

Waltham Democratic City Committee Meeting Minutes
19-Sep-2024
6:30-7:45 pm

Attendees:

Tom Benavides
Susan Burstein
Stacy Fatale
Andrew Fintzel
Carol Gill
Deb Herman
Susan Kramer
Scott O'Neil
Nancy Pratt
Clarence Richardson
Christopher Romero
Cynthia Salamanis
Nadene Stein
Jean Vallon
Stewart Woodward
James Zanghi

- The June 2024 minutes were approved.
- Financial Update
 - \$2994 in the bank, Office of Campaign & Political Finance documents have been filed.
- Ways to get involved
 - Phone banks for races in NH
 - Local campaign for Tom Stanley
 - Campaign for Sen. Warren
 - We can order Harris lawn signs through the Newton Democratic Committee
- General Election
 - Campaign for Democrats in contested elections:
 - Tom Stanley for Representative in General Court
 - Maria Curtatone for Register of Deeds
 - “Vote Blue” yard signs, contact Andrew Fintzel if interested.
 - City is looking for paid election day workers.
 - <https://www.city.waltham.ma.us/home/news/do-you-want-to-enjoy-a-fun-day-serving-your-community-meeting-new-people-and-earning-some>
- Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Sat., November 9th, time TBA.
- Housing Panel Update
 - November 14

- Confirmation received from panelists: Policy Director of CHAPA (Citizens Housing and Planning Association), state housing director, WATCH, and a consultant for towns in the region for impact of policies.
- Committee is working on promotions for the event.
- Holiday Party Date: December 11 or 19th?
- New form for nominating Heroes will be on the Watch City Dems website soon.
- Signup for tours of the new High School is currently full. New dates will be announced on the City of Waltham Website.
 - <https://www.city.waltham.ma.us/home/news/waltham-residents-can-now-sign-up-for-a-guided-tour-of-the-new-waltham-high-school>
- Next in person WDC meeting proposed for October 10.

Ballot Questions

If you have not received your Information for Voters booklet, it can be found on-line here. There are versions in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Khmer, Large Type, and ASL.

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divisions/elections/research-and-statistics/information-for-voters-2002-present.htm>

- Question 1. State Auditor's Authority to Audit the Legislature
- Question 2. Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement
 - James Zanghi, Waltham School Committee, spoke on the importance of a YES vote.
 - Vote Yes to eliminate MCAS as a graduation requirement. We cannot eliminate test because of federal funding. It will be used to evaluate students without high stakes.
 - While MA ranks high in education, MCAS works against people who do not test well (e.g. ELL, disabled).
 - It is not a good indicator of performance.
 - If you would like to take part in canvassing in Waltham, contact James Zanghi.
- Question 3. Unionization for Transportation Network Drivers
- Question 4. Limited Legalization and Regulation of Certain Natural Psychedelic Substances.
- Question 5. Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.