



Democratic State Committee Meeting

April 6th, 2024 | Meeting Minutes

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

There was a motion and vote to approve the minutes from the spring meeting, which passed.

The Chair introduced State Representative Jessica Gannino. Representative Jessica Gannino thanked everyone for coming to Revere and welcomed everyone to the community. Representative Jessica Gannino then thanked everyone for being involved this year and emphasized the importance of being involved ahead of the presidential election. Representative Jessica Gannino also thanked Congresswoman Katherine Clark for sponsoring the food for the event and introduced the Mayor of Revere, Patrick Keefe.

Mayor Patrick Keefe welcomed everyone to Revere, thanked everyone for their engagement, and applauded the work of the fantastic leaders that Revere has on Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill.

The Chair thanked the amazing partners that the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee has in Revere for all of their hard work in making this meeting a success.

There was a vote to adopt the agenda for the meeting, which passed.

The Chair then gave some brief remarks on the importance of re-organizational meetings. The Chair thanked everyone who was putting themselves forward to serve on the committee to fight for Democrats over the next four years. The Chair also asked that everyone take a moment of silence for those colleagues who had passed in the year.

The Chair then communicated that the presidential primary election that happened across the Commonwealth in between meetings gave Massachusetts their presumptive nominee, President Joseph R. Biden. The Chair emphasized the importance of the work we will all do between now and election day and the impact that the election will have on our country.

The Chair gave the Treasurer's report. The Chair took a moment to thank Mayor Michelle Wu for hosting an amazing Chinatown Banquet and announced that the event was very successful. The Chair said that overall fundraising was looking very good and that the State Convention in June, as well as the Coordinated Campaign, would be the main focus going forward. There was a vote to accept the Treasurer's report, which passed.

The Chair moved on to explaining how the election of Add-On members to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee would work and announced that there would be six contested elections. The Chair then explained how candidate speeches for each of the contested categories would work.

The Chair recognized Mark Disalvo who motioned that those running in contested races for a seat on the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee pledge their support to the democratic nominees for President and Vice President, as well as for all other offices that will appear in the ballot. While the Chair did not disagree with this sentiment, the motion was out of order and was so ruled. Mark Disalvo then made a personal request of all candidates running in contested races to please pledge their support to the democratic nominees for President and Vice President, as well as for all other offices that will appear in the ballot.

The Chair announced that the Disability Male Add-On candidates would go first and invited them up to the microphone to each give a brief speech to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee members that would be voting. The Chair also clarified that voting would happen after all speeches for all categories had been heard. We heard from Terry Alther, Bob Massie, Kurt Greineder, Chris Lorant, Peter Bakula, and Martin Polygon.

The Chair answered some questions from the audience about how voting works.

The Chair announced that Lesbian Female Add-On candidates would go next and invited them up to the microphone to each give a brief speech to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee members that would be voting. We heard from Beth Arnold, Laurie Sawyer, Dallas Ducar, Rhonda Bourne, Curran Holden, Tanya Neslusan, and Justine Pouravelis.

The Chair acknowledged he accidentally skipped over the Gay Male Add-On candidates and invited them up to the microphone to each give a brief speech to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee members that would be voting. We heard from Jeffrey Anderson-Burgos, Tom Ashe, Robert Chambers, Ray Drewnowski, Terry McGinty, Paul Giorgio, Michael Grafton, D. Austin Horowitz, Stephan Iannaccone, Tristan Rushton, and Tim Schofield.

The Chair announced that Non-Binary Add-On candidates would be next and invited them up to the microphone to each give a brief speech to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee members that would be voting. We heard from Andrew Carter, Halley Kelly, and Kairo Serna.

The Chair announced that Senior Male Add-On candidates would be next and invited them up to the microphone to each give a brief speech to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee members that would be voting. We heard from John Deely and Ty Waterman.

The Chair announced that the final category would be the Youth Male Add-On candidates and invited them up to the microphone to each give a brief speech to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee members that would be voting. We heard from Ryan Costa, Mike Dooley, Max German, Ethan Henshaw, Mark Lannigan, Will Lombard, and Michael Mischley.

The Chair thanked all of the candidates for contested seats. The Chair then reminded everyone that they would hear the names of the uncontested candidates later on and proceeded to go over the voting process and rules once more with the voting members of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee.

The Chair provided the voting members of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee and the candidates for contested seats fifteen minutes to vote before reconvening.

After fifteen minutes, the Chair directed volunteers to collect ballots and to take them to the counting room for processing. Prior to a brief recess for lunch, there was an amendment to alternate the incorrect name of a member of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee in the minutes from the spring meeting. This amendment passed. After this, the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee briefly recessed for lunch.

