

From: [Massachusetts Municipal Association](#)
To: [Andreae Downs](#)
Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:03:59 PM

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GOV. HEALEY PROVIDES EARLY RELEASE OF PROPOSED FY24 LOCAL AID NUMBERS

- \$24.6M INCREASE IN UNRESTRICTED MUNICIPAL AID (2.0%)
- CH. 70 PLAN WOULD INCREASE FY24 SCHOOL AID BY \$586M (9.8%)
- 119 SCHOOL DISTRICTS WOULD RECEIVE NEW AID OF ONLY \$30/STUDENT
- INCLUDES NEW \$10M RESERVE FOR REQUIRED LOCAL CONTRIBUTION RELIEF
 - SPECIAL EDUCATION CIRCUIT BREAKER INCREASED BY \$63M
- CHARTER SCHOOL REIMBURSEMENTS LEVEL-FUNDED AT \$243M
 - RURAL SCHOOL AID INCREASED TO \$7.5M (36%)
- REGIONAL SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION INCREASED BY \$14.9M
- OUT-OF-DISTRICT VOCATIONAL TRANSPORTATION INCREASED TO \$5.2M
- MCKINNEY-VENTO TRANSPORTATION FULLY FUNDED AT \$28.7M
 - PILOT INCREASED BY \$6.5M (12.6%)
- \$100M FOR NEW MASSDOT MUNI GRANT PROGRAM
- COMMUNITY COMPACT GRANT FUNDING DOUBLED

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In addition, H.1 includes a special \$10 million reserve account to provide relief to districts whose municipalities have been disproportionately impacted by increases in their target local contributions.

While this is important progress, an initial examination of the budget indicates that 119 of 318 operating districts (37%) would remain minimum-aid-only, and receive the minimum \$30 per-student increase in the Act. The MMA will continue to strongly advocate for minimum aid of \$100 per student to ensure that all districts can at least keep pace with inflation and maintain their school services.

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The Governor's budget would fund the charter school reimbursement account at \$243 million. Charter schools will continue to divert a high percentage of Chapter 70 funds away from many municipally operated school districts, and place greater strain on the districts that serve the vast majority of public school children. Major problems will continue unless a true resolution of the charter school funding problem is achieved, which is a key MMA priority.

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Gov. Healey's budget submission would increase funding for regional transportation reimbursements to \$97 million, an increase of \$14.9 million, or 18% above fiscal year 2023. This represents a reimbursement rate of approximately 90%.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TRANSP. WOULD RECEIVE MAJOR BOOST

Reimbursements for transportation of out-of-district vocational students is funded at \$5.2 million, an increase of \$4.9 million. This is a major boost for an account that has been significantly underfunded at \$250,000 for many years. The amount represents a reimbursement rate increase from 5% of costs to approximately 90% of costs.

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MUNICIPAL REGIONALIZATION AND EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVE RESERVE CREATED

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THANK YOU!



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From: [Massachusetts Municipal Association](#)
To: [Susan Albright](#)
Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:04:11 PM

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From: [Massachusetts Municipal Association](#)
To: [Alison M. Leary](#)
Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:03:56 PM

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From: [Massachusetts Municipal Association](#)
To: [Andrea W. Kelley](#)
Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:04:01 PM

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To: [Leonard J. Gentile](#)
Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
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To: [Deborah J. Crossley](#)
Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
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From: [Massachusetts Municipal Association](#)
To: [Emily Norton](#)
Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:04:03 PM

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Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:04:10 PM

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To: [Christopher J. Markiewicz](#)
Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:03:57 PM

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From: [Massachusetts Municipal Association](#)
To: [Alicia Bowman](#)
Subject: MMA ALERT: Governor releases proposed FY24 local aid numbers
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:03:55 PM

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To: [Bill Humphrey](#)
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To: [David Kalis](#)
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Date: Thursday, February 23, 2023 3:04:00 PM

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Visitors to Saint Mary's Cemetery in Milford have likely noticed the [Milford Round Tower](#). Built in 1986, the 73 foot tall tower might be the only of its kind found outside of Ireland.

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](#)!

[Legislature OK's economic
development bill with local
funding](#)

The House and Senate approved a

\$4 billion economic development bill that includes funding for a range of grants and programs that benefit cities and towns. ...



MassDEP amends rules for Low Emission Vehicle Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection filed emergency regulation amendments on Nov. 4 affecting the Low Emission Vehicle Program (310 CMR 7.40). ...



\$5.8M in Public Safety Staffing grants awarded

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on Oct. 31 announced nearly \$5.8 million in fiscal 2025 Municipal Public Safety Staffing grant awards. ...



DLS reminds communities to report ballot question results

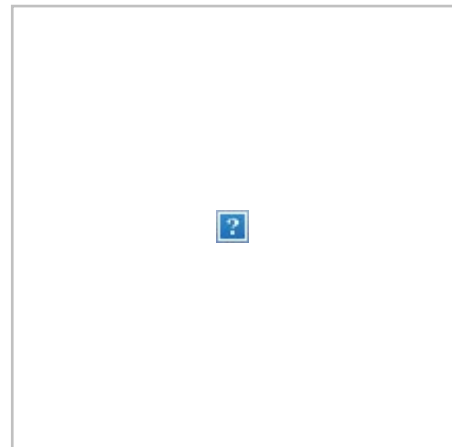
The Division of Local Services is

reminding communities that they must report the outcomes of certain ballot measures using the division's online Gateway. ...



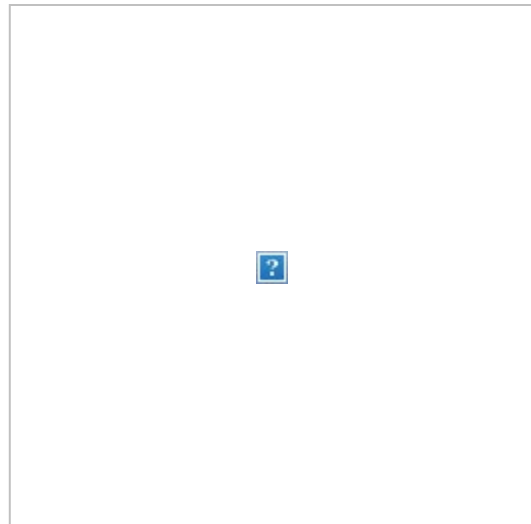
New guidelines in Devens seek to reduce 'embodied carbon'

Devens, a former military base that's now a regional enterprise zone, has spent the past two decades redeveloping with sustainability as an objective. ...



New Bedford and region have new roadmap to address homelessness

In late September, New Bedford Mayor John Mitchell released a report about a city-commissioned study that analyzed New Bedford's response to homelessness. ...



Boston tests 'green' roofs on MBTA bus shelters

Boston has added "green" roofs to 30 bus shelters along a popular

route, shielding bus riders from increasingly hot weather, and better equipping neighborhoods to manage stormwater runoff and flooding risks.

...



Reducing risk, ensuring smooth transitions when decommissioning buildings

When planning for a new municipal building, the disposition of the existing building — whether through sale, demolition or re-commissioning — should be part of the plan. ...



MunEnergy can help with managing winter energy needs

As cities and towns prepare for winter and a high-demand heating season, the MMA's MunEnergy program can help municipal leaders manage these costs. ...



[Great Barrington just got more than \\$6 million in grants. Here's where the money is going.](#)

[Stockbridge and West Stockbridge have agreed to share a fire chief as a possible first step to a larger agreement.](#)

[51 years later, overdue book is finally returned to Worcester Public Library.](#)

What We're Reading

[Strategies for spreading AI throughout local government](#) - Bloomberg Cities
(6 minute read)

"Take Boston, which is currently developing a customized chatbot—trained on the city's hundreds of pages of procurement procedures and rules—to accelerate purchases. To Chief Information Officer Santiago Garces, this work is primarily geared at producing greater efficiency for civil servants by reducing the time they spend seeking approval for purchases."

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to
[Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Holiday Decorations in Your Community: Overview and Legal Considerations](#) - Nov. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Situational Supervision](#) - Dec. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

- [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
- [Mass Save introduces municipal energy manager grant](#)
- [‘Climate tech’ event on Nov. 19 to focus on municipal continuity during emergencies](#)
- [Treasury offers resources as ARPA obligation deadline nears](#)
- [Foundation offers grants to help apply for opioid settlement funds](#)
- [Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of Koran's Farm!

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[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

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We've added 30 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Procurement Director, Assistant Town Clerk, Part-time Local Inspector, Town Coordinator, Senior Clerk and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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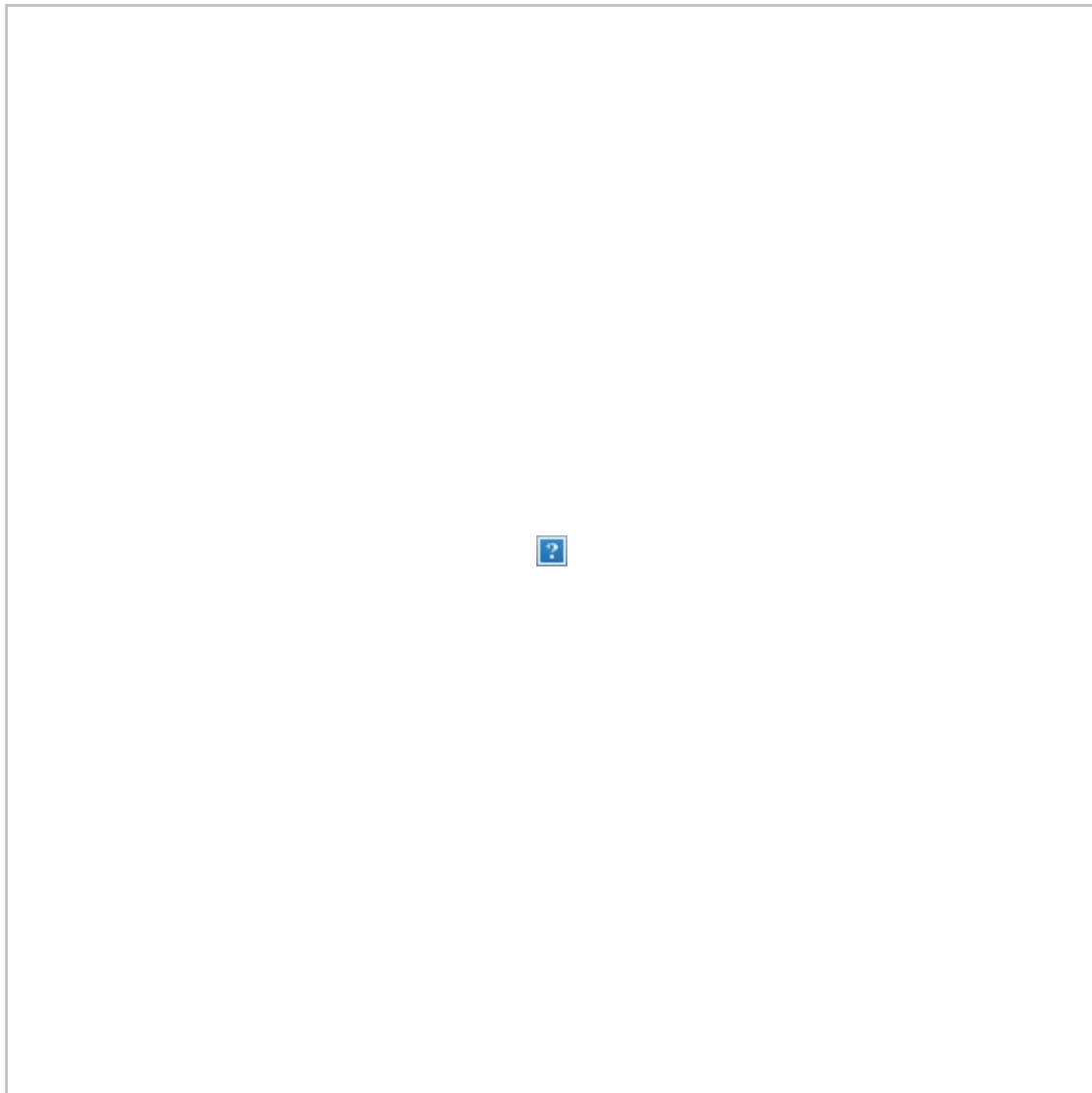
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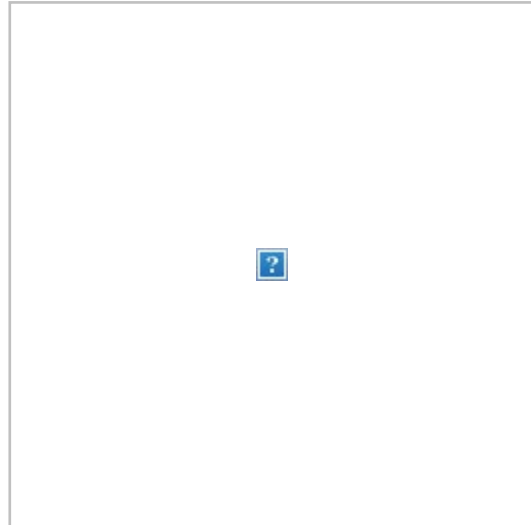
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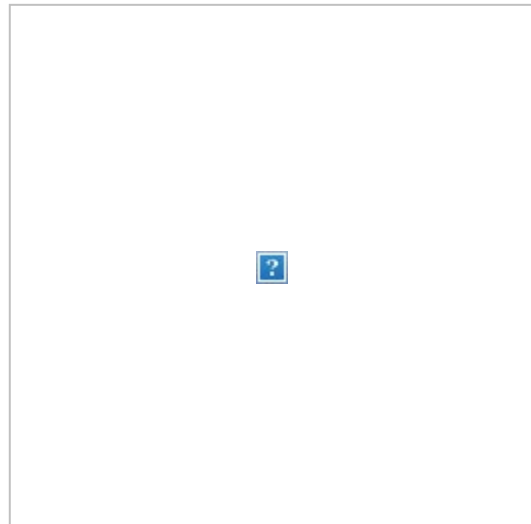
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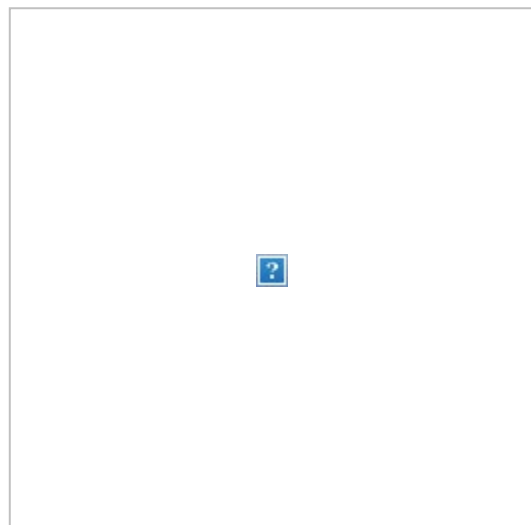
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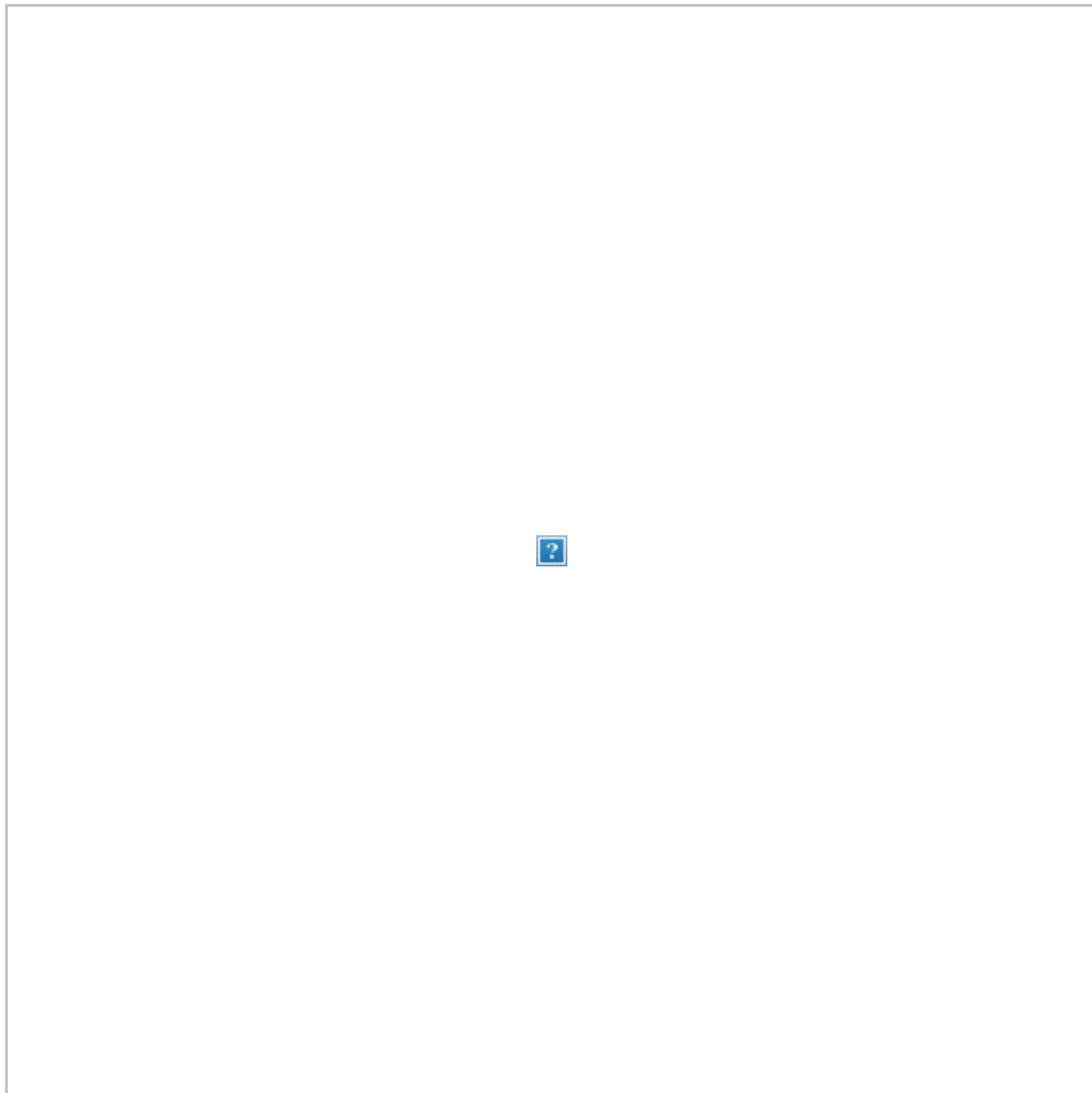
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In local happenings: A [guide to living in New Bedford](#) was featured in the New York Times Real Estate section last week. Highlights include the city's rich maritime history, new South Coast Rail service and the diverse food scene.

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[MMA continues push on Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

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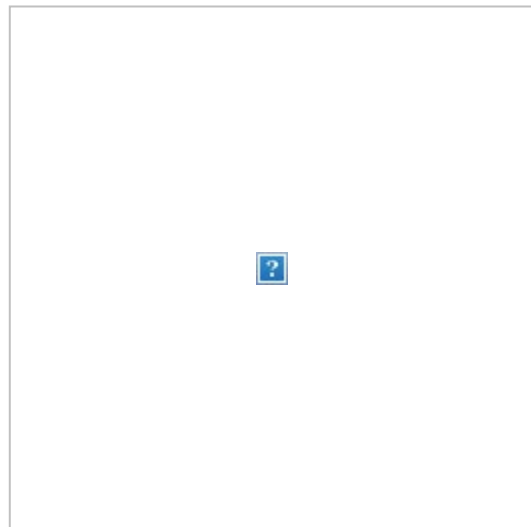
Rule-making process continues for MBTA Communities Act

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is working to finalize new regulations relative to the MBTA Communities Act. ...



Governor's bill would make historic investment in Ch. 90

At the heart of the transportation bond bill Gov. Maura Healey filed on Jan. 24 is a historic investment in municipal roads and bridges — \$300 million per year for the Chapter 90 program for a period of five years. ...



MassDOT finalizes truck safety device regulations

The Massachusetts Department of

Transportation has finalized updated regulations pertaining to truck safety devices. ...



[Special housing production commission releases report](#)

A special commission today shared a report with the governor that offers more than 50 recommendations to increase the supply of housing across Massachusetts. ...



[MSA hosts workshop with Moderators Association](#)

The Mass. Select Board Association held a virtual workshop with the Mass. Moderators Association on Feb. 25 to discuss select board roles and responsibilities relative to town meetings. ...



[Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

The Mass. Housing Partnership will host a three-part, virtual affordable housing training series in March for local boards and commissions. ...



[BEAD application deadline extended to March 10](#)

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment funding program has extended its Round 1 application deadline to March 10. ...



[Environmental Justice Grant available to municipalities](#)

Municipalities are invited to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grantmaking program. ...



[Planner Training Collaborative to hold annual conference on March 15](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its 30th Annual Conference on Saturday, March 15 in Worcester. ...



[Travel and tourism conference is March 18-19 in Springfield](#)

The 2025 Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, where tourism and hospitality professionals learn about the latest industry trends, will be held on March 18 and 19 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.



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New in [Advocacy](#)

[Remote, hybrid meetings are local government success story](#)

On Feb. 28, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Secretary Augustus, MMA and Municipal Lawyers Association identify municipal concerns with MBTA Communities draft regulations](#)

On Feb. 21, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Seven years in the making: North Truro housing development groundbreaking date set](#) - Cape Cod Times

[After Steward hospital closure, ambulances rush patients out of town](#) - Boston Globe

[Somerville and Chelsea are asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration's "illegal campaign of bullying and intimidation"](#) - Boston.com

[Natick voters must decide on \\$7M override at town election](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Hudson Town Election to have override question: What money will pay for, plus tax impact](#) - MetroWest Daily News

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Amherst Town Councillor Elisha Walker



What We're Reading

[Resident Engagement: Taking transparency to the next level in cities](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Whether it's erecting glass-walled municipal buildings or launching open-data platforms, cities have long strived to be transparent as a way to engender trust in government. Yet, as confidence in public institutions continues to be challenged, local leaders also realize that the old ways of "being open" aren't enough—and that they have to do more.

A growing number of cities are responding by pushing the boundaries of transparency. Syracuse, N.Y., is reimagining service-delivery communications. Portland, Ore., is raising the bar for open procurement. And Boston is making the mayor's one-on-one meetings accessible in public spaces. These efforts underscore a key lesson: innovation is essential to advancing transparency and deepening public trust."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Dalton & Marlborough\)](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Amesbury & Fall River\)](#) - March 14

[Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Laws webinar](#) - March 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Professional Development Conference](#) - March 20

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Conference](#) - March 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - March 25

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Reading\)](#) - March 27

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 - [**NLC seeks data on municipal infrastructure needs**](#)
 - [**Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program**](#)
 - [**MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings March 7, 14**](#)
 - [**U.S. Rep. Clark to keynote WEMO Conference in March**](#)
 - [**MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025**](#)
 - [**Administration announces opening of Community One Stop for Growth**](#)
 - [**Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7**](#)
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Commonwealth snapshots



The bronze sculpture called "Reach for Knowledge," by Nancy Schön, welcomes patrons at the entrance of the Wellesley Free Library on a sunny day this week.

Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA has joined Bluesky! Follow us there: [@mma.org](#).

In local happenings: Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick [reflected on her tenure](#) in The Needham Observer. Fitzpatrick, who is planning to retire in early July, cofounded Massachusetts Women Leading Government, a formal committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

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](#)!

[Supplemental road funding now available; Chapter 90 hearing set](#)

MassDOT announced that \$45

million in supplemental funding for road and bridge repair and construction is now available to communities. ...



President signs order calling for dismantling of Education Department

State and local officials, and the state's congressional delegation, are raising concerns about the potential implications of an executive order signed by the president. ...



Program awards \$500,000 for drought resiliency, water efficiency projects

The new grant program supports projects that promote climate resiliency by reducing indoor and outdoor water use, as well as improving water loss control programs. ...



Cyber resilience grant program opens

Massachusetts municipalities can

now apply for the
MassCyberCenter's Cyber Resilient
Massachusetts Grant program,
which provides funding for managed
detection and response services. ...



Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30

The first reports are due on June 30
under a new energy reporting
requirement for buildings larger than
20,000 square feet. ...



Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group

The Mass. Hydrography Framework
Committee is seeking municipal
leaders to participate in its work to
create “next generation hydrographic
spatial data.” ...



MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence

The MMA will host an introductory

webinar on artificial intelligence for municipalities on April 17. ...



MMA to host ‘Demystifying DEI’ webinar on May 6

The MMA will host a webinar, “Demystifying DEI,” on May 6 to provide clarity on the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion. ...



Administration announces ‘Energy Affordability Agenda’

At an event in Lowell on March 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced an “Energy Affordability Agenda” to identify and advance actions to lower energy bills for Massachusetts residents. ...



UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects

The Municipal Fellows program

supports municipalities with clean energy transition projects in conjunction with the state's Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition Initiative. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Are local government and school board meetings getting too long? Some in Fall River say limits needed](#) - Herald News

[Strapped for school funding, Valley schools eye lagging state aid](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

['Live, work, play': Is form-based code the recipe for Eastham's strategic plan](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Mayor Petty: Worcester schools threatened by 'heartbreaking' Trump bid to kill Education Department](#) - Telegram and Gazette

[New Bedford drafts new plan for dealing with disasters](#) - New Bedford Light

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Holyoke City Councillor Israel Rivera



What We're Reading

[Flipping the script on youth engagement](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Young people can be transformative partners to local government. Not only do they possess a font of fresh ideas, but also—because of all the years they have ahead of them—they are the group likely to benefit the most when those ideas are put into action. Yet youth are sometimes among the most challenging communities for leaders to include meaningfully in public problem solving, whether that's because they don't think their values are aligned with those of city hall, they don't trust that they'll be heard, or they're simply focused on other pursuits."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA and Constellation MunEnergy Spring Zoom webinar](#) - April 2

[Bridging the Knowledge Gap: Key Insights for Overseeing Local Assessing Operations webinar](#) - April 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference - May 3](#)

[Demystifying DEI webinar - May 6](#)

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MunEnergy program offers spring energy webinar on April 2](#)
- [MMA webinar to cover assessing on April 3](#)
- [MVP Program Action Grant applications due April 4](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)
- [Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
 - [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)
 - [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Riverwalk in Amesbury is a multi-use path along the Powwow River that connects downtown Amesbury to Carriagetown Marketplace. Photo by John Ouellette, MMA Communications Director.

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

work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 71 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Tree Warden, Local Building Inspector, Finance Manager, Community Outreach Librarian and Mental Health Clinician. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



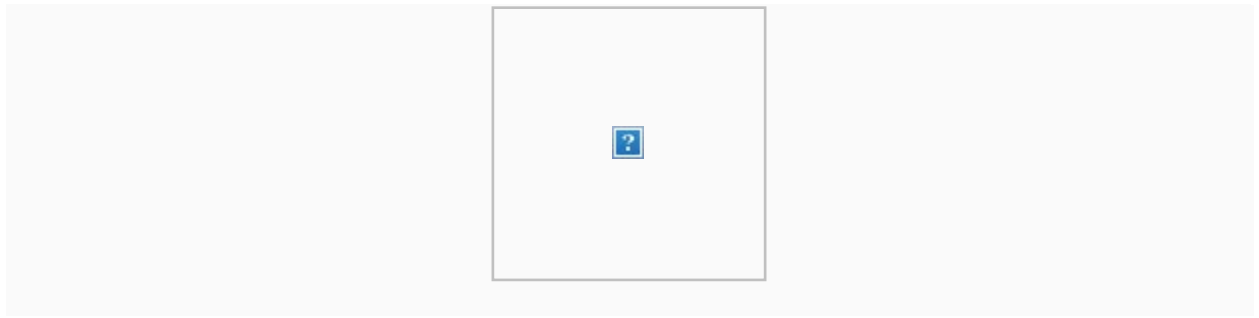
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It is Opening Day - Go Sox!

In local happenings: Deerfield is [piloting a child care program](#) during Annual Town Meeting on April 28. The program is a collaborative effort to make attendance at the meeting more accessible to parents.

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](#)!

[MMA outlines budget pressures at local aid hearing](#)

An MMA panel called for an increase of at least 3% for discretionary

municipal aid and an increase in Chapter 70 minimum new aid to address rising school costs. ...



MMA publishes April issue of The Beacon

The April Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



Tax-exempt municipal bonds a focus of federal advocacy

In Washington, D.C., an MMA delegation focused advocacy efforts on the continuation of the tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. ...



Gov. signs extension of remote and hybrid meeting allowances

Gov. Healey signed a bill to extend

authorizations for local boards and committees to hold public meetings remotely or in a hybrid format through June of 2027. ...



Trump administration targets \$106M in K-12 grant funding for Mass.

State and local officials are condemning federal moves to terminate \$106 million in education grant funding for Massachusetts. ...



Stakeholder sessions set on clean energy siting, permitting

Four stakeholder sessions will be held this spring regarding siting and permitting reforms prompted by a recent clean energy law. ...



Trump administration delays lead pipe replacement funds

State officials are strongly objecting

to a Trump administration decision to delay \$50 million in federal funding for the replacement of lead service lines in Massachusetts. ...



EOHLC issues model zoning for ADUs

The administration has published a model zoning and guidance document for municipalities to help them with the regulation of accessory dwelling units. ...



NLC covers federal issues during partnership meeting

The National League of Cities gave an update to the Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership. ...



U.S. Rep. Clark urges WEMO members to make voices heard

Municipal officials should be the

storytellers who explain the impacts of federal cutbacks that impact local services, U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark told women leaders on March 21 in Wrentham. ...



Women leaders discuss self-advocacy, AI, constructive criticism tips

Women Leading Government discussed timely topics during its fifth annual conference on March 6 in Wrentham. ...



Immigration and employment law

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources' annual spring program webinar on March 13 covered recent updates in immigration and employment law. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[It's budget time on Beacon Hill, and the MMA is working for you](#)

On April 1, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Joint Committee on Ways and Means, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On March 24, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Chatham installs alternative nesting platform for ospreys to prevent fires, outages and electrocutions](#) - Cape Cod Chronicle

[Reading's first mosque opens its doors and receives a warm welcome from the town](#) - GBH

[How Holyoke is fighting blight](#) - MassLive Media

[Nantucket launches "Digital Archive Project" to move land use documents online](#) - Nantucket Current

[Winchendon Schools chosen for cybersecurity pilot](#) - Athol Daily News

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Monson Finance Director/Town Accountant Jamie Farnum



What We're Reading

[A Comprehensive Guide for Local Leaders on Managing PFAS Waste](#) - National League of Cities

"The interventions to combat PFAS range from disposal and destruction to advanced filtration techniques. The brief explores various disposal and destruction options for managing PFAS-containing waste from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and landfills, including underground injection, thermal treatment (pyrolysis) and land application, while also highlighting emerging technologies. While these methods offer benefits such as low life cycle costs and a small footprint, they also present challenges, including environmental impacts related to disposal, increased complexity and higher maintenance requirements."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
- [Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group](#)
- [UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Memorial Hall in Milford was built in 1884 as a Civil War tribute and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. It is now home to the Milford Historical Commission, whose museum is open to visitors on Thursdays. Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 32 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, Health Director, Office Manager, Police Chief, Outreach Coordinator, Civil Engineer and Assistant Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Welcome to May.

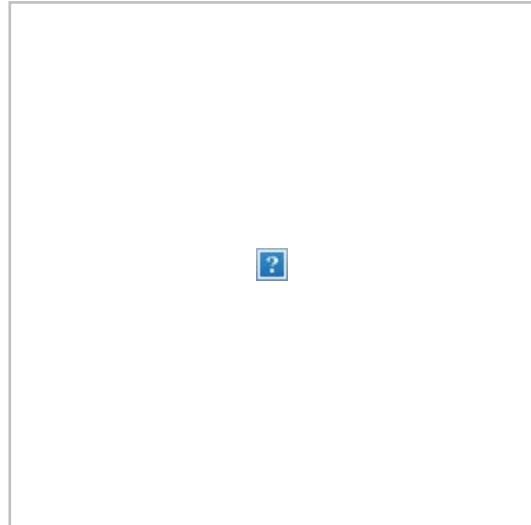
In local happenings: Spring often brings wildlife stories, and this year is no exception. A woodpecker in Rockport has made [national headlines for damaging vehicle windows](#), likely due to mating season behaviors.

In less destructive news, firefighters in [Longmeadow rescued two baby bald eagles](#) from a fallen nest. The protected birds will be rehabilitated until they can be released back into the wild.

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](#)!

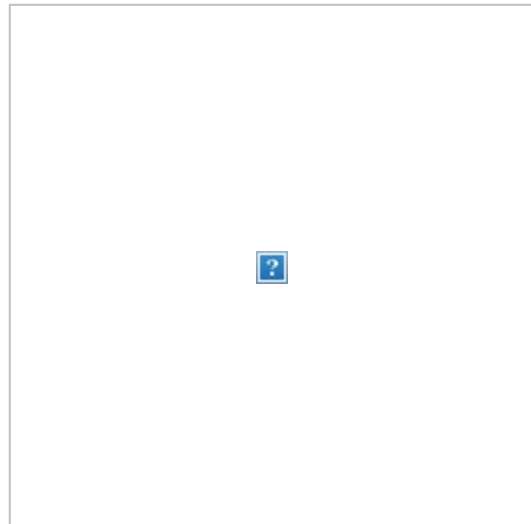
House OK's state budget for FY26

The House approved its state budget bill for fiscal 2026 with several important investments in schools and municipalities despite modest state revenue expectations. ...



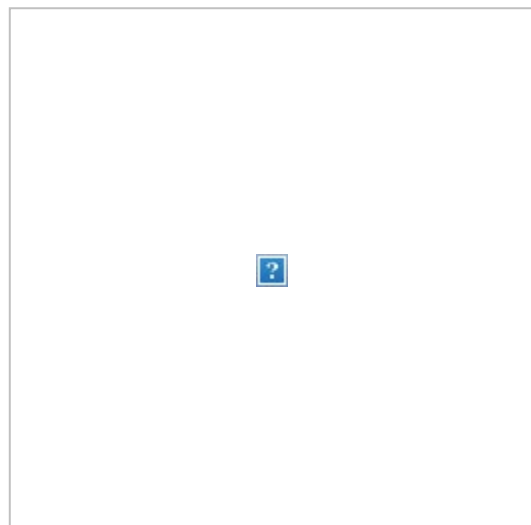
Senate releases surplus surtax supplemental budget

A Senate committee proposed a supplemental budget bill that leverages surplus surtax funds to designate \$613 million for education investments and \$670 million for transportation. ...



Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit in Worcester on May 8. ...



Extended Producer Responsibility Commission begins its work

A new Extended Producer Responsibility Commission, established by a clean energy law enacted last November, held its inaugural meeting on April 14 in Boston. ...



[MMA webinar discusses Office of the Veteran Advocate](#)

An MMA webinar on April 30 introduced the resources available to municipalities and veterans through the Office of the Veteran Advocate. ...



[MMHR, MMMA discuss 'psychological first aid' at joint meeting](#)

Psychological first aid was the focus of a joint meeting of Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources and the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association. ...



[MMHR to hold annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Human Resources association will hold its annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8 in Boylston. ...



Federal funds office to hold listening session May 7 in Springfield

Municipal and nonprofit leaders are invited to an information and listening session being held by the state's Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office on May 7 in Springfield. ...



Report: Cities, towns embrace 'green' recovery strategies

A UMass Amherst survey examines the post-pandemic recovery of Massachusetts cities and towns, highlighting progress and persistent challenges in rebuilding while advancing sustainability. ...



Program offers electrification advice for fleets

The Mass Fleet Advisor program is

offering free technical assistance to operators of medium- and heavy-duty truck fleets that want to explore electrification but don't qualify for utility fleet advisory services. ...



[Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)

The Automotive Career Development Center is offering training to help operators of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets better understand high-voltage systems and technician safety. ...



[MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)

The MassDEP's Electric Vehicle Incentive Program will fund level 1 and 2 charging station projects for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets, in addition to light-duty fleets. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Artificial intelligence is ready for us; are we ready for it?](#)

On May 1, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Milton votes 'yes' on \\$9.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override request](#) - Boston Globe

[Teen voting petition falls short for second year at Deerfield Town Meeting](#) - Greenfield Recorder

[Sandwich buys 88 acres of undeveloped land for future wastewater infrastructure needs](#) - Cape Cod Times

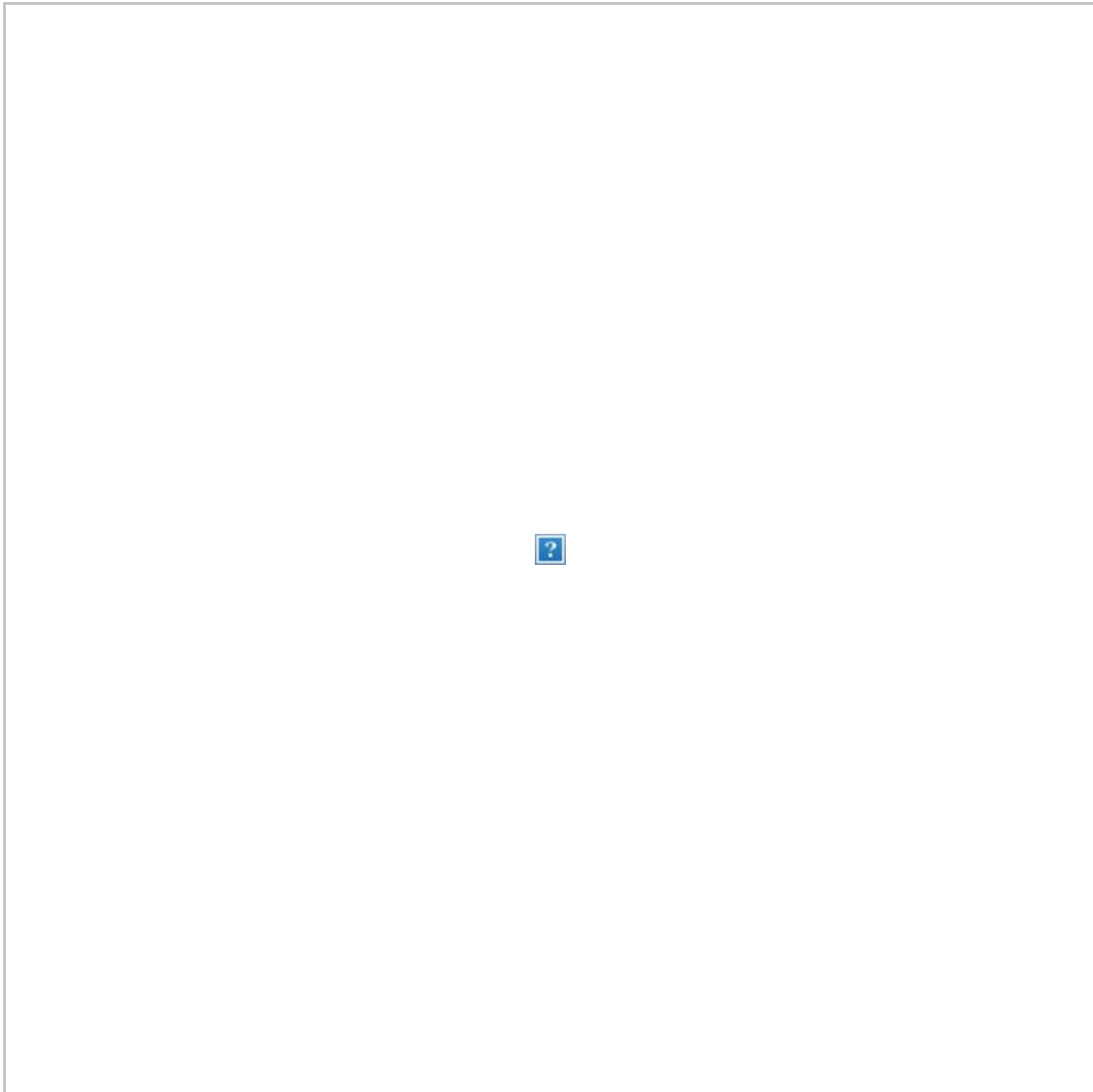
[Foxborough eyes second water treatment plant equipped to remove 'forever chemicals'](#) - The Sun Chronicle

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Bridgewater Town Councillor Mark Linde



What We're Reading

[Sharing data helps cities take anticipation to the next level](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Cities with robust data operations often aim to use that capacity to both

manage performance and anticipate emerging challenges. It's a pursuit that New York City helped pioneer as far back as 2010, when it began more systematically using predictive analytics to better spot nascent trends and fine-tune resource allocation accordingly. However, scaling these efforts citywide has often been challenging due to barriers in data sharing across any given city's agencies.

Now, as more cities enhance their data capabilities, many are also prioritizing breaking down these silos—building on the vision set by New York and other major cities over a decade ago: to share and integrate data to anticipate and prevent problems before they escalate. Whether that means protecting people from potential housing displacement or micro-targeting personalized support for youth who appear likely to miss school, here's how two cities—Charlotte, N.C. and Recife, Brazil—are using stronger internal collaboration to power data-driven anticipation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Mass. Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#)

- May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp](#) - May 8

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Spring Conference](#) - May 28-30

[Introduction to Developing Municipal Financial Policies webinar](#) - June 3

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 5

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - June 12

[Mass. Select Board Association Newly Elected Training](#) - June 13

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - June 26

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
 - [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
 - [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
 - [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
 - [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
 - [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
 - [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Jill Hai, a select board member in Lexington, for sharing this photo from the town's Massachusetts 250th anniversary celebrations. Dawn battles were reenacted at Lexington Green and Concord's North Bridge.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at **MMA & MIIA**

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 57 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Permitting and Engineering Manager, Health Inspector, Senior Clerk, Town Accountant, Building Commissioner, Administrative Coordinator and Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Porchfest season [kicks off this weekend](#) in Somerville.

In local happenings: Weston Town Manager Leon Gaumond Jr. has been recognized by the nonprofit Engaging Local Government Leaders as a [Top Influencer in Local Government](#), for his “openness and proactive attitude toward exploring innovative methods of engaging with the community.” Congrats, Leon!

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](#)!

[Senate budget committee's
proposal would boost key local
accounts](#)

The Senate Way and Means Committee has released a proposed state spending plan for fiscal 2026 with important investments in schools and municipalities. ...



[Senate OK's supplemental budget bill](#)

The Senate approved a supplemental budget bill that would primarily allocate surplus surtax funds from fiscal 2024. ...



[250th battle commemorations were years in the making](#)

When reenactors fired their muskets on Patriots' Day weekend to mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, they were participating in public events that were years in the making. ...



[Community One Stop accepting applications May 5-June 4](#)

Fiscal 2026 funding applications

through the state's Community One Stop for Growth portal must be filed between May 5 and June 4. ...



Culvert replacement grant funding available

The Division of Ecological Restoration is accepting applications for the Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program to assist with local culvert removal and replacement efforts. ...



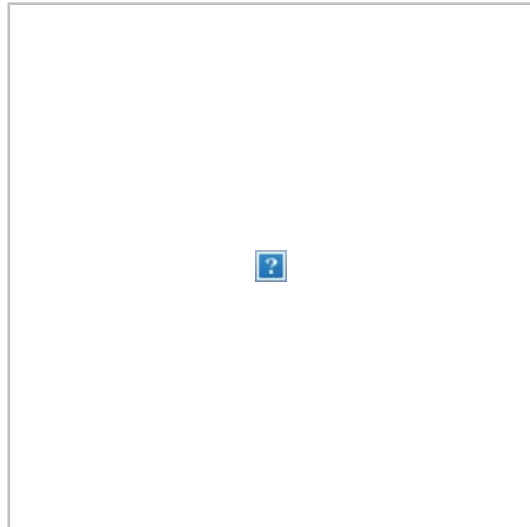
FEMA cancels \$90M in BRIC aid for Mass.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has cancelled the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program for fiscal 2024. ...



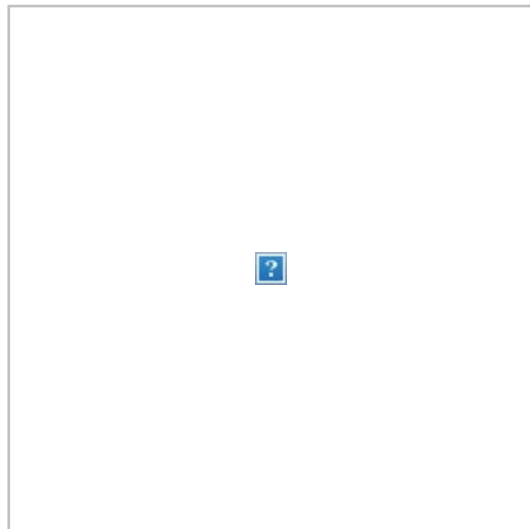
MSA to hold free training for newly elected select board members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a free training for newly elected select board members on Friday, June 13, in Devens. ...



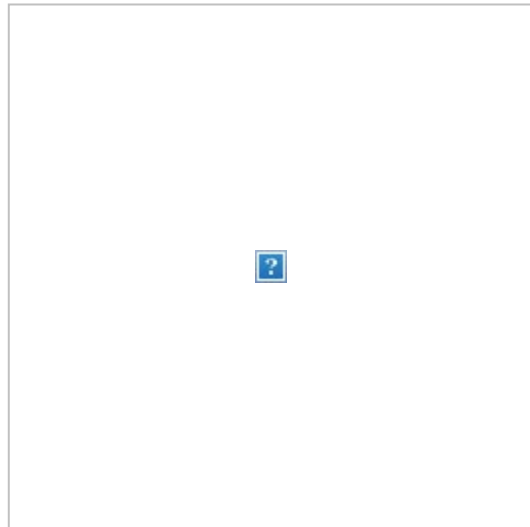
[MMA publishes May issue of The Beacon](#)

The May issue of The Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, as well as grant opportunities and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Somerville installs outdoor kiosk for used needles](#)

In a city park, Somerville has installed an outdoor collection kiosk for needles and other “sharps” — a resource believed to be the first of its kind in the country. ...



[Whitlock Scholarship applications sought](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Management Association is accepting applications for its Gerry Whitlock Scholarship for students enrolled in a masters in public administration program. ...



Clean Water Trust issues nearly \$40 million in loans, grants

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees on April 2 approved \$39.7 million in new low-interest loans and grants. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[Amherst councilors float idea of new 'Four Towns' task force to develop long-term school funding strategy](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[A new project is helping Chelsea residents better understand their air quality](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[The challenges of climate change: Weather events wreak havoc in Merrimack Valley, North Shore](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Cambridge's Community Assistance Response and Engagement \(CARE\) Team releases first impact report](#) - Wicked Local

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Middleton Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Jackie Bresnahan

What We're Reading

[Revolutionizing Crisis Intervention](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The need for mobile crisis response teams in the United States has become increasingly apparent. High-profile incidents across the United States underscore the inadequacy of traditional law enforcement responses to behavioral health crises. Such crises often involve disruptions in mental or emotional stability requiring immediate intervention to prevent severe health deterioration. In the United States, the numbers are staggering:

1. One in five adults experiences a mental illness during their lifetime.
2. Over 12 million people have serious thoughts of suicide annually.
3. Nearly a quarter of those shot by police from 2015 to 2020 had a mental health condition.
4. Two million individuals with serious mental illnesses are incarcerated annually.

These figures highlight the urgent need for community-based mobile crisis response teams that address behavioral health emergencies without relying solely on police intervention. Behavioral health incidents are complex scenarios that require a multi-disciplinary approach in order to achieve a measure of resolution."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

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[Mass. Select Board Association Newly Elected Training](#) - June 13

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - June 26

[View our entire event calendar](#)

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- [Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)
- [MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)
- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
- [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
- [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Samantha Giffen, communications manager in Amherst, for sharing this photo from the town's Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative on April 18. The photo shows two lanterns, provided by Rep. Mindy Domb, shining in a window at Amherst Town Hall.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Local Inspector, Town Engineer, Utility Director, Outreach Coordinator, Chief of Police, Assistant Town Planner and Conservation Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: This weekend, the [Framingham History Center is hosting](#) “Stitching Revolution in Massachusetts: Quilting, Lectures and Dancing,” highlighting the role of Massachusetts in the American Revolution.

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, July 3.

[Healey signs surplus surtax bill](#)

[with investments for cities, towns](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has signed a \$1.3 billion supplemental budget bill to allocate surplus Fair Share surtax revenue for investments in education and transportation. ...



[Gov. Healey files \\$2.9B, 5-year environmental bond bill](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration joined partners, advocates and municipal officials in Braintree to announce the filing of a \$2.9 billion, five-year environmental bond bill, called the Mass Ready Act. ...



[Lawsuit challenges federal halt of grant funding to states](#)

A coalition of 22 state attorneys general has filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's use of a provision in federal regulations to stop billions in federal grant funding. ...



[MMHR discusses Medicare, elects FY26 officers and board members](#)

At its Annual Meeting in Danvers,

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources focused on strategies for helping employees navigate the Medicare system. ...



Federal judge blocks immigration enforcement conditions on transportation funding

A U.S. District Court has issued an injunction preventing the federal government from making immigration enforcement a condition for receipt of transportation funding. ...



MMA webinar discusses mental health in the workplace for staff

An MMA webinar discussed understanding and supporting mental health in the workplace. ...



MMA to host webinar on private roads

An MMA webinar on July 15 will

provide an overview of private roads, with examples of local practices and insights from an experienced attorney. ...



[NLC awards grant to Chelsea for economic mobility program](#)

The National League of Cities has awarded a \$20,000 grant to the city of Chelsea as part of its 2025 Advancing Economic Mobility Rapid Grant program. ...



[AGs issue guidance affirming legality of environmental justice initiatives](#)

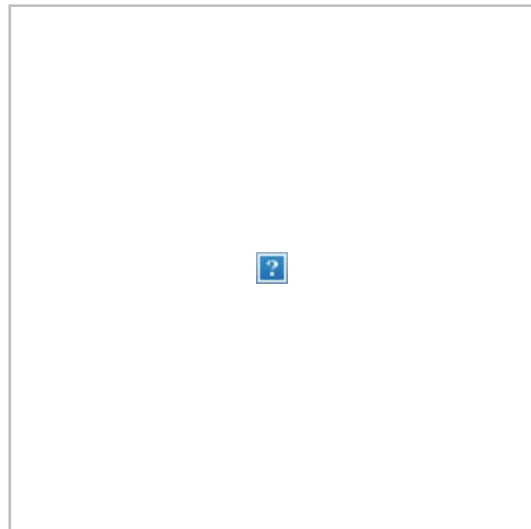
A coalition of 13 state attorneys general, including Andrea Joy Campbell of Massachusetts, has issued guidance affirming the “necessity and legality” of environmental justice initiatives. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Utilities Committee to support legislation protecting municipal authority in public rights of way and expediting double pole removal](#)

On June 18, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Burlington Select Board demands inspection of ICE facility amid reports of poor conditions](#) - Lowell Sun

[Eastham approves \\$170 million wastewater, sewer plans](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Nantucket has a PFAS problem in the drinking water. It's Environmental Contamination Administrator Andrew Shapero's job to solve it](#) - Boston Globe

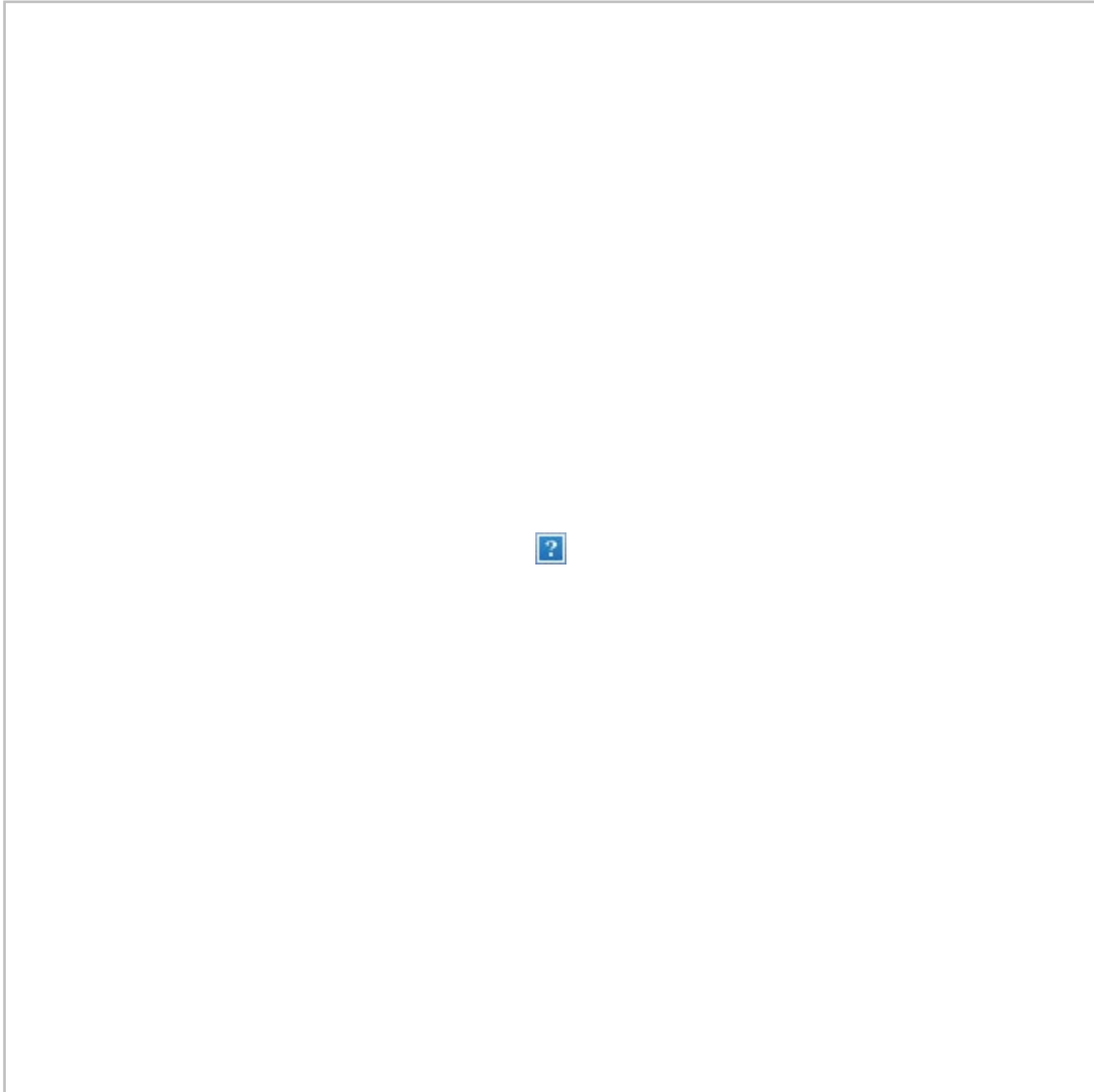
[Orange takes ownership of old cereal factory lot](#) - Greenfield Recorder

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Barnstable Government Access Station Manager Sarah Beal-Fletcher



What We're Reading

[What City Leaders Need to Know About the Senate's Budget Reconciliation Bill](#) - National League of Cities

"The Senate's version of the "One Big, Beautiful Bill" has arrived, with major

implications for local governments. While it mirrors several provisions in the House-passed bill (H.R. 1), it also includes key differences, particularly around Medicaid. The path to passage in the Senate is not straightforward, with negotiations still ongoing on Medicaid, clean energy tax credits and public lands. As the House and Senate move toward negotiations on a final package, local leaders should understand how the Senate's proposal could shape city budgets, services and infrastructure planning."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

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- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)

- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Sean Dugan, assistant town administrator in Easton, for sharing this photo from the town's Flag Day ceremony. Dozens of volunteers unfurled several flags spanning the football field at Oliver Ames High School during the event, which was hosted by Easton's Tricentennial Committee as part of a yearlong celebration of the town's 300th anniversary.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for

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- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects Manager, DPW Foreman, Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Comptroller, Conservation Agent and Town Planner. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



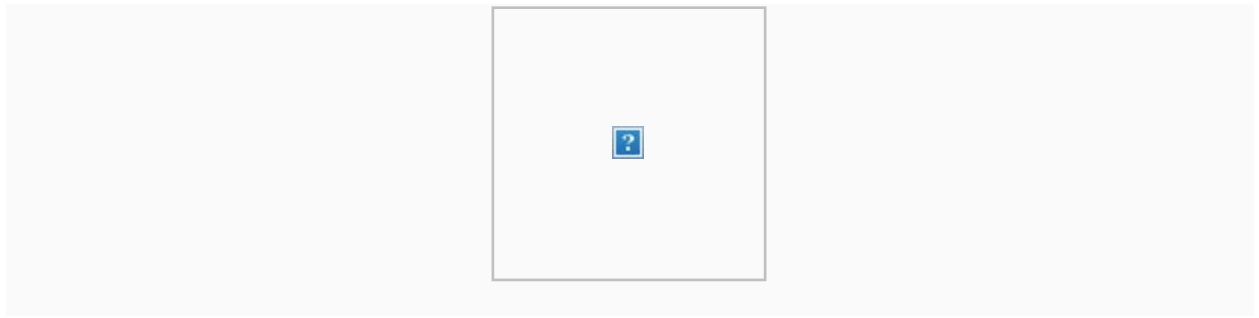
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Communities across the state will be observing the Fourth of July with public events tomorrow and this weekend. We'd love to highlight your parades and gatherings in the Weekly Review! Send your photos to photos@mma.org.

