

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

May 19, 2025

Hilary Bacon Gabrieli called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

Rob motioned to accept the April minutes. Mark seconds. Minutes approved.

Kathy moved to amend the minutes to add Jason Walker's last name, Julia seconds.

Diane moves to accept the amended minutes, Max seconds. Minutes approved.

Membership Matters

Election of New Members

- Jason Walker is eligible for membership. Involved in campaigns for 8 years. State and federal races in Wisconsin, then NH chair of the local caucus. Moved to Boston for BU law school. Has been coming to Ward 5 since the start of this year.

- Diane motions to elect Jason as a Member, Max seconds. Jason is elected!

Treasurer's Report

Rob Whitney reported the following:

General Financial Status

- Current Balance: (in Citizen's bank account) \$4,111.69

Member Financial Activity

- Only fourteen people have paid 2026 dues! Dues are payable now.

- Members can pay via links on the website, or by check. Additional donations welcome.

- 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 rent for the meeting space, website fees, printing signs and banners, and candidate forums. Dues are generally due in your first full year.

Speaker: Patrick Roath, Candidate for U.S. House, 8th District

- Third Ward 5 appearance in a year. Need to fight against the abuses of the current administration.

- Some Dems have held their seats for 10, 15, 20 years. Need leadership that better fits the times.

- From a working-class family that advanced to the middle class—a story that's fading.

- Worked for Deval Patrick who believed in keeping the American dream alive.

- Chaired Common Cause Mass: Automatic voter registration, mail-in voting.

- Running for Congress to rebuild confidence in Democracy. To remind people that their votes count.
- Need tens of thousands of new housing units around the nation—and in Mass.
- Pushing for universal childcare, as he's a new dad and the cost is serious.
- Healthcare costs, education costs—won't change unless we fix our national politics.
- No PAC money; believes in campaign finance reform and term limits.
- Lynch has been in Congress for 25 years. Has not held a town hall in seven years.
- Is holding a virtual one, but you must submit questions through a form, and there's no chat.
- Voted against single payer healthcare. Voted for the Lakin Riley bill.
- Has decades-long anti-choice voting record, making it harder for women everywhere.
- Need a strong pro-choice vote in Congress in our safe blue district.
- A chance to vote for someone who will show up, engage, and fight for what matters.

Mark: Your main priority in terms of making housing more affordable for the average person?

Patrick: First, directly finance affordable housing construction. Second, reward communities for building density and zoning reform. Third, direct support on the demand side. Helps folks with down payments.

Eva: What actions do you support to hold the current admin criminally liable?

First off is ICE. Immigration enforcement must exist, but in different hands. Hold this admin criminally responsible for what has happened.

Jason: Support calling for a constitutional convention to tackle campaign finance reform?

Patrick: No. I would try to change many things before opening a convention—which has risks.

Ben: You support Medicare for All. How to get moderate/corporate Democrats on board?

Patrick: Universal healthcare and Medicare for All can be different. Maybe steps to take to get direct primary care separate from a Medicare system. Short term, attack greedy pharmacy benefit managers and for-profit hospitals.

Speaker - Representative Seth Moulton, Candidate for U.S. Senate, 6th District

- The race is bigger than him and Markey. Things are not going well in America
- Has the most aggressive affordability agenda of anyone in the House.
- A national public option and national childcare. A wealth tax.
- It's not enough to get elected. Must help Americans across the country.
- Will not vote for Chuck Schumer as leader.
- Must fight Trump harder. Goes to spaces like Fox News to show America what leadership looks like.
- Democrats need to win the Midterms and govern. Is pushing an anti-corruption agenda.

Brendan: Your plan to reform campaign finance?

Seth: His plan is unique: Pairs campaign finance reform (CFR) with term limits.

Dems like CFR, not term limits. Republicans like term limits, not CFR. Need to get laws passed.

Compromise is necessary. Governing and achieving this is better than rhetoric. Has been outspoken on gerrymandering and other abuses of Democracy.

Rob: What is the end game of gerrymandering is? Sees The South heading towards one party representation—and from blue states who feel forced to do the same. What can be done?

Seth: Am answering as the current representative of the first gerrymandered district in history!

In a death spiral from the overturning of the Voting Rights Act. Big concern is Republicans ending up with more seats than Dems. Bad for the party and for the country. Everyone must weigh in to save seats.

Ben: Your plan to fix the MBTA, and transit overall.

Seth: Can't fix the MBTA by patching it up to the way it was running in the 1950s. Falling behind the rest of the world. Investing fewer dollars per passenger on the Orange Line than we did on Terminal E of Logan. Need to invest in 21st century, fully electric commuter rail. North-South rail link is critical. Need to make it faster than driving to travel in eastern Mass. Trains every 8 minutes. Need to be build *real* high-speed rail (HSR). NY to Boston in 1.5 hours; Springfield to Boston in 45 min. To Chicago on HSR. Morocco has HSR, with a third of the Mass GDP. Do this in a way that isn't halfway. Does a town hall every 4 days in Mass. Come by and engage with the campaign. Excited to earn your support. Thank you for participating in our Democracy!

