



## **Democratic State Committee Meeting**

*April 24, 2023 | Meeting Minutes*

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

The Chair introduced the former Chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, Steve Grossman. Grossman discussed the values of the MassDems and its service as a role model to cities, towns, wards, and even other state parties. Additionally, he thanked outgoing Chair Gus Bickford for his service and looked forward to working with incoming Chair Steve Kerrigan.

The Chair thanked Kathy Gasperine for her service as the party treasurer through the past years, and gave her a picture signed by the President, Joe Biden. 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 thanked the staff of the State party for all their hard work and help throughout his tenure.

The Chair opened the floor to nominations for the position of Treasurer of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Steve Kerrigan was nominated for the position by Mel Poindexter. Steve Kerrigan was elected as the treasurer. The Chair opened the floor to nominations for the position of Chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Steve Kerrigan was nominated for the position by Sharon Stout. Steve Kerrigan was elected as Chair.

The new Chair, Steve Kerrigan, thanked everyone for their dedication to the party, thanked the staff and volunteers, and thanked the city of Newton for hosting the state committee meeting. Finally, he thanked former chair Gus Bickford for his service to the party.

The Chair introduced the Rules Committee Chair, Bill Eddy, to give an update on rules. Eddy gives the delegate selection plan for the 2024 Democratic National Convention to renominate Joseph Biden as the Democratic Presidential Nominee. The 2024 delegate selection plan was approved by the state committee.

The Chair (after stepping down as treasurer) appointed Tom Holloway as interim treasurer of the party and announced there will be another election in August.

The Chair introduced Lauren Mattison, co-chair of campaign services. Mattison outlined their success with phone banks for the Wisconsin Supreme Court election. Co-chair Amanda Smith outlined the success of their phone bank for a local election in Wakefield. The chairs thanked party leadership for support.

The Chair introduced Max German and Charlotte Golar Richie, co-chairs of the JFK Scholarship Committee. Golar Richie named the 2023 JFK Scholarship recipients and Joe Moakley interns. The chairs thanked party leadership.

The Chair introduced Karen Payne, the co-chair of the subcommittee for field services. Payne reported that the 7th edition of the Chair's manual has been approved, and announced that it will be available online for all chairs to use. She thanked the party leadership.



The Chair introduced Norma Shulman, the co-chair of the Women's Outreach subcommittee. Shulman spoke about the form "Woman Making History" and about the two representatives who won after recounts: Margaret Scarsdale and Kristen Kassner. They also had a third panelist, Commissioner Audrey Hall from the Mass Commission on the Status of Women who gave a presentation about the Commission. Shulman thanked party leadership.

The Chair introduced Jim Pimental, the chair of the Labor Outreach subcommittee. Pimental gave his thanks to former Chair Gus Bickford and gave his best wishes to Chair Steve Kerrigan. He spoke about Senate Bill 1158 / House Bill 1868 and asked DSC members to encourage legislators to co-sponsor the bill.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve all of the committee reports as present. The motion passed.

The Chair introduced the Democratic National Committee Members. The members gave an overview of the recent Wisconsin Supreme Court victory that gave liberals a 4-3 majority on the court, and all the great work that organizations did to support the candidate. They thanked the Massachusetts Democratic Party for their help with this election and their role in phone banking. Next, they went over the DNC's rollout of the 2022-2024 Voter Protection program. Third, they emphasized the importance of the Millennial-GenZ alliance in keeping the country blue and thanked Massachusetts for the talent that it exports to other states. Then, they gave an overview of the DNC LGBTQ+ Caucus meeting that celebrated International Trans Day of Visibility. Former Chair Gus Bickford gave an overview of the work of the Rules and Bylaws Committee in adopting the delegate selection plan that was adopted by the state committee earlier this day. Vice-Chair Debby Kozikowski gave an overview of how the Association of State Democratic Committees are welcoming their new chair at the next meeting and that there will be opportunities for the MassDems to partner with other state parties to help.

The Chair moved on to new business and recognized John Bussinger. Bussinger thanked Gus Bickford for his service as Chair and raised his concerns with solving the disconnect between the party's role in winning elections / administering party affairs and policy issues, specifically transportation. He proposed the appointment of a small committee to meet with the legislature every so often in order to fix this disconnect.

The Chair then recognized Dennis Naughton for new business. Naughton congratulated Chair Kerrigan for his new position and thanked former Chair Bickford for his service. He offered a resolution that the Massachusetts Democratic Party specifically endorsed and supported the anti Wage theft legislation proposed. The DSC suspended the rules and Naughton proposed his proposition as a strong sense of the body that they are in support of the corresponding bills in the State Senate and House. The motion passed.

The Chair then recognized Bill Shemeth for new business. Shemeth voiced his concerns about Worcester County and its significance as the main place of Republican strength in the state. He urged Chair Kerrigan to make it one of his priorities to restore the position of Worcester County Organizer for the Massachusetts State Democratic Party

The Chair introduced Sharon Stout who thanked everyone for being there, and gave former Chair Bickford a card for his service and gave Chair Kerrigan a card of congratulations for his election as Chair.

Steve Grossman and Steve Kerrigan gave closing remarks. The Democratic State Committee meeting was adjourned.