

# The Beacon

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May 2026

## House OK's FY27 state budget bill

By Adrienne Núñez

The House on April 29 passed a state spending plan for fiscal 2027 that totals \$63.4 billion.

In addition to highlighting economic uncertainties for the coming fiscal year, and the potential impact of November ballot questions, the House's three-day debate included commentary on the needs of cities and towns and the Commonwealth's residents.

House leaders emphasized the spending plan's local aid investments, particularly increases to key education accounts, such as an increase in minimum new aid under Chapter 70 to \$160 per student.

The budget bill approved by the House does not include language that was proposed by the governor to significantly change the collection process for delinquent municipal revenues including motor vehicle excise taxes and parking tickets.

The Division of Local Services has updated

[Cherry Sheet estimates for each city, town and school district](#) based on the House's budget bill.

The state budget now moves to the Senate for consideration, with the Senate Ways and Means Committee scheduled to release a draft budget proposal on May 5.

The MMA will continue to strongly advocate for additional local resources as the budget moves through the legislative process.

### Local accounts

The House budget proposal for fiscal 2027 includes the following key components important to municipal governments:

**UGGA:** The budget includes \$1.33 billion for Unrestricted General Government Aid, a \$10 million increase over fiscal 2026.

**Chapter 70:** The bill has \$7.66 billion



The House on April 29 passed a state spending plan for fiscal 2027, with the Senate Ways and Means Committee scheduled to release a Senate budget proposal on May 5.

for Chapter 70 education aid, funding the sixth and final year of the 2019 Student Opportunity Act funding schedule. The \$296.5 million increase over fiscal 2026 would boost per-pupil support for minimum aid districts from the statutorily obligated \$30 per student up to \$160 per student.

■ **FY27 BUDGET** *continued on 20*

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## \$1.8B supplemental budget goes to conference committee

By Adrienne Núñez

A House-Senate conference committee has been appointed to reconcile differences between consolidated fiscal 2026 supplemental budget bills passed by each branch.

On April 9, the Senate approved a package with funds for several local initiatives, including \$100 million to support cities and towns with costs associated with the harsh weather this past winter.

The Senate bill includes more than \$391 million to support cities and towns:

- \$232 million for special education costs, including circuit breaker reimbursements to local school districts, of which \$32 million would be used to



The Senate's fiscal 2026 supplemental budget includes \$100 million to address winter damage in municipalities, as well as snow and ice removal budget deficits.

increase reimbursement rates in fiscal 2026

- \$100 million to address winter infrastructure damage in cities and towns, as well as snow and ice removal deficits, with \$80 million distributed

■ **SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET** *continued on 27*

## 2026 MMA Board of Directors

The MMA Board of Directors holds regular meetings, often in Boston, followed by a meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission with the administration. Board members are chosen by the Massachusetts Mayors' Association, Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, Massachusetts Municipal Management Association, Massachusetts Select Board Association, and Association of Town Finance Committees.

### Executive Committee

**Kassandra Gove**, MMA President,  
Mayor, Amesbury

**Kiana Baskin**, MMA Vice President  
Select Board Member, Sharon

**Jamie Hellen**, MMA Immediate Past President  
and MMMA District 2 Representative  
Town Administrator, Franklin

**Ted Bettencourt**, MMAA First Vice President  
Mayor, Peabody

**Denise Casey**, MMMA President  
Town Administrator, Wakefield

**Lisa Feltner**, MMCA President  
Councillor, Watertown

**Joshua Garcia**, MMAA President  
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**Michael Ossing**, MMCA First Vice President  
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**Adam Chapdelaine** (non-voting)  
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**Liz Sullivan**, Town Administrator, Dennis

**Michelle Wu**, Mayor, Boston

# Executive Director's Report

## Spring is here, and local government is hard at work

There is a rhythm to spring in Massachusetts. It's found in the resounding gavel strike of a moderator opening town meeting, the early morning whir of a street sweeper, and the crack of the bat on a freshly groomed municipal ballfield.

While national politics often feel like a distant storm, spring reminds us that local government is the ecosystem we actually live in. It is the season where our collective decisions — voted on in school gyms and community centers — become the tangible services that define our quality of life.

In Massachusetts, and in most of New England, spring is the time when democracy is in full bloom. Towns across the Commonwealth hold their local elections, which involve the tireless efforts of town clerks and countless poll workers who manage the logistics of local democracy's busy season. These elections either set the stage for, or closely follow, town meetings, the other important step in the local democratic process.

Many (myself included) call town meeting "the purest form of democracy," and throughout the spring, both open and representative town meetings will be engaging with what amounts to thousands of local residents who give their time and discretion to help their community make important and impactful decisions.



By Adam  
Chapdelaine

Moving outside, spring is also a time when public works departments across the state undertake the local government's version of spring cleaning. Streets are being cleared of winter sand, we're seeing the start of Chapter 90-funded paving projects, and we're hearing the transition from snowblowers to lawnmowers. Residents of the

Commonwealth get to enjoy a smooth ride on their way to work all summer as a result of planning sessions that happened in DPW offices back in January.

Moreover, as the weather turns, municipal parks, rail trails, and playgrounds become the community's backyard. Municipal crews are busy with the preparation of baseball diamonds, the turning on of irrigation systems, and the seasonal hiring of lifeguards and camp counselors. These spaces and activities provide the social glue that holds a community together, managed entirely by local oversight.

For all of this and more, we should be thankful for the local elected officials and municipal staff who sacrifice spring evenings to sit on stages and leverage their podiums. The work of local government isn't just about balancing a ledger; it's about preparing the ground — literally and figuratively — for our communities to thrive. ●

## The Beacon

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We encourage readers to send comments, story ideas, news items, and events notices to [editor@mma.org](mailto:editor@mma.org).

# House OK's bond bill with \$300M for Ch. 90

By Violet Gehr

The House on April 15 unanimously passed a transportation bond bill that would authorize \$300 million for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2027.

The bill would maintain the historic benchmark funding level established by the Legislature last year, offering much-needed stability for cities and towns across the Commonwealth as they plan for the uncertainty of the upcoming fiscal year.

The legislation ([H. 5375](#)) continues a strategic funding distribution method that balances the complex needs of all 351 municipalities. Two-thirds of the Chapter 90 funding (\$200 million) would be distributed using the traditional Chapter 90 formula, and the remaining \$100 million would be allocated based solely on local road miles. The combination of the two formulas is designed to provide relief to rural communities that maintain extensive road networks despite having a more modest population size.



A bond bill passed by the House on April 15 would authorize \$300 million for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2027.

The bond bill also includes several significant authorizations aimed at modernizing the state's infrastructure. These authorizations include:

- \$200 million for transportation improvements to support expanded housing development
- \$200 million for a new Parkway Resilience Improvement and Safety Modernization investment program
- \$500 million for the state's Bridge and Pavement Lifecycle Asset Management Programs.

"Local leaders across the Commonwealth are deeply grateful to the House for moving so decisively on this legislation," said MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine. "The Chapter 90 program remains the backbone of municipal infrastructure maintenance. By continuing this increased funding level, the Legislature is directly committing to improving the safety and reliability of our local roads. We want to thank all our legislative partners for their advocacy on behalf of our 351 cities and towns."

The transportation bond bill has been sent to the Senate for consideration. Securing the authorization quickly will be vital for local officials, thereby allowing municipalities to put the funds to work quickly during the construction season.

"We are thrilled to see this momentum," Chapdelaine added. "We also want to thank the governor and her administration for their early action and partnership on this issue, which remains a top priority for our municipalities." ●

## Senate passes \$3.6B multi-year environmental bond bill

By Josie Ahlberg

The Senate on April 15 passed its version of a \$3.64 billion, multi-year environmental bond bill, with authorizations for key climate, resilience and environmental priorities.

The borrowing bill includes funding to strengthen infrastructure, invest in farms and local economies, protect water sources and the environment, reform permitting for housing and environmental initiatives, and support the western and central regions of the state.

The Senate bill ([S. 3064](#)) includes \$500 million for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, up from \$315 million in the governor's proposal.

The Senate bill also has \$450 million for the water pollution abatement work, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and \$50 million to address wastewater infrastructure and nitrogen pollution across southeast Massachusetts and Buzzards Bay. There's also \$120 million for PFAS remediation projects.

Authorizations for coastal infrastructure

(\$200 million) and inland flood and dam control projects (\$93.5 million) would further support local projects on climate and environmental resilience.

The Senate bill also incorporated new policy initiatives, including:

- An extended producer responsibility framework for a statewide paint recycling program, a topic recently studied by the [Extended Producer Responsibility Commission](#)
- A labeling requirement for non-flushable wipe products to help consumers avoid improper disposal
- A statewide plastic bag ban, which would require most businesses to provide recyclable paper alternatives for 10 cents to incentivize the use of reusable bags and reduce plastic pollution
- A series of updates to the public shade tree law to clarify fines for violations and ease routine maintenance of public trees and shrubs

During debate, the Senate adopted an amendment that would significantly impact prioritization of projects funded by

the environmental bond bill. The language would require the Executive Office for Administration and Finance to help institute a "preference modifier" for municipalities that have zoning or land use policies that encourage the production of housing (such as as-of-right zoning for multifamily housing, elimination of parking minimums for residential use, elimination of lot size requirements, and wastewater and wetlands standards that do not exceed state health or environmental standards). This would apply to all discretionary or competitive grant programs authorized under the environmental bond bill.

Another amendment to the Senate bill would exempt newly defined "priority housing projects" from local regulations or rules that go above and beyond the minimum state codes for wastewater and wetlands protection.

The Senate bill has moved to the House for its consideration.

The environmental bond bill, [known as the Mass Ready Act, was initially introduced by Gov. Maura Healey](#) last June. ●

# Gov. signs Cannabis Control Commission reform bill

By Ali DiMatteo

Gov. Maura Healey signed legislation on April 19 to reform and reduce the size of the Cannabis Control Commission, the state agency that implements and administers the laws enabling access to medical and adult-use marijuana in Massachusetts.

The law reduces the size of the CCC from five commissioners to three, all of whom are to be appointed by the governor.

The law had an emergency preamble, meaning it took effect immediately with the governor's signature. The governor now has until May 19 to appoint the three commissioners.

The CCC's executive director will stay until the new CCC chair appoints a new director. The law specifies that the executive director will report to the chair of



the commission.

The law includes a provision to automatically allow delivery of cannabis to all municipalities. Communities that currently don't allow retail sales and don't want to allow delivery of cannabis will need to opt out. This new provision also goes into effect immediately, so interested municipalities should consult the [CCC's bulletin from April 19](#) on next steps.

The new law raises the cap on licenses that can be held by a licensee, from

three to six, and raises the percentage of equity a person may hold in a cannabis business — from 10% to 20% — before it is considered ownership for purposes of the license cap.

The final version of law doesn't include regulations initially under consideration around hemp-derived products, but does direct the CCC to study the issue and make recommendations.

The law increases the amount of cannabis a person can purchase and possess for recreational use from 1 ounce to 2 ounces. It also removes the vertical integration requirement for medical marijuana, meaning that medical marijuana licensees are no longer required to grow and process the marijuana they sell.

Finally, the law directs the CCC to study the effects of the current marijuana excise tax on business and consumers. ●

## DOER issues guidance on clean energy siting, permitting reforms

By Josie Ahlberg

With an Oct. 1 effective date approaching, the Department of Energy Resources has published a number of guidance documents to help communities implement a new statewide siting and permitting process for clean energy infrastructure.

In March, the [Healey-Driscoll administration issued final regulations](#) for the new process, as required by a [clean energy and climate law](#) enacted in November 2024. The regulations are based on recommendations from a special [Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting](#).

The new local siting and permitting process will apply to clean energy generation projects (e.g., solar and wind) under 25 megawatts, clean energy storage projects under 100 megawatt hours, and certain transmission and distribution projects.

Municipalities may continue to offer current permitting processes, but must begin to receive applications under the new process beginning on Oct. 1.

The new process requires municipal governments to issue a single, consolidated permit decision, and to do so within 12 months of a determination of an application's completeness. (The completeness determination must be

reached within 30 days of receipt, or the application will be deemed complete by default if standard conditions are met.)

Individual boards and commissions — such as planning, zoning and conservation boards — may still issue their own decisions on proposed projects following existing processes, but projects must receive an overall approval or rejection decision within 12 months.

Appeals would only be possible for the entirety of the permit decision, not individual components, and must be made within 30 days of a decision being reached by the local government.

### Resources

The Department of Energy Resources has published, as PDF documents, a draft [Consolidated Local Permit Application](#), a [Completeness Review Checklist](#), and a [Final Decision Form](#).

The DOER has also issued a draft [Pre-Filing Engagement Completion Checklist](#), a [Pre-filing Public Notice Document Template](#), and a [Site Suitability Score Revision Request Form](#).

Further guidance and resources are expected soon to help communities identify and designate a point person to serve as the "local government representative" responsible for the communication components of the process and coordination of the multi-departmental review.



The Department of Energy Resources has issued guidance for new clean energy siting and permitting rules.

The DOER's [Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Regulations website](#) has more information on the draft forms, accompanying regulations, and additional resources.

The DOER is working on developing model municipal bylaws — similar to those for [Solar Photovoltaic Systems](#) and [Battery Energy Storage Systems \(BESS\)](#) — to help cities and towns navigate the process.

Comments and questions may be directed to [DOER.Siting.Permitting@mass.gov](mailto:DOER.Siting.Permitting@mass.gov).

The [Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting Reforms website](#) provides context on the state and local siting and permitting reforms. ●

# Councillors discuss fiscal planning, collaboration

By Jennifer Kavanaugh

As communities navigate choppy fiscal waters, long-term planning and buy-in from all stakeholders can help to mitigate budget pressures, according to local leaders at the April 10 regional meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association in Watertown.

During the meeting, titled "How Fiscal Policies Shape Our Communities," several dozen councillors learned about Marlborough's economic development efforts, Watertown's fiscal strategy and budget philosophy, and the MMA's recent fiscal reports and efforts to improve the financial ecosystem for cities and towns.

MMCA President Lisa Feltner, a Watertown city councillor, hosted the meeting in a new life-sciences development that was constructed during the city's building boom in recent years.

Meredith Harris, executive director of the Marlborough Economic Development Corporation, said her quasi-public office supports the city's businesses and helps bring additional revenue to the city, which is located in western Middlesex County with convenient access to major highways. The corporation works with city officials and departments to create a more "business-friendly" atmosphere for companies.

"We're really trying to put Marlborough on the map, and not just in the Commonwealth, but throughout the country," Harris said. "So when a Moderna or a Sartorius is looking for their next home, their next corporate headquarters, Marlborough is on their mind."

Since the Marlborough Economic Development Corporation was created two decades ago, the development-related revenue brought in through its efforts has helped Marlborough maintain one of the highest unused levy capacities in the state, and has helped limit residential tax increases to less than \$200 per year on average during most of the past 15-plus years, said Marlborough City Council President Michael Ossing.

"It allows the council to make moves and decisions on projects, zoning, schools,



Meredith Harris, executive director of the Marlborough Economic Development Corporation, discusses her office's work during a Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association regional meeting on April 10 in Watertown.



Watertown City Auditor Megan Langan describes her city's fiscal strategies during a Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association regional meeting on April 10 in Watertown.

and fire stations that have minimal impact on the taxes," Ossing said, "which is really beneficial."

Created by a home rule petition, the corporation gets its funding from the city's local hotel tax, and spends about \$800,000 annually on economic development, Harris said. The office also supports small businesses and fosters an ecosystem benefitting both businesses and workers. The extensive collaboration between her office and city departments is critical to the city's economic development success, she said.

Watertown City Auditor Megan Langan gave a presentation that described how her city's fiscal policies have helped it build a new high school (soon to open) and two elementary schools, and renovate a third elementary school, without seeking an override or debt exclusion, and while maintaining a AAA bond rating.

Watertown is now looking at other potential projects, including a new middle school, a new senior center, fire station upgrades in the city's East End, and a redesign of Watertown Square.

Langan said the city's successes have been years in the making, tied to effective long-range planning.

"You have to give so much credit to the prior administration and to the council of 20 years ago for having this foresight, and developing these policies and thought processes of how to put this money aside for the future," Langan said. "If they hadn't done it 20 years ago, we wouldn't have been in the position that we are now."

Langan said Watertown has exercised

fiscal discipline, and has a year-round budgeting process, annual financial audits, aggressive capital improvement planning, and a focus on economic development. Watertown has aggressively paid down its obligations for other post-employment benefits (primarily health insurance for retired employees), Langan said, and relies on 11 different stabilization funds, directing money into them during healthier years. The strategy has freed up money for other priorities, including helping to reduce the amount of borrowing needed to fund large-scale projects.

