



Democratic State Committee Quarterly Meeting - In Person

March 31, 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 welcomed everyone to Worcester Technical High School and expressed excitement for the upcoming Massachusetts Democratic State Convention in Worcester on May 29th and 30th.

The Chair asked that everyone observe a moment of silence for former Deputy Treasurer Phyllis Tyler who passed since the last Democratic State Committee meeting.

The Chair then announced that three new Democratic State Committee members had been elected via the Senate District conference election process: Janice Phillips, North Andover, Second Essex and Middlesex - Eileen Duff, Gloucester, First Essex and Middlesex - Mary Flaherty, Attleboro, Bristol & Norfolk.

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

The Chair introduced State Senator Robyn Kennedy who welcomed everyone to Worcester on behalf of herself and State Representative James J. O'Day, who unfortunately was unable to attend. State Senator Robyn Kennedy expressed excitement about Worcester hosting the upcoming Massachusetts Democratic State Convention and encouraged everyone to take some time to experience the countless things that make Worcester beautiful. State Senator Robyn Kennedy emphasized the importance of the work that will need to happen over the next few months with regard to the ballot questions and the myriad of Democrats, both in state and out of state, that will be on the ballot in November. State Senator Robyn Kennedy further emphasized the importance of getting involved in campaigns so that we can elect Democrats at home and across the country. State Senator Robyn Kennedy concluded by thanking everyone for their work and for coming to Worcester.

The Chair introduced Representative Jim McGovern who began by thanking the Chair, the staff, and everyone on the Democratic State Committee for coming to Worcester, as well as for all of their hard work electing Democrats both at home and across the country. Representative Jim McGovern remarked that he was appalled and worried by Donald Trump's extremism and worried about Democratic backsliding in our country. Representative Jim McGovern further remarked that we should not be spending a billion dollars a day on an illegal war with Iran, but instead on helping to rebuild this country through affordable healthcare and affordable child

care. Representative Jim McGovern committed to doing everything in his power to fight Donald Trump and his administration in Washington. Representative Jim McGovern then reminded everyone that it is equally important to focus on what's happening in Massachusetts, to take nothing for granted, and to be prepared for everything, including electoral intimidation tactics from Donald Trump and his administration.

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

The Chair then gave the Chair's report. The Chair began by thanking everyone on the Democratic State Committee, the staff, and everyone who worked hard to pull off such a successful caucus season. The Chair announced that five hundred and fifteen caucuses had been held and that, including Add On Delegates to be approved later in the meeting, this year's Massachusetts Democratic State Convention would have more than five thousand attendees from every walk of life. The Chair further thanked everyone for their hard work electing Democrats.

The Chair gave the Treasurer's Report.

The Chair recognized Terry Altherr who asked if it would be possible to discuss expanding certain programs, such as the Joe Moakley Internship and JFK Scholarship stipend, at the appropriate time. The Chair that it would be possible, at the appropriate time, and that staff was proud to be actively expanding the Joe Moakley Internship and JFK Scholarship stipend to provide opportunities for students all year round.

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

The Chair then recognized Executive Director Adam Roof to give a budget presentation.

Executive Director Adam Roof gave a 2026 budget overview presentation.

Executive Director Adam Roof recognized Terry Altherr who asked if it would be possible to get a link to the budget presentation slide deck. Executive Director Adam Roof responded that the link would be included in a future Democratic State Committee email update.

Executive Director Adam Roof recognized Elaine Almquist who flagged that we are out of compliance with our Treasurer Training on the Office of Campaign and Political Finance website. Executive Director Adam Roof thanked Elaine Almquist for the flag and promised to bring that up with the Treasurer.

