

Crypto Advocate, Attorney, & Swansea Resident looking to challenge Elizabeth Warren in Senate race

John Deaton is taking a “serious look” at running as a Republican candidate against Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren. Deaton is a private attorney, a vocal advocate for the crypto industry, and a Swansea resident.

According to the Boston Globe, if Deaton runs, the Republican Party may be aiming not only at a direct victory over Warren in Massachusetts but also to engage her in a competitive race and prevent her from raising money for other candidates and causes.

Deaton was born in Detroit, is a former U.S Marine, and now owns Deaton Law Firm in Providence, Rhode Island. With over 300,000 followers on twitter, he is a leading voice online in the Crypto community. He has also used his platform to point out his disagreements with Senator Warren.

A reflection of our times:

Senator Warren's misleading comments being corrected by regular people. <https://t.co/7v5k00kKk8>

– John E Deaton (@JohnEDeaton1) January 22, 2024

Elizabeth Warren is known as one of Congress' most prominent crypto skeptics, aggressively pushing legislation that cracks down on the industry. A spokesperson for Warren recently said in a statement.

“Senator Warren is taking nothing for granted. She has a strong record of delivering for working families and continues to fight hard for the people of Massachusetts,”.

Massachusetts residents recruited to “Defeat Trump in the 2024 Primaries” using slick tactic

Massachusetts residents have been posting screenshots on social media of a text they received to switch parties and defeat Donald Trump in the 2024 primaries. This is a campaign to enroll Democrats as “unaffiliated voters” in Massachusetts as a way to deny Donald Trump delegates and help Nikki Haley beat Trump in the primary.

The message says it’s paid for by the “Primary Pivot PAC”, whose mission statement on their website reads,

“PrimaryPivot is dedicated to protecting our democracy by defeating Donald Trump in the 2024 Republican primaries. Through his words and actions, Donald Trump has demonstrated a disturbing disregard for the principles that underpin our democracy.

He has shown a shocking lack of faith in the peaceful transfer of power and a blatant disregard for the rule of law. These actions represent a clear and present danger to the integrity of our nation and its democratic processes. Our purpose is not to engage in partisan politics, but to safeguard the core values that have guided our country for generations.”

Below is the message that residents are receiving via text, what are your thoughts on this?



URGENT message for Massachusetts Democrats:

Do you want to defend democracy by voting against Trump in the Republican primary?

You need to change your party affiliation to "Unenrolled" in order to make your vote count in the only competitive primary.

On the Democratic side, Joe Biden is going to win the nomination in a landslide.

On the Republican side, Nikki Haley and Donald Trump are very different. Trump is a proud election denier. Haley recognizes Biden won.

Go to this website TODAY to change your party affiliation: 304facts.net/r/_Sez6pPneFGX



Text Message

OPINION: “Supreme Court: Save democracy and your reputation by denying Trump immunity!”

The following is an opinion sent to New Bedford Guide. It does not reflect the opinion of New Bedford Guide, nor is it an OP-ED. In fairness and objectivity, we share opinions from our readers whether we agree or disagree with their opinion.

Do you have a counter opinion to this opinion? Have an opinion about something else? Email us at info@newbedfordguide.com.

“Undoubtedly the Supreme Court will rule that Donald Trump cannot be eliminated from the ballot by declaring that he is only presumptively guilty of inciting an insurrection or that the constitutional provision is not applicable in this circumstance.

But, the court can salvage its deteriorated status and save American democracy by immediately agreeing to hear the immunity appeal and expeditiously deciding that there is no absolute immunity for criminal or treasonous actions of a sitting or past president.

The nine justices, no matter their political or ideological inclinations are acutely aware that if Donald Trump were to regain the presidency the Supreme Court could be manipulated, obscured or consigned to irrelevancy. Their status has been significantly diminished since their assistance in the ascension of George Bush Jr. to the presidency and by the Citizens United opinion and other anti-democratic decisions. In their allegiance to the Federalist Society agenda, and to magnanimous friends and supporters they may grant Trump his

immunity and thereby “hoist them on their own petards.”

And conversely, they could recreate and reactivate the respect formerly accorded the court by quickly, decisively and unanimously declaring that Donald Trump will not be protected nor insulated from conviction by relying on an autocratic immunity defense.”-Betty Ussach, Dartmouth.

