

**The Sudbury Democratic Town Committee
Beverly Guild, Chairperson
54 Woodside Road
Sudbury MA 01776**

Phillip Johnston, Chairman
Massachusetts Democratic State Committee
10 Granite Street
Quincy MA 02169

Reference: "Statement to the Convention Reform Commission", prepared by James McGowan and George Barnoski, 9 July 2003, and circulated by email.

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Rather than having a state-wide issues convention semiannually on every off year, the Statement of McGowan and Barnoski proposes that the Party Chair be empowered to call an issues convention only when necessary; otherwise regional meetings would suffice. These proposals were discussed at our monthly meeting on 17 July, but were not met with favor and acceptance.

Basically, three objections were raised. First, we worry that issue conventions would seldom if ever be called, if they were to depend upon necessity, which is a condition difficult to evaluate or recognize. Second, the decision whether to call an issues convention ought not lie solely in the hands of the state chairperson. Third, regional conventions would be pointless in part unless they were somehow integrated to achieve state-wide relevance and impact.

The Sudbury Democratic Town Committee believes that issues conventions ought be called at regular intervals and suggests that the present schedule of semiannual meetings ought to continue without change.

Sincerely,

Beverly Guild, in behalf of the SDTC.

cc. to Messrs. McGowan and Barnoski