



Democratic State Committee Quarterly Meeting - Virtual

February 5, 2026 | Meeting Minutes

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

The Chair confirmed that a quorum was present.

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

The Chair asked that everyone observe a moment of silence for Tom Larkin of Bedford who passed since the last Democratic State Committee meeting.

The Chair welcomed Angus Abercrombie from the Young Democrats of Massachusetts, Akram Mchiti and Mandy Zhang from the College Democrats of Massachusetts, and Patrick Reed Lauren Peloquin from the High School Democrats of Massachusetts to the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee.

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

The Chair then gave the Chair's report. The Chair thanked everyone for all of their work in 2025, highlighted the success that the Organizing Team had in 2025, provided a budget overview for 2026, and highlighted areas of future investment.

The Chair recognized Michael Lanava who thanked the Chair for his report and made a motion to endorse the budget presented by the Chair.

The Chair recognized John Bowman who motioned that the Democratic State Committee establish a special budget subcommittee. The Chair asked if John Bowman was attempting to amend Michael Lanava's motion. John Bowman responded in the affirmative. The Chair further asked John Bowman how he intended to amend Michael Lanava's motion. John Bowman responded that he would motion to establish a subcommittee to develop and report a proposed FY26 budget for consideration for the next Democratic State Committee meeting. The Chair clarified that any motion to amend would need to be relevant to the motion that was actively being considered and, because this motion to amend was not related to the motion being considered, it was therefore not germane. John Bowman further motioned to refer this item to a subcommittee made up of members of the Democratic State Committee. The Chair further clarified that other members of the Democratic State Committee would have an opportunity to speak on Michael Lanava's motion, there would then be a vote on Michael Lanava's motion, and then the meeting would proceed as normal, during which there would be opportunities to make a motion.

The Chair recognized Julie Curtis who had a question regarding the budget. The Chair answered Julie Curtis' question.

The Chair recognized Angus Abercrombie who expressed concern regarding the brevity of the budget report and requested clarification on the use of consultants.

The Chair recognized Jack Perenick who made a point of order to expressed his belief that it was procedurally correct to vote on John Bowman's motion prior to Michael Lanava's motion.

The Chair recognized J. Michael Gilbreath who echoed the concerns of John Bowman, Angus Abercrombie, and Jack Perenick and spoke on why he supports their motion.

The Chair recognized David O'Brien who then made a motion to call the question on Michael Lanava's motion, which passed. There was then a voice vote on Michael Lanava's motion, which passed.

There was a motion and vote to suspend the rules to hear from guest speakers, which passed.

The Chair recognized State Representative Vanna Howard who was running to replace State Senator Edward Kennedy after his passing. State Representative Vanna Howard asked to take a moment to recognize State Senator Edward Kennedy. State Representative Vanna Howard spoke briefly about her election and asked for any support that the members of the Democratic State Committee could give.

The Chair thanked State Representative Vanna Howard, wished her luck, and spoke on efforts the Democratic State Committee was making to help get her elected.

The Chair recognized Jeremey Comeau who requested a roll call vote on Michael Lanava's motion. The Chair directed the staff to quickly create a virtual ballot so that the Democratic State Committee could hold a roll call vote on Michael Lanava's motion.

The Chair recognized Executive Director Adam Roof who explained how the voting process would work.

After several minutes of voting and ballot tallying, it was [determined](#) that the ayes were the majority on Michael Lanava's motion. The ayes were one hundred and twelve, the nays were fifty three, and the abstentions were eight.

The Chair then gave the Treasurer's Report.

The Chair recognized Lindsay Kenney who requested that consultant costs and staff costs be separated in future Treasurer's Reports.

The Chair recognized Andrew LaBerge who echoed Lindsay Kenney's request and also expressed concern about the use of consultants.

The Chair recognized Jeremy Comeau who asked how many unionized staff the party employs. The Chair responded that, excluding the Coordinated Campaign staff who are also unionized, the party employs five unionized staff members.

The Chair recognized Mel Poindexter who asked if future staffing hires had been factored into the budget. The Chair clarified that future Coordinated Campaign staff hires are accounted for, but are accounted for in a budget specifically for the Coordinated Campaign.

