

Waltham Democratic City Committee Meeting Minutes
4/16/2026
6:00-7:33 pm

Attendees:	
Susan Burstein Christina Curtin Yvenel Elisnord Andrew Fintzel Jo Fletcher Carol Gill	Susan Kramer Joanne Pohl Nancy Pratt Cynthia Salamanis Nadene Stein Paul Wiolbur

- The March 2026 minutes were approved.
- Jonathan Paz, Congressional Candidate
 - Paz is a Progressive candidate who believes that it is not enough to run against Trump. We need to decide what we stand for. We can't try to patch old systems. We need to create new systems that work for the people.
 - Abolish ice. We need to rebuild the Immigration system to support dreamers and create a path to amnesty. It was never a priority and now we are paying the price
 - The country needs to invest in healthcare for all.
 - Common concerns in our district are the economy, ICE, and the Iran war.
 - We need to stop funding the war and ICE so that we can fund new programs that support people, a "Green New Deal" for new and public housing.
 - For more information
 - info@Pazforthepeople.com
 - <https://www.Pazforthepeople.com>
- District Attorney Marian Ryan, running for re-election
 - Middlesex County is larger than some states. We currently have the lowest crime rates ever. It is one of the safest counties in the US. This is freeing up resources to work on clearing cold cases.
 - We have low opiate related deaths.
 - We have passed a new gun control bill making ghost guns illegal. Drive by shootings used to be a misdemeanor. They are now felonies. There is a ballot question this year to repeal this gun law. It is worded oddly in order to be confusing.
 - A bill was passed to protect people from sexual assault by doctors.
 - There is a law suit against ICE and an injunction to prevent ICE from entering the court room. ICE is getting in the way of prosecuting crimes. People are being taken during trials without resolution.
 - Protect Act will make people feel safe in courts, schools, churches.
 - Ryan stressed the importance of people protesting and being seen.
 - She believes that someday this will end. We need to show young people hope.
 - Ryan supports a program to empower citizens. It works with kids to teach them that we have rights but we also have obligations. Students learn the importance

of voting, understanding civics, and helping neighbors. The program gives kids an active practice to work on.

- Ryan supports a victim centered office; trying to give people what they need
- She is one of the few women in this job. Representation is important.
- She believes in restorative justice, mindful of how people re-enter society.
- While the state has jurisdiction over murder, if ICE removes their case to federal court, they can be pardoned.
- We hold law enforcement accountable, charges are posted, shootings investigated, and findings are presented to a judge with family and officer present. Everything is posted on the website. Totally transparent
- Fatalities of young people are studied to see how we can prevent these from happening.
- For more information: <https://www.marianryan.org>
- There are many Questions on the ballot. We need to look at the referendum language. The wording is very confusing on purpose.
- Allysa Schmidt, The Frederick Douglass Project
 - The visitors will meet with an ambassador, sit down as a group, introductions, breakout groups, start with facilitated questions, about an hour, reflections, and maybe a tour.
 - The registration process includes security forms, official ID, SSN, and background checks. This process takes about 2-3 weeks.
 - We will have a Doodle poll to get groups together
 - For more information: <https://douglassproject.org>
- Adopt-a-District Project
 - A rubric was created to evaluate campaigns
 - A list of 3 districts will be presented at the May meeting for discussion
- Last chance to register for Heroes Awards celebration
 - We need volunteers at 10am to set up, break down after
- Special elections for Vice Chair and Affirmative Action/Outreach coordinator, nominations on May 21, elections in June.
- Next WDCC meeting will be on May 21, in person at the Clark Government Center

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.