"We're really trying to budget for flexibility," Langan said. "We intentionally build contingencies into our financial DNA, which allow us to pivot as economic conditions evolve without having to ask more of our taxpayers."

MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman discussed the MMA's recent "[Perfect Storm](#)" and "[Navigating the Storm](#)" reports, which outline the fiscal challenges faced by Massachusetts municipalities and offer proposed solutions to provide local governments with more support, strengthening the local-state partnership and providing more budget flexibility at the local level.

With communities facing escalating costs — particularly for employee health insurance, energy and construction — and strict limits on their revenue-raising ability, Koffman identified several MMA recommendations, leading with a restoration of adequate and reliable state aid. Additional options include allowing communities additional flexibility under Proposition 2½, subject to

■ **MMCA MEETING** *continued on 14*

# Gov. Healey files economic development bill

Gov. Maura Healey on April 16 filed a \$305 million economic development bill, called the Mass Wins Act, that she said is aimed at positioning Massachusetts as a global destination for companies looking to invest, grow and create jobs, while strengthening the state's competitiveness and lowering costs for businesses.

The governor said the package builds on last year's [Mass Leads Act](#), and reflects a changing economic landscape and the need for continued, strategic investment to maintain the state's edge in key industries such as artificial intelligence, quantum technology, climate technology, defense and robotics.

"Massachusetts has always competed on the strength of our people, our ideas and our willingness to lead," she said in a prepared statement.

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll said the legislation "brings together the tools to support our communities, back our businesses and unlock growth in every region."

Of note to municipalities, the bill would establish consistent definitions for the site plan review process, a policy area that the MMA has been actively involved in during recent years. Additionally, the bill would enable municipalities to opt-in to zoning changes focused on commercial conversion incentives, intended to transform underused properties into housing. The bill includes a provision that would explicitly allow mayors to initiate zoning proposals in cities.

The administration said the bill is organized around five core pillars focused on driving innovation, reducing barriers to growth, expanding access to opportunity, supporting business development, and strengthening the state's long-term economic foundations.



Gov. Maura Healey has filed a \$305 million economic development bill.

The five pillars are:

- **GlobalMass: Elevating Massachusetts' Global Economic Leadership** — A seed investment of at least \$50 million would be used to attract global capital into Massachusetts-based companies, with \$20 million for site development and infrastructure to attract international companies to Massachusetts.
- **A More Affordable Massachusetts: Lowering Costs for Businesses** — The fee for starting a new business would be reduced from \$500 to \$100, and 20,000 more businesses would gain access to the Small Business Energy Tax Exemption. The administration said the bill would authorize discounted utility rates for large employers relocating to Massachusetts without increasing costs for other ratepayers, and would make the building code appeals process more consistent and predictable.
- **Talent That Starts Here and Stays Here** — The administration said the bill would strengthen the state's talent pipeline and support early-career workers through targeted updates to the noncompete law, alongside a \$10 million annual internship tax credit program to expand access to early-career opportunities and help connect

talent to in-state employers.

- **A More Competitive Massachusetts** — The bill includes \$100 million for defense sector innovation to support infrastructure, research and supply chain development across national security technologies, and \$75 million to expand the application of artificial intelligence across key industries and invest in emerging technologies like quantum computing.

An additional \$25 million would support the state's globally recognized robotics cluster, while \$25 million would provide capital support for companies expanding or constructing facilities in the state.

The bill would also advance grid innovation and streamline approvals for climate technology deployment.

- **OneMA: Expanding Opportunity Across the State** — The bill has \$25 million dedicated to downtown and community revitalization projects that support local growth and vibrancy. The bill would streamline zoning processes in Devens, and reduce barriers for internationally trained nurses and licensed engineers to enter the workforce.

The bill includes \$25 million in new capital investments in the creative economy, and would expand eligibility for the Cultural Facilities Fund to support community and cultural assets.

The bill would also align key tax credit programs across agencies to improve consistency, coordination, and overall effectiveness.

The Mass Wins Act is expected to be the subject of a legislative hearing in the coming weeks. The full legislation and bill summary are available at [Mass.gov/MassWins](https://www.mass.gov/MassWins). ●

## Website, app accessibility deadline extended for local governments

The U.S. Department of Justice on April 20 announced a [one-year extension](#) of state and local government compliance deadlines for accessibility requirements covering websites and mobile applications.

The delayed implementation of new rules under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act gives Massachusetts municipalities more time to align their websites and mobile apps

with federal standards.

The compliance deadlines are now:

- April 26, 2027, for public entities serving a population of 50,000 or more
- April 26, 2028, for smaller public entities, serving a population of less than 50,000

The Department of Justice first adopted website accessibility rules for state and local governments in April of 2024,

when it updated regulations for Title II of the ADA.

The final rule has specific requirements about how to ensure that web content and mobile applications are accessible to people with disabilities. The rule mandates compliance with the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.1 Level AA standards](#).

— *Dave Koffman*

# State finalizes drinking water, wastewater SRF plans

By Josie Ahlberg

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust have released final intended use plans for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

The MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust jointly manage the two federal-state financing programs. The drinking water fund provides subsidized loans and grants to protect drinking water quality, while the clean water fund provides subsidized loans and grants to protect water quality and public health.

The federal Clean Water Act requires the state to prepare intended use plans (IUPs) each year, following a public review and comment period, to identify how funds will be used. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is required to receive the final intended use plans before awarding the annual capitalization grant to the fund.

The MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust released the Massachusetts IUPs on April 1. Under the plans:

- The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund will offer approximately \$434 million of financial assistance for wastewater projects across the Commonwealth. Sixteen new construction projects will receive \$167 million, and 13 previously approved multi-year projects will receive \$148 million, among other awards. ([View the 2026 Drinking Water Intended Use Plan](#))
- The Clean Water State Revolving Fund will offer \$728 million to support wastewater projects. Thirty new construction projects will be offered \$432 million, and 12 previously awarded multi-year projects will receive \$270 million. ([View the 2026 Clean Water Intended Use Plan](#))

## Program updates

MassDEP oversees the administration of the state revolving funds program, with financing and fiscal administration managed by the Clean Water Trust.

In developing the intended use plans, some programmatic changes are incorporated from year to year. This is typically reflected in the review and administration of that year's awards or



The state has issued final intended use plans for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds.

for applications in future years.

In the IUPs for 2026, MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust acknowledged several headwinds impacting the programs. The years of unprecedented federal investment in state revolving funds under the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act are coming to an end, with funding set to expire in 2026. Coupled with decreased federal base grants, the implications for Massachusetts are reflected in less state capacity to fund new projects in future IUPs.

In addition to federal changes, MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust noted that

the cost, size and scope of an average project in recent years is stressing available financial resources. The SRFs continue to prioritize using funds efficiently and in a timely manner, as well as maximizing the number of projects the fund is able to support.

One programmatic change announced through the 2026 IUPs was the inability of SRFs to continue to offer interest-free loans for eligible PFAS projects ([more on PFAS here](#)). The PFAS Remediation Loan Program began as a pilot in 2020 to meet new PFAS drinking water regulation standards. The program remains available, but will not offer 0% interest for any 2026 IUP PFAS project loans, including for carry-over projects.

MassDEP and the Clean Water Trust indicated their intent to use other available funds for loan forgiveness and to provide financing savings to municipalities and applicants.

Visit the [SRF Intended Use Plans website](#) for more information. ●



## Local leaders thank Senate for UGGA proposal

Flanked by municipal leaders from across the state on May 4 at the State House, Sharon Select Board Chair and MMA Vice President Kiana Baskin thanks Senate leaders at their announcement that the Senate Ways and Means Committee's state budget bill for fiscal 2027 will propose a 4% increase in Unrestricted General Government Aid. The additional \$53 million would bring the total to nearly \$1.37 billion, and every city and town would see a boost. The Senate will debate and pass its version of the state budget during May.

# State designates 29 new Housing Choice Communities

The Healey-Driscoll administration on April 13 announced 29 Housing Choice Community designations, recognizing cities and towns that are working to support housing production.

The [Housing Choice Initiative](#) rewards municipalities that have built new housing units at certain rates or amounts over the last five years and have adopted housing best practices to sustain a modern workforce and increase access to opportunity for Massachusetts residents.

Housing Choice communities receive exclusive access to the Housing Choice Grant Program and receive bonus points or other considerations for [other participating programs](#).

This year's designations include the first communities awarded a new, separate [Rural and Small Town Housing Choice designation](#), which was created as a result of input from rural and small towns to ensure that all communities can participate in the state's housing strategy. (Twelve rural and small communities had previously qualified under the general designation.)

Massachusetts now has 92 Housing Choice Communities statewide, including 65 Housing Choice Communities

and 27 Rural and Small Town Housing Choice Communities. This year also marks the largest number of rural and small towns ever designated through the initiative.

The 29 newly designated communities are: Ayer, Bedford, Bernardston, Bolton, Buckland, Burlington, Deerfield, Douglas, Easthampton, Edgartown, Franklin, Gardner, Gill, Great Barrington, Hamilton, Harvard, Haverhill, Lexington, Lincoln, Lynn, Melrose, New Salem, Newton, Oak Bluffs, Sherborn, Uxbridge, Wellesley, Westport and Wrentham.

"We are working with communities to create more homes, bring down costs, and make it easier for people to stay in the places they love," Gov. Maura Healey said in a prepared statement. "By expanding this program to rural and small towns, we are making sure every region has the tools to be part of the solution."

All 15 rural and small towns that applied



The 29 new Housing Choice Community communities will receive exclusive access to the Housing Choice Grant Program and receive bonus points or other considerations for other participating programs.

in 2026 received the new designation. Over the past five years, these communities have collectively produced 8,696 units.

Since the start of the initiative in 2018, Housing Choice Communities have produced 79% of all new homes in Massachusetts, including more than 71% of homes built in the past five years.

Visit the [Housing Choice Initiative](#) website for more information. ●

## Senate approves farming, agriculture legislation

By Josie Ahlberg

The Senate on April 1 passed "An Act Fostering Agricultural Resilience in Massachusetts," or the FARM bill, which aims to support farming and agricultural development in the Commonwealth.

The bill ([S. 3040](#)) includes several recommendations from a Special [Commission on Agriculture](#) in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century, which was established to study farm viability, adaptability, and resiliency, as well as education and technical assistance needs, in changing economic, climate and energy landscapes. The commission submitted its [final report](#) to the Legislature last December.

The bill has several thematic goals:

- Strengthening the food system and food security
- Preserving prime agricultural land and addressing farmland loss
- Making farm policy work for farmers by addressing profitability and



The Senate has passed a bill that aims to support farming and agricultural development in the state.

resilience

- Increasing equity in agricultural opportunities

Some provisions of note to municipalities include a standard definition of agritourism, which refers to recreational, educational or entertainment experiences for visitors provided by farms and other agricultural businesses. Agritourism, which can boost income for farmers, is currently regulated by

some municipalities in Massachusetts.

The bill would charge the Department of Agricultural Resources with promulgating regulations on minimum land and revenue thresholds for agritourism that would apply statewide, so long as the activities do not unreasonably detract from agricultural production.

The bill would provide for a new tax exemption, at local option, for "any increase in value that results from the construction or reconstruction of structures" used in agricultural or farming operations, for a period of up to five years. Municipalities would be able to set a value limit on the exemption, with assessors responsible for reviewing and approving applications.

The bill has been sent to the House for its consideration. ●

# DOER certifies 7 new Climate Leader Communities

The Department of Energy Resources on March 26 announced that seven cities and towns met the requirements to become the state's third group of Climate Leader Communities.

The newly certified communities are Beverly, Brookline, Eastham, Sharon, Shutesbury, Warwick and Wayland, bringing the total to 35.

[Climate Leader Communities](#) are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$1.15 million each for projects that reduce municipal emissions and for technical support related to those projects.

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper said the work by the communities "to reduce municipal energy use and bills, add locally generated energy, and create stronger, more resilient communities does not go unnoticed."

"Local energy projects like these add up to make Massachusetts more affordable and more resilient in the face of climate change," she said.

DOER Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony

said the seven new Climate Leader Communities had extensive success in lowering energy use and costs while cutting pollution, and that the program would help to advance community resilience.

The Department of Energy Resources also awarded close to \$1.16 million in technical support grants to Climate Leader Communities. Funding ranging from \$119,000 to \$150,000 was awarded to Aquinnah, Carlisle, Harvard, Melrose, Natick, Stow, Truro and West Tisbury.

The Climate Leader Communities Program builds on the [Green Communities Designation and Grant program](#).

The vast majority of Massachusetts municipalities are designated as Green Communities, and are partnering with the DOER on hundreds of projects to deliver more than \$30 million in cost savings each year.

The DOER created the Climate Leader Communities program in response to demand from designated Green

Communities for a higher tier of the program. The CLC program encourages municipalities to lower municipal emissions, maximize the efficiency of buildings and transportation, and cut energy costs.

Certified Climate Leader Communities have access to grant funding to support energy efficiency measures and heating and cooling projects, energy management services, and local energy generation on municipally owned property.

To become a CLC, municipalities must meet certification requirements that include a local committee to advise and help coordinate local energy activities in the municipality; a commitment to transition away from on-site fossil fuel use in municipal buildings and fleets by 2050; a zero-emission-vehicle-first policy; and adoption of the Specialized Energy Code.

Climate Leader grant programs will be funded through auction proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and Alternative Compliance Payments.

## MMA offers two-part webinar series on overrides, budget challenges

As chronicled in the MMA's "[Perfect Storm](#)" report, municipalities across Massachusetts are facing difficult budget decisions this spring, including whether to pursue Proposition 2½ overrides.

In light of this reality, the MMA is offering a two-part webinar series with practical guidance for municipal leaders on what comes after a local vote — helping communities plan next steps and communicate decisions clearly.

### • **May 13: "Managing Your Budget Without an Override"**

This webinar will offer practical advice for municipalities navigating fiscal constraints. Whether an override attempt was unsuccessful, or was never initiated, this webinar will discuss how to navigate tough budgeting and layoff decisions. ([Online registration is available.](#))

### • **June 10: "Cultivating Transparency After a 'Yes' Vote"**

This webinar will focus on how municipalities can keep stakeholders informed after a successful override effort. It will cover how to clearly explain budget

decisions and identify the local programs that will be supported by the override. The importance of managing staff and resident expectations will also be explored. ([Online registration is available.](#))

Both webinars will run from noon to 1:15 p.m., via Zoom. The webinars are free, but advance registration is required.

To increase accessibility, closed captioning is available for all MMA webinars. Zoom also has the ability to translate captions in multiple languages. Questions will be taken during the

webinar using the Q&A function, which requires the use of the Zoom app for desktop or smartphone.

Only MMA members may register. MMA members include elected officials and municipal employees from MMA member communities across the state. Media members are not permitted to attend.

Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator [Kristianna Lapierre](mailto:Kristianna.Lapierre@mma.org) at [klapierre@mma.org](mailto:klapierre@mma.org)



## LGAC focuses on UGGA

During a meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission on April 14 in Boston, Westfield Mayor Michael McCabe emphasizes the importance of Unrestricted General Government Aid for essential municipal services. State aid, he said, "can mitigate the impact on essential services from growing costs, but it also can mean less that needs to come directly from their property taxes. With our discussions about competitiveness and affordability, this is central to it."

# New Economic Development Academy launches June 4

The MMA is a supporter of a new initiative from MassEcon and UMass Lowell aimed at helping cities and towns further develop their economic development efforts.

The Economic Development Academy of Massachusetts is a professional development opportunity for municipal staff who are engaged in shaping their community's economic future.

The two-day professional development program will bring together professionals from across sectors, creating a collaborative learning environment for those involved in community planning and growth.

Participants may include elected



officials, municipal and state agency staff, planners, utility and transportation professionals, business leaders, chamber of commerce representatives, and community volunteers in economic development fields.

By learning alongside peers from both the public and private sectors, municipal staff will gain practical insight into economic development strategies,

partnerships, and tools that can be directly applied within their communities.

The academy equips participants with a deeper understanding of economic development ecosystems while strengthening cross-sector relationships that support sustainable local growth.

