressed technical issues with Zoom. Discussion re: using AI. Per MA law, attendees were notified that the session was being recorded.

-Re: Shari, our Secretary, who's teaching on Tuesday nights this semester. We need someone who can take notes, as Shari has done so well.

Membership Matters

November Meeting Minutes

With some discussion, the November minutes were approved. Abigail Gabrieli, who attended, was marked absent by mistake. Rob Whitney made the motion, Mark Mantell seconded.

Associate Member Nominations Elected Member

There were no new nominees eligible for membership.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Whitney reported that the state of our finances is good, post-election. Rent for the Community Church is fairly low. We could do a fundraiser around this year's City Council elections, hosting candidates for a mixer. They get to meet and greet potential voters; we collect \$20-30 a head.

General Financial Status

-Current Balance (Citizens Bank Account): \$3,607.26
(As of 1/21/25)

Membership Financial Activity

-Dues for 2025 are payable now, and should be paid by the March meeting.

Payment

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

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

TO PAY YOUR 2025 DUES SECURELY ONLINE, GO TO: the Home Page at

<http://bostonward5dems.org>. Click on the link for, "How to Pay Your Dues if You're a Member."

You'll see "Donate to Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee."

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

Guest Speakers

Suggestions were made for future meetings. Possibilities included:

- Representatives from the Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, and from Kim Driscoll's and Andrea Campbell's offices. Also, Steve Kerrigan.
- Representatives from groups that work with migrants and refugees.
- Mark Mantel suggested Will Onuoha, who's running for Boston City Council At-Large.
- We will make sure that anyone running for City Council gets a chance.
- Mention of Joshua Kraft running for mayor.

Reminder: please contact Mark Mantell with any ideas for guest speakers.

Other Items/Events

Discussion on Day Two of the Trump Administration.

- Bob Binney suggested these good newsletters to read: They're free on the SubStack app.
Jay Kuo, *The Status Kuo*, and *The Big Picture*.
Heather Cox Richardson, *Letters for an American*.
Robert Hubbell, *Today's Edition Newsletter*.
Ben Meiselas, *The Meidas Touch*.

- Maintaining the organization's website and social media presence is important right now.
Thanks to Kelly, Josh and Pat for their work.

- The People's March on January 18th was small, but inspired.

- Hemal Sampat: ICE raids are coming. MassGeneral is trying to protect immigrant communities. This time feels different; the guardrails are off.

- Bob Binney brought up concerns about RFK and the impacts on healthcare. Hemal explained the effect on the vaccination rate, and on H1-B visa availability, which will affect the ability to get a PCP, as well as the standard of care.

- Jay Livingstone noted that we have rallied before, and we can rally again. Inflation drove this election result, and Trump's policies will make it worse. Last time when he cut funding to important programs, Mass stepped up, and Mass needs to lead again.

- Bob Binney said that it's time to engage with special elections (Currently FL, NY). Win these, and we take back The House.

- Rob Whitney said we need to consider that we can be a big tent party; not everyone needs to look like a Boston Democrat. Rob also said that this will be rough for the climate, as there will be a lot of holes in federal funding for wind, solar, and EVs at a crucial time.

- Kate Gallivan: Democracy is still in peril, and it's going to be a mess when they start changing the voter rolls. Rob Whitney pointed out that all complaints about the elections magically disappeared when they won. He's on a voter protection board, which is shifting its focus to protecting the voter rolls.

-Shari Franzetta said that she's teaching young students, and they want to make a difference.

-Pat Amend: Trump wants us to feel broken; we can't let that feeling win.

-Abigail Gabrieli: Discussion about birthright citizenship lawsuits. Three lawsuits filed: Mass AG, Mass ACLU, Lawyers for Civil Rights. Slow-moving courts are the basis of the strategy to flood the zone.

-Question for Jay Livingstone: Are we complying with the Feds on data privacy?

Jay: Mass House and Senate are working on stronger data privacy bills, targeting private companies buying patient data. Can't stop the feds from dealing with those companies, but we maybe can restrict them from getting the data.

Motion to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned.

Attendance

| Members | Guests |
|--|---|
| <u>In Person</u> Bob Binney Josh Calianos Abigail Gabrieli Hilary Bacon Gabrieli Mark Mantel Rob Whitney Kelly Zeilman | <u>In Person</u> Mary Garippo Shyam Gopaladesikan |
| <u>Online</u> Pat Amend Suzanne Comtois Sharon (Shari) Franzetta Abigail Gabrieli Kate Gallivan Hemel Sampat Jay Livingstone Kristin Mobilia | <u>Online</u> |

W5 Holiday Party Attendance

Pat Amend
Hilary Bacon Gabrieli
Gretchen Bennett
Bob Binney
Kenzie Bok
Josh Calianos
Suzanne Comtois
Abigail Gabrieli
Kate Gallivan
Julie Livingstone
Jay Livingstone
Mark Mantell
Kristen Mobilia
Creelea Pangaro
Jon Spillane
Nancy Street
Rob Whitney
Kelly Zeilman

Party Guests

George Alex
William Brownsberger
Mary Garippo
Shyam Gopaladesikan
Sean Kelleher
Ross Levanto
John Powers