In local happenings: In a [ceremony last month](#), the Danvers Rail Trail was dedicated in memory of former longtime Town Manager Wayne Marquis. Marquis, who died in 2022, served as town manager from 1979 to 2014.

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

[Legislature sends FY26 state budget to governor](#)

The Legislature has enacted a \$61 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2026, an increase of \$3.3 billion over fiscal 2025. ...



[MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)

The MMA this week unveiled new features for its popular Municipal Career Opportunities service and a new, streamlined classified ad rate structure. ...



[Mass. mayors and officials issue statement on ICE actions in communities](#)

Leaders from 13 cities and one town issued a joint statement calling on the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate the activity of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ...

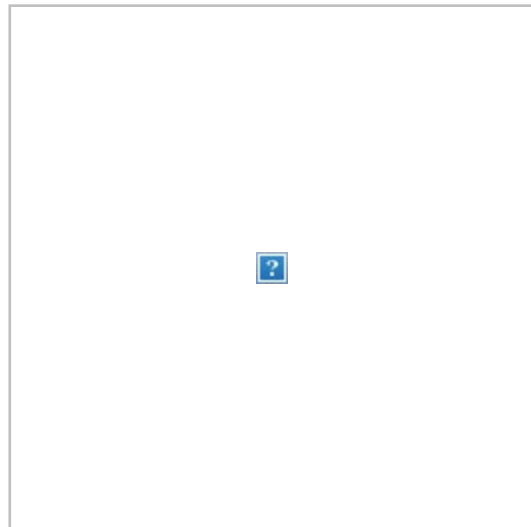


[MA250 grant program expands to support Revolutionary storytelling](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

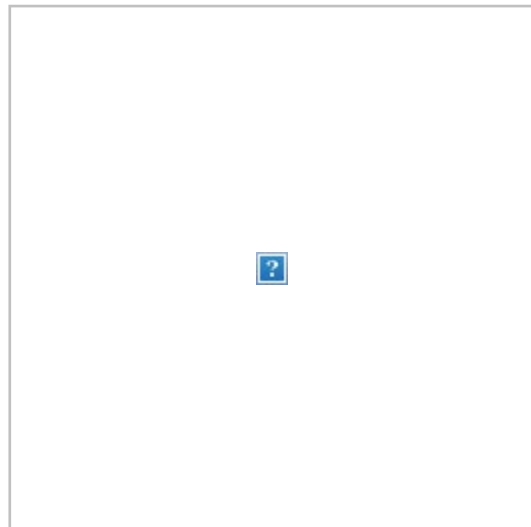
and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism announced a second round of funding through the Massachusetts 250 Grant Program.

...



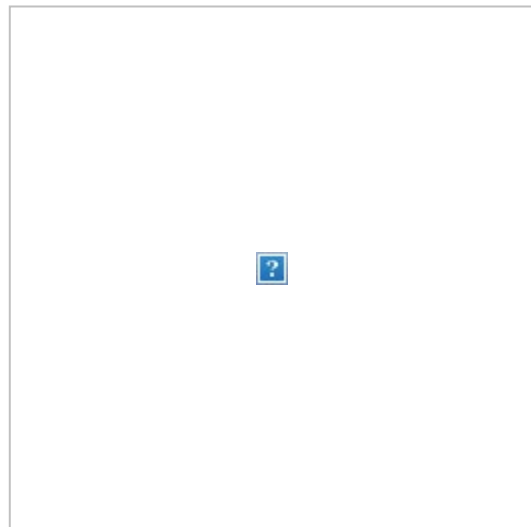
[MSA hosts annual training for newly elected select board members](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association held its annual free training for newly elected members in Devens. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[MMA urges Veterans Committee to support bills to streamline veterans benefits](#)

On June 30, Testimony

[MMA urges Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support bottle bill expansion](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[In testimony to Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, MMA expresses strong support for series of bills that would increase municipal efficiency and effectiveness](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA offers feedback and concerns on a number of water-related bills before Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#)

On June 27, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Local communities taking varied approach to spending opioid settlement money](#)

- The Sun Chronicle

[Many of the more than 58,000 laid-off federal workers are looking to move to Boston](#) - Boston Globe

[Bullet hole by bullet hole, an Arlington house shows the struggle for America's independence](#) - WBUR

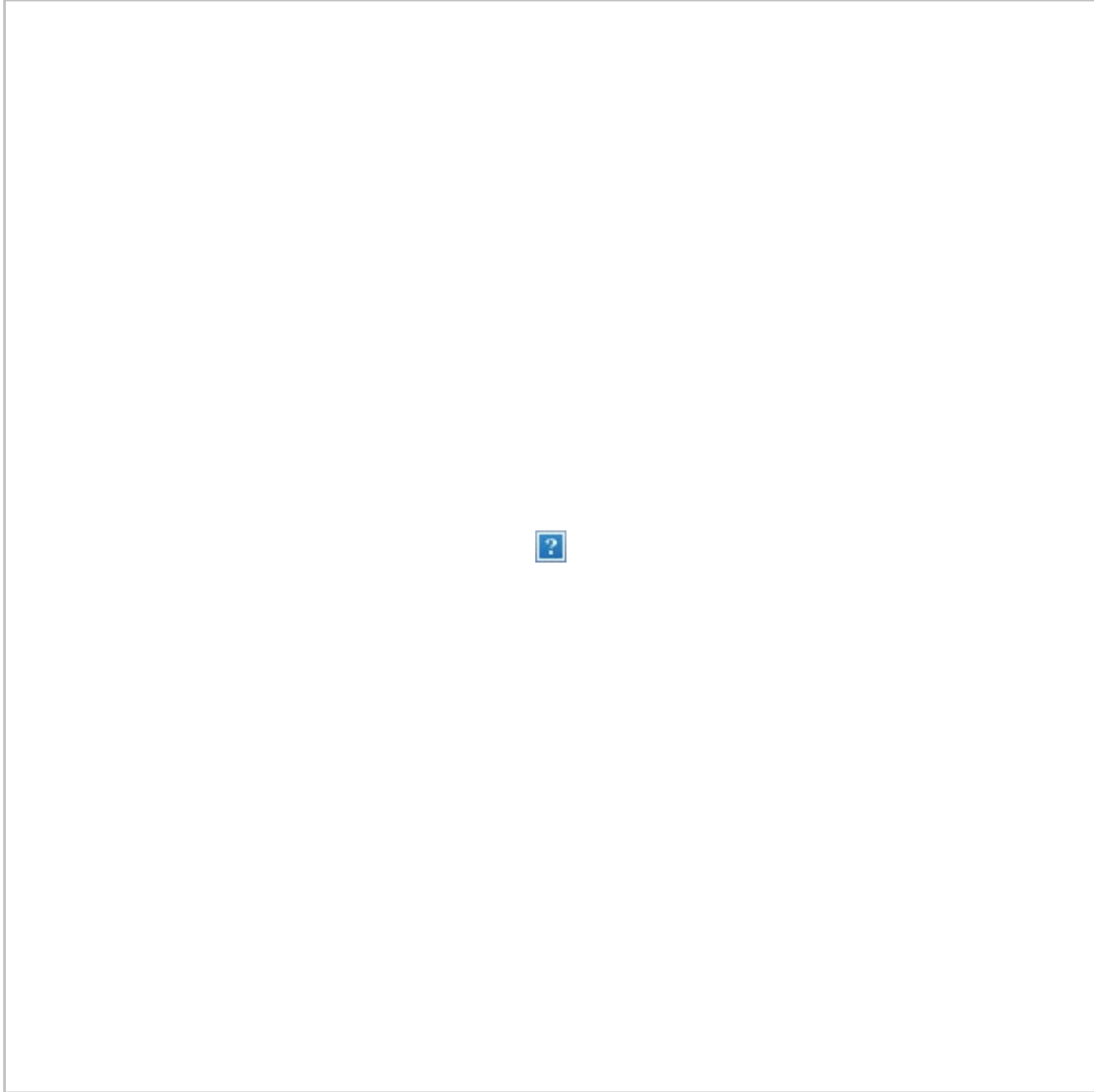
[Peabody Mayor Bettencourt shares 4 new anti-bullying initiatives for Peabody schools](#) - Salem News

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#WhyIServe

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Norfolk Select Board Member Anita Mecklenburg



What We're Reading

[5 summer reads for urban innovators](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"If there are two plot lines that resonate with every local leader, they are that making government work well is a nonstop challenge and that the best ideas often come from the outside. This collection of books reflects both realities by

spotlighting stories and strategies that demonstrate how to make cities more effective and how to better connect them to what residents need. From an Alabama mayor's moving story about reimagining government in his hometown to lessons on improving public services from the United Kingdom, these works offer something to any city innovator looking to raise their game."

Upcoming MMA Events

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[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

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- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Stacy Kilb, sustainability engagement coordinator in Salem, for sharing this photo from Volt & Vibe: An Eco-Rider Showcase, an e-bike and personal electric vehicle expo hosted by the city at Salem State University on June 29.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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 - [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 38 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Health Agent, Facilities Superintendent, Office Manager, Assistant City Clerk, HVAC Technician and Town Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The town of [Stow will temporarily rename itself “Dunkin”](#) for the day on July 24 to celebrate the opening of a new location. The town has been without a Dunkin' since 2022.

In local happenings: The [38th annual Lowell Folk Festival](#) kicks off on July 25. The free festival celebrates traditional music and arts, and features numerous food vendors, dance spaces and family-friendly areas.

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](#)!

[Connect 351 planning underway at MMA](#)

The MMA staff is hard at work planning the MMA's annual conference, which will return to Boston's Seaport District, at the newly renamed Menino Convention and Exhibition Center, on Jan. 22 through 24. ...



[**MMA publishes Summer issue of The Beacon**](#)

The Summer Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, grant opportunities, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[**Gov. Healey's FY26 supplemental budget seeks expanded 9C authority**](#)

As Gov. Healey signed the fiscal 2026 state budget into law on July 4, and vetoed \$130 million in spending, she also filed a fiscal 2026 supplemental budget bill. ...



[**State holds office hours to discuss ADUs**](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is holding office hours to support municipal planners and building officials in understanding the state's new accessory dwelling unit law and regulations. ...



[Leaving Needham, Fitzpatrick says now's 'best time ever' to serve](#)

State and local officials celebrated longtime Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick's retirement after 35 years with the town. ...



['Andover At Work' exhibit focuses on municipal staff](#)

Photographer David Whitney's "Andover at Work" exhibit is the culmination of a year-long volunteer project highlighting the daily work of municipal employees in Andover. ...



[MMA webinar discusses private roadway issues](#)

An MMA webinar on July 15 gave an

overview of private roadways and related issues, providing information municipal officials need to navigate community conversations. ...



DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources is studying the potential for load management tools like demand flexibility, energy efficiency, and virtual power plants. ...



Green School Works program offers technical assistance

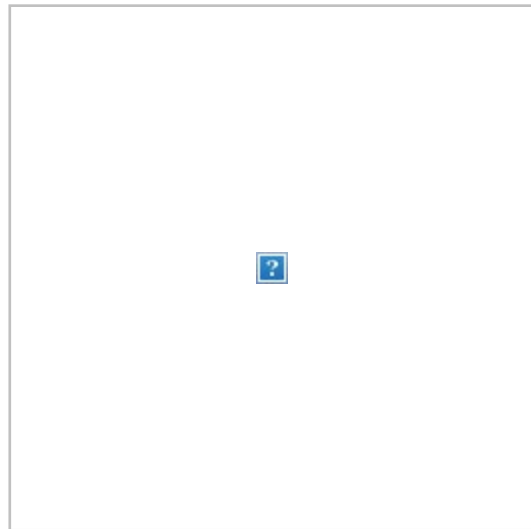
The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting requests for technical assistance through the Green School Works program to decarbonize the state's public schools. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[In face of federal pressures, protecting local funding is critical](#)

On July 16, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges legislators to reject proposal to expand emergency budget-cutting authority under Section 9C](#)

On July 14, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Republic Services sees mounting frustration from towns, officials amid worker strike](#) - Boston Globe

[Pittsfield expands list of city-run public restrooms, including the only 24/7 option](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Marlborough Police have something to offer kids in crisis situations. Here's how it works](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Western Mass. communities brace for weather, climate effects with hazard plans](#) - MassLive Media

[Andover Bookstore is the oldest in the country. What to expect when you visit](#) - Wicked Local

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#WhyIServe

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Methuen City Councillor Neily Soto



What We're Reading

[Chelsea named 2025 All-America city for sustainability projects](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

"Sustainability was this year's theme for the All-America city awards, given annually by the National Civic League. But environmental awareness is nothing new for Chelsea, one of 10 US communities recognized by the organization on June 29 for their "transformative, community-driven efforts to strengthen environmental sustainability and their civic infrastructure."

"Chelsea has been doing this work before this work was catchy," said City Manager Fidel Maltez, who traveled to Denver last month for the awards ceremony.

Many communities have come to value sustainable practices like recycling or increasing green space. But Chelsea's commitment to sustainability was born from years of environmental injustice. The densely populated city of 40,000 residents just north of Boston has long had to contend with a litany of environmental hazards – and the public health problems they bring."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
 - [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
 - [MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)
 - [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
 - [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
 - [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Christopher Holt, human resources administrative assistant in Lakeville, for sharing this photo of the old Lakeville Town Hall, built in 1856.

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[Instructor](#)

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 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Conservation Planner, Director of Elder Affairs, Assessor's Clerk, Senior Town Planner, Town Accountant, Communications Officer and Assistant Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: The city of Lynn has [officially opened Harbor Park](#), a new 30-acre public space along the waterfront that offers walking paths, recreation areas and an outdoor amphitheater.

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](#)!

[House passes transportation bond bill with \\$300M for Ch. 90](#)

The House has passed a transportation bond bill that would

authorize \$300 million for the Chapter 90 road and bridge program for the upcoming year. ...



MassDOT's LEAP program seeks to jump-start local infrastructure

A program launched by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation seeks to help municipal officials jump-start infrastructure projects, particularly in rural and underserved areas. ...



MMA to host Aug. 20 webinar on crisis communications

An MMA webinar on Aug. 20 will focus on crisis communications and the importance of consistent messaging when cities and towns face unexpected challenges. ...



MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24

The MMA and its partners at

Constellation will hold a free presentation and conversation via Zoom on Sept. 24 to cover two energy topics. ...



MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30

The MMA will hold a half-day municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept 30 in Wrentham. ...



MMLA to hold program on code enforcement on Aug. 7

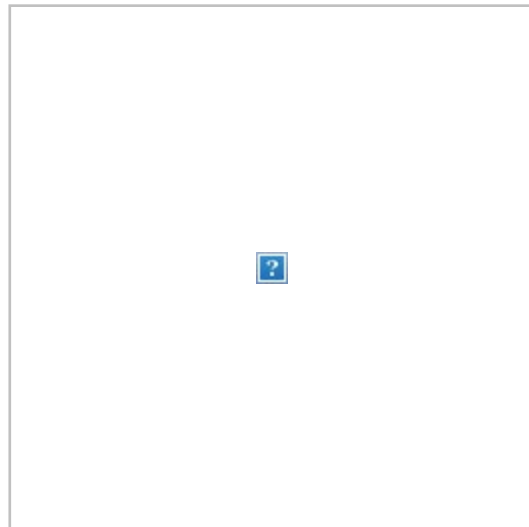
Effective and efficient code enforcement will be the focus of a Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association half-day program on Aug. 7 in Sturbridge. ...



Malloy joins managers' Senior Advisor Program

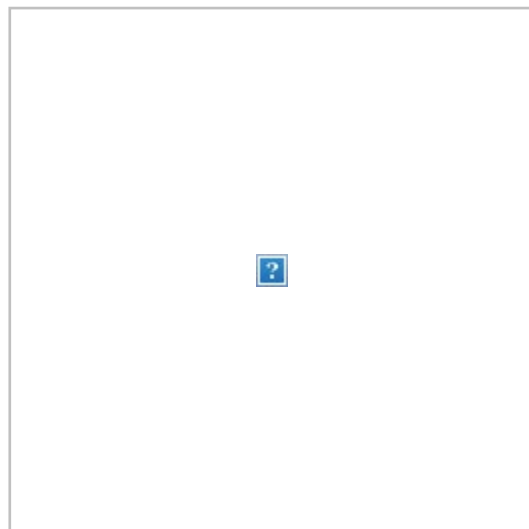
Retired manager James Malloy is

available as a senior advisor to other managers and administrators through a partnership between the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and the International City/County Management Association. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Lenox 'tourist tax' brings in \\$4.5 million for the town as summer season revs up](#)
- Berkshire Eagle

[Hadley weighs removal of three dams](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Western Mass. cities seeking public input on how to spend opioid settlement money](#) - GBH

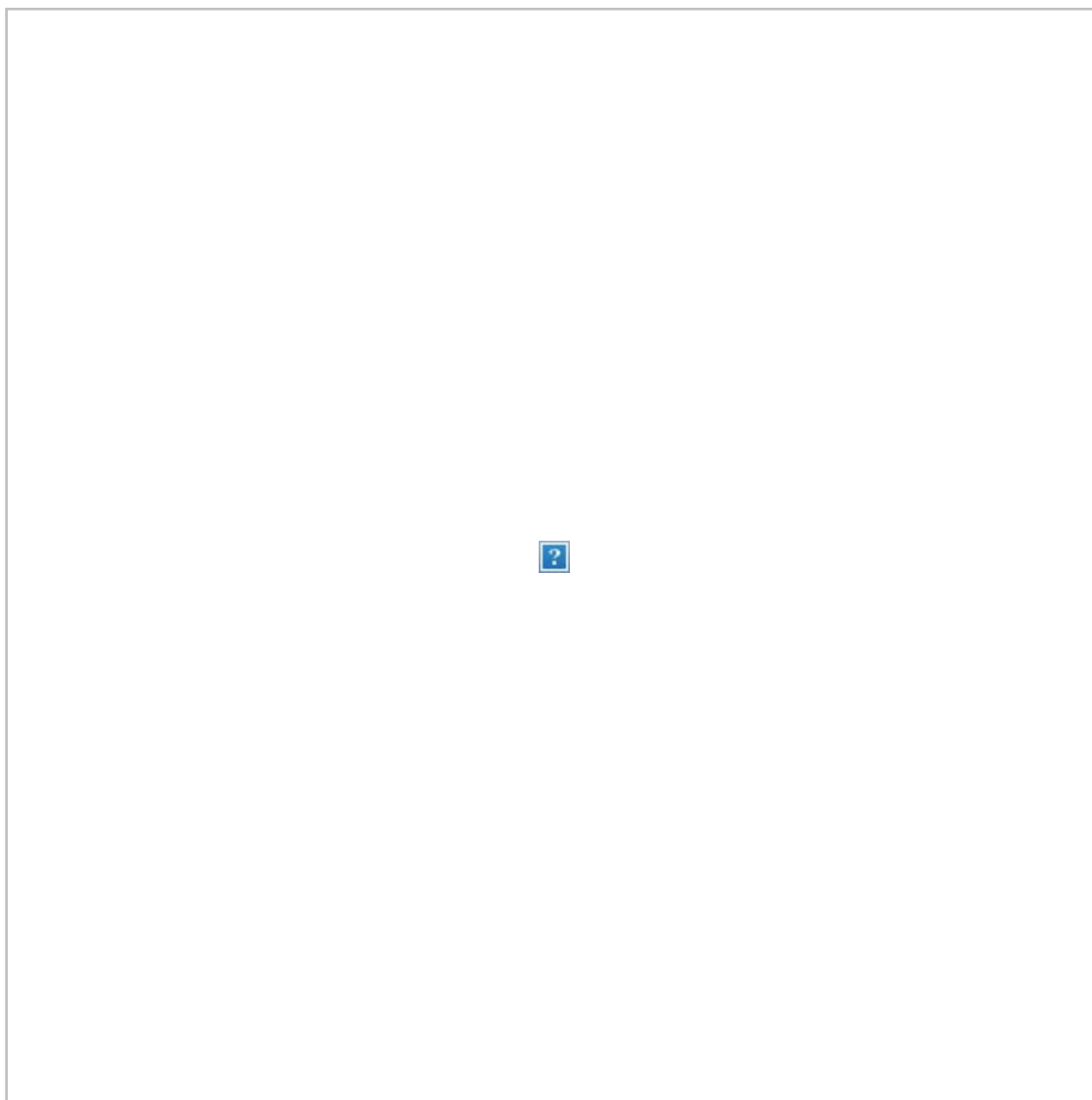
[City shaper: Kolofos honored for 65 years of service to Lawrence](#) - Eagle Tribune

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Fitchburg City Councillor Sally Cragin



What We're Reading

[Food \(Insecurity\) for Thought: In Fresno, California, brownfield redevelopment and local partnerships have generated significant community and climate benefits](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The U.S. food supply is a study in inefficiency, inequity, and contradictions. Americans waste an estimated 30–40% of the country's food, and although much of it is safe and edible, that food ends up in landfills as 22–24% of municipal solid waste. There it becomes a potent source of methane, a greenhouse gas with four times the warming potential of carbon dioxide. At the same time, one in seven Americans, or 47 million people, including 14 million children, experienced food insecurity in 2023. This marked a 6% increase from 2022, and the highest level recorded since 2014.

Located in California's Central Valley, which produces 25% of the nation's food supply, Fresno County is the third hungriest county in the United States. In Fresno, nonprofits like Fresno Metropolitan Ministry (Metro) help feed hungry people by running just-in-time rescue operations that glean surplus food from institutions and retail outlets. It's an effective strategy, but not a simple one. As Metro's Executive Director Emogene Nelson describes, "Rescuing food involves more than just picking it up. It requires storage, transportation, timing, and trust. If one link in the chain breaks, the entire system is disrupted. Behind every pound of food saved is a mountain of invisible labor."

To streamline and expand their food rescue operations, Metro teamed up with St. Rest Baptist Church (SRBC) to redevelop a vacant and environmentally contaminated former meatpacking warehouse into the St. Rest + Food to Share Hub. The Hub, which opened in May 2024, started with a brownfield—land that is frequently vacant, underutilized, or abandoned, and may be contaminated. Metro and SRBC worked with the city of Fresno to leverage multiple federal funding sources that addressed environmental contamination and cleared the way for redevelopment. Their story exemplifies the power of partnerships to build social resilience and contribute to a sense of place, especially in resource-scarce settings."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Foundations of Crisis Communications webinar](#) - Aug. 20

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

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- [DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction](#)
- [Green School Works program offers technical assistance](#)
- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
- [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Ralph Waldo Emerson House in Concord is open for guided tours for the season. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources,

downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Animal Control Officer, Senior Planner, Town Administrator, Employee Relations Manager, Wastewater Superintendent and Part-time Local Inspector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



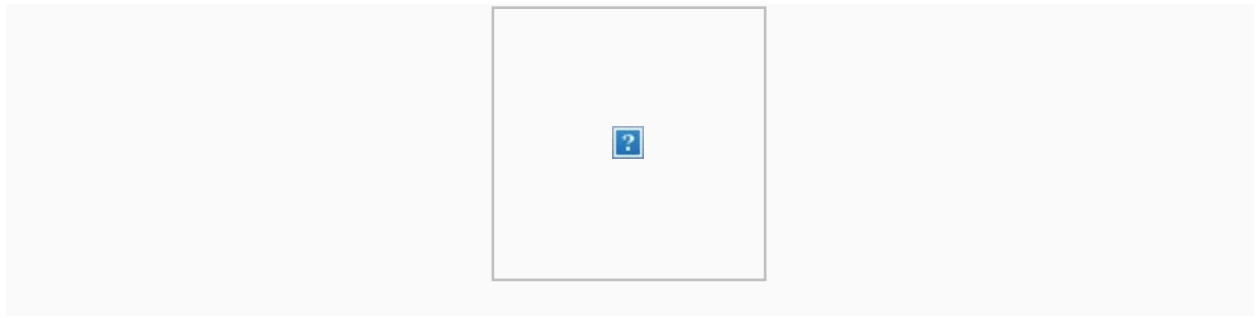
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA will host the first of four [fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#) on Sept. 26 in Lee.

In local happenings: The Big E kicks off in West Springfield tomorrow, featuring [17 days of food, rides, music and fun](#)! The fair welcomed more than 1.6 million people last year and is celebrating its 109th year.

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](#)!

[Two grant programs launched to support local efforts on federal funding](#)

The administration has launched grant programs to advance local infrastructure and economic development projects and bring more federal dollars into the state. ...



[Gov. Healey unveils plan to cut environmental rules to fast-track housing](#)

The plan would cut environmental regulations in order to expedite housing production in Massachusetts and reduce costs. ...



[MMA offers municipal guide to inclusive holidays, recognition days](#)

Cities and towns can determine additional days that they include as holidays, during which no business is conducted. ...



[MMA survey seeks feedback on Connect 351 experience and needs](#)

We're asking members to respond to a brief survey by Sept. 18 to help us make the Connect 351 experience more meaningful and enjoyable. ...



[Stormwater MS4 grant program applications due Oct. 3](#)

Applications are available for the Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on Workplace Equity Act](#)

The MMA hosted a webinar about the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, enacted in 2024. ...



[MMA to hold Health Care Costs Forum on Sept. 30](#)

The MMA will hold a half-day

municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept. 30 in Wrentham. ...



State awards \$10.9 million for dams and coastal infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration has announced nearly \$11 million in grant funding to support the repair or removal of aging dams, levees and coastal infrastructure. ...



MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston

Climate Beacon, New England's

premier climate solutions conference, will be held on Oct. 22-24 in Boston. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In Advocacy

[MMA joins Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association in providing comments to CCC on municipal implications of draft social consumption regulations](#)

On Sept. 8, Testimony

Planning for Connect 351 in



January is underway! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video!](#)



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Cassandra Madison](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[How can Hopedale attract a buyer for Town Hall? What's being discussed](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Meet Somerville's 'rat czar.' He leads the battle against rodents](#) - Boston Globe

[Holyoke seeks public input on how to spend \\$1M opioid settlement funds](#) - New England Public Media

[Five tornadoes confirmed in the Worcester area and Stow, National Weather Service says](#) - Boston Globe

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Northeastern University students Jonathan Oubenslimane, left, and Vamini Jain

What We're Reading

[3 AI roadblocks—and how to overcome them](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Evidence of uneven AI adoption in the private sector grows by the day, with executives worried about falling behind more tech-savvy competitors. But the stakes are different, and considerably higher, in government. For local leaders, AI isn't about winning a race. It's about unlocking new problem-solving capacity to deliver better services and meet pressing resident needs.

Even so, city governments face real barriers to further adoption, including persistent concerns about accuracy and privacy, procurement hurdles, and too

little space for civil-servant experimentation. The good news? Innovative leaders are already showing how to overcome these obstacles. And, in doing so, they're reaping insights of use to others aiming to do the same."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Support from the Red Cross webinar](#) - Sept. 16

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[From Resources to Relationships: Why Councils on Aging Matter webinar](#) - Sept. 25

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Lee](#) - Sept. 26

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Athol & Middleborough](#) - Oct. 3

[Massachusetts Select Board Association fall conference](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Boot Camp](#) - Oct. 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Chelmsford](#) - Oct. 17

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 18-19 in Springfield](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar with Mass. Councils on Aging Sept. 25](#)
 - [Public Works Expo is Sept. 17 and 18 in Marlborough](#)
 - [Green Building Council to hold Local Government Leadership Summit](#)
 - [MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 17](#)
 - [MARPA and DLS Conference is Oct. 7](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar with Red Cross Sept. 16](#)
 - [Town Forest Conference is Oct. 4](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars](#)
 - [Mass. Digital Government Summit to be held on Sept. 18](#)
 - [MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24](#)
 - [MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





The Morse-Kelley Pollinator Habitat Garden in Somerville is a pollinator-friendly pocket park created with Community Preservation Act funds. Other pollinator-friendly spaces are located throughout the city as part of broader pollinator initiatives. Photo by Meredith Gabriliska, MMA Digital Communications Manager.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Treasurer/Collector, Public Safety Dispatchers, Outreach Coordinator, Paramedic, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Municipal Hearing Officer and Grants Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

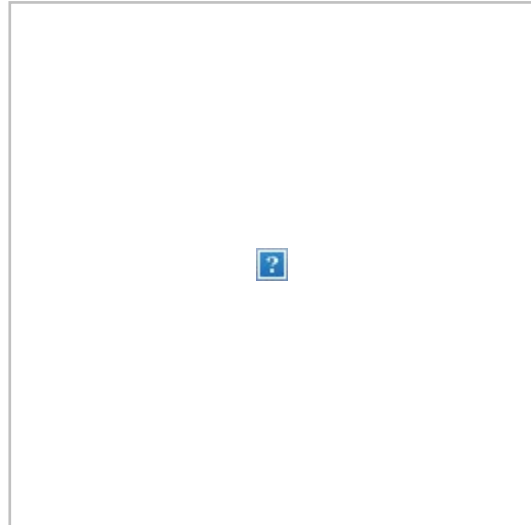
In local happenings: Cambridge and Boston are expecting close to 400,000 spectators over the course of the weekend for the [Head of the Charles Regatta](#). The three-day rowing event features local music and food vendors and family-friendly activities, in addition to cheering on the athletes from nearly 30 countries competing in 74 events.

Send us photos from your community's seasonal celebrations to be featured in a future edition of the Weekly Review!

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](#)!

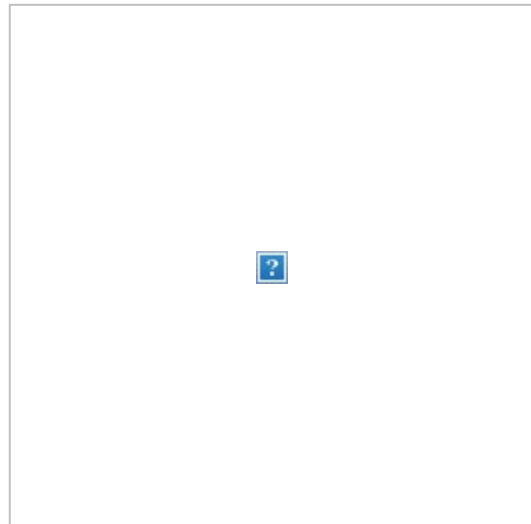
**[Input sought on draft model
bylaws for solar, battery systems](#)**

The Department of Energy Resources is developing model bylaws for photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems to serve as a resource to municipalities. ...



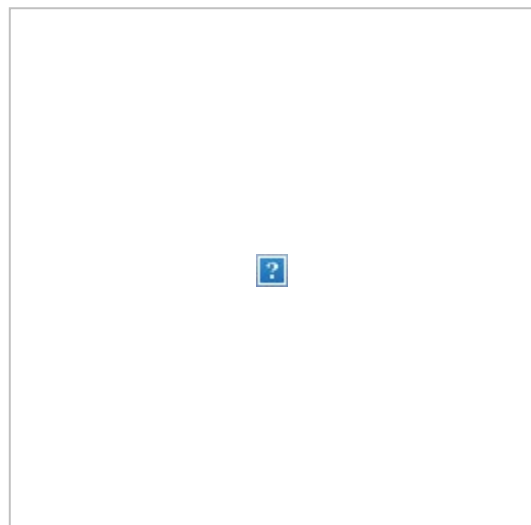
**[Grants opened for drought
resiliency, water efficiency
projects](#)**

The state has opened the second round of a grant program for projects that support climate resiliency through reduced water usage and improved water loss control. ...



**[MSBA to hold roundtable on ballot
questions Nov. 20](#)**

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is hosting a roundtable discussion via Zoom on Nov. 20 on the topic of local ballot question rules. ...



**[MMA webinar addresses
cybersecurity for municipalities](#)**

The MMA hosted a webinar on Oct. 15 on the minimum cybersecurity goals for municipalities. ...



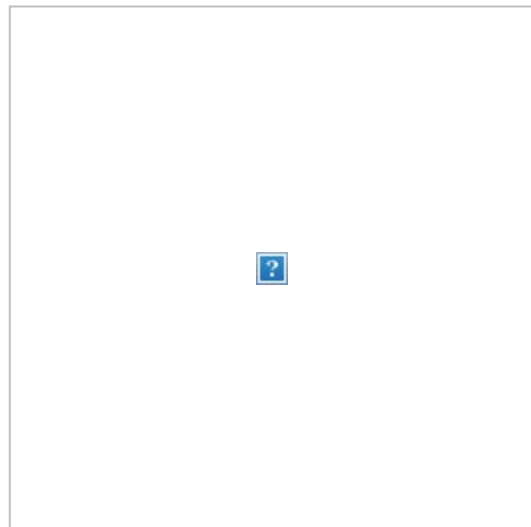
[MMA-Suffolk kick off certificate programs](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University kicked off two Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs in September, in Barnstable and Winchester. ...



[Pittsfield to begin ecological restoration project in park](#)

A new phase in the cleanup and restoration of the Housatonic River is set to begin this fall, with ecological restoration in Kirvin Park, an active recreation area in the city of Pittsfield. ...



[Grant supports military base redevelopment in Weymouth](#)

State and local officials hope that a

\$32.4 million grant that Weymouth received this summer will help remove longstanding obstacles to the redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. ...



[What to know about seasonal affective disorder](#)

For some people, the significant loss of daylight that comes with the fall season can worsen their mood, sap energy, and impair concentration due to what's known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. ...



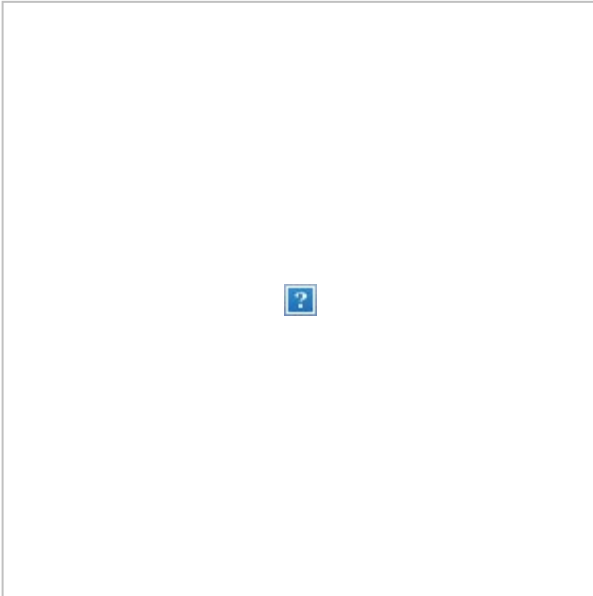
[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...

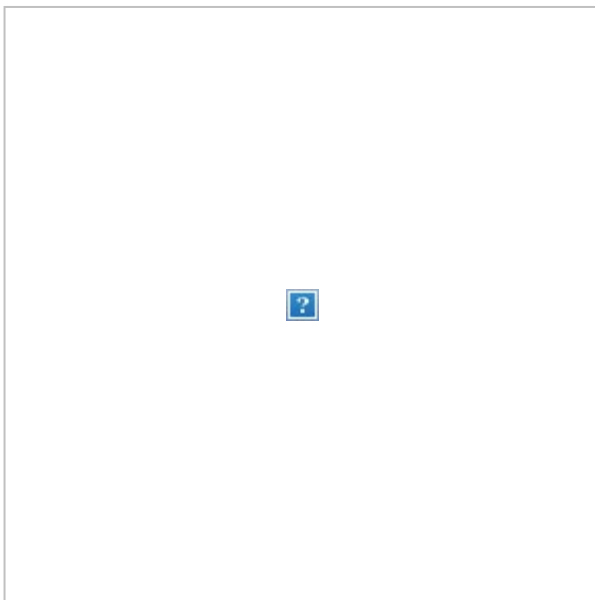


[A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures](#)

Published Oct. 9, The MMA and The Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University



[Register now](#) for Connect 351 in January! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video](#)!



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

['60 Minutes' reports on Chinese hacking of a Massachusetts town's utility network](#) - Boston Dot Com

[Hadley officials to discuss looming layoffs; fire Department facing cuts after failed override](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Methuen housing plan highlights growing senior population](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Taller, and made of timber, a new way to build affordable housing could soon rise in Cambridge](#) - Boston Globe

[Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo 'On the Record' about Halloween tourism, local challenges](#) - WCVB

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

What We're Reading

[Applying a new lens on city storytelling](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Anybody passing through the concourse level of Philadelphia's Municipal Services Building to secure a business license or pay a water bill has probably noticed them: photographs of office windows looking out at skyscrapers, parking lots, thoroughfares. Each of them presents a different perspective of the city from within a civil servant's workplace, and they are interspersed with quotes from city employees describing what it means to them to deliver for residents every day.

Capturing people's attention is one of the first steps in successful storytelling. And, in today's fast-paced and fragmented media space, newsletters, press releases, and Facebook posts are rarely enough for city leaders looking to

connect with residents. That's what makes this effort in Philadelphia stand out. The work of Emilio Martínez Poppe, himself a city employee in New York City, the project powerfully conveys the determination and value of the people who patrol the streets, maintain the parks, and respond to resident complaints. And, in doing so, it offers a model for how cities can be more ambitious, more experimental and, ultimately, more effective in their outreach.

By thinking outside the box, Philadelphia—whose Mayor Cherelle Parker is a participant in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative—is offering lessons to local leaders everywhere as they seek to build trust, improve morale, and show that their city is ready to deliver."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[Navigating Student Debt with Savi webinar](#) - Oct. 22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Fall Mentorship Session](#) - Oct. 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 23

[Unlock MassDOT Funding for your Municipality webinar](#) - Nov. 6

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - Nov. 13

[Planning and Partnering for Impact: Best Practices for Municipal Opioid Settlement Funds webinar](#) - Nov. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 20-21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

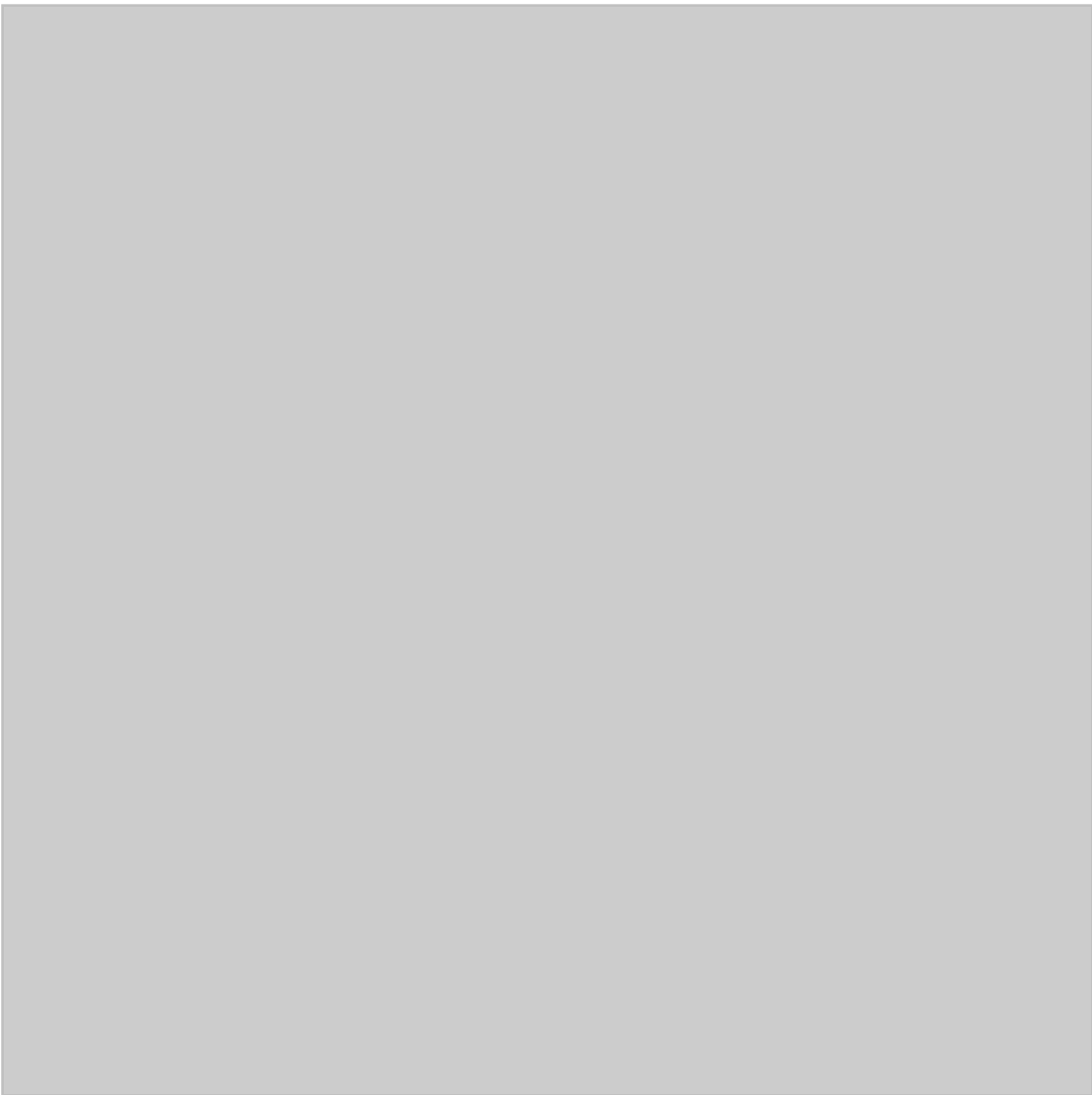
In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar to cover student loan debt strategies for public employees](#)
 - [MMLA to hold conference in Northampton on Oct. 23-24](#)
 - [State to host public hearings to review K-12 school finance formula](#)
 - [ASPA virtual meeting will explore government careers](#)
 - [ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Oct. 18](#)
 - [Survey seeks to assess how cities, towns engage with technology](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars Oct. 21 and 23](#)
 - [Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Runners took part in the Cape Code Marathon Weekend this past weekend in Falmouth. Races included a half-marathon on Oct. 11 (left) and a marathon on Oct. 12 (right). The course hugs the town's coastline, providing views of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Sound. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

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- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Medicare Specialist](#)

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Longfellow's Wayside Inn, located in Sudbury, is the [oldest restaurant in the state and the oldest inn in the country](#). It opened for business in 1716.

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](#)!

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the holidays. We will be back in your inbox on Jan. 3.

[Countdown to ARPA obligation](#)

deadline

With the Dec. 31 deadline quickly approaching for obligating American Rescue Plan Act funds, municipal officials are leveraging U.S. Department of the Treasury resources to help them avoid any potential clawing back of federal funds. ...



Webinar covers select board role in community arts, culture

A Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with the Mass Cultural Council discussed how select boards can support arts and culture initiatives and advance economic development. ...



MIIA workshops to cover legal, cyber, wellness topics

MIIA will present several training sessions during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, to be held Jan. 23 through 25 in Boston. ...

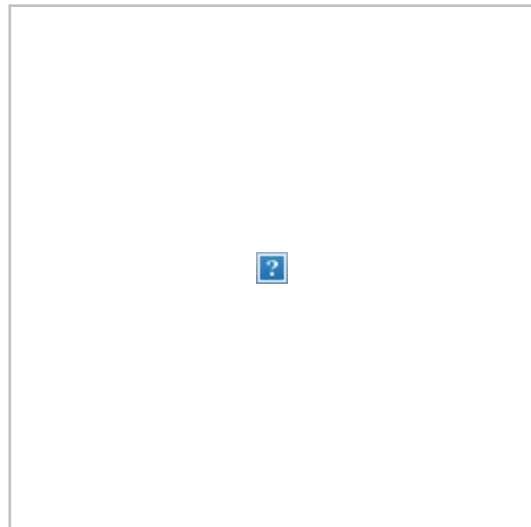


Staying ahead of emerging cyberthreats

As cyberthreats become more

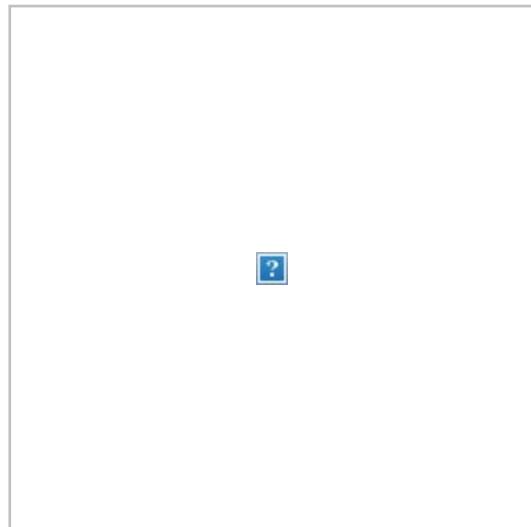
sophisticated, local governments and public entities face increased risk, especially from ransomware attacks.

...



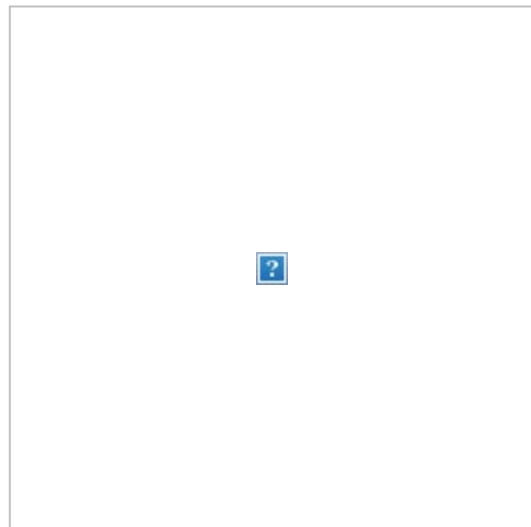
[Pittsfield restores pond, enhances park accessibility](#)

A quarter century in the making, a pond restoration project has brought new life to a somewhat neglected section of a Pittsfield park, completing a mission that was both professional and personal for city officials. ...



[Worcester conducts Urban Tree Canopy Assessment](#)

In a shift toward a more proactive approach for management of city-owned land, the Worcester Conservation Commission conducted a forest health assessment of more than 850 acres earlier this year. ...



[Bourne to scan municipal property for tribal history](#)

The town of Bourne is planning to

deploy ground-penetrating radar on a historic municipal property to search for tribal graves and artifacts, and attempt to forge a deeper connection with its Indigenous past.

...

[Retrofitting outdoor lighting can save energy and cut light pollution](#)

Municipalities must eventually replace components of critical building systems in schools, libraries and other public facilities.



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges legislators to support corrective legislation that would help retain CDL drivers](#)

On Dec. 16, In Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[A \\$180K state grant for a group of South Berkshire towns aims to prevent ambulance deserts](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Somerville City Council votes to ditch required parking rules for new developments](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[New dashboard will offer deep dive into city finances, including salaries](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Computer servers, radio equipment among items approved for ARPA funding in Mattapoisett](#) - Sippican Week

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[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Special Guests: [Gov. Maura Healey](#) & [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)

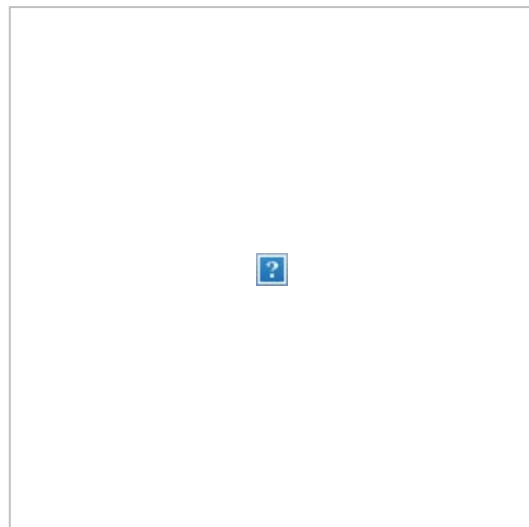
Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to [Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



What We're Reading

[Beyond the noise: How to engage residents effectively](#) - an 8 minute listen from Bloomberg Cities.

"According to a recent Bloomberg Philanthropies survey, 60 percent of mayors believe polarization in their cities is "more extreme than ever." Forty-four percent say they lack sufficient feedback loops with residents, and—with local news outlets vanishing across the world—53 percent report a struggle to wade through the maze of an increasingly fragmented media landscape that's rife with misinformation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation funding webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - Feb. 27

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)

- [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of
Soldier's Monument and The First Church of Monson!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Agent, Chief of Police, Town Planner, Town Solicitor, Treasurer/Collector, Assistant Assessor and Conservation Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).

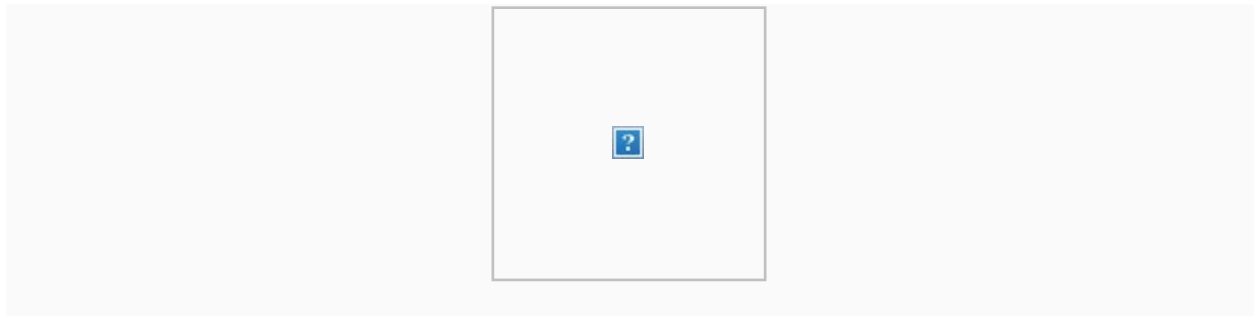


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Just 14 days until Connect 351!

In local happenings: The Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks [announced the winners](#) of the “Name a Snowplow” contest, held with students at Worcester Public Schools and voted on by the public. Four trucks will be named Scoop Dogg, Sleetwood Mac, William Scrapespeare and Snow More Mr Ice Guy.

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](#)!

**[SJC issues ruling in MBTA
Communities case](#)**

The Supreme Judicial Court has

upheld a state law intended to promote new housing in MBTA Communities and the power of the attorney general to enforce it, but threw out guidelines specifying the terms of compliance. ...



[Connect 351 is just 2 weeks away](#)

More than 1,100 local leaders have already registered for Connect 351, the MMA's annual conference, which will be held Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. ...



[U.S. Sens. Warren, Markey to speak at Connect 351](#)

Massachusetts' two U.S. senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, will address local leaders from across the state during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, on Saturday, Jan. 25. ...



[MMA publishes January issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA published the January

2025 issue of The Beacon, covering the latest news affecting local government and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars, including Connect 351. ...



[New legislative session brings opportunities for cities and towns](#)

Jan. 1 kicked off a new legislative session, and state revenues will be a focal point for the first half of the year, with a cautious outlook guiding the development of the fiscal 2026 state budget. ...



[MMA to host webinar on transportation grants on Jan. 13](#)

The MMA will host a webinar on Jan. 13 covering transportation-related grants available to communities across Massachusetts. ...



[Legislature OK's bill to allow video for school bus safety enforcement](#)

In the final hours of the session on Dec. 31, the Legislature passed a bill giving communities the option to use video monitoring systems for school bus traffic violations. ...



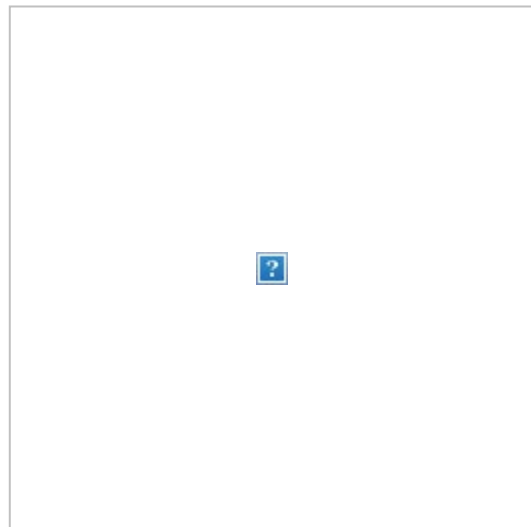
[EOEEA accepting comments on Article 97 open space regulations](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting comments through Jan. 22 on draft regulations relating to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. ...



[Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program. ...



[DOER opens program to promote on-street EV charging](#)

The Department of Energy

Resources is accepting applications for the On-Street EV Charging Program, which provides grants and technical assistance. ...



[\\$25M in Rural Roadway Funding available to communities](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has apportioned and released \$25 million for the Rural Roadway Funding Program to cities and towns. ...



[NLC publishes book recognizing 100th anniversary](#)

The National League of Cities celebrated its 100th anniversary throughout 2024, recognizing a century of municipal advocacy, education, and innovation at the national level. ...



[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On Jan. 3, In Testimony

[As challenges abound, let's use kindness as a tool](#)

On Jan. 3, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Methuen finds short-term use for Searles Estate](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Nantucket's African Meeting House Celebrates Its Bicentennial](#) - Nantucket Current

[A lot of 'little snowstorms' are still eating up Berkshire snow removal budgets](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[It's red, plastic, and snaps together: Provincetown's new flood barrier](#) - GBH

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Special Guests: [Gov. Maura Healey](#) & [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to
[Thursday afternoon!](#)



- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!
-

What We're Reading

[Confronting the Local Government Trust Dilemma, Part 2](#) - second in a three-part series discussing community-based strategic planning as an approach to building trust, from International City/County Management Association.

"I would like to share the basic recipe for a community-based approach. There are five basic steps to the creation of a community-based strategic plan: set the stage, listen, identify priorities, compose the plan, and return and report."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation Grants: MassDOT and MassTrails Funding Opportunities webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action: Prioritizing and Funding Decarbonization Measures webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - Feb. 27

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar on Jan. 16 will discuss fire mutual aid](#)
 - [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)
 - [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to John Ouellette, MMA Director of Communications for sharing this photo of ZooLights at Stone Zoo in Stoneham!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)

- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Administrator, Data Collector, Treasury Analyst, Assistant Town Clerk, Stormwater Manager and Human Resources Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

The Weekly Review is taking a vacation next week. We will be back in your inbox on Aug. 25.

[Gov. Healey signs FY24 state budget](#)

Gov. Maura Healey today signed a \$56 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that increases unrestricted

local aid by 3.2% over fiscal 2023 and boosts Chapter 70 education aid by \$603 million. ...



Governor declares emergency, calls for support for rush of migrant families

Gov. Maura Healey this morning declared that a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability. ...