The first cohort will be held at MassEcon's office at 260 Arsenal Place in Watertown on June 4 and 5. The cost to participate is \$610. [Click here to register.](#)

Questions should be directed to Lexington Economic Development Director Sandhya Iyer at [siyer@lexingtonma.gov](mailto:siyer@lexingtonma.gov). ●

## Lt. Gov. to speak at 24th Municipal Law Conference on May 13

Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll will be the featured speaker at the 24th annual Municipal Law Conference on May 13 at Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education in Boston.

The conference, co-sponsored by the MCLE, the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association and the MMA, covers the latest essential updates and developments from the Legislature, government regulators, and courts.

Lawyers who represent and advise Massachusetts cities, towns, and other public sector clients encounter complex, multi-disciplinary questions daily, ranging from A (affirmative litigation) to Z (zoning). Public sector attorneys need legal competence in a wide range of areas, amid a rapidly evolving legal

landscape. Local officials also need to be familiar with these issues and topics, and this is an opportunity to learn and ask questions.

The agenda includes the following sessions:

- Good Government: The Three-Legged Stool — Ethics, Open Meeting Law and Public Records
- Employment Law: Key Updates From Cases and New Laws
- Zoning and Land Use: Key Topics in the Changing and Challenging Landscape
- Federal Government Update: What Are the Current Directives From Washington

- Challenging State and Federal Laws: A Primer for Municipal Counsel

Driscoll, an attorney, is a former member of the MMLA, having served as chief legal counsel and deputy city manager in Chelsea before serving as mayor in Salem for 17 years. Her keynote is titled "How Massachusetts is Meeting the Moment With Municipalities."

The conference will run from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education is located at 10 Winter Place in Boston.

Visit the [MCLE website](#) for more details and to register. ●

## Municipal Cybersecurity Summit is May 13 in Worcester

A cyberattack on a city or town can disrupt critical services and stretch community resources. To help address these challenges, the MassCyberCenter is hosting its sixth annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on May 13 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

The summit will equip municipal leaders with the skills to support security-based decision making and champion cyber resilience within their organizations.

This year's theme, "Empowering Cybersecurity Leaders" underscores the importance of cultivating administrators and practitioners with cybersecurity

awareness at every level of government to better safeguard digital public spaces.

Attendees will learn about cybersecurity risks, explore statewide programs, and gain practical insights about the current threat landscape. The event will also offer opportunities to connect with peers who share the mission of protecting the technology systems residents rely on every day.

This year's summit will feature a session on how AI is shaping cybersecurity, which will help participants understand AI's vulnerabilities and its potential to effectively strengthen cyber defenses.

A representative from the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation will reveal the results of its data breach report to demonstrate how cybersecurity incidents are impacting cities and towns across the Commonwealth.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the DCU Center, located at 50 Foster St. in Worcester. [Registration is available online.](#) ●

# MMA Webinars

## Constellation's energy analysis

The MMA hosted a webinar on April 8 with its partner in the MunEnergy program, [Constellation](#), to look at the energy landscape in the region.

Brandon Fong, principal of Constellation's Commodities Management Group, provided an energy market update, beginning with a breakdown of estimated supplier prices in Massachusetts and comparing them to 2017. Fong said New England's energy prices are influenced by global markets because the region relies on importing liquefied natural gas to meet demand for power generation.

The Constellation team said below-average temperatures are anticipated this summer in New England, but the region will still see some high temperatures and is experiencing a drought.

Constellation has been MMA's endorsed supplier for MunEnergy, the MMA's municipal energy program, for more than two decades. The Constellation team offers a wide range of services to help communities manage summer energy costs, including strategic energy buying, efficiency projects, and clean energy options. As electricity production is struggling to keep up with demand and New England prices rise, Constellation can help cities and towns explore alternative energy and cost-savings solutions.

Aiste Dacys and Charlotte Diogo, business development managers at Constellation, reviewed the benefits of the MunEnergy Program. They work directly with municipalities on their energy needs. Dacys works with cities and towns in central and western

## Effective customer service

An MMA webinar on April 15 titled "Top 10 Wishlist of the Internal Customer" explored what municipal employees need in order to be effective in customer service roles.

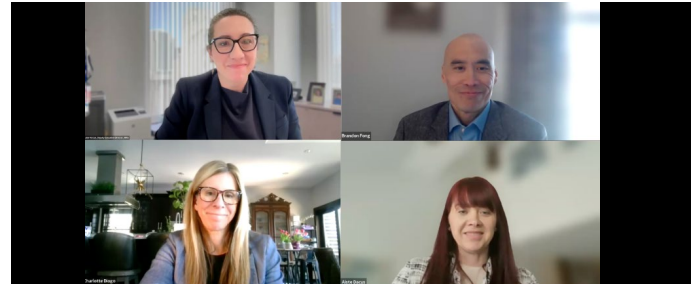
Stephen Coleman, fire chief and assistant town manager in Auburn, said municipalities know that customer service is important to their work, but most don't offer employee training on the topic.

"If this is so important to us, why are we not spending any time on it?" he asked.

Coleman said "internal customers" — anyone with a stake in the organization — need to feel valued in their roles in order to boost productivity, morale, and job satisfaction.

"How do we expect our employees to treat the public with a smile if we are not creating an environment internally that allows them to thrive and be able to carry out that mission?" he asked. "If we're not providing them with the same kind of customer experience that we expect them to deliver to the public, they're not going to be able to serve the public in the manner that we wish or want them to."

Coleman shared his "wishlist of the internal customer" — a list of the top things employees need from their supervisors to feel valued in their roles. They include: establishing a culture where it's OK not to be OK, providing a healthy and safe work environment, listening to staff, advocating for training and equipment, and prioritizing recognition and encouragement.



Panelists discuss the current energy market and summer energy forecasts during a recent MMA webinar. Speakers included, clockwise from top right, Brandon Fong, principal of Constellation Energy's Commodities Management Group; Aiste Dacys, senior business development manager at Constellation; Charlotte Diogo, senior business development manager at Constellation; and Katie McCue, deputy executive director at MMA, who moderated the panel.

**Date:** April 8

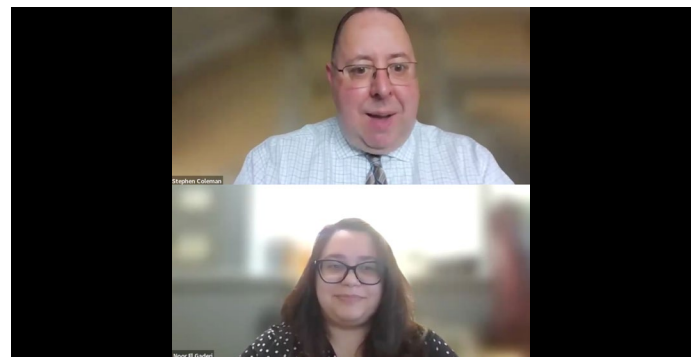
**Length:** 60 minutes

[VIEW WEBINAR ↗](#)

Massachusetts, and Diogo works with members in eastern and southeastern Massachusetts.

MMA Deputy Executive Director Katie McCue moderated 10 minutes of questions and answers, addressing inquiries regarding why international events affect gas rates, strategies to fix supply issues in Massachusetts, and Constellation's sustainability operations with municipalities.

— *Kristianna Lapierre*



During an MMA webinar, panelists discuss strategies for supporting staff by understanding their needs. Speakers were Stephen Coleman, top, Auburn fire chief and assistant town manager, and Noor El Gaderi, bottom, Southbridge human resources director.

**Date:** April 15

**Length:** 75 minutes

[VIEW WEBINAR ↗](#)

Southbridge Human Resources Director Noor El Gaderi moderated 15 minutes of questions and answers, addressing inquiries regarding boosting morale among remote teams, working with colleagues who are resistant to change, and tips for making employees feel valued.

— *Kristianna Lapierre*

# MMA Webinars

## Summer World Cup events

On April 13, the MMA hosted a webinar with state officials and representatives of FIFA World Cup Boston 2026 for municipalities preparing for events related to this summer's FIFA World Cup.

Neil Doherty and Sam Sylvain, director of government relations and director of transportation with [Boston 2026](#), opened with an overview of the matches that will take place in June and July at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, branded as "Boston Stadium" for the tournament.

The World Cup is seen as an unprecedented opportunity for the Boston area to welcome 2 million visitors, with many economic and other impacts for surrounding communities — hotel and car rentals, transportation, and public works and public safety.

Rod Brooks, senior advisor for safety, operations and capital with the MBTA, said the transit agency is coordinating with local, state and federal partners to be able to transport 20,000 fans from South Station to Foxborough with its express Boston Stadium train service.

Amy Getchell, manager of construction traffic management for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, said MassDOT is working to mitigate and manage the increase in traffic heading to Boston Stadium this summer by installing stadium wayfinding signage along major routes, posting travel times on Mass511, posting tow trucks along major routes for quick clearance of disabled vehicles, increasing the operating hours for Highway Assistance Patrol, and placing cameras at strategic locations to monitor traffic.

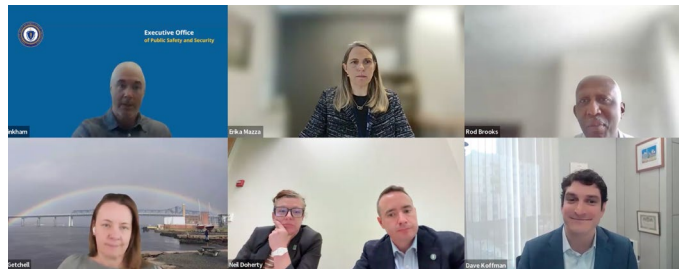
Dan Pinkham, special advisor to Boston 2026 from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, said the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency is active throughout the Commonwealth and leading regular meetings with the 351 local emergency manager directors to review anticipated statewide impacts from the World Cup. The office is also finalizing a Human Trafficking Preparedness Plan to share with municipalities to proactively address risks related to sex and labor trafficking.

MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman moderated 10 minutes of questions and answers, addressing inquiries regarding the projected geographic radius of impacted communities, support for municipal public safety, and which MBTA lines will be running to Boston Stadium.

— *Kristianna Lapierre*

### Webinar topic suggestion form available

The MMA invites members to submit topic ideas for webinars or offer their expertise to present on a topic. Visit the [webinars form](#) on our website.



Panelists discuss essential public safety and transportation information for communities preparing for 2026 World Cup events during a recent MMA webinar. Speakers included, top row, l-r, Dan Pinkham, special advisor to FIFA World Cup Boston 2026 for the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security; Erika Mazza, chief enterprise development officer for the MBTA; Rod Brooks, senior advisor for safety, operations, and capital at the MBTA; and bottom row, l-r, Amy Getchell, manager of construction traffic management for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation; Sam Sylvain, Boston 2026 director of transportation; Neil Doherty, Boston 2026 director of government relations; and MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman.

**Date:** April 13

**Length:** 60 minutes

[VIEW WEBINAR](#) ➔



## LGAC discusses proposed winter recovery funds

During a meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission on April 14 in Boston, MMA Vice President and Sharon Select Board Member Kiana Baskin expresses support for proposals in a supplemental budget bill to provide targeted support to cities, towns and school districts. In particular, Baskin noted strong local support for the Senate's addition of \$100 million to address infrastructure damage and extraordinary costs following an especially snowy winter season. "Many communities across the Commonwealth are struggling to recover from the impacts of winter weather," Baskin said. "As the lucky recipients of 32.5 inches of snowfall, Sharon was one of the harder hit communities during this year's blizzard in February."

# MSA to hold training for new select board members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a free training session for newly elected select board members on Friday, June 12, in Devens.

The training will include sessions on municipal finance, the open meeting and public records laws, and other key topics for members of select boards.

Attendees will also have opportunities to network with colleagues from around the

state and hear from veteran select board members.

Registration and breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be served.

The full agenda will be posted on [www.mma.org](http://www.mma.org) and emailed to all MSA members.

The training is targeted to newly elected

select board members, but any select board member is welcome to attend for a refresher.

Newly elected select board members are encouraged to share their contact information with the MMA (by email, to [database@mma.org](mailto:database@mma.org)) in order to receive information about MSA events.

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis at [mdavis@mma.org](mailto:mdavis@mma.org)

# MMMA, MMHR discuss human resources at joint meeting

By Martin Davis

A joint meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources on April 16 in Salem discussed the evolving role of human resources in municipal leadership.

The meeting began with a conversation about the relationship between managers and HR directors, moderated by Westwood Deputy Town Administrator Molly Fitzpatrick.

“These relationships are so important,” said Katherine Bird, assistant town manager for administration and operations in Ashland. “Draw clear lines in the beginning and be direct: ‘What do you want me to do and not to do? When do you want to hear from me?’ Always find time to prepare together before going into a meeting and then find time to debrief.”

Recognizing busy schedules and the fact that many municipalities have half-day Fridays, Southborough Assistant Town Administrator Vanessa Hale and others suggested blocking off time on one or two Friday afternoons a month for managers and HR directors to check in.

Arlington Human Resources Director Caryn Malloy discussed the importance of HR directors and town managers being a united front, and the message that it conveys to employees.

When dealing with employees, Malloy

advised, “Stay boring, be consistent, and be fair.”

The panelists then discussed how human resources is shifting from transactional to more strategic and supportive roles.

“HR is data-driven,” said Wakefield Town Administrator Denise Casey, “and managers don’t accept that enough. So ask to be more involved in planning processes.”

Hale urged MMHR members to get more involved in the budget process.

“Managers are looking at the bigger picture, and HR has great foresight and can identify employee skill sets and assist with succession planning,” Hale said.

The session concluded with a discussion about how managers and HR professionals can work together to guard against employee burnout. Panelists emphasized the need to get out of the office and increase “face time” with department heads and other employees.

To build camaraderie, Casey shared that she always starts meetings with “connection before content.”



Southborough Assistant Town Administrator Vanessa Hale, left, speaks as part of a panel on the relationship between municipal managers and human resources professionals during a joint meeting of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources on April 16 in Salem. Also pictured are panelists Katherine Bird, center, assistant town manager for administration and operations in Ashland; and Wakefield Town Administrator Denise Casey. Westwood Deputy Town Administrator Molly Fitzpatrick moderated the panel.

Other ways to foster a stronger workplace culture and inter-departmental connection include establishing fun committees and creating cook-offs.

Bird encouraged managers to “be open to creative ideas.”

The meeting also featured a legislative update from MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine. ●

# State awards \$107,900 in loans for clean water projects

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust’s Board of Trustees on April 8 approved \$107,900 in low-interest loans and grants to cities, towns and water utilities through the Massachusetts State Revolving Funds.

The funds help communities build or replace water infrastructure that enhances

existing water resources, ensures drinking water safety, protects public health, and increases community resilience.

Cybersecurity Improvement Grants ranging from \$17,900 to \$30,000 were awarded to Millis, North Chelmsford Water District, Plainville, and South Hadley Fire

District #1.

For more information, visit the [SRF programs webpage](#). Information on the state’s [Disadvantaged Community Loan Forgiveness Program](#) is also available online. ●

# MMHR to hold Labor Relations Seminar on May 7

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources will hold its annual Labor Relations Seminar on May 7 in Devens.

The seminar will open with a labor law update from attorneys Michael Maccaro and Madison Harris-Parks of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane.

Rachel Shaw, owner of Rachel Shaw Inc., will lead a training session on mental health issues and the intersection of discipline and disability. With more than 15 years of executive-level HR experience, Shaw is recognized in California as a leader in helping public and private sector employers manage their most challenging personnel issues. Shaw spoke at MMHR's labor relations seminar last October, on the topic of the ADA Disability Interactive Process.

In the afternoon, the MMA Legislative Director Dave Koffman will provide a



Rachel Shaw



Melissa Murray



Joellen Cademartori

The agenda and registration are available at

[www.mma.org](http://www.mma.org).

Seminar registration and a networking coffee will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the event will conclude at 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

legislative update, and attendees will participate in one of two breakout workshops:

- A session on succession planning presented by Joellen Cademartori, senior vice president at MGT
- A training session on navigating discipline in unionized environments, led by attorney Melissa Murray of Norris, Murray & Peloquin

The registration fee is \$90 for MMHR members and \$110 for nonmembers.

The seminar will be held at the Devens Common Center, 31 Andrews Parkway in Devens.

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis at [mdavis@mma.org](mailto:mdavis@mma.org)

## MMA webinar will cover new public health data and workflow platform

The MMA will host a webinar with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health on May 19 about Metrik, the state's new public health data and workflow platform.

Metrik's goal is to provide access for all Massachusetts municipalities to clear, reliable data and simple, modern tools for collecting, managing, analyzing, and reporting public health data.

