



Democratic State Committee Meeting

August 10, 2023 | Meeting Minutes

Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Steve Kerrigan called the meeting to order.

There was a vote to adopt the agenda for the meeting, which passed unanimously. There was a motion and vote to approve the minutes from the spring meeting, which also passed unanimously.

The Chair introduced the Rules Subcommittee Chair, Bill Eddy. Bill Eddy welcomed everyone to Worcester and introduced the new Democratic City Committee Chair for Worcester, Daniel Donahue, who is also the State Representative for the 16th Worcester district. Representative Donahue welcomed everyone to Worcester, brought greetings on behalf of the Mayor of Worcester, the state delegation, and expressed excitement both to elect Jon Zlotnik to the State Senate and to continue the work that Representative Daniel Donahue and his colleagues have been doing for the city of Worcester.

The Chair introduced Congressman Jim McGovern. Congressman Jim McGovern thanked Chair Steve Kerrigan, Representative Daniel Donahue, the people of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, and the Democratic Representatives and Senators in the State Legislature for all of their hard work and applauded the permanent enactment of free breakfast and lunch in public schools throughout the Commonwealth. Congressman Jim McGovern thanked everyone again, encouraged everyone to do even more leading up to 2024 elections, and emphasized the impact the 2024 elections will have on our democracy and all the Democrats have worked to accomplish.

The Chair reiterated the Massachusetts Democratic Party's commitment to helping Democrats retake the House of Representatives in 2024, highlighted the Massachusetts Democratic Party's work to export activism so far this year, and encouraged everyone to take part in the many volunteering opportunities that currently exist and that will emerge within the next year. As part of his Chair report, the Chair welcomed the new DSC Members, notified everyone that the nomination papers for the DSC, town, and ward committees have been released by the Secretary of State's office and can be picked up either in Boston or in a regional office, and emphasized the importance of volunteering to elect a Democrat in the upcoming State Senate election to replace former Senator Anne Gobi.

The Chair introduced Dave O'Brien. Dave O'Brien introduced John Della Volpe. John Della Volpe's presentation is titled *The Return of Generational Politics: How Gen Z is Shaping the Future*. John Della Volpe recommends that Democrats invest early and wisely in young voters, coordinate youth engagement up and down the ballot, develop and adequately fund specific communications and content programs that addresses key issues young voters have and meets them where they are, and, finally, make young people an integral part of campaigns.



The Chair gave the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report was accepted. The Chair also gave the Secretary's report and there were no Officers' reports.

The Chair opened the floor to nominations for the position of Treasurer of the Massachusetts Democratic Party. Tara Healey was nominated for the position by Steve Kerrigan. Tara Healey was elected as the treasurer. The new Treasurer thanked everyone for their support and for all of their hard work and expressed excitement about working together with everyone.

The Chair introduced the Rules Subcommittee Chair, Bill Eddy, to give a report. Bill Eddy updated everyone that the Rules Subcommittee met in June to approve draft rules for the state convention and the appropriate subcommittees have been operating under those rules. The rules are modeled off of the 2019 rules, which was the last action item convention. The Rules Subcommittee report was accepted.

The Chair introduced the Add-on Subcommittees to give a report. Leon Brathwaite gave the Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Groups report and announced that there was a projected delegate count of 1,922 and their goal was 29% or 557. 12% or 231 were elected and they had 61 add-on applications, 49 of which were approved. The Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Groups report was accepted. Colleen Flanagan gave the Disability report in which it was announced that their goal was 13%. 11% were elected and they had 34 add-on applications, 28 of which were approved. The Disability report was accepted. Tanya Neslusan and Holly Ryan gave the LGBTQ+ report in which it was announced that they had a goal of 7%. 14% were elected and because they exceeded their goal they did not have any add-on delegate this year. The LGBTQ+ report was accepted. Lezlie Campbell gave the Youth report in which it was announced that their goal was 32%. 10% were elected and they had 68 add-on applications, 67 of which were approved. The Youth report was accepted.

The Chair introduced the Charter Amendments Subcommittee Co-Chair, Sandi Bagley, to give a report. Sandi Bagley said that the subcommittee had met to get copies of four charter amendments and would be hearing from the presenters of the four charter amendments later in the month and would then vote to either put forward or not put forward the charter amendments. Those that would be put forward would be included in the Call to Convention. Those that are not put forward by the committee have the opportunity to collect signatures at the convention to have their amendments put forward. The Charter Amendments Subcommittee report was accepted.

The Chair introduced the Massachusetts Democratic Party Organizing Director Alex Bausch who spoke on behalf of Campaign Services Subcommittee Co-Chair, Lauren Mattison, to give a report. Alex Bausch said that the subcommittee has been doing an organizing hub and have been focusing on phone calls into Kentucky for the Governor's race. Alex Bausch also said that the subcommittee looked forward to being involved in the State Senate Special Election in November. The Campaign Services Subcommittee report was accepted.