Speaker: State Senator William Brownsberger, Suffolk and Middlesex

- Listens to constituents, responds, engages. People know when he agrees and respectfully disagrees.
- Came into politics concerned about schools and transit as a young father. Served at every level in the state and city. Knows what it takes to make roads, schools, and our state better.
- His record is a focus on transparency. When he became a legislator, the speaker went to jail.
- Fought to learn how money is spent. Started a fight in the State House. All the data is out there.
- Another throughline of his campaign is justice. Worked in NYC in the mid 80s during the crack epidemic. Worked in drug court in Brighton and Dorchester. A lot of his thoughts about people who need help with drugs were wrong. Nothing better than being able to help people.
- Has evolved on mandatory minimum sentences. Fought against them in the Legislature.
- Took until 2018 to get criminal justice reform. Cut the MA prison population in half.
- Fought for police accountability and against child sexual abuse.
- Did not have a Hispanic district in Lawrence; fought for this in 2020 redistricting.
- Excited to pass justice and immigration reforms, with a bill heading to the Governor's desk.
- Lots of work on the environment and housing. Have transparency on where the affordable housing spending is going. The answer is yes to transparency.

Eva: Why not support the Mayor's tax initiative? Small businesses would benefit and big businesses should pay their share.

Will: A tough vote, but the numbers the Mayor put forward were wrong. Go to my website for the breakdown of how the whole tax system would work. Wasn't politics for him; it's bad for the state. Tax rate on businesses is significantly higher than on homes. Already hit a number that is likely too high. Transparent in how we voted. Does not support removing home rule petitions. As one Commonwealth, should have unified tax policy.

Mike: Do you support rent control?

Will: Absolutely not.

Rob: What should we do to address housing?

Will: MBTA Communities Act, statewide up-zoning. Won't fix it immediately, but it will create the environment to make housing easier to build. Help renters in the meantime.

Speaker: State Senator Nick Collins, 1st Suffolk

- Key achievements are the new redistricting maps.
- Has enhanced protections for families facing immigration trouble.

- Started on the Biden campaign in 2008. Second term representing Ward 5 in the State Senate.
- Senator Brownsberger said it: MA has the lowest incarceration rate in the nation.
- Grew up in Boston, went to Boston Latin, knows what a good education can do.
- Authorized \$20 million from the state for the Boston Public Library.
- In 2011, Menino had a budget problem; closed community centers and libraries across the city.
- Legislature blocked from doing that during his first term. Saved resources that people use.
- A focus on labor rights: People who work on our sewer systems don't have good benefits.
- Supported stormwater legislation to make our water cleaner. Cleanest urban beaches in America.
- Public health and safety: Tries to make sure they're a priority in the budget.
- Must focus on mental health and addiction to help where we can.
- About corporations paying their fair share: upcoming legislation to prevent hiding assets overseas.
- Decouple MA tax code from the U.S. code so they pay their fair share.
- Housing: Three main costs: 1) Labor. Hard to ask people to take less for their work. 2) Land. We can influence. 3) Capital. Can influence here, too.
- A bond component to help with capital costs. Work to bring down land costs with the YIGBY bill—Yes in God's Back Yard. Prioritizes faith community, with a lot of land, that wants to build affordable housing. Permitting easier for these organizations. Makes better use of the land available. Look for places where zoning can get around local control, like on transit- and city-owned land.

Julia: On renter protection: Is algorithmic price setting is an issue? Should the state act?

Nick: A ballot question. Could not get consensus in the State House, but the public will be heard.

Against the ballot initiative because it's a statewide mandate. But localities should act on it.

Adit: MA is one of the only states that collaborates with ICE (?) What we should do?

Nick: Should break with ICE, but the Black and Latino caucuses didn't want to throw out the baby with the bathwater. If it came before us, would vote for it.

Max: How about the MCAS replacement or revision? Currently no grad requirement.

Nick: There is value to an objective assessment, but one size doesn't always fit all. Valuable to have a metric, but there are limits to it being the end all, be all. After the pandemic, saw a huge dive in literacy.

Speaker: Jordan Korgood, Governor's Council

- Background in environmental policy; started in state jobs in the fisheries.
- Got arrested protesting. Discovered the Governor's Council.
- Shadowy body that selects the judges. In her district, an incumbent with 41 years.
- Doesn't show up or ask questions of candidates. A 91% vote for judges.
- She cares about the rights of the people: LGBT, protestors, students.
- Current admin is putting a target on the backs of the vulnerable populations.
- She supports choosing judges who will protect those in need.