With Metrik, the DPH strives to help municipalities reduce administrative burdens, improve visibility into local trends, enhance the ability of communities to provide efficient and effective public health services, and ensure access to the same secure, high-quality reporting tools throughout the Commonwealth.

The webinar will cover:

- What Metrik is, what it will do, and why it's being built
- What Metrik means for municipal

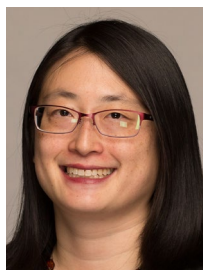
leaders, staff, departments, and budgets

- How Metrik will add value for municipal staff, local businesses, and constituents
- How the DPH is incorporating local perspectives into Metrik's design and planning, and building it to address the real needs of Massachusetts communities

Presenters from the DPH's Office of Local and Regional Health will be:

- Aimee Petrosky, director of performance standards and data systems
- Rike Sterrett, assistant director of data systems

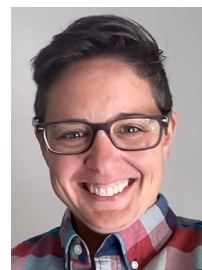
They will be joined by Shin-Yi Lao, commissioner in Newton's Health and



Shin-Yi Lao



Rike Sterrett



Aimee Petrosky

Human Services Department.

**Online registration is available** for the 75-minute webinar, which will begin at noon. Only MMA members may register. MMA members include elected officials and municipal employees from MMA member communities across the state. Media members are not permitted to attend.

Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre at [klapierre@mma.org](mailto:klapierre@mma.org)

### MMCA MEETING

Continued from page 5

approval by local voters, prioritizing key local aid accounts such as those related to education costs, a modest expansion

of local revenue options, and alleviating outdated administrative burdens and modernizing municipal practices.

"There's no silver bullet," Koffman said of the MMA's recommendations, "but [the reports] say there's a lot that we

can do. There's a lot that we need to move forward in policy, to give our cities and towns, obviously, resources. ... It's about different tools that can help them through all these different budget challenges." ●

# MMA webinar to cover civic engagement in libraries

The MMA will host a webinar on May 26 exploring the role of municipal libraries as hubs for civic engagement.

Panelists will discuss local initiatives that strengthen community ties and civic participation, including English for Speakers of Other Languages instruction, citizenship classes, and efforts to engage students in local civic activities and voter registration.

Panelists will discuss how libraries are increasing accessibility by breaking down language barriers and bringing vital services to their municipality.

Speakers will include:

- Janelle Abreu, library director, Lawrence



Janelle Abreu



Alysa Hayden



Anna Bognolo

- Anna Bognolo, library director, Greenfield
- Smadar Gekow, literacy coordinator, Stoughton
- Alysa Hayden, library advisory specialist, Massachusetts Board

of Library Commissioners

[Online registration is available](#) for the 75-minute webinar, which will begin at noon. Only MMA members may register. MMA members include elected officials and municipal employ-

ees from MMA member communities across the state. Media members are not permitted to attend.

Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre at [klapierre@mma.org](mailto:klapierre@mma.org)

# MMA webinar with MMLA will cover municipal legal issues

A panel of attorneys with the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association will address timely legal topics affecting municipalities during an MMA webinar on June 2.

Topics will include cannabis law and policy, clean energy siting and permitting, and Section 122 of the Affordable Homes Act, which requires

that municipalities allow residential development on state-owned surplus land via a streamlined process.

The webinar will feature brief presentations on each topic and time for questions. Panelists will be announced soon.

The 75-minute webinar will begin at noon. [Online registration is available.](#)

Only MMA members may register. MMA members include elected officials and municipal employees from MMA member communities across the state. Media members are not permitted to attend.

Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre at [klapierre@mma.org](mailto:klapierre@mma.org)



## LGAC applauds Ch. 90 funding

During a meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission on April 14 in Boston, Leicester Select Board member Peter Cusolito thanks the Healey-Driscoll administration for its Chapter 90 funding proposal. "The extra \$100 million allocation, distributed based on road mileage, is a game changer for municipalities like Leicester," Cusolito said. "It provides a tangible improvement to the quality of infrastructure projects we are able to pursue."



## Mayors, police discuss public safety

Chelsea Community Engagement Specialist Dan Cortez, right, speaks during the Massachusetts Mayors' Association meeting on April 29 in Fitchburg. Cortez discussed Chelsea's approach to public safety, in a presentation that also featured Chelsea Police Chief Keith Houghton.

# State awards \$10.3M for clean drinking water

The Healey-Driscoll administration on April 27 announced more than \$10.3 million in grants for 18 public water suppliers to promote consistent access to clean drinking water.

The program, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and operated in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, supports projects in small and disadvantaged communities that address drinking water contaminants, including those identified on the EPA's Contaminant Candidate Lists, such as PFAS and manganese.

In a prepared statement, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper said communities should not have to face water contaminant issues on their own.

“Through these grants, and other initiatives like the [Mass Ready Act](#), we’re doubling down on our efforts to provide safe, clean drinking water for everyone,” Tepper said.

PFAS, a group of man-made chemicals commonly used in consumer products, industrial processes, and certain firefighting foams, can impact infant development, organ function, and elevate cancer risk, according to the EPA.

Long-term exposures to high levels of manganese, a naturally occurring element present in water, soil, air and food, can have adverse effects on the human nervous system.

Grants of between \$4,700 and \$2.3 million were awarded to the towns of East Brookfield, Falmouth, Huntington, Maynard, Milford, New Salem, Norton, Rowley, Templeton, Ware, and West Brookfield, as well as the Applewood Community Corporation (Boxborough), Carlisle Congregational Church, Liberty House Condominium (Boxborough),



The Healey-Driscoll Administration on April 27 announced more than \$10.3 million in grants for projects in small and disadvantaged communities that address drinking water contaminants.

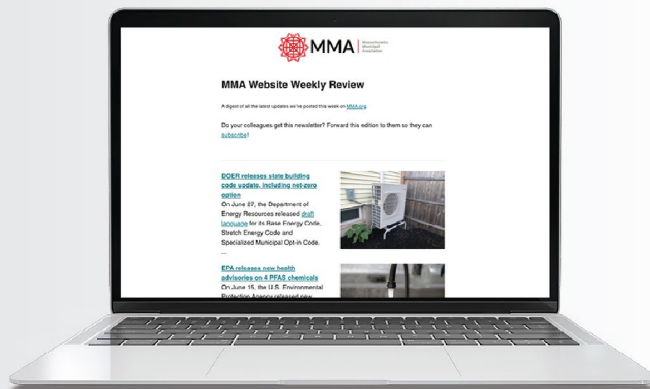
Maynard State LLC (Westport), Pinecroft School (Rehoboth), and South Royalston Improvement Corporation (Royalston).

The state's [Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant web page](#) has more information. For more about the communities that have received the grants, visit the [EC-SDC Grants Map](#). ●

## Everything new on the MMA website, straight to your inbox.

MMA.org is the best source for the latest developments affecting Mass. cities & towns:

- State budget & local aid
- State & federal grant opportunities
- Member group meetings & webinars
- Connect 351 announcements
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# MMA-Suffolk offering 3 finance, HR seminar sessions

By Kate Evarts

The MMA and Suffolk University will be offering three Municipal Finance Management Seminar programs during the 2026-2027 academic year — in the fall, winter and spring.

The seminar is for municipal employees interested in furthering their careers in municipal finance or employees who are new to municipal finance.

The seminar provides an overview of municipal finance in Massachusetts, including the structure and purpose of local government, municipal budgeting systems and sources of revenue, financial reporting and record keeping, financial management, principles of property assessment, the intersection of human resources and financial resources, and best practices in local government finance.

Participants must be currently employed by a city or town, and must have the approval of their municipal manager, administrator or mayor to apply.



## LGAC addresses excise tax collections

During a meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission on April 14 in Boston, Watertown City Councillor Lisa Feltner expresses concerns about a proposal that would change options that support the collection of unpaid motor vehicle excise bills. “We have extremely limited options to generate revenues, and the motor vehicle excise tax is a critical revenue source for every community,” Feltner said. “There must be processes to ensure that taxes are paid and paid in a timely manner.”

Seminars will be held via Zoom over the course of five Fridays, with class dates and enrollment details as follows:

- Fall 2026: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, Nov. 20, Dec. 4; registration opens Aug. 5
- Winter 2027: Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12; registration opens Oct. 21
- Spring 2027: March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2; registration opens Dec. 9

“We’ve seen great success with the program and are addressing a longstanding need,” said John Petrin, a retired town manager and senior fellow and liaison for the MMA-Suffolk programs. “We’re filling an important gap in preparing the next generation of municipal finance professionals.”

Students are expected to attend all course sessions, participate in class activities, and complete all course assignments. Each session can accommodate up to 25 students, and the cost is \$925.

Registration for each session will be hosted on the [MMA’s event registration website](#). Registration is first-come, first-served. Students will be vetted to ensure that they’re a municipal employee and that there are no more than three participants per municipality.

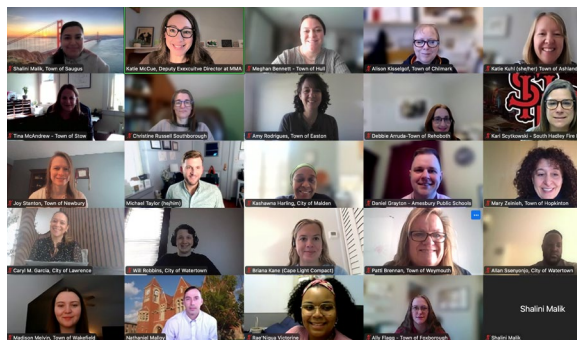
Questions about the registration process can be directed to Kate Evarts at [kevarts@mma.org](mailto:kevarts@mma.org) or 617-426-7272, ext. 172.

## Municipal Human Resources Seminar

The MMA and Suffolk University will host three sessions of the Municipal Human Resources Seminar during the 2026-2027 academic year.

The seminar covers human resources management, policies and practices specific to Massachusetts cities and towns. Topics include hiring and onboarding, benefits administration, policy development, collective bargaining, and employee reviews and evaluations. Students also review relevant labor laws and best practices in municipal human resources management.

The HR seminar is designed for municipal employees interested in furthering their



Students from the spring session of the MMA-Suffolk Municipal Human Resources Seminar gather online for their orientation on April 10. There are 25 students in this seventh session of the HR seminar.

career in municipal human resources, employees who are new to municipal human resources, and employees who work in a municipal function with human-resources-adjacent tasks. More than 175 participants have completed the seminar since its inception in 2024.

The Municipal Human Resources Seminar will be held via Zoom over the course of five Fridays, with class dates as follows:

- Fall 2026: Sept. 25, Oct. 2, Oct. 9, Oct. 16, Oct. 23
- Winter 2027: Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb. 26
- Spring 2027: April 9, April 16, April 23, April 30, May 7

The [application for the fall seminar](#) is due by July 15. This is a competitive application process; applicants will be informed of their status by the end of August.

Applications for future seminars will be posted on the MMA-Suffolk [website](#).

## More information

The MMA has partnered with Suffolk University since 2011 to offer programs designed exclusively for municipal employees to help them further their professional careers.

For more information on any of the MMA-Suffolk programs, visit [mma.org/suffolk](http://mma.org/suffolk) or contact Katie McCue at 617-426-7272, ext. 111, or [kmccue@mma.org](mailto:kmccue@mma.org), or Kate Evarts at 617-426-7272, ext. 172, or [kevarts@mma.org](mailto:kevarts@mma.org). ●

## State awards \$3.38 million to reduce diesel emissions

The Healey-Driscoll administration on March 26 announced \$3.38 million in grants to seven entities to purchase electric vehicles or replace outdated diesel-fueled equipment.

The Electric Solicitation grants, funded through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act and administered by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, will help to replace eligible diesel vehicles and equipment with zero-emission technologies.

Electrification reduces air and noise pollution and improves environmental

conditions, according to Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. Diesel emissions can cause serious health conditions like asthma and respiratory illnesses and exacerbate climate change.

“Communities across Massachusetts will see the benefits of these investments for years to come,” Tepper said in a prepared statement.

Grants ranging from \$132,000 to \$1.28 million were awarded to seven entities, including the towns of Arlington and Brookline.



The Senate has passed a bill that aims to support farming and agricultural development in the state.

Visit the [MassDEP website](#) for more information about the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act program. ●

## Fire departments get \$5M in grants for fire safety equipment

The Healey-Driscoll administration on March 31 announced \$5 million in grant funding to Massachusetts fire departments for new fire safety equipment.

The grants were awarded through the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program, which reimburses departments for purchases of close to 100 different types of safety equipment, including hoses and nozzles, ballistic protective equipment, and thermal imaging cameras.

The equipment can help departments comply with safety standards from the Occupational Safety and Health

Administration and National Fire Protection Association.

“We rely so heavily on firefighters in our most challenging moments,” Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll said in a prepared statement. “This program allows us to show our appreciation for the risks that they take to help us every day by providing them with the equipment they need to stay safe.”

Grants ranging from \$6,180 to \$50,000 were awarded to 307 Massachusetts fire departments.

The list of recipients and award amounts is [available online](#). ●



Equipment purchased using the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant program helps departments comply with safety standards from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Fire Protection Association.

## MMHR to hold annual meeting on June 4 in Boylston

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources will hold its annual meeting on June 4 in Boylston.

The agenda will include an MMA legislative update, a session focused on one of [MMHR's Pathway categories](#), MMHR's annual business meeting, and networking opportunities.

During the business meeting, attendees will vote on updates to the MMHR bylaws,

the association's fiscal 2027 budget, and MMHR board members. Nominating Committee Chair Vanessa Hale will present the slate of candidates for election by the membership. Prior to the meeting, members will receive the proposed amendments to the bylaws.

Registration and a networking coffee will begin at 8:30 a.m., and the meeting will begin at 9. Lunch will be served. The registration fee is \$45 for members and \$55 for

nonmembers.

The meeting will be held at Cyprian Keyes Golf Club, located at 284 E Temple St. in Boylston.

More details will be sent to MMHR members and posted on [www.mma.org](#) in the coming weeks.

Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis at [mdavis@mma.org](mailto:mdavis@mma.org)

## Galkowski Legacy Fund accepting applications

The Nancy Galkowski Legacy Fund, which supports professional development opportunities for anyone working in local government, especially those looking to further their municipal management career, is now accepting applications.

Any professional development training or class will be considered, with the exception of college tuition. Past awards have included funding for training by

the [ICMA](#), [SHRM](#) and [GFOA](#), the [MMA-Suffolk Municipal Finance Seminar](#), and various independent trainings.

The [online application](#) form must be completed by June 1. The Legacy Fund Committee will consider applications and make awards.

Galkowski had a 35-year career in municipal management in Massachusetts

and a passion for mentoring younger managers and being of service to her peers. Following her death in 2013, her Massachusetts Municipal Management Association colleagues established a fund to honor her memory and continue her legacy. The MMMA oversees the fund.

Contact: MMA Senior Member Services Coordinator Denise Baker at [dbaker@mma.org](mailto:dbaker@mma.org)

## Hiring seasonal workers? Start with safety

By Lin Chabra

Each summer, municipalities rely on seasonal workers to help meet service needs in parks and recreation services and public works, among other areas.

These employees can be a tremendous asset, but seasonal hiring also brings safety, supervision, workers' compensation, and liability considerations that need to be addressed.

Seasonal workers are often high school or college students, which makes it especially important to match job duties carefully to a worker's age, experience, and qualifications.

Massachusetts child labor laws limit the hours minors may work and restrict certain tasks and equipment based on age. For example, employers must have Youth Employment Permits on file for all workers under 18 and children under 14 may not work, except in very limited cases.

Municipal employers should make sure required employment permits, licenses, and certifications are in place before work begins, and should confirm that younger workers are not assigned duties they cannot legally perform.

(For more information, see Massachusetts Attorney General's [Working Under 18 web resources](#), Department of Labor Standards' [Laws Regulating Minors' Work Hours](#) and U.S. Department of Labor's [YouthRules.gov](#).)

### Three fundamentals

A good seasonal hiring program uses a three-step process — pre-screen, train, and supervise — as a best practice to reduce risk.

Pre-screening helps ensure that workers are suited to the job. Positions involving working with children, such as recreational camp staff and volunteers, may require Criminal and/or Sex Offender Registry Information (CORI) checks. Driving records should be reviewed for anyone expected to operate a vehicle, and employers should verify that required credentials are current, whether for lifeguarding, equipment operation, first aid, or CPR. Some positions may also call for pre-employment physicals, making planning and scheduling necessary.

