
West Virginia State Democratic Executive Committee

Q2 2025 Meeting Minutes

Date: April 26, 2025

Location: Elkins, WV & via Zoom

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/live/tWk5SDTWX84?>

Chair: Delegate Mike Pushkin

Executive Director: Ryan Frankenberry

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:30 PM by **Chair Mike Pushkin**. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call & Quorum

Roll was called, including in-person and Zoom attendees. A quorum was confirmed.

[File: WVSDEC Spring 2025 Meeting - WVSDEC Spring April 2025 Attendance](#)

III. Welcome & Host Recognition

Randolph County Democratic Chair Cindy Stemple welcomed members and shared highlights of local organizing efforts, including headquarters reactivation, weekly rallies, a 300-member action newsletter, and new video outreach.

IV. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes of the prior meeting was made by Vice Chair Teresa Toriseva and seconded by Treasurer John Doyle.
- A voice vote was held; motion carried unanimously.
- No amendments or objections were raised.

V. Points of Order & Procedural Notes

- Members were reminded to state their name and county when speaking, especially for the benefit of Zoom participants.

- A point of order was raised during the legislative update regarding procedural misconduct by Senate Republican leadership during the passage of anti-DEI legislation. Senator Joey Garcia described violations of Senate rules in the final minutes of the session.
- No formal motions of order or appeals were introduced from the floor during the committee meeting itself.

VI. Filling of Vacancies

Two vacancies were filled by acclamation:

- **Senate District 11 (Male/Nonbinary):** Sean Young (Upshur County), nominated by Delegate Joey Garcia.
- **Senate District 13 (Female/Nonbinary):** Marti Shamberger (Monongalia County), nominated by Cal Carlson.
Both motions to close nominations and elect by acclamation were approved without opposition.

VII. DNC Update

DNC Committeewoman Selina Vickers reported:

- 92 People's Town Halls hosted across 40 states.
- Launch of the "People's Cabinet" and national War Room to counter GOP disinformation.
- New baseline DNC investment of \$17,500/month for state parties; West Virginia, as a red state, will receive \$22,500/month.
- Democratic caucuses will elect national at-large DNC members in July.
- Vickers encouraged members to submit personal stories for national messaging efforts.

VIII. Strategic Planning Update

Vice Chair Pat Stonestreet presented the “3 Cs” framework: Candidates, Communications, and Competence (Resources). The strategic plan is structured over a 4-year election cycle and will be refined for a vote at the summer meeting. Members were encouraged to circulate the planning spreadsheet to their counties.

IX. County Chairs’ Report

Cal Carlson reported:

- Revival of local committees across the state, even in rural counties.
- County Chairs Guide and centralized communications directory in development.
- An election will be held to replace outgoing Secretary Michael McClintock (Tucker County).
- Ongoing support for localized town halls and event coordination.

X. Legislative Update

Senator Joey Garcia and Chair Pushkin gave detailed updates:

- Opposition to anti-vaccine, anti-DEI, and Medicaid rollback bills.
- Filibuster coordinated by House and Senate Democrats to block HB 5243.
- GOP procedural violations during final legislative maneuvers.
- Democratic caucus message discipline and grassroots mobilization praised.
- Urged early candidate recruitment and county organizing.

XI. Vice Chair's Remarks

Vice Chair Teresa Toriseva emphasized:

- The “3.5% Rule” and historical models of protest.
- The need to build momentum with allied grassroots groups.

- Continued engagement with young voters, women, and labor groups.

XII. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Doyle reported:

- Federal account balance (April 30): \$35,764.
- State account: \$51,486.
- February–March net loss due to operational costs.
- Urged all members to commit to monthly recurring donations (“Installment Plan”).

XIII. Executive Director's Report

Ryan Frankenberry reported:

- County committee revivals, including Braxton and Upshur.
- Development of “RUN” candidate recruitment program.
- High engagement with legislative town halls and live streamed press events.
- Collaboration with May Day organizers and grassroots protests.
- Upcoming use of Looker Studio dashboards to visualize financial and organizing data.
- DNC’s new training model will include six fully funded campaign boot camps and quadrennial state-level SWOT analyses.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting concluded following the Executive Director’s report. Members were thanked for their engagement and reminded to begin local recruitment and fundraising efforts immediately.

Adjournment Time: The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Craig

WVSDEC Recording Secretary