



We are the voice of cities & towns in Massachusetts.

We represent 351 cities and towns and the municipal officials who run them.



MMA

Massachusetts
Municipal
Association

Legislative Breakfasts

Spring 2026

Today's Agenda

- MMA PSAs
 - Fiscal Picture & Funding
 - Bills to Watch
 - Regulatory Updates
 - Ongoing Priorities & the Work Ahead
 - Comments & Questions
-



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Legislative Division



Dave Koffman

Senior Executive and
Legislative Director

Personnel & Labor
Relations



Ali DiMatteo

Legislative and Policy
Counsel

Municipal & Regional
Administration



Josie Ahlberg

Senior Legislative
Analyst

Energy & the
Environment



Adrienne Núñez

Senior Legislative
Analyst

Fiscal Policy



Violet Gehr

Legislative Analyst

Transportation,
Public Works &
Public Utilities



Daniel Yi

Project & Research
Coordinator

Project and
research support
for Legislative
Services



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Spring Legislative Breakfasts

Friday, March 6 – Pittsfield, Sharon

Friday, March 13 – Clinton, Harwich

Friday, March 20 – Boxford, Montague



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Look out for MMA's Legislative Alerts!



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MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings Oct 4, 11, 18

Please register today to meet
with other local officials, legislators, and MMA staff

September 23, 2024

Dear Daniel Yi,

[Registration](#) is now open for the MMA's Fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on October 4, October 11, and October 18.



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Each year, the MMA hosts a series of meetings in communities across the Commonwealth to give local leaders, legislators, and MMA staff the opportunity to network in an informal setting and learn about and discuss issues of importance at the local and state level.

MMA Legislative staff will discuss the latest activity in the current legislative session, which has wide-ranging implications for cities and towns. Topics will include the fiscal 2025 state budget, a new housing law, a wage equity law, clean energy siting and permitting, the proposed Municipal Empowerment Act, an economic development bill, transportation funding, regulatory updates, and more. City and town officials from every community are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to discuss issues of importance with MMA staff and legislators.

A light breakfast and coffee will be provided followed by presentations and Q&A. Meetings will be held at the following locations:



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MMA's Weekly Newsletter



MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards just released its best of fall rankings, and two Mass. towns are in the top 10!

- Davis Mega Maze, in Sterling, was ranked [8th in a list of the best corn mazes](#) in the country
- Red Apple Farm, in Phillipston, won [9th place for best apple orchards](#).

Here's a digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#). Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe](#)!

[Healey's closeout budget bill includes disaster funds, clean energy changes](#)

Looking to close the books on fiscal 2024, Gov. Maura Healey filed a \$714 million supplemental budget bill that includes several provisions of note to municipalities. ...



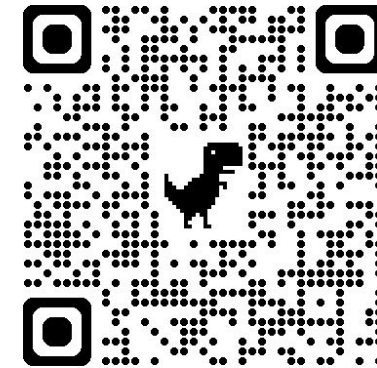
All the latest, in your mailbox
every Friday!

<http://www.mma.org/newsletter>



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MMA's New Podcast



Listen, Subscribe, and Review!

<https://www.mma.org/resources/the-351-podcast/>



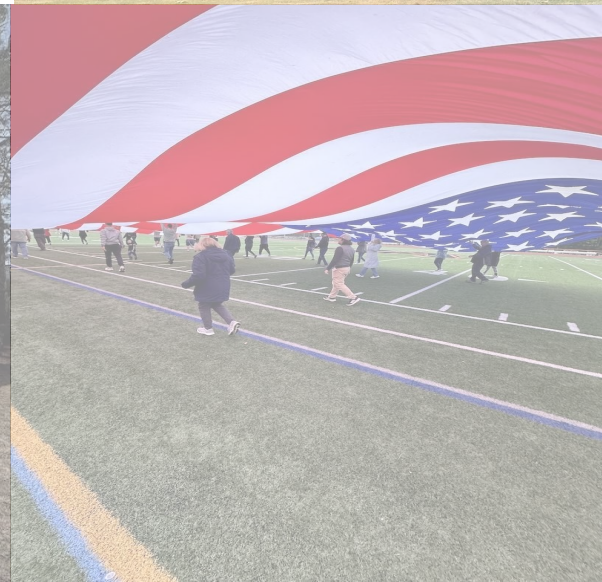
Share your



Commonwealth snapshots!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work?