Massachusetts Senate Chamber To Honor “Founding Father” Frederick Douglass With New Bust

By Alison Kuznitz
State House News Service

Nearly 130 years after abolitionist, orator and newspaper publisher Frederick Douglass addressed state lawmakers, the Senate plans to unveil a bust in the branch’s chamber honoring his legacy during a ceremony next week.

An empty pedestal meant for the Douglass bust is currently sitting inside the recently renovated chamber, where Senate President Karen Spilka said she intentionally left two alcoves vacant in her quest to enhance the diverse representation of historical figures in the State House. The other empty alcove will eventually be filled with a bust of a woman, and Spilka has previously floated the idea of selecting Abigail Adams.

“My hope is that people will see the Senate recognizes Frederick Douglass as one of our founding fathers, basically

laying a strong foundation, raising issues, fighting for civil justice, for civil rights and that his words and actions still are with us, still have to stay with us," Spilka said in an interview with the News Service on Thursday. "They have to be forefront in our minds when we pass legislation."

Douglass's bust will be situated somewhat near the Douglass quote painted on the chamber's tympanum, which states, "Truth, justice, liberty, and humanity will ultimately prevail."

It's the first bust to be added to the Senate Chamber since 1898, as well as the first state-commissioned bust of a Black person in the State House, according to Spilka's office. The Senate commissioned the bust for \$7,000, a Spilka spokesperson said.

"We're just really happy to see Frederick Douglass represented with a bust to go along with his quote," Paula Morse, chair of the State House Art Commission, said. "I think it's just wonderful that we are doing this, that when people come to the State House, from children all the way up to their great-grandparents, [they] can see people that look like them. We can't remake the past but within the past, notable figures like Frederick Douglass belong here."

When Douglass escaped slavery, he settled in New Bedford and spoke about his experiences across the country through the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, according to the National Park Service. His first speech to a mostly white audience happened in August 1841, during an anti-slavery convention held in the Nantucket Atheneum's Great Hall, according to a town document.

During the Civil War, two of Douglass' sons served in the 54th Massachusetts Regiment, according to NPS.

"He has a lot of very close ties to Massachusetts, so we can call him our own," Spilka said. "And it just feels that is so appropriate and overdue to have him in the Senate Chamber,

along with some of the other prominent figures that we have there, as our founding fathers of Washington, and Lincoln, and Franklin and a few others that are in there. He'll have his own resting place very comfortably."

Douglass spoke with House and Senate members during a visit to Beacon Hill on May 10, 1894. He previously came to the State House about five decades earlier, according to the Worcester Daily Spy.

"I have appeared before the American people in a number of qualities. Once as a slave, 56 years ago, I was seized with a strong desire to see Massachusetts, and came North with that end in view," Douglass told the House before visiting the Senate, according to the Boston Daily Journal. "Again I appeared as a fugitive slave and again as an advocate in behalf of the slave."

Spilka said she has not yet seen the Douglass bust, which is being stored securely at the State House ahead of Wednesday's ceremony in the chamber. The public event coincides with Douglass's birthday, and Feb. 14 is also recognized as Frederick Douglass Day in Massachusetts as a result of an amendment to the fiscal year 2020 budget bill first proposed by Sen. Mark Montigny, Spilka's office said.

A different Frederick Douglass bust, loaned by Boston's Museum of African American History, was previously displayed in the Senate Chamber after the space was renovated and reopened in 2019, a Spilka spokesperson said.

The new Douglass bust slated to be installed in the chamber is a replica of a bust originally created by Massachusetts sculptor Lloyd Lillie and kept by his family, said State House art curator Susan Greendyke Lachevre.

"Their bust in their collection was sent to a foundry, and a mold was made. So it is a true copy of the one that Lloyd Lillie made, and it was cast by the foundry that he always

used," she said.

Spilka said she was struck by the dearth of diverse artwork at the state capitol, particularly featuring women and people of color, when she became Senate president.

"We have such a rich history, with women, with people of color and all of the contributions that all people, the diverse people, have made to our wonderful commonwealth," Spilka said. "And it was astounding to me the lack of diversity here."

Spilka said senators will start discussing which woman should be depicted in another new bust during Women's History Month in March.

The State House's limited diverse collection today includes portraits of influential Massachusetts women hanging in Spilka's office, plus portraits of former Gov. Deval Patrick and Chief Justice Roderick Ireland, both of whom are Black. There are also reliefs of Sarah Parker Remond and Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, two Black female leaders who knew Douglass, in Doric Hall, Greendyke Lachevre said.