MMA webinar reviews draft CCC regulations on host community agreements

An MMA webinar today discussed the implications of the Cannabis Control Commission's draft regulations on host community agreements and social equity. ...



MMA webinar to discuss statewide contracts and procurement

On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



[Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland](#)

The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



[Navigating unemployment: fraud, complexity and safeguards](#)

The Massachusetts Department of

Unemployment Assistance recently issued an alert about another uptick in fraudulent claims, three years after many states were hit with an initial spike during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

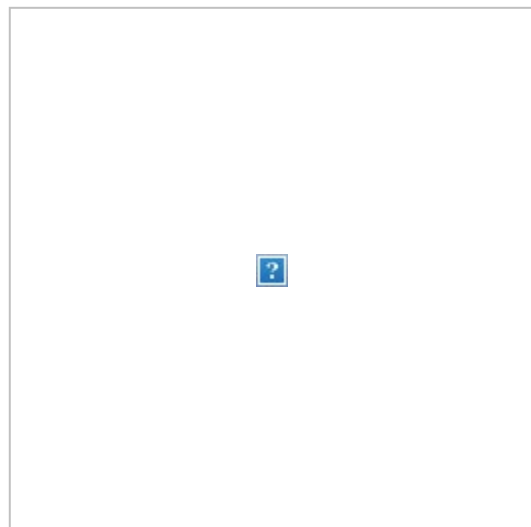
[MMA asks Public Service Committee to oppose bills that would add costly new unfunded mandates for employee benefits](#)

On Aug. 4, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest](#)

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[Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website

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[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

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[State announces \\$11.5 million grant program to electrify heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently announced a new competitive grant program as part of the Volkswagen Settlement and the state's climate trust: the Massachusetts VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation. ...



[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging

all Massachusetts cities, towns and school districts “to take full advantage of newly available federal grants to clean up our school bus fleets.” ...



FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants

The Federal Highway Administration has opened the application period for a new discretionary grant program called PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation). Up to \$848 million is available. ...



\$575M available for coastal resilience projects

Approximately \$575 million is available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



USDOT accepting applications for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for three discretionary grant programs that involve surface transportation projects designed to strengthen supply chains, spur economic development, and improve safety. ...

[USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants](#)

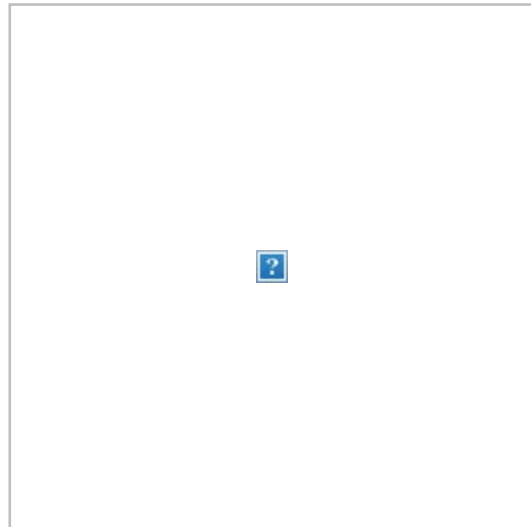
The U.S. Department of Transportation announced on July 5 that up to \$3.16 billion is available for planning and construction projects through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods discretionary grant program. ...

[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Best Practices for Navigating Statewide Contracts and COMMBUYS Purchasing webinar](#) - Aug. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

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[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 42 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Clerk, EMS Director, Library Technician, Shared Conservation Agent/Stormwater Coordinator, Assistant Collector, Water Manager and Community Engagement Specialist. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[State makes revisions to MBTA communities guidelines](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities today released additional revisions to its compliance guidelines for multi-family zoning districts in MBTA communities. ...

[**Municipal leaders urged to comment on CCC draft regulations**](#)

The MMA is encouraging municipal officials to weigh in on draft regulations approved by the Cannabis Control Commission on July 28 regarding host community agreements and social equity. ...

[**DOER requests feedback on Solar for All straw application proposal**](#)

The Department of Energy Resources, in partnership with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, is requesting feedback on a straw proposal for the state's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All program. ...

[**Municipal officials request permanent remote, hybrid meeting options**](#)



During a July 26 legislative hearing, the MMA and local officials from across the state called for the existing authorization for public body remote and hybrid meetings to be made permanent. ...



[MMA webinar highlights navigation of contracts, purchasing in COMMBUYS](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Operational Services Division reviewed how to access statewide contract information and use COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants. ...



[DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September](#)

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “What’s New in Municipal Law” seminar for local officials on Sept. 21 in Waltham and on Sept. 28 in Holyoke. ...



[IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)

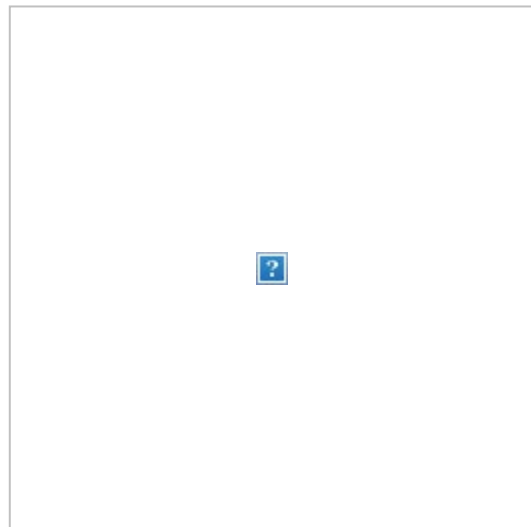
The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



In Case You Missed It

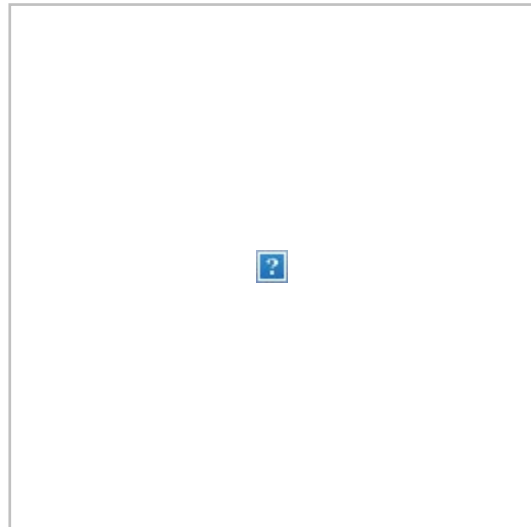
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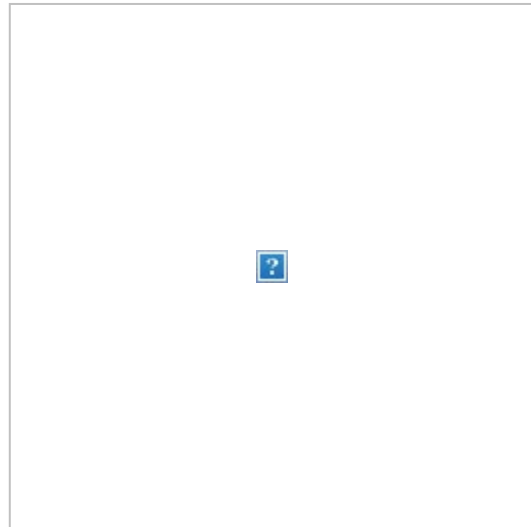
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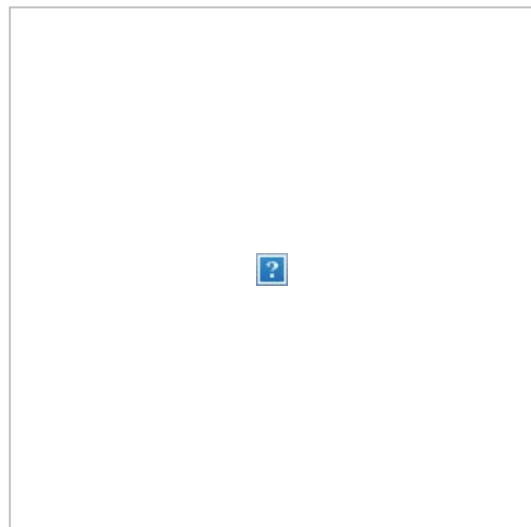
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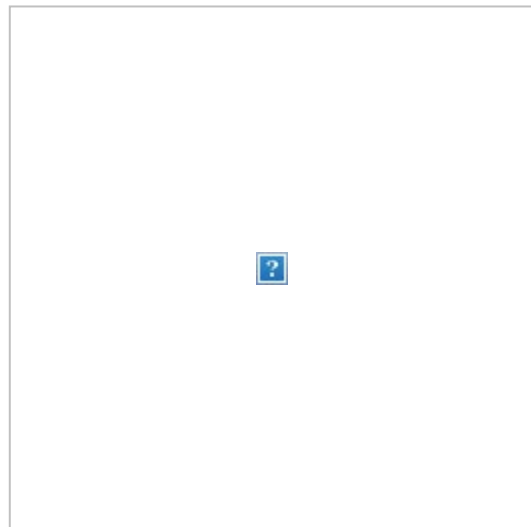
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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[Administration awards \\$31.5M in climate resiliency funding to communities](#)

At an event in Stockbridge today, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announced \$31.5

million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grants for climate resilience implementation and planning throughout Massachusetts.

...

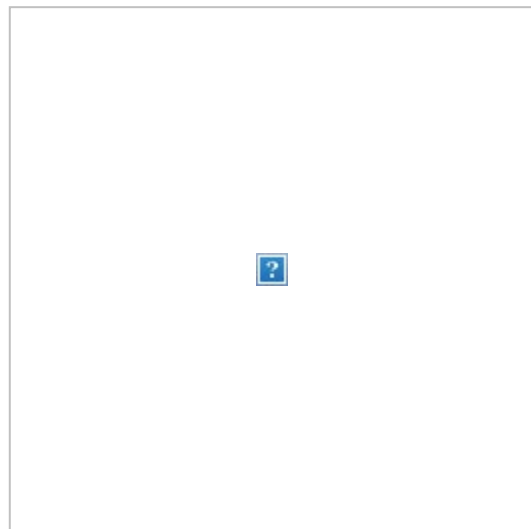
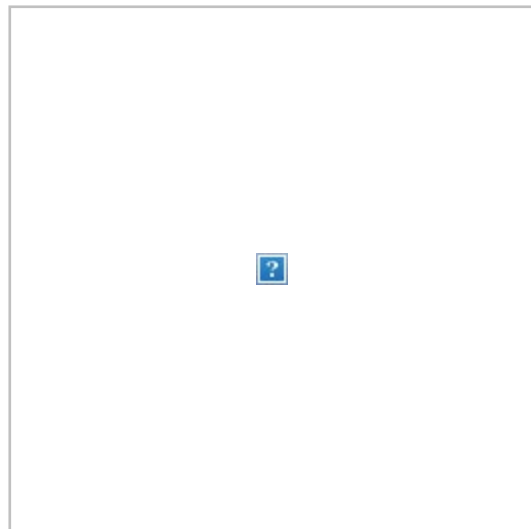
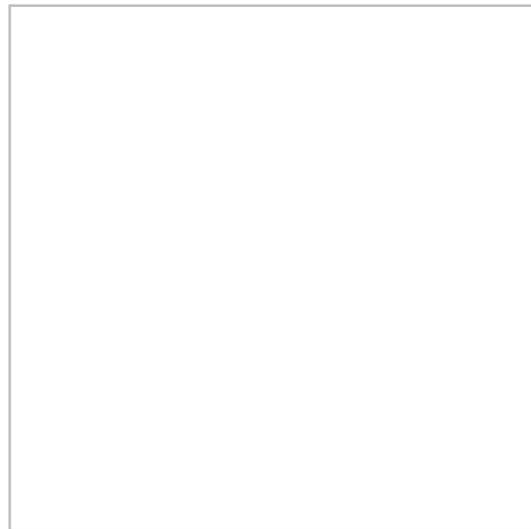
[Treasury issues new guidance on ARPA Flex provision](#)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has released detailed guidance that increases flexibility for the use of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...

[MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants. ...

[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



Massachusetts Broadband Institute seeks input on Internet for All plan

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute this month will begin a series of public listening sessions as it develops a five-year plan to deploy \$147 million in federal investments to support actions to bridge the digital divide. ...



Grants available to boost resilience in disadvantaged communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities. ...



Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future

Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[EV charger report forecasts significant needs for infrastructure](#)

A new report from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council provides a comprehensive view of the current electric vehicle charging landscape, as well as recommendations for policy actions to support a robust, equitable and accessible charging network across the Commonwealth. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



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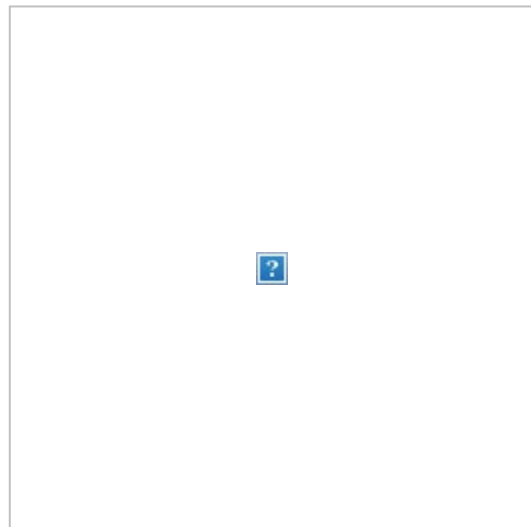
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[Incoming Director Chapdelaine prepares for MMA's future](#)

When Adam Chapdelaine becomes the MMA's new executive director on Sept. 9, he will bring his years of experience working in city and town halls, his firsthand knowledge of the

inner workings of the State House,
and an abiding belief in the essential
role of local government in our
quality of life. ...

[Beckwith reflects on 31 years leading the MMA](#)

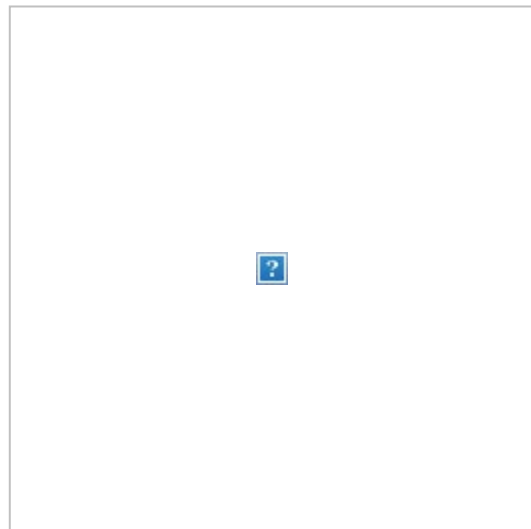
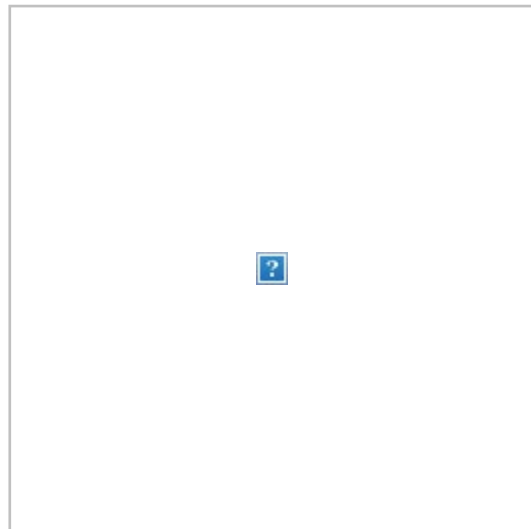
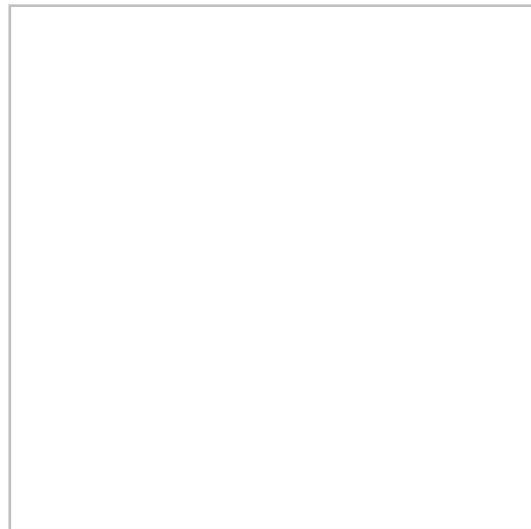
Geoff Beckwith welcomes a visitor
into his office of the past two years
and points out that, despite his
collection of plaques, photos and
memorabilia, nothing is hung up. ...

[Racial Equity Group selected to lead MMA's DEI work](#)

The MMA has contracted with the
Racial Equity Group to develop a
strategic plan to advance diversity,
equity and inclusion efforts in local
government. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the



MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...



[MMA publishes September issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the September 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government — including the change in leadership at the MMA — plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Save the date for MMA Annual Meeting in 2024](#)

The MMA is hard at work on plans for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...



[MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants. ...



[DPU seeks feedback on municipal aggregation investigation through Oct. 6](#)

The Department of Public Utilities opened an investigation on Aug. 15 into municipal aggregation, with a goal to create a streamlined process for Massachusetts municipalities to establish new programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA, MMLA offer to work with CCC to recraft draft regulations viewed as unconstitutional and an unfunded mandate](#)

On Sept. 7, Testimony

[MMA's best days are ahead of us](#)

On Sept. 5, Executive Director's Report

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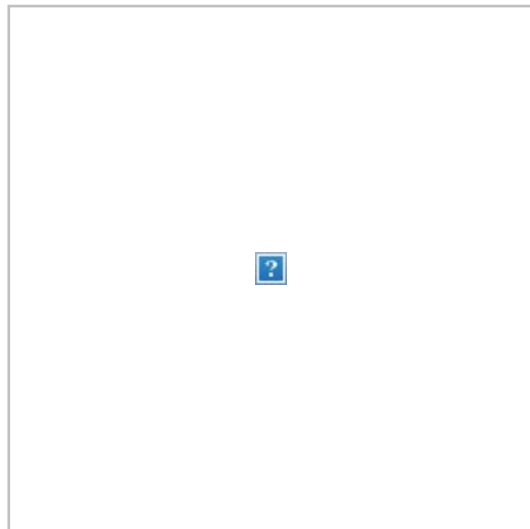
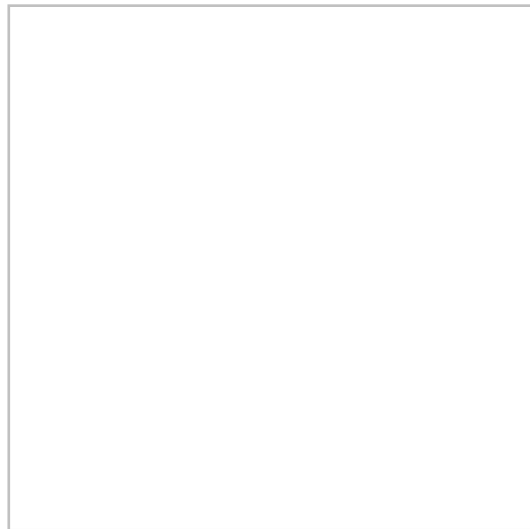
In Case You Missed It

[Grants available to boost resilience in disadvantaged communities](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities. ...

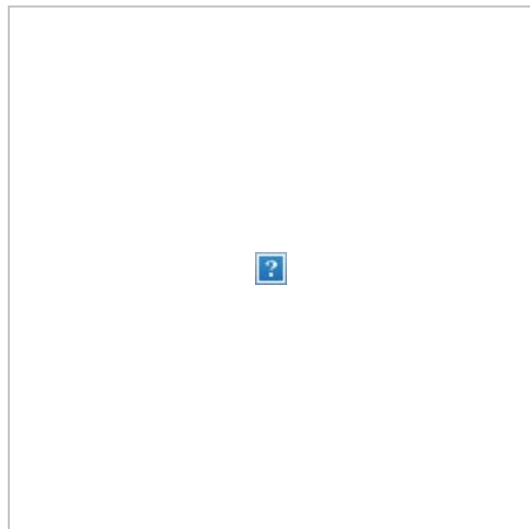
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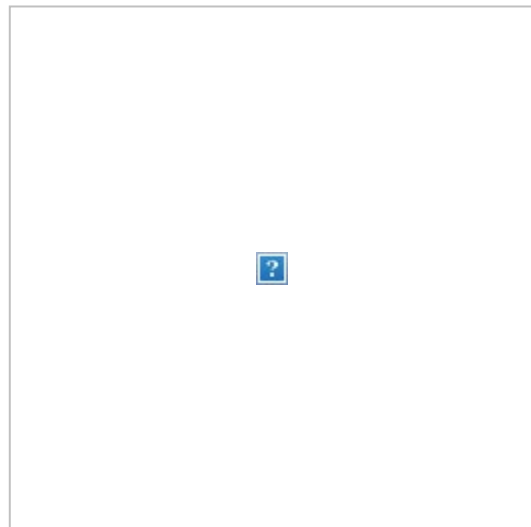
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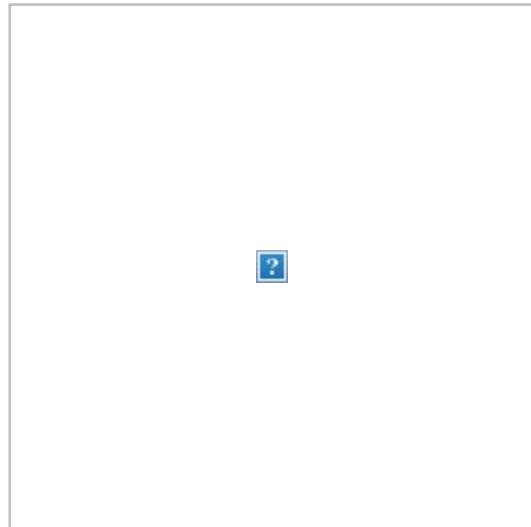


[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

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[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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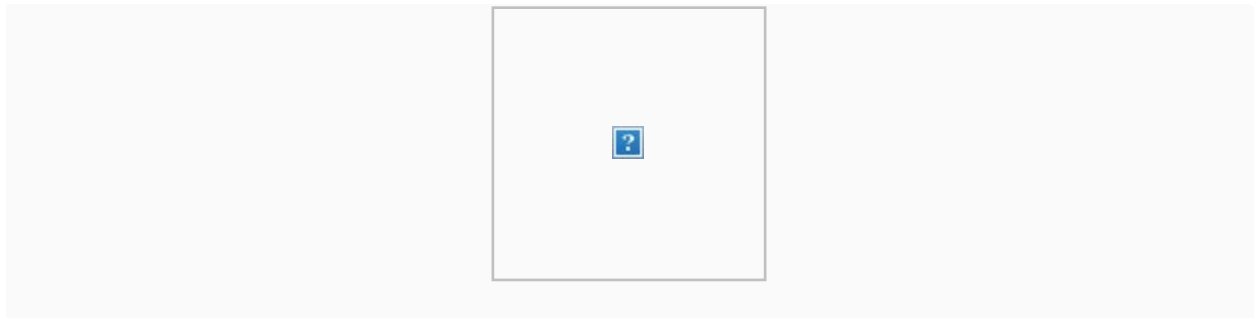


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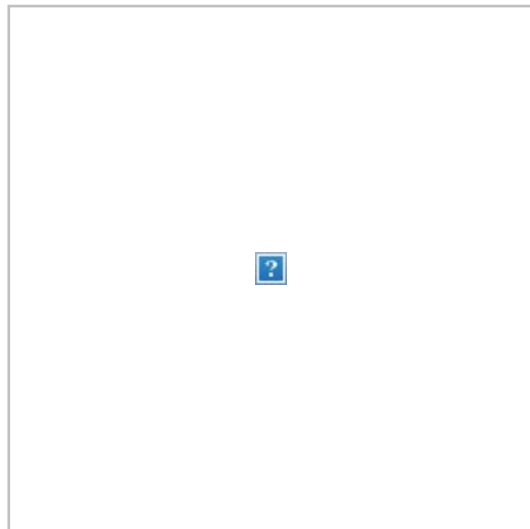
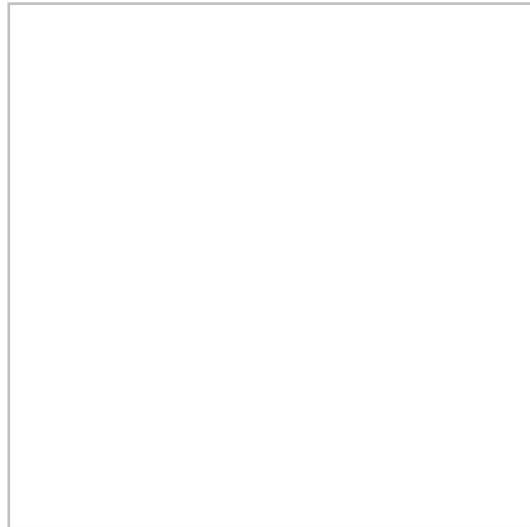
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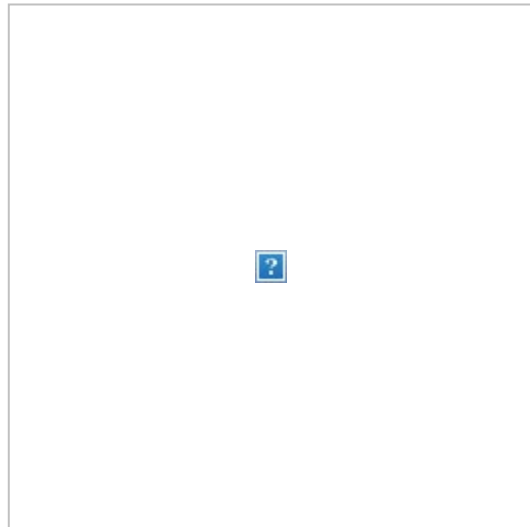
[Save the date for MMA Annual Meeting in 2024](#)

The MMA is hard at work on plans for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



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MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding

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A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 26 will discuss how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to the target audience. ...



NLC launches 4th series of federal grant-writing boot camps

The National League of Cities is

launching a fourth set of free grant-writing “boot camps” this fall to help local officials keep pace with federal grant opportunities. ...



[MTF webinar will explore migration trends and their impact on Mass.](#)

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



[Safe Routes to School grants available](#)

Safe Routes to School, a federally funded program that works to increase safe walking, biking and rolling by public school students, is accepting applications for its Signs and Lines and Infrastructure Project grant programs. ...

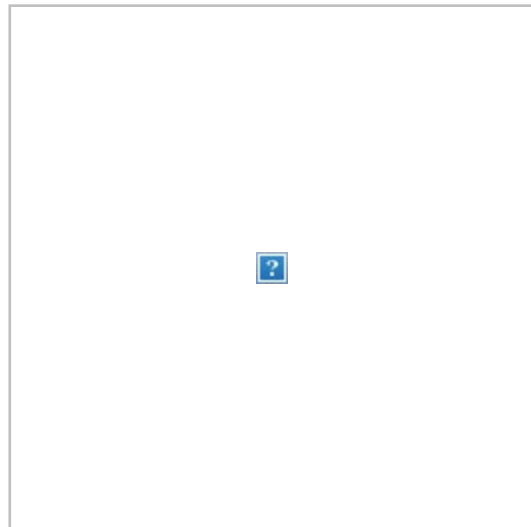


[30 watersheds impacted by new nitrogen pollution restrictions](#)

Updates to septic system and

watershed regulations, intended to combat nitrogen pollution in certain coastal areas, took effect on July 7.

...



Upcoming MMA Events

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[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

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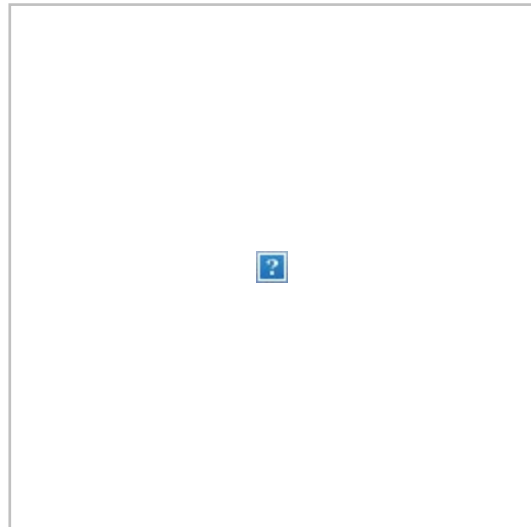
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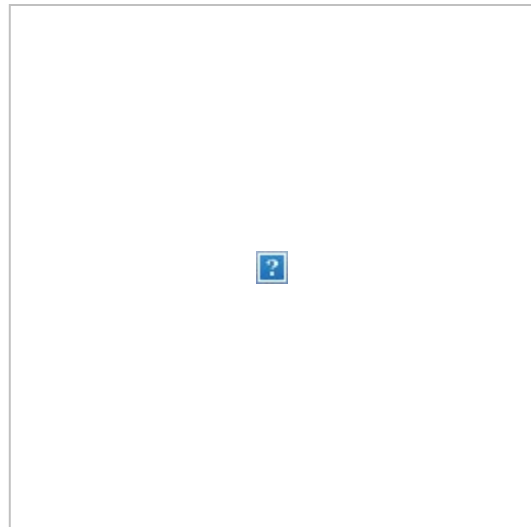
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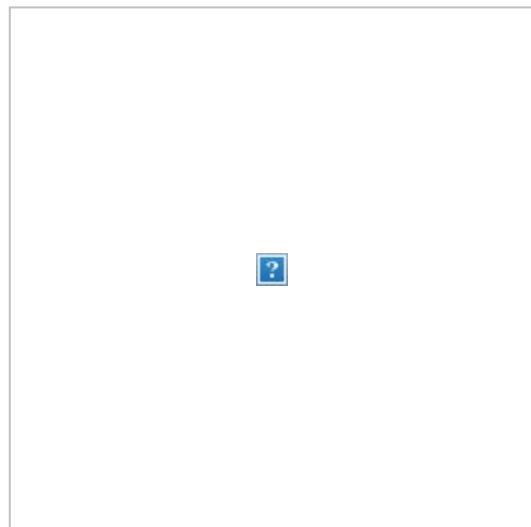
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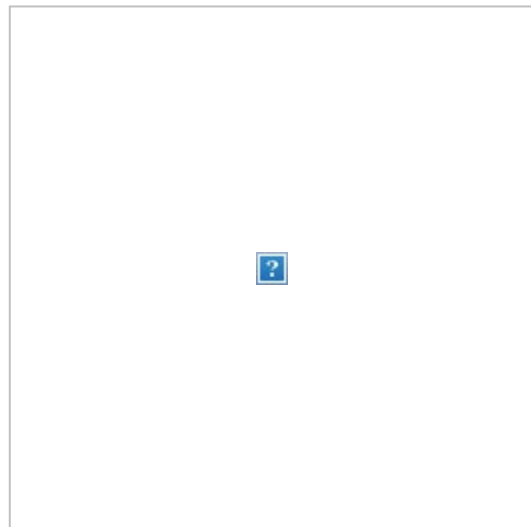
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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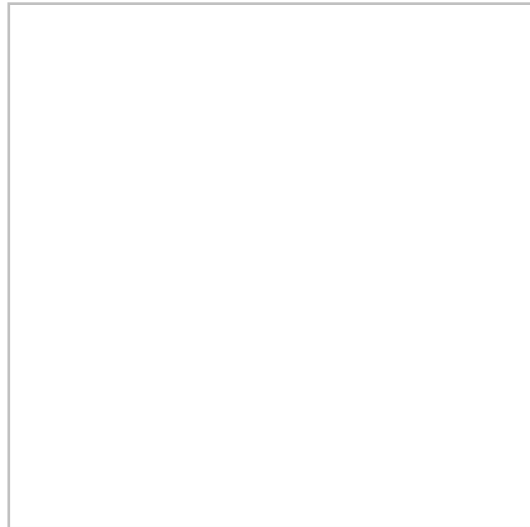
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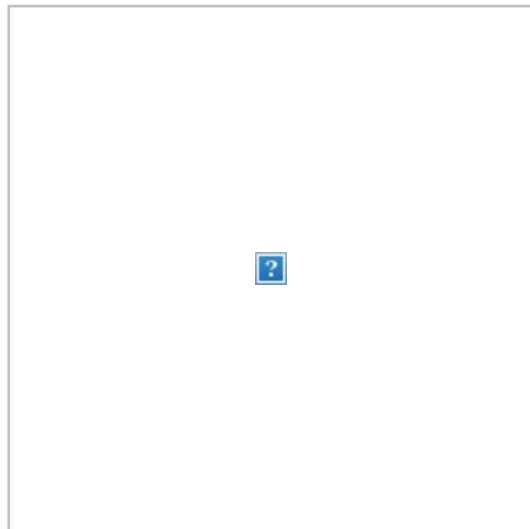
[Gov. Healey files FY24 state budget proposal](#)

Today Gov. Maura Healey filed her \$55.5 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2024, which includes funding for local accounts that she announced last week. ...



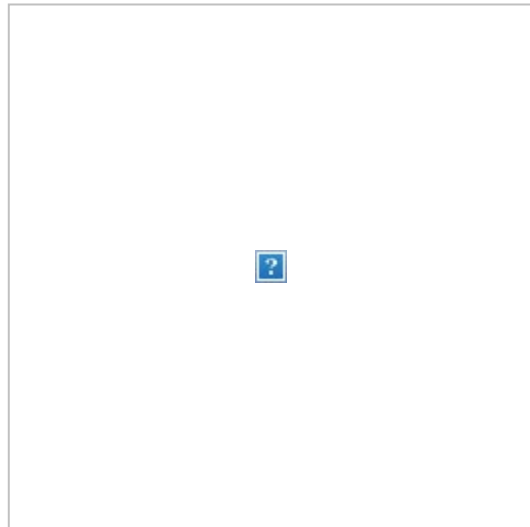
[MMA publishes March issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the March 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[House OK's budget bill with pandemic extensions](#)

Today the House passed a redrafted version of a \$282 million supplemental 2023 budget bill filed by Gov. Maura Healey in January that includes a majority of her "immediate needs" bond bill, as well as extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining. ...



[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

Registration is now open for the

MMA's spring series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on March 17 and March 24. ...



Housing task force files report

A special task force established to help determine the structure of a new housing secretariat and inform the process of filling the position has filed its report with Gov. Maura Healey. ...



Community One Stop for Growth accepting Expressions Of Interest

Community One Stop for Growth is accepting Expressions of Interest through March 17 from potential applicants prior to submitting a full application. ...



'Nero's Law' training deadline extended by a year

The Office of Emergency Medical

Services in the Department of Public Health has extended the compliance deadline for emergency medical service providers to be trained in police dog treatment and transport.

...



MMA to host social media best practices webinar on March 7

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 7 about how to use social media as a tool to communicate and engage with communities while complying with the unique requirements imposed on municipal officials. ...



Local Technical Assistance Program to host grant writing webinar on March 9

The Local Technical Assistance Program will host a free grant writing webinar on March 9 covering the basics of completing a grant or funding application and a method for approaching and completing applications. ...



MMA to host 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series

On March 15, the MMA will launch

“Reframing Recruitment,” a free monthly webinar series for appointed and elected municipal officials that will showcase timely hiring strategies that can set your community up for success. ...



[MMA to host webinar on dealing with conflict March 28](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 28 will highlight strategies for effective conflict management. ...



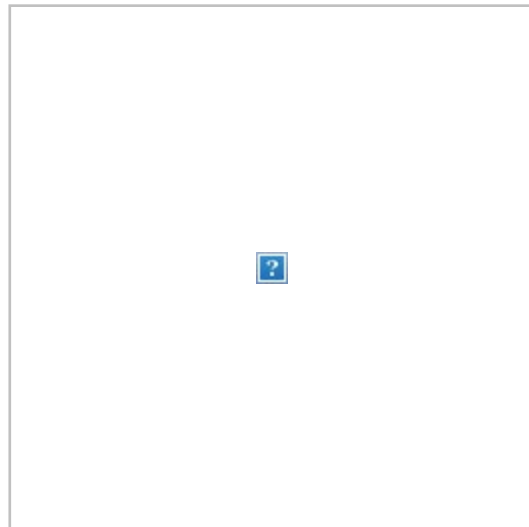
[TransitMatters publishes toolkit to promote 'Mobility Hubs'](#)

TransitMatters has published a new toolkit to help municipalities, nonprofits and other community leaders bring Mobility Hubs into their neighborhoods. ...



[Citizen Planner Training Collaborative annual conference is March 18](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its annual conference on March 18 in Worcester. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Budget-setting season kicks off on Beacon Hill](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

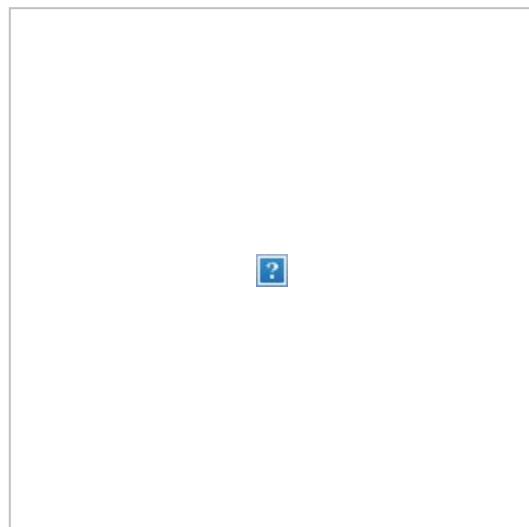
[MMA urges legislators to extend remote meeting authority](#)

On Feb. 24, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

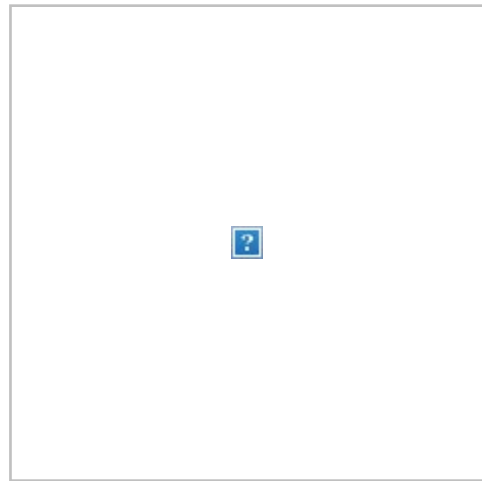
[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Administration is accepting project proposals and grant applications through April 13 for the Low or No Emission (Low-No) and Buses and Bus Facilities grant programs. ...



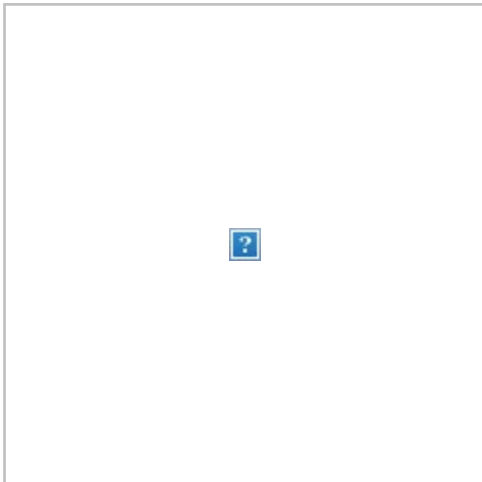
[MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show is March 23](#)

The MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show will be held on March 23 in Marlborough. ...



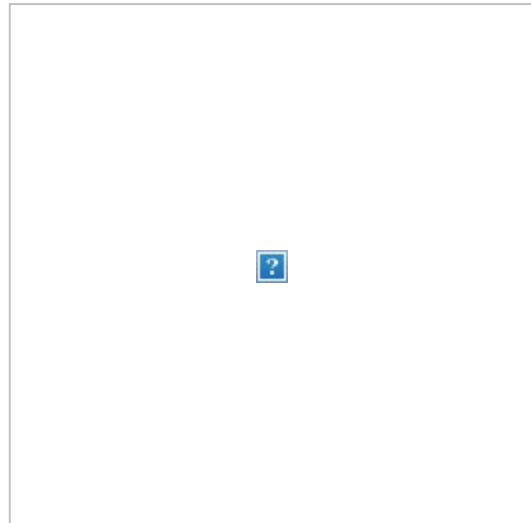
[NLC holding Congressional City Conference March 26-28](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 26-28, in Washington, DC. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

MassHousing has opened the application period for the Planning for Housing Production Grant Program, which provides cities and towns with the technical capacity needed to implement local planning and transform priority development sites into new affordable homes. ...



[Municipalities must respond by April 18 for additional opioid settlement funds](#)

In late 2022, the Attorney General's Office announced proposed opioid

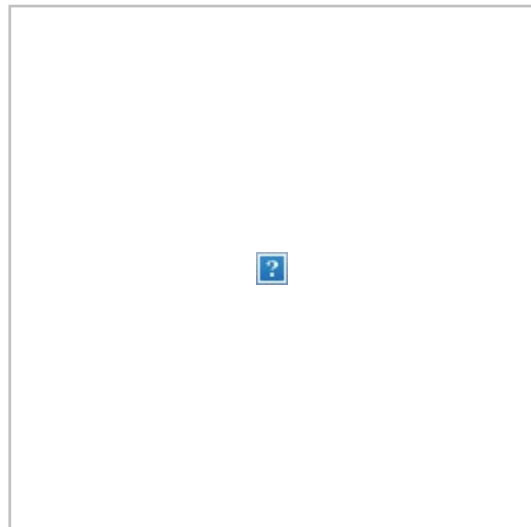
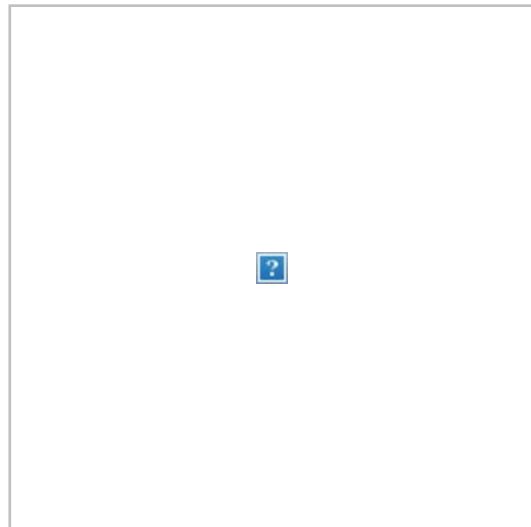
settlements with Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, Walmart and CVS, which will bring additional funds for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery across Massachusetts. ...

[MMA launches Mass Municipal Data Hub](#)

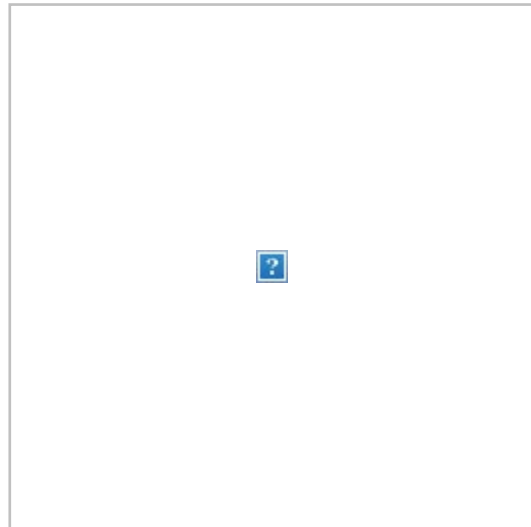
Just hours before its Annual Meeting began on Jan. 20, the MMA launched a new, online members service: the Mass Municipal Data Hub. ...

[CDBG application deadline coming soon](#)

The Department of Housing and Community Development is accepting applications for a round of Community Development Block Grants, with a deadline of March 3. ...



Federal Funds Resource Area



New in COVID-19 Guidance

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

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[Social Media Best Practices Webinar](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Association webinar](#) - March 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Setting the Table – Vacancies and Advertising](#) - March 15

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Fairhaven and Tyngsborough\)](#) - March 17

[Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - March 23

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Adams and Westfield\)](#) - March 24

[Coping with Conflict Webinar](#) - March 28

[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

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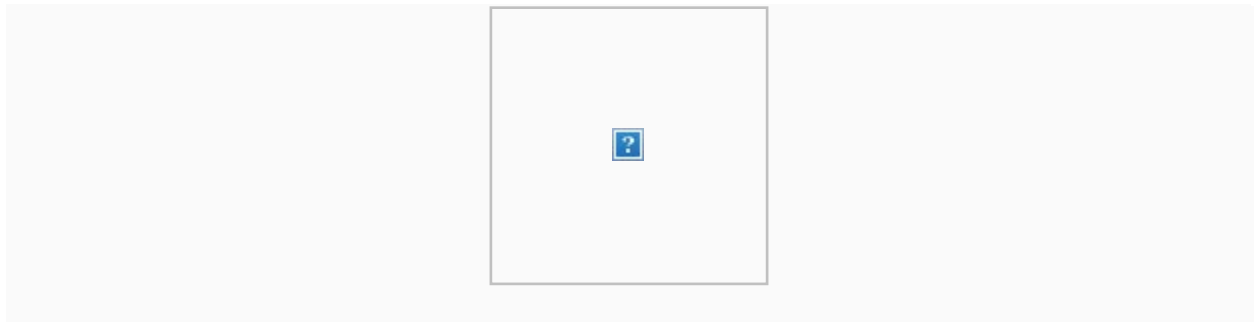
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[Gov. files closeout budget with funds for emergency shelter crisis](#)

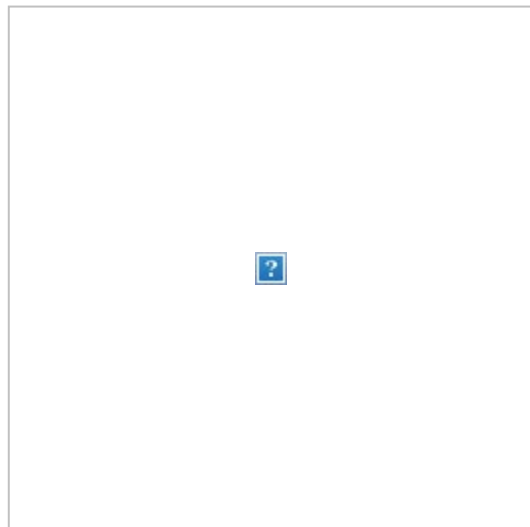
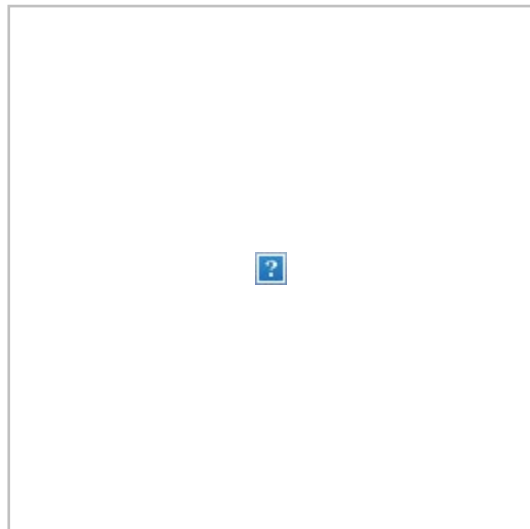
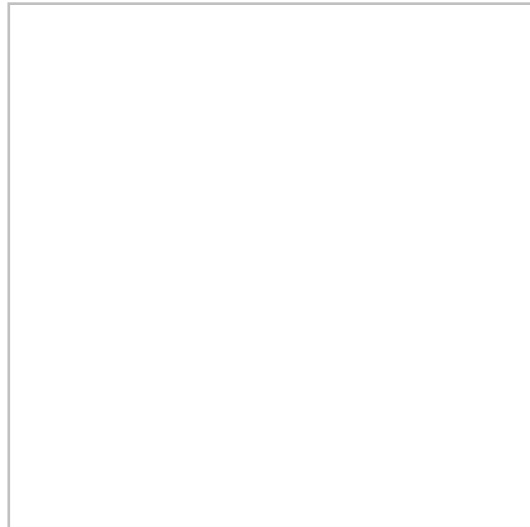
Looking to close the books on fiscal 2023, Gov. Maura Healey filed a final supplemental budget bill on Sept. 13 that would allocate additional funding for several key priorities. ...

[MMA, local leaders working with administration to address shelter crisis](#)

With a surge of emergency shelter needs that shows no signs of abating, and temporary placements in hotels and other settings in roughly 80 communities across the state, the MMA and the administration will begin conducting biweekly briefings with chief municipal officials later this month to provide the latest information and take questions. ...

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A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 26 will discuss how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to the target audience. ...



[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[Cambridge focuses on flood prevention, zoning as part of larger climate action](#)

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the city of Cambridge is taking a multi-pronged approach to resiliency, looking at the impacts of flooding, heat and emissions. ...



[Boston program encourages office-to-residential conversions downtown](#)

As big cities nationwide attempt to revitalize downtown office districts hollowed out by the pandemic and the rise of remote work, the city of Boston is seeking to incentivize the conversion of underused office buildings into residential units. ...



[Southern Berkshire County towns offer public ride-share service](#)

Seeking to bridge the gap for seniors, workers and others lacking transportation options, several Berkshire County towns have banded together to create a public on-demand ride service. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial

Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee to support bills to create municipal and public safety building authority](#)

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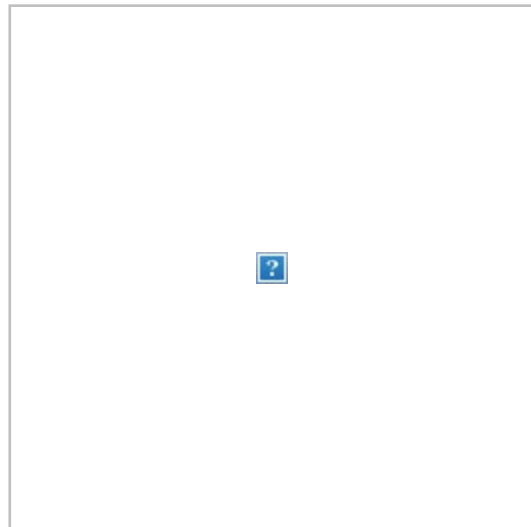
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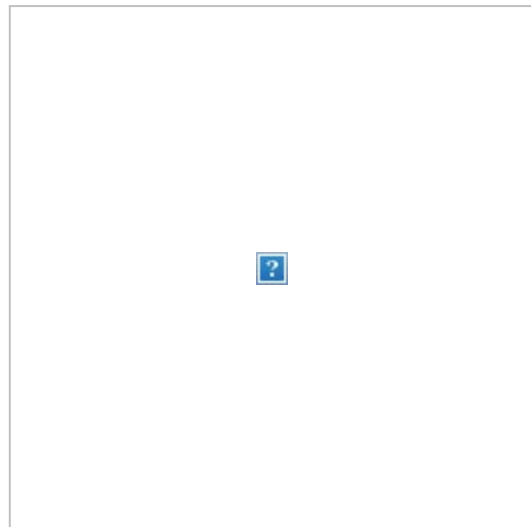
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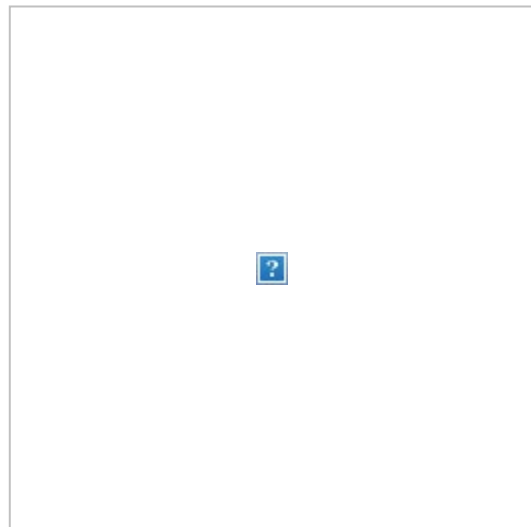
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DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “What’s New in Municipal Law” seminar for local officials on Sept. 21 in Waltham and on Sept. 28 in Holyoke. ...



IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5

The MassCyberCenter will hold its

third annual Massachusetts
Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on
Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



**Annual Town Forest Conference
is Oct. 21 in Ashland**

The annual Massachusetts Town
Forest Conference, a platform for
fostering collaboration among a
range of professionals and
volunteers who contribute to the
management of community forests,
will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at
the Ashland Community Center. ...



**MMA seeks entries for Municipal
Innovation Award contest**

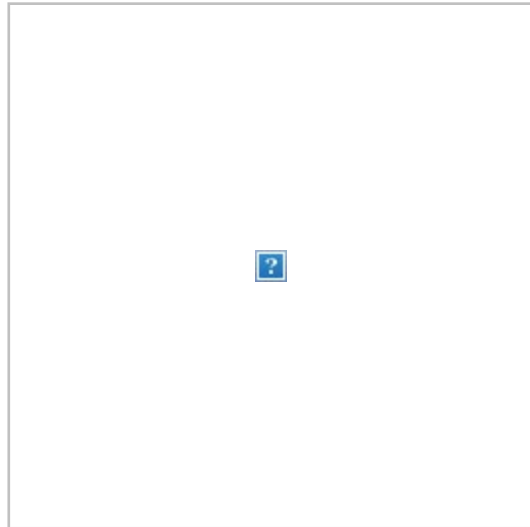
Has your community recently
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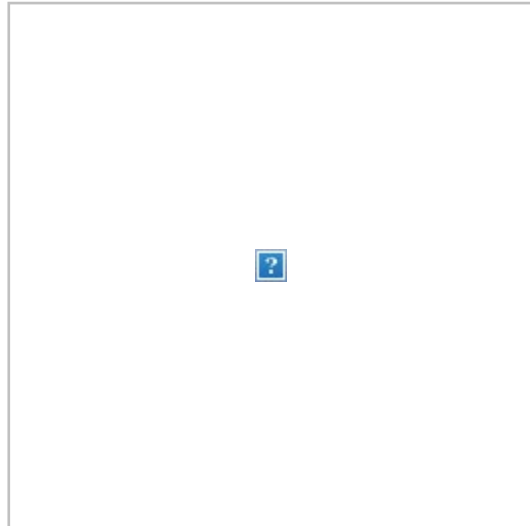
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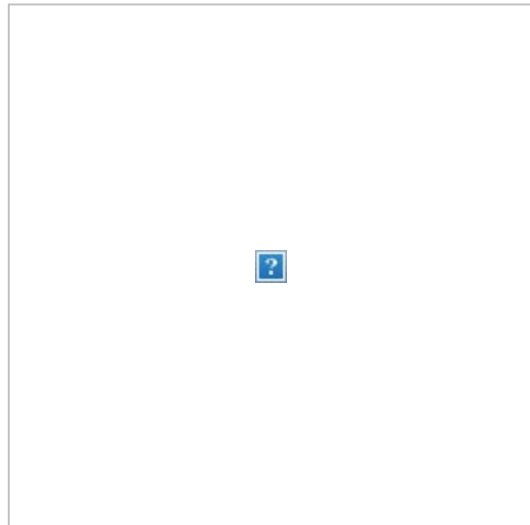
[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 50 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Facilities Project Manager, GIS Coordinator, Town Accountant, Assistant City Engineer, Town Planner, Cross Connection Coordinator and Finance Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Gov. signs supplemental budget with pandemic-era extensions, key investments](#)

Gov. Maura Healey this afternoon signed a fiscal 2023 spending package that includes more than \$740 million in bonding

authorizations, \$389 million in supplemental spending, and a number of policy provisions, including extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining.