After the brief recess for lunch, the Chair read off the categories that were uncontested: Affirmative Action Male, Affirmative Action Female, Labor Female, Labor Male, Youth, Bisexual Male, Transgender Male, Transgender Female, Queer, College Democrats, College Female, Disability Female, French Speaking Female, Portuguese Speaking Male, Senior Female, Veteran Female, Veteran Male, and Gender Balance. After names of the uncontested candidates in each category were read off there was a motion and a vote to elect by acclamation, which passed each time. After this, the Chair clarified that the seats of Bisexual Female, College Male, Portuguese Speaking Female, and French Speaking Male would be filled at the May 18th Massachusetts Democratic State Committee meeting.

The Chair went out of order and invited the JFK Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Charlotte Richie and Max German, to give their subcommittee report. Max German announced that the subcommittee had selected the summer JFK Scholarship and Joe Moakley Internship recipients. Max German further elaborated that the subcommittee received more applications this year than it ever has in the past and, because of this, was able to form the most diverse class of interns and scholarship recipients in the subcommittee's history. Max German then read off the names of the individuals whom the subcommittee selected. Charlotte Richie then thanked the entire Massachusetts Democratic State Committee, the Chair, the various members of the subcommittee, and the staff at the Massachusetts Democratic Party for their assistance.

The Chair then announced that the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee would now be approving the Add-On delegate to the State Convention in June and asked the relevant subcommittee Chairs to give a brief report.

Leon Brathwaite, Co-Chair of the Affirmative Action Outreach Subcommittee, reported that the subcommittee had one hundred and thirty-six Add-On delegates to approve and asked that, in the future, the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee do more to add to these numbers. There was a motion and a vote to approve these Add-On delegates, which passed.

Diego Sanchez and Holly Ryan, Co-Chairs of the LGBTQ+ Outreach Subcommittee, reported that they postponed bringing their Add-On delegates forward because some had recently moved and announced that the subcommittee would send out more information shortly via email.

Chuck Battle And Christine Tron, Co-Chairs of the Veterans & Military Families Subcommittee, reported that they had eleven Add-On delegates who will be joining them at the State Convention. There was a motion and a vote to approve these Add-On delegates, which passed.

There was no report from the Youth Service Subcommittee on Youth Add-On delegates, but there was a motion and a vote to approve these Add-On delegates, which passed.

Colleen Flanagan, Chair of the Disability Outreach Subcommittee, reported that they will have twenty-two disabled Add-On delegates to the convention. There was a motion and a vote to approve these Add-On delegates, which passed.

The Chair then announced that the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee would move on to officer elections and that all races were now uncontested, but that each race would be considered because nominations could be made from the floor.

The Chair began with the seat of the Female Vice Chair. There was then a motion to close nominations, which passed. After this, there was a motion to elect Deborah Kozikowski by acclamation, which passed.

The Chair then moved on to the seat of Male Vice Chair. There was then a motion to close nominations, which passed. After this, there was a motion to elect Leon Brathwaite by acclamation, which passed.

The Chair then moved on to the seat of Treasurer. There was then a motion to close nominations, which passed. After this, there was a motion to elect Tara Healey by acclamation, which passed.

The Chair then moved on to the seat of Secretary. There was then a motion to close nominations, which passed. After this, there was a motion to elect Joseph Kaplan by acclamation, which passed.

The Chair then moved on to the seat of Female Deputy Treasurer. There was then a motion to close nominations, which passed. After this, there was a motion to elect Veronica Martinez and Sharon Stout by acclamation, which passed.

The Chair then moved on to the seat of Male Deputy Treasurer. There was then a motion to close nominations, which passed. After this, there was a motion to elect Evan Falchuck and Tom Holoway by acclamation, which passed.

The Chair took a point of personal privilege to recognize Executive Director Joe Sherlock who is leaving the Massachusetts Democratic Party to work for the Massachusetts AFL CIO. Joe Sherlock then thanked everyone for an amazing time working with the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee and spoke briefly about his time and what it meant to him.

The Chair thanked everyone in a contested election for a seat on the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee for running and asked them, regardless of results, to please stay

involved ahead of this crucial year. There were in total two hundred twenty nine votes cast and two hundred and twenty votes counted.

In the Disability Male Add-On category, Terr Altherr, Bob Massie, and Peter Bakula were elected. In the Lesbian Female Add-On category, Dallas Ducar, Beth Arnold, Justine Pouravelis, Laurie Sawyer, and Rhonda Bourne were elected. In the Gay Male Add-On category, Paul Giorgio, Terry McGinty, Tom Ashe, Tim Schofield, and Ray Drewnowski were elected. In the Non Binary Add-On category, Kairo Serna and Andrew Carter were elected. In the Senior Male Add-On category, John Deeley was elected. Finally, in the Youth Male Add-On category, Mark Lannigan, Max German, Michael Mischley, and Mike Dooley were elected.

The Chair recognized Amanda Smith from the Campaign Service Subcommittee who announced their subcommittee would be holding phone banks into swing districts in Arizona and encouraged everyone to get involved.

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