



Democratic State Committee Meeting

May 18, 2024 | Meeting Minutes

Massachusetts Democratic Party Vice Chair Deb Kozikowski called the meeting to order.

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

The Vice Chair introduced Representative Bill Keating, who gave a brief speech.

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

The Vice Chair introduced Owen Fletcher. Owen Fletcher thanked Congressman Bill Keating for supporting Ukraine. Owen Fletcher then talked about his candidacy for State Representative in the Barnstable 5th and encouraged everyone to elect Democrats up and down the ticket.

The Vice Chair introduced Kathy Fox Alfano. Kathy Fox Alfano thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Kathy Fox Alfano then talked about coming up short in 2022 and talked about running her candidacy for State Representative in the Barnstable 3rd. Kathy Fox Alfano talked about her background in politics and her coordination with Owen Fletcher to make Cape Cod blue.

Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Steve Kerrigan introduced Emily Oneschuk from Massachusetts for Mental Health Options. Emily Oneschuk thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak. Emily Oneschuk then talked in support of the ballot initiative to legalize some psychedelics in Massachusetts. Emily Oneschuk talked about her history with mental health, starting with the murder of her brother, which started a series of events which took a toll on her mental health. Emily Oneschuk then talked about the positive effect of psychedelic therapy after being discharged from the Navy in 2022. Emily Oneschuk expressed her hope that people would not have to go abroad to try this treatment, and encouraged everyone to support the ballot question to legalize this treatment in Massachusetts.

The Chair gave his Report, talking about the State Convention and the vote to endorse Elizabeth Warren, the annual Roosevelt Dinner honoring Former Massachusetts Speaker of the House Bob DeLeo, Linda Whitlock, and Former MassDems Chair John Walsh posthumously, the National Convention, and the election of the Electors for President Joe Biden. The Chair emphasized the importance of Gen Z in the upcoming election. The Chair talked about targeting specific seats in the Legislature and thanked Organizing Director Alex Bausch for his work in electing Democrats nationally.

The Chair gave the Treasurer's Report. There was a motion and vote to approve the Treasurer's Report, which passed.

The Chair gave the Secretary's Report. There was a motion and vote to approve the Secretary's Report, which passed.

The Chair moved on to State Committee At-Large elections. The Chair explained that there were four vacancies, one Female Portuguese-speaking, one Male French-speaking, one Female Bisexual seat, and one Male College seat. The Chair explained how the election of At-Large members of the State Committee would work.

The Chair moved to the election of the one Female Portuguese-speaking seat. Maria Giesta was nominated. There was a motion and a vote to close nominations, which passed. There was a motion and a vote for the Secretary to cast one ballot for Maria Giesta, which passed.

The Chair moved to the election of the one Male French-speaking seat. James Leo Bedard was nominated. There was a motion and a vote to close nominations, which passed. There was a motion and a vote for the Secretary to cast one ballot for James Leo Bedard, which passed.

The Chair moved to the election of the one Female Bisexual seat. Abby Ware was nominated. Christine Lowe was nominated. There was a motion and a vote to close nominations, which passed. The Chair invited the candidates to the microphone to give one minute speeches. We heard from Abby Ware and Christine Lowe. The Chair announced that members would be given a ballot to vote after the final category had been heard.

The Chair moved to the election of the one Male College seat. Ethan Henshaw was nominated. Angus Abercrombie was nominated. There was a motion and a vote to close nominations, which passed.

A Point of Order was made, saying that in previous elections and nominations, a nomination and two seconds were required. The Point of Order was heard, and the Chair explained that he had heard two seconds for each candidate previously nominated. The Chair moved back to the election of the one Male College seat.

The Chair invited the candidates to the microphone to give one-minute speeches. We heard from Ethan Henshaw and Angus Abercrombie. There was an inquiry about where each candidate had gone to college, to which the answers were Emerson and Georgetown, respectively. The Chair clarified that the requirement was that the candidates be of college-age.

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

After ten minutes, the Chair directed volunteers to collect ballots and to take them to the counting room for processing.