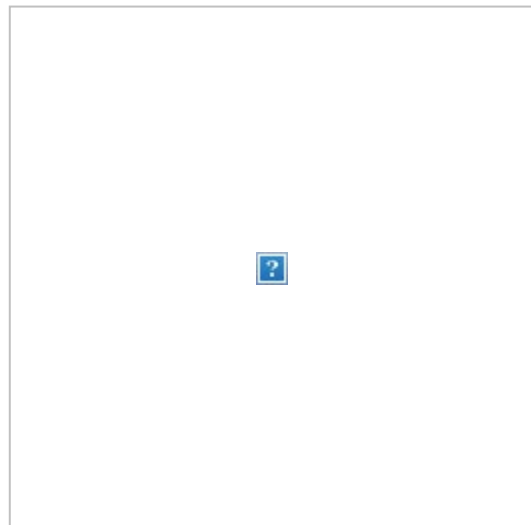
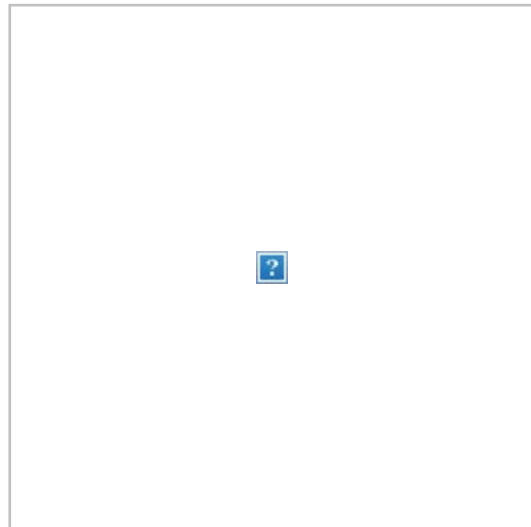
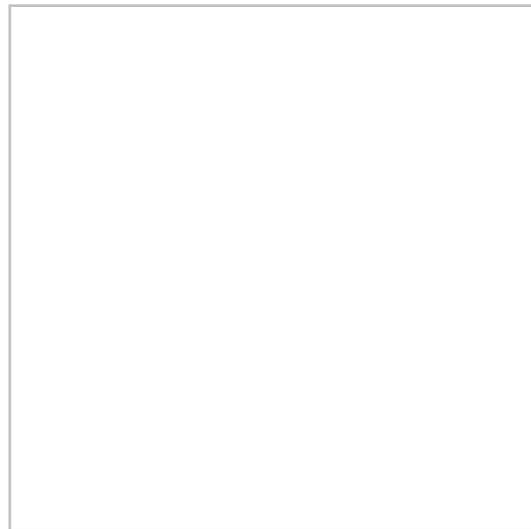
...

Senate passes Ch. 90 bill with small variations from House version

The Senate today passed a Chapter 90 bond bill that would level-fund the local road and bridge program at \$200 million for fiscal 2024, while also providing a total of \$150 million for six transportation-related programs. ...

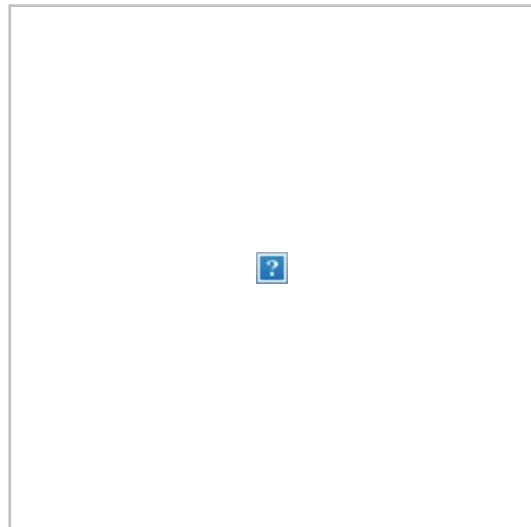
MMA holds spring Legislative Breakfast Meetings

On two Fridays in March, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for a series of four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



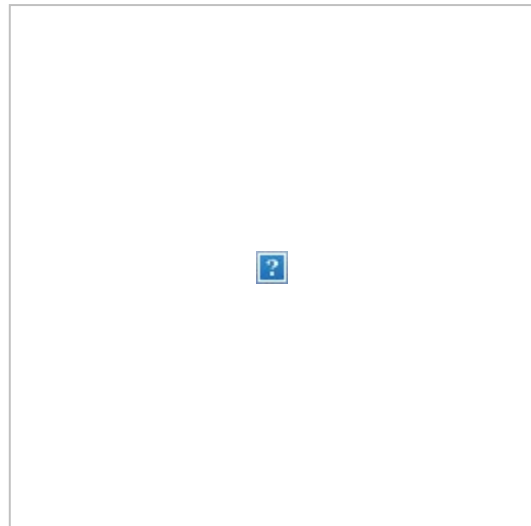
[**MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials**](#)

Amid a busy start for the 2023-24 legislative session and the new Healey-Driscoll administration, the MMA's Legislative team hosted a briefing webinar for local officials today to provide updates on key legislative matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



[**EPA seeks to regulate 6 PFAS in drinking water nationwide**](#)

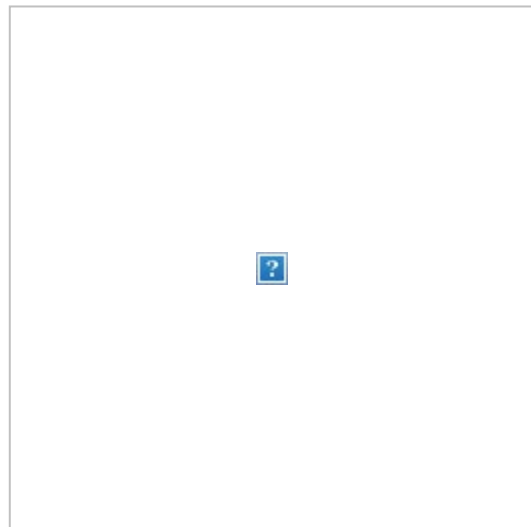
On March 14, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a new regulatory proposal to set enforceable limits on six PFAS, known as “forever chemicals,” in drinking water across the nation. ...



[**Administration announces end of COVID public health emergency**](#)

Three years after it began, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state's COVID-19 public health emergency will end on May 11, to align with the end of the federal public health emergency.

...



[**MMA webinar shares effective internal conflict resolution strategies**](#)

An MMA webinar today covered how to skillfully manage internal conflict, neutralize its negative effects, and maintain a positive and healthy work culture. ...



2nd session of ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar series is April 19

“The Interview Process,” the second session in the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” webinar series, will be held on April 19. ...



MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state’s public records and open meeting laws. ...



Communities form new coalition to facilitate broadband efforts

More than 25 cities and towns have

formed a coalition to facilitate networking among communities with broadband ambitions. ...



[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



New in [Resources](#)

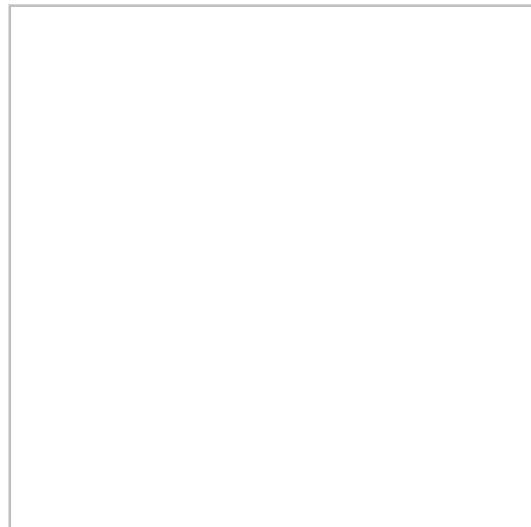
[Seven Strategies to Minimize Negative Impacts of Outdoor Light at Night](#)

In Case You Missed It

[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Administration is accepting project proposals and grant applications through April 13 for the Low or No Emission (Low-No)

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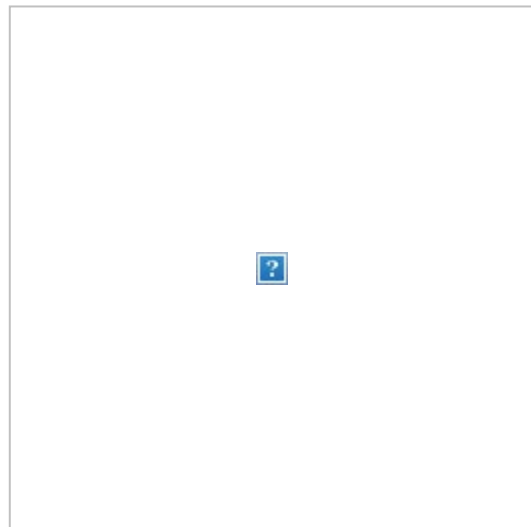
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[MMA Policy Briefing Webinar: The Future of Cannabis & Municipalities](#) - April 6

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: The Interview Process](#) - April 19

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Webinar](#) - April 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association statewide meeting](#) - April 27

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium](#) - April 28

[Association of Town Finance Committees Spring Conference](#) - April 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources HR101 bootcamp](#) - May 11

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: What Happens After the Offer](#) - May 17

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Director, Town Clerk, Youth Development Coordinator, Network

Engineer, Fire Chief, ARPA Grants Manager, Land Use Planner and Facilities Coordinator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[CCC approves extensive revisions to marijuana regulations](#)

On Sept. 22, the Cannabis Control Commission voted, 3-1, to approve extensive revisions to state regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana. ...

[House, Senate send tax relief bill to governor's desk](#)

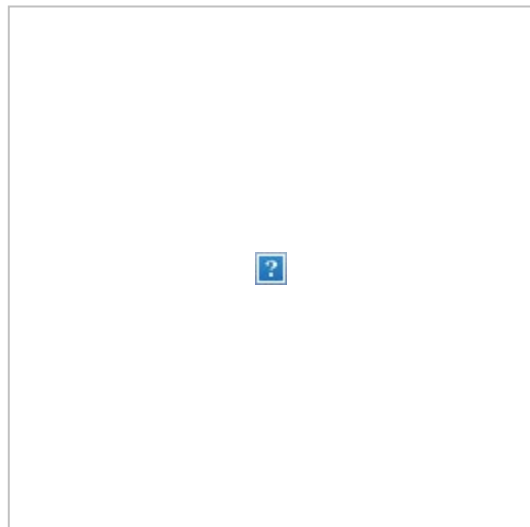
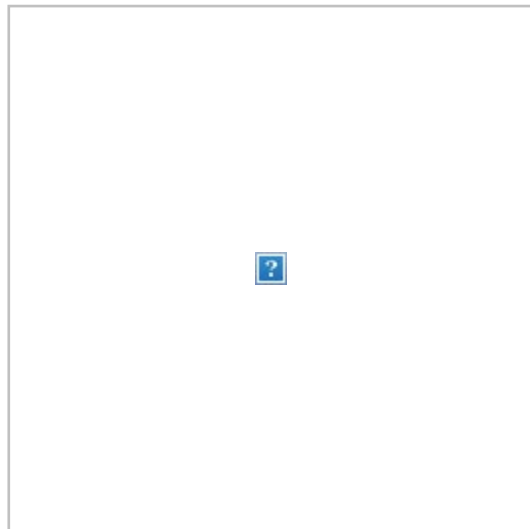
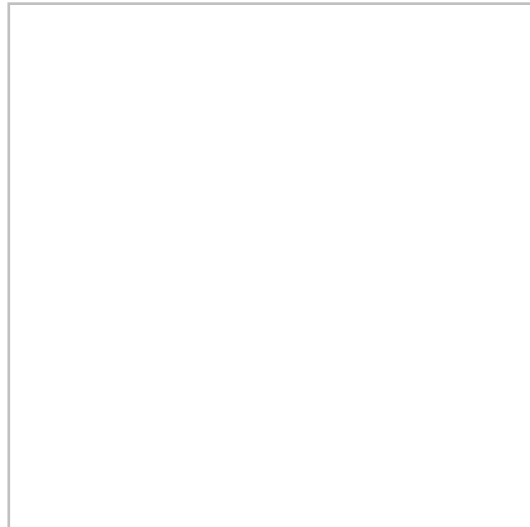
The House and Senate have passed a compromise tax relief bill that would provide \$561 million in tax breaks and credits this year, with the value growing to approximately \$1 billion once the law is fully implemented in 2027. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...

[What to know about \\$325M for municipal roads, bridges in FY24](#)

A bond terms bill signed by Gov.



Maura Healey on Sept. 12 concludes the legislative process for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2024 and will enable the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to process reimbursements for approved projects. ...



[MMA webinar shares tips for communicating with constituents](#)

An MMA webinar yesterday discussed how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to your target audience. ...



[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[MunEnergy to hold webinar on winter energy costs](#)

On Oct. 24 at noon, the MunEnergy

program will hold a one-hour webinar to provide timely information about winter energy costs and what winter weather will mean for energy markets. ...



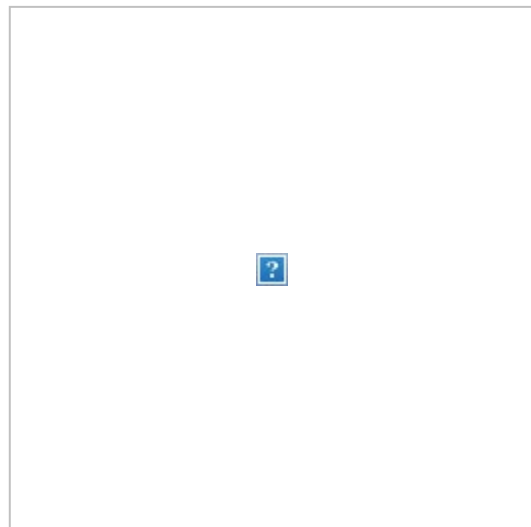
[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



[AG holds webinars to help government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA weighs in on several bills related to procurement before the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee](#)

On Sept. 22, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Communication Foundations webinar](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MSA seeks nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its

2024 Board of Directors. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



[MTF webinar will explore migration trends and their impact on Mass.](#)

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



[Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted](#)

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

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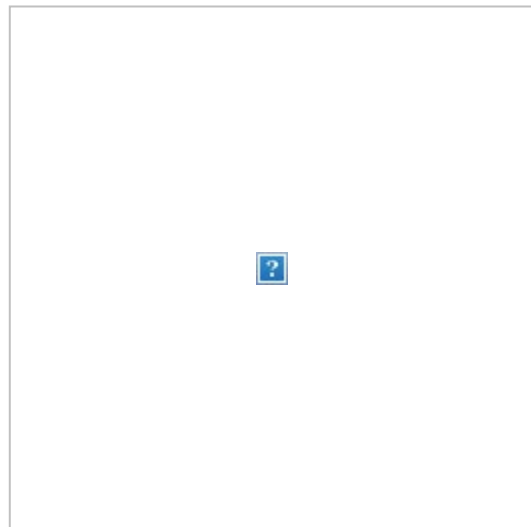
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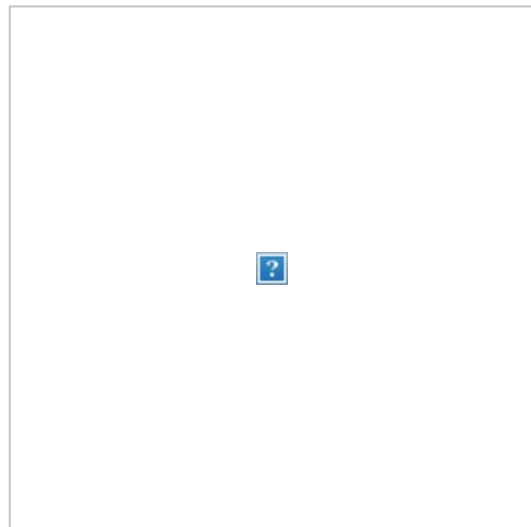
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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[MMA hosts webinar on regulatory developments related to cannabis](#)

The MMA held a virtual briefing today to discuss regulatory developments at the Cannabis Control Commission and how regulations being developed for

three areas — host community agreements, municipal equity, and social consumption — will impact municipalities. ...

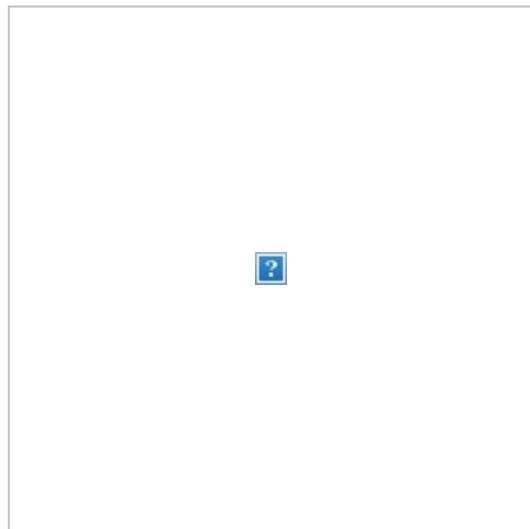
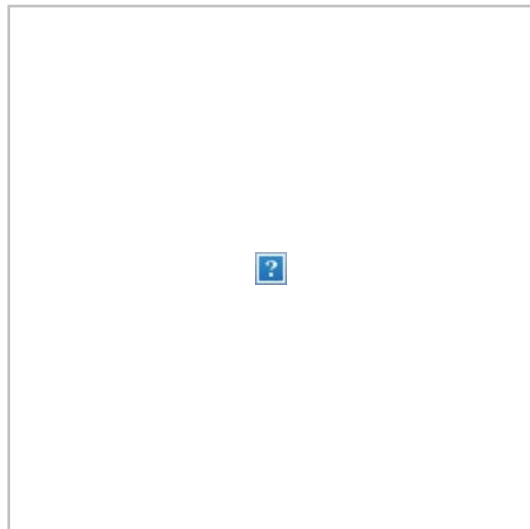
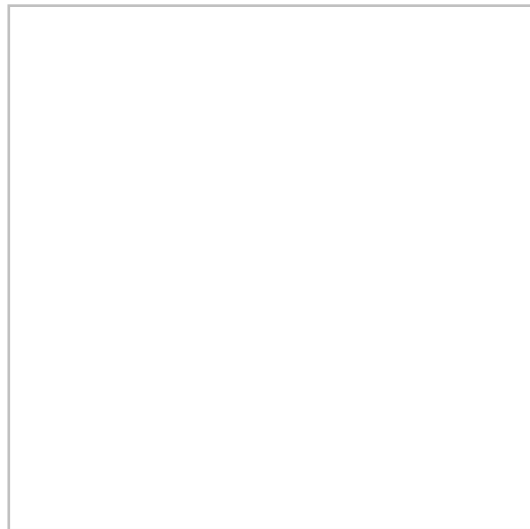
[**MMA publishes April issue of The Beacon**](#)

The MMA today published the April 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

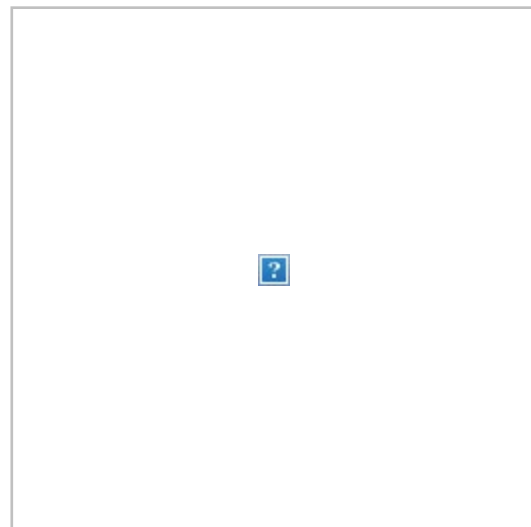
[**Officials discuss unique challenges facing western and rural Mass.**](#)

Municipal officials from across the western part of the state gathered on April 1 in Holyoke to hear from state officials and legislators about priorities and opportunities for collaboration. ...

[**MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program**](#)

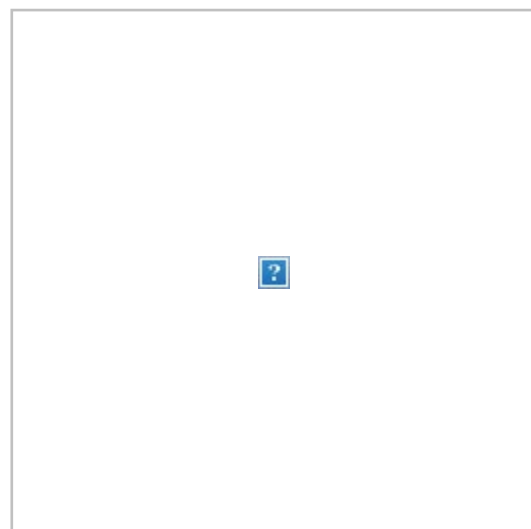


The application deadline is April 30 for the MMA and Suffolk University's Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs scheduled for this fall. ...



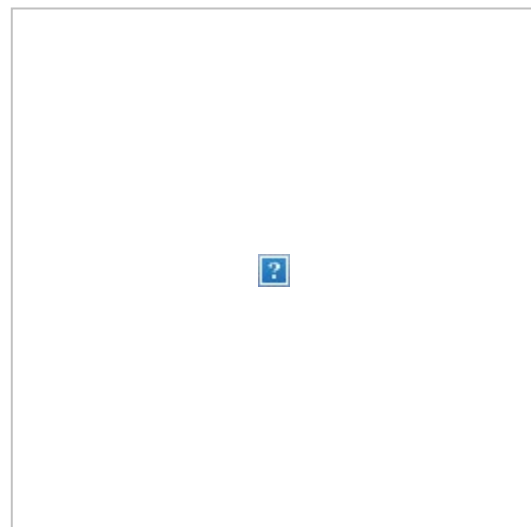
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A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



Franklin County, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket team up to improve road safety

Relying on their shared rural character instead of geographic proximity, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and the communities of Franklin County are sharing a federal grant to improve road safety. ...



[Northampton creates new climate department](#)

Hoping to inject climate awareness into all of City Hall's operations, Northampton is assembling a new department that focuses on climate change and sustainability. ...



[Police turn to co-response protocol for mental health crises](#)

Local police departments are increasingly implementing "co-response" protocols for calls involving mental health crises, where a licensed social worker serves on department staff and responds to calls alongside police officers. ...



[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[DEI builds stronger, healthier communities](#)

On March 31, Executive Director's Report

[MMA joins firefighters, fire chiefs and ambulance association in asking legislators to help address staffing crisis impacting emergency medical service providers](#)

On March 31, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

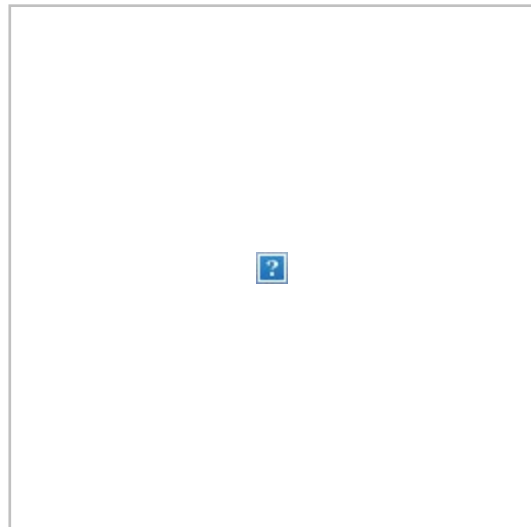
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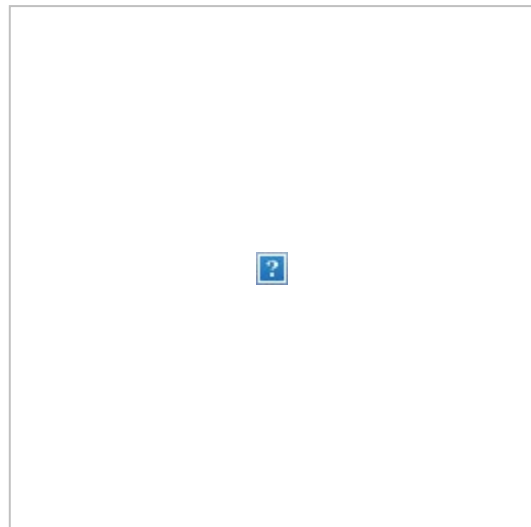
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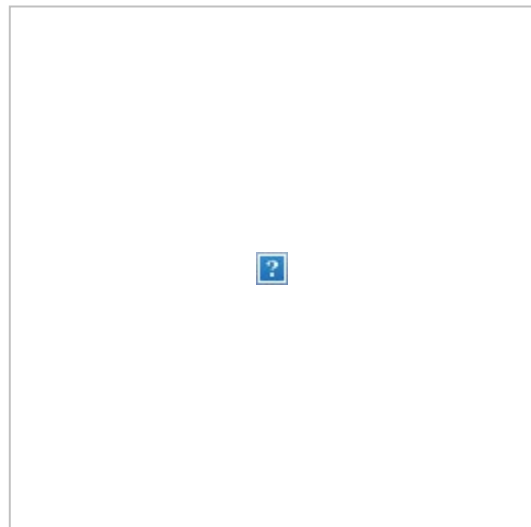
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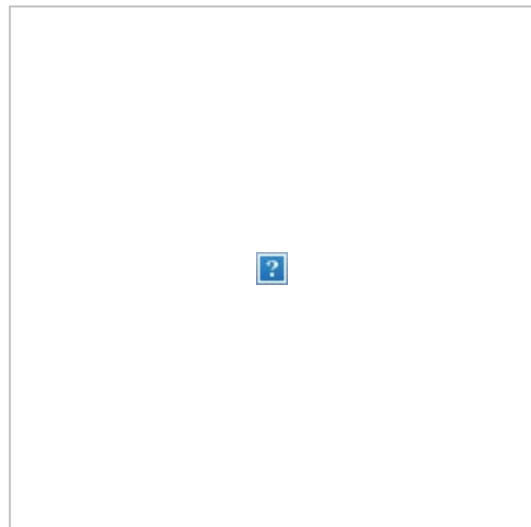
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[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: What Happens After the Offer](#) - May 17

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 44 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Town Planner, Application Specialist, Project Manager, Building Commissioner, Heavy Equipment Operator, Staff Accountant and Principal Assessor. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[Administration announces \\$164M in Community One Stop for Growth grants](#)

At an event in Revere today, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced \$164 million for 338 grant awards through the Community

One Stop for Growth program to support local economic development projects in 161 communities across the state. ...

[Climate chief makes recommendations for addressing climate crisis](#)

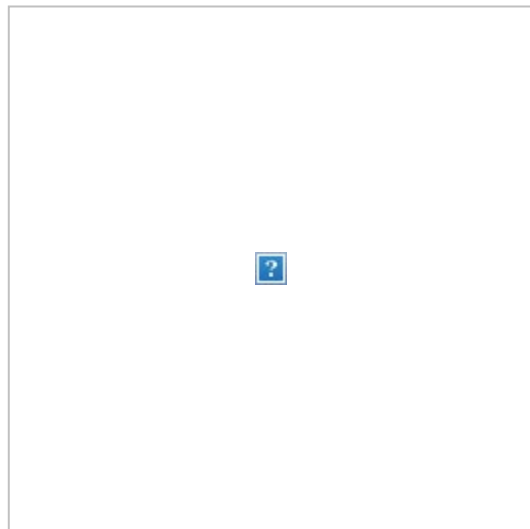
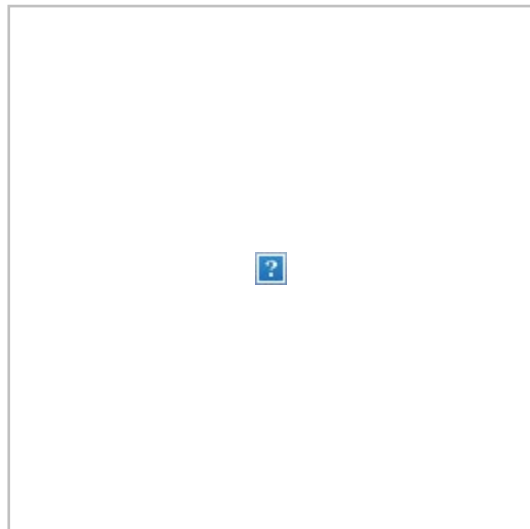
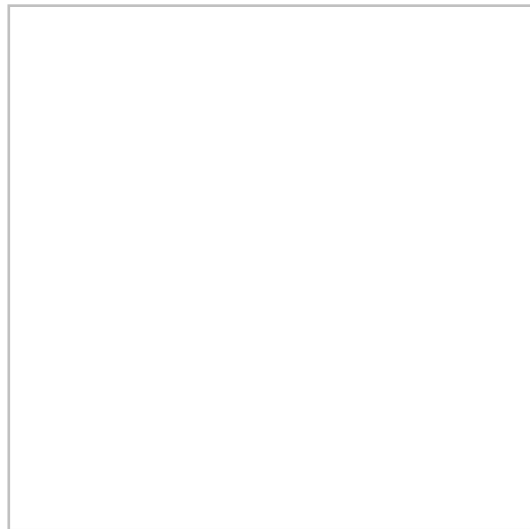
The state's climate chief, Melissa Hoffer, published a report today with recommendations to implement the Healey-Driscoll administration's whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis. ...

[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...

[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free,



75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[New podcast highlights Mass. as age- and dementia-friendly leader](#)

The administration on Oct. 10 announced the release of a podcast series on age- and dementia-friendly innovations across Massachusetts called “ReiMAging Aging.” ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate

Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



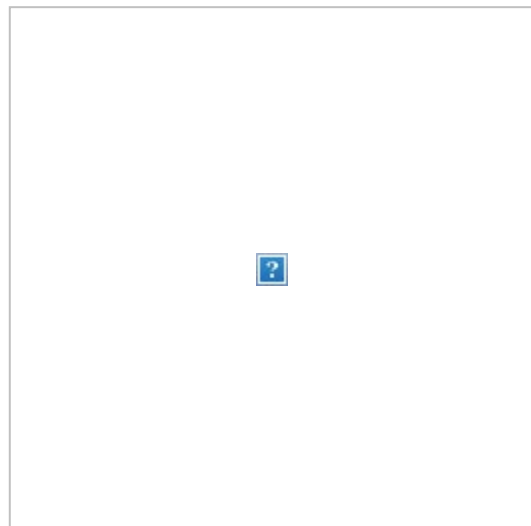
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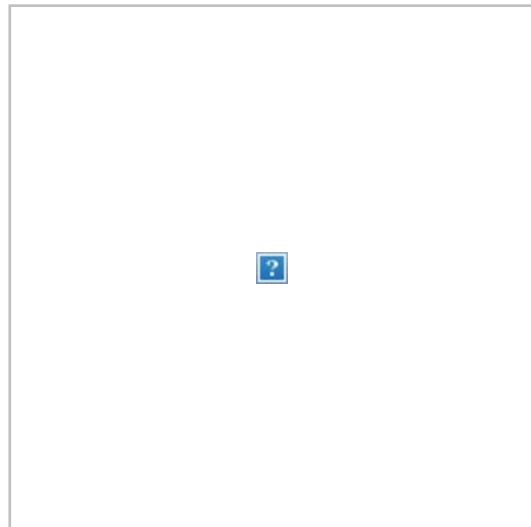


[Timely responses sought for Survey of Occupational Injuries](#)

and Illnesses

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is reminding selected municipal departments to continue their record-keeping efforts needed to complete the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, a federal/state program that collects information on and provides estimates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses.

...



New in Advocacy

[MMA urges State Administration Committee to support bills to enhance grant opportunities for rural communities and provide for alternative delivery of infrastructure projects](#)

On Oct. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Live Demonstration of COMMBUYS webinar](#) - Nov. 7

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Embracing Critical Feedback webinar](#) - Nov. 8

[State-Level Disaster Response and The Recovery Process for Municipalities webinar](#) - Nov. 13

[Running an Effective Meeting: How to Set Yourself Up for Success webinar](#) - Nov. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-

[Legislative Session Review webinar](#) - Nov. 20

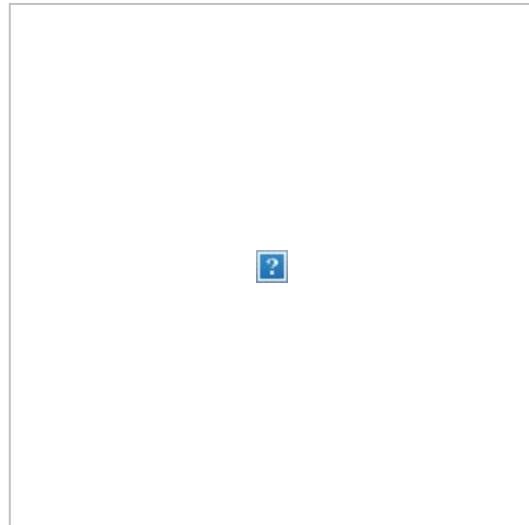
[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

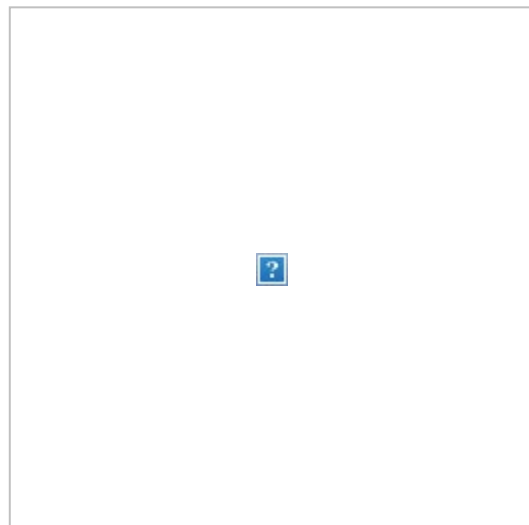
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[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Webinar will cover upcoming SCOTUS cases affecting local government](#)

The Local Government Legal Center will host a free webinar on Oct. 31 to discuss the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court term and cases relevant to local governments. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

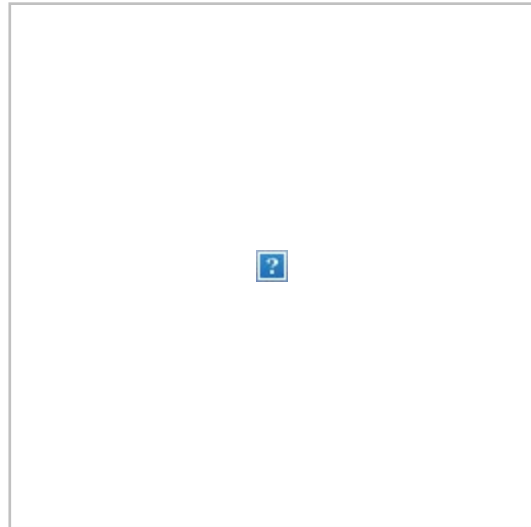
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[AG holds webinars to help](#)

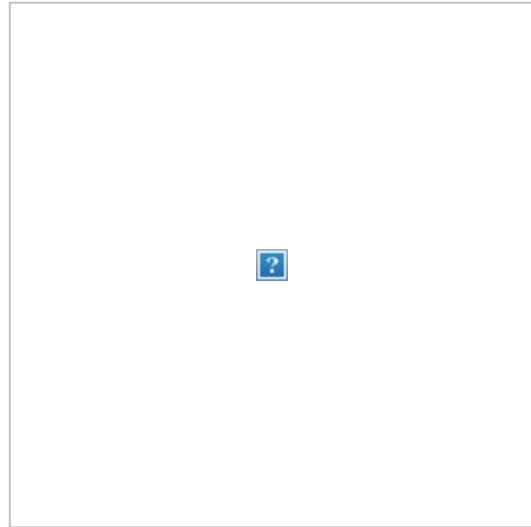
[government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

[Executive Assistant](#)

[Human Resources Manager](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 62 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Library Director, Local Building Inspector, Social Worker, Communications Specialist, Public Health Agent, Finance Director and Town Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[House releases FY24 state budget proposal](#)

The House Committee on Ways and Means today released a \$56.2 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2024 that will be taken up by the full House later this month. ...

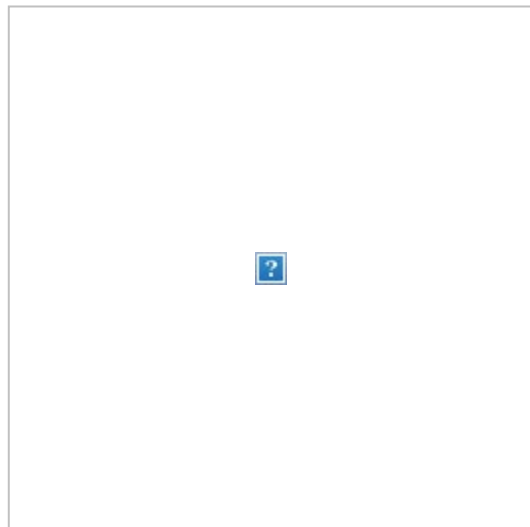
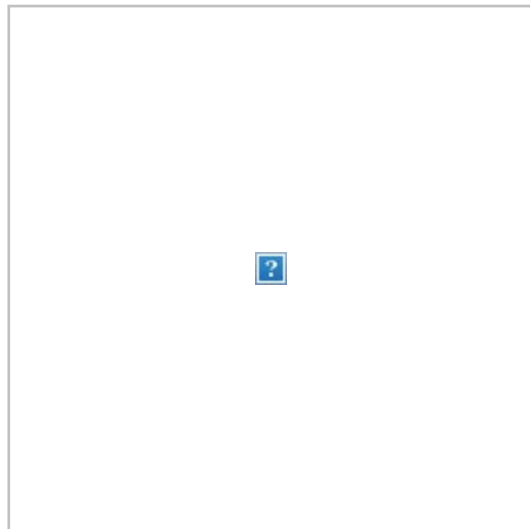
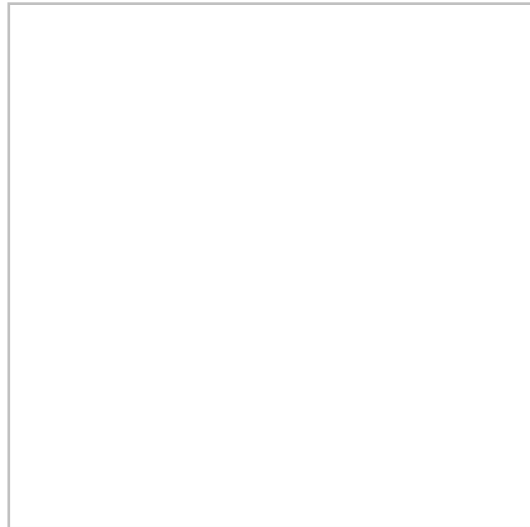
[Deadline is Friday for MSBA Core Program Statements of Interest](#)

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is reminding school districts that they have until Friday to submit Core Program Statements of Interest for consideration in 2023. ...

[MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Boylston on May 11](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 11 in Boylston. ...

[2nd session of 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series is April 19](#)



“The Interview Process,” the second session in the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” webinar series, will be held on April 19. ...



[MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state’s public records and open meeting laws. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[In developing regulations, MMA urges CCC to avoid infringing on existing host community agreements](#)

On April 10, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program](#)

The application deadline is April 30

for the MMA and Suffolk University's Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs scheduled for this fall. ...



[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



[Electric and alternative vehicle charging infrastructure grant opens](#)

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI program), a new competitive grant program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration, is accepting applications through May 30. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

MassHousing has opened the application period for the Planning for Housing Production Grant Program, which provides cities and towns with the technical capacity needed to implement local planning and transform priority development sites into new affordable homes. ...

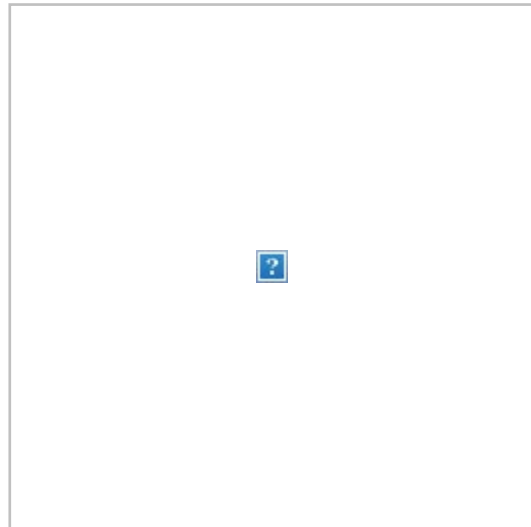


[Municipalities must respond by April 18 for additional opioid settlement funds](#)

In late 2022, the Attorney General's Office announced proposed opioid settlements with Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, Walmart and CVS, which will bring additional funds for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery across Massachusetts. ...



[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: The Interview Process](#) - April 19

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Webinar](#) - April 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association statewide meeting](#) - April 27

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium](#) - April 28

[Association of Town Finance Committees Spring Conference](#) - April 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources HR101 bootcamp](#) - May 11

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: What Happens After the Offer](#) - May 17

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-](#)

[Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Director of Finance, Assistant Planner, Grants Administrative Assistant, Fire Chief, ISD Paralegal, Building Commissioner, Health Agent and Maintenance Craftsperson. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, Nov. 9.

[Administration gives emergency
shelter update as system
approaches limit](#)

With the emergency family shelter
system quickly approaching its

capacity limit, the administration gave an update today on next steps.

...

[MMA publishes November issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the November 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including federal grant opportunities, the emergency shelter system, and climate change, plus details about the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show and other upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[MMA Annual Meeting planning continues](#)

Planning continues for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held in person on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...

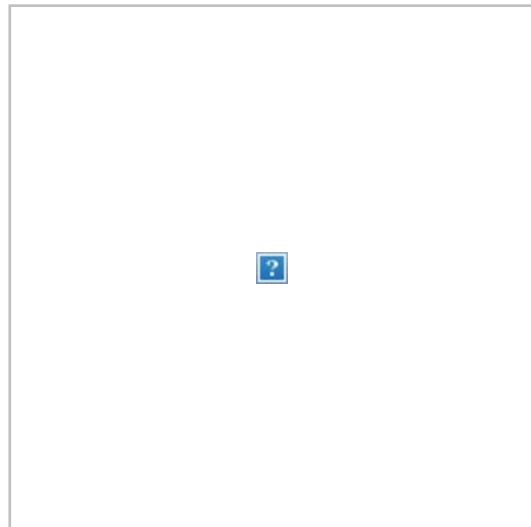
[MMA's DEI work moving forward](#)



[on several tracks](#)

The MMA is continuing to move forward with its diversity, equity and inclusion work on a number of fronts.

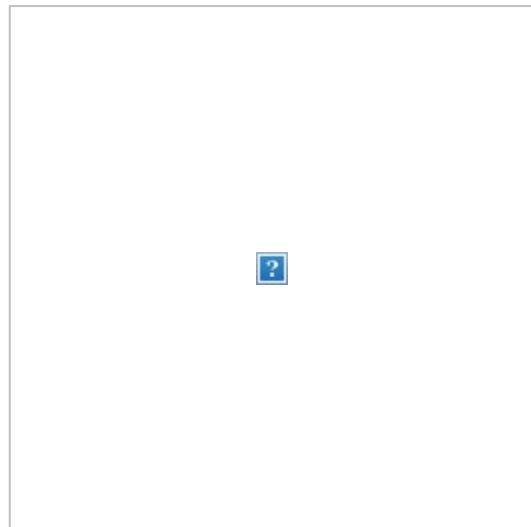
...



[Final CCC marijuana regulations published](#)

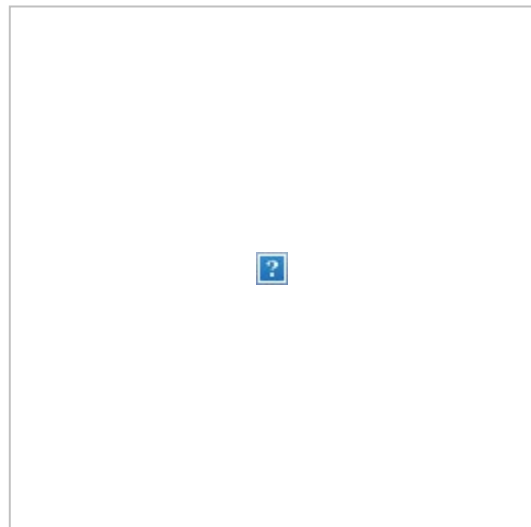
The Secretary of the Commonwealth on Oct. 27 published the Cannabis Control Commission's final updated regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana, the final step in enacting the new regulations.

...



[MMA holds fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#)

On two Fridays in October, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a

virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free, 75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[Changes proposed for CDBG one-year action plan for FY24](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is proposing changes to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program for federal fiscal 2024. ...



[Applications for sewage notification grant program due Nov. 10](#)

Regional and municipal wastewater utilities have until Nov. 10 to apply for a grant to help them meet notification requirements for wastewater discharges. ...



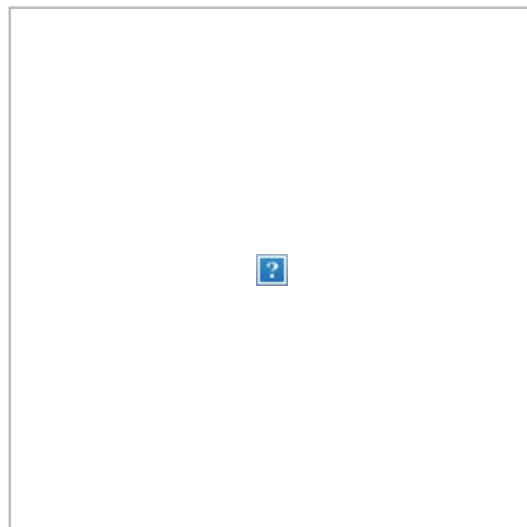
[Federal funding available for EV charging infrastructure](#)

Applications are due by Nov. 13 for up to \$100 million in federal funding available for the repair and replacement of non-operational electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[MassDEP awards \\$5.2M to support recycling, composting and waste reduction](#)

On Sept. 28, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced the award of \$5.2 million in grants to 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts for recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[On migrant shelter crisis, cities and towns need help in 3 key areas](#)

On Nov. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support bills to label wipe products with “Do Not Flush” to avoid costly wastewater problems](#)

On Oct. 25, Testimony

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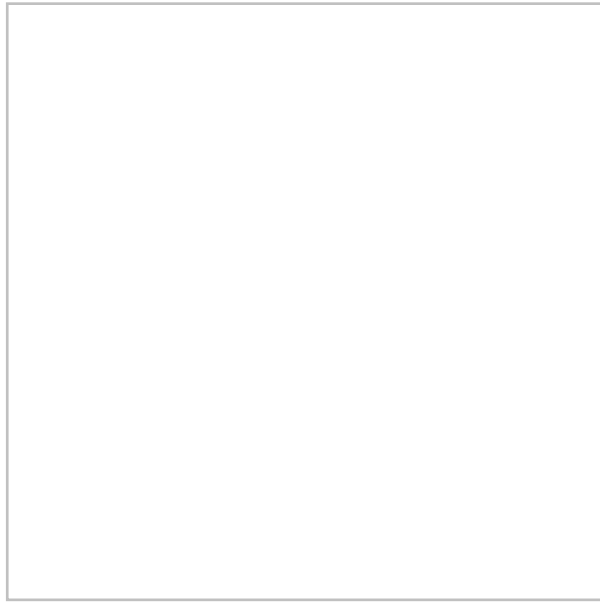
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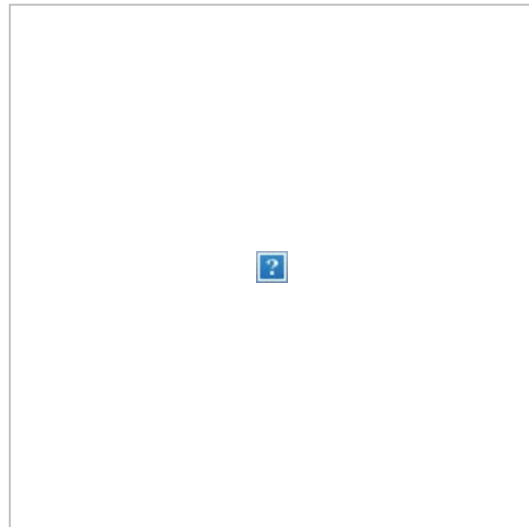
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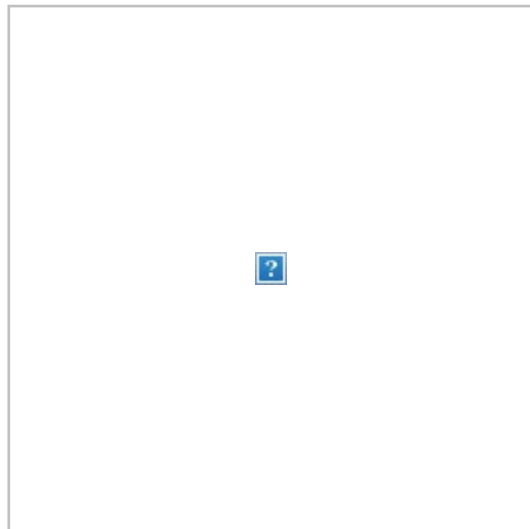
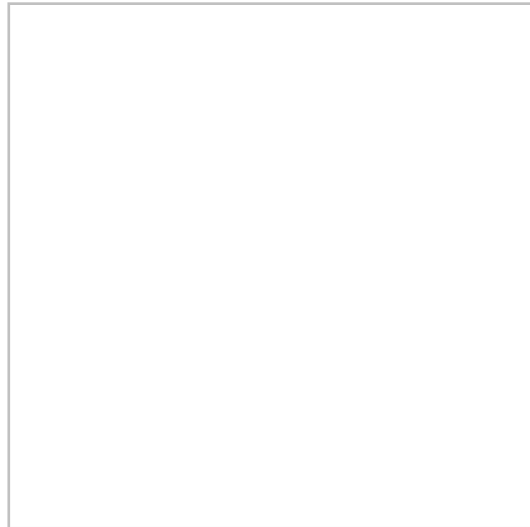


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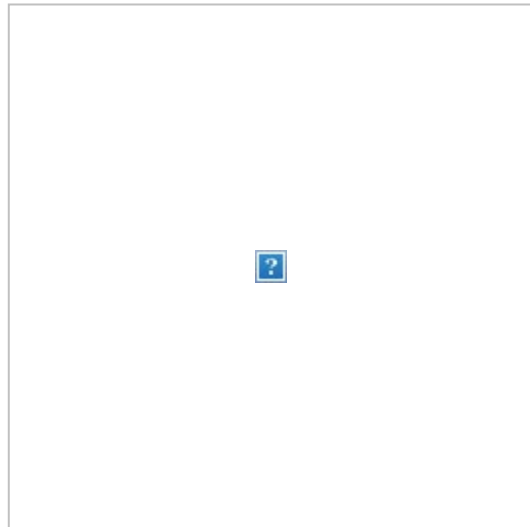
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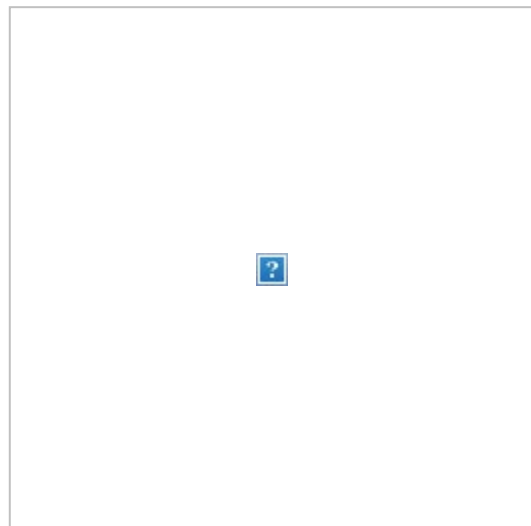
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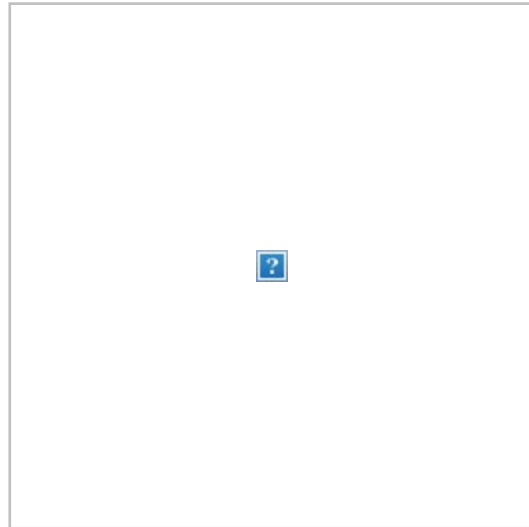
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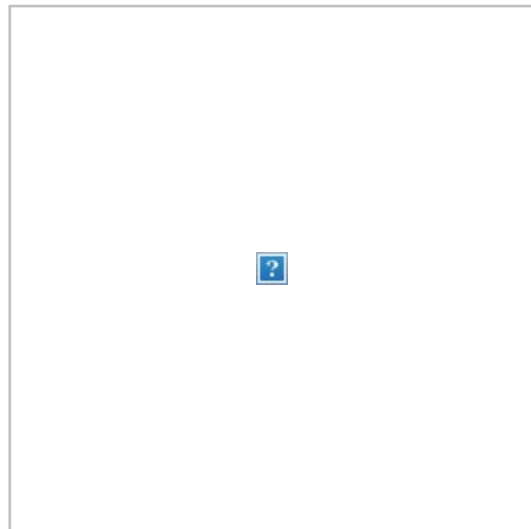
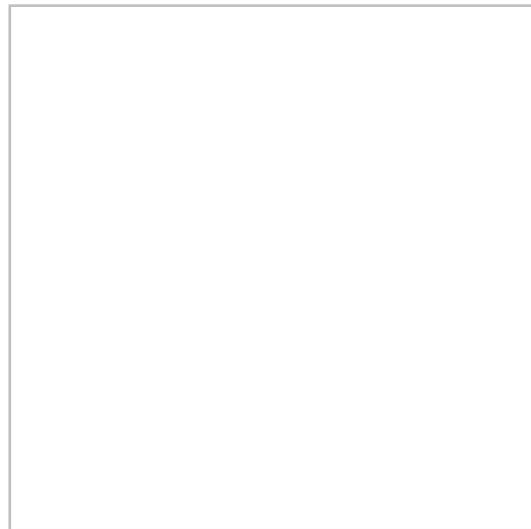
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[Voters elect 33 mayors across Massachusetts](#)

Voters yesterday elected mayors in 33 cities across the state, including nine new mayors. ...

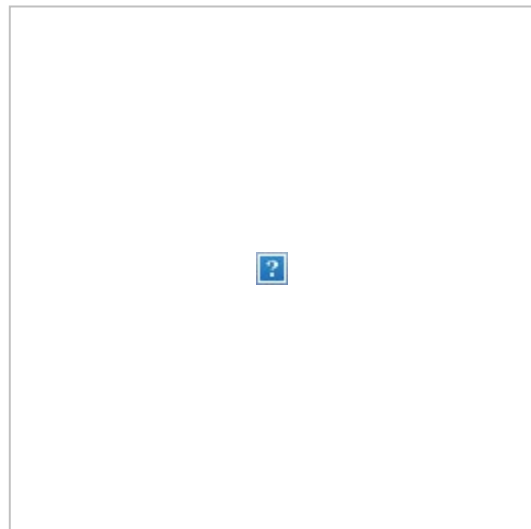
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[Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program opens](#)

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



[MMA webinar to review state-level disaster response protocol](#)

The MMA will host a free, one-hour

webinar on Nov. 13 with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency sharing municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

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[House, Senate adopt wage equity bill](#)

The House and Senate have both adopted their own versions of legislation aimed at closing gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



[‘Form of Government FAQ’ webinar is Nov. 29](#)

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[Broadband Institute launches \\$145M Gap Networks Infrastructure Grant Program](#)

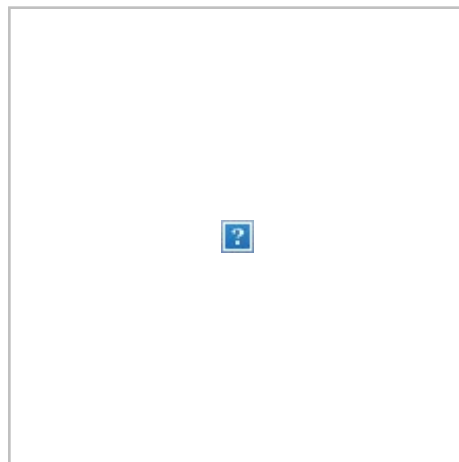
The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...



