

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

April 21, 2026

Bob Binney called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes Review and Approval

Max corrected the previous minutes. Lydia Edwards name is misspelled. Kathy: we need to add Diane's name. Diane motions to accept the minutes as amended; minutes approved.

Membership Matters

Election of new members

- Julia Barber is eligible to be elected as an associate member. She moved to Boston last September and has gotten involved in politics recently. Really enjoys Ward 5 and is excited to do more with the Committee. Motion to elect Julia. Rob seconds. Julia is elected.
- Ross Krantz is eligible to be nominated for membership. Pat motions to nominate Ross, Kathy seconds. He is nominated. Ross Krantz is also eligible to be elected as a member of Ward 5. Motion to elect Ross, Noah seconds. Ross is elected as a member!
- Jason Walker is eligible to be nominated for membership. Max motions to nominate Jason, Rob seconds. Jason is nominated.

Activities and Ward 5 Involvement

- **No Kings** was a huge success. More than 8 million people participated across the country—and more than 12 countries participated.
- There is a preview and a Q&A with the director of a new film, *Minnesota Resistance*, on April 29th at 5:30 at Suffolk. To reserve a seat, sign up quickly.
- **May Day Dewey Square Strike** 2:30-4. Starts at South Station and moves to the Common.
- **Ward 5/Ward 4 State Senate Forum** June 9th, 6:30-8:30, Berklee College of Music.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Whitney reported the following:

General Financial Status

- Balance has gone up \$1,000, so our total is \$4,171.69. Have contributions so far of \$1,135.00. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please do so. Discussion about a fundraiser to build more of a war chest is forthcoming.

Member Financial Activity

- 2026 dues are due in March, so they are payable now.
- Members can pay via links on the website, or by check. Additional donations are welcome!

- If you can't pay the full amount, contact Bob and/or Rob or Hilary.

To Use the Ward 5 Website Link to Pay Your 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 are generally due in your first full year.
- These funds are used for things like rent for the meeting space; website fees; printing signs and banners; and candidate forums.

Speakers

Dianna DiZoglio, State Auditor

- She is the state's top accountability officer, making sure that state agencies and departments are spending money effectively and responsibly.
- She audits the government for the people, and has audited agencies like the MBTA several times in the past few years, examining performance and how to save revenue.
- Recently audited Department of Children and Families and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Most people think she just looks at financials, but she audits performance as well.
- Staff in her office just got scored with the highest standards for auditing quality.
- She committed to the legislative audit when she got elected after hearing from people that they wanted it. After resistance from the AG, she sued and started a ballot initiative that passed with a 72% vote.
- We need to ensure that our own government is not undermining democracy.
- Fighting the Attorney General in the SJC that they have a right to due process and to an attorney.
- Upcoming ballot question that would subject the Governor and Attorney General's offices to public records laws.
- MA is consistently ranked one of the least transparent state governments in the country.

Latoya Gayle, Candidate for State Senate First Suffolk

- Is a mom, and has four children ages 4, 11, 12, and 22. She knows what it's like to raise a family (lived in Dorchester) and worry about childcare, housing, and bills in general.
- Works in early childhood and education advocacy.
- Has worked around the Statehouse and partnered with Legislators, also understands the frustration when these relationships don't pan out.
- Understands that residents are concerned about housing and affordability, utility bills (you can keep environmental goals and lower utility bills). Is concerned about making it so that young people and young families and seniors can stay in our City.
- Ready to bring her advocacy background into the halls of the Statehouse.
- Our district and our City are diverse; we need someone in the Statehouse who is ready to be in for all of Boston.
- **Sharon:** How are you getting around such a big district?

- It's a lot of time, but I think it's necessary if you're going to do the job.
- **Bob:** What can we do for you?
- If you live in First Suffolk, I would appreciate your vote. Spread the word. And help with fundraising or volunteering.
- Would you support the Mayor's property tax classification home rule petition?
- Absolutely. The State's role is to be a partner with cities and towns.

