



Democratic State Committee Meeting
January 22, 2022 | Meeting Minutes

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Gus Bickford welcomed members to the virtual meeting and reviewed rules of engagement and etiquette for the call. The Chair reviewed the check in process for the meeting, reminding members to check into the meeting via email or through the link in the chat and confirm their attendance was recorded at massdems.org/dscmeeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. and Bickford asked Ms. Healy to lead the committee in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Since the committee was checking in via Google form, the Chair dispensed with the roll call.

Bickford took a moment of silence to remember family members and friends that were lost since the last meeting.

The Chair reviewed the agenda, mentioning that elections needed to be held to fill 3 vacant seats, along with reviewing and approving the 2022 convention rules, and updating the affirmative action and outreach JFK personnel subcommittees and others. Compliance and attendance requirements were listed as discussion points for the meeting as well. A motion was made to approve the agenda, it was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Three corrections to the approval of minutes pertaining to attendance.
A motion was called to accept minutes as amended; it was seconded and approved.

Bickford's report highlighted Democratic achievements at the federal level, including the anniversary of President Biden's inauguration, the American Rescue plan and package, Biden's vaccination plan that has vaccinated over 2,000,200 million americans. Bickford also recognized that when President Biden and Vice President Harris took office they inherited a deeply divided country, marred by a violent and hateful anti-democratic insurrection. Bickford followed this with a lighter note, expressing that despite the odds President Biden has been able to work across the aisle to build consensus and bipartisan infrastructure.

Bickford listed achievements by Mayor Michelle Wu who, in just a few months of being elected, has invested in public transportation in housing, health, and safety of the city at large.

Bickford invited Mayor Michelle Wu to speak to the membership. Mayor Wu also recognized the divide in today's political society and spoke about how she attended the USS constitution's change of command ceremony along with the 220 fifth anniversary of America's ship of state where a woman was welcomed to the helm of the ship; Commander BJ feral.



Mayor Wu noted the breaking of barriers in the Democratic Party where so many amazing women, people of color, and trailblazers have been able to take office over the last election cycle all across the commonwealth.

Bickford then recognized Treasurer Kathy Gasperine to deliver the Treasurer's report. Gasperine reported back on the committee's 2021 finances, speaking on the feedback they received and used to incorporate percentages from the previous year. Gasperine reviewed the committee's finances and end-of-year fundraising totals.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was seconded and approved; Tina Pointdexter abstained.

Gasperine then reviewed the budget for 2022, included projected income and expenses of the state convention and coordinated campaign; 4.36 million was the total budget. The budget was already approved last meeting so the committee moved on.

The committee moved on to the elections to fill three vacant add on seats to the state committee for two male seats and one lesbian seat. Each candidate addressed the committee in their given minutes.

Anisul Chowdhury, Carlos Garcia, Johnny McInnis, Christopher Spears, Soleman Steen and Brian Worrell were nominated and seconded. A motion was made to close nominations for the male seats was initiated, seconded, and passed.

Nominations for the lesbian seat was opened.

Tanya Neslusan was nominated and seconded.

A motion to close nominations was seconded, and passed.

A motion to cast a ballot for the previous nomination was seconded and passed.

Tanya Neslusan spoke.

A four minute break was given to the committee so that committee members could complete their ballots for the new chair nominations.

The Chair then recognized Executive Director Veronica Martinez to talk about Blueprint to '22. Martinez noted the Quincy Dems who bagged over 270 lunches for MLK day. Martinez also spoke about Boston ward 20's MLK day food drive, and Gloucester's food drive as well.



The Chair moved on to a DEI training update where sub committee chairs Jillian Hickson and Carole Thomas were recognized to deliver said update. Carole Thomas presented a slide show on Diversity, Equity, and inclusion.

The Chair recognized the rules committee, William Eddy, who spoke about the proposed rules for the 2022 convention. Eddy specified that the rules committee will probably reassess their rules before the next meeting to ensure the rules are appropriate for the current pandemic conditions.

The chair recognized Carolos Garica with 134 votes, and Johnny McInnis with 122 votes as the two winners of the male seat nominations. Soleman Steen received: 81 votes. Anisul Chowdhury received: 65 votes. Brian Worrell received: 45 votes. Christopher Spears received: 38 votes

A motion was made to accept the Rules Committee report and was seconded then passed unanimously.