[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

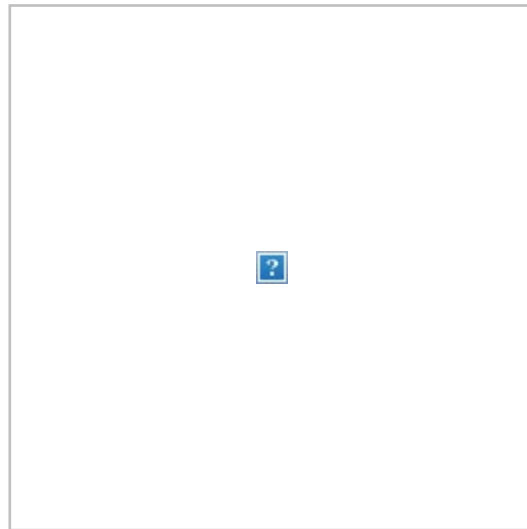
The Municipal Vulnerability

Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal 2025 Action Grant round. ...



[DOER launches Climate Leader program, awards green grants](#)

The Department of Energy Resources has announced a new program that builds on the Green Communities designation and grant program. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Municipalities and Regional Government Committee to support bill to expand the uses of water banking](#)

On Oct. 24, Testimony

[MMA urges Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to support bills to expedite removal of doubled up utility poles](#)

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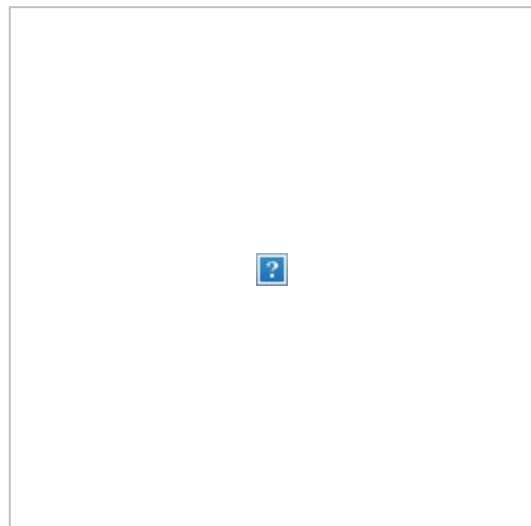
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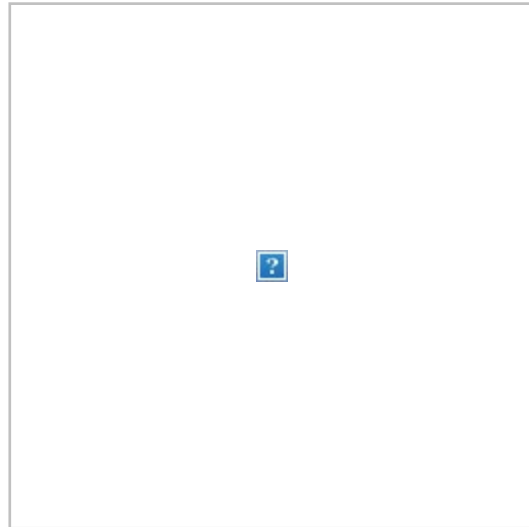
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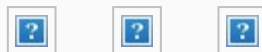
ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 32 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Neighborhood Planner, Assistant Assessor, Water Sewer Foreman, Patrol Officer, Conservation and Planning Agent, Program Coordinator and Director of Public Works. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[FY24 MVP Action Grant applications due May 4](#)

Applications are due by 2 p.m. on May 4 for fiscal 2024 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants, which offer financial assistance to communities seeking

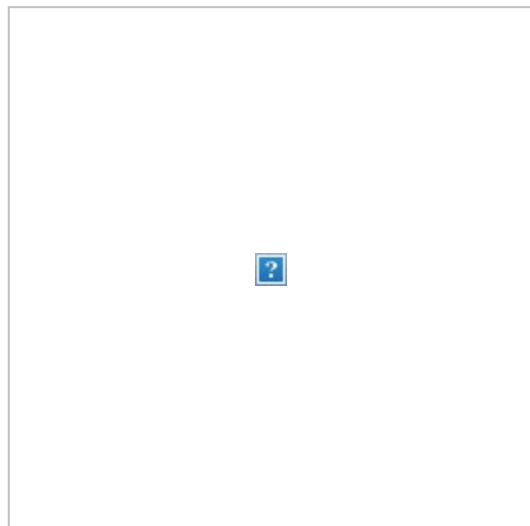
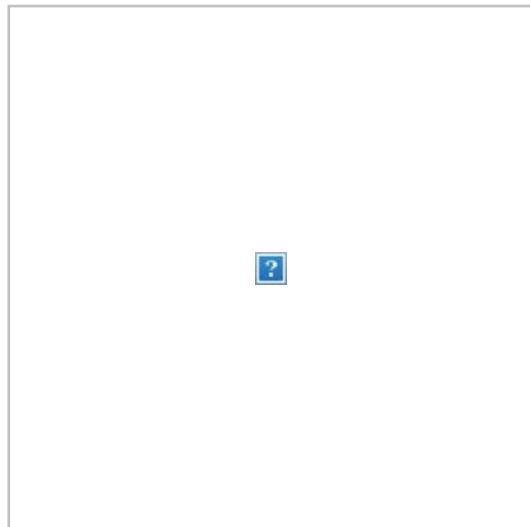
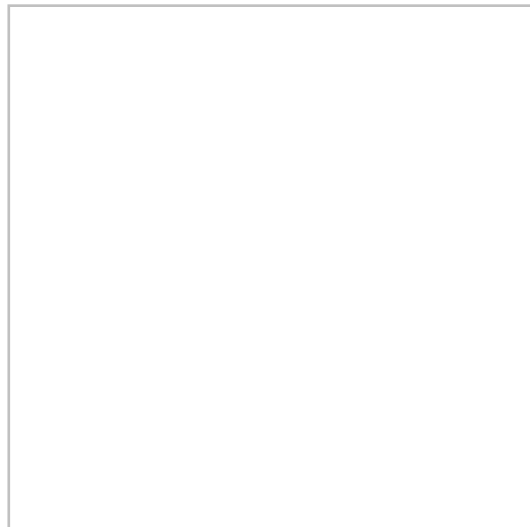
to address climate change impacts such as extreme weather and heat, sea level rise, flooding of inland and coastal areas, and other impacts. ...

[CCC working groups seek comment on regulatory areas under review](#)

Three working groups set up by the Cannabis Control Commission are seeking public comment through April 28 on areas where the CCC is reviewing its regulations and considering policy changes that respond to a comprehensive cannabis law enacted in August 2022. ...

[Administration awards \\$1.3B in loans, grants for water infrastructure projects](#)

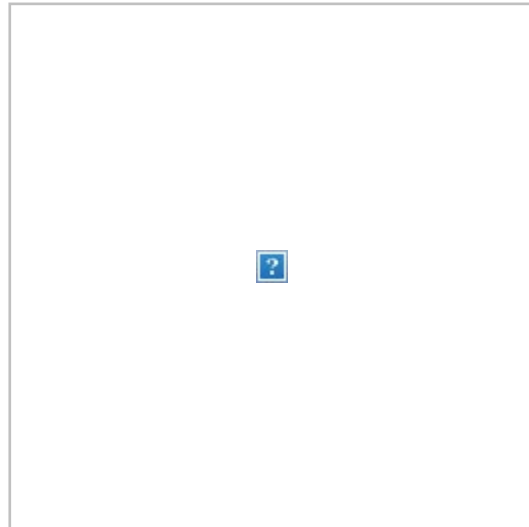
On April 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced that 185 projects across the Commonwealth are eligible to receive approximately \$1.3 billion in low-interest-rate loans and grants to fund construction, planning and asset management projects designed to improve water quality, upgrade or replace aging drinking water and wastewater



infrastructure, and cut treatment plant energy use and costs. ...

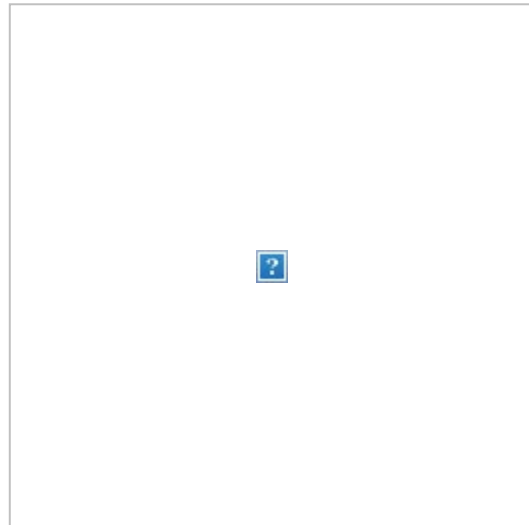
[Grants awarded for municipal clean energy projects](#)

On April 10, the Department of Energy Resources awarded 24 grants totaling \$344,736 to cities and towns across the Commonwealth to support clean energy projects. ...



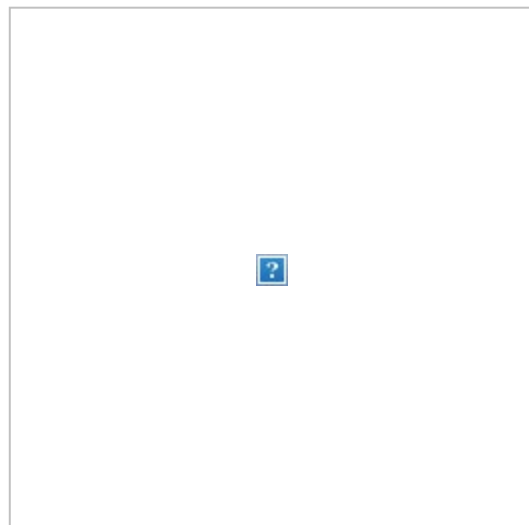
[CISA and partners release 'Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities'](#)

An international coalition of cybersecurity agencies today announced the publication of "Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities." ...



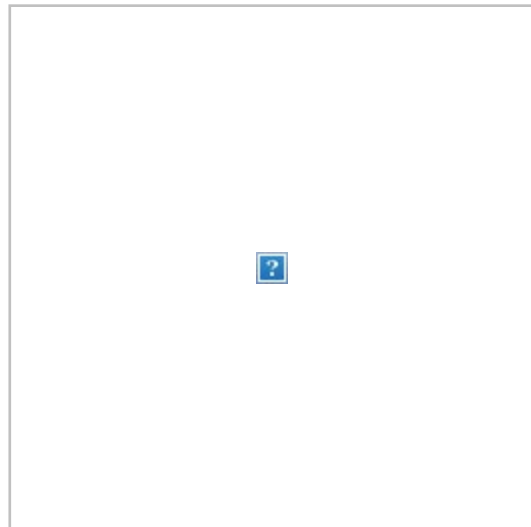
[AG reminds employers about laws for youth employment](#)

With summer employment on the horizon, the office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell is reminding municipal officials of the laws relating to employment of workers under the age of 18. ...



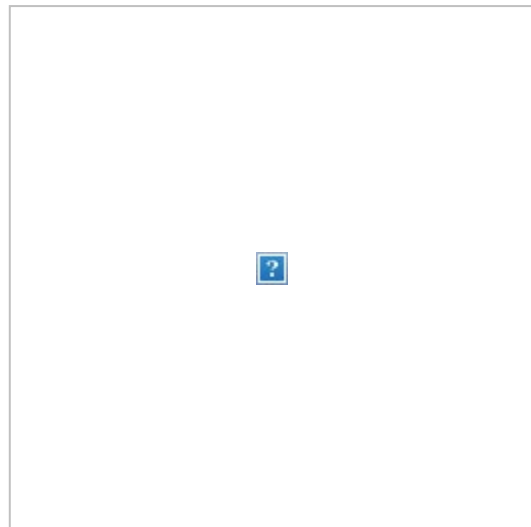
[Interview process is topic of 2nd 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar](#)

The MMA today hosted the second in a series of webinars for municipal officials to showcase timely hiring strategies to help communities succeed in a tight labor market. ...



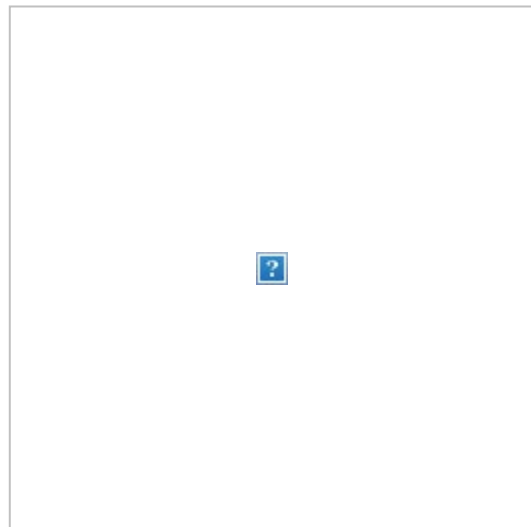
[MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



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[MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Boylston on May 11](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 11 in Boylston. ...



[May 23 webinar to offer practical guidelines for affordable housing](#)

A free MMA webinar on May 23 will discuss the “why” behind affordable housing and highlight the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...



[Newly enhanced BioMap available to support local conservation efforts](#)

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy have enhanced an online resource, known as BioMap, that identifies critical lands and waters throughout Massachusetts most in need of conservation. ...



[MMA urges House members to support and build on impressive investments in House budget bill](#)

On April 20, Testimony

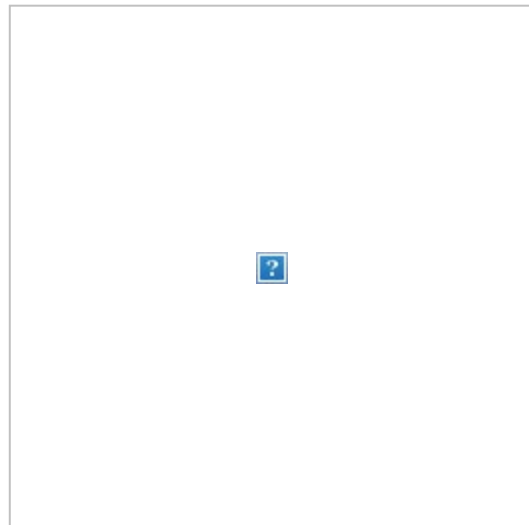
New in [Resources](#)

[Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities](#)

In Case You Missed It

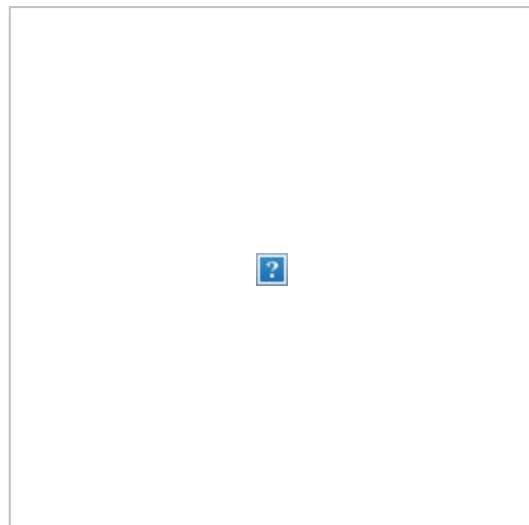
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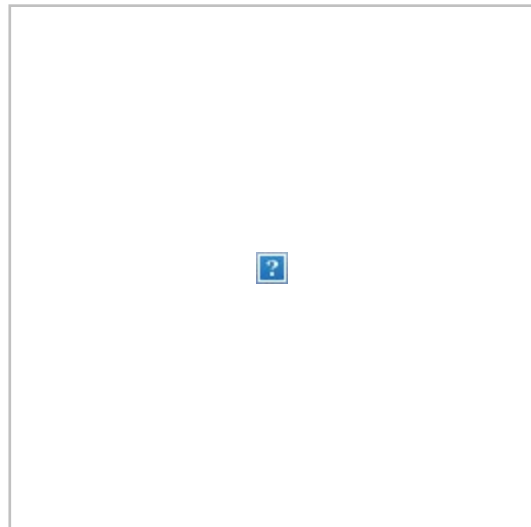
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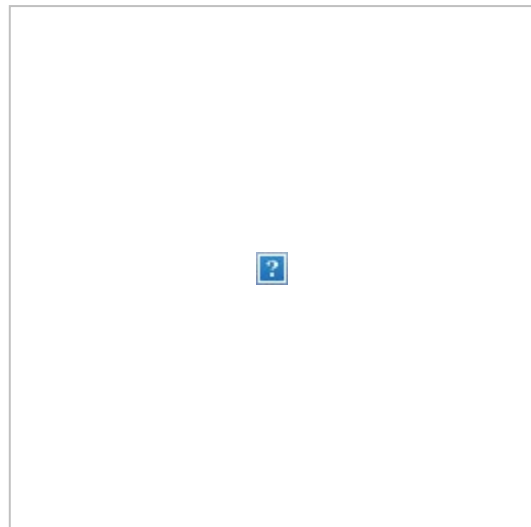
[federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

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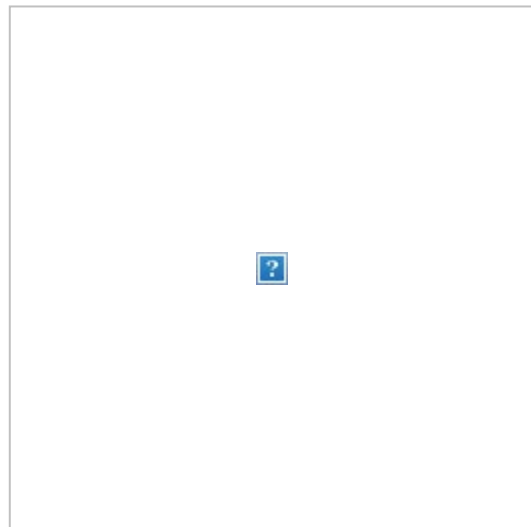
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New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

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Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Webinar](#) - April 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association statewide meeting](#) - April 27

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium](#) - April 28

[Association of Town Finance Committees Spring Conference](#) - April 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources HR101 bootcamp](#) - May 11

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: What Happens After the Offer](#) - May 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association webinar](#) - May 18

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects and Grant Manager, Park and Tree Superintendent, Head Clerk, City Treasurer/Collector, Economic Development Planner, Data Analyst and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be back in your inbox on Dec. 1.

[Conference committee takes up
FY23 closeout supplemental
budget](#)

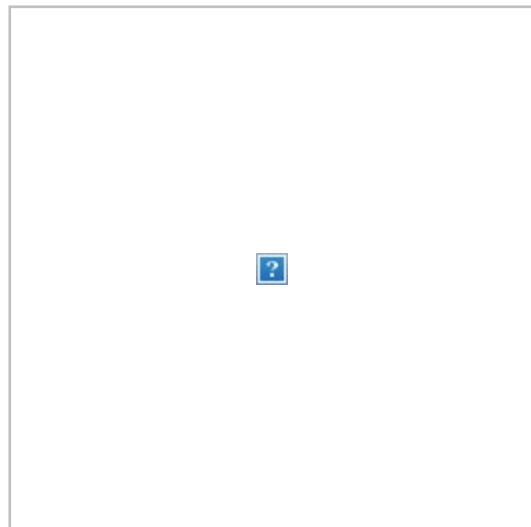
As the formal legislative session

came to a close for the calendar year yesterday, the House and Senate were unable to reach a consensus on a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget bill, and a six-member conference committee was named to resolve differences between the two branches. ...



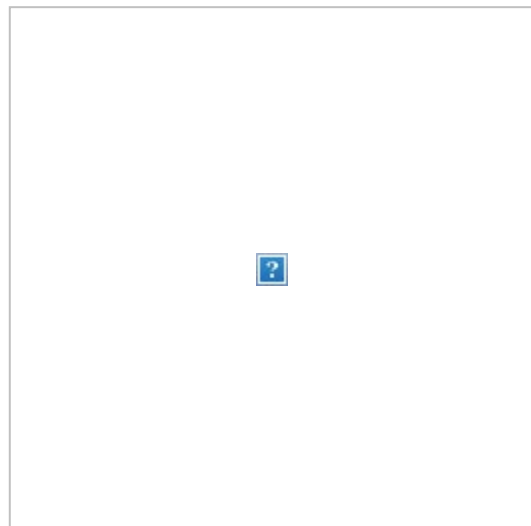
[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MEMA's role in municipal disaster response](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency shared municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar shares best practices and pitfalls of meeting](#)

[management](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed best practices for running an effective meeting from start to finish.

...



[MMHR seminar focuses on DEI, negotiations, accommodations, health plans](#)

Diversity, equity and inclusion, union contract negotiations, reasonable ADA accommodations, and health plan conversations were the main topics of the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Labor Relations Seminar on Oct. 27 in Devens. ...



[Augustus to address MSA Leadership Conference on Dec. 8](#)

Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Leadership Conference on Dec. 8 in Stow. ...



[MBI seeks feedback on Internet for All plan](#)

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts

Broadband Institute opened a month-long public comment period to gather feedback about the state's Internet for All Plan. ...



'Form of Government FAQ' webinar is Nov. 29

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association will host a "Form of Government FAQ" webinar for all MMA members on Nov. 29 from noon to 1 p.m. ...



MMA to host 2nd annual POST update

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...



Gov. appoints Monica Tibbits-Nutt as Transportation secretary

Gov. Maura Healey today

announced that she is appointing Monica Tibbits-Nutt as secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation effective today. ...



Worcester receives federal funds for lead remediation

Worcester has received a \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a lead hazard reduction program for qualified property owners. The city plans to use the grant to rehabilitate 165 units that house low-income families with children. ...



Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge consolidate building inspection services

Faced with a staffing crunch and a lack of qualified job applicants in the region, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge have created a regional building inspection department to serve the four towns. ...



Reading looks to address flooding, watershed concerns

In collaboration with regional

partners, the town of Reading has embarked on a project to reduce the effects of precipitation-based flooding from the Aberjona River, a Mystic River tributary, by constructing a stormwater wetland storage system, essentially a series of storage pools. ...



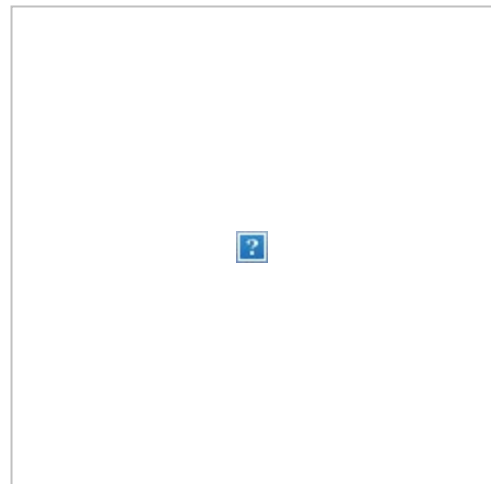
[Guidance released to help municipalities promote EV charging infrastructure](#)

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council and RMI have released a free guidance document designed to help municipalities as they develop and implement strategies to provide their communities with electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[Rural community leaders invited to apply for Reaching Rural Initiative Fellowships](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance will be selecting a new group of fellows to participate in a rural leadership program called Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions. ...



[Now is the time to prepare for winter maintenance emergencies](#)

With unpredictable weather patterns

and a volatile property insurance market, it's more crucial than ever to complete comprehensive maintenance protocols ahead of winter. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Education Committee to support bills targeting challenges facing rural school districts, MSBA rules, transportation for out-of-district vocational education, and special ed costs](#)

On Nov. 8, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

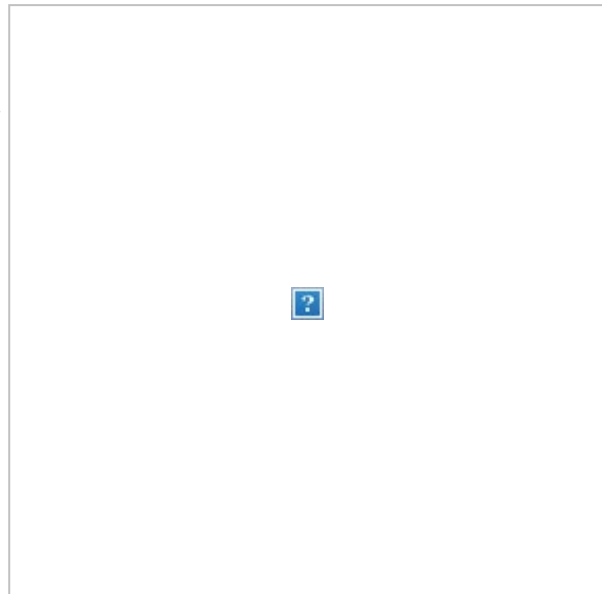
[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Legislative Session Review webinar](#) - Nov. 20

[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association newly elected training](#) - Nov. 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Dec. 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[Goal Setting webinar](#) - Jan. 9

[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

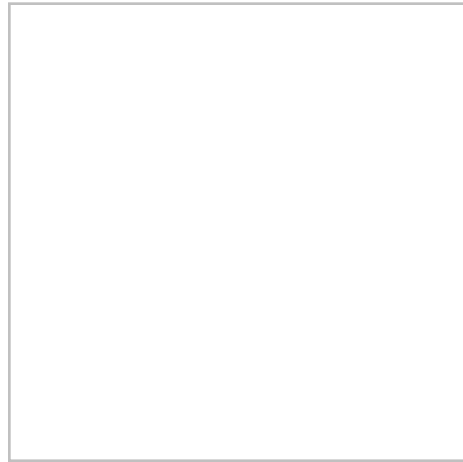
[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

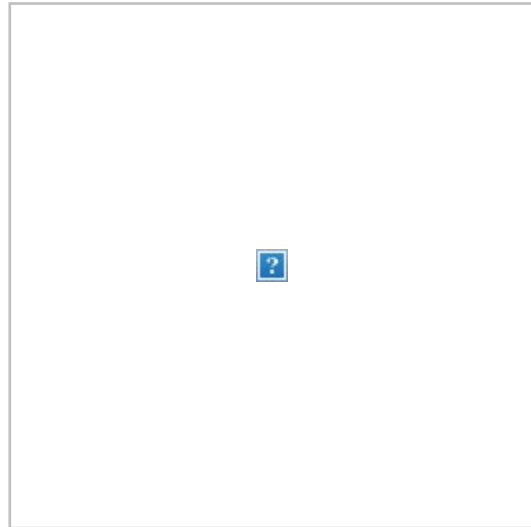
The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal

2025 Action Grant round. ...



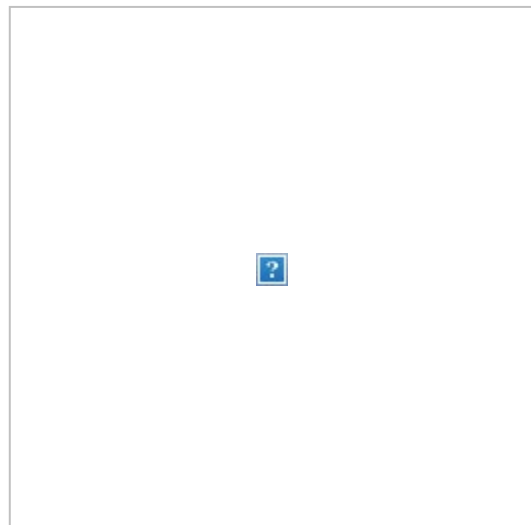
**Broadband Institute launches
\$145M Gap Networks
Infrastructure Grant Program**

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...



**Municipal Cybersecurity
Awareness Grant Program opens**

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



**State offers grants for AED
equipment**

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds

available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

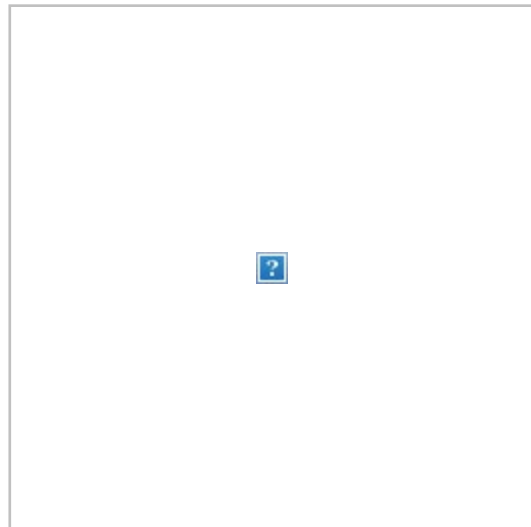
The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and](#)

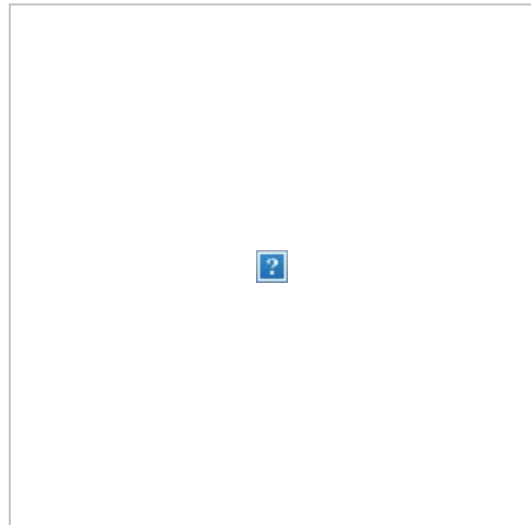
[heavy-duty vehicles](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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We've added 56 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Treasurer, DPW Project Manager, House Inspector, Assessor Data Manager, Downtown/Business Coordinator, City Solicitor, Social Service Specialist and Library Associate. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[House approves \\$56.2B state budget for FY24](#)

On Wednesday evening, the House of Representatives approved a \$56.2 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2024 that would increase Unrestricted General Government

Aid by 1.6% over the current year and significantly increase Chapter 70 school aid, in part by doubling minimum new aid to \$60 per pupil. ...

[MMA advertises executive director position, outlines schedule](#)

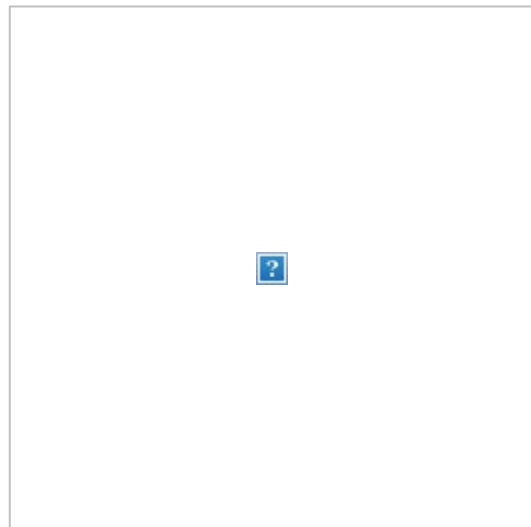
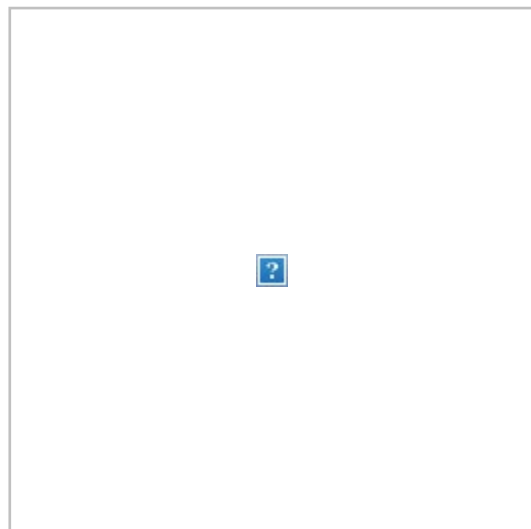
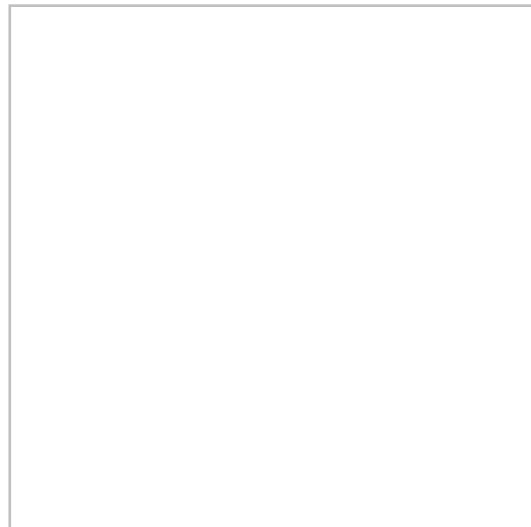
On April 21, the MMA published the job advertisement, along with a brochure, for the next executive director of the association. ...

[Gov. Healey announces next phase of climate resilience grant program](#)

Gov. Maura Healey and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper have announced a relaunch of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program's planning component, which they're calling MVP 2.0. ...

[Administration can move forward with new housing secretariat](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration



can now move forward with its plans to divide the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development into two separate offices, creating a new Office of Housing and Livable Communities and renaming the current office to the Office on Economic Development. ...

Chapter 90 bills await reconciliation

With the Legislature focused on the state budget process, the Chapter 90 bond bills passed by both the House and Senate in March have yet to be reconciled. ...

Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...

Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications

Back for its second year of awards,



the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. ...



[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



[MMA webinar covers public records and open meeting laws](#)

The MMA today hosted a webinar to highlight the importance of government transparency and review developments related to the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



[Third 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar is May 17](#)

"What Happens After the Offer," the

third session in the MMA's monthly "Reframing Recruitment" webinar series, will be held on May 17 at noon. ...



[MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Boylston on May 11](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 11 in Boylston. ...



[May 23 webinar to offer practical guidelines for affordable housing](#)

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[Former Beverly school to be reused as affordable housing for seniors and artists](#)

The city of Beverly held a ceremonial groundbreaking with state and local officials on March 6 at the site of a new housing project that will have 85 units for low-income seniors along with six live/work studio spaces for artists. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

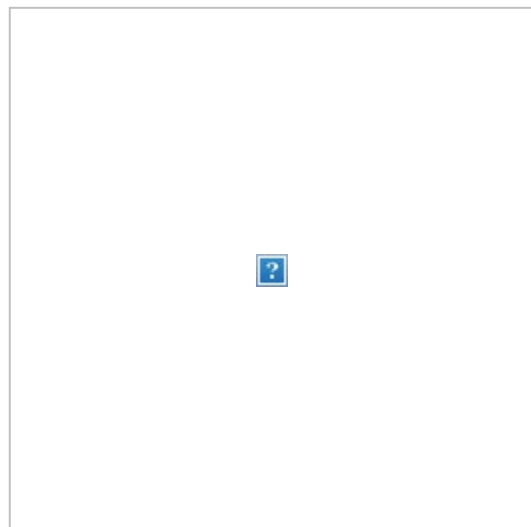
[MMA opposes costly bills that would move municipal employees into different retirement groups, increasing pension and health liabilities](#)

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[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA

[MMA Executive Director & CEO](#)

[Member Program Coordinator](#)

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[Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll to address MMA Annual Business Meeting](#)

A year into her tenure as lieutenant governor — following 17 years as mayor of Salem — Kim Driscoll will address local leaders during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on

Saturday morning, Jan. 20, in
Boston. ...

State budget writers to hold revenue hearing on Dec. 4

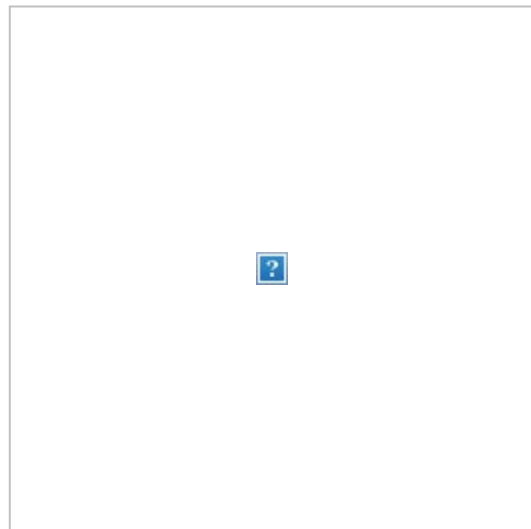
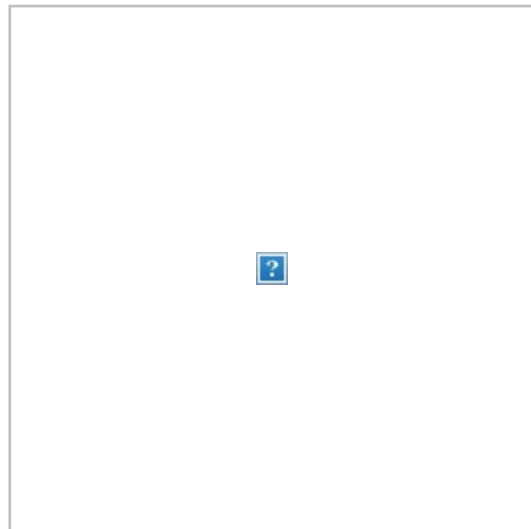
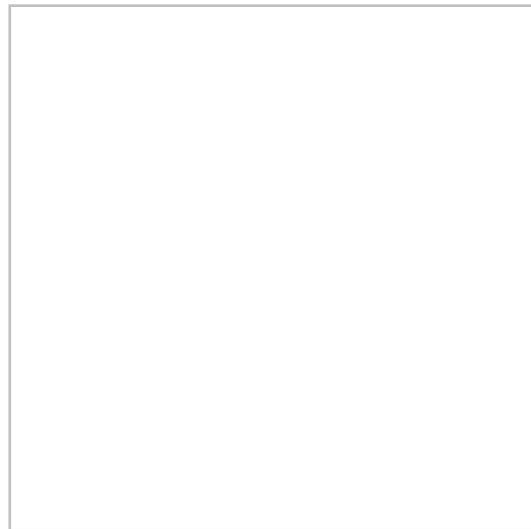
The fiscal 2025 state budget process will begin in earnest on Dec. 4 with the annual hearing where the Department of Revenue and other fiscal experts and economists discuss the prospects for the economy and state revenue over the second half of the current fiscal year and in the fiscal year to come. ...

FY23 closeout supplemental budget moves a step closer

A legislative conference committee named to iron out differences between House and Senate versions of a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget released a compromise bill on Nov. 30. ...

MMA publishes December issue of The Beacon

The MMA today published the



December 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, ARPA funding and numerous grant opportunities, coastal resilience and climate change, and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[Annual Meeting to feature 21 timely workshops](#)

Timely and informative workshops are a central feature of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January, and this year attendees can learn how to protect municipal infrastructure from climate impacts, improve their advocacy for their community, boost their local diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and build thriving business districts, among other topics. ...

[Administration launches statewide coastal resilience strategy](#)

At an event held at a waterfront park in Beverly yesterday, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced a new effort to pursue a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the Massachusetts coastline. ...



Federal funds office provides support to municipalities

Looking to maximize federal funding for Massachusetts through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act, a new state office is reaching out to cities and towns with key details on grant opportunities and technical assistance to help them reel in federal dollars. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



More MMA Annual Meeting details finalized

In the past few days, the MMA has announced its roster of workshops and another key speaker, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...



ARPA deadline is one year away

Cities and towns have about a year

left — until Dec. 31, 2024 — to obligate their State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



[MMA webinar on Dec. 11 will discuss new CCC regulations](#)

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 11 with attorney Nicole Costanzo of KP Law will discuss the Cannabis Control Commission's [newly promulgated regulations](#) and their impact on host communities. ...



[MMA to host 2nd annual POST update](#)

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...

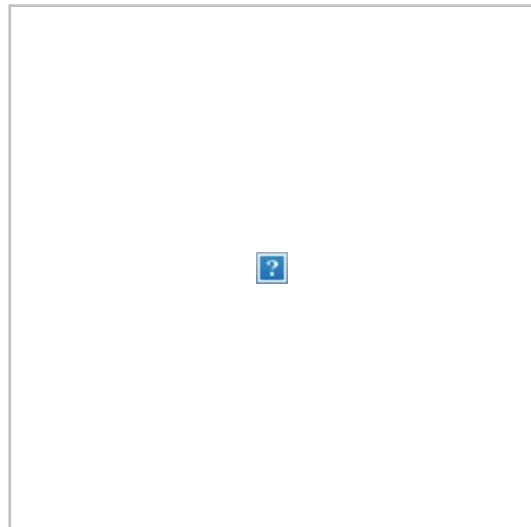


[Form of government webinar answers FAQs](#)

A Massachusetts Municipal

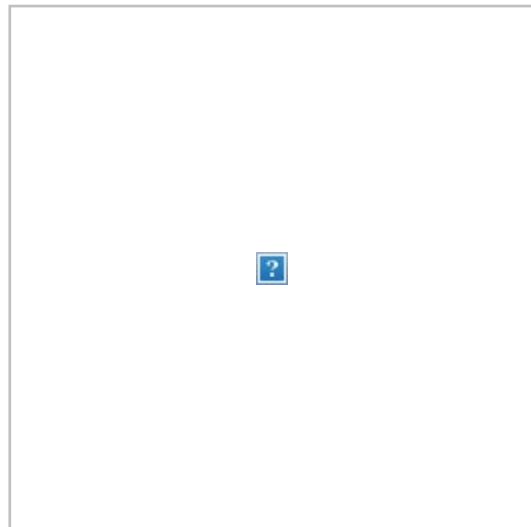
Management Association “Form of Government FAQ’s” webinar today addressed common questions that arise when a community is considering a change in governance.

...



[MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials](#)

As a busy formal legislative session recently came to a close, the MMA’s Legislative Division hosted a webinar for local officials yesterday to provide updates on key legislative and regulatory matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[December is a great time to think about the year ahead](#)

On Dec. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Revenue Committee to support bills to allow municipalities, at local option, to increase local revenue](#)

On Nov. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

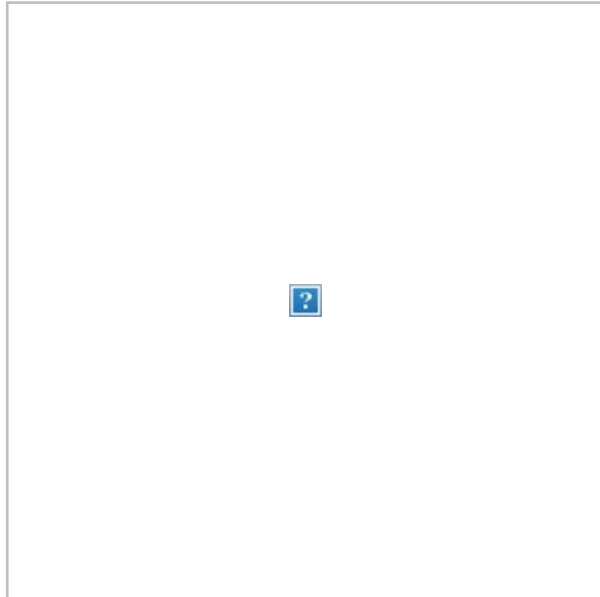
Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speaker: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the New Regulatory Requirements for Host Communities webinar](#) - Dec. 11

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[Goal Setting webinar](#) - Jan. 9

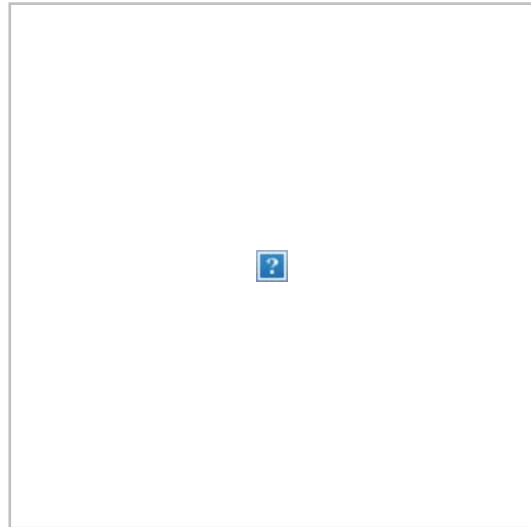
[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

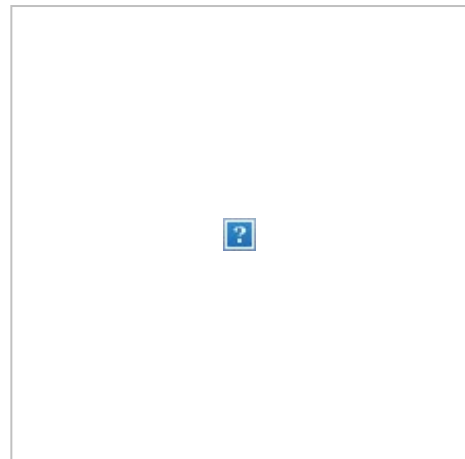
[MBI seeks feedback on Internet for All plan](#)

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute opened a month-long public comment period to gather feedback about the state's Internet for All Plan. ...



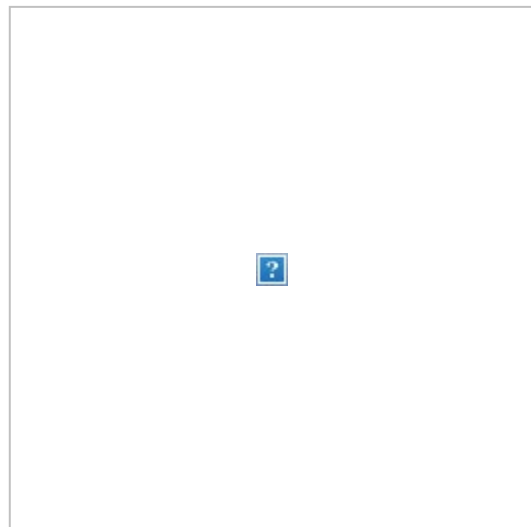
[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal 2025 Action Grant round. ...



[Broadband Institute launches \\$145M Gap Networks Infrastructure Grant Program](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...

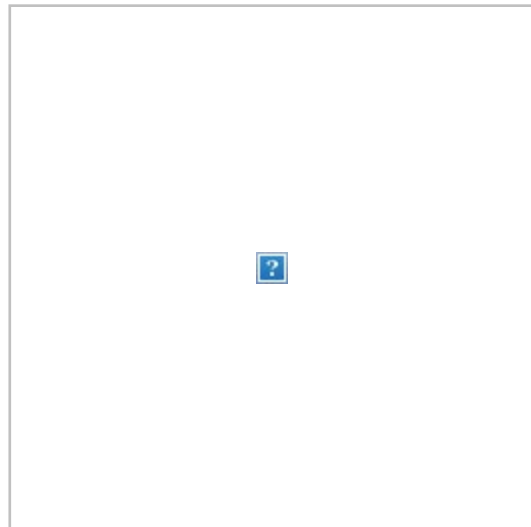


[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)

[Awareness Grant Program opens](#)

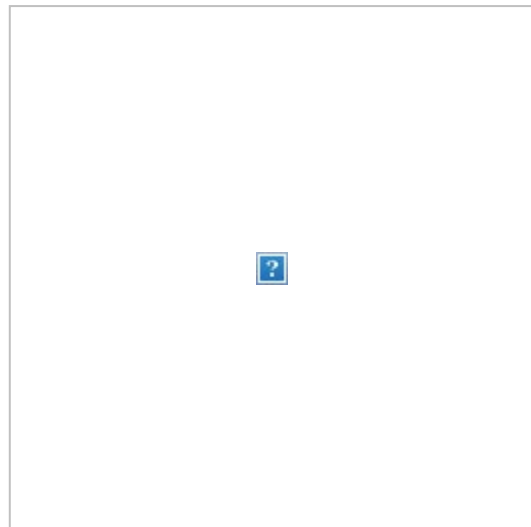
The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024.

...



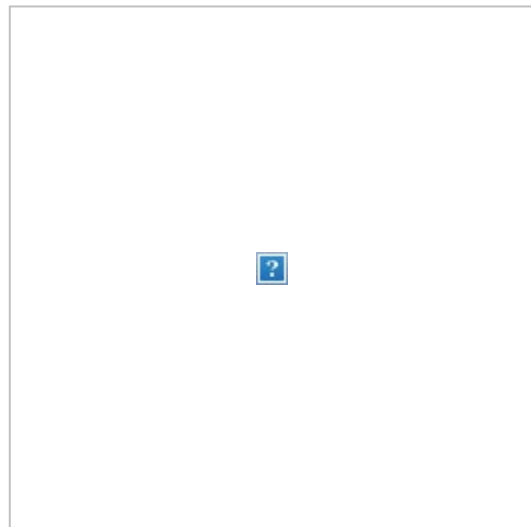
[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Accountant, Planner, City Clerk, Outreach Coordinator, Local Inspector, Electronic Technician, Office Assistant, Library Director and Regional Health Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Senate passes \\$55.9B state budget for FY24](#)

The Senate last night approved a \$55.9 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that would increase discretionary local aid by 3.2% and provide \$60 per student in minimum

new Chapter 70 aid. ...

Sen. Anne Gobi named as director of rural affairs

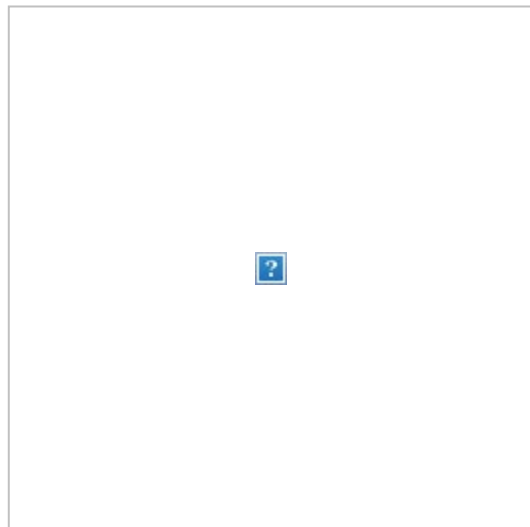
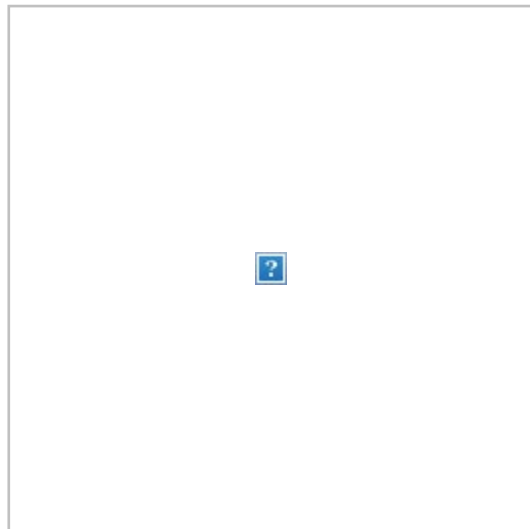
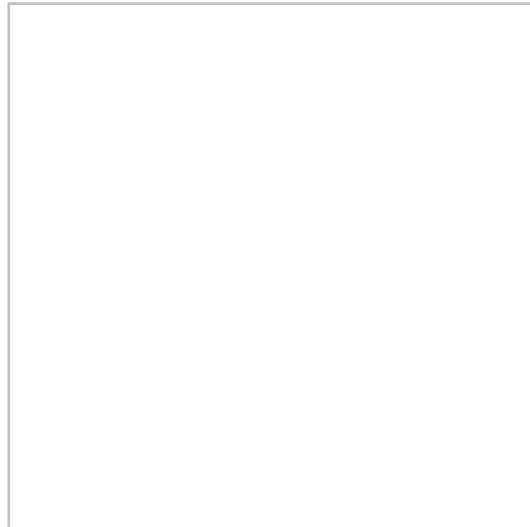
Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced today that Sen. Anne Gobi will join the administration as the new director of rural affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development. ...

MMA webinar offers practical guidance for affordable housing

The MMA today hosted a webinar that explored the “why” behind affordable housing and emphasized the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...

Management Association, DLS discuss role of assessors

The local assessing function was the



topic of a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association webinar on May 18 led by Chris Wilcock, chief of the Bureau of Local Assessment at the Division of Local Services. ...



MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



Final ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar is June 14

“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



Moderators Association to hold workshop for new moderators June 7

The Massachusetts Moderators Association will hold a free workshop for newly elected moderators on June 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom.

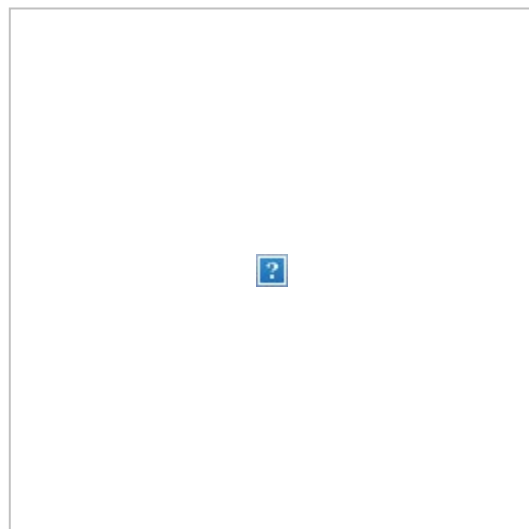
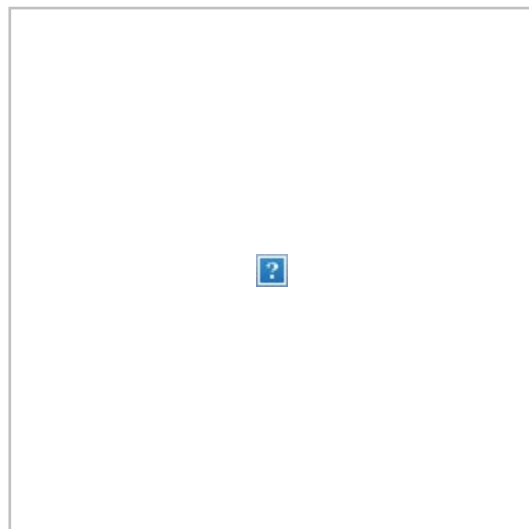
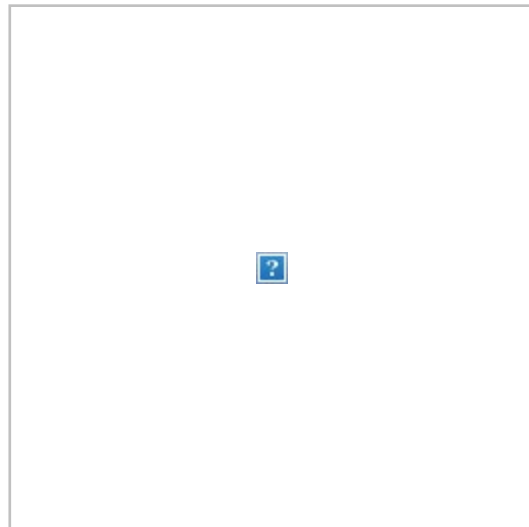
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[Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



[Administration makes additional grants available for housing production](#)

At the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting with local officials from across the state this afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the availability of additional funding for municipalities to support community planning and engagement efforts geared toward increasing the production of housing.

...

[MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7 in Boston](#)

The MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show will be held on June 7 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...

[Performance Recognition Program nomination process opens](#)

The Human Resources Division has opened the nomination process for the Commonwealth's Performance Recognition Program, which has been publicly acknowledging the outstanding performance of public employees for 38 years. ...

[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)



[Awareness Grant Program accepting applications](#)

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...



[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



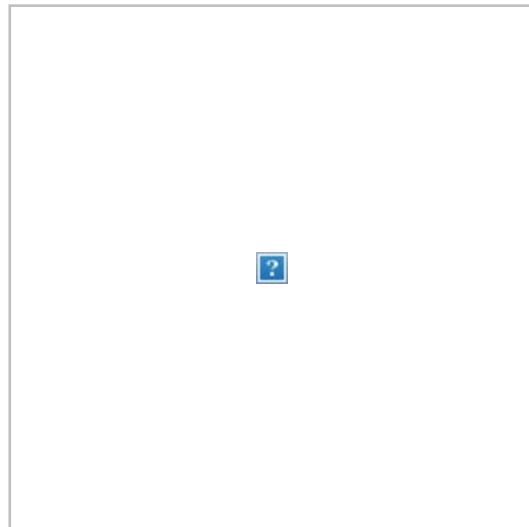
[Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications](#)

Back for its second year of awards, the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. ...