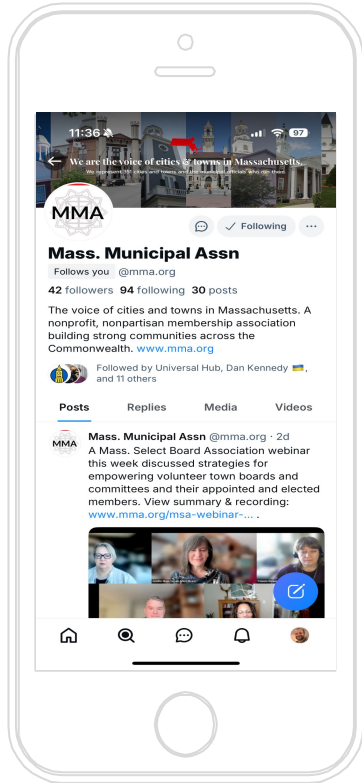
Please email them to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org.



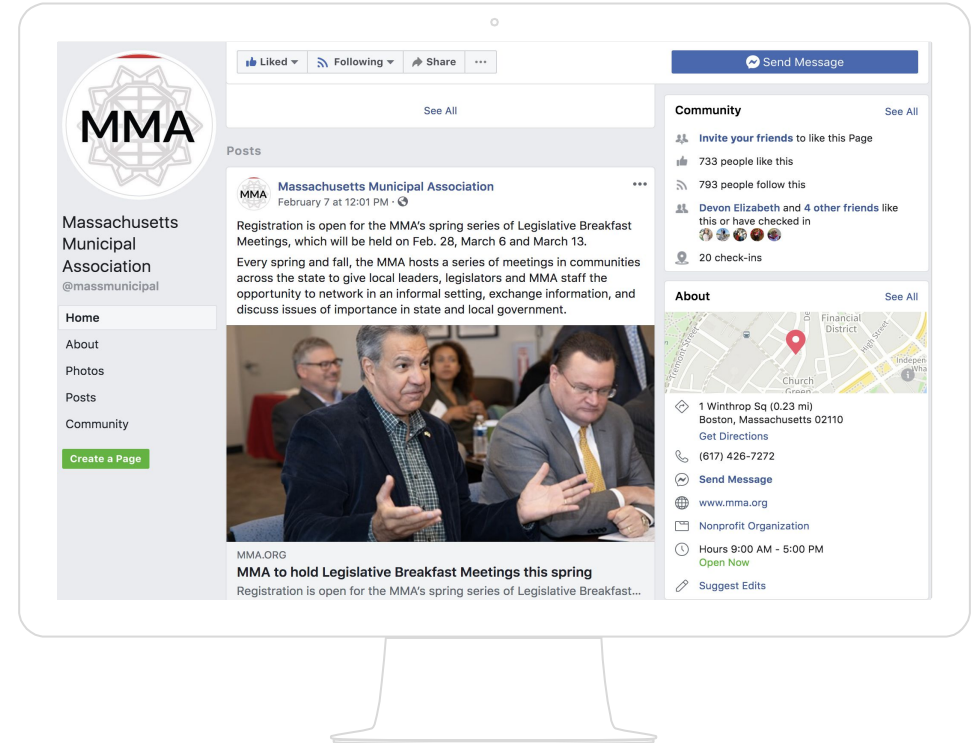


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Follow the MMA on Social Media