Training is vital to reducing risk. Seasonal workers need clear, job-specific



Municipal employers need to ensure that seasonal employees are adequately trained and equipped to work outdoors.

instruction on what tasks they are authorized to perform, what equipment they may and may not use, what protective gear is required, and what to do if an injury, property damage incident, or emergency occurs. Temporary employees should be included in "tailgate talks" and other routine safety briefings offered to full-time staff. Training should be documented, and employees should sign to confirm that they received and reviewed it.

Supervision is particularly critical, especially for younger workers. Seasonal employees should not be left unsupervised.

■ MIIA continued on 27

## Workers' compensation best practice: Promptly report incidents

MIIA encourages municipalities to remind employees to report every work-related incident immediately — even if the incident doesn't appear serious enough to meet reporting requirements under the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

From a workers' compensation perspective, early reporting is one of the most important best practices. A strain, slip, bump, or other seemingly minor injury can later develop into a more significant claim.

Prompt reporting creates a clear record of what happened and helps ensure

that the claim can be reviewed, investigated and managed appropriately.

Prompt reporting also helps employees receive appropriate medical care quickly, supports workers' compensation claim management, and gives workers' compensation claims professionals the information they need while memories and facts are fresh. It can also help identify potential safety concerns and reduce the likelihood of disputes or litigation.

Timely reporting leads to better outcomes, including accelerated return to work, less litigation, and, on average,

lower cost per claim. It also makes it easier for the municipality or public entity to consider transitional duty return-to-work options when medically appropriate. Transitional duty can help an injured employee return to productive work safely while continuing to recover.

Supervisors and department heads also play an important role. Internal follow-up can help document the incident, identify hazards, and support a safer workplace going forward.

— Lin Chabra

## FY27 BUDGET

Continued from page 1

### Special Education Circuit Breaker:

The House bill proposes \$653.4 million for the Special Education Circuit Breaker program. This amount is intended to be paired with additional funding that has been proposed in a [fiscal 2026 Fair Share supplemental budget](#) that is currently under review by a House-Senate conference committee. Both the House and Senate versions of the supplemental budget bill include the additional funds in order to satisfy the state's funding obligation for this important program.

**Charter schools:** The House bill would fund the charter school reimbursement account at \$200.4 million, intended to meet the state's statutory obligation to mitigate Chapter 70 losses to charter schools. This is a slight increase over fiscal 2026.

**Rural school aid:** The House bill would fund rural school aid at \$10 million for eligible towns and regional school districts — \$2 million less than in fiscal 2026. The proposal would maintain current eligibility requirements, amending the governor's proposal to expand eligible entities. Additional funding for rural school aid is also under consideration in the fiscal 2026 Fair Share supplemental budget.

**Vocational transportation:** The House bill would provide \$112.3 million for regional school transportation and \$6.8 million for out-of-district vocational transportation, for a total of \$119.1 million. According to the administration,

this would represent 87% of anticipated eligible regional school transportation costs and 100% of eligible non-resident vocational school transportation costs.

**McKinney-Vento:** Reimbursements for the transportation of homeless students would be funded at \$35.2 million to support districts in meeting their federal mandate. This represents 58.2% of anticipated claims for fiscal 2027.

**PILOT:** Payments in lieu of taxes would be funded at \$55.4 million, an increase of 1.6% over fiscal 2026, which is intended to hold communities harmless from updated valuation changes.

**English learners reserve:** The House bill would provide \$10 million to offset reductions in state education aid due to unexpected reductions in English language learners.

**Universal school meals:** The House bill includes \$198 million to continue the universal school meals program, allowing all Massachusetts students to eat for free at school, regardless of household income.

**Green School Works:** [The Green School Works grant program](#) would be funded at \$5 million. Additional funding is under consideration in the fiscal 2026 Fair Share supplemental budget.

### Policy sections

The House budget bill includes several outside sections, including the following that are noteworthy for municipalities:

**Disaster Relief and Resiliency Fund:** Section 66 would direct \$14 million of any consolidated net surplus for fiscal 2027 to

the Disaster Relief and Resiliency Fund.

**Local-option COLA for long-term retirees:** Section 27 would allow optional cost-of-living adjustments for long-term retirees in local and regional retirement boards. This section would require local acceptance, as defined by a municipality's form of government and the structure of the retirement system.

**Special education transportation costs reporting:** Sections 31-32 would require school districts to include detailed cost components in solicitation documents and annual reporting on special education out-of-district transportation costs. Vendors would be required to provide detailed cost components during the procurement process.

**Special education transportation contract database:** Section 33 would require the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to create and maintain a database of procurement and contract documents for all special education out-of-district transportation.

**Special education transportation marketplace study:** Section 51 would require DESE, along with the Operational Services Division, Department of Public Utilities, and Registry of Motor Vehicles, to study special education school transportation to identify solutions to address the lack of competition in the marketplace. ●

## Drought conditions improve across Massachusetts

Following normal precipitation levels in March, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper on April 8 downgraded the drought levels for most regions of the state.

The Central, Connecticut River Valley, Nantucket County, and Northeast regions are now at a Level 1: Mild Drought.

The Southeast and Western regions, along with Dukes County (Martha's Vineyard), are at Level 0: Normal Conditions.

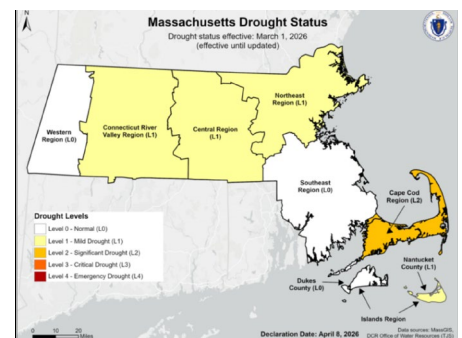
The Cape Cod region remains at Level 2: Significant Drought.

While spring has provided critical snow melt and rain in Massachusetts, Tepper said the state is still recovering from an extended drought.

"As the growing season starts, it is important that we all be conscious of both our indoor and outdoor water use and continue to follow state guidance and local water restrictions," Tepper said.

[The state's drought status and resources are available online.](#)

The state has also developed [drought management](#) and [water conservation](#) resources for individuals and municipalities to reduce strains on the water supply. Some immediate steps that communities can take include water restriction enforcement, establishing water-use reduction targets, and providing drought and water conservation information to residents and businesses. ●



Drought levels in most regions of Massachusetts were downgraded on April 8 following normal precipitation levels in March.

## State awards \$8M for housing redevelopment

The Healey-Driscoll administration on April 13 announced more than \$8 million in grant awards to nonprofits and municipalities to support the redevelopment and rehabilitation of 49 affordable homes through the [Neighborhood Stabilization Program](#), administered by MassHousing.

The program provides nonprofit developers and municipalities with funds to address blight, abandonment and disinvestment in residential neighborhoods.

“This funding will support local revitalization efforts, create affordable homeownership opportunities, and help more families put down roots in Massachusetts,” said Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll in a prepared statement.

Since the launch of the program in

2022, MassHousing has committed more than \$21 million to organizations and municipalities across the state for 33 projects involving the development or rehabilitation of 86 affordable homeownership units and 55 affordable rental units.

Grants ranging from \$2 million to \$105,000 were awarded to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod, Oxbow Design Build Cooperative, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, Rural Development Inc., Community Economic Development Center, South Middlesex Nonprofit Housing Corporation, Way Finders Inc., Worcester Community Housing Resources, and Habitat for Humanity MetroWest/Greater Worcester.



The Healey-Driscoll administration awarded \$8 million through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to nonprofits and municipalities to support the redevelopment and rehabilitation of 49 affordable homes.

Visit the [Neighborhood Stabilization Program](#) website for more information.

## Administration awards \$1.1M for local infrastructure projects

The Healey-Driscoll administration on April 14 announced \$1.1 million in grant awards for local infrastructure projects through the Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance grant program, administered by the [Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office](#).

The program provides technical assistance for projects that have received or are pursuing federal funding. The Federal Funds Office said communities across the state made it clear that more technical assistance is needed to advance key infrastructure projects.

Karen Kelly, who until recently served as town administrator in Bernardston, expressed appreciation for the state’s investment in small communities.

“This funding will allow us to work with our regional partners to assess local risks, strengthen community resilience, and ensure Bernardston remains eligible for critical federal mitigation resources,” she said in a prepared statement.

Leverett Town Administrator Marjorie McGinnis said the grant allows the town to update its All Hazards Mitigation Plan, “something we have had in place for many years but have had to let expire in December 2025 due to a change in funding avenues. ... Without grants, we could not have plans such as this in place.”

Receiving Municipal and Tribal

Technical Assistance Awards, ranging from \$28,000 to \$200,000, were Barnstable, Bernardston, Charlton, Chelmsford, Cohasset, Colrain, Dighton, Fall River, Hubbardston, Leverett, Lincoln, Medfield, Newbury, New Salem, Northbridge, Rockport, Royalston, Rutland, Stockbridge, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Wareham, Wayland, and Weston.

New Salem Town Coordinator Emily Hill

thanked the administration for their partnership, adding that, as a small rural community, New Salem “lacks the means and resources to maintain and update our Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.”

“This grant will allow us to identify risks, strengthen our resilience, and better protect our residents, infrastructure, and natural resources,” she said.

More information is [available online](#).



## LGAC discusses special education costs

During a meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission on April 14 in Boston, Dennis Town Administrator Liz Sullivan thanks the administration for prioritizing supplemental funding for the special education circuit breaker account. “Increased state investment and expansion of reimbursements will provide significant relief to city and town budgets, while helping to ensure each student is receiving the specialized care to which they are entitled,” Sullivan said.

# Around the Commonwealth

## Plainfield

### Town partners with MIT to address clean energy zoning

With new state clean energy siting and permitting rules coming this fall, the town of Plainfield is working with graduate students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to update its zoning laws, seeking to embrace renewable energy while protecting the town's agricultural character.

Working with the [MIT Renewable Energy Clinic](#), Plainfield is updating its zoning language with respect to solar and battery energy storage systems. The town, which has no planning staff of its own, said MIT's involvement is helping it establish community safeguards, while aligning local laws with new state rules taking effect on Oct. 1.

Like many other communities around the state, Plainfield is seeking to balance



### MSA focuses on western, rural Mass.

Anne Gobi, the state's director of rural affairs, speaks with municipal leaders during the Massachusetts Select Board Association's Western and Rural Conference on May 2 in Holyoke. The conference, which was open to all MMA members, also featured a keynote presentation by Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, and a panel discussion involving Sen. Joanne Comerford and Rep. Aaron Saunders, among other speakers.

local concerns about the safety, environmental and aesthetic impacts of the infrastructure, with a desire to comply with state law and embrace a clean energy future. Given the town's rural, relatively undeveloped landscape, Plainfield and its neighboring communities in western Massachusetts have become an epicenter for developers looking to build solar and battery storage infrastructure.

"I think as a community, we are grasping with our future on many levels — understanding our need to address the bigger picture, while also keeping our focus on our community," said Peter Lapointe, chair of the Plainfield Planning Board. "And it's a delicate balance."

In this small, rural town of about 650 people, every owner of 40-plus acres of property in town has been contacted by multiple developers interested in leasing their properties for installations, Lapointe said. A solar application Plainfield received in November signaled the need for updated zoning, he said.

"So when this landed, and we encountered some pretty fierce resistance," Lapointe said, "it began to become apparent to us that our bylaw — our current bylaw — was inadequate to be able to give the kinds of guidance that an applicant would need to provide a sensitive application to what our goals and needs are."

The demand for Plainfield's undeveloped land coincides with the rolling out of the state's new clean energy requirements, which seek to expedite the development of clean energy infrastructure across the state.

[Under a climate law enacted in November 2024](#), cities and towns will need to decide on applications for small clean energy infrastructure — including generation projects under 25 megawatts and clean energy infrastructure storage projects under 100 megawatt hours — through a mandated consolidated permitting process within 12 months, or else the projects will be automatically approved. Meanwhile, larger projects will face a state review process.

Municipalities can start accepting the consolidated local permits starting on July 1, but must start doing so by Oct.



The town of Plainfield is working to update its zoning laws to address solar and battery storage projects. (Photo courtesy Peter Lapointe)

1. As a result, many communities are hastily working on zoning changes and updated policies before that deadline.

Amid these changes, the MIT clinic has been helping communities navigate questions and conflicts around clean energy permitting, conducting stakeholder assessments and providing research assistance, public education, and mediation support. Despite the anxiety communities may have around these issues, the new law also presents an opportunity, said Jacob Hall, one of the MIT students working with Plainfield.

"With Massachusetts beginning to implement its new climate act, this serves as an important time for Massachusetts communities to update their renewable energy bylaws in a manner that correctly aligns with their town," Hall said. "These bylaws are an effective mechanism that can align state climate goals with local needs, values, and capacities."

The MIT students have been meeting with residents to hear their questions and concerns, and that feedback will help inform the development of community benefits plans and agreements, which would provide resources and protections from permitted clean energy projects. Such priorities could include fire protection needs and public safety resources, emergency preparedness, infrastructure improvements, and environmental monitoring.

Plainfield officials have also been preparing zoning updates to present at Town Meeting on May 30. Among other changes, the updates would increase

■ COMMONWEALTH *continued on 23*

# Around the Commonwealth

## COMMONWEALTH

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setbacks for installations, prohibit solar and battery storage projects in the town's historic village center, add language about battery energy storage systems to limit fire exposure, and require applicants seeking payment-in-lieu-of-taxes arrangements to develop community benefits plans.

Lapointe said he will join planning officials from other communities at a meeting on May 8 with the Hilltown Community Development Corporation to advocate for outside technical assistance to help with applications. Lapointe said he would favor a system that provides communities with outside expertise to review the technical aspects of proposed projects, while the local boards focus on the site plan reviews.

Despite the challenges, Lapointe said he is pleased with his town's work on the clean energy process.

"We're ready to do this," Lapointe said. "We just need to do it in a way that everyone can embrace."

— *Jennifer Kavanaugh*

## Somerville

### City set to fully decarbonize first municipal building

Advancing its climate goal commitments, Somerville will be working this summer to fully decarbonize its first municipally owned building, the Traffic and Parking Office.

The two-story building in West Somerville, was chosen as the first for decarbonization because its three gas-fired boilers were beyond their expected lifespans and the city faced a costly decision of whether to replace them. The building already had infrastructure and electrical service in place to make installing an electric heat pump easier.

"The largest portion of the city's fossil fuel use is in our buildings," said Mayor Jake Wilson, "and upgrading them to sustainable systems is going to be a monumental undertaking. So this is an important milestone.



The Parking Office building, on Holland Street, will become Somerville's first city-owned decarbonized municipal building.

"We're replacing ancient boilers and a leaking cooling system with green systems that will get the building to 95% clean energy quickly — and ultimately to 100%. Climate change is here now, so it's time for action — one building at a time."

The boilers and a rooftop unit will be replaced with a new heat pump air handler and basement heat pump units for heating and cooling. The city will also install a new 67-kilowatt rooftop solar array that will be the largest city-owned installation.

Winterization work and other exterior improvements will also be completed. Full decarbonization will be achieved once a relatively new gas-fired hot water heater reaches the end of its useful life and is replaced with an electric unit.

Garrett Anderson, energy manager in the Office of Sustainability and Environment, and technical lead for the project, said the city used a Chapter 25A procurement process for the project — an option specifically for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

"You get a little more flexibility," Anderson said. "You can do more of a design-build scenario. It's a little less onerous on the city to prepare."

The project is expected to cost \$353,731, after taking state and federal tax credits into account. The funding will come from the city's Energy Stabilization Fund, which sets aside funding for energy saving projects. Projected annual savings for the city, based on the property's current gas and electric utility costs,

is \$18,833.

When the city updated its [Climate Forward](#) plan in 2024, a concerted effort was made to look at municipal greenhouse gas emissions.

Emily Sullivan, climate change program manager in the Office of Sustainability and Environment, said the city-owned building was a great candidate for such a project.

"There are really good incentives and streamlined procurement processes to do this work," she said. "So finding those Goldilock projects that further the values that we want to operate under as a city government, [that is] what our community's looking at us to do."

Based on community feedback, the city included greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for municipal property for 2030 and 2040 when it reworked its climate plan. The goals allow the city to better report on benchmarks and stay accountable to the work, Sullivan said.

Any municipality looking to retrofit older buildings to meet emission goals should start by getting a handle on electrical infrastructure, Anderson advised. Even simple lighting upgrades can have an impact.