A discussion ensued about whether voting at the convention will require a majority of certified delegates or a majority of those voting in an online vote. William Eddy said it is likely to be the majority of those who voted. However, the Chair said this issue can be readdressed in April, when the rules of the convention must be approved

Ted Gross asked a question about whether the caucuses will be based on new redistricting lines. The Chair stated that the caucuses will be run based on the old lines. The chair spoke about the caucuses and encouraged committee members with tech skills to help organize the caucuses.

The chair recognized Senator Lydia Edwards, who recently won a special election for the First Suffolk and Middlesex district. She thanked her supporters and is gathering signatures for her re-election starting next month.

The chair then recognized Linda Montero and Gillian Hinkson of the Affirmative Action and Outreach Committee (AAOC) to deliver a report. The committee is currently working on developing new DEI training. They will be meeting on Feb 9th to map out their goals.

The chair then invited Amanda Smith of Campaign Services to report. They encourage anyone to attend their organizing hub, which occurs every Saturday from 3-5pm, which helps both local and out of state campaigns.



The Chair then invited the Public Policy Committee to report and recognized Martina Jackson. The Committee is working on communicating resources to weatherize homes to local communities.

The Chair recognized Max German and Charlotte Golar Richie of the JFK Scholarship Committee to report. They are hiring interns for both spring and fall 2022 and are working on outreach to young people.

The Chair recognized Mark DiSalvo of the Personnel Committee to report on Code of Conduct. The committee developed a new Code of Conduct for the party based on a template from the California state party. The committee Code applies to all paid staff of the party and was approved.

DiSalvo moved that the Code of Conduct be reviewed by the rules committee for how it would be implemented for members of the State Committee. It was seconded. It was passed and is forwarded along to the rules committee.

The Chair recognized Jim Pimental to deliver the Labor Outreach Committee's report. They discussed the MMA Nurses Strike at St. Vincent, the gig economy ballot question, and how to convince conservative democrats in the legislature to vote in support of labor.

The Chair recognized Mehreen Butt to deliver the Women's Outreach Committee's report. The committee is currently partnering with New Hampshire to help with their upcoming elections. They are also focused on upcoming statewide and local elections.

The Chair recognized Sandy Milano and Karen Payne of Field Services to report. They are working on updating the chair's manual, Blueprint 2022, and contacting volunteers for training.

The Chair recognized Debra Kozikowski to deliver the DNC Report. They report that parties are holding LGBTQ listening sessions around the country, starting with the Northeast region, which includes Massachusetts. Diego Sanchez, chair of the LGBTQ+ Outreach Committee encourages Massachusetts not to fall behind on this.

The Chair recognized Brenda Brathwaite, who spoke about rural outreach, including in upstate New York, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire. The Chair recognized Mel Poindexter, who spoke about his talk with the DNC Chair Jaime Harrison. They discussed increasing community engagement and tying it into the Blueprint 2022 project.

New business was next, the Chair spoke about attendance requirements for the state committee. Those who miss eight (8) consecutive meetings without a medical or active military excuse are assumed to have resigned from their position. The following members are



considered to have resigned from the Committee: William Bulger, 20 year member, Christopher Cawley, 20 year member, Janet Coughlin, 20 year member, Maureen Hegarty, 20 year member, Donna Kelly Williams, 20 year member, John Kerry, 20 year member. Patricia McGovern, 20 year member, John Olver, 20 year member, Shirley Raynard, 20 year member, Marilyn Sullivan, 20 year member and Harry Thompson, male caucus seat, Second Suffolk

Bickford mentioned the Second Suffolk seat is currently vacant and will be filled this caucus season. 2 nonbinary and 2 queer seats will also be added to the committee and will be elected at the April meeting.

Juan Pablo Jaramillo encouraged members to call their representatives about the VOTES Act, which implements same day voter registration and would increase Black and Latino turnout.

Candidates running in the caucus are encouraged to record messages and the chair will record a message to be used in the virtual caucuses.

The Chair recognized Steve Leibowitz, who commemorated the 49th anniversary of Roe v Wade and spoke about how he is putting together a Jewish Caucus of the MassDems, which is relevant due to the recent increase in antisemitic incidents.

A motion was made to send the request to always have a virtual option for committee meetings to bylaws. It was seconded. The chair said he would send it to the bylaws committee.

A motion was made to adjourn and it was seconded and the meeting was adjourned. The chair thanked the staff.