The Chair introduced the The JFK Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Charlotte Golar Richie and Max German, to give a report. Max German began by saying that the year had been successful as they selected 2 JFK scholarship recipients and 8 Joe Moakley interns that worked with the Massachusetts Democratic Party staff over the summer on a number of different projects. Charlotte Golar Richie then continued by saying that the interns received \$2,000 for their summer work and received a surprise in person visit from Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. Charlotte Golar Richie also clarified that the 2024 application was not live yet and thanked everyone for their support of the subcommittee. The JFK Subcommittee report was accepted.

The Chair introduced the Veterans Subcommittee Co-Chair, Christine Tron, to give a report. Christine Tron said that the subcommittee supports Representative Seth Moulton's charter amendment to include veterans as an add-on delegate category. Christine Tron further stated that the committee believes this charter amendment will bring greater diversity to an underserved community. The Veterans Subcommittee report was accepted.

The Chair introduced the Labor Subcommittee Chair, Jim Pimental, to give a report. Jim Pimental spoke again about Senate Bill 1158 / House Bill 1868 and asked DSC members to encourage legislators to co-sponsor the bill. Jim Pimental also reports that the subcommittee voted unanimously to support the legislation at their April meeting. The Labor Subcommittee report was accepted.

The Chair introduced the Public Policy Subcommittee Co-Chair, Martina Jackson, to give a report. Martina Jackson announced that on Wednesday, October 11th at 7:00PM their subcommittee would be hosting a discussion with Congressman Jim McGovern on being the ranking member of the House Rules Committee in a rules free Congress. The Public Policy Subcommittee was accepted.

The Chair introduced the Rural Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair, Lee Harrison, to give a report. Lee Harrison said that the subcommittee held a rural round table this past spring with representatives from small, medium, and large towns across the Commonwealth. Lee Harison also announced that the subcommittee would be holding another round table this fall and encouraged anyone interested in attending or participating to reach out to either him or the Massachusetts Democratic Party staff for more information. The Rural Outreach Subcommittee was accepted.

There were no Additional Subcommittee reports. The Chair thanked all of the subcommittee Chairs and members for all of their hard work preparing for these meetings and for hosting events in their communities all across the Commonwealth.

The Chair introduced the DNC Members Melvin C. Poindexter, David O'Brien, James Roosevelt Jr, and Brenda Brathwaite. Melvin C. Poindexter's report was about the importance of the work that the Congressional Black Caucus is doing prior to the 2024 convention and election, which



is much closer than it feels. The objective of this work is passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and combating the return of Jim Crow policies pushed by Republicans to disenfranchise people of color. David O'Brien followed by informing everyone that the DNC is getting involved in special elections around the country, is getting prepared for 2024 earlier than ever, recently named the leadership team for the Chicago convention, and that the next DNC meeting is in October. James Roosevelt Jr followed by reporting on the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the DNC, which is currently dealing with a serious situation with the Alabama Democratic Party and which will be making a recommendation at the next meeting of the DNC regarding the early primary states. Finally, Brenda Brathwaite finished by reporting that the Rural Council of the DNC had a great meeting in July on the work that needs to be done in rural districts. The DNC Members report was accepted.

The Chair moved on to new business and recognized State Auditor Diana DiZoglio. Diana DiZoglio began by congratulating the new Chair and thanked everyone for all of their hard work championing democratic values. Diana DiZoglio reported that the State Auditor's office was conducting a performance and safety audit of the MBTA and encouraged anyone with any feedback to please contact her office. Diana DiZoglio also reports that her office started auditing taxpayer funded nondisclosure agreements, the state supplier diversity office, and is attempting to audit the state legislature. Diana DiZoglio asked that members of the audience support her ballot initiative to clarify her office's authority to audit the state legislature and thanked everyone again for all of their activism and hard work.

The Chair then recognized Nazda Alam for new business who promoted a potluck lunch that would happen on Sunday, August 20th from 2:00PM to 4:00PM in Weston at Nazda's home. The Chair thanked her and all who have volunteered to make it an amazing event.

The Chair then recognized Bill Shemeth. Bill Shemeth is a twenty year member from the Worcester-Hampshire District and asked everyone to get involved in helping elect a Democrat to former Senator Anne Gobi's seat and to help ensure that Representative Durant does not win that seat in November. Bill Shemeth then emphasized the importance of keeping Representative Durant out of the State Senate and the threat his ideology poses to democracy here in Massachusetts.

The Chair then recognized Leon Brathwaite who promoted a grassroots event that the Vice President Kamala Harris would attend on Saturday, August 12th. The doors would open at 11:30AM and the entrance fee would be \$50.

There were remarks from a member of the audience thanking the Chair and the Massachusetts Democratic Party staff followed immediately by a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the Democratic State Committee meeting was adjourned.