@massmunicipal

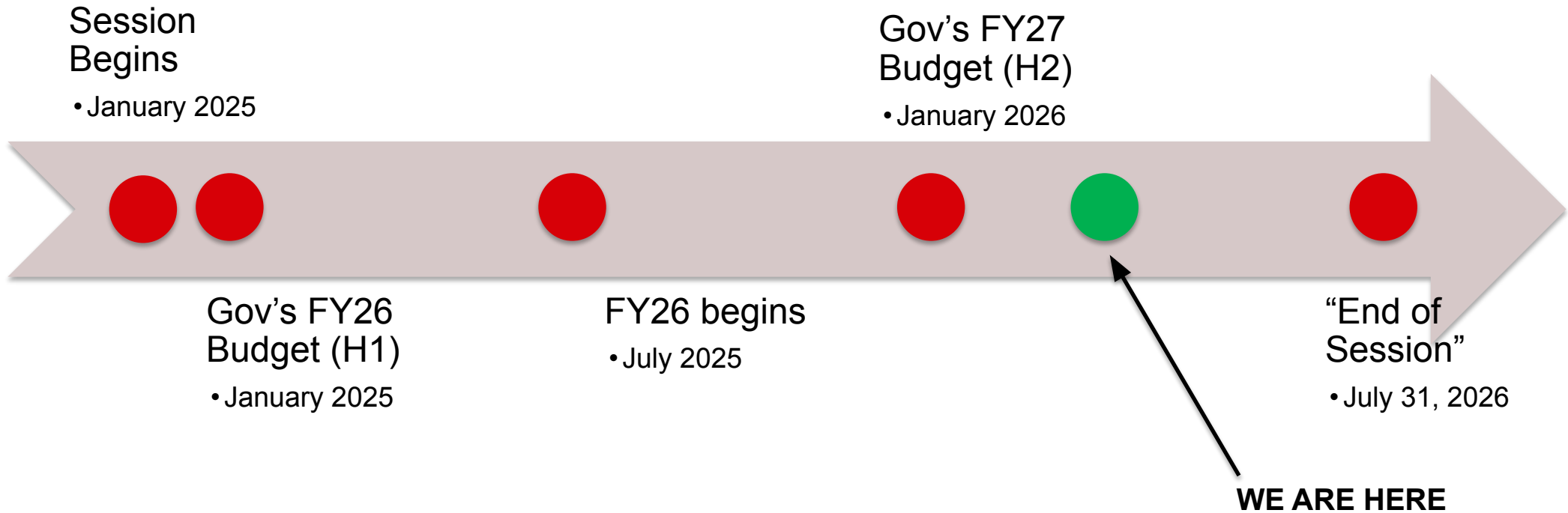


Legislative Update

- WHEN are we?
 - State Revenue
 - FY27 Budget
 - Key Legislation:
 - Highlights
 - Ongoing Action
 - Regulatory Updates
 - The Work Ahead
-



194th General Court – WHEN are we?





State Revenue



February Collections

- February totaled \$2.336 billion
 - \$208 million or 9.8% more than actual collections in February 2025
 - \$59 million or 2.6% above benchmark

Year-to-Date Collections

- Fiscal YTD totaling approximately \$26.305 billion
 - \$817 million or 3.2% more than actual collections last FY
 - \$589 million or 2.3% above the year-to-date benchmark

Consensus Revenue

- \$44.9 billion or a 2.9% increase over FY2026.
- \$2.7 billion surtax spending limit

FY27 Budget

Governor Healey filed **\$63b proposal (H.2)** on Jan. 28

- **UGGA:** \$33 million increase (2.5% over FY26)
- **CH.70:** \$7.6 billion (3.2% increase over FY26; final year SOA schedule)
 - **Minimum-per-pupil education aid:** \$75 per student
- **Regional school transportation:** \$112.3 million
- **OOD vocational transportation:** \$6.8 million
- **Rural School aid:** \$20 million (+ expanded eligibility)
- **Special Education Circuit Breaker:** \$652.7 million + \$150 million (supp) = \$802.7m
- **Charter School Reimbursement:** \$200.4 million
- **PILOT:** \$55.4 million

FY27 Budget

Outside Sections

- Proposed change to process used to collect outstanding excise tax, parking ticket payments, and abandoned vehicle fines.
 - Discontinue driver's license and registration non-renewal markings process
 - Replace with new system allowing payment of bills through state's Intercept Program
- Jeopardizes ability to collect these essential local payments
 - OPPOSE these sections of H. 2



What'Supp?

