



Hingham Democratic Town Committee
Minutes, September 10, 2026, 7:00pm
Hingham Public Library

Attendance: Jessica Bounagurio; Henry Buckley; John Deeley; Jocelyn Dunphy; Michael Herde; Crystal Kelly; Joe Kelly; Anne Koteen-Leland; John Slater; Kathy Swanson; Nina Villanova; Paula Villanova; Mary Grace Whalen; Barbara Abbott; Yvette Kanter; Fred Studley (16 Full members; 1 Associate Member)

Minutes: Minutes of July 09, 2026, meeting approved.

Membership Report: Joe Kelly reported that James Henry Byrne and Mary Loftus Levine resigned. John Mooney, after nomination, discussion and unanimous vote, was elected to Full membership, resulting in 33 Full members, plus two 20-year+ members, and 7 Associate members, as well as ex officio members. Barbara Abbott was identified as a candidate for Full membership at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Crystal Kelly on behalf of Stephanie Gertz reported that the Committee has \$3,647.44 in the bank. The Committee discussed the purpose of the HDTC - to support and elect Democrats - and, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously supported, agreed (a) to donate \$1,000 to the Driscoll campaign related to the fundraiser held in Plymouth on August 27; and (b) to donate \$1,000 to **Rhonda Nyman's September 17 5:30pm Fundraiser Reception** at the Olde Hitching Post, 48 Spring Street, Hanson, MA. **Rhonda Nyman** joined HDTC's June 9 meeting and introduced herself and her experience as a select board member, state legislator and now seeking to contribute as a Democrat on the **Plymouth County Commission**. State Rep Joan Meschino noted that she's endorsed Rhonda Nyman for the role and the critical importance of getting the vote out to support Democrats in local races, such as Rhonda's, and also of providing financial support for these candidates.

Democratic State Committee: J Deeley reported that the State Committee will meet on the University of Massachusetts Boston campus on September 19. The meeting is open to the public and anyone wishing more information should feel free to contact **John Deeley** or the **Democratic State Committee website**.

State Committee member Joe Kelly reported has been tasked with leading a working group to develop positions on the **9 ballot questions coming to a vote in November**. The Committee already has formed a position *against all party primaries (question 3)* and in *support of same day vote registration (question 4)*. The group will meet

September 12 at 12:00pm, September 14 at 7:00pm and September 16 at 4:00pm, and plans to make its proposal by Thursday, September 17. **Email** Joe or click **here** for additional information. John Deeley reported that Weymouth Town Committee plans to host a forum on the ballot questions on September 29. Contact John Deeley for additional information. Finally, South Shore News is running a series on **The November Nine Ballot Questions**.

South Shore Democratic Caucus State Political Action Committee: Ellen Whalen has been elected interim Vice Chair and has agreed to serve until January, following the untimely passing of Chris Matthews. Anyone interested in serving as one of Hingham's 3 representatives should contact Crystal Kelly.

John Deeley reported that at the last meeting of the State PAC the group discussed the establishment of a physical shared Coordinated Campaign Office at 988 Plain Street in Marshfield. A motion to donate \$250 to the Marshfield Democratic Town Committee to defray costs associated with this office, following discussion, did not pass.

John also reported that Weymouth Town Committee is developing a plan to support candidates in competitive races on the South Shore.

South Shore Democratic Caucus Federal Political Action Committee plans to knock doors in NY for the US Congressional race District 17. Additional information can be found **here**.

Unity Rally: Crystal Kelly led a discussion about the importance of Hingham Democrats coming together post-primary and supporting the Democratic ticket. Various committee members discussed the criticality of two races - **Healey for Governor** and **Rhonda Nyman for Plymouth County Commissioner**. State Rep Joan Meschino elaborated on this further, noting that in mid-term elections, Democratic votes must turn out to support their candidates. Another committee member explained that when an official wins their race by a large margin, it sends a message to potential challengers, whereas a close race gives hope to potential challengers. Another member noted that for positions like Congressman Stephen Lynch and State Representative Joan Meschino, Hingham's support sends a message that the town's voters matter, which can be helpful when the town comes to one of those officials with a request for federal or state assistance, e.g. with funding for seawalls or a Home Rule petition to support a bond issuance by the town. A committee member noted that Hingham follows only Weymouth and Marshfield in turning out voters, meaning its citizens' votes make a difference in elections. A committee member noted that Trump received 40% of Hingham's vote, a result made

possible by low Democratic voter turnout. Another committee member noted these are not ordinary times and now, more than ever, Democrats need to stick together.

The discussion led to a motion that HDTC sponsor a unity rally, supporting all Democratic candidates, at a date, time and place to be confirmed by the Executive Committee. As part of the discussion, the idea of two rallies - one on a weekend and one on a weekday during the daily commute - was advanced. Also as part of the discussion, a suggestion to sponsor the event(s) close to the start of voting. Following seconding of the motion and discussion, HDTC voted unanimously to support one or more unity rallies at dates, times and places to be confirmed by the Executive Committee.

Fundraising: Joe Kelly reported that the **Healey/Driscoll campaign** has approved the creation of “Hingham for Healey Driscoll” yard signs (exact wording TBD). HDTC will purchase the signs and sell them, along with the commitment to install them in peoples’ yards. Upon motion made to work with MassDems and the Healey/Driscoll campaign to make HDTC / Hingham for Healey Driscoll yard signs and to sell them as a fundraiser, seconded and following discussion, HDTC voted unanimously to support this initiative.

Bridge Brigade: Jess Bounagurio reported that 10 joined the Labor Day stand out, which focused on thanking union workers and emphasizing that union labor built this country. Response was consistently positive. The next standouts are Saturday, Oct. 3, promoting Get out the Vote, and Saturday, October 17, as part of the National Bridge Brigade No Kings / Vote Early. Contact Jess by **email** for more information.

Indivisible Hingham/Hull: Kathy Swanson reported that standouts continue every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 with approximately 100 participants. She noted that they’re fun, positive and communicating the message. Contact Kathy by **email** for more information, or just show up!

Upcoming Meetings: October 8 and November 19 (not the 12th, due to a scheduling conflict at the Library). Both meetings at the Hingham Public Library.

Meeting adjourned: 8:31 PM.