

CDCC Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]  
April 7, 2020, 7pm

- I. The first virtual meeting of the Cambridge Democrats was called to order by Chair Warren Behr. By voice vote, the rules were suspended to avoid calling of the role, and minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting were approved.
- II. Officer reports: Warren Behr hoped for the forbearance of all assembled in this our first Zoom meeting of the CDCC. Secretary David Lakeman thanked the ward chairs for providing updated membership information. Treasurer Bill McAvinney alerted us to the likelihood that our fundraiser this year will also be virtual, and asked for volunteers to help organize it. Bill also pointed out that our budget for the upcoming year will not look like the budget for a typical election year, because we will most likely be unable to open a physical office. Our current in-the-bank balance is a little under \$29,000.
- III. Warren Behr explained the rules and procedures governing tonight's officer elections, which will fill for a one-year term the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Affirmative Action & Outreach Advisor. During a short question period, some members expressed unhappiness with the legal requirement that we hold elections now, instead of being allowed to wait until an in-person meeting is feasible.
- IV. Officer Elections: For each officer position, only one nomination was offered from the floor, and each nominee was elected by voice vote. Therefore, the officers newly elected for a one-year term are:  
  
Chair: Warren Behr  
Vice Chair: Elizabeth Baldwin  
Secretary: David Lakeman  
Treasurer: Bill McAvinney  
Affirmative Action & Outreach Advisor: George Varghese
- V. Announcements: Member of the Democratic State Committee, Former State Representative, and Mayor Forever Alice Wolf reported on the recent meeting of the State Committee, at which it was decided to cancel the state convention this year because of the pandemic. At this meeting it was agreed that both Ed Markey and Joe Kennedy will be on the ballot for the September primary. Alice went on to explain the new process for selection of delegates to the Democratic National Convention, which will now be by ballot instead of in-person caucuses. She also thanked Jim Roosevelt for his leadership in both the State Committee and the Democratic National Committee.
- VI. Clerk of Courts Michael Sullivan asked to bring up as new business a resolution supporting a reduction in the number of signatures required for both state and federal candidates to qualify for the ballot, because the pandemic makes it hard to get signatures. The membership voted

unanimously to consider this new business, former chair Brian Corr formulated the text of an appropriate motion, and thus the following motion was unanimously approved and will be transmitted to our elected officials who are considering relevant legislation:

The Cambridge Democratic City Committee expresses strong support for the legislature significantly reducing the number of signatures required for federal and state candidates in 2020 to get on the ballot in light of the current public health emergency, and to support our democracy.

An email with links for gathering signatures for the various campaigns will be sent out to the CDCC email list.

- VII. Our speaker, homeland security expert Juliette Kayyem, told us that because the United States squandered eight weeks in January and February that could have been used to prepare testing, increase hospital capacity, and coordinate with state governments, we are now left with only one tool in the toolbox, which is what we're doing now — social distancing. We have no national standard, and no country that has successfully fought this has done it without strong national leadership. Now we are facing a surge in Massachusetts — this won't last forever, but it will last for a while, and colleges and schools aren't going to be able to reopen before the end of the school year.

The “new normal” is still 18–24 months away. That's the vaccine — first is finding a vaccine, which is great but isn't the whole story because after you have a vaccine you have to do testing, manufacturing, and distribution. There will be many equity issues and ethical issues involved in the distribution of vaccine, both here in the U.S. and worldwide. This stage will definitely be after the upcoming election.

Between where we are now and where we're going is what Juliette calls the “adaptation phase.” This is a way to think about how we're going to live with and manage the virus, and will be like nothing we have experienced before. Every disaster in our experience has a response and a recovery, but this disaster will also have a very long adaptation phase, which will last 18–24 months until the vaccine. We will need to adapt on a daily basis to where the virus is and our response must change accordingly, and it will feel a little like whack-a-mole. We will have better testing and better treatments and better tools as time goes on, and these better tools will help us to live with and manage with the virus — because we're going to have it until the vaccine is widely distributed.

We are facing a mass-casualty event, whether the final death toll is 100,000 or 200,000 or higher — and we need to prepare for this in terms of what that means for communities and what it means for us as a nation. And if all goes well politically, Democrats will inherit this and have to unwind and reassert the emergency management processes that were so damaged during this presidency.

- VIII. After a lively question-and-answer period, the meeting was adjourned.