The Chair announced that the next item would be filling three Add On seats on the Democratic State Committee in the categories of Female Affirmative Action, of which there were two vacancies, and Gay Male, of which there was one vacancy. The Chair then opened the floor to candidates for the Female Affirmative Action seats who had submitted their letter of intent on time. Rani Balakrishna, Olevia Roof, and Regina Tillery were nominated. The Chair then opened the floor to candidates for the Gay Male seats who had submitted their letter of intent on

time. Evan LeBeau and Dylan Benson were nominated. Seeing all qualifying candidates had been nominated and appropriately seconded, the Chair closed the floor to further nominations.

The Chair announced that each candidate would have two minutes to speak to the Democratic State Committee about their candidacy. Rani Balakrishna spoke on her candidacy. Regina Tillery spoke on her candidacy. Olevia Roofe spoke on her candidacy. Dylan Benson spoke on his candidacy. Evan LeBeau spoke on his candidacy.

The Chair encouraged all candidates who are not elected to please stay involved with the Democratic State Committee, as there is a lot of work to do to elect Democrats. The Chair further emphasized that there many talented individuals currently making a huge difference without being elected members.

The Chair explained the rules by which the elections would be conducted.

After a ten minute window to vote in these elections, the Chair announced the approval of Add On Delegates. The Chair began by explaining the reasoning behind Add On Delegates and that the relevant subcommittees would give an Add On Delegate report.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the Disability Outreach Subcommittee, Kathleen McCarthy, to give her report. Kathleen McCarthy announced that the subcommittee has approved one hundred and five candidates for Disability Add On Delegate status. Kathleen McCarthy encouraged all Disability Add On Delegates to seek out assistance when needed and hopes everyone has a successful convention.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the LGBTQIA+ Outreach Subcommittee, Justin Klekota, to give his report. Justin Klekota announced that the subcommittee has approved one hundred and fifteen candidates for LGBTQIA+ Add On Delegate status.

The Chair recognized Vice Chair Leon Brathwaite to give a report for the Caucus of Democrats from Underrepresented Ethnic and Racial Groups (UREG). Vice Chair Leon Brathwaite announced that the subcommittee has approved one hundred and thirty six candidates for Underrepresented Ethnic Group Add On Delegate status.

The Chair recognized Co-Chairs of the Veterans Outreach Subcommittee, Chuck Battle and Christine Tron, to give their report. Chuck Battle announced that the subcommittee approved sixty three candidates for Veteran Add On Delegate status.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the Youth Outreach Subcommittee, Leslie Templeton, to give her report. Leslie Templeton announced that the subcommittee approved two hundred and two candidates for Youth Add On Delegate status.

There was a motion and a vote to approve the Add On Delegate candidates, which passed.

The Chair then announced Subcommittee reports would be next.

The Chair recognized Chair of the By Laws Subcommittee, Brian Corr, to give his subcommittee report. Brian Corr reported that the subcommittee [considered](#) an amendment to the By Laws that was submitted to them by the Democratic State Committee at its previous meeting and that a report for the committee's consideration on that By Laws amendment would be ready by the next Democratic State Committee meeting.

The Chair recognized Co-Chairs of the Charter Amendments Subcommittee, Sandi Bagley and Chris Matthews, to give their subcommittee report. Sandi Bagley announced that the Charters Amendment process would begin in April and would be identical to previous years. Chris Matthews reported that the deadline for Charter Amendments would be Tuesday, April 28th at 5:00PM.

The Chair recognized Dennis Naughton who asked that proposed amendments be provided to the Democratic State Committee members ahead of the actual meeting.

The Chair recognized the Co-Chair of the JFK Scholarship Subcommittee, Charlotte Golar Richie, to give her subcommittee report. Charlotte Golar Richie announced that the subcommittee would be doubling the number of applicants and that an application for the summer and fall internships was live. Charlotte Golar Richie also briefly described the application requirements and encouraged everyone on the Democratic State Committee to encourage young people they know to apply.

The Chair recognized Co-Chair of the Campaign Services Subcommittee, Amanda Smith, to give her subcommittee report. Amanda Smith flagged that there will be a subcommittee meeting on April 28th at 7:00PM to discuss action through November and encouraged everyone to join.