The original Senate busts depict George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Marquis de Lafayette, Abraham Lincoln, Charles Sumner, Henry Wilson, Gardiner Tufts, George Boutwell and Samuel Francis Smith, according to the State House Art Commission.

The Douglass bust is filling space previously occupied by Boutwell's, Spilka's office said.

Greendyke Lachevre said Douglass belongs with the other distinguished honorees.

"It's a step in the right direction to broaden the representation of the people who are honored in the State House," Greendyke Lachevre said. "We even have this encouragement in our acquisition guidelines that people

consider broadening their thoughts and their ideas of who to honor in the building by recognizing underrepresented communities, groups, people in the collection.”

[Sam Doran contributed to this story.]

OPINION: “MAGA minions claim Biden is soft on Iran, Gaza only to make Trump look good”

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“Joe Biden now has to decide to be at war in the Middle East or not. No matter which position, strategy or policies Biden pursues the Republicans will take a contrary position as campaign fodder. If we find ourselves sending troops to the land area to combat Iran backed militias Trump will declare that he would never engage our troops in combat and that during his presidential tenure the United States did not engage in a new war.

On the other hand if Biden ignores the allegedly Iranian provocations he will be declared weak and ineffectual by Trump and his MAGA minions and supporters.

It's a no win situation for Biden and no matter how reasonable or rational his response this will become another issue added to the list of grievances motivating the ultra MAGA supporters.

And it will also further inflame the progressive wing of the Democratic Party should he go to war after providing Israel with continuing aid that they will claim was the main motivation for Iranian provocations.

A mild response will disappoint a large segment of Democrats alleging that he is endangering our troops in the Middle East as well as Israel's very existence.

The nuances of this unsolvable problem are never understood by the majority of voters and unfortunately will become material for many "one liners" during the campaign. Adding this to the immigration debacle could be too much to overcome, and the Trumpian negatives of loss of freedom of choice, and scores of Trump criminal indictments, and threats to democracy will have only a limited effect on voters."-Betty Ussach, Dartmouth.

Report: New Bedford's population growing twice as fast as available housing

According to a new report produced by the Regeneration Project Committee of the New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC), New Bedford's population has been steadily growing twice as fast as new housing units.

Per the NBEDC:

“Between 2010 and 2020, the number of households in New Bedford grew by 7.8% but the city’s housing stock increased by just 3.8%. This means 3,000 new households are currently vying for less than 1,600 new housing units. A key finding reveals that there are nearly 9,500 households with earnings below 30% of the area median income, yet fewer than 6,500 affordable rental units in Greater New Bedford.”

Throw in high interest rates and inflation, higher property taxes, an influx on migrants to Massachusetts, and it’s not hard to figure out why rents have sky rocketed over the past year and decade. **In Fall River, home prices have nearly doubled in the past five years, up 25% the past year.**

Where does New Bedford’s state delegation stand on Governor Healey’s proposed tax bill?

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey recently filed a bill that would allow municipalities the option to increase certain taxes on its residents. The “Municipal Empowerment Act” would allow cities and towns in Massachusetts to increase their hotel, motel, and other rental tax from 6% to 7%, and their meal tax from the set .75% to 1%. The bill would also let cities and towns increase their motor vehicle excise tax by 5%.

We asked legislators that Represent New Bedford and the south coast whether they would support this bill and its intentions to raise taxes on residents in their region. We reached out

to:

- Senator Mark Montigney
- Rep. Antonio Cabral
- Rep. Christopher Hendricks
- Rep. Christopher Markey
- Rep. Paul Schmid
- Rep. William Straus

Representatives Paul Schmid and William Straus did not respond to our request for comment. Below is where the rest of the State Legislators stand on this bill.

Representative Antonio Cabral

I spoke on the phone with Rep. Antonio Cabral and he does not believe that this bill has much support. He told me, “It’s the governor’s proposal giving various ways that communities can get additional revenue. At this point it doesn’t seem like it has overwhelming support. I believe leadership has questions on it.”

Cabral went on stating, “I’m not sure if it will be productive to the city the way the governor is proposing it. Overall, I believe that any kind of tax proposal should be uniform across the state.”