Upcoming Events & Activities

- June 9th Senate Candidate Forum, Berklee, 6:30 p.m.
- Mass Democratic Convention May 29th-30th
- Primary Election September 1st; General Election November 3rd.

General Discussion

Max: Had an idea to have a rep come to talk about the current state of the MBTA. Someone is willing to do it, and Faiz is working on different venue options (Northeastern, Fenway CC). Will do with Ward 4 and maybe other non-partisan organizations.

Re: speakers: Have been sure to extend an invite to every candidate. But not possible. Thoughts?

How would you like to discuss the races that matter to you the most? Won't have time to talk if we're only listening to candidates. Example: there is a threshold on polling to make it onto a presidential debate stage. Set limits when our time is limited? Don't want to exclude people if we don't have to.

Kathy: Agreed. Invite someone from one race, must invite all candidates. That said, don't mind dropping some races from our discussions. Register of Probate, Governors Council, etc.

Max: Invited a lot of candidates running unopposed. Worth it?

Julia: Don't know how many we're able to fit in. And the uncontested? Must be limits. Not sure how to do it. Maybe a survey?

Jason: Nice to hear about the smaller races. May be the only venue for local candidates. Can see bigger candidates elsewhere.

Skylar: I concur. Senator Edwards came because she thought there might be a competitor. There wasn't. But it's campaign season and folks will want to come.

Max: We have a candidate for Governor's Council who wants to give a 4-minute intro. Didn't invite them and haven't invited others. Should we now try to? There are county level folks we could invite, but most people don't know what they do.

Rob: Need to be open to everyone. Unless we're having a specific meeting to hear from everyone in a particular office or office type, it's good if people can just show up and talk. That said, if we want to set up something where only one office is discussed, that's a separate event.

Mike: Since we're having Seth Moulton come, are we inviting Alex Rikleen?

Max: Haven't invited him but not opposed. Extend an invite to be fair. Need a bar for getting in to talk.

Rob: We should invite everyone, in the context of a debate or event. Don't think we should do specific invites for specific meetings, just a general invite: "If you want to come between now and the election, here are our dates." Likes hearing from "lesser known" roles. Should come and talk if they want to.

Skylar: I think we see a situation where it's hard to have regular meetings and all the potential speakers. Set times up outside of regular meetings for a candidate forum?

Hilary: Agree with Rob. If there are so many candidates who want to speak, we have them speak for less time. Publicize endorsement votes. If they want the endorsement, they should show up to get the votes.

Mike: Also matters what positions we're endorsing. May not endorse certain things. Should hear from the seats we're actively endorsing.

Max: Question for folks that have been around for a while. Do we endorse every position on the ballot?

Rob: We generally do go down the full list. Set the date, so folks know when to come. Had situations where no one nominated a candidate. Even if is someone running, we may not endorse them!

Nancy: Thanks to Max for doing this work! Maybe you need a committee? In a democracy, we want to hear from everyone that wants to speak. On a sad note: Thomas Massie lost his primary in Kentucky. Another reason to make sure everyone can get to the table.

Max: For the next cycle, things should be easier. It's only the City Council, which has far fewer seats. Bob found a list of EVERYONE who represents Ward 5. It's long!

Election Day Registration

Rob: Has been an advocate for a long time. In other New England states, it bumped up voting numbers by 10-30% in certain precincts. Has been pushed in MA for years. Galvin has decided to finally endorse it. Sponsored a ballot question to amend the state constitution to allow for same-day registration.

Want to sign? Please do!

Hilary: Have worked the polls in NH. It's so fast for them! If NH can do it, we can!

Rob: Some states are pushing it because of the push from the administration to purge the voter rolls. In states with the same-day registration, that voter suppression strategy doesn't work!

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

Sub Committee Heads

- Holly Margulius for social media.

- Max for speakers.

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

Always looking for content! Repurposes the emails that Bob sends out. Send Bob a list of the other races or activities we could get involved in! Will post them on the site.

Alex Bok motioned to adjourn; Max seconded. Meeting was adjourned

Attendance

Members

Liam Morehead	Sharon Hocul
Katherine Judge	Jay Livingstone
Hilary Bacon Gabrieli	Ben Daly
Mark Mantell	Kristen Mobilia
Faaiz Mesood	Alex Bok
Jason Walker	Abigail Gabrieli
Maxwell Tamer-Mahoney	Michael Holmes
Julia Barber	Nancy Street
Skyler Nash	Kate Gallivan
Holly Margulius	Diane Berry
Pat Amend	Rob Whitney
Liam Morehead	

Guests

Patrick Roath
Rep. Seth Moulton
Adith Ramachandran
Eva Jones
Brandan Dunn
Vanessa Woo