



Democratic State Committee Meeting

November 15, 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. There was a motion and vote to approve the minutes from the summer meeting, which also passed.

The Chair introduced Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley's team and communicated her regret that should not make it to the Democratic State Committee meeting due to congressional activities. The Chair then played a greeting recorded by Congresswoman Pressley for everyone. The Congresswoman welcomed everyone, wished she was able to be there in person, and was overjoyed that the DSC came to the First Parish in Dorchester and were truly in her community.

The Chair then introduced Boston mayor, Michelle Wu. The mayor welcomed everyone to Boston, Dorchester, and the historic building of First Parish. The mayor emphasized the importance of the upcoming election year, the role Massachusetts plays in it, and committed to always being a partner in the Massachusetts Democratic Party's efforts to reelect President Biden. The mayor also sent her love to John Walsh and his entire family.

The Chair gave the Chair's report. The first item was to remind everyone to keep John Walsh and his family in their thoughts and hearts. The second item was to notify everyone that the Massachusetts Democratic Party had reached a new collective bargaining agreement with its staff and said that both he and the staff were thrilled with the agreement. The Chair gave an update on how democrats were doing both here in the Commonwealth and across the country.

The Chair gave the Treasurer's report. Total income for the year as of September was reported as almost \$1.1 million and MassDems was reported below on projected expenses. The Treasurer's report was accepted. There was no Secretary's report.

The Chair introduced Vice Chair Deb Kozikowski. The Vice Chair spoke about Blue Local and the Massachusetts Democratic Party's effort to reinvigorate town and ward committees across the Commonwealth. The Vice Chair also thanked everyone for their support and for everything they do for the Democratic Party every day. There were no further Officers' reports.

The Chair introduced the Resolutions Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Joe Kelly and Marianne Rutter, to give a report. Joe Kelly said that the subcommittee had met and voted to approve its final recommendations to the convention delegates. The subcommittee recommended the support of the following resolutions: the resolution to support the Massachusetts State House employee union, the resolution in support of single payer health care, the resolution in support of audits of the state legislature, and the resolution to ensure hybrid conventions. The subcommittee did not recommend the support of the following resolutions: the resolution in support of transparency



and accountability, the resolution in support of eliminating dark money in party primaries, and the resolution in support of democratic governance. Marianne Rutter then said she would be willing to talk to anyone about why the subcommittee did not recommend the rejected resolutions.

The Chair introduced the Campaign Services Subcommittee Co-Chair, Lauren Mattison, to give a report. Lauren Mattison said that the subcommittee hosted an organizing hub twice a week via zoom prior to the election and made over 110,000 phone calls across multiple campaigns both in Massachusetts and across the country. Lauren Mattison also mentioned that the subcommittee was discussing dates for a meeting and would be in contact with members soon.

The Chair introduced Leon Brathwaite, Brenda Brathwaite, Karen Payne, and Melvin Poindexter to give the National Affirmative Action Outreach Committee and National Delegate Selection Update. Leon Brathwaite gave the details discussed during the committee meeting. Karen Payne added that they would ask the Field Services Subcommittee for training assistance.

The Chair introduced the Labor Subcommittee Chair, Jim Pimental, to give a report. Jim Pimental spoke briefly about the previous night's subcommittee meeting in which they discussed Massachusetts State House employee union organizing drive and creating a database for labor friendly electeds throughout Massachusetts as a resource. Jim also spoke again on Senate Bill 1158 / House Bill 1868 to prevent wage theft and Senate Bill 301 / House Bill 489 that would create a framework for affordable and accessible early education and child care.

The Chair introduced the Rural Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair, Lee Harrison, to give a report. Lee Harrison said the subcommittee held its fourth round table and thanked the Chair for his attendance at this event. Lee Harrison also mentioned that ways to help Democrats in small and rural towns win elections and to connect small towns together to combat the threat of MAGA was discussed at length during this event.

The Chair introduced one of the Public Policy Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Martina Jackson, to give a report. Martina Jackson started off by saying that its most important job going into 2024 will be re-electing President Joe Biden and is looking forward to spreading the message of President Biden's accomplishments far and wide across the Commonwealth. The subcommittee plans to host a webinar in February to educate people about the IRA, what it does, how it will improve the environment, as well as the equity provisions included in the IRA.

The Chair introduced the Site Selection Subcommittee Co-Chair, Michael Lanava, to give a report. Michael Lanava spoke about the process for selecting Worcester as the location for this year's Nominating Convention and made it clear to the Democratic State Committee members that the subcommittee has heard their concerns and will be doing everything it can to implement changes and accommodations ahead of this year's convention, which will be held on May 31st and June 1st. The Chair echoed this and provided further clarification for members of the audience who had concerns regarding accessibility.



The Chair introduced Massachusetts DNC members, Brenda Brathwaite, Melvin Poindexter, Karen Payne, and David O'Brien. Brenda Brathwaite said that a total of 55 resolutions on a range of subjects were submitted and adopted at the fall DNC meeting, some which recognized Massachusetts legislators. Melvin Poindexter said that the DNC will be increasing its efforts to reach out to brown and black men, younger voters, suburban white women, and native american indigenous communities in order to reach out early to connect with people on the issues that matter most to them. Melvin Poindexter also gave a shout out to Congresswoman Presely for her continued impressive efforts to reach black men. Melvin Poindexter then encouraged everyone to get as involved with volunteering for the upcoming election as possible. Karen Payne reported that the DNC delegation went to Wentzville, Missouri while in Missouri for the fall DNC meeting to walk the picket line with local 2250. David O'Brien reported that the DNC has "a lot of money on hand. More than the other side." David O'Brien further reported that the DNC already has 240,000 new donors who did not give to Joe Biden in 2020 and that the average donation is \$40. David O'Brien also said that the DNC was interested in relational organizing as people are much more likely to trust accurate information coming from a family member or friend.

The Chair moved on to new business and recognized John Bussinger from the audience who expressed frustration about public transportation and South Station.

The Chair announced that the Massachusetts Democratic Party staff would be setting up an email inbox for those who wanted to send kind words to the family of John Walsh.

The Chair recognized Christopher Jenkins who asked a question regarding criteria for endorsements in nonpartisan mayoral elections in the Commonwealth. The Chair responded by clarifying that this year the Massachusetts Democratic Party engaged in elections that were clear Democrat versus Republican. The Chair further said that there would be larger conversations about developing criteria to get involved in nonpartisan elections in which a Democrat is running against a very conservative unenrolled or unaffiliated opponent.

The Chair recognized Steve Leibowitz who expressed disappointment about not being able to vote on resolutions at the end of this previous convention and asked that a process be developed to streamline voting so that resolutions can be voted on in future conventions. The Chair responded by clarifying the rules passed for convention, as well as those outlined in Robert's Rules of Order, regarding resolutions.

The Chair asked everyone to join him in singing Happy Birthday to Massachusetts Democratic Party Voter File and Technology Director Ryan Kangas and Organizing Director Alex Bausch.

There was a motion to adjourn. The motion passed and the Democratic State Committee meeting was adjourned.