



Democratic State Committee Meeting

September 17, 2022 | Meeting Minutes

The Chair, Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Gus Bickford, called the meeting to order.

The Chair instructed everyone to take a moment of silence to recognize Chickie Monahan, mother of State Committee Member Stacey Monahan; Emily Pacheco, mother of State Committee Member and Senator Marc Pacheco; Minty Menard, the husband of Former State Party Chair and Senator Joan Menard; Jody Healy Rolens and Tricia Healy LeBlanc, sisters of Toody Healy.

The Chair went over the Treasurer's report for the Party's budget and the convention's expenses for 2022 through 8/31/2022 as Kathy Gasperine could not be in attendance to review the report. There is an estimated \$1.5-2 million as a coordinated campaign budget.

There was no Secretary's report or Officer's report to review.

The Chair introduced and recognized Andrea Campbell, candidate for Attorney General, to the floor. Campbell, if elected, would become the first African American statewide woman elected in MA. Campbell thanked the leadership of the party and those present.

The Chair recognized two state committee members who are on the ballot, Kate Donaghue and Tony Russo.

The Chair recognized Leon Brathwaite. Brathwaite proposed a resolution at the last convention that was submitted by Chair Bickford and Vice-Chair Deb Kozikowski, honoring the life and career of the late State Representative Raymond A. Jordan Jr. as an exemplary public servant and a human being who served as the Vice Chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party and was a well-respected member for over three decades. The Democratic National Committee expressed condolences to his family.

The Chair recognized City Council President Marcus Williams, who has a resolution dedicated to Sophia Jeffery. Williams invited Jeffery's family to join him along with the Chair of the Ward Committee Camille Elliott and Democratic State Committee Woman Gillian Hinkson.

The Chair recognized Diana DiZoglio, who represented the 1st Essex District in the Massachusetts Senate and who is now running for State Auditor. DiZoglio thanked the Democratic Party and expressed concern that Massachusetts continues to be ranked by almost



every single government transparency group as the least transparent and least accessible state government in the nation. She asked for support moving into the general election.

A motion was made to appoint Joe Sherlock to the position of Executive Director. The Chair had previously appointed him to be acting Executive Director. This motion was accepted by the State Committee. Sherlock is recognized by the Chair and thanks the members of the Committee.

The Chair recognized Attorney General Maura Healey as the gubernatorial candidate for Massachusetts. If elected, Healey would become the first female governor of the Commonwealth. Healey thanked the Party and stated that she aims to fight hard to secure abortion rights and the protections for patients and providers across Massachusetts. Healey expressed that she looked forward to the opportunity to lead on transformative change regarding transportation, housing, and the environment.

A motion was made to suspend the membership requirements for Deputy Treasurer that enforce the position be filled by a current member. The motion was accepted by the State Committee.

The Vice Chair then took nominations for Deputy Treasurer where Veronica Martinez was nominated and seconded.

A motion was made to close the nominations, the motion was passed by the State Committee.

The Vice Chair recognized Shirley Arriaga, a nominee for the 8th Hampden District who served in the Air Force for a decade and attended WNE School of Law. Arriaga expressed that she looked forward to making sure veterans in the community were taken care of and that education is a priority across the Commonwealth.

The Chair recognized fellow State Committee member Shanique Spalding to discuss Question 1 which pertains to the Fair Share Amendment. Spalding presented to the committee why they should vote yes on Question 1 and explained that it would increase tax incomes over \$1 million by 4% and is projected to generate \$1-2 billion annually in state revenue. The money made by this amendment would be dedicated towards transportation, infrastructure, and public education.

The Chair recognized Dalida Rocha to discuss Question 4 which is the Working Families Act. Massachusetts passed this law jointly in 2022 but has yet to uphold it. Rocha explained why they should vote yes on Question 4 as it would allow for all drivers in Massachusetts to be properly vetted for licenses, pass required tests and buy insurance regardless of immigration status. The yes vote would ensure the law stays in place.



The Chair recognized Rahsaan Hall, who is running for Plymouth County District Attorney. Hall expressed that this race held the opportunity to flip a seat that has been held by a Republican since 1996. He also expressed that he wishes to have a more fair and just criminal legal system and that he wants to address the racial disparities in the system.

The Chair recognized Representative Jacob Oliveira as the nominee for State Senate and Tara Jacobs as the Democratic nominee for the 8th Governor's Council district.

The Chair recognized Amanda Smith from the 5th Middlesex district to issue the report from the Campaign Services Subcommittee. Smith introduced a new Campaign Services Co Chair, Lauren Mattison. Smith stated that they are currently working on phone banking efforts with New Hampshire to help support New Hampshire Dems. Lauren Mattison was recognized via zoom who shared the agenda of efforts for democratic campaigns for this fall.

The Chair recognized Democratic National Committee members to report on the DNC meeting. Brathwaite expressed the meeting emphasized mobilizing, motivating, and messaging during campaign season. The DNC will be sending a memo out in the coming week. The DNC Black caucus was said to be doing a series of trainings across the country and stated one will be held in Philadelphia on October 21st and 22nd.

The Chair paused the DNC report and recognized Kim Driscoll as the Democratic Nominee for Lieutenant Governor. Driscoll expressed that important action is necessary to help keep Massachusetts affordable to young adults, working families, and older adults.

The Chair continued the DNC report and recognized Karen Payne who gave an update about the DNC LGBTQ caucus. Payne explained that there will be an ambassador program for 2022 and 2024.

There were concerns raised by members after the DNC report was given regarding the effort to raise and discuss the resolution on ending use of dark money in primaries nationally. The Chair clarified the efforts that were made to discuss the resolution.

The Chair recognized 7 individuals who are no longer on the State Committee; Doryce Smith from 2nd Plymouth and Bristol; Joe Spencer from 1st Essex and Middlesex; Jim DiTullio from 2nd Suffolk & Middlesex; Sam Hockenbury from Worcester & Norfolk, Laura Jette from Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire & Middlesex; Maria Robinson from 2nd Middlesex & Norfolk; Michele Marantz from First Hampden & Hampshire. The Chair explained that all of these seats are up and that when there are vacancies in the middle of the year they get filled during the caucus process.



The Chair stated that on October 12th there will be a Chinatown Banquet which is a coordinated campaign event sponsored by the Mayor of Boston, Michelle Wu, Aaron Michelwitz, and the Chair.

The Chair recognized Norma Shulman to represent the Spilka Senate District to speak about Ballot Question 2. Shulman explained the importance of a yes vote for fair dental insurance and asked for support on the ballot.

The Chair recognized Diego Sanchez to speak. Sanchez stated that the DNC has mobilized LGBTQ+ advisory council and that the first meeting was two weeks ago. The DNC has also created its Transgender Advisory Council. The Chair recognized Halley Kelly to speak. Kelly had a question regarding the dark money resolution. The Chair stated that they would share the resolution that was passed pertaining to dark money. The Chair recognized Kevin Costa to speak. Costa called for the support of Paul Heroux for Sheriff of Bristol County, Massachusetts.

The Democratic State Committee meeting was adjourned.