He also suggested having a "champion" in the city or town who has a handle on the portfolio and ongoing capital replacement and maintenance, and who can identify potential energy projects and whether energy-related work can be done ahead of or in conjunction with other projects.

Lining up smaller capital projects comes down to finding the right project and the right timing around replacing equipment and public construction costs, he said.

Somerville is also conducting comprehensive building assessments for every school building and the public works headquarters, the first step of energy efficiency studies. The new Winter Hill School building will also be fully electrified.

— *Meredith Gabriliska*

# Around the Commonwealth

## COMMONWEALTH

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### Hudson

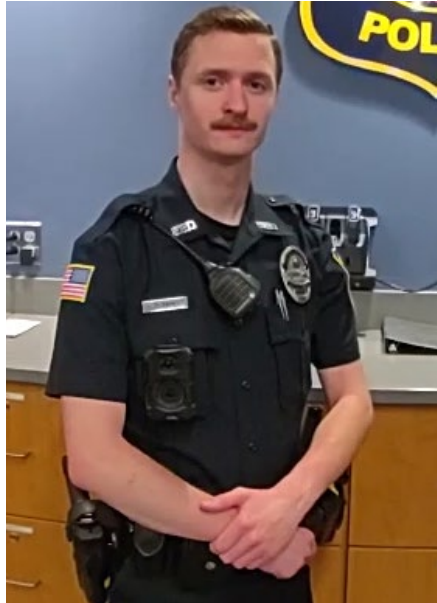
#### Body-worn cameras use language translation technology

The Hudson Police Department has begun deploying body-worn cameras with built-in translation technology, which the department hopes will improve communication and services, and provide assistance during investigations and interviews.

The need arose from instances when officers would interact with people who don't speak English as a first language, and there wasn't an officer on duty who could translate, said Hudson Police Lt. Roger Downing.

"We'd have to call all the [nearby] towns and see if they have a bilingual officer working, and that delays a response on scene," said Downing, who is the administrator for the department's body-worn cameras program and serves as community services commander, overseeing day shift patrols, the Community Action Team, and traffic services.

Officers would sometimes use a



Hudson police officer Joshua Rahn wears the Axon 4 body camera on his chest pocket.

translation app on their personal cell phones, but doing so meant that the phone and its contents could be subpoenaed during court proceedings, Downing said.

Events that police respond to can be

chaotic, he said, and waiting for a translator or using a cell phone can take valuable time and encumber an officer's ability to assist in a timely manner.

The solution was already at the department's disposal. At the end of 2025, the Police Department upgraded its body-worn cameras from the Axon 3 to the Axon 4, which comes with translation technology embedded into the camera.

"It's just a matter of activating the licenses and turning [the camera] on," Downing said. "We got a 30-day trial, and it worked out. ... It's not perfect, but it makes it so that you can communicate on scene, whether it's a vehicle stop or you're at a house."

The cameras provide real-time translation in more than 50 languages. Officers can either manually select a language or let the device detect which language is being spoken. The device also has a manual playback feature to ensure that all parties are able to understand what is being said.

All translated speech is captured in the video, and the device provides a transcript for review and to ensure translation accuracy.

Feedback from residents, city staff and officers has been largely positive, Downing said, and people who speak languages other than English have said that the translations are accurate.

"If nobody was using it, and the feeling was that ... it's not a priority, then I don't think we would have gone with it," said Downing, "But when so many officers are coming back, saying, 'I use this almost on a daily basis,' it's just a good tool to have."

"There are so many new families coming into cities and towns," he added, "and to have that [translation] on the spot, in the moment, means that we can have a real conversation with someone. It's a huge asset."

- Owen Page



#### UMass students visit MMA

Graduate and undergraduate students from UMass Amherst visit the MMA office in Boston on April 17. MMA Executive Director Adam Chapdelaine, far left, and members of the MMA's Legislative Division discussed their public service careers and had one-on-one conversations with the students, who visited as part of a trip to Boston to learn about public service careers.

*This monthly column features local and regional news items related to local government in Massachusetts. To suggest an item for this column, email [editor@mma.org](mailto:editor@mma.org).*

# People



Thomas Bernard

Former North Adams Mayor **Thomas Bernard** became the new town administrator in Williamsburg on April 6.

Bernard was mayor for two terms, from 2018 to 2022, after which he worked as

president and CEO of Berkshire United Way and became the principal of Tom Bernard Consulting. Earlier in his career, he worked as the director of special projects at Smith College, in various leadership roles at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and as a development officer at Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. Last year, Gov. **Maura Healey** appointed Bernard to the Mass Cultural Council's Governing Council.

Bernard has a bachelor's degree in history and religion from Williams College, and a master's degree in public administration from Westfield State University.

In Williamsburg, Bernard replaced **Nicholas Caccamo**, who left after serving for more than four years to become the town administrator in Adams in January. Executive Assistant **Elizabeth Van Iderstine** served as the interim town administrator.



Jayne Wellman

**Jayne Wellman** became the new town manager in Reading on April 15.

Wellman had been serving as the acting town manager since March 4, following **Matthew Kraunelis's** departure after two

years in the role. She has spent the past decade in Reading, in roles including business administrator, director of operations, and assistant town manager, a role she held since June 2024. In her hometown of Tewksbury, she has served as town moderator and as a member of the Select Board and School Committee. She served as a producer and host at

Wilmington Community Television, and spent a decade as a newspaper editor.

Wellman has a bachelor's degree in economics from Tufts University, a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Hampshire, and a graduate certificate in business from UMass Lowell.



Louis Bordeaux

**Louis Bordeaux** became the town administrator in Bernardston on April 13, returning to a town he had previously helped to lead.

Bordeaux served for five years as Bernardston's town

coordinator, from 2018 to 2023, and before that as a Select Board member from 2012 to 2015. After leaving the coordinator role, he served for two-and-a-half years as the town manager in Westminster, Vermont.

In Bernardston, Bordeaux replaced **Karen Kelly**, who served for more than two years in the role, and who stayed through April to assist with the transition.



Nathaniel Malloy

**Nathaniel Malloy** will become the new town administrator in Hadley on May 11.

Malloy has been the assistant director of planning and economic development in Amherst since December,

but has been serving in the town since 2008, first as an associate planner, and then as a senior planner, a role he held for 14 years. Before working for Amherst, he was a research assistant at the Center for Rural Massachusetts (now the Center for Resilient Metro-Regions) at UMass Amherst, and as a senior fund account specialist for State Street Corporation. He has a bachelor's degree in economics and fine arts from the College of the Holy Cross, and dual

master's degrees in landscape architecture and regional planning.

In Hadley, Malloy will fill the role left vacant in September 2024 by **Carolyn Brennan**, who retired after serving for four years. Police Chief **Michael Mason** has been serving as the interim town administrator.



Michelle Wu

Three Massachusetts municipal leaders are among the 250 people recently named as Government Champions by [Local Gov 250](#) and the National Academy of Public Administration.



Michael Herbert

Local Gov 250, a national effort to recognize the contributions of local government during the country's 250th anniversary, is honoring Boston Mayor **Michelle Wu**, Ashland Town Manager **Michael**



Melissa Battite

**Herbert** and **Melissa Battite**, Lexington's director of recreation and community programs, for making significant impacts at the local level and for the ways in which they "exemplify 'democracy

at the doorstep' through dedication, innovation, and the highest sense of public service."

The initiative also named two more Massachusetts Government Champions: **Linda Dunlavy**, executive director of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and **Bran Shim**, a senior advisor for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Massachusetts honorees join other notable leaders around the country,

■ PEOPLE *continued on 26*

# People

## PEOPLE

Continued from page 25

including **Clarence Anthony**, CEO and executive director of the National League of Cities, and Lancaster, Texas, City Manager **Opal Mauldin-Jones**, both of whom were speakers at the MMA's Connect 351 conference over the past couple of years.

The Government Champions will be recognized on May 12 in Philadelphia.



Kate Fitzpatrick

Mother-and-daughter team **Kate Fitzpatrick and Molly Fitzpatrick**

authored a piece, "[Raising a Future Public Servant](#)," published in the May issue of PM Magazine, the magazine of the International City/County Management Association.

In the article, Kate Fitzpatrick, a retired Needham town manager and now the ICMA's Northeast regional director, and Molly



Molly Fitzpatrick

Fitzpatrick, the deputy town administrator in Westwood, reflect on how

their family life evolved with one of them, and then both, serving in local government.

They write that the professional overlap has its benefits, including having each other as trusted peers who understand the job, but it also presents unique challenges: "Vacations can be doubly interrupted by pressing issues (like the dueling command centers in our hotel in Belize circa March 2020)."

Now that Molly Fitzpatrick is also a mother, the pair have reflected on how to introduce children to the value of government work. They advise parents in the profession to talk regularly about public service, and not just when something goes wrong. Talk "about the new playground, the repaired road, the family helped quietly behind the scenes."

The Fitzpatricks suggest taking children to community events and public meetings, where "they'll absorb more than you realize." The article recommends reading books that center values such as empathy and collective responsibility, and then modeling the values that public servants want to see in their children.

"Show them that public service is not about recognition or perfection," they write, "but about showing up, again and again and again, for a community you love."

On April 15, **Ann Dillemath** was sworn in as the newest member of

the Greenfield City Council, after the council appointed her to fill the Precinct 3 seat left vacant by the resignation of **Michael Mastrototaro** in January. Dillemath will serve out the remainder of the term, through the end of 2027.



Dino DeBartolomeis

**Dino DeBartolomeis**, a former longtime member of the Milford Select Board, died on April 12 at age 74.

DeBartolomeis served on the Select Board for 33 years, from

1982 to 2015, and had also served on the Milford School Committee, from 1977 to 1983, in addition to serving on numerous town boards and committees. He had also worked for Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program, and then as an administrator for the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (now MassAbility), until his retirement in 2015.

*This monthly column highlights transitions, accomplishments and awards, and life events of municipal officials. To submit information for People, contact MMA Associate Editor Jennifer Kavanaugh at 800-882-1498 or [jkavanaugh@mma.org](mailto:jkavanaugh@mma.org).*

## New select board members elected in March, April

The following are new select board members elected in annual town elections from March 26 through April 24.

This listing is meant to highlight first-time select board members, but it's possible that some listed here are returning to their board after an absence. If we are missing a new member, let us know by emailing [newselectboard@mma.org](mailto:newselectboard@mma.org).

**Arlington:** Joseph Solomon

**Athol:** Alex Blake, Russell Raymond

**Canton:** Julie Beckham

**Chelmsford:** David Boisvert, Jon Kurland

**Concord:** Dean Banfield

**Dartmouth:** Nathan Silva

**Dedham:** Stephen Acosta

**Dighton:** Glen Cabbage

**Edgartown:** Julia Tarka

**Freetown:** Chad Carvalho

**Hamilton:** Lee McCoy

**Lakeville:** Evagelia Fabian, Kristen Howard

**Lynnfield:** Joseph Gallagher

**Middleborough:** Tracie Craig-McGee

**Millville:** Kristin Laurel Foody,

Jennifer Dean Wing

**Natick:** Cody Jacobs

**Needham:** William Dermody

**Norwood:** Cheryl Lynn Doyle

**Petersham:** Josh Chernin

**Plainville:** Steven Albert

**Reading:** Sal Bramante

**Royalston:** Steve Egan

**Seekonk:** Robert Archambault, Elizabeth Elmasian

**Somerset:** Joseph Bednarik

**South Hadley:** Kevin Hennessey, Priscilla Marion

**Stoneham:** Troy Lau

**Stoughton:** Lori Jacques

**Sturbridge:** Kadion Phillips

**Swansea:** Alanna Solitro

**Tewksbury:** John Lombardo

**Ware:** Valerie Granger, Steven Hawk

**Wenham:** Phineas Sprague

**Westport:** Richard Mundy ●

## MIIA

Continued from page 19

An adult, full-time employee should be present to oversee the work, answer questions, reinforce expectations, and step in before inexperience or horseplay leads to injury. This is particularly important in camps, playgrounds, pools, beaches, and public works settings, where a single mistake can have grave consequences.

### Addressing potential hazards

Municipal employers should pay close attention to the hazards that come with summer work. Outdoor jobs can expose workers to heat stress, dehydration, sunburn, poison ivy, insect bites (including ticks), and lightning. Ticks are becoming particularly hazardous in Massachusetts, with reports of Alpha-gal Syndrome, which causes an allergic reaction to meat and dairy products, on the rise due to Lone Star tick bites.

Ensuring that employees are provided

with appropriate breaks, sunscreen, water, and insect repellent will help reduce illness and injury.

Proper first aid protocol is also necessary. Make sure that eye washes are available where required (can be portable, with a 15-minute flush), tested and functional, and that saline solution is within the use date. Also check first aid kits to make sure they are completely stocked and all antimicrobials are current and not expired.

Other assignments may involve water safety, traffic exposure, or work around motorized vehicles and mechanical equipment. Make sure that appropriate personal protective equipment is available, especially when chemicals are being used, and that hearing protection is provided for work involving power landscaping equipment.

Reviewing worksites in advance, reinforcing storm safety procedures, and making sure employees know how to recognize and report hazardous conditions promptly

can all help reduce risk.

These precautions matter not only for worker well-being, but also for workers' compensation and liability management. An injury involving a seasonal employee can create costs and consequences that last well beyond the summer months. Medical expenses, lost time, administrative burden, and liability exposure do not necessarily end when school resumes or a short-term job ends. In serious cases, the impact can remain with a municipality for years.

Seasonal workers help communities deliver important services during some of the busiest months of the year. With thoughtful pre-screening, adequate training, and active supervision, municipalities can protect those employees, reduce risk, and make summer employment a positive experience for everyone involved.

*Lin Chabra is MIIA's Senior Risk Management Manager.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Continued from page 1

based on road miles and \$20 million allocated to communities that experienced extraordinary costs due to extreme weather

- \$25 million to incentivize regionalization and shared services in



### MSA focuses on clean energy

Stephen Meno, the clean energy siting and permitting regional coordinator for the central region at the Department of Energy Resources, discusses clean energy siting and permitting during the Massachusetts Select Board Association's Western and Rural Conference on May 2 in Holyoke. Meno walked local leaders through the new rules going into effect later this year. For more about the updated rules, see story on [page 4](#).

smaller school districts

- \$15 million for a literacy launch initiative
- \$8 million for rural school aid, with \$4 million in fiscal 2026 and \$4 million set aside for fiscal 2027
- \$7 million for maintenance of unpaved roads
- \$2.5 million for school-based mental health support and wraparound services in public school districts
- \$1 million for districts implementing bell-to-bell cell-phone-free policies in public schools
- \$1 million for municipal grants for the purchase of truck safety devices

The MMA and local leaders applauded the Senate's inclusion of winter recovery funds, which would support road repairs and overwhelmed snow maintenance budgets, as well as investments focused on special education costs, regionalization efforts, rural schools, and more.

During debate, the Senate adopted several amendments, including one filed by the MMA to extend to three fiscal years the time period over which cities and towns can amortize snow and ice cost overruns.

The Senate also adopted an MMA priority amendment to repeal a sunset clause

related to municipal disbursements from the Rideshare Trust Fund. Without legislative action, these per-ride assessments from transportation network company fees are set to end on Jan. 1, 2027.

The Senate bill would program \$1.3 billion in Fair Share surtax revenues from fiscal 2025 along with nearly \$500 million in general fund investments.

Both the Senate bill and the [House's version](#), passed on March 18, aim to address several deficiencies across state government, earmark funding for numerous local initiatives, and adjust tax policies to soften revenue impacts anticipated from the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OB3), which was enacted last July.

Without legislative action, tax policy changes included in the OB3 may result in an estimated loss of at least \$440 million in state revenues over fiscal 2026 and 2027. The House bill would tie the outcome of the potential ballot measure to lower the state income tax rate from 5% to 4% with corporate tax changes proposed in the legislation. Under the House bill, if the referendum were to pass, the state would permanently decouple the tax code changes from federal tax policies in order to mitigate an estimated \$5 billion revenue loss.