To make sure I had his opinion on the bill clear, I asked him directly “Do you support this bill?”. Representative Cabral told me, “At this point I’m not in support of any piece individually, generally I would say that any excise tax should be uniform and applied across the state equally.”

The remaining legislators gave me written statements to the following questions. “What are your thoughts on this bill? Do you support raising these taxes?”

Representative Christopher Markey

“I do not support the bill as is. While I appreciate the

effort of the Governor, I think for good or bad, the revenues generated in the state should be the responsibility of the state legislature. I don't look forward to this budget season, but it is our responsibility to balance a fiscally responsible balanced budget."

Senator Mark Montigny

"The Governor's recently filed legislation offers many different ideas on how to bring more support to cities and towns, all of which my staff and I are carefully reviewing. We will continue to look at it and weigh the feedback from constituents that we receive, but the provisions that would make it more difficult to own a vehicle are a non-starter with me. I will fight to oppose any increase in the vehicle excise tax and vote against it if it's before the Senate."

Representative Christopher Hendricks

"If you'll recall last year, the legislature crafted and passed a comprehensive tax-break bill. This was a very hard-fought issue that required a lot of compromise. In this bill, we increased the deductions for the child dependent tax credit from 180-310, cut all estate taxes under \$2 million, increased the Earned Income tax credit from 30% to 40% of the federal credit, we doubled the senior circuit breaker from 1200 to 2400, increased the rental tax deduction from 3k to 4k, and lowered taxes on short term capitol gains.

Also, I advocated hard for the Fair Share Amendment, which passed via ballot measure in 2022.

The reason I bore you will all this is because I think we have done enough on tax policy within the last year. I do not support these new meals and excise fees in this bill. We cut taxes in 2023 to keep Massachusetts competitive in response to the Fair Share Amendment; so, adding these additional fees would be a reversal in statewide policy that was hotly debated and resolved last year. Also, these additional fees would only

burden working people, especially in the gateway cities like New Bedford. Boston folks have the option of forgoing a car because of its subway and bus system. New Bedford residents do not have that luxury. Despite the recent progress we have made in public transportation, we still need cars in New Bedford and these fees would only burden the city's hardest working people.

So, further taxing meals and transportation (excise) would negate all the aforementioned tax breaks we put in last year, thereby making them superfluous (which is inherently wrong). The MA House of Representatives also made it clear that we, as a body, are not interested in putting in new, burdensome fees for our residents

That said, I do hope that the Governor's provision on creating new property tax exemptions for seniors with the Senior Means Tested Property Tax Exemption gets through this session, as well as the provision that increases existing senior property tax exemptions. In New Bedford, we have too many seniors on fixed incomes not being able to pay their property taxes (a huge contributor to gentrification which is what we are trying to avoid). Therefore, I would support the measure that helps seniors with this issue.

I would also support the civil service reforms in this bill. This provision would allow municipalities to hire police outside the civil service (up to 50%). The bill would also allow cities to have public safety cadet programs without and special law or act. As you know, we desperately needed more police officers in NB and these two provisions could really help."

Early voting for Presidential Primary in New Bedford to begin

“NEW BEDFORD – The New Bedford Election Commission has announced the early voting schedule for the 2024 Presidential Primary election.

The early voting schedule is:

- Downtown Library (613 Pleasant St.): 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily from Feb. 24 to March 1.
- Taber Mill (217 Deane St.): Feb. 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (please use entrance on Coffin Avenue)
- Hazelwood Senior Center (553 Brock Ave.): Feb. 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Additionally, absentee and mail-in ballots continue to be available. Any registered voter can request to receive one by visiting the Election Commission office at City Hall, 133 William St., during business hours, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Request forms have been mailed to registered voters in New Bedford.

In the Presidential Primary, New Bedford voters may cast their vote for president, state committee man, state committee woman, and ward committee.