3 bills now merged into one

FY26 Surplus Surtax



**Federal Tax Change
Management**



**FY26 Deficiency
& Immigration
Protection**



**\$1.8b FY26 Supplemental (passed by House) —
\$1.3b FY25 Surtax Surplus + \$500m General Fund**

- \$152m for FY27 SPED CB
- \$3m Regional/Voc. School Transportation
- \$20m for Green School Works
- Tax changes to slow approx. \$400+M in revenue impacts from OB3
- \$500m for time-sensitive deficiencies for state programs and other state support
 - \$300m for Group Insurance Commission



Ch. 90 + Transportation Bond Bill



\$1.2B Chapter 90 bill filed in January

- Proposed 4-year authorization
- Preserves the 50% increase to base Chapter 90 funding
 - \$300m for Chapter 90 program:
 - \$200m via traditional distribution
 - \$100m based on road miles
- \$75 million for FAIR program
- **March 3 hearing**



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Municipal Empowerment Act



Top Provisions:

- Permanent Codification of Remote Public Meeting Options
- Procurement and borrowing updates
 - Snow hauling added
- Enforcement mechanism for removal of double poles
- Eases ability to allow for in-house school bus services
- OPEB reform commission
- Local option revenue

Cannabis

Social Consumption

- CCC regulations around on-site social consumption licensing went into effect in January
- Three on-site adult-use consumption license types:
 - Supplemental
 - Hospitality
 - Event Organizer
- Munis must opt-in and create new HCA with any supplemental licensee
- Likely 16-18 months before any openings or events

CCC & Governance Reform

House and Senate have passed bills around CCC governance and cannabis reform

Energy and Environmental Legislation

Energy Affordability Legislation:

- Goal to address gas and electric affordability concerns, balance state investments
- OK'd by House, now off to Senate

Environmental Bond Bill:

- \$2.9 billion bond bill, many helpful authorizations:
 - \$315 million for the MVP Program
 - \$385 million for the Clean Water Trust
- Proposes new Resilience Revolving Fund



Clean Energy Siting and Permitting



- Regulations for the new consolidated permitting process for local governments are finalized
 - These regulations will apply to small clean energy projects, including solar and other generation projects under 25 KW and storage projects under 100 MWh
 - Municipalities must begin accepting applications using the new process by October 1, 2026
- Guidelines are still being finalized, public comment closed March 13
 - Pre-filing, public health, safety, and environmental standards, common conditions and requirements in case of constructive approval, minimization and mitigation measures



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The Work Ahead



Key Advocacy Areas in the coming months:

- **Fiscal Outlook:** “Clouds” on the Horizon, but Closely Watching Revenues
- **Federal Impact:** Funding and policy via Immigration Enforcement
- **Busy Ballots?** Initiative Petitions Adding to the Mix
- **Other Top Issues:** Healthcare, Housing, Workforce, among others
- **Municipal Empowerment Act!**



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A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures

An Analysis of Fiscal Pressures on Massachusetts Municipalities | OCTOBER 2025



Navigating the Storm: Charting a Course Toward Fiscal Stability

Recommendations from the Massachusetts Municipal Association | DECEMBER 2025



MMA's recent two reports on the fiscal realities in the 351 cities and towns

Find out more at mma.org!





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View from the State House & City/Town Halls

Comments from Legislators, Local Officials, and General Discussion



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Contact Information

Dave Koffman - Senior Executive & Legislative Director – dkoffman@mma.org

Ali DiMatteo - Legislative & Policy Counsel – adimatteo@mma.org

Josie Ahlberg - Senior Legislative Analyst – jahlberg@mma.org

Adrienne Núñez - Senior Legislative Analyst – anunez@mma.org

Violet Gehr - Legislative Analyst – vgehr@mma.org

Daniel Yi - Project & Research Coordinator – dyi@mma.org



Additional Resources & Links

- [FY27 State Budget](#)
- [FY26 Surplus Surtax Supplemental Budget](#)
- [Federal OB3 Impacts](#)
- [Transportation Bond Bill - Chapter 90](#)
- [Municipal Empowerment Act](#)
- [CCC Social Consumption Regs](#)
- [Environmental Bond Bill](#)
- [MMA's Testimony on Environmental Bond Bill](#)
- [Energy Affordability Legislation](#)
- [MMA's Testimony on Energy Affordability Legislation](#)
- [Clean Energy Siting & Permitting Regulations Finalized](#)
- [Letter to DOER on Local Permitting draft regulations](#)
- [Ballot Initiatives](#)