

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

October 21, 2025

Bob Binney called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

Rob Whitney motioned to accept the September minutes. Max Tanner-Mahoney seconded; minutes approved.

Membership Matters

Election of New Members

- Rob Whitney nominated Michael Holmes for membership. Pat Amend seconded.
- Rob nominated Holly Margulius for membership. Pat seconded.
- Both were nominated for membership.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Whitney reported the following:

-General Financial Status

Current Balance: (in Citizen's bank account) \$3,829.39.

-Member Financial Activity

Dues payment for 2025: \$1,400.

New banner was purchased: \$200

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.

- Expenses are used for things like: Rent for the meeting space, website fees, printing signs and banners, and candidate forums.

Speaker - Clare Kelly - Chief of Staff to Mayor Wu

- Starting November 17th.
 - Lives in Jamaica Plain (Ward 19) and lived in Ward 3 for 10 years.
 - Worked for Deval Patrick in the past and currently works in Intergovernmental Relations for the Mayor's office. She has an organizing background and an interest in community connections.
 - Is proud to work for a mayor who has the courage to stand up during these times.
- Shyam Gopaladesikan: What will the Mayor's top priorities be in the new term?
- BPS: Following up on studies conducted in the first term

- Housing: Constant issue in Boston: We have a large number of hearings, and we're pushing condo conversion and more building.
 - Community: Wants to hear what's needed from people like us.
- Pat: Come back a year from now! We would love to hear updates.
- Max: Any insights into BPS in the next 4 years? The MCAS results for BPS are terrible. Is there an actual plan?
- She is a BPS mom married to a BPS teacher.
 - State of the Schools speech is next Tuesday.
 - Focus will be on a mix of statewide and city initiatives.

Speaker - Alex Bausch - Senior Political Director at Mass Dems

- It's been a rough year for Democrats; he has visited a Democratic Committee meeting in every Mass senate district.
- A lot of effort is being put into making new local Democratic committees.
- The party is both fighting to support elections in other states and anywhere a Democrat is running in Mass.
- Let him know if you want to be a Healy-Driscoll delegate at the convention next year.
- **Election Day Voter Registration** is a ballot question that Secretary of State Bill Galvin is supporting. Need to get 75,000 signatures, and anyone can sign.
- Alex handed out signature sheets. You don't have to fill the whole sheet to turn it in. Try to focus on local trafficked areas rather than big events.

Hilary Bacon Gabrieli: What should we say when we're collecting signatures?

- This ballot question would give more folks the opportunity to vote.
- It's good for young people and those who don't know their registration status.
- Studies show that it increases voting by ~10%.

Rob: Do electeds tend to support this? People had been worried about college students and transient residents.

- The party hasn't gotten too involved in general, but a lot of people support this, including Republicans.

Max: Is there an against committee for this question?

- No.

Pat: Does Mass Dems work with No Kings?

- Yes, and other similar organizations, but sometimes it's better to stay behind the scenes for organizations like these.

Hilary: We all saw the dispute over the platform at the convention. Any take-aways?

- It's important to note that the party staff doesn't write the platform; the platform committee does. The committee is built by local representatives tapped by the chair of Mass Dems.
- Steve Kerrigan did well, read the room, and didn't push the platform through.
- What about cancelling of mid-year conventions? Alex thought it was a good idea to spend our money differently, but others clearly disagreed. This debate will continue,

Committee Activities

No Kings! protest was Saturday (October 18th)

- Ward 5 had a great showing!

- Great showing from the electeds as well.

Table at HillFest

- 13 email signups.

- **If events happen in your neighborhood, we can put up a table to reach out to the community?**

Letter writing campaign

- There are a lot of interesting and important elections happening. We are participating in a letter writing campaign for California's Prop 50!

Sub Committee Heads

- Brendan Dunn (and Molly) for social media.

- Max for speakers.

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

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

Attendance

Members

Pat Amend

Bob Binney

Hilary Bacon Gabrieli

Maxwell Tanner-Mahoney

Mark Mantell

Shyam Gopaladesikan

Rob Whitney

Kristen Mobilia

Kathleen Gallivan

Sharon Hocul

David Crossman

Abigail Gabrieli

Creelea Pangaro

Katherine Judge

Guests

Julia Barber

Alex Bausch

Clare Kelly

Mary Garippo

Michael Holmes

Holly Margulius

Noah Walsh