

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

September 16, 2025

Bob Binney called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

Sharon Durkan requested a correction to “Sharon Hucul.” Holly Margulius and Max Tannenbaum-Mahoney were added to attendees. Rob Whitney motioned to accept the July minutes (there was no meeting and no minutes in August). Sharon seconded; minutes approved.

Membership Matters

Election of New Members

-Max Tannenbaum-Mahoney was considered for membership. Hilary Bacon Gabrieli moved to accept him. Sharon seconded. He was elected. Noah Walsh, Michael Holmes and Holly Margulius will be eligible for nomination for membership if they attend the October meeting.

Executive Committee

-Gretchen Bennett has moved out of Boston, leaving one of the four slots on the board vacant. Kristen Mobilia was nominated, as she represents Fenway. Rob Whitney seconded. Kristen was elected.

Treasurer’s Report

Rob Whitney reported the following

-General Financial Status

Current Balance: (in Citizen’s bank account) \$3,949.39.

-Member Financial Activity

Dues payment for 2025: \$1,400.

Max: When do I owe dues? Only when elected? Yes, but also you can always donate!

Dues for 2025 are payable now. Members can pay via links on the website, or by check, and additional donations are always welcome. If you can’t pay the full amount, contact Bob and/or Rob or Hilary.

-THE WARD 5 WEBSITE LINK FOR PAYING DUES SECURELY ONLINE:

-Visit the Home Page at <http://bostonward5dems.org>.

-Click on “How to Pay Your Dues if You’re a Member” to connect with ActBlue.

-You’ll see “Donate to Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee.”

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

Speaker - Patrick Roath

-Running for District 8 U.S. House of Representative against Congressman Lynch.

-A voting rights advocate and lawyer. Aide to Deval Patrick and Barack Obama.

-Refuses corporate PAC money.

-It’s time for new faces and a new perspective, for a country we can believe in.

-Doesn’t feel that Lynch is meeting the moment.

-Worked in the Obama administration; transitioned into being a lawyer fighting for voting rights.

-We all need healthcare, housing, childcare, so life is livable in America.

-Supports legislative term limits; 25 years is a long time to be in Congress.

-Disagrees with Lynch who voted against the ACA.

-Lynch also voted for Lakin Riley Bill with the Republicans; Roath does not support it.

-Lynch was long an anti-choice vote. We need a strong prochoice advocate.

Hilary: What's your path to victory? Your top 3 priorities?

-He is quitting his job now and hitting the streets, knocking doors.

-Top priorities: Housing affordability, childcare costs, healthcare costs.

-Democracy and corruption issues: Tax PACS; term limits; fight corruption in fundraising.

Hemal Sempat: Robbie Goldstein couldn't get the support of the "center." They like Lynch!

-His message will connect more than Robbie's did.

-His focus is on affordability. Lynch isn't focused on it.

Micahel: The substantive policy differences between you and Lynch?

-ACA and Lakin Riley. Term limits. Accomplish things and pass torch.

Rob: A specific proposal on affordable housing?

-Need millions of homes! Direct cash payments for the initial down payment.

-Reform zoning and have a fund that helps to incentivize upzoning.

Sharon: Lynch comments on local issues, such as the D Street project. Would you weigh in on local issues?

-Believes in staying out of those types of local meetings.

Speaker - Michael Vittoli - Chair of Massachusetts Recall Committee

-Mass has no recall methods currently in government. He's gathering signatures for a ballot initiative.

-As a teacher, he doesn't have the funding to get things on the ballot. Has been working for years on this.

-Wants to oust people for corruption. Some states like CA and RI can.

-Would need a constitutional amendment to get it here. About removing someone for corruption only.

-Barnstable County has a corrupt official, who refuses to resign. No one can act on it.

-Suffolk county sheriff is also corrupt. No one can remove him.

-Removal should be a rare thing. The language is specifically about malfeasance.

-Several signatories have had family die at the hands of law enforcement, with no recourse.

- 750,000 signatures needed in the next 9 weeks. Is asking us to sign.

Rob: How do you enforce that it's about malfeasance only? What's the enforcement mechanism?

-He has no answer. This is just the first step; it will evolve.

-The function of the signatures; convincing lots of people that it's a real problem.

-The verbiage: You can't recall someone in the first or last six months.

Kristen: Are you the only author?

-There are a couple of lawyers on the team, but it's mostly him.

Committee Activities

Bob: The big election in 2026 is coming. Get ready for postcard writing campaigns and other things.

We sent 15,000 last cycle!

Sharon: Preliminary Election Summary. Our endorsed At-Large candidates won, but Henry Santana made 4th place. We need to advocate harder. He beat Baker by about (1,500 votes), but we can extend that. When my team and I were standing at a polling location, Henry did better. Try to be free on election day; it's important to stand out where we can.

Bob: spoke to young folks who didn't know who to vote for; the leaflets he gave out made a difference. Sharon will help to get glossy versions of the palm cards for the General Election.

Hillary: Can you tell how many votes were mail-in or early vs in person?

Sharon: The estimate was 50% early or by mail. The Mayor crushed it, but in some Back Bay districts she didn't do as well (10-15 points). She won every precinct and neighborhood in District 8 and Ward 5. Let's get out there for Henry.

Nancy Street: How to make get things like panels more accessible to young people, and get the knowledge out there beyond just our endorsement?

Sharon: Try to go where young people are. People literally ask what the city council is. Getting out there where young people are is the key.

Bob: A focus group on outreach is a good idea.

Max: The forum was hours long, and that's hard to watch. Younger folks won't do it.

Sharon: We can make reels from this to make it more watchable.

Noah: That event was a rough watch; good to encourage your candidates to rerecord answers afterward.

Bob: LUCEMASS.org What to do if you see an ICE agent in your area. Folks should review this site and learn what to do.

Bob: Labor Day protest: Great attendance, beautiful day. Over 1,000 events held across the country On October 18th will have a No Kings rally!

Max Tannenbaum-Mahoney: Volunteered for speaker engagement. Sharon recommends a speaker on same day registration. Bill Galvin, Secretary of State, is in favor.

Kate: collecting books for prisoners. Give them to her and she'll get them to the bookmobile. Boston's Election Department is looking for poll workers on Election Day. More information: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/election/how-apply-become-poll-worker>

Sub Committee Heads

-Brendan for social media.

-Pat for the website, for W5 business cards, endorsement palm cards, and other publications.

Rob motioned to adjourn; Sharon seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Attendance

Members

Diane Barry
Suzan Comtois
Michael Dattoii
Paul Demakis
Brendan Dunn
Sharon Durkan
Abigail Gabrieli
Hilary Bacon Gabrieli
Kate Gallivan
Mark Mantell
Kristen Mobilia
Lucy Rivera
Hemal Sempat
Nancy Street
Max Tannenbaum-Mahoney
Rob Whitney

Guests

Jack Arnheiter
Mary Garippo
Michael Holmes
Holly Marguilis
Patrick Roath
Noah Walsh