The Chair moved to the election of the two Female Democratic National Committee members. Brenda Brathwaite was nominated. Karen Payne was nominated. There was a motion and a vote to close nominations, which passed. The Chair invited the candidates to the microphone to give brief speeches. We heard from Brenda Brathwaite and Karen Payne. There was a motion

and a vote for the Secretary to cast one ballot for Brenda Brathwaite and one ballot for Karen Payne, which passed.

The Chair moved to the election of the two Male Democratic National Committee members. David O'Brien was nominated. Mel Poindexter was nominated. There was a motion and a vote to close nominations, which passed. The Chair invited the candidates to the microphone to give brief speeches. We heard from Mel Poindexter and David O'Brien. There was a motion and a vote for the Secretary to cast one ballot for David O'Brien and one ballot for Mel Poindexter, which passed.

The Chair went out of order and invited State Representative Dylan Fernandez to speak. State Representative Dylan Fernandez then talked about his candidacy for State Senate in Plymouth and Barnstable and talked about flipping Plymouth County and Barnstable County to the Democrats. He then talked about supporting women's and LGBT rights in Massachusetts.

The Chair updated everyone on the remaining agenda. The Chair said that we would hear from the Affirmative Action Committee and elect At-Large and PLEO delegates for the National Convention. The Chair announced that three of the categories had the same number of candidates as slots, and those would follow the same procedure as before. There were 19 or 20 candidates for Male At-Large delegates. The Chair announced that the Joe Biden campaign recommended electing Robert Binney, Darnell Williams, Diego Sanchez, Scott Trudell, Kenneth DeGraff, and Sam Liao, with two open seats without a recommendation. The Chair congratulated everyone who was elected.

Leon Brathwaite, Co-Chair of the Affirmative Action Outreach Subcommittee, thanked his fellow co-chairs. He then reported that the subcommittee developed an inclusion initiative for participating in the delegate selection process. He reported that they had set constituency goals for the specific groups: African Americans, LatinX, Native Americans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, LGBTQ+, Youth, and people with disabilities. The Education subcommittee, Publicity subcommittee, and Fundraising subcommittee helped conduct training and provide resources to help these groups participate. He then thanked Sharon Stout, Sam Liao, Marlene Silva, Diego Sanchez, Michael Lanava, and Dolores Thibault-Munoz. He thanked Nigel Simon for his help with the training.

He then announced the results of the delegate selection plan: the goal was for African Americans to have 10 delegates, and they elected 12. The goal was for LatinX was to have 13 delegates, and they elected 6. The goal was for Native Americans to have 1 delegates, and they elected 0. The goal was for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to have 8 delegates, and they elected 4. The goal was for LGBTQ+ to have 10 delegates, and they elected 6. The goal was for Youth to have 41 delegates, and they elected 21. The goal was for people with disabilities to have 18 delegates, and they elected 4. He encouraged people to consider these goals as they elected delegates at-large.

The Chair moved to the election of the twelve PLEO delegates. Kim Driscoll, Andrea Campbell, Michelle Wu, Mary Olberding, Karen Spilka, and Tara Healey were nominated for Female PLEO

delegates. Joseph Petty, William Galvin, Marc Pacheco, James Eldridge, Ed Collins, and Aaron Michlewitz were nominated for Male PLEO delegates. There was a motion and a vote for the Secretary to cast one ballot for the Male delegates and one ballot for Female delegates, which passed.

The Chair moved to the election of the twelve Female At-Large delegates. Alexis Austin Moore, Cathay Ashton, Deepika Sawhney, Ella Hogan, Kristen Elechko, Sheila Murray, Theresa McGoldrick, Erin Bradley, Gillian Hinkson, Melanie Thompson, Vanna Howard, and Leslie Templeton were nominated for Female At-Large delegates. There was a motion and a vote for the Secretary to cast one ballot for the one ballot for Female delegates, which passed.