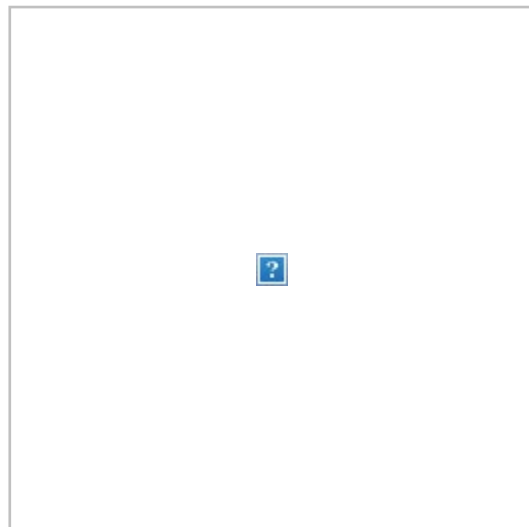
[Electric and alternative vehicle charging infrastructure grant opens](#)

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI program), a new competitive grant program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration, is accepting applications through May 30. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: The Legal and Operational Perspective webinar](#) - June 5

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: De-Escalation Strategies for Uncivilized Discourse webinar](#) - June 12

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

[Wellness Representative](#)

[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 54 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Administrator, Town Engineer, Veterans Services Officer, Deputy Fire Chief, Community Development Accountant, HR Generalist and Director of Public Works. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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!](#)

[Administration makes 9C budget cuts, but avoids cutting local aid](#)

After six months of state tax collections falling short of benchmarks, the Healey-Driscoll administration today announced \$375 million in mid-year budget cuts

under Section 9C for fiscal 2024. ...

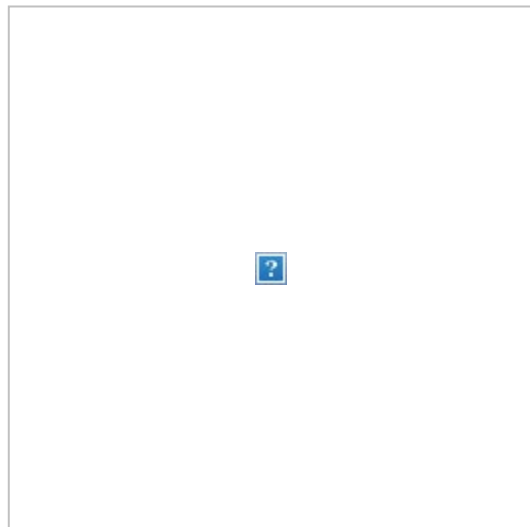
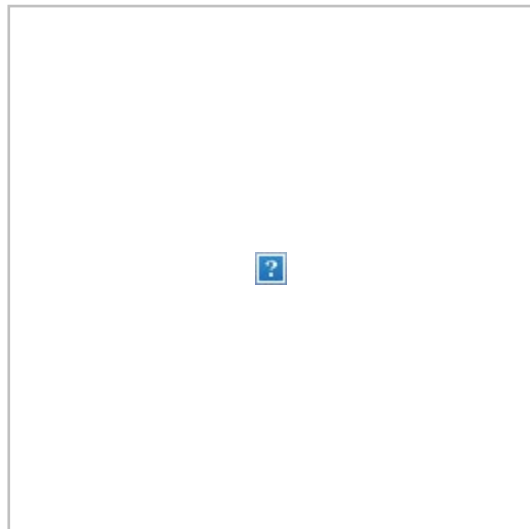
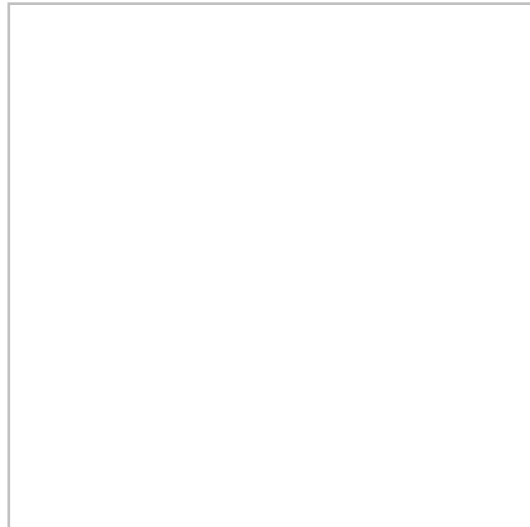
[Administration's \\$1.23B IT bond bill includes funds for local grant programs](#)

On Jan. 9, the Healey-Driscoll administration filed a \$1.23 billion, five-year bond bill intended to modernize IT systems across state agencies. ...

[Inspector General releases first in series of advisories for municipal officials](#)

The Office of the Inspector General today released its first OIG Advisory for municipal officials. ...

[MMA hosts webinar on conducting empathetic dialogue during conflict](#)



An MMA webinar today shared practical tips for fostering constructive dialogue and overcoming volatile feelings in challenging times. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on performance appraisals and ‘SMART’ goals](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed performance appraisals and offered practical tips for setting “SMART” goals to help local officials start the year off right. ...



[Utilities submit drafts of electric sector modernization plans](#)

The state’s investor-owned electric distribution companies — Eversource, National Grid and Unitil — have submitted drafts of their electric sector modernization plans. ...



[Video features Franklin officials discussing road salt reduction strategies](#)

Just in time for winter, two public works officials from Franklin are featured in a short video offering advice on treating roads in ways that promote safety while minimizing impacts on the environment. ...



[Application period opens for CDBG program](#)

The federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants opened on Dec. 8, and the application deadline is March 25. ...



[Federal RAISE grant application period opens](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced that \$1.5 billion in grant funding is available for 2024 through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, a competitive program that supports investments in road, rail, transit and port projects that have a significant local or regional impact. ...



Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Opening Session: [Gov. Maura Healey](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speakers: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#), [Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)

[Workshop schedule & descriptions](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

[Municipal Finance 101 webinar](#) - Feb. 6

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 8

[Women Leading Government conference](#) - March 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 8

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - March 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MassTrails accepting grant applications](#)

The application period for the MassTrails grant program is open through Feb. 1 via an online application system. ...



[MMA, Suffolk University launch Municipal Human Resources Seminar](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University are announcing an expansion of their professional development partnership with the launch of a new Municipal Human Resources Seminar that will begin in April. ...



[MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)

Local officials are invited to fill a limited number of positions available on the MMA's five policy committees

for 2024. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

Federal Funds Resource Area



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 39 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant DPW Director, Town Administrator, Assessor Data Manager, Town Accountant, Chief Civilian Dispatcher, Executive Assistant and Recreation Coordinator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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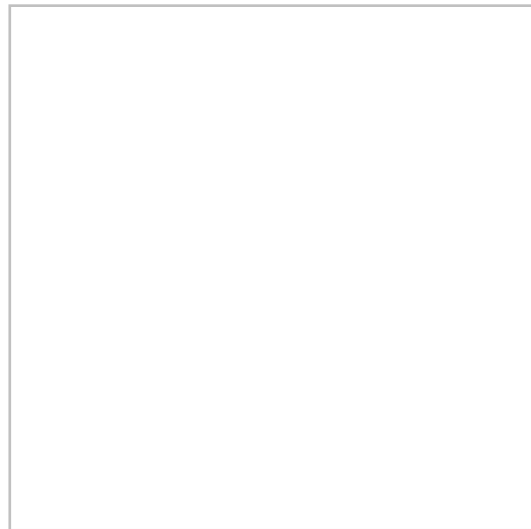
A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[MMA publishes June issue of The Beacon](#)

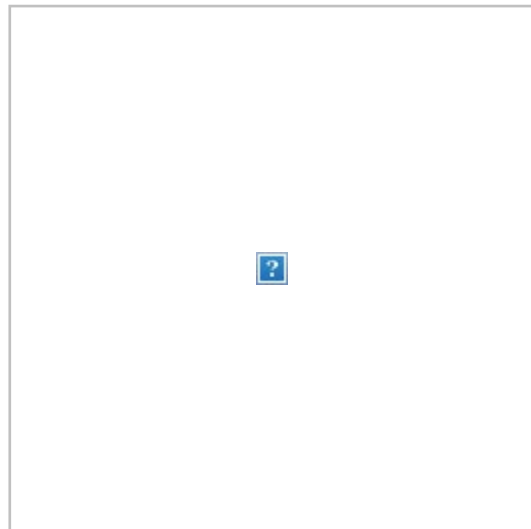
The MMA today published the June 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus

details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



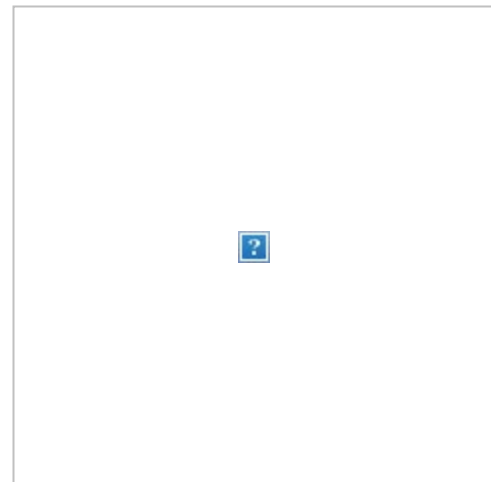
MMA testifies in support of wage equity push

The MMA testified on May 9 in support of a group of bills intended to close gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



NLC report: SLFRF funds not affected by debt ceiling agreement

As the U.S. Congress and the president work to lift the federal debt ceiling, the National League of Cities is reporting that State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act are not at risk of rescission by the federal government. ...



Training for newly elected select board members is June 9

On June 9, the Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a

free training session for newly elected select board members to help them have a successful start in their new role. ...



MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



Final ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar is June 14

“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



Sustainable materials recovery program grant applications due June 14

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has opened the application period for a new round of Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants. ...



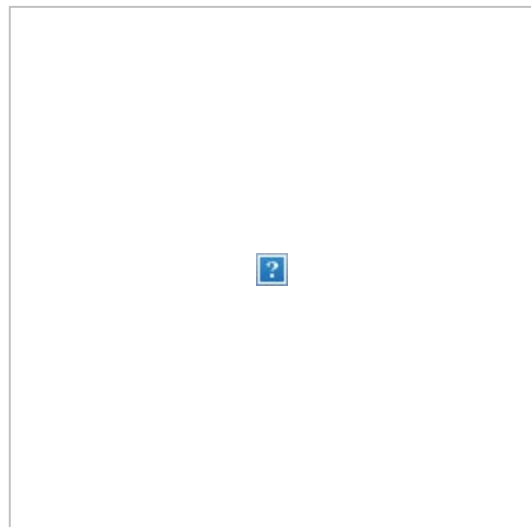
[Broadband and Digital Equity Summit is June 13](#)

A Broadband and Digital Equity Summit on June 13 at Union Station in Worcester will bring together state, local and federal government officials, as well as representatives from industry, community organizations and others, to discuss the once-in-a-generation federal investment coming to the Commonwealth to close the digital divide and provide internet for all. ...



[Federal, state clean school bus programs accepting applications](#)

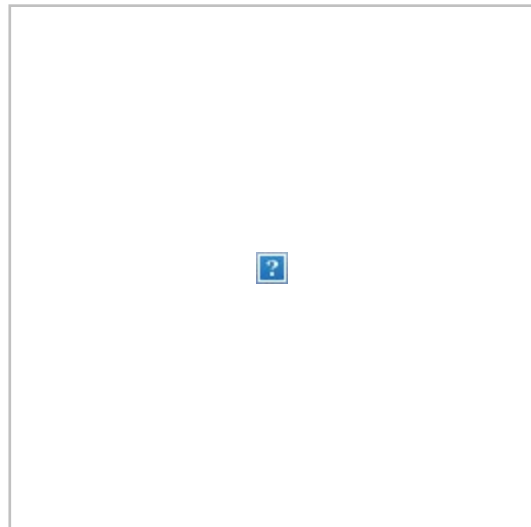
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications for the second year of Clean School Bus program grants, while the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting interest forms for the Accelerating Clean Transportation School Bus Advisory Services Program. ...



[EPA grants available for habitat](#)

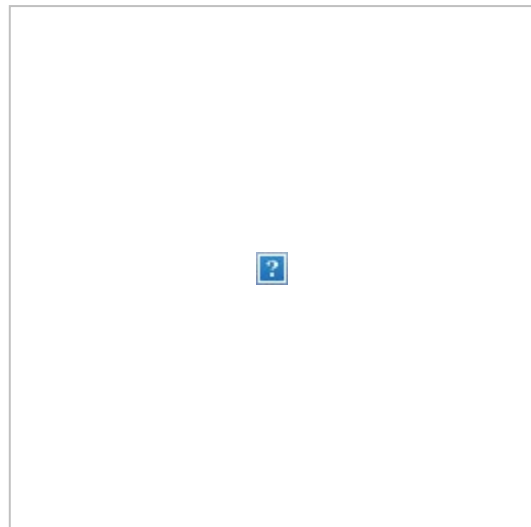
[restoration, ecosystem protection](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 is accepting applications for grants to fund climate resilient infrastructure that promotes nature-based solutions, habitat restoration, and restoration of ecosystems degraded by poor stormwater and development practices. ...



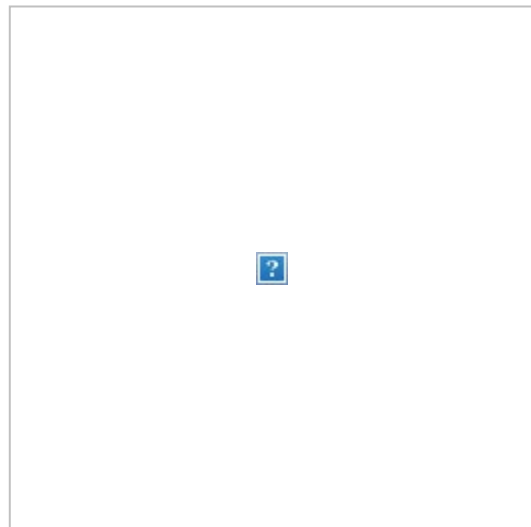
[Moderators Association to hold workshop for new moderators June 7](#)

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[MBLC to hold webinar on library operations and statutory requirements](#)

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[Unchecked, AI will disrupt government and communities](#)

On June 1, Executive Director's Report

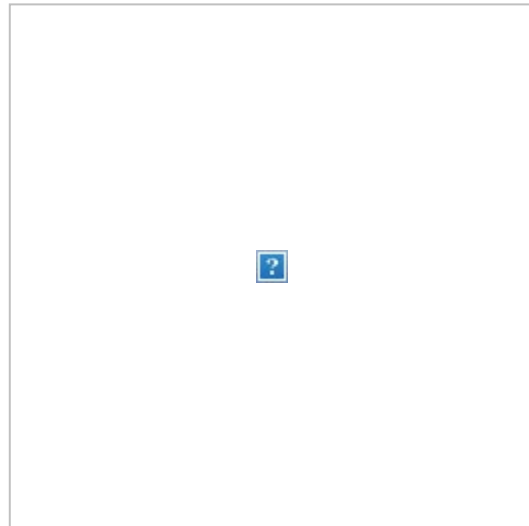
[In letter to EPA, MMA raises concerns about costs and timelines for PFAS remediation](#)

On May 30, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

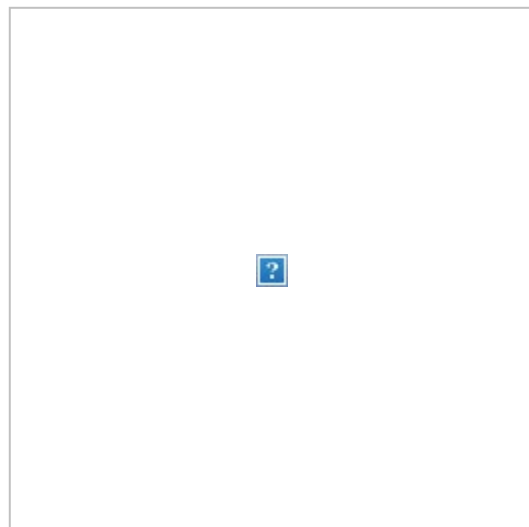
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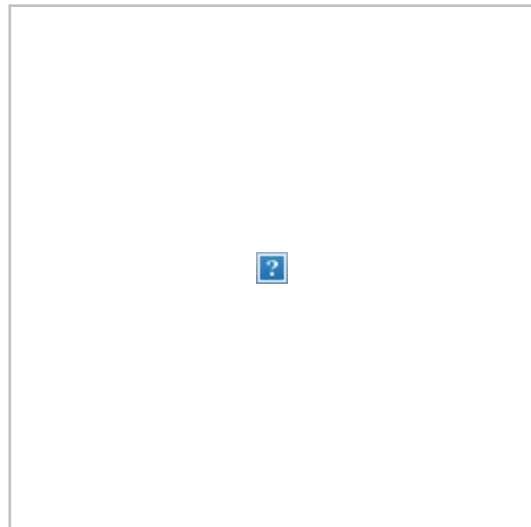
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[MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7](#)

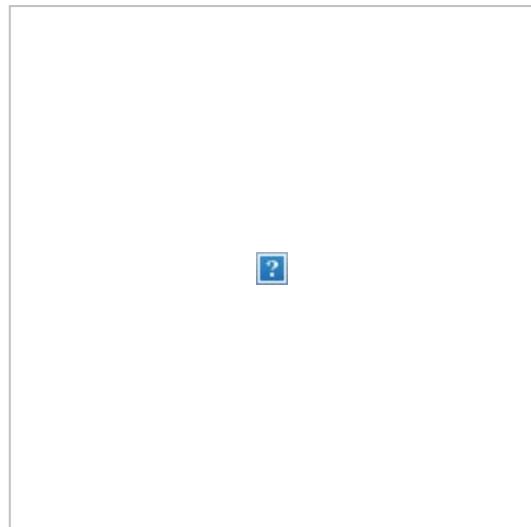
[in Boston](#)

The MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show will be held on June 7 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...



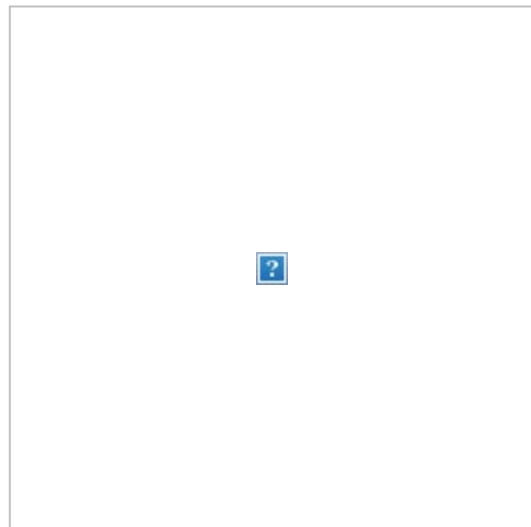
[Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications](#)

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...



[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



[Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications](#)

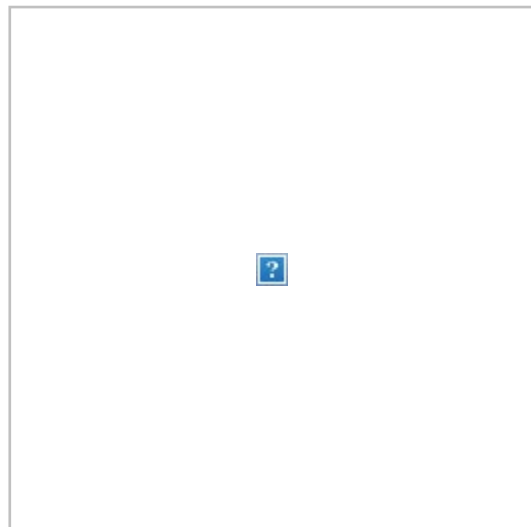
Back for its second year of awards,

the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: The Legal and Operational Perspective webinar](#) - June 5

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: De-Escalation Strategies for Uncivilized Discourse webinar](#) - June 12

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

[Wellness Representative](#)

[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Business Manager, Town Clerk, Chief Financial Officer, Administrative Coordinator, Community Health Manager, Deputy Town Manager and Operations Service Technician. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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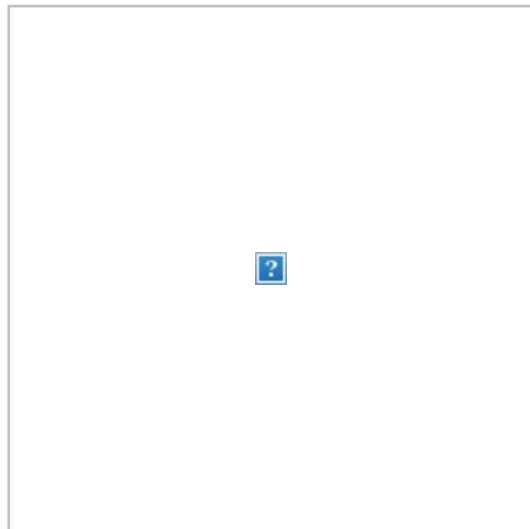
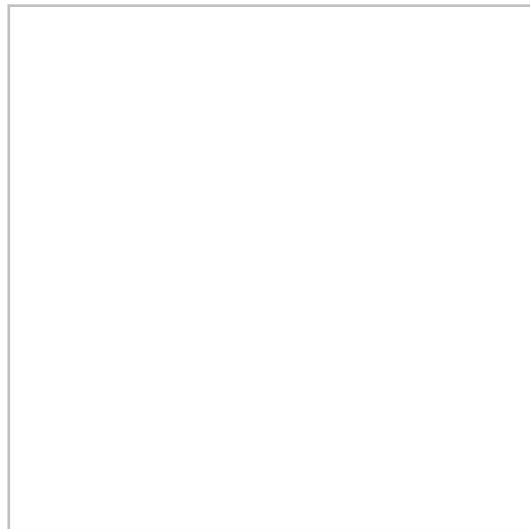
Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[MMA's 45th Annual Meeting & Trade Show starts today!](#)

The Hynes Convention Center in Boston will be buzzing today and tomorrow as more than 1,300 local leaders gather for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show. ...

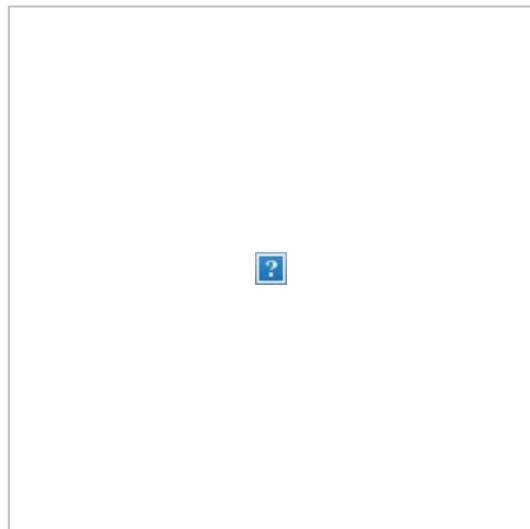
**[Budget writers announce
consensus revenue growth
forecast of 2% for FY25](#)**

The state's budget writers announced on Jan. 8 that state tax collections are expected to grow by 2% in fiscal 2025 over a recently reduced projection for fiscal 2024 revenue. ...



**[MMA to host VMLA webinar series
on emotional intelligence](#)**

Last fall, the MMA launched its Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar series to help promote professional development among municipal officials. The program's three-part pilot, exploring effective communication and feedback, was led by Cally Ritter, principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, and is still available for purchase. ...



[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)

[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



[Easthampton updates hate crimes policy](#)

With war raging abroad and hate crimes increasing nationally, Easthampton recently updated its Hate Crimes Policy to improve public safety, promote inclusivity, and provide greater clarity around its investigation processes and community outreach. ...



[Methuen takes collaborative approach to mental health, homelessness, addiction issues](#)

In an effort to address concerns about mental health, addiction and homelessness in the community, Methuen has convened a monthly mental health task force with representation from across municipal departments to collaborate on addressing the issues. ...



[Cambridge/Anmoughcawgen to add Indigenous language translations to some street signs](#)

As it seeks to acknowledge its Indigenous past and present, the city of Cambridge will soon install bilingual street signs translated in the Massachusetts language on several streets in the eastern part of town. ...



Climate change drives municipal planning challenges

With changing weather patterns creating a growing challenge for communities, multiple sessions during this year's MMA Annual Meeting will focus on the impacts of climate change, as well as what municipalities can do to maintain buildings and prevent costly damages. ...



Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

The 45th MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show kicks off today!

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Opening Session: [Gov. Maura Healey](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speakers: [Lt. Gov. Kim](#)

[Driscoll, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)
[Workshop schedule & descriptions](#)

New In [Advocacy](#)

[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY25 state budget](#)
On Jan. 17, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

[Municipal Finance 101 webinar](#) - Feb. 6

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 8

[Women Leading Government conference](#) - March 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 8

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - March 14

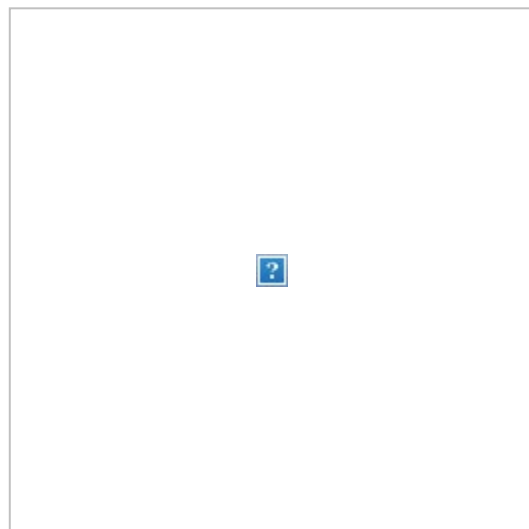
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

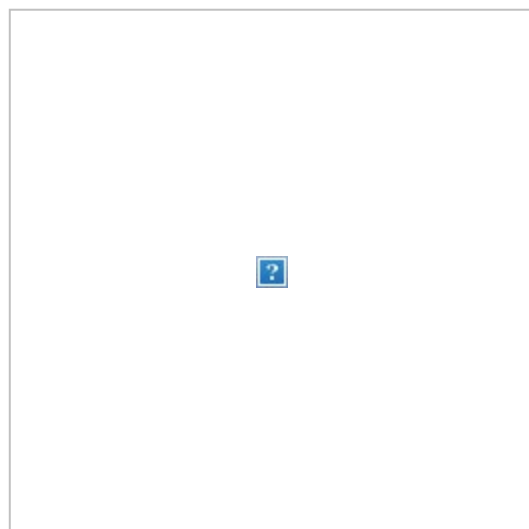
[Application period opens for CDBG program](#)

The federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants opened on Dec. 8, and the application deadline is March 25. ...



[MassTrails accepting grant applications](#)

The application period for the MassTrails grant program is open through Feb. 1 via an online application system. ...



[Federal RAISE grant application period opens](#)

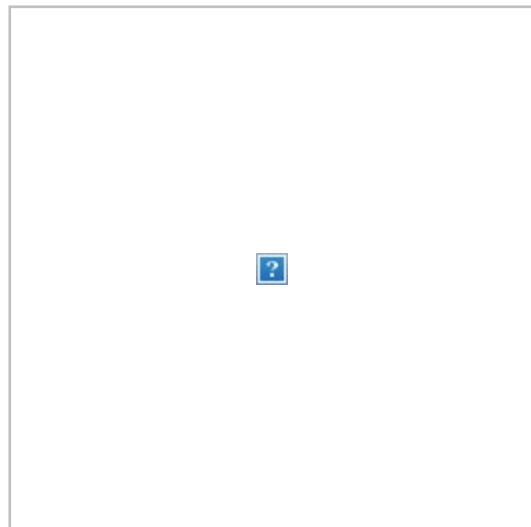
The U.S. Department of

Transportation has announced that \$1.5 billion in grant funding is available for 2024 through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, a competitive program that supports investments in road, rail, transit and port projects that have a significant local or regional impact. ...



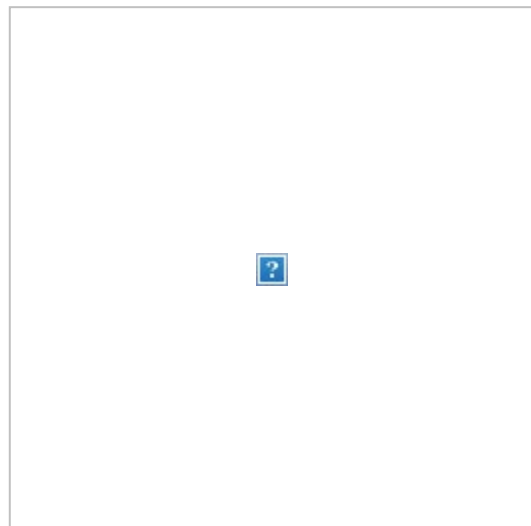
[MMA, Suffolk University launch Municipal Human Resources Seminar](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University are announcing an expansion of their professional development partnership with the launch of a new Municipal Human Resources Seminar that will begin in April. ...



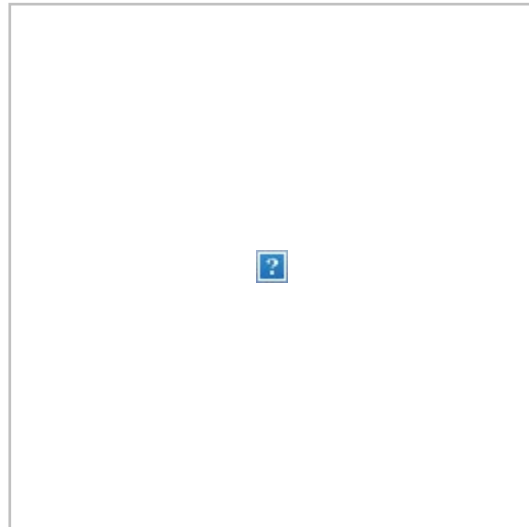
[MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)

Local officials are invited to fill a limited number of positions available on the MMA's five policy committees for 2024. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 46 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Facilities Operations Manager, Town Accountant, Public Health Agent, IT Director, Community Specialist, Housing Coordinator, DPW Electrician, and Environmental Engineer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).

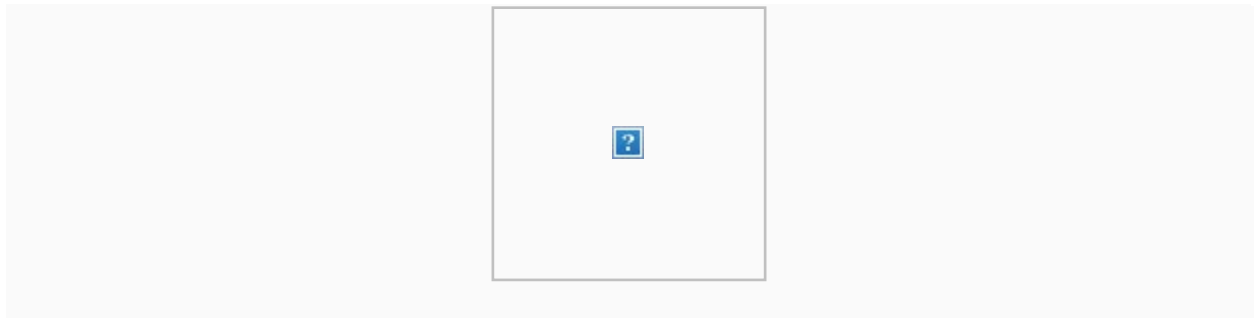


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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

Registration is now open for the MMA's spring series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on March 1, 8 and 15. ...

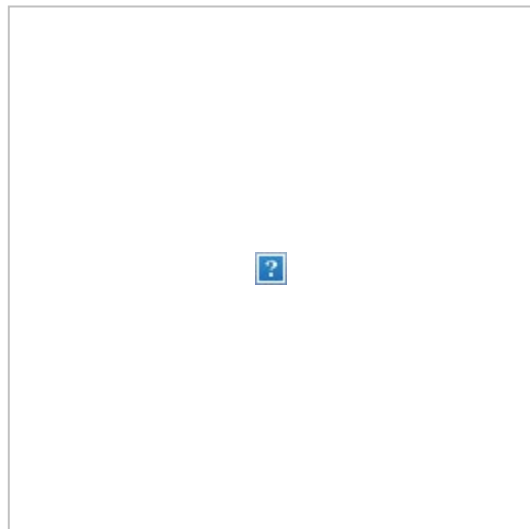
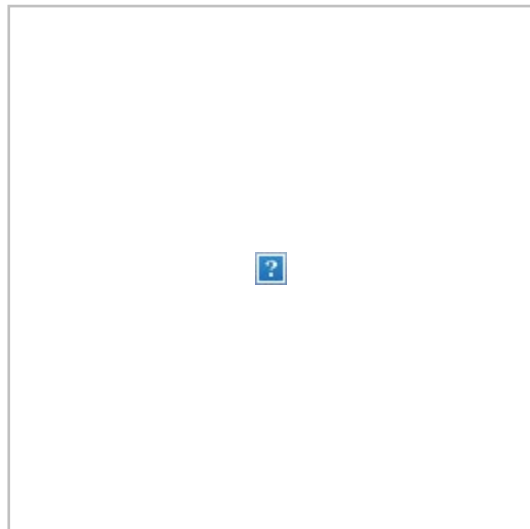
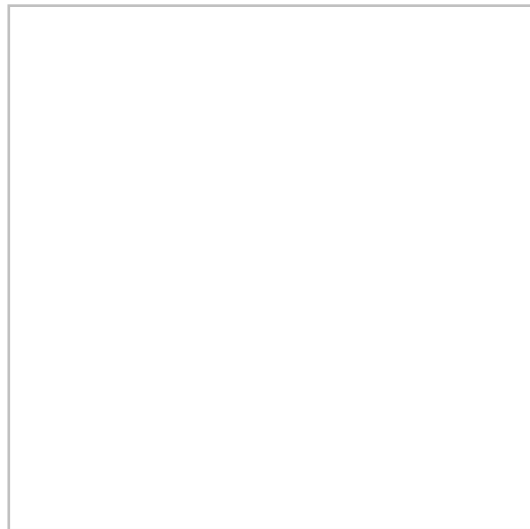
Applications due March 8 for \$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...

Administration announces \$50M for EV charging infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 7 announced an investment of \$50 million in initiatives to build out electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Massachusetts. ...

MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions



The MMA and Suffolk University will hold an information session about the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program on March 13 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. ...



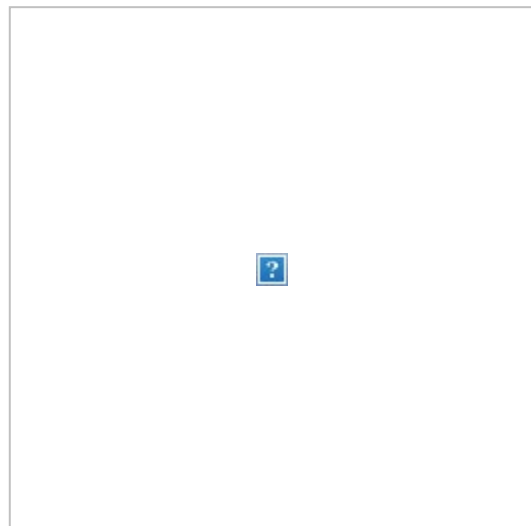
MunEnergy webinar on Feb. 29 will focus on spring weather impacts

The MMA’s MunEnergy program will hold a free, one-hour webinar on Feb. 29 to provide timely information about spring energy costs and to discuss what spring weather and climate change will mean for energy markets, as well as the optimal time to purchase energy as we head into the spring. ...



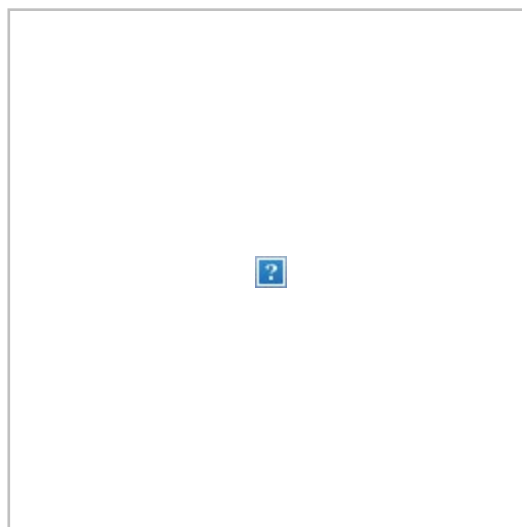
‘Meet DLS’ webinar set for March 11

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “Meet DLS” webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



MIIA presents safety, risk management, wellness awards

During its Annual Business Meeting in Boston on Jan. 20, MIIA presented awards to outstanding member communities and municipal entities to recognize their commitment to safety, risk management, and employee wellness. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[MBTA Communities: Municipalities & Compliance webinar](#) - Feb. 26

[Tackling Tough Conversations with Emotional Intelligence webinar](#) - Feb. 27

[MunEnergy webinar](#) - Feb. 29

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – North Andover & Greenfield](#) - March 1

[Perfecting Your Procurement Process: Best Practices and Lessons Learned webinar](#) - March 5

[Women Leading Government conference](#) - March 7

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Holyoke & Rockland](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 8

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Wareham & Westborough](#) - March 15

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March 20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

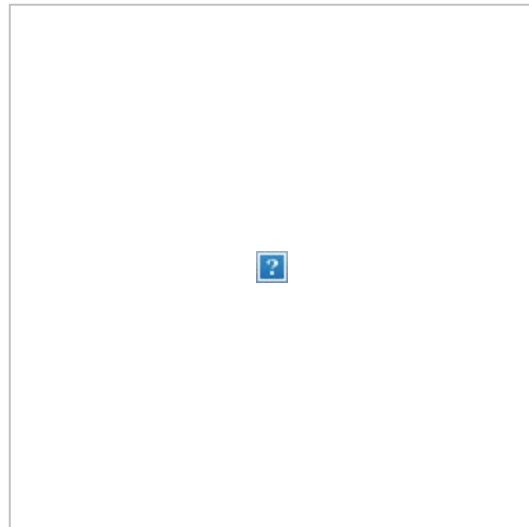
[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Municipal Law Unit hosts trainings on bylaw processes, MBTA Communities rules](#)

The Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit is holding three free, online training sessions this month on the zoning bylaw amendment process and bylaw filing. ...



[MMA to host VMLA webinar series on emotional intelligence](#)

Last fall, the MMA launched its Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar series to help promote professional development among municipal officials. The program's three-part pilot, exploring effective communication and feedback, was led by Cally Ritter,

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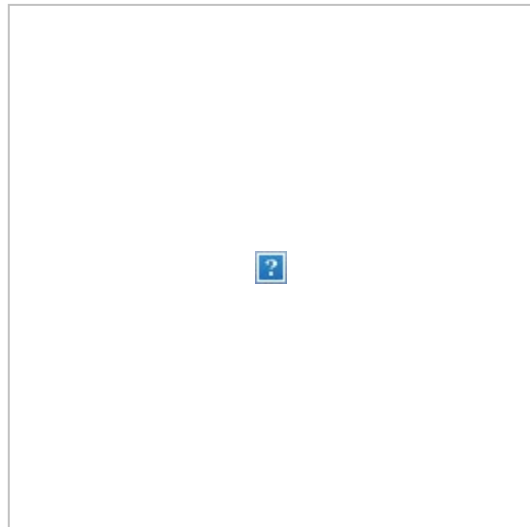
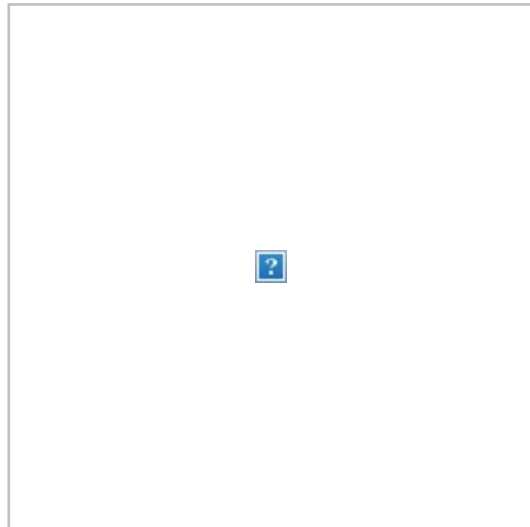
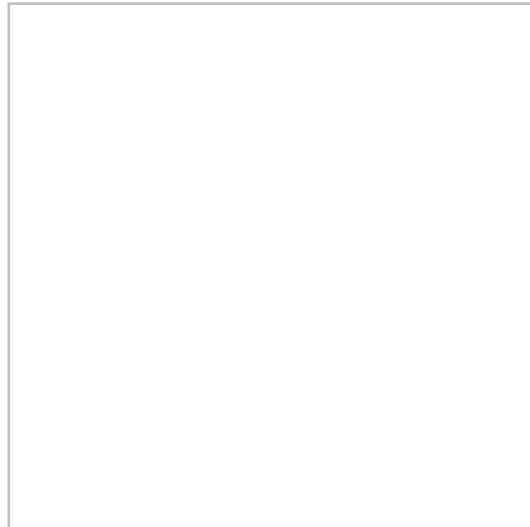
[Community One Stop for Growth opens for fiscal 2025](#)

Community One Stop for Growth, a portal where municipalities can apply for state community and economic development grant programs, has opened for fiscal 2025. ...

[MSA launches online Handbook for Massachusetts Select Board Members](#)

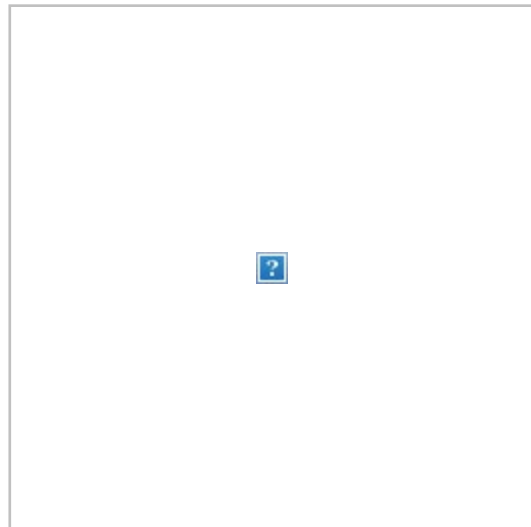
At the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston this morning, the Massachusetts Select Board Association launched a new online version of its comprehensive guide for Select Board members. ...

[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)



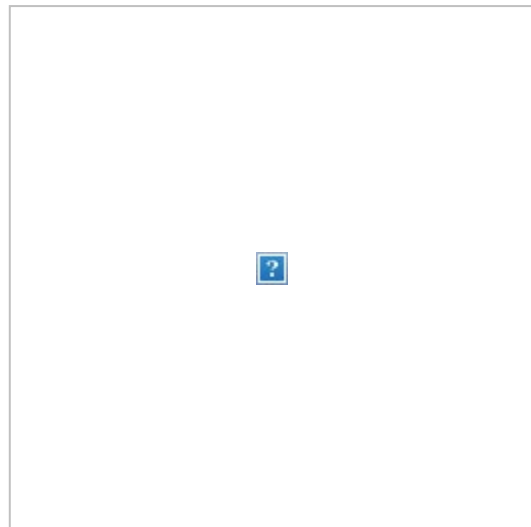
[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

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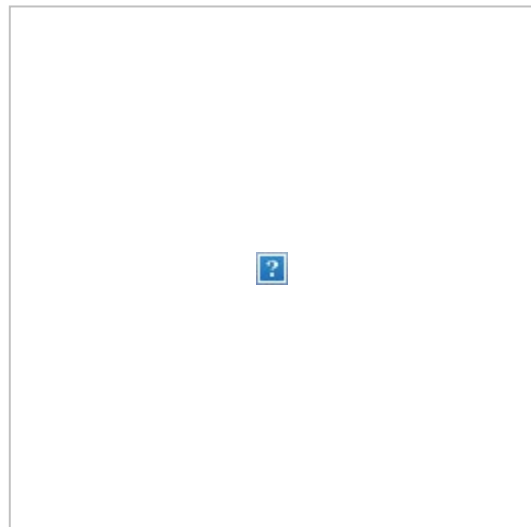
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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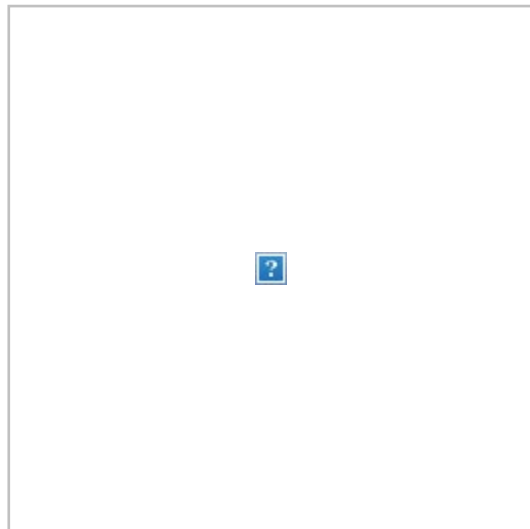
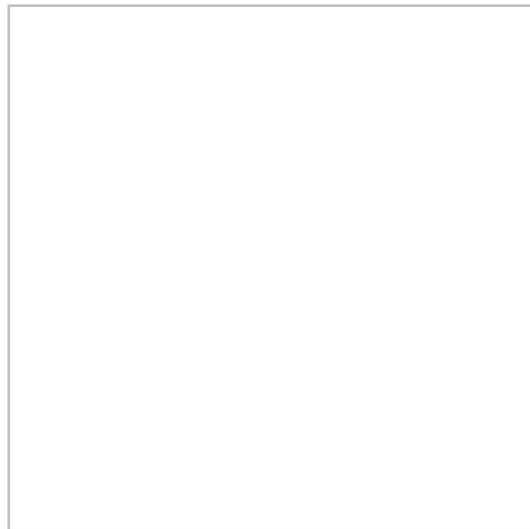
Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[Conference committee meets on Chapter 90 bill](#)

A conference committee named to resolve differences between House and Senate Chapter 90 bond bills held its first meeting on June 13. ...

**Gov. announces nation's first
'green bank' dedicated to
affordable housing**

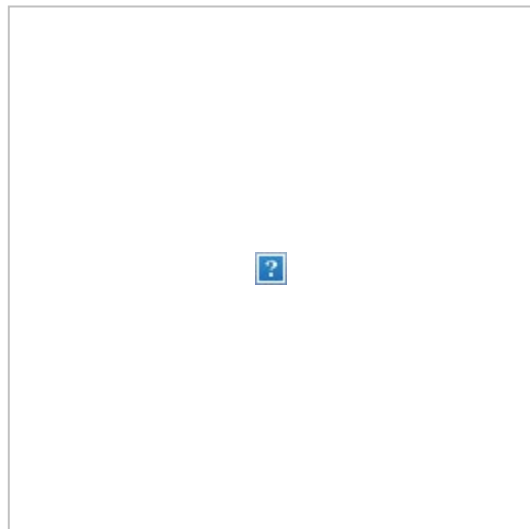
Gov. Maura Healey today announced the launch of the first "green bank" in the country dedicated to affordable housing. ...



**MassDOT mounts education
campaign about Sumner Tunnel
closure this summer**

At the June 13 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission, Transportation Secretary and CEO Gina Fiandaca discussed plans to close the Sumner Tunnel this summer and asked local officials to help get the word out about the closure as well as mitigation plans.

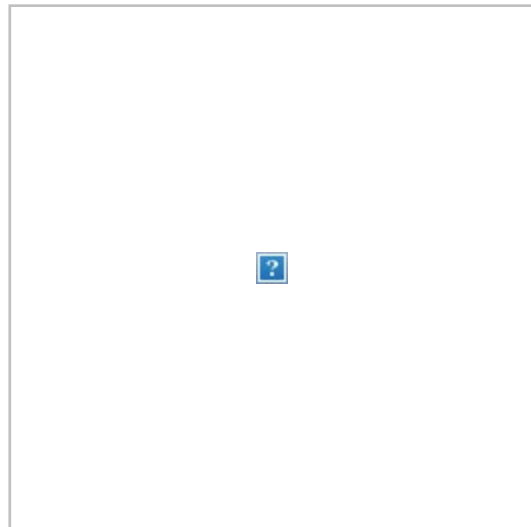
...



**Final 'Reframing Recruitment'
webinar covers key takeaways**

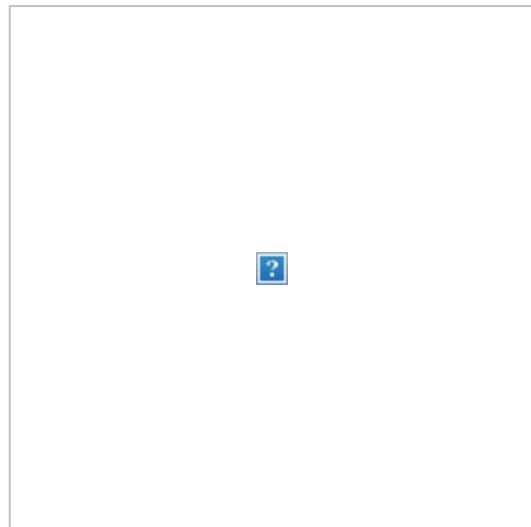
[from series](#)

An MMA “Reframing Recruitment” webinar today featured speakers from previous webinars and workshops in the series, covering topics including innovative hiring strategies, vacancies and advertising, interviewing, and onboarding. ...



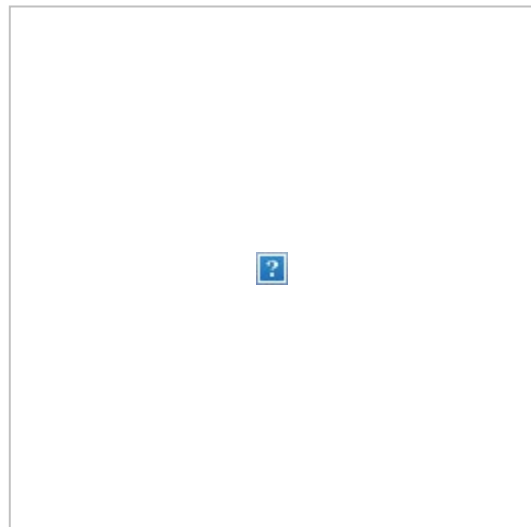
[MMA webinar shares strategies for de-escalating public anger](#)

An MMA webinar today discussed how to maintain composure and use constructive language when confronted with uncivilized discourse at public meetings. ...



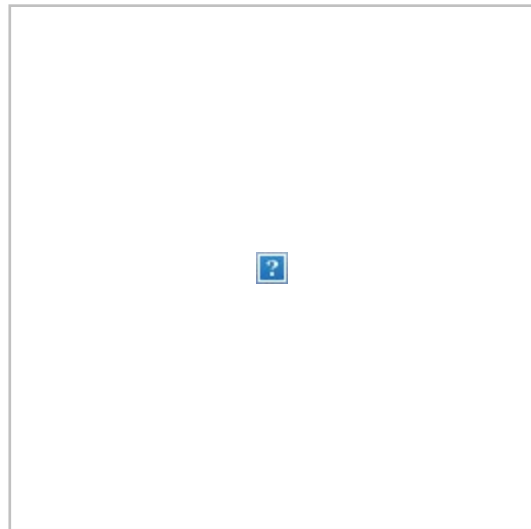
[Lexington OK's MBTA communities zoning well ahead of schedule](#)

Following an April Town Meeting vote approving 12 new overlay districts accounting for 227 acres of multifamily zoning, Lexington is on track to complete its MBTA communities zoning submission to the state a year and a half ahead of schedule. ...



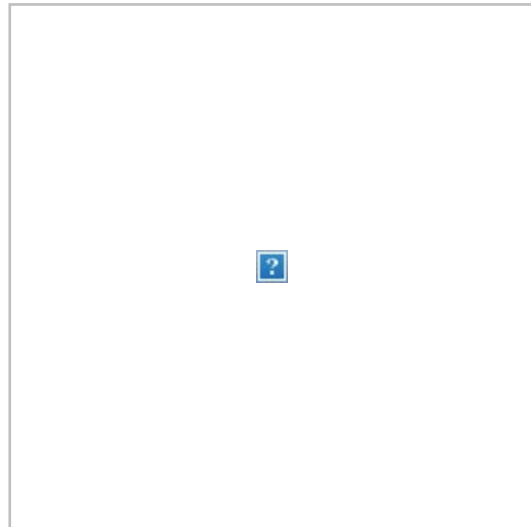
[Easthampton launches EV conversion plan and employee benefit](#)

To help the city meet a 2040 net-zero emissions goal set by a Climate Action Plan, and to provide pathways for residents to do the same, Easthampton is partnering with MoveEV, an electric vehicle consultant based in Somerville, to help the city transition the entire municipal fleet and provide a benefit to municipal employees. ...



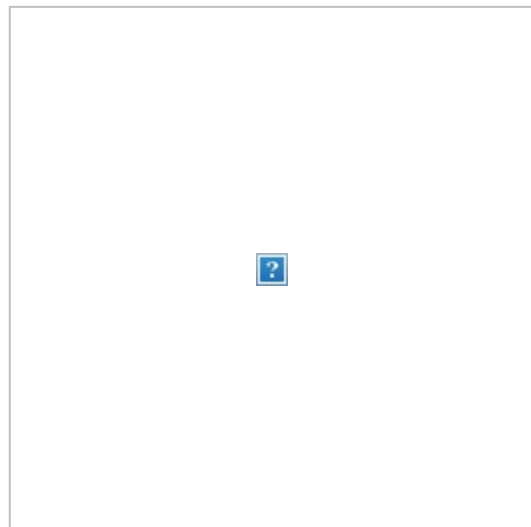
[West Tisbury invests funds, planning into tree population](#)

In the face of climate change, West Tisbury has established a tree committee, invested in new tree plantings, and developed plans to protect and expand its tree canopy. ...



[Many factors could drive up health care costs](#)

The combination of COVID-19 pandemic relief expiring, along with health care staff shortages, inflation and other general population health challenges, could continue to drive up health care costs over the next several years. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support product stewardship legislation](#)

On June 14, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants](#)

The Federal Highway Administration has opened the application period for a new discretionary grant program called PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation). Up to \$848 million is available. ...



[MMA seeks input for Annual Meeting workshops](#)

The MMA is seeking topic suggestions from members for the timely, informative and interactive workshops that are a key component of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show each January. ...



[MMA seeks help with annual database updates](#)

The MMA has begun the annual process of updating city and town information for its database, in order

to reach as many municipal officials as possible with all of the benefits of MMA membership – including access to in-person events, webinars, publications including The Beacon, and the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show every January in Boston. ...

[Federal, state clean school bus programs accepting applications](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications for the second year of Clean School Bus program grants, while the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting interest forms for the Accelerating Clean Transportation School Bus Advisory Services Program. ...

[EPA grants available for habitat restoration, ecosystem protection](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 is accepting applications for grants to fund climate resilient infrastructure that promotes nature-based solutions, habitat restoration, and restoration of ecosystems degraded by poor stormwater and development practices. ...

[Grants available to reduce](#)



[wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



[Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications](#)

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...



