

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

November 18, 2025

Bob Binney called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

Diane motioned to accept the September minutes. Brendan seconded; minutes approved.

Membership Matters

Election of New Members

- Kathy moved to open the floor to voting for Michael Holmes and Holly Margulius for membership. Kristen seconded.
- Abigail moved to elect them to membership, John Spillane seconded. Both are elected.
- Mark moved to nominate Noah, Abigail seconded. Noah is nominated.

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.

-Dues pay for rent for the meeting space, website fees, printing signs and banners, and candidate forums.

Speaker - Marly Frederique - Lawyers for Civil Rights

- ICE is active, and it's time to be thinking about our rights.
- You have rights everywhere, but your home is your castle, and you have rights on the street, too.
- You have the right to remain silent, the right to refuse search, and the right to an attorney.
- Warrants are dated; they must be handled on the appropriate date.
- A warrant of removal is not enough to enter private property. You can refuse to consent, but don't resist.
- You can take notes on the interaction—who is doing the search and why. They are required to identify themselves, if asked. Document any refusal to do so. Document all identifying factors of the officer.

- When driving, ICE cannot make traffic stops, but you must follow the rules when law enforcement stops you. A driver must provide information, but a passenger does not, unless being cited.
- If you record police officers, the recording may become evidence later. They will need a warrant to access it. If you are engaging in civil disobedience, make sure you have representation.
- Work is like home, law enforcement must have a valid judicial warrant to access the space. Talk to your boss about supporting your coworkers. Create a marked space that says "private space only" to create a barrier.

Bob: What can we do to help people who are likely to be detained?

- Record the interactions, but do not interfere or obstruct. Make sure the person knows their rights.

Max: Do you have any info on border searches for U.S. citizens?

- I am not an attorney but, being at the border or customs has a different set of rules. They may have access to your phone or may be able get it any time. Delete biometrics.

John: I am an immigration attorney, this was great. On the border search, they do have the right to access your phone, but you don't have to assist them. Turn off face recognition. You are not required to unlock it for them. They can keep your phone but will need a warrant to access it. The main purpose of taking phones is to look for child pornography. If you have concerns, you can also use a "burner phone" to avoid giving that kind of access.

Pat: If I see ICE in my neighborhood, can I stand and watch? Will I get arrested if I warn people?

John: ICE is not following the rules, so it's hard to say.

Marly: There's been discussion about aiding, abetting, and obstructing: You can't be specific and say, "Don't go to X, ICE is there." Be general: "I saw ICE at this time in this place." There's nothing illegal about acknowledging fact, just giving direction, but this text might be considered criminal obstruction.

Pat: Citizens have been arrested for trying to help and ICE doesn't care. What can we really do here?

- Lawyers for Civil Rights is here to remind people of their rights, so we remind everyone to document everything they're seeing. A case was tossed out of court because it was a well-documented illegal arrest. We're making a deluge of complaints. With enough pushback, they will have to correct their actions.

Abigail: Focus on the difference between specific instruction and general information. Keep the information general and you'll be safe.

Speaker - Gretchen Bennett - Campaign Advisor for Abigail Spanberger and Mikey Sherril

- Very exciting to see amazing candidates win in the 2025 elections.

Big takeaways:

- 1) Both Mikey and Abigail won votes of people who identify as Hispanic by 70%. Huge news given the swing in the most recent presidential election. Specific county-by-county data showed big swings.
- 2) Young men under 30: They both won young men by 13-15%.
- 3) Independents seem to hate both parties. Broke for Mikey by 70%, Abigail by 80%.
- 4) Dems picked up seats in the Virginia House of Delegates.
- 5) In California, Newsom's redistricting proposition passed, with 15% Republican approval!
- 6) Cuomo got 73% of Republican votes in NYC, and Mamdani still won.
- 7) People were comfortable voting for female candidates, Mikey and Abigail won by huge margins.
- 8) For the first time in 20 years, Dems won statewide office (non-federal) in Georgia, where they beat longtime incumbents. This a great sign.

9) Maine rejected making voting harder. Trump's proposal to require ID was rejected.

We aren't out of the dark yet. The Midterms will be a fight, but we have hope!

Committee Activities

Holiday Party December 9th

- Hill Tavern, starts at 6 PM. We ask for donations, but the most important thing is to attend!
- Some of your elected representatives will be in attendance

General Discussion

Kathy: A woman won't be president in my lifetime or yours. Michelle Obama said as much, and I agree. (Reads an editorial on the point).

Michael: I don't agree, I think a woman can become president in our lifetime. We are often too focused on the labels and ignore the candidate. We're 3 years out from a presidential election, and I it's too soon to say what's going to happen. The reasons we lost in 2024 went far beyond Kamala Harris. No one says it was perfect, but the party was an absolute mess at the time. We can do a better job in 2028.