Daniel Lander, Candidate for State Senate Suffolk and Middlesex

- Joining us after running the marathon yesterday.
- Lives in Ward 21 in Audubon Circle in the Fenway with his husband Michael.
- Grew up over in Cambridge and is lucky to have spent most of his life in Boston.
- Worked in criminal justice reform at the Innocence Project, in community organizing with Justice Start (housing), and received an MPP from Harvard Kennedy School.
- In 2018 worked for Stacey Abrams in Georgia, organizing in communities that have been ignored and left behind, including the LGBTQ community.
- Joined Warren's Campaign following, again organizing in the LGBTQ community.
- Met Mayor Wu, joined the campaign, and then went to City Hall and has been there for the last 4 years working on: affordable housing— citywide land audit to turn into affordable housing, permitting reform, economic development and driving down the racial wealth gap (SPACE grant program), and expanding access to arts and culture (Boston Family Days).
- Issues: affordability— Boston leads the nation in housing, healthcare, childcare costs. MA hasn't been a leader pushing policy; there's more we can do. Need urgent leadership under this federal admin. Wants to invest in public transit, establish universal childcare, and expand social housing.
- **Shyam:** What makes you a credible messenger on housing given your time underneath Mayor Wu?
- 20,000 buildable units are sitting on the shelf in Boston. Office to residential conversions have been successful. This is a good example of when private capital does not want to invest in housing, and that's when the public needs to invest in housing. Support single-stair and other reforms in our building code.
- **Max:** You were talking about public housing development. Where do you see the funds coming from?
- Using the money we have more efficiently. Investment generates revenue. Supports the transfer fee on real estate transfers. This was stopped by Brownsberger.
- **Max:** If you say, "real estate transfer fee to developers," they will not want to build in this City.
- In the conversations we had with developers, we did not hear that. Also, development will draw investment. You must take their word with a grain of salt.
- Thoughts on the home rule petition, and specifically the tax classification?
- There are a lot of complicated things for the Statehouse to work on, the State should let smaller things be decided by cities. On the tax classification, I'm really frustrated that my opponent decided to side with corporate interests instead of Boston residents.
- **Shyam:** Research shows that higher residential tax rates improve affordability for residents aged 24-50. What is your governance on making hard decisions that will pay off in the long-term but might offer short-term benefit?

- In SF, NY, that might be the case. Need to see the study and disbelieve it applies to Boston. This was an especially hard year, and if we can smooth that curve for residents. Huge area ripe for development in Allston. Have lost federal \$\$ that could bring new growth to help everyone.

Announcements

- No speakers next week, please bring ideas to Max and Bob.

Open Discussion

Overtune Citizens United: Why Not Massachusetts?

- **Bob:** Seven states are moving to change campaign contributions. The Montana Plan proposed a ballot question that doesn't overturn Citizens United, but that creates a new law from prohibiting corporations from spending money on candidates or ballot questions. The Montana Supreme Court just dismissed a constitutional challenge to that plan. I've researched why this isn't happening in Massachusetts, but didn't find anything.
- **Max:** Would this only apply to state political finance then?
- Yes.
- **Rob:** In Montana, this is about trying to get control in the state, they don't like out-of-state money going toward state elections.
- **Hilary:** It would apply to corporations that got granted their charter in-state, so it wouldn't apply to corporations out-of-state. Effectively, if this went to the Supreme Court, it would be considered a cheap get-around.
- **Sharon:** As a former fundraiser, obviously money in politics is corrosive, but MA already has strict laws. Corporations can't give to campaigns except for independent expenditure PACs. A lot of the big donors in MA are rich Republicans. I don't think it's our problem; the bigger problem is conservatives not feeling heard.
- **Diane:** If corporations have right to free speech, you cannot change that with state law. I like these laws and the approaches they're trying, but I think they're unconstitutional.
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Lynch vs. Roath

- **Shyam:** Roath had a great event in Beacon Hill last night. This is an important race for us to get behind as a Ward.
- **Max:** On that note, when do we want to do an endorsement vote?
- **Bob:** We need to invite both candidates to come speak, and then we can do a vote.
- **Sharon:** Has contact info for Lynch's consultant.
- **Kenzie:** The more endorsement votes we can take in June the better, in order to really offer support we need to get these done. Anyone we feel we need to invite should be a priority for May.
- Senators Collins and Brownsberger both came to the Caucus. We will invite both to our next meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting; motion is seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Attendance

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Members

Bob Binney	Hilary Bacon Gabrieli
Kate Gallivan	Liam Morehead
Ben Daly	Noah Walsh
Ross Kantz	Shyam Gopaladesikan
Kenzie Bok	Sharon Durkan
Rob Whitney	Pat Amend
Maxwell Tamer-Mahoney	Michael Holmes
Holly Margulius	Katherine Judge
Sharon Hucul	Diane Barry
Alex Bok	Nancy Street
Julia Barber	Lucy Rivera
Jason Walker (N)	William Gettings
Eva Jones	

Guests

John Achatz	Mary Garippo
Faaiz Masood	Adith Ramachandran
Janet Veasey	
Diane Dizoglio	
Latoya Gayle	
Daniel Lander	