[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



[Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications](#)

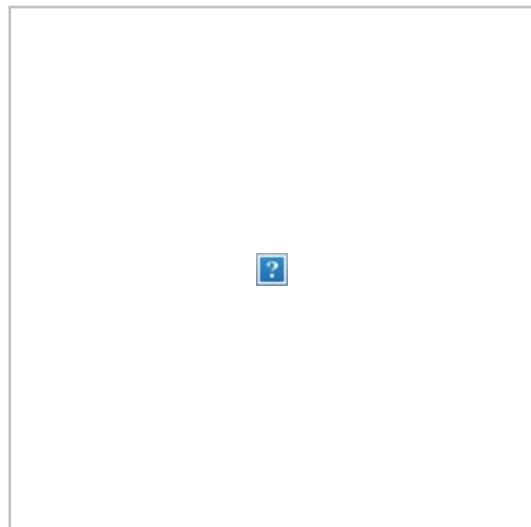
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 8

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[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 29

[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

[Wellness Representative](#)

[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

[Risk Management Information Coordinator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

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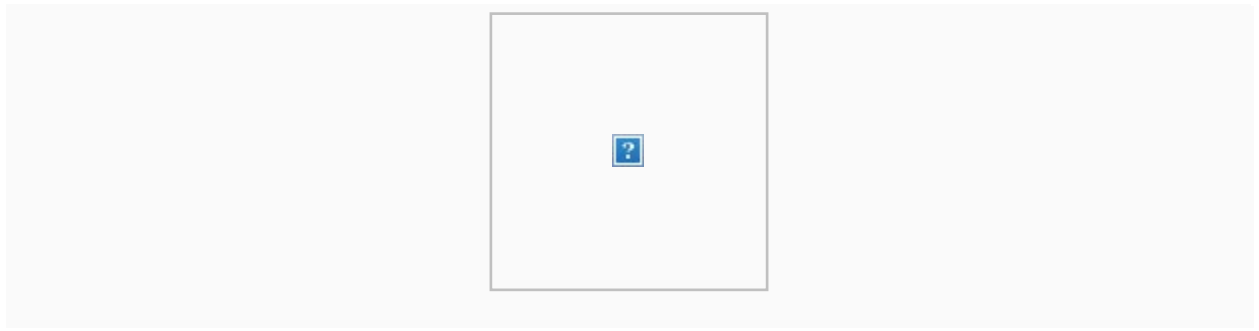
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[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several

regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...

[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

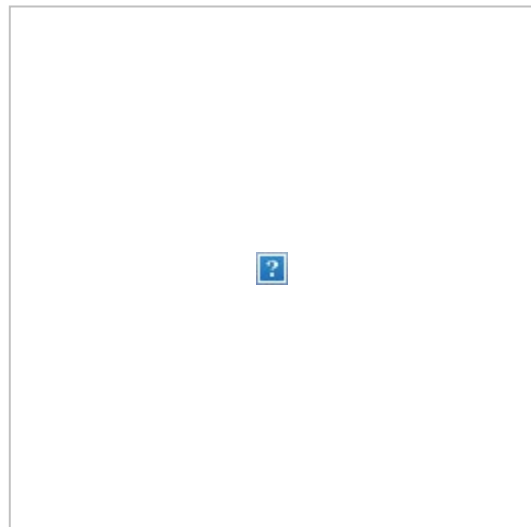
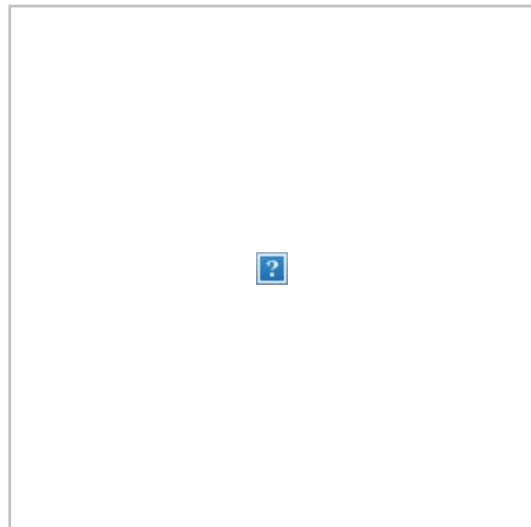
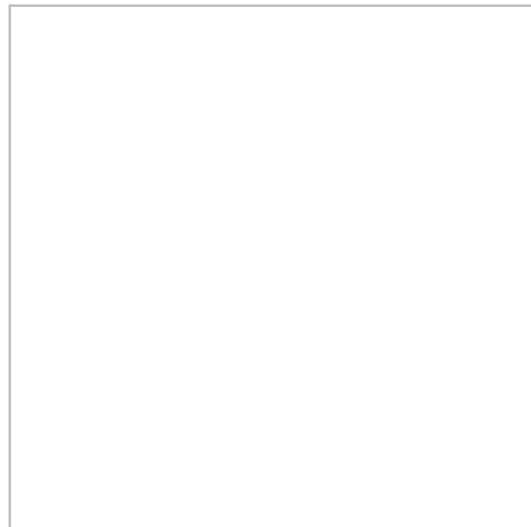
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[Executive order establishes AI Strategic Task Force](#)

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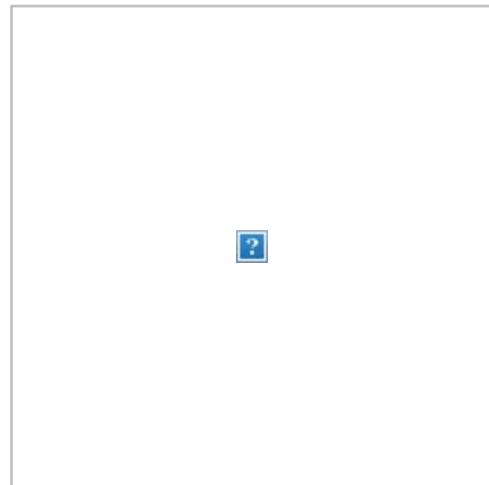


Executive Order on Feb. 14 establishing the Artificial Intelligence Strategic Task Force to study AI and Generative Artificial Intelligence technology and its impact on the state, private businesses, higher education institutions, and constituents. ...



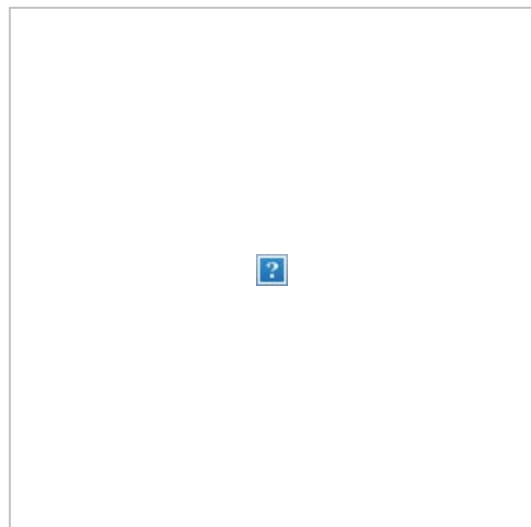
[NLC's Congressional City Conference is March 11-13](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[Public water systems to conduct service line inventories](#)

Under recent revisions to lead and copper rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, all community public water systems and non-transient, non-community public water systems in Massachusetts must develop and submit a service line inventory to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection by Oct. 16. ...



[State leaders urge EPA to restore lead water pipe replacement funding](#)

Top state officials submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Feb. 1 urging the agency to reconsider a new grant formula that has reduced lead service line replacement funding to Massachusetts by more than \$30 million. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[MBTA Communities: Municipalities & Compliance webinar](#) - Feb. 26

[Tackling Tough Conversations with Emotional Intelligence webinar](#) - Feb. 27

[MunEnergy webinar](#) - Feb. 29

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – North Andover & Greenfield](#) - March 1

[Perfecting Your Procurement Process: Best Practices and Lessons Learned webinar](#) - March 5

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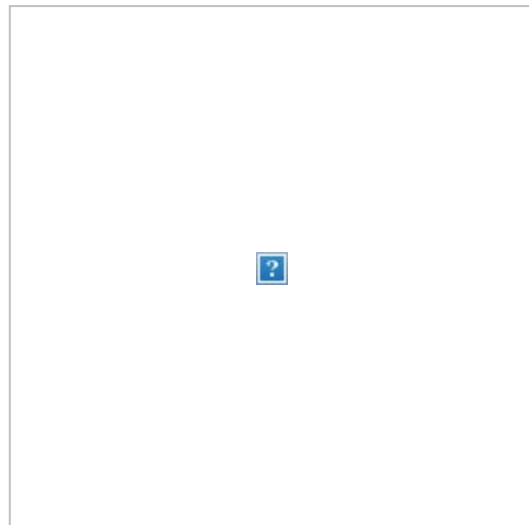
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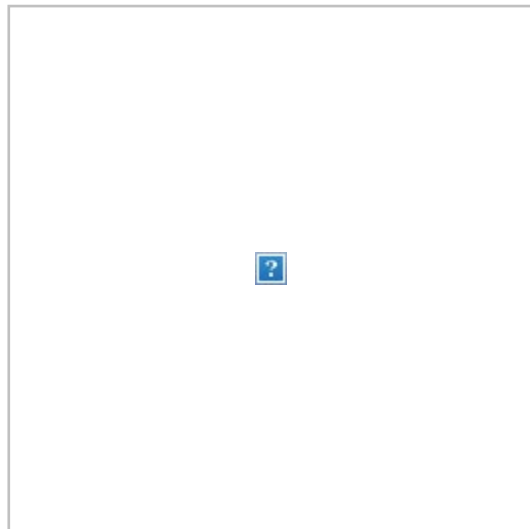
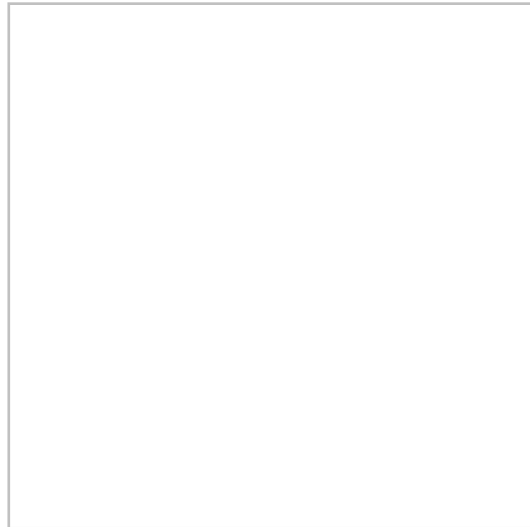


[Municipal Law Unit hosts trainings on bylaw processes, MBTA Communities rules](#)

The Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit is holding three free, online training sessions this month on the zoning bylaw amendment process and bylaw filing. ...

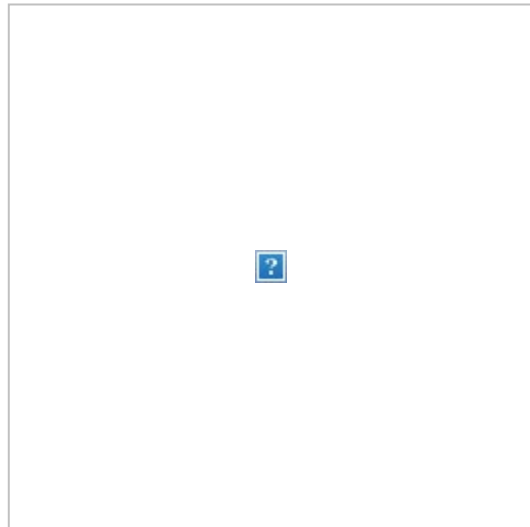
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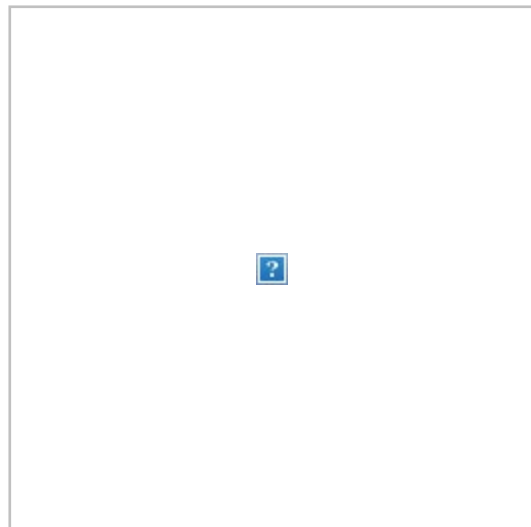
[**MunEnergy webinar on Feb. 29 will focus on spring weather impacts**](#)

The MMA's MunEnergy program will hold a free, one-hour webinar on Feb. 29 to provide timely information about spring energy costs and to discuss what spring weather and climate change will mean for energy markets, as well as the optimal time to purchase energy as we head into the spring. ...



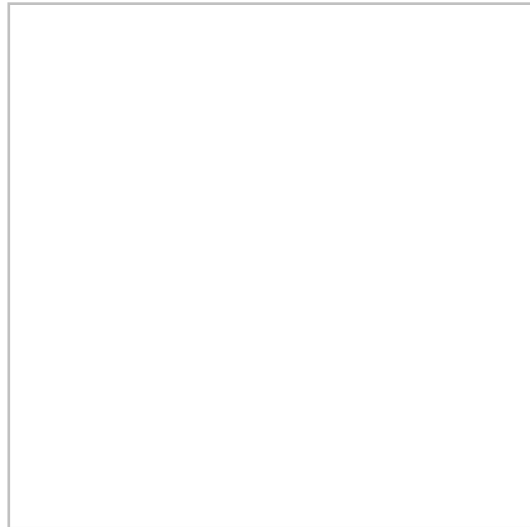
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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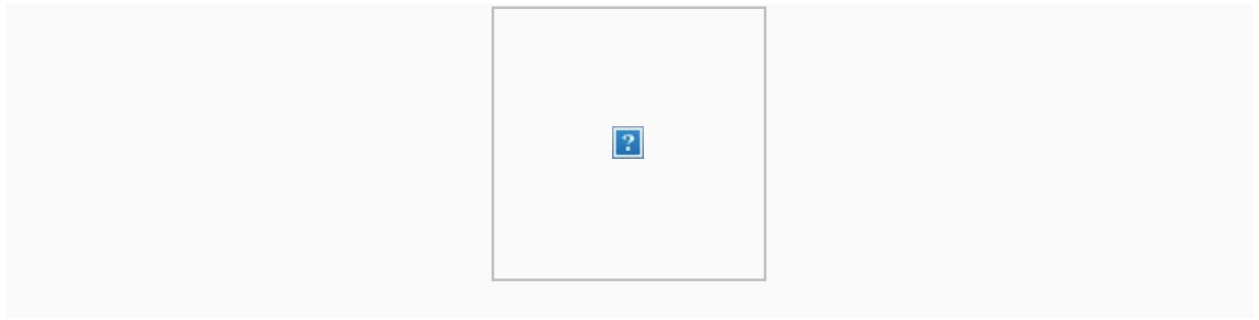
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[Gov. Healey announces capital plan, affordable housing program](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced today a new five-year, \$14 billion capital investment plan that includes more than \$1.5 billion in housing-related spending and a

new program to incentivize the creation of more affordable housing.

...

[Administration announces \\$11.6M in grants for 68 trail projects](#)

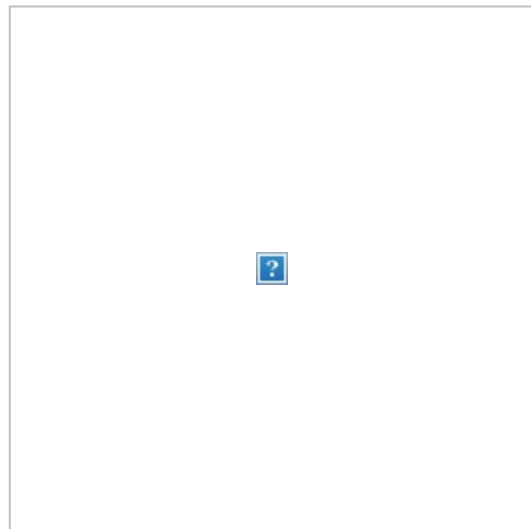
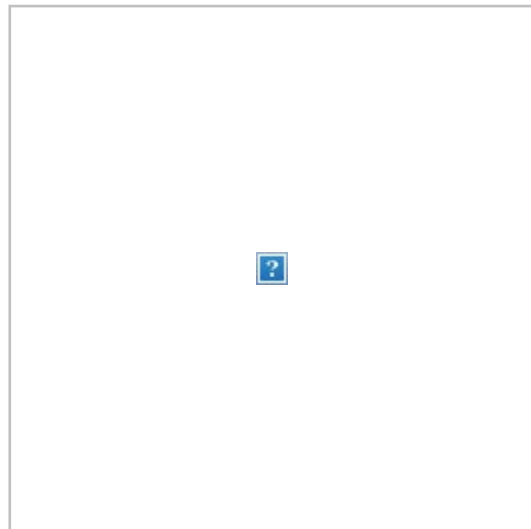
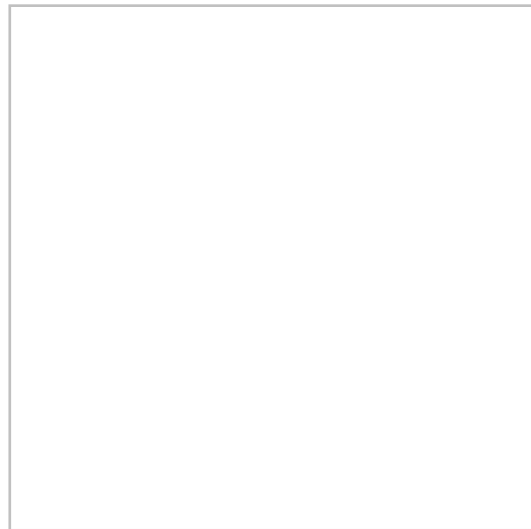
On June 15 in Billerica, Healey-Driscoll administration officials announced \$11.6 million in funding through the MassTrails Grant Program to support 68 trail improvement projects across the state. ...

[DLS publishes issue dedicated to new local officials](#)

The June 15 edition of the Division of Local Services' e-newsletter, City & Town, is dedicated to newly elected or appointed local officials, with municipal finance resources, information and policy guidance for those who might be new to local government. ...

[STAM hosts state officials, elects officers at its Annual Meeting](#)

Small Town Administrators of



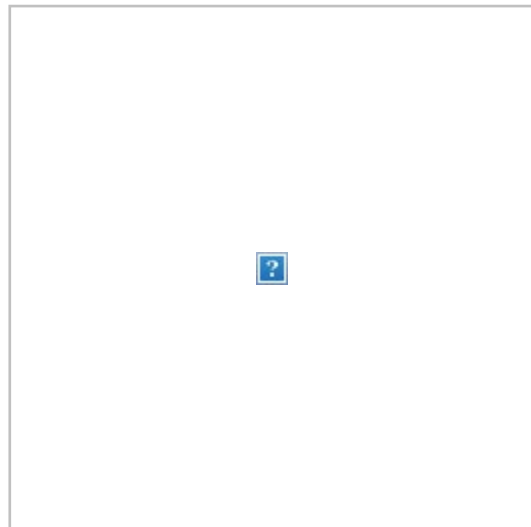
Massachusetts held its Annual Meeting on June 15 in Boylston to hear from state officials on a variety of topics and to elect a new leadership team. ...



[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

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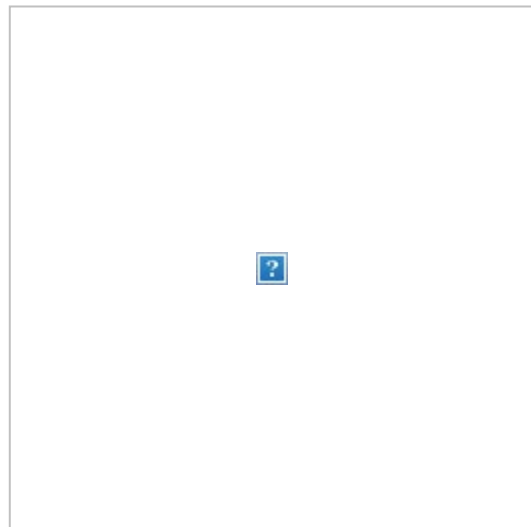
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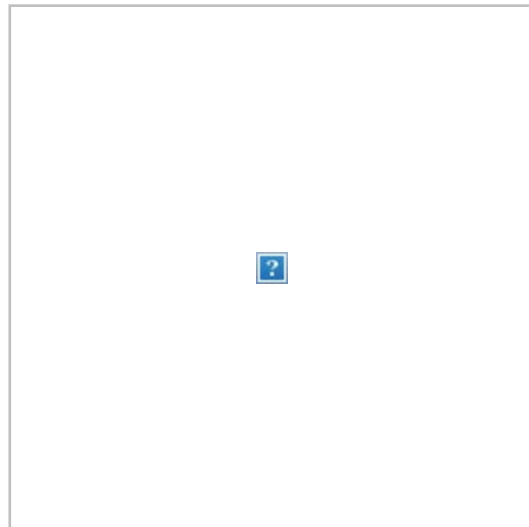


[Conference explores how cities, towns can boost their resilience](#)

The 2023 Resilient Cities Summit,

held June 6 through 8 in Falmouth, brought together municipal officials, advocates and nationally recognized experts in urban development, design, finance and infrastructure to discuss how cities and towns can better prepare for climate risks and work toward a more resilient future.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

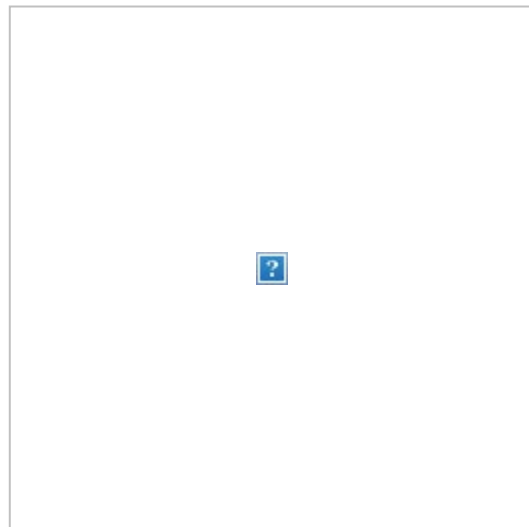
[MMA urges Education Committee to support bill to promote transparency and accountability in charter school finance](#)

On June 16, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants](#)

The Federal Highway Administration has opened the application period for a new discretionary grant program called PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation). Up to \$848 million is available. ...



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The MMA is seeking topic

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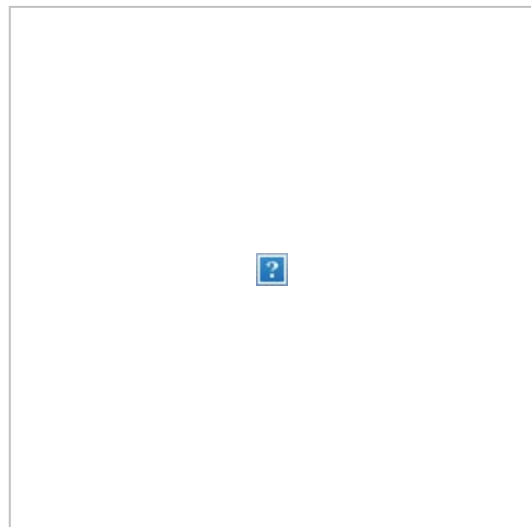
MMA seeks help with annual database updates

The MMA has begun the annual process of updating city and town information for its database, in order to reach as many municipal officials as possible with all of the benefits of MMA membership – including access to in-person events, webinars, publications including The Beacon, and the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show every January in Boston. ...



EPA grants available for habitat restoration, ecosystem protection

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 is accepting applications for grants to fund climate resilient infrastructure that promotes nature-based solutions, habitat restoration, and restoration of ecosystems degraded by poor stormwater and development practices. ...



Grants available to reduce

[wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

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[Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications](#)

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...



[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



[Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications](#)

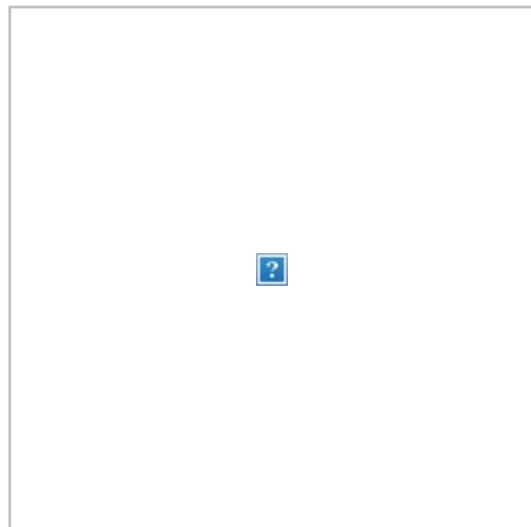
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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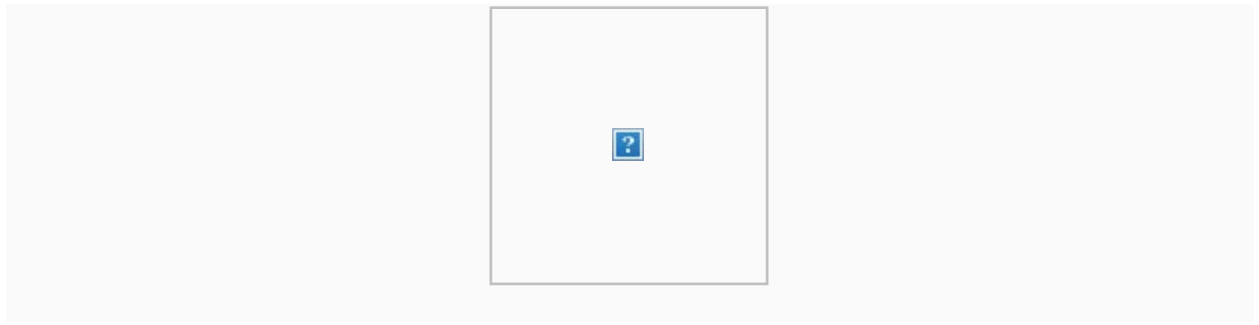
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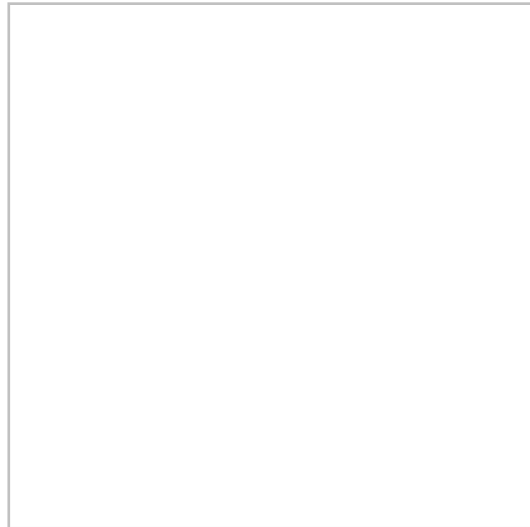
Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

Note: The Weekly Review will be taking next week off for the holiday and will return to inboxes on July 14.

[Massachusetts to receive \\$147M in new federal broadband funding](#)

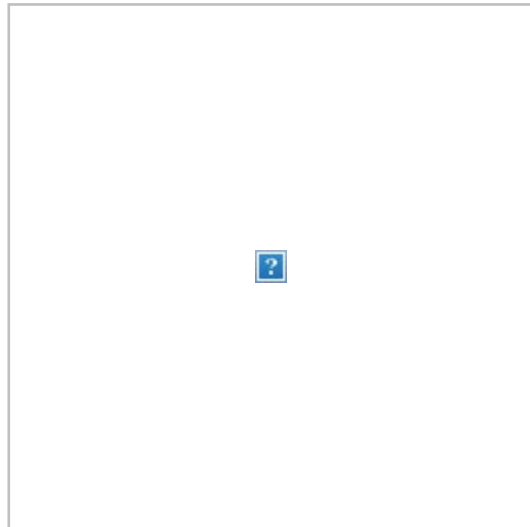
During an event at the White House yesterday, President Joe Biden, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, and federal

telecommunication leaders announced that Massachusetts will receive \$147 million from the national Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program, funding that will help the state further close the digital divide. ...



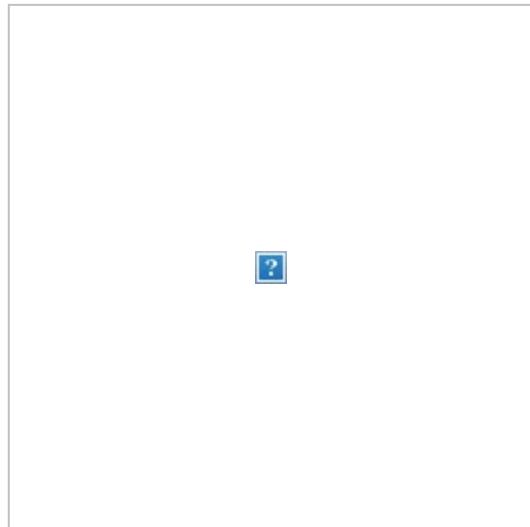
[MMHR elects officers and directors for FY24](#)

During its Annual Business Meeting on June 15 in Burlington, Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources elected Southborough Assistant Town Administrator Vanessa Hale as the association's chair for fiscal 2024. ...



[MMA seeks help with annual database updates](#)

For those who have not yet responded, the MMA is asking local leaders for help to ensure that the association has complete and accurate personnel information for every community. ...

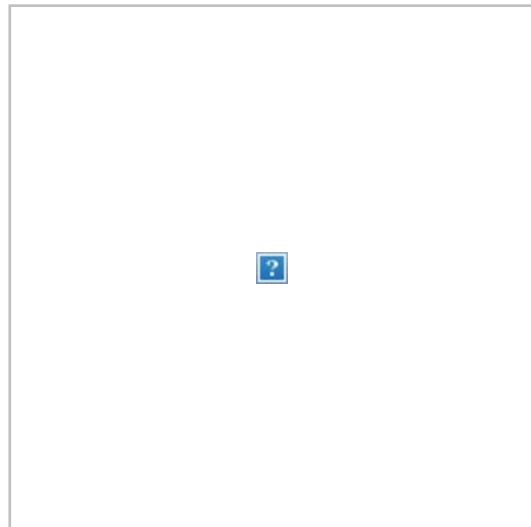


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New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support an update and expansion of the state's bottle bill](#)

On June 28, Testimony

[MMA urges Judiciary Committee to support bills that would allow legal notices in online-only newspapers](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA asks Election Laws Committee to reject bill that would require creation of federal, state legislative districts before municipalities set local precincts](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA expresses concerns to Public Health Committee about legislation concerning PFAS](#)

On June 23, Testimony

[In order to promote solar, MMA asks Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support bills to eliminate monthly minimum reliability contributions](#)

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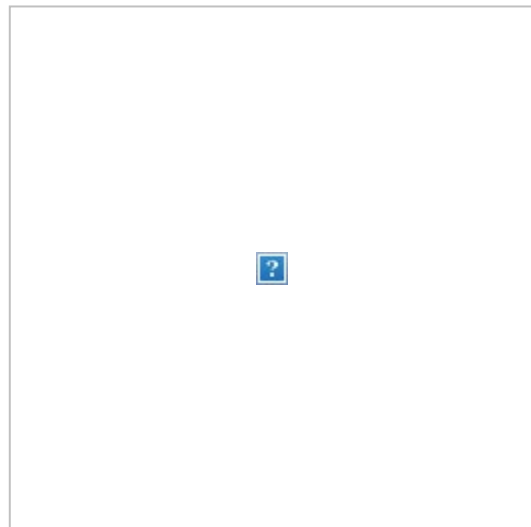
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[CCC approves model host community agreement](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission today voted to approve a model host community agreement that it developed in accordance with a comprehensive cannabis law

enacted in 2022 that requires the CCC to draft rules around HCAs, as well as social equity. ...

[State to begin lodging tax reimbursements for shelters in cities, towns](#)

State officials have announced a new program to financially support municipalities that have lost local hotel excise tax revenue due to emergency assistance shelter placements in hotels and motels in their community. ...

[MMA to host ‘Climate Action’ webinar series](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a “climate action” webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...

[MMA Board approves policy committees for 2024](#)

At its Feb. 13 meeting, the MMA



Board of Directors approved the rosters for the MMA's five policy committees for 2024. ...



[MMA panel testifies at Chapter 90 hearing](#)

On Jan. 30, the MMA and several municipal officials testified before the Joint Committee on Transportation in support of Gov. Maura Healey's Chapter 90 bond bill. ...



[MMA joins 23 municipal leagues, NLC for congressional visit](#)

A delegation from the MMA joined 23 municipal organizations from other states and the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C., in late January to meet with members of Congress and push for federal help on issues such as infrastructure investment, cybersecurity, gun safety, PFAS regulations, and avoiding a federal government shutdown. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MBTA](#)

Communities law

An MMA webinar today outlined the process and schedule for municipal compliance with the MBTA Communities law. ...



MMA webinar to share best practices for procurement

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 5 exploring how to streamline the procurement process. ...



MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...



MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education

The MMA will host a free webinar on

March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



MassDEP updates recycling market development plan

In February, the Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Protection released a revised Recycling Market Development Action Plan. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[Municipalities can't be left to recover from climate disasters alone](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

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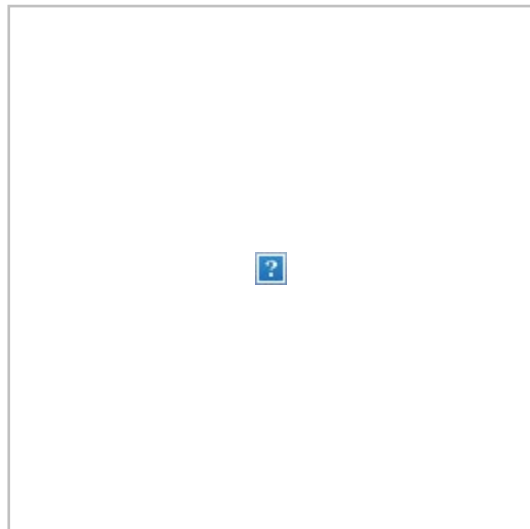
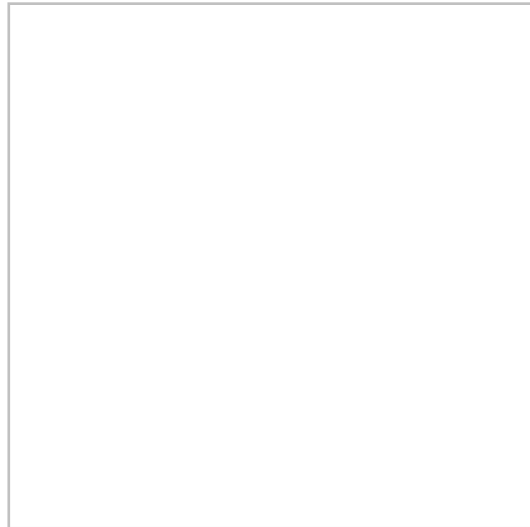


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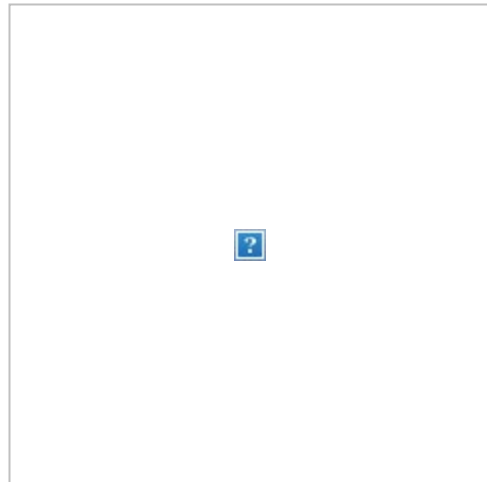
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[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

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[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



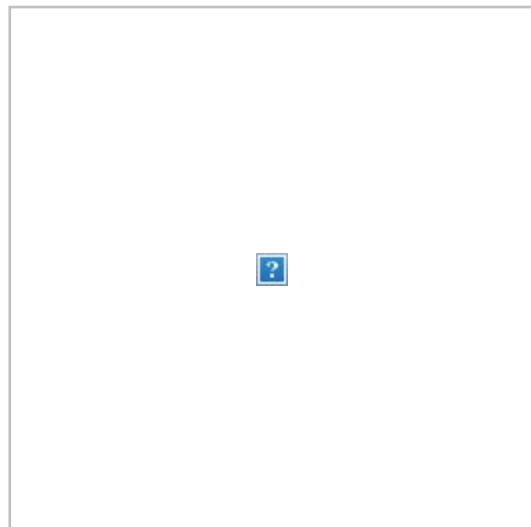
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From: [Mass Municipal Association](#)
To: [Jennifer Caira](#)
Subject: MMA Weekly Review
Date: Friday, July 14, 2023 11:01:07 AM

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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[CCC publishes draft regulations: regulatory process to begin soon](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission yesterday published preliminary draft regulations regarding adult-use and medical cannabis that would upend existing host community contracts. ...

[House passes supplemental budget with conditional special education funding](#)

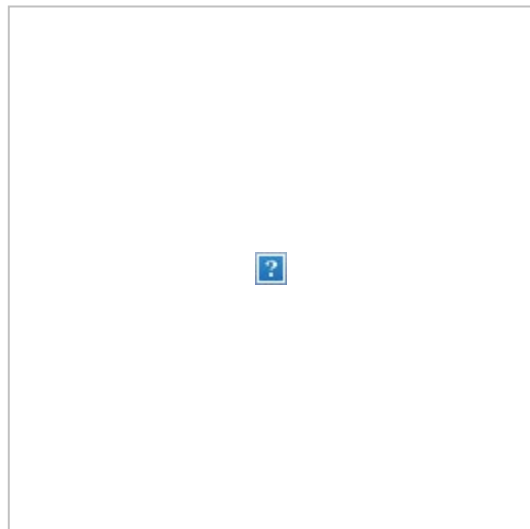
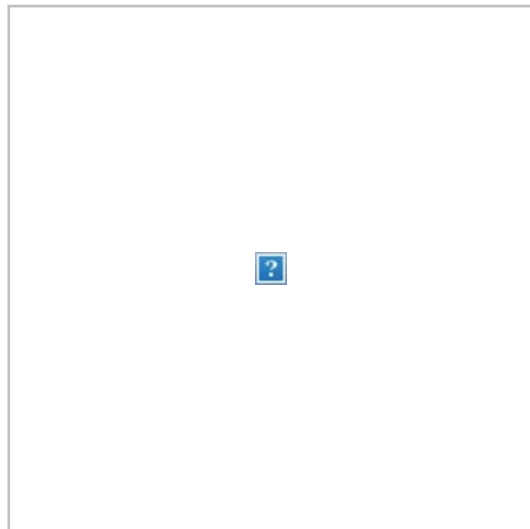
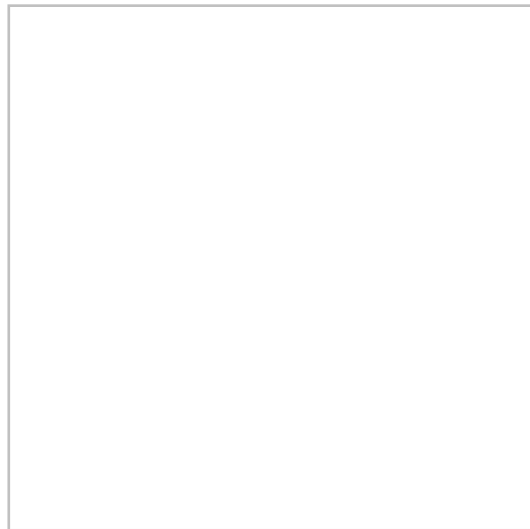
The House yesterday passed a \$693 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill that includes conditional funding to address extraordinary special education cost increases, as well as an expansion of the Housing Development Incentive Program. ...

[MMA-Suffolk certificate program graduates 2022-23 class](#)

On June 27, the MMA and Suffolk University graduated the 19th and 20th classes of the Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program. ...

[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging



all Massachusetts cities, towns and school districts “to take full advantage of newly available federal grants to clean up our school bus fleets.” ...



[MMA to host open forum on public records and open meeting laws](#)

A free, interactive MMA webinar on the state’s public records and open meeting laws on July 18 will offer an extended opportunity for discussion.

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[\\$575M available for coastal resilience projects](#)

Approximately \$575 million is available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



[USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced on July 5 that up to \$3.16 billion is available for planning and construction projects through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods discretionary grant program. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for three discretionary grant programs that involve surface transportation projects designed to strengthen supply chains, spur economic development, and improve safety. ...



[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



[IRS proposes regulations for 'direct pay' option under IRA](#)

The Internal Revenue Service has

released proposed regulations and frequently asked questions regarding the “direct pay,” or “elective pay,” provision of the Inflation Reduction Act. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Education Committee to support bills to study special education funding and increase reimbursement rates](#)

On July 12, Testimony

[MMA urges Labor and Workforce Development Committee to support unemployment insurance reform bill](#)

On July 11, Testimony

[MMA urges Public Service Committee to oppose costly bills that would increase the unfunded liability for public employee pensions](#)

On July 6, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA seeks help with annual database updates](#)

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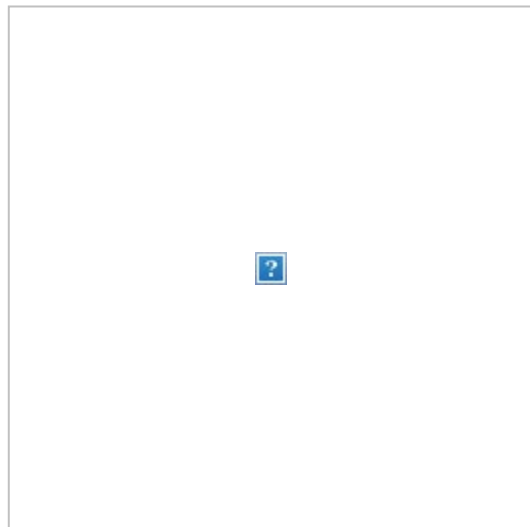
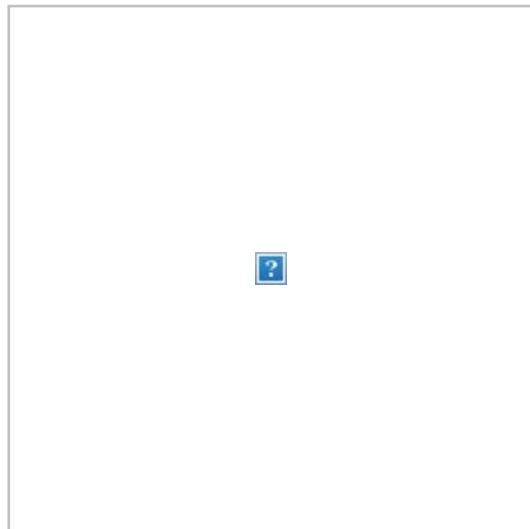
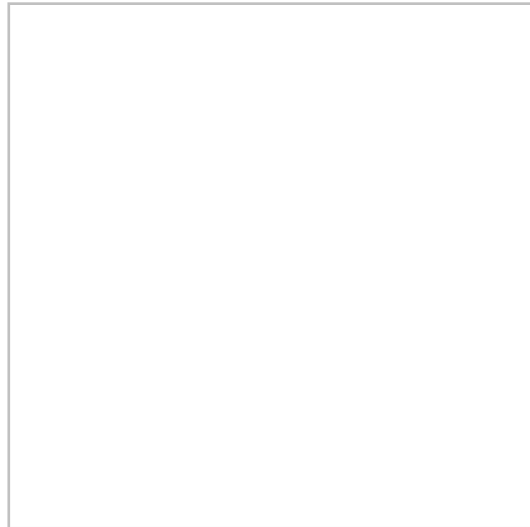
[FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants](#)

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[MMA seeks input for Annual Meeting workshops](#)

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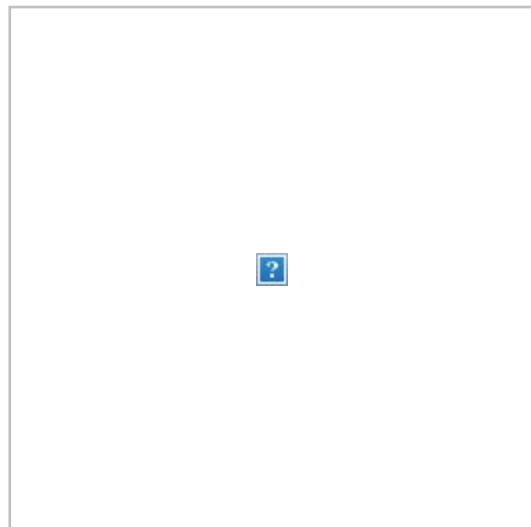


A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Records and Open Meeting Laws webinar](#) - July 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 29

[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

[Wellness Representative](#)

[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

[Risk Management Information Coordinator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 61 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, Human Resources Generalist, Executive Assistant, Network Administrator, Procurement Analyst, Chief of Inspections and Municipal Policy Analyst. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



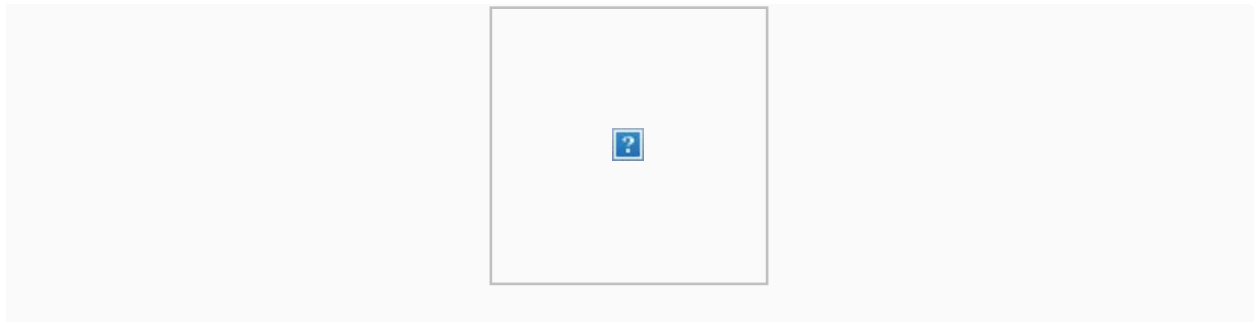
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From: [Mass Municipal Association](#)
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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Healey appeals denial of major disaster declaration for September storms](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has formally appealed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's denial of her request for a major disaster

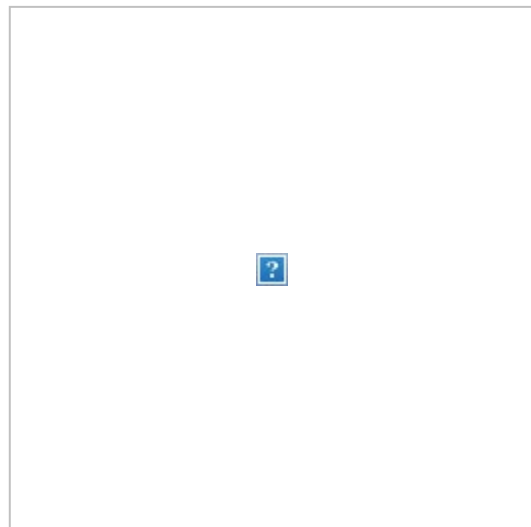
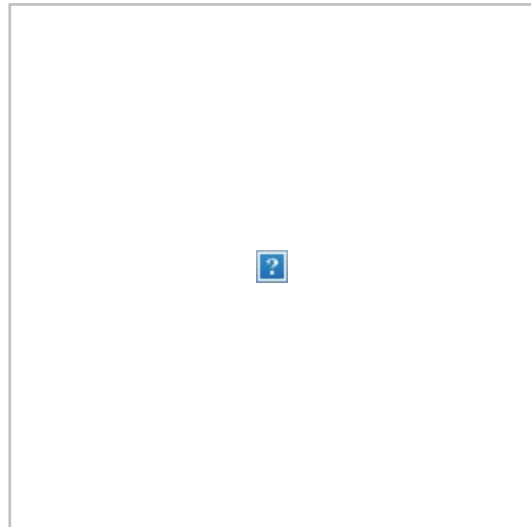
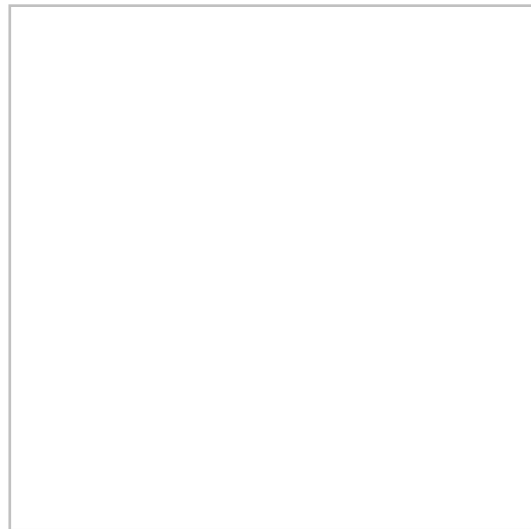
declaration to support the ongoing recovery of Massachusetts communities impacted by severe weather and flooding last September in Worcester, Hampden and Bristol counties. ...

[Administration announces \\$335M in federal funds for Mass Pike project](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state has won \$335.4 million in federal grant funding for a major “Reconnecting Communities” project around the Massachusetts Turnpike near the Charles River in Boston. ...

[MMA-MMLA webinar reviews best practices for MBTA zoning proposals](#)

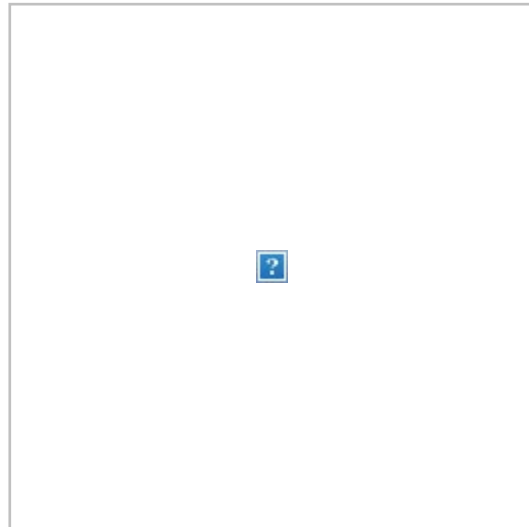
An MMA webinar with the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association reviewed what the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Attorney General’s Municipal Law Unit have learned from their preliminary review of proposed local zoning amendments relative to the



MBTA Communities Act. ...

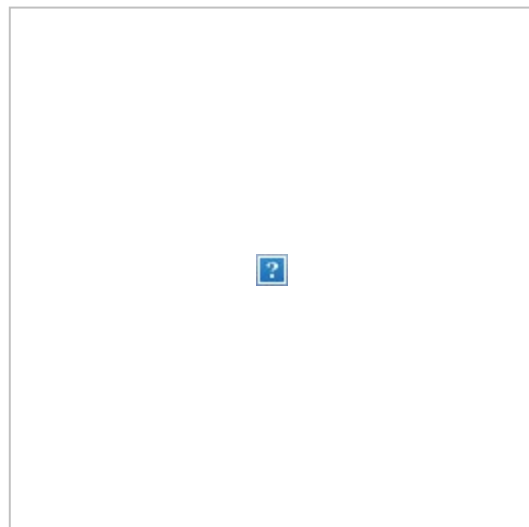
[Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference](#)

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



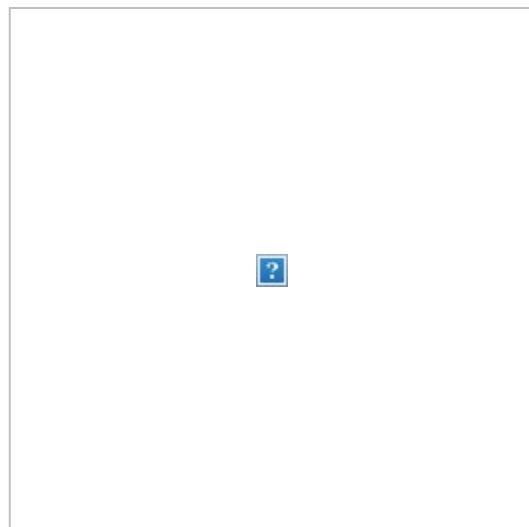
[Applications due March 25 for CDBG program](#)

The application deadline is March 25 for federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

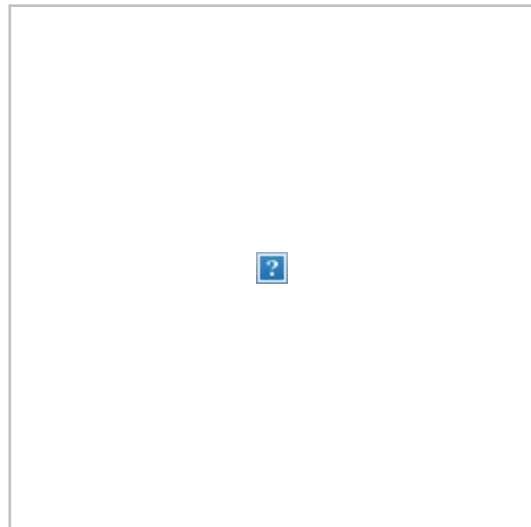
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[DPU to host 4 'Road Show'](#)

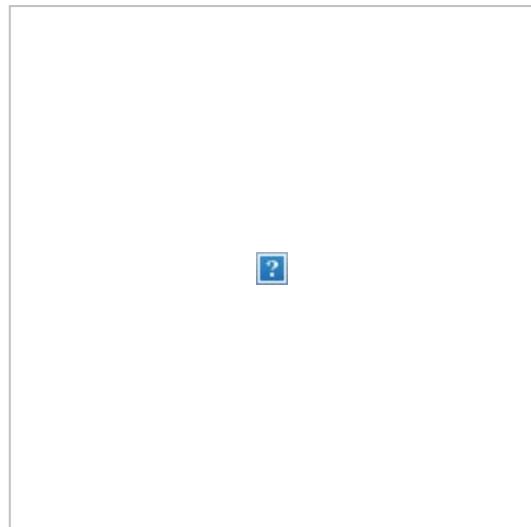
[meetings with public in 2024](#)

The Department of Public Utilities will be hosting four “Road Show” events during 2024, starting in Boston on March 27. ...



[\\$22M retrofit program will expand high-speed internet in affordable housing](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech on March 6 announced the launch of the Residential Internet Retrofit Program, a \$22 million statewide initiative to equip public and affordable housing units across the state with high-speed internet for current and future residents. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to support Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

On March 8, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March 20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

[Conflict Conversations \(Part 2\): Productive Dialogue in Volatile Times webinar](#) - April 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

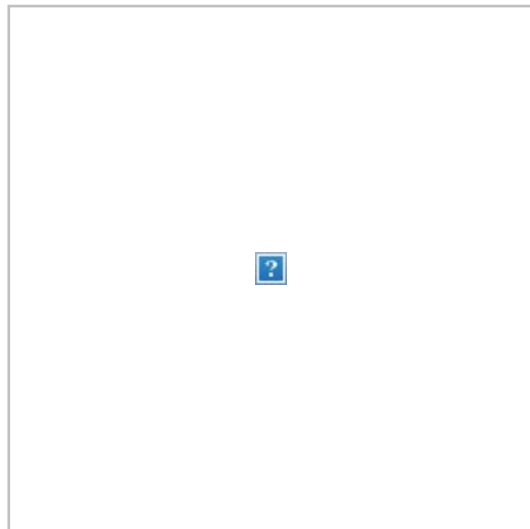
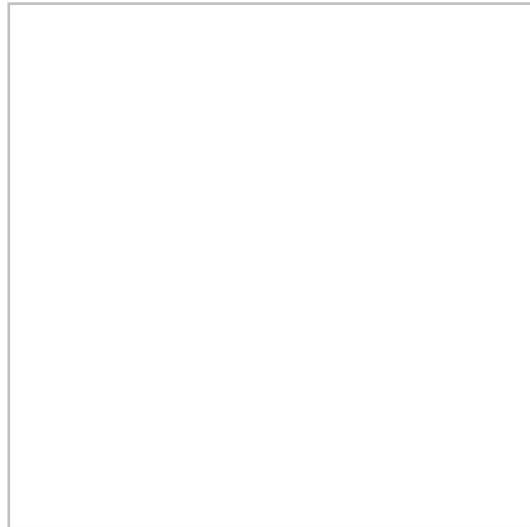
In Case You Missed It

[MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...