The Chair then opened the floor to new business.

The Chair recognized Lauren Mattison who motioned that the Democratic State Committee formally oppose the ballot question to implement all party state primaries, also known as jungle primaries, in Massachusetts.

The Chair recognized Vice Chair Debra Kozikowski who motioned to make the following friendly amendment to Lauren Mattison's motion: that a draft version first be brought before the Democratic State Committee and a virtual vote, ideally by email, take place to ensure expediency.

The Chair recognized Jack Perenick who, in accordance with the standing rules, made a motion to authorize electronic voting on this matter.

The Chair recognized Terry Altherr who asked if this could be to the Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. The Chair clarified that it could not.

The Chair recognized State Representative Tommy Vitolo who asked Lauren Mattison if she considered Vice Chair Debra Kozikowski's proposed amendment friendly. The Chair asked State Representative Tommy Vitolo's question to Lauren Mattison and she responded yes.

The Chair recognized Terry Altherr who expressed hesitation on approving this motion as he is aware of several Democratic elected officials who are in favor of the ballot question. Terry Alther requested that, if the motion against the ballot question is passed, that the Democratic State Committee try to get as much support from the base as possible. Vice Chair Debra Kozikowski then asked Terry Altherr to reach out to her regarding bringing this to the Massachusetts Democratic State Convention.

The Chair recognized Jack Perenick who, pursuant to the standing rules, motioned to authorize emergency voting on Lauren Mattison's motion. There was a vote on this motion, which passed.

The Chair announced that he, the staff, and the Resolutions Subcommittee would follow up with everyone on Lauren Mattison's motion shortly.

The Chair recognized Jack Perenick who motioned to amend standing rule 97-1 by inserting after "7:00 PM" the following: "on weeknights and 10:00 AM on weekends for standing meetings; the Executive Committee or the State Committee may suspend this rule by majority vote." Chair of the By Laws Subcommittee, Brian Corr, clarified that Jack's amendment has not, at the moment, been considered by the subcommittee.

The Chair recognized Terry Altherr who had a logistical question on how Lauren Mattison's motion would be relayed to all of the committee members. The Chair answered his question.

There was a vote on Jack's motion, which passed.

The Chair recognized Norma Shulman who thanked the Democratic State Committee for endorsing same day voter registration and notified everyone that a hearing took place at the State House regarding same day voter registration. The Chair thanked Norma Shulman and agreed to send out the links to view the hearing, as well as submit written testimony.

The Chair announced the resignation of Olivia Soolman from a Female College Add On seat and that letters of intent for this position would be due at a later date. The Chair further announced that the Summer Democratic State Committee meeting would be held on Saturday, September 19th.

The Chair recognized Jeff Feldman who presented two retired fire fighters, Michael Murphy and William Gates, who will be working to elect William Gates to the Senate.

The Chair announced that Dylan Benson was elected to the Gay Male seat by a vote of 152-52. The Chair thanked everyone and asked Evan LeBeau to please let him know of any way he would like to stay active in the state committee.

The Chair recognized Jack Perenick who asked if it would be possible to get an update on the national Democratic Party from the DNC members. The Chair announced that he and some members would be going to a DNC and Association of State Democratic Committees (ASDC) meeting to go over a few items and attend trainings. The Chair further announced that the DNC Rules and Bylaws Committee would be meeting to go over the presidential election schedule.

Finally, the Chair announced that people working for Boston 2028, a group trying to bring the Democratic National Convention to Boston, would also be in attendance at the DNC and ASDC trying to promote Boston.

The Chair also announced that the Democratic State Committee is putting on a program to bring youth between eighteen and twenty two to convention to attend trainings and volunteer.

The Chair announced that Oliva Roofe and Rani Balakrishna had been elected to the Affirmative Action female seats by a vote of 139-133-102. The Chair thanked Regina Tillery and asked her to please let him know of any way she would like to stay active in the state committee.

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