



**181<sup>ST</sup>**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF DELEGATES**

**MAY 8-9**

**Hynes Convention Center - Boston, MA**

**NBI 12**

**2026 FORM FOR NEW BUSINESS ITEMS**

NBI Name			Date and Time
Union Independence & Democracy			3/26/2026 17:12
Delegate Making the Motion	Cell	Email	Association Represented or Retired
Joe Herosy	617-827-3750	jherosy@gmail.com	Retired
Delegate Seconding the Motion	Cell	Email	Association Represented or Retired
Kelsey Romano	703-554-4471	kelseyaustrinromano@gmail.com	Berkshire Hills Education Association

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:

The Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) leadership, including the elected president and hired MTA officials, will abide by the decisions of the MTA Board of Directors and MTA committees that determine policy for the union. In cases where there is an apparent violation of this directive and/or a disagreement between leadership and an organized group of rank & file members, members may petition to add the issue to the agenda at the next BOD meeting for open discussion and determination of remedies. In all cases the input of union members, as determined by the number of members involved and their arguments, will take precedence over the influence of local, state or federal government officials. Such organized membership should also be given precedence over corporate funded lobby groups or groups whose funding & organization are unknown.

SUBMITTER'S RATIONALE:

The fundamental purpose of our union, to represent the interests of its members and the greater good, requires that we defend ourselves from political interests that oppose us. In recent years there have been times when it appears that MTA leadership has responded to campaigns of political pressure by outside forces and interests in opposition to the democratic processes of our union. As well, concerns have been raised about management's commitment to the directives of MTA rank and file members regarding local actions and strike activity. This motion would create recourse for recent examples such as MTA Governance Division's apparent endorsement of a political candidate against the democratic processes of the Candidate Recommendation Committee (CRC). Another examples is when the MTA BOD, with unprecedented input from rank & file members, passed a motion calling for a members only web page with resources on the issue of occupied Palestine. A coalition of state politicians, corporate funded interests groups demanded that the MTA take down the web page, leading to a partial censoring

of the members only web page. While there were some members who supported this, it was clear that the politicians and lobby groups played the dominant role. This motion would help prevent other potential cases that would likely occur if there is not a means of transparency and accountability. In this political climate, membership needs leadership to support the directions given by members, relative to our relationship to state legislatures and commissions, in keeping with our rights of free speech, autonomy, dissent and organizing that dissent. We all agree our union should be member driven regardless of the specific issues described above. It is self-evident that our concerns should take precedence over corporate interests and the politicians that they fund. Religious / ethnic differences are being used as a wedge to keep union members from defending ourselves from attacks and we should respond by protecting and promoting our collective interests of all members.

SUBMITTER'S COST & STAFF TIME ESTIMATE:

No cost or added staff time

DUES IMPACT **(For MTA use only):**

\$0

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

\$0, 0 hours