



**Portland
Democrats**
THE PORTLAND MAINE
DEMOCRATIC CITY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Virtual via Zoom ([register](#))
Thursday, February 18, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

- Welcome & Introductions (**6:30-6:45**)
 - Popcorn style:
 - Name, Preferred pronouns, and because this is Black History Month, please share a resource or some piece of information that has helped you learn more about Black History in the U.S. and in Maine.

- Business (**6:45-7:00 PM**)
 - Minutes approval
 - Approve minutes of December meeting ([here](#))
 - Motion to pass; passed
 - Approve minutes of January meeting ([here](#))
 - Motion to pass; passed
 - Reports
 - Chair's Report
 - The message we want to push out is local organizing should be a priority rather than viewing this as an off-year election. Let's make sure people are registered to vote and participating in the local work.
 - Treasurer's Report
 - January financial report
 - We had two expenditures over the last month

- Special Guest: Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross, Portland - H.D. 40 (**7:00-7:45pm**)
 - Introduction- Chair Charles Skold

 - Rep. Talbot Ross thanked other Maine House Representatives on the call and discussed her background in activism. Rep. Talbot Ross provided that she has the most dense and diverse district in the state. She described her leadership role and the twin pandemics our country currently faces.

 - Rep. Talbot Ross discussed a package of bills she has introduced this session including: to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday in Maine (a holiday that recognizes the end of "business of slavery"; to enforce the prohibition on the use



of offensive names; to create a truth and reconciliation commission; to mandate the teaching of African-American history in Maine schools (including an advisory group); and establishing a James Weldon John Memorial & Annual Observance. Together, these are a package of bills to recognize African-American contributions in Maine.

- Discussion- Rep. Talbot Ross brought attention to bills that Rep. Wood and Zager also introduced, along with LD 1 & LD 2. These bills demonstrate how Democrats can and should give power to our values: our focus should be on how to walk-the-walk. Rep. Talbot Ross discussed that we need investment in boots on the ground policy to help communities be self-determinate.
 - In terms of advocating, democrats are currently in control in Augusta, but there are competing interests, so our focus should be on eliminating disparities. We need to force leaders to discuss how potential policies can reduce disparities. We need to align our national policy with our state policy too.
- Q&A- Rep. Talbot Ross discussed how to garner support for these bills as well as addressed some of the tax bills in the Legislature, voter registration and increased access, and Portland transit issues.
- **Announcements (7:45-8:00 PM)**
 - Sign up for a subcommittee
 - [Interest form here](#)
 - Next Voter Outreach Subcommittee meeting: Sunday 2/21 @ 6:30pm ([register](#))
 - Meg Harned discussed a letter-writing campaign PDCC is about to embark on as well as a registration drive in the spring
 - Feel free to contact Meg at meaghan.lydon@gmail.com for committee information
 - Volunteer: Elect Craig Hickman to the Maine Senate
 - There are lots of volunteer opportunities and even paid positions! [Volunteer to make calls](#) here and [donate to Craig's campaign](#) here
- **Adjourn (8:00 PM)**
 - *PDCC exec team will stay on the call after adjournment for any further informal discussion or question from members*