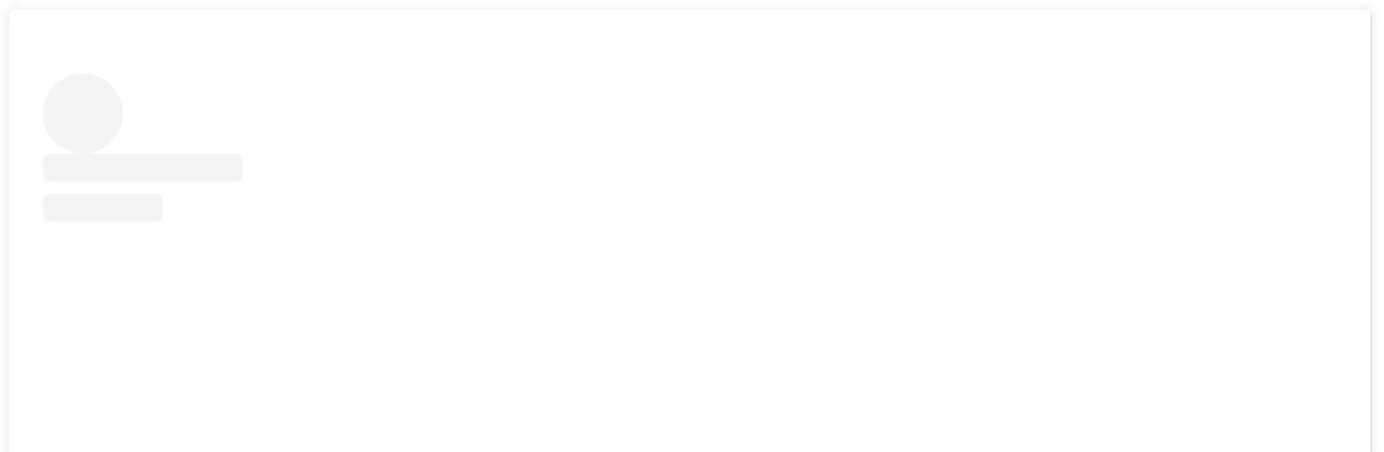
Any New Bedford resident who is uncertain about their voting status, designated polling location, has changed their address since the last election, or has other questions about the election can contact the Board of Election Commissioners at 508-979-1420.”

Mass Governor Maura Healey, “I don’t know what we are going to do” about migrant crisis

In an alarming interview on WCVB-TV, it appears Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey begins crying while stating “I don’t know what we are going to do for a couple or 3 months” referring to the migrant crisis we are facing in Massachusetts.

Protests started outside of the Melnea Cass Recreational Complex in Roxbury, Massachusetts as Governor Healey recently toured the facility. This complex which gives local children a safe place to play, is now shut down and being used to house migrant families.

Governor Healey authorized this space to be used for housing migrants, after she faced criticism for housing them inside Boston’s Logan Airport. In her WCVB-TV interview she floats the idea of potentially reaching out to more schools to use as housing in the future.





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A post shared by New Bedford Guide (@newbedfordguide)

Massachusetts

Supreme

Judicial Court Justice Upholds Commission Decision On Trump

Chris Lisinski

State House News Service

A judge on the state's highest court denied a bid to disqualify former President Donald Trump from the Republican presidential primary ballot, writing Monday that the complaint essentially "come[s] too soon" in the election cycle.

Supreme Judicial Court Justice Frank Gaziano upheld the decision of the State Ballot Law Commission, which last week dismissed a challenge alleging Trump is ineligible for office due to his role in the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol that sought to overturn his electoral defeat.

The three-member commission concluded it does not have jurisdiction over the case brought by parties including Free Speech for People and civil rights firm Lichten & Liss-Riordan. Gaziano agreed, writing that state law gives the panel authority over "any nominee for state, national or county office" or "certificates of nomination or nomination papers filed in any presidential or state primary."

"Trump's place on the ballot was not secured through the submission of nomination papers, nor, at this stage, is he the subject of any certificate of nomination or a nominee," Gaziano, who was appointed to the court in 2016 by former Gov. Charlie Baker, wrote. "... Because Trump's appearance on the primary ballot is not pursuant to 'nomination papers,' this provision does not apply."

"The petitioners' objections have, in essence, come too soon," Gaziano added. "If there is any question whether the

commission has the authority or jurisdiction to consider the petitioners' objections regarding Trump's eligibility to appear on the general election ballot, that question will not become ripe until, and if, he is selected as his party's nominee for President. That question is not currently before me."

Gaziano pointed out that the question of whether Trump is eligible to serve as president under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution could soon be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court, which is set to hear oral arguments next week in a case concerning Colorado officials barring the former president from the ballot.

Free Speech for People, which is represented by former Democrat U.S. Senate and attorney general candidate Shannon Liss-Riordan, said challengers plan to "immediately" appeal Gaziano's ruling to the full SJC.