The Senate bill does not include this proposal. ●

# Classified Advertisements

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### Cemetery Superintendent

#### Town of Saugus

Applications are being accepted for a full-time Cemetery Superintendent. If you love working outside, enjoy working with the public, and have the passion and skills to maintain the beautiful grounds of our cemetery properties, this may be a great opportunity for you. The Cemetery Superintendent, a full-time position, will perform a variety of supervisory, administrative, technical, and maintenance work in the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of the town of Saugus' cemetery operations. Minimum qualifications include high school graduation or GED equivalent, and five years of experience relating to the construction, repair and maintenance of cemetery or related systems, including the operation of related maintenance equipment, or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Must possess a valid CDL license, Hydraulics and Hoisting license, and license as pesticide and herbicide applicator. 40 hours per week (with availability on the weekends), excellent benefits and is part of the municipal pension system. Salary range: \$61,337 to \$67,761 per year. View the full job description on our website at: [www.saugus-ma.gov/329/Town-Employment](http://www.saugus-ma.gov/329/Town-Employment). Applications will be reviewed as submitted and accepted until the position is filled. Applications will be reviewed as submitted and accepted until the position is filled. Please email a resume and cover letter to: [smalik@saugus-ma.gov](mailto:smalik@saugus-ma.gov). The town of Saugus is an equal opportunity employer. Federal Law forbids discrimination based on race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, marital status, gender orientation or disability.

### Accounting and Fund Manager

#### Town of Keene, NH

Are you a strategic, detail-driven accounting professional who thrives on turning data into meaningful insights? Do you enjoy collaborating across departments and influencing big-picture financial decisions? If so, we invite you to bring your expertise to the city of Keene, N.H., as our next Accounting and Fund Manager. In this key leadership role, you'll do more than manage numbers, you'll help guide the financial health and long-term success of city operations. Minimum Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in accounting, business administration or a related field, plus at least five years of related experience. A strong understanding of governmental accounting practices and financial operations is essential. A valid driver's license is required. This full-time position offers a competitive salary range of \$78,789 to \$98,186 annually and will also receive an attractive benefits package. Apply online at [keenenh.gov/jobs](http://keenenh.gov/jobs). This position will be open until it is filled, and applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. Please upload your resume and cover letter before submitting your completed application. Confirmation that your application has been successfully submitted and received will be sent via email. EOE

### Building Commissioner/Zoning

#### Enforcement Officer

#### Town of Acton

The town of Acton is seeking an experienced and collaborative professional to serve as its next Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Reporting to the Town Manager, this position provides leadership, oversight, and direction for the town's Building Division, ensuring consistent, fair, and effective enforcement of the Massachusetts State Building Code, local bylaws, and applicable regulations. This is a key leadership role responsible for balancing regulatory compliance with customer service, supporting safe and sustainable development, and working closely with residents, contractors, and town departments. Starting salary of \$110,000 to \$120,000 annually, with the potential for a higher annual rate based on qualifications and experience. General Duties and Responsibilities: The Building Commissioner is responsible for overseeing all permitting and inspection activities related to construction, renovation, and occupancy, ensuring compliance with applicable codes and regulations. Serving as the town's Zoning Enforcement Officer, the role includes interpreting and enforcing zoning bylaws and addressing violations when necessary. The position provides leadership and direction to Building Division staff, including assigning work, resolving complex issues, and supporting professional development. The Commissioner develops and manages the department's operating budget, allocates resources, and ensures efficient and effective service delivery. Working closely with other town departments, including Fire, Planning, and Public Works, the Commissioner coordinates on projects, public safety matters, and regulatory issues. The role frequently interacts with residents, property owners, contractors, and design professionals, requiring a high level of diplomacy, responsiveness, and problem solving. The Commissioner responds to emergency situations as needed, including structural failures, fires, and weather-related events, and may serve as part of the Town's emergency response team. The role also represents the town at public meetings and hearings, providing guidance on building code, zoning, and development-related matters. Minimum Entrance Requirements: A bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in building construction or a related field, along with five to seven years of relevant experience, is required. Candidates

should have a thorough knowledge of construction methods, building codes, and regulatory frameworks, as well as the ability to interpret and enforce regulations in a fair and consistent manner. Strong communication, organizational, and problem-solving skills are essential, along with the ability to manage multiple priorities and work effectively with a wide range of stakeholders. Licenses and Certifications: Massachusetts Building Commissioner license, Local Inspector certification, and Unrestricted Construction Supervisor License. A valid Class D driver's license is required. For more information and how to apply, visit: [actonma.gov/jobs](http://actonma.gov/jobs).

### Town Treasurer

#### Town of Brookfield

The town of Brookfield is seeking qualified applicants for the full-time (24-30 hours) position of Town Treasurer. Responsibilities include the town's investment, cash management, debt service management, tax title management, and administration of payroll including fringe benefits and related personnel requirements. This role includes HR duties and involves benefits administration, maintaining personnel records, employee relations and more. The ideal candidate will have strong interpersonal skills, an understanding of best HR practices and experience in the field. Pay: Annualized salary equivalent \$60,000 to \$80,000, commensurate with experience. For full job description, log onto [brookfieldma.us/jobs](http://brookfieldma.us/jobs). Those interested should send a cover letter and resume to: [selectmen@brookfieldma.us](mailto:selectmen@brookfieldma.us). Brookfield is an equal opportunity employer.

### Town Administrator

#### Town of Brookfield

The town of Brookfield is seeking an experienced Town Administrator to work 30 to 40 hours per week, depending upon experience and availability. Salary is \$93,600 to \$114,400 annually, based on experience. The Town Administrator performs complex professional, administrative and management work in

■ CLASSIFIEDS *continued on 29*

## Classified advertising rates and information

The Beacon publishes classified ads from units of government, public agencies, and companies.

Classified advertising categories are: Employment Opportunities, Requests for Proposals, and Services. Only one job opening or RFP can be listed per ad. The MMA cannot assume responsibility for information or claims made in any advertisement.

### Classified advertising rates

Classified ad rates include publication in The Beacon and on [www.mma.org](http://www.mma.org), though a discount is available for those who request placement of an ad only on the website.

### Member rates

- web only, 200 words or less: \$115; 201-400 words: \$225
- web & Beacon, 200 words or less: \$165; 201-400 words: \$325

### Nonmember rates

- web only, 200 words or less: \$175; 201-400 words: \$285
- web & Beacon, 200 words or less: \$225; 201-400 words: \$385

### Beacon deadlines and publication dates

The Beacon is published on the first business day of each month, except in the summer, when a combined July-August issue is published in mid-July.

### June Beacon

Deadline: May 27  
Publication: June 1

### Summer Beacon

Deadline: July 10  
Publication: July 15

### Placing an ad

You may use our convenient online form at [www.mma.org/municipal-marketplace/add-listing/](http://www.mma.org/municipal-marketplace/add-listing/).

For more information, call Owen Page at the MMA at 617-426-7272, ext. 135.

Missed the Beacon deadline for an employment ad? You can still get the word out – right away.

See [www.mma.org](http://www.mma.org) for details.

# Classified Advertisements

## CLASSIFIEDS

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providing daily control over ongoing town activities, as well as assisting and advising the Select Board to discharge the duties of their office. Providing executive leadership, in areas of policy formulation, fiscal affairs, labor relations, and organizational development, the Town Administrator acts as the agent for the Select Board. Visit [brookfieldma.us/jobs](http://brookfieldma.us/jobs) for full job description. Municipal experience is preferred. Those interested should send a letter of interest and resume to [selectmen@brookfieldma.us](mailto:selectmen@brookfieldma.us). Brookfield is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

### Building Commissioner

#### Town of Scituate

The town of Scituate seeks qualified applicants for the position of Building Commissioner. Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Building Department, including performing administrative, supervisory and inspection work related to the enforcement and interpretation of the state building code and the local zoning bylaw. Performs permit application review and approval and permit issuance; field inspections and investigations of violations; checks compliance with approved site plans; orders compliance when deficiencies or infractions are noted. Performs other related work as required including supervision of assigned staff, valuing property and taxable personal property, and managing the abatement and appeal processes. Bachelor's degree in related field of building construction or design preferred and five to seven years of experience in the supervision of building construction or design equivalent. Massachusetts certification as Building Commissioner or Local Inspector. This union, salaried position is compensated between \$94,205 to \$103,983 annually, DOE. Complete job description available on town of Scituate website. Interested applicants should submit cover letter and resume to [HR@scituatema.gov](mailto:HR@scituatema.gov).

### Town Administrator

#### Town of Rehoboth

The town of Rehoboth (population 13,000±) is currently accepting applications for the position of Town Administrator. The Town Administrator is responsible for performing high level administrative and strategic financial planning, technical and professional work in directing the activities of the town's departments, commissions, boards and office under the jurisdiction of a five-member Board of Selectman and Town Meeting form of government. The ideal candidates will have knowledge of public administration, excellent organizational skills, strategic thinker related to financial strategies and operational processes, strong leadership capabilities, and comply with all applicable Mass General laws and regulations for a municipality. A bachelor's degree in business, public administration, finance or related field, with 10-plus years of related experience; and or any equivalent combination of education, training, certification, and is preferred. Annual Salary range of \$145,000 to \$160,000 DOQ, EOE. A complete job description can be found on our town's website: [www.rehobothma.gov/sites/g/files/vyh-lif4911/f/pages/tarev3326.pdf](http://www.rehobothma.gov/sites/g/files/vyh-lif4911/f/pages/tarev3326.pdf). For consideration, please send your resume with cover letter addressing the job requirement and personal qualifications and any references, with completed a Employment Application ([www.rehobothma.gov/sites/g/files/vyh-lif4911/f/uploads/tor\\_employment\\_application\\_fill\\_0.pdf](http://www.rehobothma.gov/sites/g/files/vyh-lif4911/f/uploads/tor_employment_application_fill_0.pdf)) to Selectman David Pereira to the

following email address: [dpereira@rehobothma.gov](mailto:dpereira@rehobothma.gov).

### Highway Superintendent Town of Ware

The town of Ware seeks a Highway Superintendent in the Department of Public Works. Duties and responsibilities include but not limited to: plans, assigns, supervises and reviews the work of staff regarding the construction and maintenance of streets, roads, sidewalks, traffic lights, bridges, drains, storm control structures, and related facilities; supervises the installation of signs. Responsible for inspecting and maintaining DPW vehicles. Responsible for the preparation, submission and administration of the Highway department budget. Acts as safety officer for the department of Public Works. Ensures department adherence to OSHA standards and coordinates employee training. Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent; five to eight years of experience in public works including supervisory experience; or an equivalent and relevant combination of education, training and experience. Valid CDL license and hoisting license required. Salary: \$83,345.60 to \$87,568, DOQ. Submit application or resume with three references to: Human Resources, 126 Main St., Ware, MA 01082, or to [resumes@townofware.com](mailto:resumes@townofware.com). Applications and full job description available online at [www.townofware.com](http://www.townofware.com). Equal opportunity employer.

### Director of Public Works Town of Ware

The town of Ware seeks a dynamic hands-on professional to lead the Department of Public Works; Highway, Sewer, Cemetery and Water. The Director's position includes management of daily operations, storm and emergency response operations, budgeting, inventory and capital spending on fleet and projects, supervision of employees, interaction with residents, repair and construction of streets and sidewalks, wastewater and storm water collection systems, and the municipal water system including supply, treatment and distribution. The Director of Public Works is also responsible for the review, approval, and oversight of all contracted Engineering work. This position is a non-union, salaried position with full benefits. Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's degree or equivalent of eight to 10 years municipal experience managing a Department of Public Works and Water/Sewer Enterprise fund. Experience with state and federal departments; MEMA, FEMA, DOT, DEP and EPA, Microsoft Office skills required and GIS preferred. All applicants must be able to pass a criminal background/CORI check and a pre-employment physical including drug testing. Salary range: \$125,000 to \$145,000. For a full job description visit [www.townofware.com](http://www.townofware.com). Interested applicants, please send cover letter, three references and resume to: Human Resources Department, Town of Ware, 126 Main St., Ware, MA 01082, or e-mail [resumes@townofware.com](mailto:resumes@townofware.com). AA/EOE

### Town Coordinator Town of Warwick

The town of Warwick seeks a versatile and experienced individual to manage day-to-day operations and long-term projects. Responsibilities include: Assists the Selectboard providing executive leadership in areas of policy formulation, fiscal affairs, labor relations and organizational development, coordinates town-wide communication, has oversight of municipal infrastructure on behalf of the Selectboard, works with Selectboard and Finance to develop annual budget, warrant articles, supports Emergency Planning and Public Safety. Salary range: \$60,000 to \$80,000,

depending on experience and working hours. For additional job information, log onto [www.warwickma.org](http://www.warwickma.org). Position will remain open until filled. The town of Warwick is a drug-free workplace and equal opportunity employer. To apply, go to [www.warwickma.org](http://www.warwickma.org) for full job description and how to apply.

### Public Health Director Town of Nantucket

The town of Nantucket is seeking a dynamic and experienced Public Health Director to lead the Health & Human Services Department in protecting and promoting the health and well-being of our year-round and seasonal community. This is an opportunity to guide a full-service municipal public health department serving an island community known for its environmental stewardship, engaged residents, and commitment to excellence in local government. Compensation and benefits: The town of Nantucket offers a competitive salary commensurate with experience and a comprehensive benefits package including 90% employer-sponsored health insurance plan options and retirement pension. Salary: \$134,784 to \$185,328. Application deadline: May 22 at 4 p.m. The town is actively working to secure housing for this position. Application instructions available at: [www.nantucket-ma.gov](http://www.nantucket-ma.gov).

## CAREERS AT MMA/MIIA

### Senior Risk Management Trainer MMA/MIIA

The Massachusetts Municipal Association and the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association are seeking a Senior Risk Management Trainer to join the MIIA Risk Management Team. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who is passionate about safety and risk management and excels at training and developing tailored safety, health, and risk management programs for municipalities. The nonpartisan Massachusetts Municipal Association provides an array of services to its member cities and towns statewide, including advocacy, education and training, research and analysis, and publications and information programs. As the voice of local government in Massachusetts, the MMA works to advance the interests of all cities and towns. The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association provides property, liability, workers compensation, and group health insurance to cities and towns in Massachusetts. MIIA is a nonprofit organization and a membership service of Massachusetts Municipal Association. About the position: As Senior Risk Management Trainer, you will collaborate with the Risk Management and Programming Teams to deliver exceptional training experiences to members and peers. You will be responsible for creating, presenting, and revising training programs and materials for MIIA members and staff in a timely and consistent manner. Key responsibilities: Collaborate with the Senior Manager of Risk Management to set guidelines for the MIIA risk management training and program plan. Develop, implement, and evaluate MIIA's safety and health curriculum. Assist in developing and delivering training on other MIIA insurance coverages, including auto, property, general liability, professional liability, law enforcement, school board, and professional liability. Prepare training material for submittal to appropriate accreditation body for

■ CLASSIFIEDS continued on 30

# Classified Advertisements

## CLASSIFIEDS

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approval (i.e., Drinking Water Board, Municipal Police Training Institute and Office of Emergency Medical Services). Provide on-site and virtual training for members. Review member training requests and create training descriptions and course flyers. Facilitate online training and track member evaluations. Provide monthly training updates and annual training reviews to management. Additional responsibilities: Analyze member loss data to identify training needs and create materials to address high-loss and topical areas. Review materials with the risk management team, create and update technical documentation, and provide guidance for incident review and remediation. Serve as a liaison with the risk management team, outside consultants, and members, and conduct outside inspections. Become knowledgeable about MIIA's cyber risk management program and explore educational opportunities. Program review and analysis then update, implementation and evaluation. Project work and oversight of resources and personnel as required, including learning management systems and scheduling, assistance, oversight of driver training program. Qualifications: The candidate must have a bachelor's degree in a safety related field preferably in occupational health and safety. Five years of work experience in safety or insurance related fields. Experience with adult learning principles and creating and implementing training curricula. Experience with project design, implementation operations and evaluation. Ability to work in a team setting and independently. Understanding of instructional design is a plus. Preference for an individual who is a current OSHA outreach trainer. Work environment: Our offices are located in Boston's Government Center neighborhood. The position offers a starting salary range of \$87,500 to \$116,500, terrific benefits, and a great collaborative work culture. Our office uses a hybrid-work schedule. If you are ready to devote yourself to work on behalf of our member cities and towns, then this position may be for you. How to Apply: Please send a PDF of your cover letter and resume to: [hr@mma.org](mailto:hr@mma.org).

*The MMA and MIIA are committed to diversity in the workplace and are proud to be equal opportunity employers. Diverse candidates are encouraged to apply. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, genetics information, pregnancy or pregnancy-related condition, disability, age, or military or veteran status.*

## SERVICES

### Municipal Energy Services

Through the MMA's MunEnergy program, MMA members have access to an energy contract designed exclusively for Massachusetts cities and towns. The MunEnergy program offers access to energy experts at Constellation, a vetted municipal energy contract, and options for sustainability programs. Energy professionals at Constellation, the MMA-endorsed supplier for MunEnergy, work with municipalities to manage electricity costs for the long term. Constellation is also on the forefront of sustainability programs and

provides financial support to the MMA for its promotional and marketing efforts. To learn more, visit [www.mma.org/munenergy](http://www.mma.org/munenergy). To be notified about MunEnergy events, send contact information for the person on your team who handles energy for your city or town to [energy@mma.org](mailto:energy@mma.org).