The Chair announced the results of the March 5 Democratic primary in Massachusetts. Joseph R. Biden received 533,096 votes, for 91 delegates, No Preference got 60,236 votes, for 1 delegate, Dean Phillips received 29,728 votes, and Marianne Williamson received 20,402 votes.

The Chair announced the results of the Female Bisexual seat and the Male College seat. For the Female Bisexual seat, Christine Lowe received 111 votes and Abby Ware received 100 votes. For the College Male seat, Ethan Henshaw received 121 votes and Angus Abercrombie received 91 votes. The Chair thanked the candidates and congratulated the winners.

The Chair told everyone elected for National Delegates to stay in the room to fill out paperwork.

The Chair moved to the election of the eight Male At-Large delegates. The Chair explained and took questions about the election process for Male At-Large. The Chair explained that Henry Clay Evans had been mistakenly left off the ballot and should be written in in order to receive votes. The Chair told everyone to sign their ballots in order to be counted. The Chair repeated the names of the candidates and the candidates endorsed by the President's campaign.

The Chair was asked and explained that this would be a plurality vote.

Amarpreet Sawhney, Chris Svarstad, Darnell Williams, Phil Mullins, Robert Logan, Sam Liao, Scott Trudell, Stephen Garone, Vincent Leung, Steven Leibowitz, Robert Binney, Jarone Lee, Patrick Gatto, Diego Sanchez, Matthew Murray, Evan Garcia, Henry Clay Evans, Kenneth DeGraff, Tan Pham, and Russell Ashton were nominated for Male At-Large delegates. The Chair invited the candidates to the microphone to give one minute speeches. We heard from Russell Ashton, Robert Binney, Kenneth DeGraff, Evan Garcia, Stephen Garone, Patrick Gatto, Jarone Lee, Steven Leibowitz, Vincent Leung, Sam Liao, Robert Logan, Phil Mullins, Matthew Murray, Tan Pham, Diego Sanchez, Amarpreet Sawhney, Chris Svarstad, Scott Trudell, Darnell Williams, and Henry Clay Evans.

The Chair provided the ballots to voting members of the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee for contested seats, reviewed the rules of how to vote, and gave five minutes to vote before reconvening.

After five minutes, the Chair directed volunteers to collect ballots and to take them to the counting room for processing.

The Chair moved on to subcommittee reports. The Chair invited the co-chairs of subcommittees to give their reports.

Mark Lannigan and Leslie Templeton, co-chairs of the Youth Outreach subcommittee, talked about capitalizing on the youth Democratic energy to get more youth Democratic votes. They then asked everyone for their help to energize young voters.

Dallas Ducar, Diego Sanchez, and Justin Klekota, co-chairs of the LGBTQ Outreach subcommittee, talked about creating an inclusive environment and supporting Trans and LGBTQ rights.

Ann Roosevelt and Martina Jackson, co-chairs of the Public Policy subcommittee, talked about sending out positive messages about what Joe Biden has accomplished.

Amanda Smith, co-chair of the Campaign Services subcommittee, talked about reaching out to Arizona voters and asked everyone for their help.

The Chair moved on to Officer Reports, and invited Deb Kozikowski to offer a report as Vice Chair.

Deb Kozikowski, Vice Chair, talked about needing to re-elect State Representative Kate Donaghue.

A Point of Personal Privilege was made, asking people to donate to veterans' support groups.

The Chair announced a brief recess until the results for Male At-Large delegates were counted.

The Chair reconvened the meeting and announced the results for Male At-Large delegates. The Chair announced that Darnell Williams, Diego Sanchez, Sam Liao, Kenneth DeGraff, Russell Ashton, Matthew Murray, Robert Binney, and Tan Pham were elected as delegates. Darnell Williams received 168 votes, Diego Sanchez received 165 votes, Sam Liao received 157 votes, DeGraff received 119 votes, Russell Ashton received 114 votes, Kenneth Matthew Murray received 108 votes, Robert Binney received 106 votes, and Tan Pham received 105 votes.

The Chair announced that because Russell Ashton was already an alternate delegate, he would be replaced.

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