



## **Democratic State Committee Meeting**

*April 20, 2022 | Meeting Minutes*

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Massachusetts Democratic Party Chair Gus Bickford reviewed the check in process for the meeting, reminding members to check into the meeting via email or through the link in the chat and confirm their attendance was recorded at [massdems.org/dscmeeting](https://massdems.org/dscmeeting). The Chair also reviewed the zoom functions of raising your hand and reminded members to contact their PMAs if they need assistance. Bickford reviewed voting, which can take place via voice vote, the zoom polling function, or a formal ballot.

The Chair called the meeting to order and recognized Maria Robinson to lead the pledge of allegiance. Since the committee was checking in via Google form, the Chair dispensed with the roll call.

The Chair instructed everyone to take a moment of silence to recognize Avram Goldberg, father of Secretary of State Deb Goldberg and Vice Chair Emeritus Ray Jordan, who have passed away.

Bickford reviewed the meeting's agenda. Elections will be held to fill 4 add-on state committee seats and elect add-on delegates for the convention. Subcommittee reports will also be heard and so will candidates for the state convention.

Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor's pre-recorded statements were played.

The Chair went over the Treasurer's report for the Party's budget and the convention's expenses.

Elections were held for four new queer seats for the DSC state committee. Harper McMurray, Samantha Kelly, Andrew Carter, and Haley Kelly were elected.

Leon Brathwaite was recognized by the Chair to deliver the report of the Caucus of Minority Democrats. The Caucus worked to verify the ethnicity and registration status of applicants to be add-on delegates. Brathwaite recommended that future applications have a required field for verification of Democratic registration and ethnic identification.

The Chair recognized Colleen Flanagan to deliver the report of the Disability Outreach Subcommittee. The Subcommittee voted and approved their list of add-on delegates. The Chair made an administrative amendment to add an additional delegate who was overlooked to the list.



The Chair recognized Diego Sanchez and Tanya Neslusan to deliver the report of the LGBT+ Subcommittee. They worked to verify their add-on applicants' status.

Lezlie Braxton Cambell of the Youth Subcommittee was not able to be present at the meeting, so Chair Gus Bickford delivered the committee's report. Add-on applications must still be verified to make sure they are registered Democrats.

A motion was made to accept all add-on delegates that have been verified. A discussion ensued to make sure applicants were not erroneously removed from any of the lists of delegates. The add-on delegates were approved by the State Committee.

The Chair recognized Bill Eddy of the Rules Committee to report. The Rules Committee put forward a vaccine mandate for the Convention based on the CDC definition of fully vaccinated as two shots of Moderna or Pfizer or one shot of Johnson & Johnson. The motion was made and seconded for the vaccine mandate. A discussion ensued on why boosters were not required for the convention. A motion was made to require boosters. This was debated, as there is the question of eligibility of how many boosters should be mandated. The motion was adjusted to require attendees to have received all of the doses they are eligible to receive based on age. An amendment was also made to require masks in the convention hall. The motion was passed.

Bill Eddy continued his report. The convention will have two ballots, one with the Secretary of State, Auditor, and Attorney General candidates. Each candidate will have a twelve minute presentation. When those ballots are being counted, there will be a second ballot for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Those candidates will be given fifteen minutes each for their presentations.

The Chair recognized the Affirmative Action Outreach committee to deliver their report. They encouraged members of the state committee to sign up for DEI training. Carol Copeland Thomas, the MassDems' DEI Consultant went over the training's comprehensive approach to diversity equity and inclusion. It is timely regarding the critical race theory lawsuit that has been filed in Ludlow, Mass. The training will also address disability issues, which are often overlooked in DEI training.

The Chair recognized Jim Pimentel of the Labor Outreach Subcommittee to report. The committee discussed the 2022 ballot questions in their last meeting, including the gig economy amendment, which could be thrown out. They also discussed the Taunton city charter and the organizing of nurses and New Bedford tech school educators.

The Chair recognized Amanda Smith of the Campaign Services Subcommittee to report. The DNC Organizing Hub is held virtually on Saturdays from 3-4:30pm to phonebank for Democratic



candidates both in state and out of state. The DNC also has a national call-crew to make calls for candidates around the country.

The Rural Outreach Subcommittee was recognized to report. They addressed the increased amount of attacks directed at rural Democrats from Trump-affiliated organizations. They also addressed the increased amount of pressures on rural Democrats in all aspects, especially regarding school boards and election boards.

The Women's Outreach Subcommittee was recognized to report. They had a conversation about women's history month with state rep Maria Robinson and the AAPI caucus. They also hosted Miranda Lee of Organize New Hampshire to discuss strategies on how to help women get elected in New Hampshire.

The Public Policy Subcommittee was recognized to report. The committee will meet to discuss the climate crisis.

Resolutions for the convention will be submitted by Wednesday May 4th. The Subcommittee will meet following that and signature gathering will follow for resolutions to be considered. The final report will be sent to delegates on Tuesday May 24th and voting will be held from May 24th to May 31st.

The Field Services Subcommittee was recognized to report. They are working to update the Chair's manual and trainings for delegates and alternates for the convention.

The JFK Scholarship Subcommittee was recognized to report. They listed the names of the JFK Scholarship and Joe Moakley Internship recipients of this spring.

The Charter Amendment Subcommittee was recognized to report. They will be meeting on May 7th and May 9th.

The Credentials Subcommittee was recognized to report. They recommended that the Rules Committee clear up language of the rules regarding over-electing delegates.

The Chair recognized DNC Members to report. They heard remarks from President Biden, VP Harris, and Sen. Markey. They also heard from young officials, including Boston City Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune. They passed resolutions to support Judge Jackson's nomination to the SCOTUS, solidarity with Ukraine and support for transgender youth. They also discussed adjusting the primary and caucus schedule for 2024 to improve diversity and inclusion. Additional listening sessions will be held on this topic.

The chair recognized Jeremy Comeau to discuss new business. He motioned that the MassDems support the Mass state house union and organizers for better pay and benefits for



staff working for elected representatives and senators and send a letter to the General Court AFL CIO and IBEW reflecting this motion. The motion is passed.

Secretary of State, Attorney General, and Auditor candidates' pre-recorded statements were played.

The chair thanked the PMAs of the meeting and announced that the summer meeting of the DSC will be in September on the Saturday following the primary in the Springfield area. This will be the DSC's first hybrid meeting.