### Town Counsel/Legal Services

Brooks & DeRensis, P.C., is available to provide services to government entities at the state, county, city, town or regional district level. Legal services available include procurement law, contracts, eminent domain, labor relations and civil rights. Contact Paul DeRensis for all public law issues at 857-259-5200.

### Town Counsel Services

KP Law is a municipal law firm. With offices in Boston, Hyannis, Lenox, Northampton and Worcester, we serve as town counsel to more than 125 towns throughout Massachusetts, from Provincetown to Williamstown, and as special counsel to another 90. For more than 30 years, we have devoted ourselves to municipal law and have become experts in the defense of all areas of municipal trial matters. We have specialists in all areas of municipal law and maintain an environmental and land use law department that is on the cutting edge of planning, zoning and conservation. KP Law is highly sensitive to the limited legal services budgets of Massachusetts communities and thus has highly competitive billing rates to give your town the best quality legal counsel in the most cost-efficient manner. There is never a need for special counsel. Our breadth and depth of experience helps keep our cost per opinion to a minimum and enables us to service our clients quickly and efficiently, and is consistent with our commitment to excellence. For additional information on the legal services that KP Law provides, please visit [www.k-plaw.com](http://www.k-plaw.com) or contact Lauren Goldberg, Esq., at 617-556-0007, or toll-free at 800-548-3522, or at [lgoldberg@k-plaw.com](mailto:lgoldberg@k-plaw.com).

### Municipal Support Services

Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) is a Massachusetts-based, certified woman-owned, disadvantaged business enterprise composed of municipal experts. We have hands-on experience that allows us to formulate and implement strategies tailored to the communities we serve. We specialize in public administration and municipal finance, human resources and policy development, emergency management services and public safety, public works and infrastructure operations, public relations and community engagement, project management and oversight, grant writing and administration, and onsite support services. For more information, visit [www.capital-strategic-solutions.com](http://www.capital-strategic-solutions.com), call 508-690-0046, or email [info@capital-strategic-solutions.com](mailto:info@capital-strategic-solutions.com).

### Labor Counsel Services/Municipal Human Resources Specialists

Clifford and Kenny LLP provides quality representation to cities, towns and school districts in the area of labor and employment. Attorneys John Clifford and Jaime Kenny have many years of experience in representing clients for collective bargaining and personnel-related matters including discipline and discharge of unionized employees. We have extensive experience in the area of police and fire injured-on-duty cases, and have worked extensively with municipalities and insurers to resolve costly long-term claims. We offer training in sexual harassment, social media and the "just cause analysis" to municipal managers. We also serve as appointed hearing officers on a case-by-case

basis. Many of our clients take advantage of a flat monthly rate for unlimited phone calls and emails, which encourages key managers to work with counsel prior to making critical personnel decisions. Check our website at [CliffordKennyLaw.com](http://CliffordKennyLaw.com) to see a complete list of our satisfied clients or call John Clifford or Jaime Kenny at 781-924-5796 for more information.

### Public Management Consultants

MMA Consulting Group Inc. provides consulting services to cities, towns, and other public agencies. We specialize in public safety/emergency response (police, fire, EMS) issues, the design and administration of assessment centers, structured oral panels, and recruitment of police and fire executives. For information, contact Mark Morse, President, MMA Consulting Group Inc., 101 Court St. #7, Plymouth, MA 02360; 508-746-3653; [mmacginc@gmail.com](mailto:mmacginc@gmail.com).

### Municipal Accounting and Consulting Services

Our outstanding team specializes in municipal financial consulting and outsourced accounting. Since 2008, we have worked with many Massachusetts cities and towns with interim accounting, special projects, fraud risk assessments, financial forecasts, and budgeting. We also provide permanent outsourced accounting solutions, which have proven successful for many years. Please contact Eric Kinsherf at [eric@erickinsherfcpa.com](mailto:eric@erickinsherfcpa.com) or visit our website [erickinsherfcpa.com](http://erickinsherfcpa.com) for further information.

### General Consultant, Recruiting and Special Studies

Municipal Resources Inc. has been providing management solutions to New England municipalities since 1989. MRI is able to provide expertise when and where it's needed. Our services include executive recruitments, assessment centers and promotional testing; public safety organizational studies; finance operations; interim staffing; internal investigations; efficiency and regionalization studies. MRI has an extensive group of experienced subject experts who are able to provide the technical and management expertise that can help communities deliver quality services and resolve complex problems with real-world solutions. Contact us at 866-501-0352 or [info@mrigrv.com](mailto:info@mrigrv.com).

### Executive Recruitment and Municipal Management

Groux-White Consulting LLC is a full-service municipal management consulting firm specializing in executive recruitment, interim management, form of government studies, organizational effectiveness evaluations, strategic and financial planning and conflict resolution. Tom Groux and Rick White, One Pelham Road, Lexington, MA 02421; [rickwhite58@verizon.net](mailto:rickwhite58@verizon.net); 781-572-6332; [www.grouxwhiteconsulting.com](http://www.grouxwhiteconsulting.com).

### Executive Recruiting, Management and Governance Consulting Services

Community Paradigm Associates provides comprehensive professional services to public sector, private sector, and not-for-profit clients, including organizational and management studies, executive recruiting, operational analyses, personnel studies, compensation and classification plans, charter development, strategic planning, leadership training, and facilitation services. Community Paradigm Associates has a team of seasoned associates with expertise in all aspects of

■ CLASSIFIEDS continued on 31

# Classified Advertisements

## CLASSIFIEDS

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municipal government. For more information, contact Principal Bernard Lynch at 978-621-6733 or Blynch@CommunityParadigm.com; [www.communityparadigm.com](http://www.communityparadigm.com).

### Tax Title Legal Services

KP Law has been providing a full range of legal services to municipal treasurers and collectors for more than 30 years. Our experienced tax title attorneys draft collection letters and payment agreements; prepare all instruments relative to tax takings and tax sales; draft pleadings for Land Court foreclosures; and provide full representation of municipalities in Land Court actions. We also provide assistance with disposition or reuse of tax parcels. The breadth of our experience, volume, use of experienced paralegals, state-of-the-art computer and informational services, and close proximity to the Land Court enables us to provide prompt, cost-effective services. For additional

information, please visit [www.k-plaw.com](http://www.k-plaw.com) or contact Lauren Goldberg, Esq. at 617-556-0007, or toll free at 800-548-3522, or at [lgoldberg@k-plaw.com](mailto:lgoldberg@k-plaw.com).

### Special Counsel, Public Construction and Infrastructure Services

Petrini & Associates P.C. (P&A) is a recognized statewide leader in representing public owners in public construction and infrastructure disputes and litigation. P&A has decades of experience, having represented public owners in numerous bid protests, delay claims, differing site conditions, disputes between design professionals and project owners, and a broad variety of other construction disputes. Since its founding in 2004, P&A has represented more than 40 cities, towns, school districts and water and sewer districts in public construction litigation. For further information, please visit [www.petrinilaw.com](http://www.petrinilaw.com) or contact Christopher Petrini at [cpetrini@petrinilaw.com](mailto:cpetrini@petrinilaw.com) or 508-665-4310.

### Municipal Financial Management Software: Accounting, Cloud, Utility and Collections

VADAR Systems provides financial management software to more than 100 Massachusetts municipalities. Our accounting, cloud, utility and collections applications are designed exclusively for Massachusetts municipalities by Massachusetts end users. The VADAR Cloud maximizes efficiency with 24/7 secure, remote access to all your applications from any device. Our user support offers unparalleled expertise. Proudly serving Massachusetts for 20-plus years. For a free on-site demonstration, please contact us at 877-823-2700 or [sales@vadarsystems.com](mailto:sales@vadarsystems.com). Learn more at [www.VADARsystems.com](http://www.VADARsystems.com). Locally owned and operated at 20 Main St., Suite G1, Acton, MA 01701.

### Human Capital Solutions

MGT provides executive recruiting, comprehensive interim staffing, and human capital consulting for local governments, school districts, businesses, and nonprofits. Drawing on decades of experience working across the country, our team collaborates with your organization to understand your unique needs, culture, and goals to deliver tangible results. We tackle immediate challenges, anticipate future workplace needs, bridge talent gaps, and enhance policies to foster lasting positive transformation within your organization. Visit us at [mgt.us](http://mgt.us), post to our job board at [govhrjobs.com](http://govhrjobs.com), or contact our team of experts at 847-380-3240.

### Human Resources Consulting

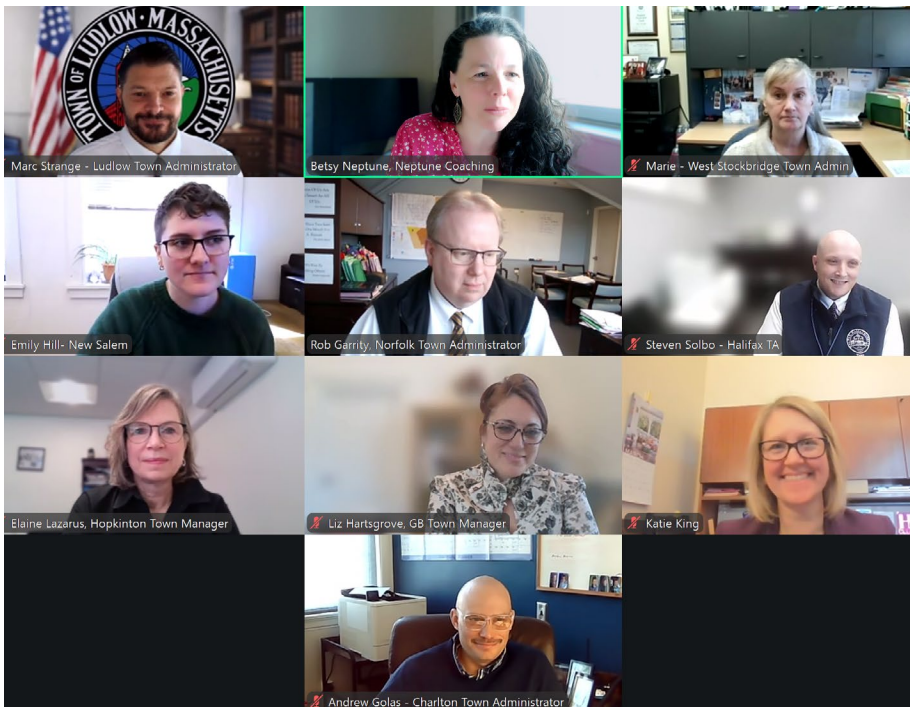
Human Resources Services Inc. provides a full range of human resource management consulting services to Massachusetts local governments and other public agencies. Specialization includes compensation/classification, performance appraisal, job analysis and evaluation, job descriptions, salary/benefits and total compensation surveys and analytics, personnel policies/handbooks, staffing and organizational management studies, HR audits and assessments, HR training services, recruitment and selection services, web-based HR services, and special projects. Please contact Sandy Stapczynski, President, Human Resources Services Inc., 9 Bartlett St., Suite 186, Andover, MA 01810; 978-474-0200; [hrrsconsulting@comcast.net](mailto:hrrsconsulting@comcast.net); or visit [www.hrrsconsultinginc.com](http://www.hrrsconsultinginc.com). WBE certified.

## RFPs

### Legal Services

#### Town of Northbridge

The Northbridge Retirement Board seeks proposals from qualified individuals/firms to provide legal services consistent with M.G.L. Chapter 32 and Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations 840 CMR—Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission. The request for proposal will be available on April 6. Completed original, hard copies and electronic copies of the RFP must be received no later than 12 p.m. EST on May 18. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Request for a copy of the RFP should be sent to: Caitlin Leahey, Executive Director, Northbridge Contributory Retirement Board, Town of Northbridge, 7 Main St., Town Hall, Whitinsville, MA 01588. Phone: 508-234-0820. Email: [cleahey@northbridgemass.org](mailto:cleahey@northbridgemass.org) (Please note individuals or entities bidding on this Request For Proposals must not be involved in the RFP process in any manner.) ●



## Managers participate in coaching sessions

Nine town managers and administrators participate in a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association coaching initiative facilitated by executive coach Betsy Cowan Neptune (top row, center) on March 24. The coaching program, held in March and April, engaged roughly 50 participants in five cohort groups, two of which consisted entirely of deputy managers and assistants. The program featured three 90-minute virtual sessions, where peers collaborated in groups of 10 to address diverse professional challenges. Key topics included navigating relationships with elected boards, managing staff in a unionized environment, and upholding professional roles amid a polarized political climate. Pictured are (top row, l-r) Ludlow Town Administrator Marc Strange, Neptune, and West Stockbridge Town Manager Marie Ryan; (second row, l-r) New Salem Town Coordinator Emily Hill, Norfolk Town Administrator Robert Garrity, and Halifax Town Administrator Steven Solbo; (third row, l-r) Hopkinton Town Manager Elaine Lazarus, Great Barrington Town Manager Liz Hartsgrove, and Needham Town Manager Katie King; and (bottom) Charlton Town Administrator Andrew Golas.

# Calendar



# The Beacon

Massachusetts Municipal Association

3 Center Plaza, Suite 610, Boston, MA 02108

## MAY

**7** **Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources**, labor relations seminar, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Devens Common Center, Devens. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis

**12** **Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association**, board meeting, 9:15-10 a.m., hybrid, MMA office, Boston. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

**12** **MMA Board of Directors**, 10-11:45 a.m., hybrid, MMA office, Boston. Contact: MMA Executive Assistant Elanienne Coste

**12** **Local Government Advisory Commission**, hybrid meeting, 1-2 p.m. Contact: MMA Executive Assistant Elanienne Coste

**13** **MMA webinar**, managing tight budgets, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

**13-15** **Massachusetts Mayors' Association**, spring conference. Contact: MMA Membership and Project Assistant Katherine Christy

**19** **MMA webinar**, Metrik's local health data, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

**26** **MMA webinar**, civic engagement in libraries, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

**27-29** **Massachusetts Municipal Management Association**, spring conference, Ocean Edge, Brewster. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

## JUNE

**2** **MMA webinar**, municipal legal updates, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

**4** **Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources**, annual meeting, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Cyprian Keyes Golf Club, Boylston. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis

**9** **Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association**, board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., hybrid, MMA office, Boston. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

**9** **MMA Board of Directors**, 10-11:45 a.m., hybrid, MMA office, Boston. Contact: MMA Executive Assistant Elanienne Coste

**9** **Local Government Advisory Commission**, hybrid meeting, 1-2 p.m. Contact: MMA Executive Assistant Elanienne Coste

**10** **MMA webinar**, transparency after successful override, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

**11** **Massachusetts Municipal Management Association**, mini boot camp, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Marlborough Public Library, Marlborough. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

**12** **Massachusetts Select Board Association**, newly elected training, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Devens Common Center, Devens. Contact: MMA Member Program Coordinator Martin Davis

**17** **MMA webinar**, financing energy efficiency projects, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

**24** **Massachusetts Mayors' Association**, meeting, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Membership and Project Assistant Katherine Christy

**25** **Women Leading Government**, meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., UMass Amherst. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

**30** **Massachusetts Municipal Communicators**, online meeting, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

## JULY

**8** **MMA webinar**, strategic planning, 12-1:15 p.m. Contact: MMA Education and Training Coordinator Kristianna Lapierre

**16** **Massachusetts Municipal Management Association**, meeting, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Olde Scotland Links, Bridgewater. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

**22** **Massachusetts Mayors' Association**, meeting, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact: MMA Membership and Project Assistant Katherine Christy

## SEPTEMBER

**8** **Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association**, hybrid board meeting, 8:45-9:45 a.m., Shrewsbury Public Library, Shrewsbury. Contact: MMA Senior Member Program Coordinator Denise Baker

To list an event of interest to municipal officials in *The Beacon*, send information about the event, including date, location, sponsorship, cost, and whom to call for more information, to [editor@mma.org](mailto:editor@mma.org).

### MMA contacts

**Denise Baker** can be reached at [dbaker@mma.org](mailto:dbaker@mma.org)

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**Kristianna Lapierre** can be reached at [klapierre@mma.org](mailto:klapierre@mma.org)

For more information, visit [www.mma.org](http://www.mma.org).