



Democratic State Committee Special Meeting

July 24, 2024 | Meeting Minutes

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

The Chair determined that a quorum was present.

The Chair offered words of thanks and praise to President Joe Biden for his decades of service to the United States, including three and a half years as President of the United States.

The Chair updated the National Delegates about the voting process for the Convention and announced that 50 Massachusetts delegates would sign on to the Harris nomination papers.

The Chair announced that several members of the State Committee who were unable to attend the meeting had submitted their endorsements and they would be entered into the record.

The Chair introduced Sharon Stout.

Sharon Stout moved that the Secretary cast one vote in favor of endorsing Kamala Harris for President of the United States. The motion was seconded.

Sharon Stout asked for the support of nominating Vice President Harris for President of the United States. Sharon Stout talked about the historical significance of Vice President Harris as the first woman, first Black person, and first person of South Asian descent to be Vice President, and the opportunity to break more barriers as President. Sharon Stout talked about the challenges and criticisms that Vice President Harris will face in the campaign, and emphasized that Massachusetts has been a leader in making progress with diversity over the past 15 years. Sharon Stout talked about some of these achievements at the local level, such as the first majority-female Boston City Council, predominantly of women of color; Ayanna Pressley became the first Black woman to be elected Representative from Massachusetts; Kim Janey became the first mayor of color in Boston; Michelle Wu became the first elected mayor of color; and these achievements have been happening all around Massachusetts. Sharon Stout also talked about some of these achievements at the state level, such as Attorney General Campbell becoming the first woman of color, as well as being Boston's first Black City Council president; Deval Patrick being the first Black Governor; Maura Healey being the first elected female Governor, as well as being part of the LGBTQ community.

The Chair announced that the motion would move to discussion.

The Chair introduced Mel Poindexter.

Mel Poindexter talked about making sure that the campaign would be inclusive by gender and by race, and not focusing on one specific voting bloc. Mel Poindexter said that he supported the motion to endorse Kamala Harris.

The Chair introduced Becca Rausch.

Becca Rausch moved the question, and there was a second. The motion to move the question passed unanimously.

The motion that the Secretary cast one vote in favor of endorsing Kamala Harris for President of the United States passed unanimously.

The Chair informed the Secretary that the body present, as well as those submitted digitally, had asked him to cast one ballot in favor of endorsing Kamala Harris for President of the United States.

The Secretary cast one ballot unanimously in favor of endorsing Kamala Harris for President of the United States.

The Chair informed the State Committee that there would be field opportunities over the weekend. The Chair introduced Paul Yorkis.

Paul Yorkis talked about the opportunity to raise money to support the Kamala Harris campaign and suggested that the Massachusetts State Committee establish a unique ActBlue account so that members can invest in the campaign.

The Chair announced that such an ActBlue link would be created. The Chair announced that grassroots fundraising for MassDems has increased sevenfold since Sunday. The Chair recognized Marsha Finkelstein.

Marsha Finkelstein encouraged members to canvass in New Hampshire.

The Chair recognized Steven Leibowitz.

Steven Leibowitz suggested that a similar Special Meeting be held after Kamala Harris announces her choice for Vice President.

The Chair recognized Carlos Da Silva.

Carlos Da Silva asked if there are opportunities to volunteer at the Democratic National Convention.

The Chair said that volunteer opportunities are likely closed. The Chair recognized Mabel Amar.

Mabel Amar asked if Vice President Harris was coming to Pittsfield.

The Chair announced that all tickets to the fundraiser were sold, but there would be standouts around the state, including rally placards that read Harris for President. The Chair recognized James Nash.

James Nash asked for an update on the Massachusetts delegates.

The Chair announced that the Massachusetts delegation unanimously voted to endorse Kamala Harris for President, including the alternates. The Chair recognized Bob Massie.

Bob Massie talked about the new era for the Democratic party, that when Kamala Harris becomes president, she will have three former Democratic presidents behind her.

The Chair recognized Marietta Rapetti Cawse.

Marietta Rapetti Cawse asked where the Harris for President posters would be.

The Chair recognized Sherwood Guernsey.

Sherwood Guernsey expressed excitement about Kamala Harris's event in Pittsfield, and talked about supporting the congressmen and senators in tight races.

The Chair recognized Michael Gilbreath.

Michael Gilbreath asked for clarification on Massachusetts delegates.

The Chair said that there are 116 delegates, 8 alternates, and Standing Committee members. The number of delegates is 124. The Chair recognized Russ Ashton.

Russ Ashton said that he would be willing to pay postage for signs to be sent to Martha's Vineyard.

The Chair announced that Doug Emhoff is coming to Martha's Vineyard on Monday. The Chair recognized Sharon Stout.

Sharon Stout announced that the volunteer link for the Convention was shut down, but said that other affiliations might work to get into Chicago.

The Chair recognized Brian Corr.

Brian Corr moved to adjourn, and the motion was seconded. The vote passed and the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee meeting was adjourned.