



Democratic State Committee Quarterly Meeting - Virtual

April 23, 2026 | Meeting Minutes

Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Steve Kerrigan called the meeting to order and led committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chair confirmed that a quorum was present.

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

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

The Chair recognized Mabel Amar, who asked whether there would be an opportunity for questions following the presentation. The Chair indicated that there would and that the meeting had not reached that portion of the agenda.

The Chair recognized Brian Corr to give the Bylaw Subcommittee report. Brian Corr reported that the Bylaw Subcommittee met on March 24th to consider a proposed amendment to the Article 6 of the bylaws regarding remote participation at State Committee meetings. The amendment had originally been offered by Jack Perenick at the February meeting and referred to the subcommittee. The Bylaw Subcommittee voted thirteen in favor, four opposed, and one abstention to forward the amendment to the full committee with a favorable recommendation. The report included discussion regarding remote participation, the accessibility and cost of attending weeknight meetings, the possibility of holding more meetings on Saturdays, during the daytime, and the challenges members face in attending meetings in person.

The Chair recognized Martina Jackson, who made a motion to accept the Bylaw Subcommittee report and amend the bylaws accordingly. The motion was seconded. During discussion, Kara Le Treize raised concerns about delays in the muting and unmuting process and asked that members have a way to communicate with staff through the chat when experiencing technical difficulties. Kathie McCarthy spoke in support of the amendment, emphasizing accessibility and the ability of members with legitimate scheduling conflicts to participate remotely. Drew Russo spoke in support of the motion and said that, if hybrid meetings were to continue, the committee should improve the technology and seek venues that could accommodate the technological requirements. Jeremy Comeau also spoke in support of the amendment and raised concerns about the process for making points of order or privilege and the difficulty of conducting voice votes remotely, suggesting that the committee consider other electronic voting methods. Carol Ann Aloisi asked about the process for notifying the Chair and Secretary of remote participation and whether the Secretary would have a designated email for that purpose. Dan Kelly spoke in support of the motion but advocated for holding State Committee meetings on Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM rather than weeknights to make in-person attendance more accessible.

Jack Perenick spoke in support of the motion and explained that the proposed language was intentionally broad regarding written notice and that adopting the amendment would allow the committee to establish standing rules for the conduct of future meetings. Kevin Costa spoke in opposition to the amendment, expressing concern that increased reliance on hybrid meetings could reduce in-person participation and the benefits of meeting together in person. Joe Kelly called the question. There was a vote to close debate, which passed. Following the vote to close debate, the committee voted on the proposed bylaw amendment, which passed.

The Chair then recognized Joe Kelly to give the Resolutions Subcommittee report. Joe reported that the Resolutions Subcommittee met on April 4th, 6th, and 8th to discuss and draft a resolution regarding ballot question 25-12 concerning the implementation of all-party primaries in Massachusetts. The subcommittee met again on April 13th to vote on the resolution and, following extensive discussion and procedural motions, adopted it by a vote of twenty-one in favor and three opposed. The Resolution Subcommittee recommended that the Massachusetts Democratic State Committee oppose ballot question 25-12, the Initiative Petition for a Law to Implement All-Party State Primaries, Version B.

Michael Lanava then made a motion to limit discussions of the resolution to five speakers per side, with speakers alternating and each speaker limited to two minutes. The motion passed. Lauren Mattison subsequently made a motion to accept the Resolution Subcommittee report and adopt the resolution. The motion passed, and the Chair established the procedure for discussion.

The committee then heard discussion on the resolution. Rhonda Bourne spoke in opposition to the resolution and read a statement from Steve Grossman in support of all-party primaries. Lauren Mattinson spoke in support of the resolution, citing concerns about whether all-party primaries would increase fairness and inclusion.

Bob Massie raised a point of order and made a motion to suspend the rules and move consideration of the matter to the Democratic State Convention. The Chair consulted Parliamentary Jim Roosevelt, who determined that the motion to move the matter to the convention was not in order. The Chair ruled the motion out of order, and Bob Massie continued his remarks in opposition to the resolution.

Vice Chair Deb Kozikowski spoke in support of the resolution and in opposition to the ballot question, stating that Massachusetts already has a system in which unenrolled voters may participate in either party's primary. Nazda Alam spoke in opposition to the resolution and in support of the ballot question, arguing that an all-party primary could expand participation and representation among women, immigrants, and people of color. Jack Perenick spoke in support of the resolution, expressing concerns about the potential effects of a top-two primary system and citing California as an example.

Danielle Allen raised a point of order, stating that Bob Massey had made a valid motion to suspend the rules that would have allowed multiple motions, including a motion to amend the convention order of business to include a vote on the matter, and that there should have been

an opportunity for the motion to be seconded. The Chair paused the proceedings to consult with Parliamentarian Jim Roosevelt. Jim Roosevelt stated that the motion to suspend the rules of the Democratic State Committee would have been in order, but that it was unclear what rule was being suspended. The Chair stated that the motions were not in order and that he understood Bob Massey to have moved on to his comments after the ruling. Danielle Allen then proceeded with her allotted speaking time.

Danielle Allen spoke in opposition to the resolution and in support of the ballot question, arguing that the proposal could increase competitiveness and voter participation, particularly among communities that currently have lower participation. Norma Shulman spoke in support of the resolution, arguing that primary elections are intended to nominate each party's candidate and suggesting other reforms to address concerns with the current primary system. Brian Dunn spoke in support of the resolution, citing concerns about the ability of Republican voters to influence Democratic nominees, increased campaign costs, and the experience of California.

Following the discussion, there was a vote on the Resolution Subcommittee report on the resolution opposing ballot question 25-12, which passed.

Following the vote, Stephen Driscoll raised concerns about the timing of notice for State Committee meetings and the difficulty of attending Saturday morning meetings for members traveling from the Cape, Islands, Gloucester, Newburyport, and other areas of the Commonwealth. Terry Altherr asked whether the issue could also be introduced as a separate item of business at the Democratic State Convention. The Chair recommended that members consult the rules of the convention. Julie Curtis thanked Joe Kelly for his work leading the three Resolutions Subcommittee meetings and for explaining the resolution.

Brian Corr made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.