

NBI# 36

2024 FORM FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

Stop endorsements of corporate parties and build an independent political party in Massachusetts 4/26/24, 3:44 PM

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|-------------------------------|------|-------|------------------------------------|
| NBI Name | | | Date and Time |
| Miranda Alpert | | | Sharon Teachers Association |
| Delegate Making the Motion | Cell | Email | Association Represented or Retired |
| Joe Herosy | | | Retired |
| Delegate Seconding the Motion | Cell | Email | Association Represented or Retired |

According to the MTA Standing/Special Rules:
With the exception of items on the agenda, all substantive motions shall be submitted in writing to the Presiding Officer.

MOTION

MOVED:

Our union will discontinue all endorsements of, and financial support for, the two corporate parties, both Democratic and Republican. Both oppose public-sector workers having the right to strike for better working and living conditions. Instead, our union will only support politically independent pro-labor candidates, free from corporate funding or influence. This could include members of the MTA and other labor and community organizations who run independently from any corporate party and who promote union rights, including legislation for the right to strike without restriction.

SUBMITTER’S RATIONALE:

We must stop endorsing and financially supporting the two corporate parties. Republican and Democratic politicians don’t serve the interests of working people; they undermine our and other unions’ efforts to improve living standards. They’ve removed or reduced our access to reproductive care, closed hospitals and birth centers, cut staffing in the healthcare and education sectors, blocked workers from striking, and much more. Massachusetts is virtually a one-party state with a Democratic-Party governor, control of the legislature, and most local city councils and school districts. The MTA-endorsed Democratic governor Maura Healey has consistently stated her support for maintaining the ban on public-sector strikes. Additionally, Healey, and both the Democratic and Republican Parties in the state legislature, passed a big tax break for the rich last year – to the tune of \$400 million via changes to the small capital gains tax and the estate tax, then proposed \$294 million in cuts to Medicare and social services this past January. On a local level, many school districts, such as in Braintree and Andover, are forcing through budget cuts and layoffs. The completely blue Boston City Council voted on a budget that threatens job cuts at 70% of the district’s schools. These cuts are also being made despite the existence of plenty of money, including a quickly growing \$8.2 billion state Rainy Day Fund, which generates \$250 million in interest annually. There’s also a new revenue stream earmarked for education and transportation from the 2022 “Fair Share” ballot referendum initiated by the MTA which won a 4% surtax on annual income above \$1 million. Those funds should be used to prevent budget cuts, to give educators increased pay, and to improve staffing and programs. We should fight for our communities to democratically decide how those funds are used to ensure funds go where communities know they are needed. Unions taking up independent politics can win. Rather than continuing our support for corporate party politicians, we should run our own candidates independently of both parties or support independent campaigns of others, including union siblings. We can

use these campaigns to build and unify movements to beat back staffing and budget cuts, increase taxes on the rich and large corporations, and improve education and other public services for all our communities.

DUES IMPACT: \$0

SUBMITTER'S COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE: \$5,000 for mailers to members about independent pro-union candidates that the MTA endorses

MTA COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE **(For MTA use only):**

MTA Cost Estimate: \$0

MTA Staff Time Estimate: 0