Noah: Kamala wasn't given a fair chance to have the country really meet her. Hillary Clinton lost to Obama because he spoke to more people. She didn't really appeal to anyone in 2016 and was a poor choice. The party sidelined Bernie Sanders, even though he spoke to the people. The most important thing is that we run someone who can speak to the people like Mamdani does.

Max: I just returned from an hour outside Raleigh NC, and I'm a bit demoralized. It was hard to see the level of racism and sexism when you get out of the very blue Northeast. I would love for a woman candidate to win, but the reality is that elections are incredibly close and you can't afford to lose votes in purple areas over identity politics. On Mamdani, admire his charisma, and his social media abilities, but his win can be simplified to two things: 1) anti-establishment tenor and 2) his opponents were a joke.

Mark: Focus on affordability. The reasons that the female candidates lost had little to do with gender.

Max: I agree that his focus on affordability is important, but I don't agree with the solutions.

John: Mamdani won with 50.4% of the vote against a sexual abuser. I don't think it's a good idea to take that and run it nationally. I think an open primary is the most important thing. Things can change rapidly over time, but I think affordability is going to be the thing to run on in 3 years. Trump had the same message, and even if he didn't make progress on it, it got him the vote.

Abigail: Obama was a guy, but he wasn't white. There are sexists and racists, but I think most people can move past that. We're moving forward, framing people on only their identity is not the way to select a candidate, it's more about the issues. That said, sometimes it is something that's a positive, and it drives voting. Women can also be not supportive of other women, and the negativity on Hilary Clinton was a particular lightning rod for sexism. I hope we can move past that and not just think about female candidates as checking a diversity box.

John: They ran a smear campaign against Hilary, and we're seeing the same with Michelle Obama.

The Age Issue

Ben Daly: Biden had a negative effect on his legacy by running too late. We have an old candidate running for senate. People don't love Seth Moulton, but he's young. We need to learn from our mistakes and consider age when choosing a candidate.

Pat: I agree with term limits and in moving to the next generation. But I do have a concern that people are going to lose their seniority and that means that we will lose influence.

Several: But are we happy with Chuck Schumer? And isn't that how Ayanna won?

Pat: Hardly. But what kind of power will younger electeds have? I'm just posing the question.

Max: The loss of committees is an unfortunate part of the system, but what's stark to me is that Ed Markey entered Congress when my father was 8. He's important on committees and we agree with him, but we have seen the dangers of sticking with someone who is quite old. People are saying that "it's not about your age but the age of your ideas," but will that work when he's 86? Diane Feinstein ran at 86 and won, then died in office. Seth is younger than my folks, and we'll have to hear from him on a lot of topics, but it's exciting to have the possibility.

Abigail: I take the point, but I'm worried that whoever we vote in will be there when my kids are 8. That gives a certain weight to this election if they may stick around so long. I agree with Markey on a lot of topics, and I'd rather take someone I agree with than get stuck with the wrong person. We should be pushing for early and several debates so people can make an informed choice. Term limits may create an underpowered legislature that is vulnerable to lobbyists. NH is an example for what can happen when you make term limits about lobbyist exposure.

Michael: I argued with my grandparents about it: I'm not for term limits and they are! We often get trapped in the problem is bad now, how can we fix it, which allows other problems to fester. I think we have other problems that need more attention. In the future, you may want someone who has been there for a long time, but dang, they must vacate for term limits. I don't think we should make big changes because we don't like the current system. We need to be fighting gerrymandering, dark money in politics, making our system more open and fairer.

John: I'm excited we're finally getting to this topic! I know for myself, I'm about Ed Markey's age, I'm not as sharp as I was at 70. I know how much energy it takes to be a senator, and I've known politicians in their 80s and 90s, and they're not up to it. I'm not for term limits, but we should discuss if Ed Markey is the right choice. We shouldn't be waiting for Moulton vs. Markey. That's not a choice I want. We should be encouraging Markey to step aside and to make space for challengers to step forward.

John: One more thing to highlight with age, we are a Democratic ward, and it's not ridiculous to assume that we will have Republican governor if Healey loses. Should Markey die, they will install a Republican governor.

Bob: Sometimes it's time to step down, and I know that even with this committee. This was a great discussion!

If events happen in your neighborhood where we can have a table, reach out to the committee!

Sub Committee Heads

-Brendan (and Molly) for social media.

- Max for speakers. We are reviewing a speaker plan for next year!

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

Jon Spillane motioned to adjourn; Max seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Attendance

Members

Bob Binney
Brendan Dunn
Pat Amend
Mark Mantell
Michael Holmes
Kristen Mobilia
Diane Barry
David Crossman
Creelea Pangaro
Sharon Hucul
Katherine Judge
Lucy Rivera
Jon Spillane
Maxwell Tamer-Mahoney
Abigail Gabrielli
Holly Margulius

Guests

Noah Walsh
Ben Daly
Mary Garippo
John Achatz
Gretchen Bennet
Jamie Spoeri
Marly Frederique