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

The Chair recognized Deputy Executive Director Alex Bausch to give the Caucus and Convention Update. Alex Bausch reminded everyone that the deadline to call a caucus was Thursday, February 12th at 5:00PM. Alex Bausch announced that, as of this meeting, four hundred and thirty nine caucuses had been scheduled and that the Organizing Team was aiming for over five hundred. Alex Bausch thanked Karen Payne and Mark Riley from the Field Services Subcommittee for their support and announced that the DTC Chair trainings were going well and that more were scheduled soon. Alex Bausch further reminded everyone that the Add-On delegate application deadline would be on March 27th at 5:00PM, that the delegate payment deadline would be May 1st, after which a late fee would apply, and, finally, that this convention would be two days, May 29th and 30th, in Worcester at the DCU Center. Alex Bausch finished by thanking Organizing Coordinator Caroline Williams for all of her help making this possible.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the Charter Amendments Subcommittee, Sandi Bagley, to give her subcommittee report. Sandi Bagley announced that the subcommittee would be meeting on February 10th to go over their process and then release that process for all shortly thereafter.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the Field Services Subcommittee, Karen Payne, to give her subcommittee report. Karen Payne thanked everyone on the Field Services Subcommittee who signed up to help with DTC Chair trainings and reminded all DTC Chairs present that the subcommittee had resources to support new chairs wherever they may be.

The Chair recognized the Co-Chairs of the JFK Scholarship Subcommittee, Charlotte Golar Richie and Max German, to give their subcommittee report. Max German announced they'd be doubling the size of the internship and spoke briefly on the work the current internship cohort was working on. Charlotte Golar Richie thanked the staff and subcommittee members for their help in recruiting for the internship and scholarship.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the Labor Subcommittee, Jim Pimental, to give his subcommittee report. Jim Pimental thanked the members of the Labor Subcommittee who met to go over priority legislation, ballot questions, and upcoming special elections. Jim Pimental also wanted to highlight Senate Bill 1318 and Senate Bill 1718 and thanked everyone for any assistance they could provide. Jim Pimental also highlighted recent Labor endorsements and a

successful election in Texas that was the result of focusing on pocketbook issues, where our main focus needs to be.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the LGBTQIA+ Outreach Subcommittee, Justin Klekota, to give his subcommittee report. Justin Klekota announced that the subcommittee had to reschedule their volunteer social due to inclement weather to February 28th and that phone banks would begin again on February 15th.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the Youth Outreach Subcommittee, Leslie Templeton, to give her subcommittee report. Leslie Templeton spoke about a DNC program called When We Count for youth organizers and encouraged everyone interested in this program to reach out to her.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the Women's Outreach Subcommittee, Claudia Pouravelis, to give her subcommittee report. Claudia Pouravelis announced that the Her Story interview series would be beginning again this spring.

The Chair then opened the floor to new business.

The Chair announced several Democratic State Committee seat openings: two Affirmative Action Add On Female, one Gay Add On Male, one Ballot Female Bristol & Norfolk Conference, one Caucus Female Second Essex and Middlesex Conference, and one Caucus Female First Essex and Middlesex. The Chair also announced that the next Democratic State Committee meeting would be on March 31st at 7:00PM at Worcester Technical High School.

The Chair recognized Claudia Pouravelis who asked for clarity on Democratic Town and Ward Committees endorsing candidates in contested Democratic primaries. The Chair clarified that endorsements in contested primaries were strongly discouraged.

The Chair recognized Dennis Naughton who expressed concern regarding the budget vote.

The Chair recognized Peter Bakula who had a question regarding amending the fifteen percent rule. The Chair directed Peter Bakula to the Charter Amendment Subcommittee.

The Chair recognized Secretary Joe Kaplan who expressed frustration regarding the lack of sufficient prior notice he received regarding John Bowman's motion.

The Chair recognized Jeremy Comeau who asked what the Democratic State Committee was doing to organize our base against ICE. The Chair said he'd follow up on this in the next few days.

The Chair recognized Jack Perenick who had a motion to amend the bylaws in Article 6 to allow for remote participation and asked that this be referred to the Bylaws Subcommittee. The Chair referred this motion to the Bylaws Subcommittee. The text of the motion is as follows:

"Amendment to Article VI of the Bylaws of the State Committee to insert after section (d), a new section:

Remote Participation

e. Meetings standing or special may be held in-person, hybrid, or via remote participation which shall be specified in the call of that meeting. Any member of the State Committee shall be entitled to participate via remote participation at a regular in-person meeting provided they notify the Chair and Secretary in advance of their inability to attend in-person; the Chair shall ensure the ability of members joining via remote participation to debate and participate in all recorded votes."

The Chair recognized Claire Naughton who had a question regarding the Democratic primary for Governor of Massachusetts. The Chair answered her question.

The Chair recognized Tom Ashe who made a motion to adjourn. The vote passed and the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee meeting was adjourned.