



Democratic State Committee Meeting

February 11, 2023 | Meeting Minutes

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

The Chair introduced Massachusetts' new Lt.Gov. Kim Driscoll. Driscoll discussed her partnership with Gov. Healey, the grassroots effort of the election, and plans for the future of the Commonwealth combating the housing and climate crisis. Driscoll thanked the party leadership and those present.

The Chair introduced Congressman Seth Moulton and thanked him for providing breakfast for the meeting. Moulton acknowledged the current and former mayor of Lynn, former chair of the Lynn Democratic Committee, Lt. Gov. Driscoll, and others. He discussed the current issues that Republicans are blocking that would better Americans, and emphasized the necessity of getting Democrats elected up and down the ballot to pass legislation that actually helps our country. Moulton cited his recent legislation 988 for the new National Mental Health Hotline as an example. Moulton thanked the party leadership and those present.

The Chair introduced Tommy McGee, former chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party and former Mayor of Lynn. McGee explained how he got involved in the Democratic party and thanked everyone in attendance and introduced Jared Nicholson, the current mayor of Lynn.

Nicholson thanked the chair of the Lynn Democrats Agnes Ricko, and others who were present. Nicholson detailed the legislation and resources that he helped put in place to help the residents of Lynn regarding housing, early childhood education, senior citizen care, mental health, and much more.

The Chair introduced the agenda for the meeting, starting with the Treasurer's report provided by Kathy Gasperine. The Treasurer's report was accepted. The Chair gave recognition to Gasperine for her hard work with the Party and announced that she will be stepping down at the next meeting and that Steve Kerrigan will be a candidate for Treasurer.

The Chair introduced Leon Brathwaite to provide the salary for the Chair report. Brathwaite called Mark DiSalvo to make a motion, which was seconded to increase the salary of the Chair to \$125,000 annually. The motion was accepted.

The Chair briefly discussed the site selection committee, who's members were virtually present. The Chair discussed their previous meeting which reviewed site options for Boston, Springfield, and Lowell for the 2023 convention. The Chair informed the crowd that the 2023 fall convention will be in Lowell on September 23rd. The site selection was accepted.

The Chair moved on to the Rules Committee report, which included the Method of Selecting Delegates for the 2023 state convention, the selection plan for Massachusetts delegates for the 2024 national convention, and the code of conduct/standing rules for the Party. All reports were accepted.



The Chair moved on to the elections starting with the female affirmative action seat. The chair gave a brief introduction of Senator Liz Miranda who was nominated by Deputy Treasurer Veronica Martinez. Martinez provided the crowd with an introduction of Senator Miranda. The motion was seconded and the floor was closed after no one else was nominated. Senator Miranda was recognized as the new female affirmative action seat. Senator Miranda shared a little about herself and thanked all of those who were present.

The Chair moved on to the election of the female disability seat, and introduced the two candidates Kathleen Crogan Comara (who was nominated by Phil Johnston), and Kathleen McCarthy (who was nominated by Rep. Jack Lewis, Senate President Spilka, and Rep. Kate Donaghue). The nominees introduced each of their candidates, and each candidate was given the opportunity to address the audience.

The Chair provided ten minutes for an election to be held in person and online through virtual and paper ballots.

The Chair informed the crowd about the two recount elections from the 2022 state-wide elections and reaffirmed that every vote counts. The Chair introduced newly elected State Rep Kristin Kassner. Kassner told those in attendance about the importance of voting and gave an overview about her election. Kristin thanked the leadership of the Party and those present.

The Chair provided those in attendance with the election results, confirming Kathie McCarthy.

The Chair discussed the Subcommittee reports in order: Campaign Services Subcommittee Report, Labor Subcommittee report, JFK Subcommittee Report, Rural Subcommittee Report, and the LGBTQ Outreach Subcommittee.

Amanda Smith, from the Campaign Services Subcommittee, detailed the work of the Organizing Hub. She provided a brief overview of a recent subcommittee meeting which will move the Organizing Hub to every other Sunday, and also expressed that their next project is helping to push for the upcoming Wisconsin Supreme Court election. Smith thanked the leadership of the party and those present.

Charlotte Golar Richie and Max German, from the JFK Subcommittee, provided an overview of the upcoming JFK Scholarship and Moakley internship program. Chairs of the Subcommittee thanked the leadership of the party and those present.

Lee Harrison, from the Rural Subcommittee, detailed a previous Zoom roundtable discussion to learn about right-wing threats in their local towns. Harrison thanked the leadership of the party.

The LGBTQ+ Outreach Subcommittee provided a brief overview of the attacks that have been happening to the LGBTQ community all across the country with bans and legislations.

The Chair moved to the Democratic National Committee members, the members provided an overview report on the DNC Philadelphia meeting.

The Chair moved on to new business. The Chair announced that he will be stepping down from his position and that Steve Kerrigan will be a candidate for the Chair position. Chair Bickford endorsed Kerrigan's candidacy and announced that the election will be held at the next meeting. The Democratic State Committee meeting was adjourned.