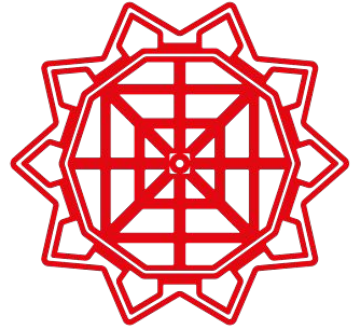




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**MSA Legislative Recap  
September 9, 2022**



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# Legislative Recap

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- Reflecting on a Seismic Legislative Session
- What's on the Horizon
- Q & A



# FY2023 Budget

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## **\$52.7 billion bill, Signed into Law**

- UGGA – won increase of 5.4%, \$31.5M more
- Chapter 70 – doubling per pupil funding for “minimum aid” districts
- Special Education Circuit Breaker
- Charter School Reimbursements – increase to meet state’s obligation (years 2&3 of SOA phase in)
- PILOT for State-owned land
- Rural School Aid
- Regional School Transportation (85%)
- Outside Sections



# FY2022 Closeout Supplemental Budget

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- Proposes spending \$840M of the state's considerable surplus, state tax revenues up 20.5% since last fiscal year
- Sets aside \$2.9B of surplus to address tax refunds from 62F
- Also sets aside \$1.5B of surplus and \$2.2B of state ARPA funds for pending economic development bill
- New spending proposed includes COVID-19 ongoing costs, state IT upgrades, specific supportive housing investments



# General Government Bond Bill

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## **\$5 billion bill, Signed into Law, includes:**

- ✓ \$100 million for municipal grants to support a range of local infrastructure improvements and projects
- ✓ \$84 million to support the Massachusetts State Revolving Fund
- ✓ \$60 million for the Housing Stabilization Fund
- ✓ \$50 million for the Cultural Facilities Fund
- ✓ \$25 million for Housing Choice grants to municipalities
- ✗ \$30M for municipal IT grants to improve access to government meetings - NOT included in Governor's final bill

# Transportation & Public Works

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## “Chapter 90-plus”

- ✓ \$200 million + \$150 million for various municipal grants

## Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP)

- ✓ \$100 million to repair damage from winter weather

## MasTRAC

- ✓ \$11.4 billion for necessary authorizations to leverage federal aid from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) & strategic capital investments in transportation infrastructure.

# An Act Driving Offshore Wind and Clean Energy

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This law establishes:

- ✓ Demonstration program allowing 10 municipalities to prohibit fossil fuel use in new construction and renovation
- ✓ Offshore wind industry investment program
- ✓ Offshore wind tax incentive program
- ✓ Electric vehicle adoption incentive trust fund and rebate program
- ✓ Deadlines for MBTA bus emissions reductions



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# Energy & Environment

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Still unresolved:

- Public Lands Preservation Act
- Extended producer responsibility bills





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# Muni/Regional Administration

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- Election Reform - VOTES Act
- Open Meeting Law - Remote Meetings extension
- Cannabis
- MBTA Communities Final Guidelines



# Election Reform - VOTES Act

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- ✓ 10-day voter registration
- ✓ Permanent mail-in ballots
- ✓ Expanded voting access for incarcerated individuals
  
- X** Same day voter registration



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# Open Meeting Law - Remote Meetings

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- ✓ New extension - March 31, 2023
- X** Permanent
- X** Mandatory for all meetings
- X** Funding



# Cannabis

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- Community impact fees to end after 8 years
- Expanded CCC authority will subject existing HCAs to review
- ✓ Creation of Cannabis Equity Fund



# MBTA Communities Final Guidelines

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- **Revised community categories:** rapid transit, commuter rail, adjacent and adjacent small town
- **Adjustments for small/rural towns with no transit stations**
- **Flexibility for affordability requirements**
- **Changes to reasonable size criteria with “circuit breakers”**
- **Tailored district location requirements**
- **Multifamily Unit Capacity Tool**
- \* All 175 MBTA communities must achieve interim compliance by:  
**Jan. 31, 2023**



# Personnel & Labor Relations

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- Local Option COLA
  - Improved language moving through Legislative process
- O'Leary case
  - Payment in lieu of vacation leave (aka vacation buyback) as regular compensation
  - SJC decision affirmed, but new law prevents retroactive applicability to employees and retirees
- Unemployment Insurance

# Economic Development Bill (FORWARD)

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## What was on the table?

Utilized state ARPA funding & state surplus funding, and bonding

- \$400 million for **MassWorks** grants for local infrastructure
- \$254 million for **Clean Water Trust Fund** grants
- \$403.5 million for various **housing development** grants
- \$100 million in **broadband** investments
- **Municipal finance** technical language
- \$500 million in one-time **tax rebates**
- \$500 million in permanent **tax cuts**



# What is “62F?”

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- State law that caps growth in tax collections (M.G.L. Ch. 62F)
- Passed by voters in 1986; cap only exceeded once in 1987
- Limits tax revenue growth to the three-year average growth in state wages and salaries.
- If cap is exceeded, excess revenue is provided as a proportional income tax credit to Massachusetts residents.
- Currently estimated ~**\$2.9 billion**
- Final figure determined by State Auditor in late September





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# On the Horizon for Fall 2022

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- Active Informal Sessions
  - Eco Development Bill (FORWARD)/ Tax package
  - Supplemental Budget(s)



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# Comments & Questions



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# Resources & Links

- [FY2023 Budget | COLA](#)
- [Supplemental Budget](#)
- [General Government Bond Bill](#)
- [Election Reform - VOTES Act](#)
- [Remote Meetings | OML](#)
- [Cannabis](#)
- [Public Health Reform](#)
- [MBTA Communities Zoning](#)
- [Climate Bill](#)
- [PLPA](#)
- [Solid Waste / EPR](#)
- [Ch. 90 & WRAP](#)
- [MassTRAC](#)
- [Economic Development | Ch. 62F](#)



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