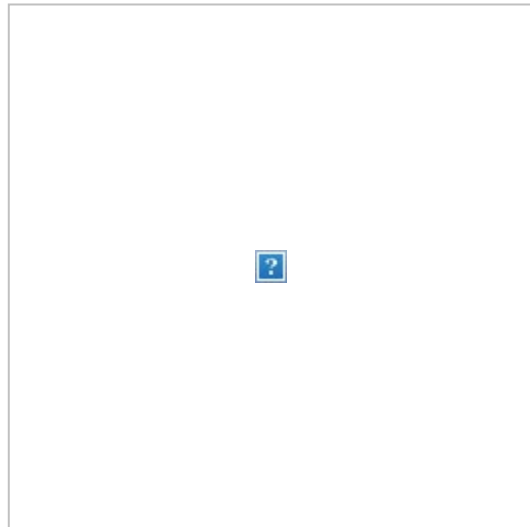
[**MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education**](#)

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



[**MMA to host 'Climate Action' webinar series**](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a "climate action" webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...



[**MMA to host second 'Conflict Conversations' webinar**](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 2 will

review, step-by-step, how to have productive conversations amidst tension and volatility. ...



[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Authority is accepting applications through April 25 for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. ...



[Local leaders invited to happiness symposium at Kennedy School](#)

Massachusetts municipal leaders can discover how to become “happiness teachers” during a free symposium being held June 19 through 21 by the Leadership and Happiness Laboratory at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Center for Public Leadership. ...



[Culvert replacement grant program opening soon for FY25](#)

The Division of Ecological

Restoration announced that it will soon be accepting applications for the fiscal 2025 Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program. ...



[ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12](#)

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



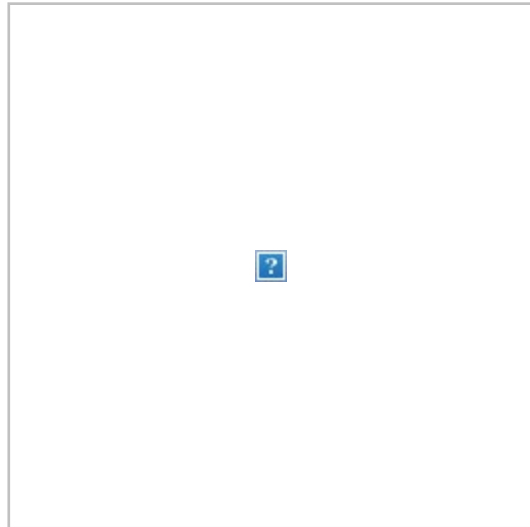
[MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



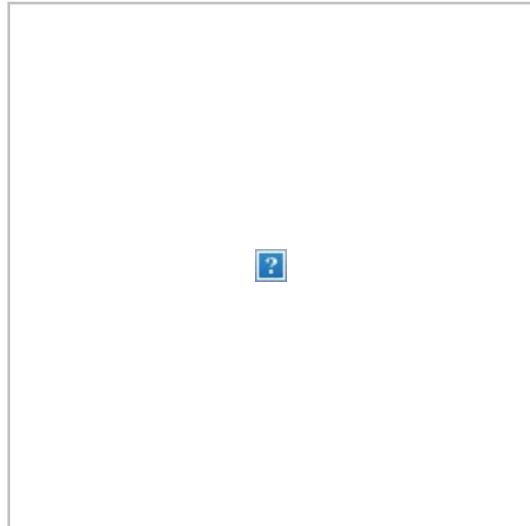
[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...



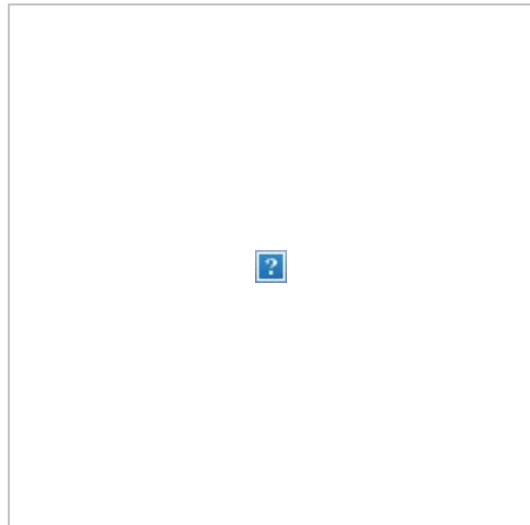
[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Budget and Fiscal Analyst, Town Planner, Police Officer, Administrative Assistant, Firefighter, Assistant City Clerk, Conservation Agent and Community and Development Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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To: [Jennifer Caira](#)
Subject: MMA Weekly Review
Date: Friday, July 21, 2023 9:15:49 AM

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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[FY24 state budget remains in conference committee](#)

As the state operates on an interim budget for July, a House-Senate conference committee is continuing its work toward a compromise fiscal 2024 state spending plan. ...

[MassDOT accepting requests while Ch. 90 bill remains in committee](#)

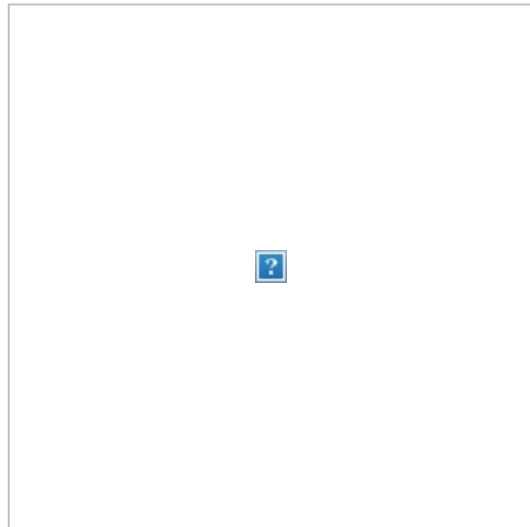
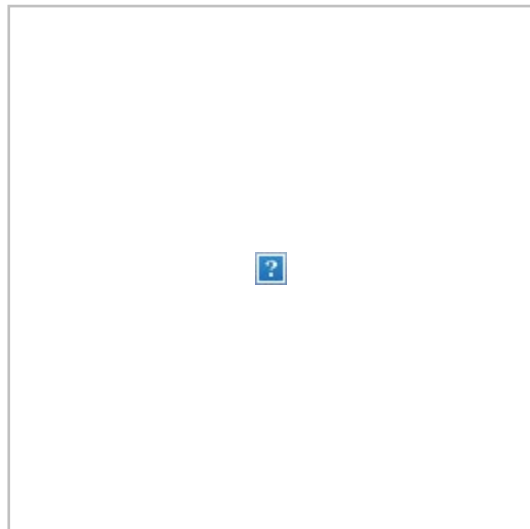
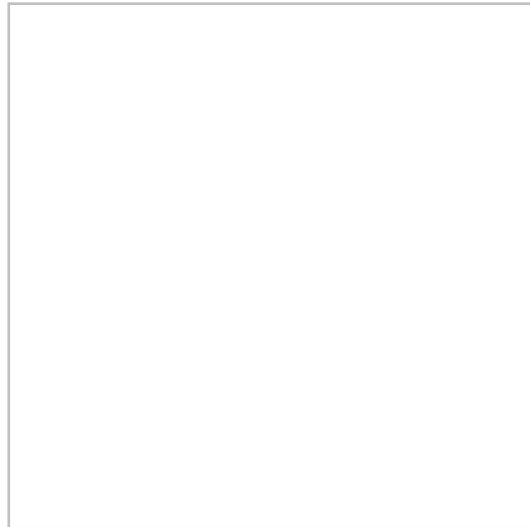
While the fiscal 2024 Chapter 90 bond bill remains in a conference committee, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation today said it will begin to accept, review and approve project requests from municipalities in advance of the legislation's final passage. ...

[MMA publishes Summer issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the Summer 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including a fiscal 2024 state budget update, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[Swift to WLG: Lead with confidence and empathy](#)

As a former acting governor and



business leader, Jane Swift has plenty of career tips to offer women: Use your power to improve people's lives, lead with confidence, take credit for your wins, and support your female colleagues. ...



[MMA forum answers questions on public records, open meeting laws](#)

An interactive MMA webinar yesterday offered an extended opportunity to discuss the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



[MMA webinar to discuss statewide contracts and procurement](#)

On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[IG announces pilot program to offer free procurement training to cities, towns](#)

On June 22, Inspector General Jeffery Shapiro announced a pilot program, called One Free Designee, offering core public procurement training at no cost to every municipality in Massachusetts. ...



MSA holds training for new members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association held a free training for newly elected select board members on June 9 in Devens, covering key state laws, budgeting, funding sources, insights from current members, and collaborative decision making. ...



Efforts to battle PFAS contamination continue

As cities and towns grapple with the management of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in drinking water across the Commonwealth, discussions continue on state and federal efforts. ...



Legislature considers extended producer responsibility and bottle bills

The Legislature is considering several bills this session that would hold producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products and packaging, a concept that could help local governments manage their increasing recycling and solid waste costs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Local government is teamwork](#)

On July 18, Executive Director's Report

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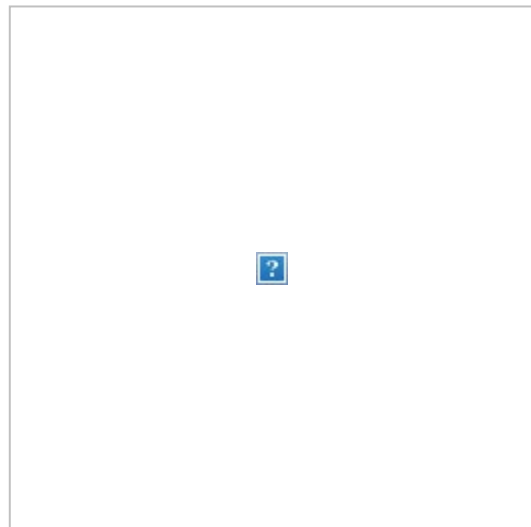
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the Draft Regulations on Host Community Agreements webinar](#) - Aug. 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 29

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To: [Kelly Brown](#)
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Date: Friday, August 30, 2024 9:15:58 AM

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It's a long weekend.

In local happenings: The 2024 Paris Paralympics kicked off this week with at least [6 athletes](#) sporting Massachusetts roots.

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](#)!

[Gov. signs law addressing PFAS in firefighter turnout gear](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a bill that addresses exposure to so-called

“forever chemicals,” also known as PFAS, in personal protective equipment worn by firefighters. ...



[Language in psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control](#)

The five statewide ballot initiatives certified for the November election include one that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, with language that would preempt local control. ...



[Gov. signs veterans services bill](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a broad bill known as the HERO Act that aims to modernize and increase veterans benefits with a mix of policy changes and tax incentives. ...



[Emergency Assistance shelter policies updated](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

has implemented new policies for the overburdened Emergency Assistance shelter system that are aimed at limiting shelter stays while prioritizing the needs of Massachusetts residents over migrants for long-term placements.

...

Budget included concerning tax title changes

The fiscal 2025 state budget signed by Gov. Maura Healey on July 29 included changes to the tax title foreclosure process that were intended to bring the state into compliance with a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the issue.

...

Applications sought for Cyber Resilient grant program

The MassCyberCenter at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is accepting applications for the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program from municipalities across the state to boost their cybersecurity infrastructure. ...

MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 12-13 in Falmouth

Massachusetts Municipal Human



Resources will hold its annual Fall Conference on Sept. 12 and 13 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth. ...



[MMA webinar to review essentials of capital planning](#)

A free MMA webinar on Sept. 24 will highlight best practices for maintaining and building a community's capital assets. ...



[MMA webinar to cover use of opioid settlement funds](#)

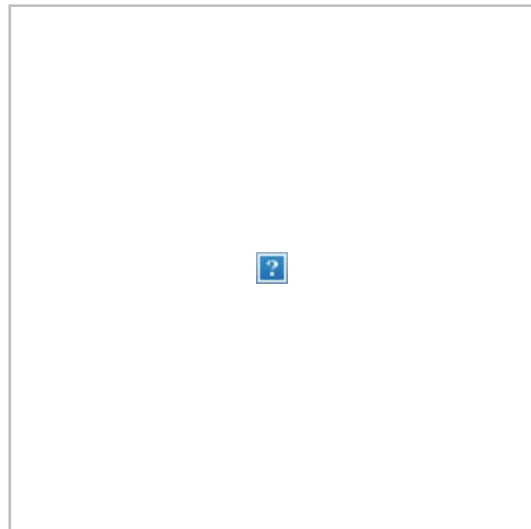
A free MMA webinar on Sept. 26 will review issues and strategies related to the use of opioid settlement funds. ...



[WEMO to hold annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27](#)

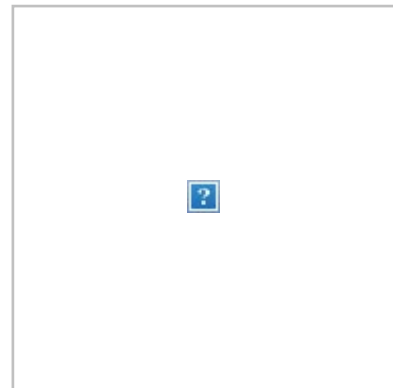
With the theme "Growing Trust in

Local Government,” Women Elected Municipal Officials will hold its sixth annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27 in Devens. ...



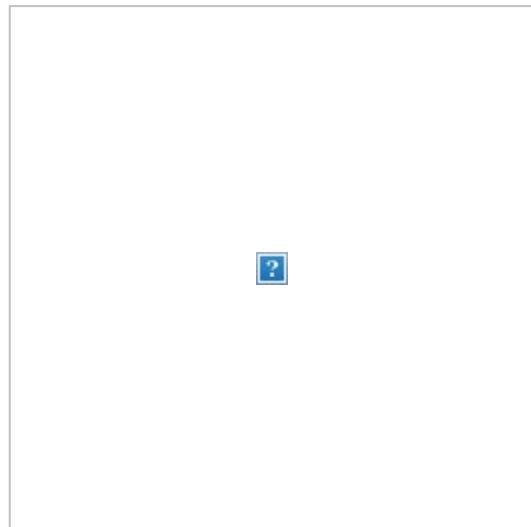
[MMHR seeking nominations for the 2024 Skop Award](#)

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources is accepting nominations for its annual Emil S. Skop Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the field of municipal human resources management. ...



[MCOA seeks annual award submissions](#)

The Massachusetts Councils on Aging is accepting nominations through Sept. 6 for its annual awards, which honor individuals, groups, and programs that have significantly impacted the lives of older adults. ...



[COPS Office to provide technical assistance to Boston Police Department](#)

The U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services announced on Aug. 8 that it will engage with the Boston Police Department to provide a review and assessment of operations within the Boston Police Department's Human Resources section. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 12-13

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 19

[Capital planning webinar](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Opioid settlement funds webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 27

[First Amendment audits webinar](#) - Oct. 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Oct. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Oct. 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



[Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA's annual conference in January 2025. ...



[Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 7 in Norwood](#)

Municipal fleet managers can learn about sustainable transportation

options at the 21st annual AltWheels Fleet Day event on Oct. 7 in Norwood. ...



MMA seeks input on local roadway needs with Ch. 90 survey

The MMA will be sending its biennial Chapter 90 funding survey this summer to chief municipal officials and public works and highway department officials in all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. ...



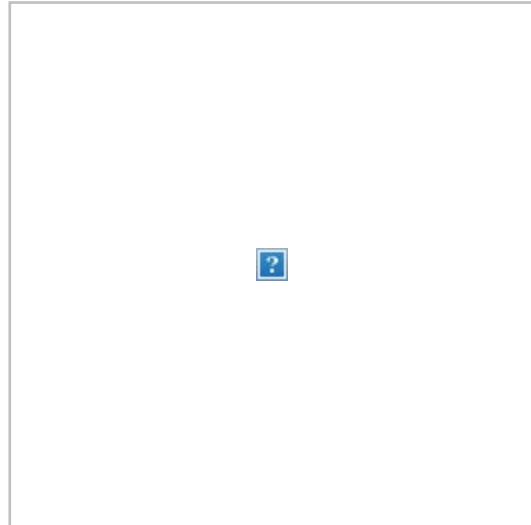
MMA announces new name, location, dates for conference

Big changes are in store for the MMA's conference in January, as the event moves to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and expands into a third afternoon. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Local photos sought

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or the important work of your local government? Whether it's municipal buildings or natural resources, construction projects or downtown streets, the MMA would appreciate a copy of your photos for possible use in future editions of The Beacon or on the MMA website. Photos must be free of copyright restrictions. Municipal officials and staff may email photos (.jpeg format and high resolution if possible) to **photos@mma.org** as an attachment.

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Risk Management Program Coordinator](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Planning Director, Recreation Services Coordinator, Senior Traffic Engineer,

Conservation Agent, Fiscal Manager, Solutions Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! POLCO asked practitioners & thought leaders to reflect on the [biggest challenges facing local governments today](#) and identified 8 key areas.

In local happenings: Worcester residents interested in working on their physical fitness now have a new [fitness court at University Park](#).

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](#)!

[Community One Stop awards](#)
[\\$161M for economic development projects](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

announced that \$161 million in grant funding is going to 313 projects to support economic development in 171 communities across the state. ...



EPA sets lead pipe removal deadline, awards new funding

President Joe Biden has announced a 10-year deadline for public water systems across the country to replace lead service lines, a requirement aimed at ensuring safe drinking water for all Americans. ...



Psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control

The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth has published a summary of a statewide ballot initiative that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, without an avenue for individual cities and towns to opt out. ...



MMA webinar outlines strategies for 'First Amendment audits'

An MMA webinar addressed the

challenge of so-called “First Amendment audits” and strategies for dealing with them. The webinar was led by attorneys Lauren Goldberg and Janelle Austin from KP Law. ...



MMA offers range of conflict management webinars

At a time when effective conflict management has become increasingly important, the MMA offers a number of webinars that are available on www.mma.org and MMA On-Demand. ...



Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens

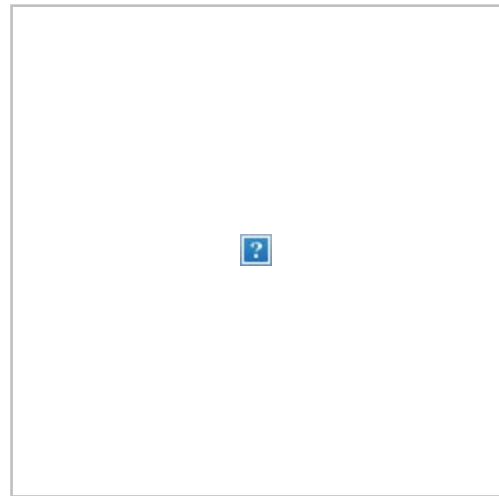
The Green Communities Division will hold the first Green Communities Summit on Nov. 22 to discuss innovative energy solutions and share best practices. ...



National League of Cities to mark 100 years at City Summit in Nov.

The National League of Cities will

continue its celebration of its 100th anniversary during its annual City Summit on Nov. 13-16 in Tampa, Florida. ...



[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

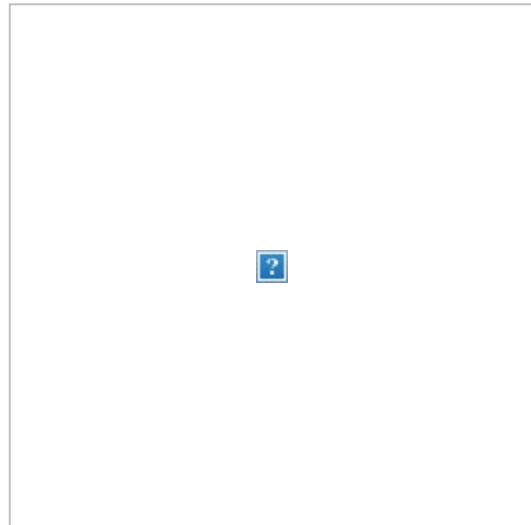
[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).



Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 30

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 7

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 2

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

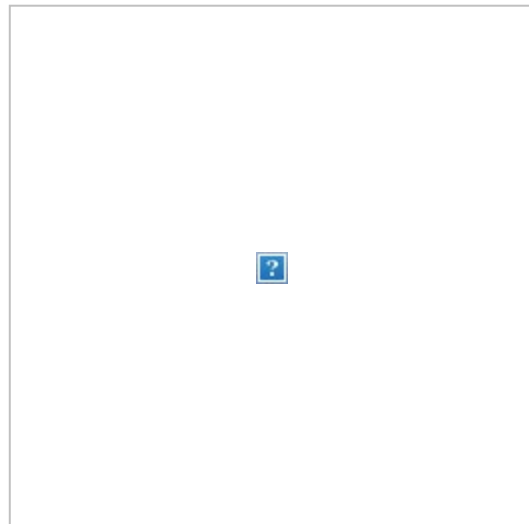
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

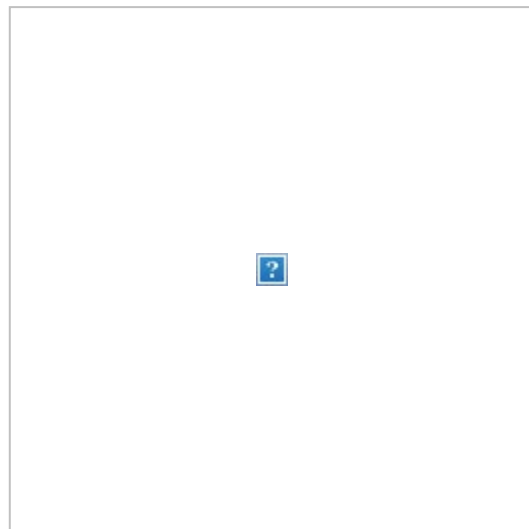
[WEMO seeks nominations for its 2025 Steering Committee](#)

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2025 steering committee. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Just City Mayoral Fellowship](#)

[seeks 2025 fellows](#)

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is accepting expressions of interest through Nov. 15 from mayors who want to participate in the fifth year of the institute's Just City Mayoral Fellowship program in spring 2025.

...



[MVP Expressions of Interest due Nov. 1](#)

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Nov. 1 for its fiscal 2026 Action Grant round. ...



[ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Nov. 2](#)

Local finance committee members are invited to the Association of Town Finance Committees' Annual Meeting on Nov. 2 at the Sharon Community Center. ...



[FCC seeks applicants for Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program](#)

The Federal Communications

Commission is accepting applications for the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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-

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MMA Website Weekly Review

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!](#)

[House, Senate approve FY24 Ch. 90 bill](#)

The House and Senate today approved a compromise Chapter 90 bond bill that includes a \$200 million authorization for the local road and bridge program for fiscal 2024, as well as \$175 million for seven

transportation-related grant programs. ...

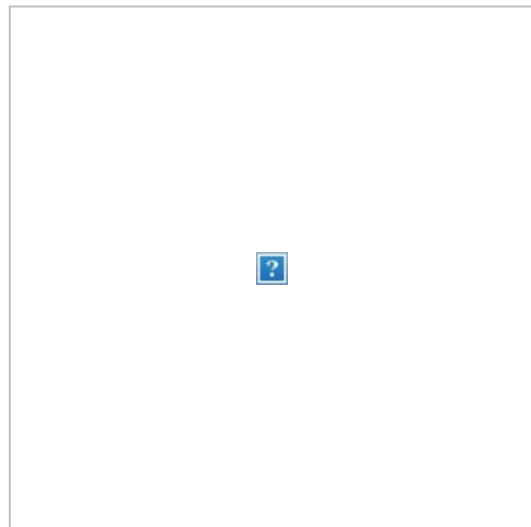
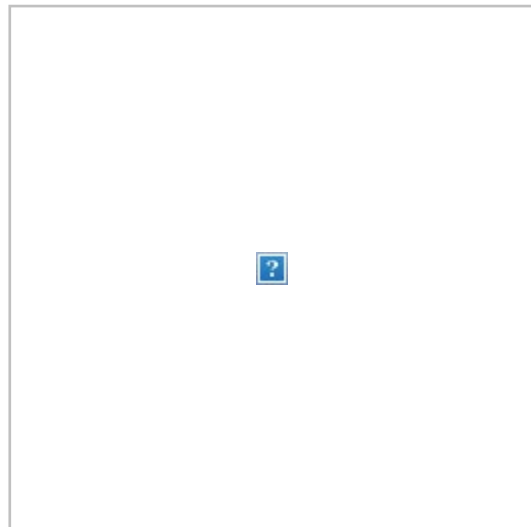
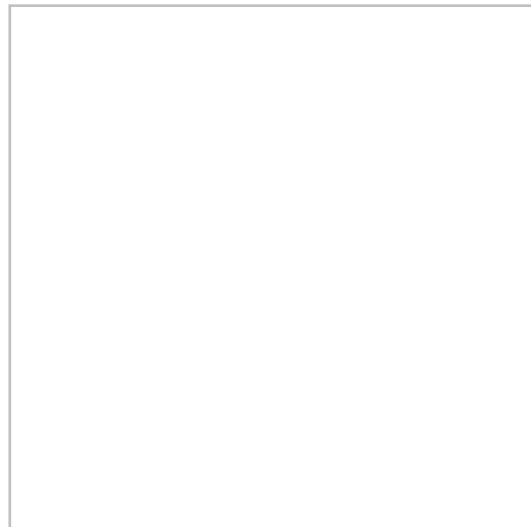
[Senate OK's \\$513M supplemental budget with \\$75M for special education](#)

The Senate today passed a \$513 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill that includes conditional funding to address extraordinary special education cost increases, as well as \$20 million in disaster relief related to recent flooding in western Massachusetts. ...

[MassCyberCenter releases 'Minimum Baseline of IT' guide](#)

Recent cyberattacks on cities and towns across the country have shed light on the importance of strengthening cybersecurity resiliency at the municipal level. ...

[MMA webinar on Aug. 7 will discuss proposed CCC regulations](#)



A free webinar for MMA members on Aug. 7 will review the Cannabis Control Commission's draft regulations on host community agreements and social equity. ...



[MMA members invited to MMLA meeting on climate change](#)

Climate change and related issues will be the focus of the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association's annual half-day program on Aug. 10 at the Publick House in Sturbridge. ...



[MMA webinar to discuss statewide contracts and procurement](#)

On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[DPH issues reminders to reduce risks of mosquito-borne illnesses](#)

With mosquito season upon us, the

Department of Public Health is reminding residents and municipal officials that mosquitoes can spread illness-causing viruses such as West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis.

...



Member Spotlight

[Pooler to retire as Arlington town manager](#)

After serving for a quarter century in municipal government, Arlington Town Manager Sandy Pooler will be retiring on July 28. ...



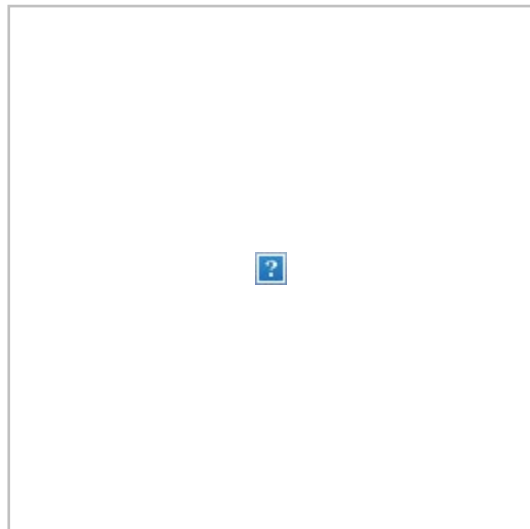
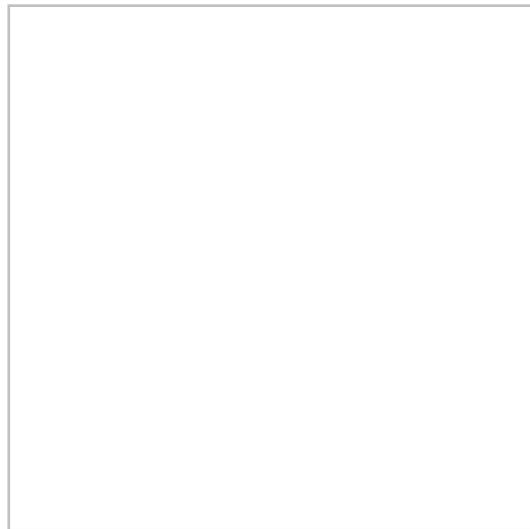
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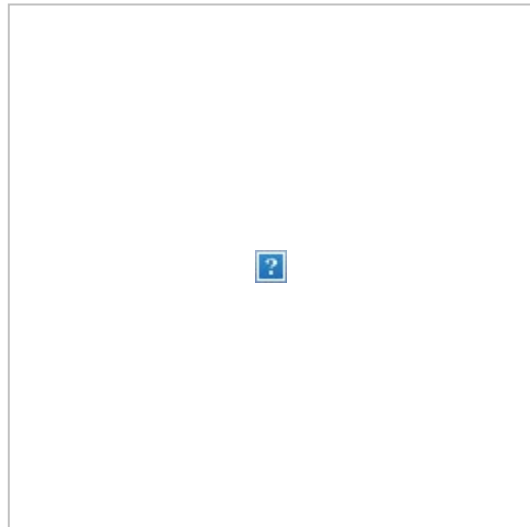
[MMA seeks input for Annual Meeting workshops](#)

The MMA is seeking topic suggestions from members for the timely, informative and interactive workshops that are a key component of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show each January. ...



[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging all Massachusetts cities, towns and school districts “to take full advantage of newly available federal grants to clean up our school bus fleets.” ...



[\\$575M available for coastal resilience projects](#)

Approximately \$575 million is

available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced on July 5 that up to \$3.16 billion is available for planning and construction projects through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods discretionary grant program. ...



USDOT accepting applications for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for three discretionary grant programs that involve surface transportation projects designed to strengthen supply chains, spur economic development, and improve safety. ...



USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program

On June 15, the U.S. Department of

Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants

The Federal Highway Administration has opened the application period for a new discretionary grant program called PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation). Up to \$848 million is available. ...

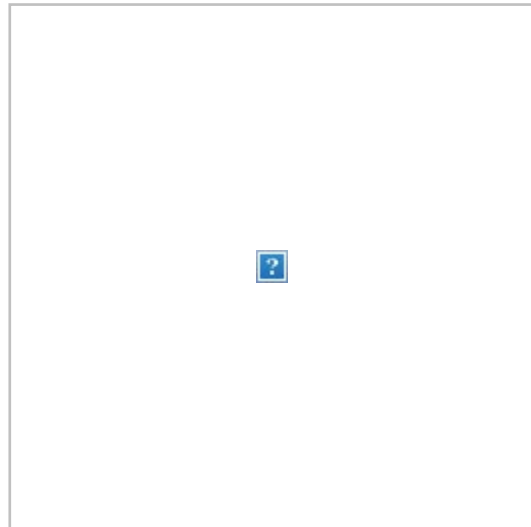


Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



Federal Funds Resource Area



Upcoming MMA Events

[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the Draft Regulations on Host Community Agreements webinar](#) - Aug. 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 8

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MMA Website Weekly Review

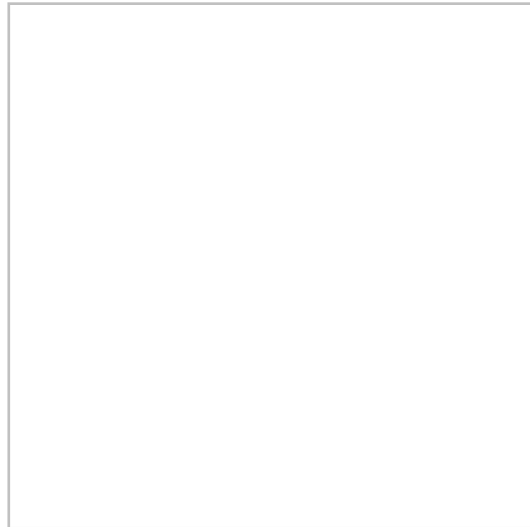
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[Governor signs Chapter 90 bill](#)

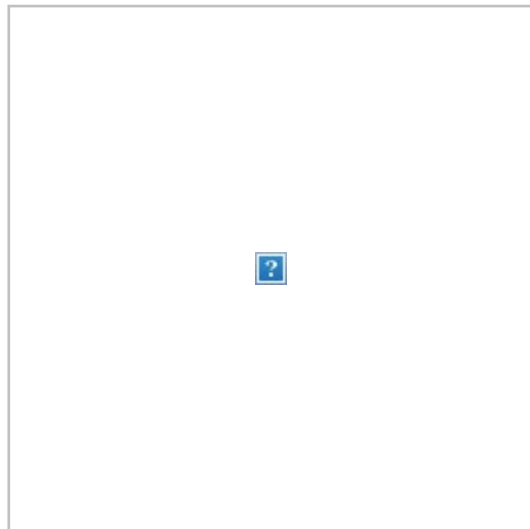
Alongside key stakeholders, Gov. Maura Healey signed the fiscal 2024 Chapter 90 bond bill today at an event in Lowell. The House-Senate compromise bill authorizes \$200 million for the road bridge program and \$175 million for seven

transportation-related grant programs. ...



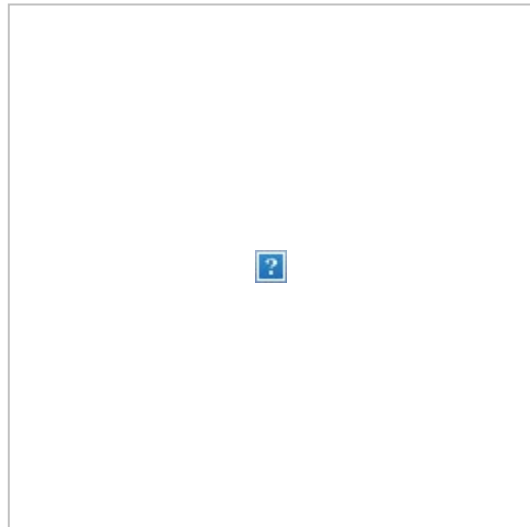
[Legislature enacts FY24 budget with key investments in municipal and school aid](#)

The House and Senate on July 31 passed a \$56.2 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024. ...



[Adam Chapdelaine appointed as MMA's new executive director](#)

The MMA Board of Directors today appointed Adam Chapdelaine as the association's next executive director to succeed the retiring Geoff Beckwith. ...



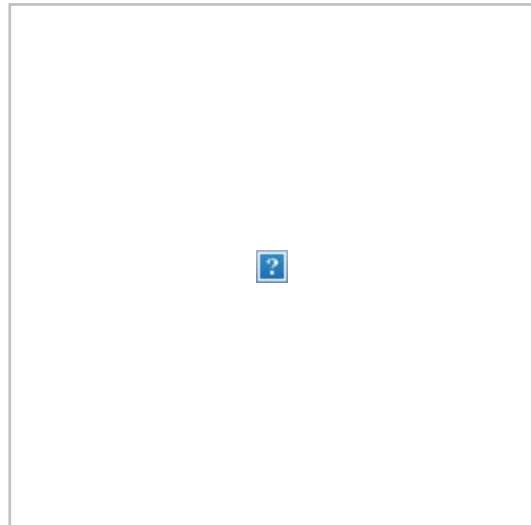
[Governor signs \\$200M FY23 supplemental budget bill, \\$20M for flood relief in western Mass.](#)

Soon after completing its work on the fiscal 2024 compromise state budget bill, the Legislature on Monday passed a fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill (H. 4034) providing \$20 million in mitigation funds for natural disasters, including the recent floods in western Massachusetts. Gov. Maura Healey signed the bill into law on Tuesday morning. ...



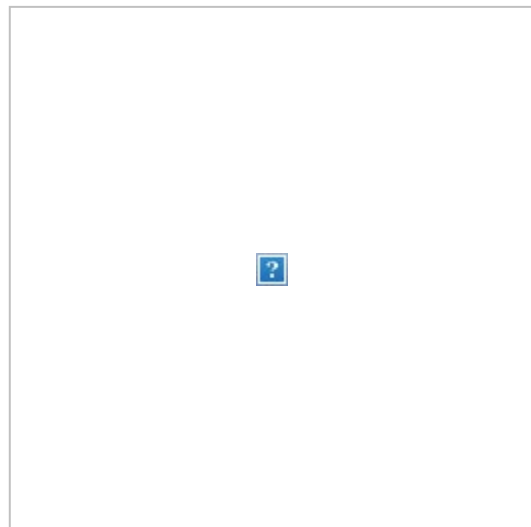
[State announces \\$11.5 million grant program to electrify heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently announced a new competitive grant program as part of the Volkswagen Settlement and the state's climate trust: the Massachusetts VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation. ...



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[With override, Nantucket boosts affordable housing efforts](#)

Faced with an increasingly dire housing shortage, the town of Nantucket has invested more than \$67 million in housing efforts in recent years, approved an override for future projects, and partnered with developers to bring additional housing to the island. ...



[Amherst completes comprehensive solar assessment](#)

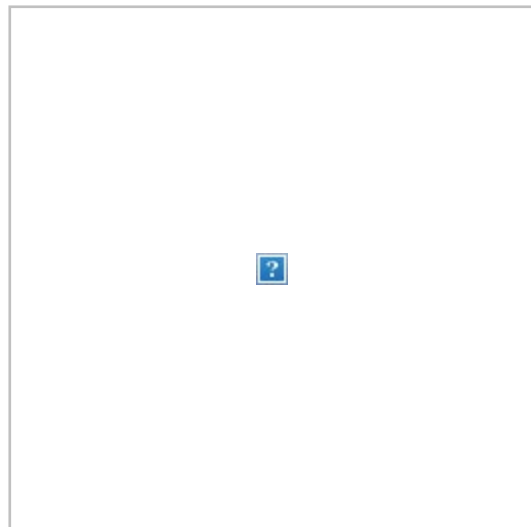
The town of Amherst recently

completed a townwide solar assessment as a part of an effort to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. As a result, the town now has a mapping tool that shows where solar is feasible for the town, as well as for businesses and residents who may be interested in solar installation in the future. ...



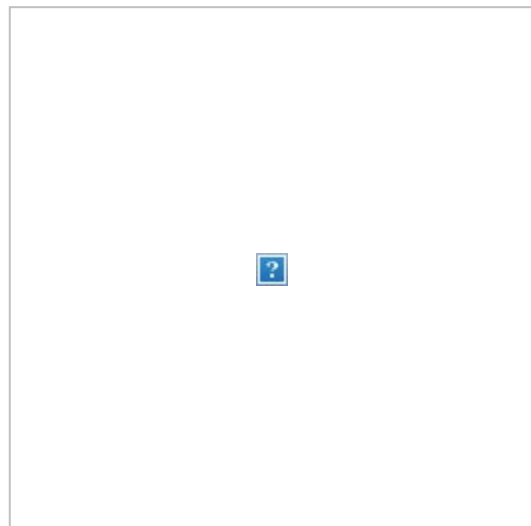
[Harvard report highlights Somerville's civic engagement](#)

A recent study on Somerville's civic engagement activities published by the Harvard Kennedy School offers insights on citizen interaction at a time when local governments seek new ways to engage residents and create a more civil environment for public discourse. ...



[MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest](#)

Has your community recently launched an innovative new project that has transformed the delivery of services or helped solve a common problem facing cities and towns? ...



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[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

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New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges governor to support key municipal investments in FY24 state budget](#)

On Aug. 2, Testimony

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Visitors to Saint Mary's Cemetery in Milford have likely noticed the [Milford Round Tower](#). Built in 1986, the 73 foot tall tower might be the only of its kind found outside of Ireland.

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](#)!

[Legislature OK's economic
development bill with local
funding](#)

The House and Senate approved a

\$4 billion economic development bill that includes funding for a range of grants and programs that benefit cities and towns. ...



MassDEP amends rules for Low Emission Vehicle Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection filed emergency regulation amendments on Nov. 4 affecting the Low Emission Vehicle Program (310 CMR 7.40). ...



\$5.8M in Public Safety Staffing grants awarded

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on Oct. 31 announced nearly \$5.8 million in fiscal 2025 Municipal Public Safety Staffing grant awards. ...



DLS reminds communities to report ballot question results

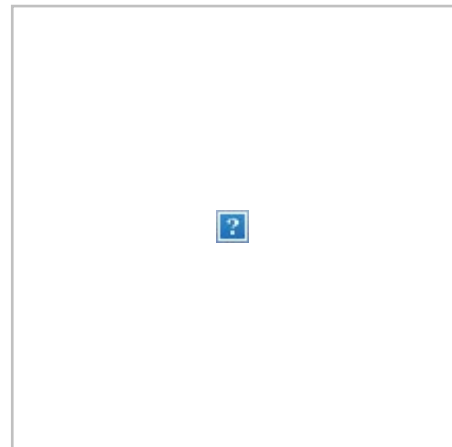
The Division of Local Services is

reminding communities that they must report the outcomes of certain ballot measures using the division's online Gateway. ...



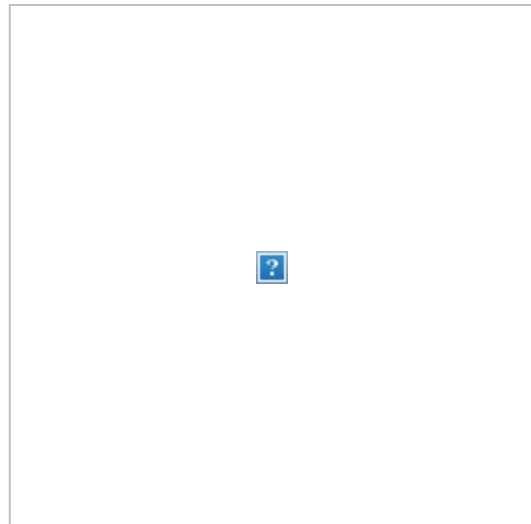
New guidelines in Devens seek to reduce 'embodied carbon'

Devens, a former military base that's now a regional enterprise zone, has spent the past two decades redeveloping with sustainability as an objective. ...



New Bedford and region have new roadmap to address homelessness

In late September, New Bedford Mayor John Mitchell released a report about a city-commissioned study that analyzed New Bedford's response to homelessness. ...



Boston tests 'green' roofs on MBTA bus shelters

Boston has added "green" roofs to 30 bus shelters along a popular

route, shielding bus riders from increasingly hot weather, and better equipping neighborhoods to manage stormwater runoff and flooding risks.

...



Reducing risk, ensuring smooth transitions when decommissioning buildings

When planning for a new municipal building, the disposition of the existing building — whether through sale, demolition or re-commissioning — should be part of the plan. ...



MunEnergy can help with managing winter energy needs

As cities and towns prepare for winter and a high-demand heating season, the MMA's MunEnergy program can help municipal leaders manage these costs. ...



[Great Barrington just got more than \\$6 million in grants. Here's where the money is going.](#)

[Stockbridge and West Stockbridge have agreed to share a fire chief as a possible first step to a larger agreement.](#)

[51 years later, overdue book is finally returned to Worcester Public Library.](#)

What We're Reading

[Strategies for spreading AI throughout local government](#) - Bloomberg Cities
(6 minute read)

"Take Boston, which is currently developing a customized chatbot—trained on the city's hundreds of pages of procurement procedures and rules—to accelerate purchases. To Chief Information Officer Santiago Garces, this work is primarily geared at producing greater efficiency for civil servants by reducing the time they spend seeking approval for purchases."

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to
[Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Holiday Decorations in Your Community: Overview and Legal Considerations](#) - Nov. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Situational Supervision](#) - Dec. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

- [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
- [Mass Save introduces municipal energy manager grant](#)
- [‘Climate tech’ event on Nov. 19 to focus on municipal continuity during emergencies](#)
- [Treasury offers resources as ARPA obligation deadline nears](#)
- [Foundation offers grants to help apply for opioid settlement funds](#)
- [Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of Koran's Farm!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 30 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Procurement Director, Assistant Town Clerk, Part-time Local Inspector, Town Coordinator, Senior Clerk and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

The Weekly Review is taking a vacation next week. We will be back in your inbox on Aug. 25.

[Gov. Healey signs FY24 state budget](#)

Gov. Maura Healey today signed a \$56 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that increases unrestricted

local aid by 3.2% over fiscal 2023 and boosts Chapter 70 education aid by \$603 million. ...



Governor declares emergency, calls for support for rush of migrant families

Gov. Maura Healey this morning declared that a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability. ...



MMA webinar reviews draft CCC regulations on host community agreements

An MMA webinar today discussed the implications of the Cannabis Control Commission's draft regulations on host community agreements and social equity. ...



MMA webinar to discuss statewide contracts and procurement

On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



[Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland](#)

The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



[Navigating unemployment: fraud, complexity and safeguards](#)

The Massachusetts Department of

Unemployment Assistance recently issued an alert about another uptick in fraudulent claims, three years after many states were hit with an initial spike during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

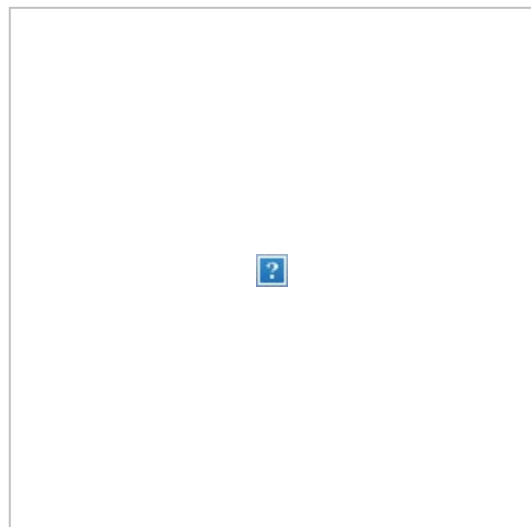
[MMA asks Public Service Committee to oppose bills that would add costly new unfunded mandates for employee benefits](#)

On Aug. 4, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest](#)

Has your community recently launched an innovative new project that has transformed the delivery of services or helped solve a common problem facing cities and towns? ...



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The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently announced a new competitive grant program as part of the Volkswagen Settlement and the state's climate trust: the Massachusetts VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation. ...



[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging

all Massachusetts cities, towns and school districts “to take full advantage of newly available federal grants to clean up our school bus fleets.” ...



FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants

The Federal Highway Administration has opened the application period for a new discretionary grant program called PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation). Up to \$848 million is available. ...



\$575M available for coastal resilience projects

Approximately \$575 million is available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



USDOT accepting applications for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for three discretionary grant programs that involve surface transportation projects designed to strengthen supply chains, spur economic development, and improve safety. ...

[USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants](#)

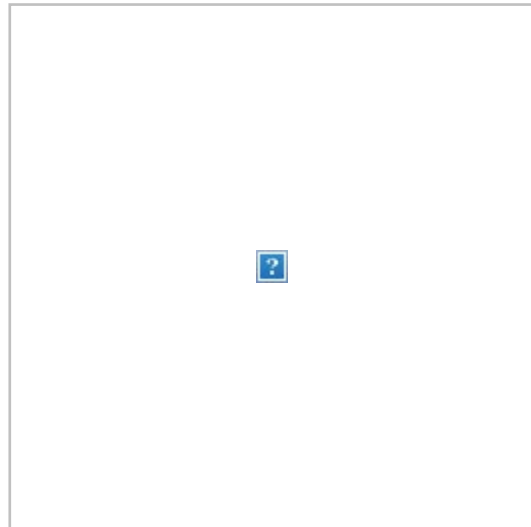
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[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



Federal Funds Resource Area



Upcoming MMA Events

[Best Practices for Navigating Statewide Contracts and COMMBUYS Purchasing webinar](#) - Aug. 15

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[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 42 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Clerk, EMS Director, Library Technician, Shared Conservation Agent/Stormwater Coordinator, Assistant Collector, Water Manager and Community Engagement Specialist. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Longfellow's Wayside Inn, located in Sudbury, is the [oldest restaurant in the state and the oldest inn in the country](#). It opened for business in 1716.

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](#)!

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the holidays. We will be back in your inbox on Jan. 3.

[Countdown to ARPA obligation](#)

deadline

With the Dec. 31 deadline quickly approaching for obligating American Rescue Plan Act funds, municipal officials are leveraging U.S. Department of the Treasury resources to help them avoid any potential clawing back of federal funds. ...



Webinar covers select board role in community arts, culture

A Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with the Mass Cultural Council discussed how select boards can support arts and culture initiatives and advance economic development. ...



MIIA workshops to cover legal, cyber, wellness topics

MIIA will present several training sessions during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, to be held Jan. 23 through 25 in Boston. ...

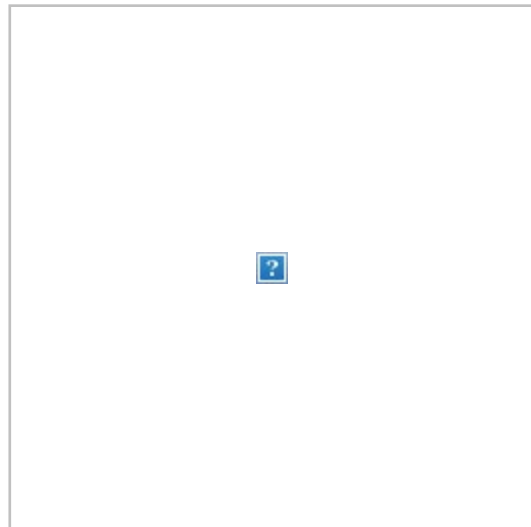


Staying ahead of emerging cyberthreats

As cyberthreats become more

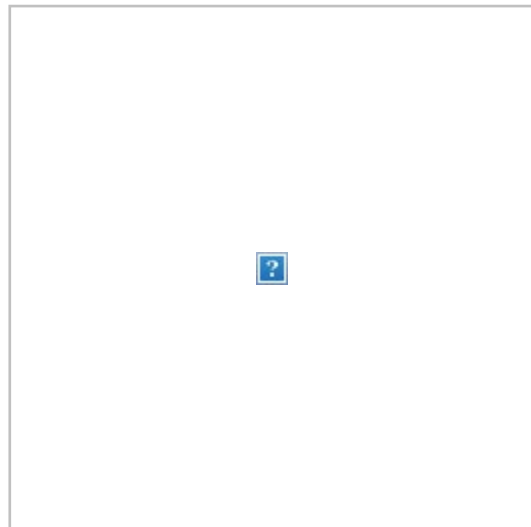
sophisticated, local governments and public entities face increased risk, especially from ransomware attacks.

...



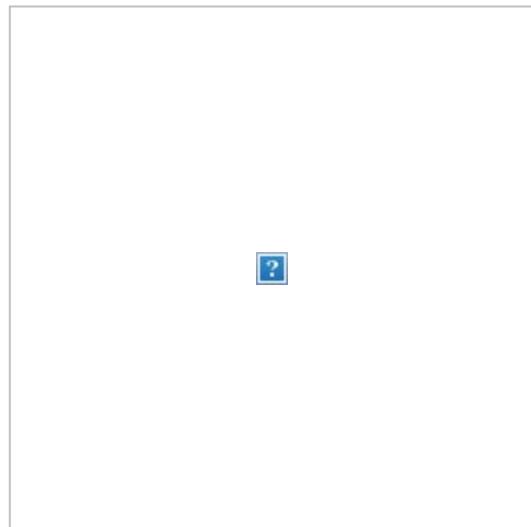
Pittsfield restores pond, enhances park accessibility

A quarter century in the making, a pond restoration project has brought new life to a somewhat neglected section of a Pittsfield park, completing a mission that was both professional and personal for city officials. ...



Worcester conducts Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

In a shift toward a more proactive approach for management of city-owned land, the Worcester Conservation Commission conducted a forest health assessment of more than 850 acres earlier this year. ...



Bourne to scan municipal property for tribal history

The town of Bourne is planning to

deploy ground-penetrating radar on a historic municipal property to search for tribal graves and artifacts, and attempt to forge a deeper connection with its Indigenous past.

...

[Retrofitting outdoor lighting can save energy and cut light pollution](#)

Municipalities must eventually replace components of critical building systems in schools, libraries and other public facilities.



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges legislators to support corrective legislation that would help retain CDL drivers](#)

On Dec. 16, In Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[A \\$180K state grant for a group of South Berkshire towns aims to prevent ambulance deserts](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Somerville City Council votes to ditch required parking rules for new developments](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[New dashboard will offer deep dive into city finances, including salaries](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Computer servers, radio equipment among items approved for ARPA funding in Mattapoisett](#) - Sippican Week

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[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

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Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Special Guests: [Gov. Maura Healey](#) & [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)

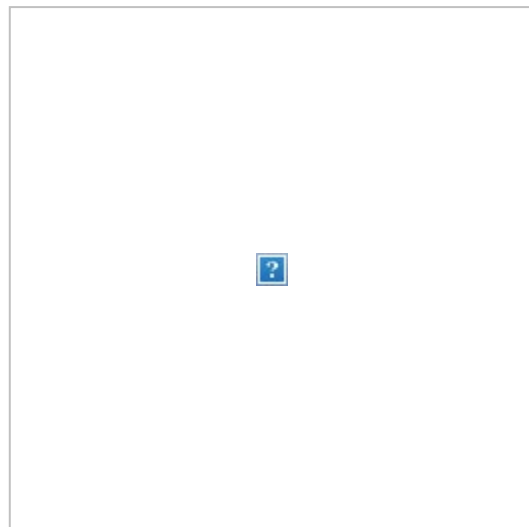
Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to [Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



What We're Reading

[Beyond the noise: How to engage residents effectively](#) - an 8 minute listen from Bloomberg Cities.

"According to a recent Bloomberg Philanthropies survey, 60 percent of mayors believe polarization in their cities is "more extreme than ever." Forty-four percent say they lack sufficient feedback loops with residents, and—with local news outlets vanishing across the world—53 percent report a struggle to wade through the maze of an increasingly fragmented media landscape that's rife with misinformation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation funding webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 12

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-

Commonwealth snapshots



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- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Agent, Chief of Police, Town Planner, Town Solicitor, Treasurer/Collector, Assistant Assessor and Conservation Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).

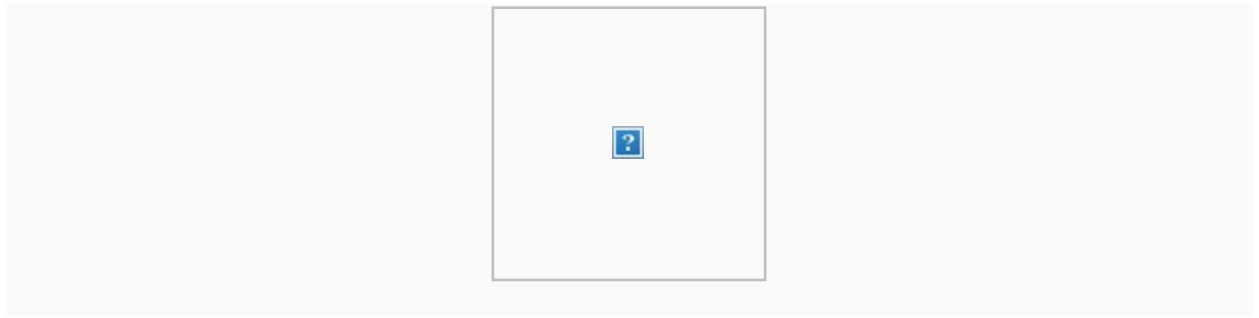


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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[State makes revisions to MBTA communities guidelines](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities today released additional revisions to its compliance guidelines for multi-family zoning districts in MBTA communities. ...

[**Municipal leaders urged to comment on CCC draft regulations**](#)

The MMA is encouraging municipal officials to weigh in on draft regulations approved by the Cannabis Control Commission on July 28 regarding host community agreements and social equity. ...

[**DOER requests feedback on Solar for All straw application proposal**](#)

The Department of Energy Resources, in partnership with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, is requesting feedback on a straw proposal for the state's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All program. ...

[**Municipal officials request permanent remote, hybrid meeting options**](#)



During a July 26 legislative hearing, the MMA and local officials from across the state called for the existing authorization for public body remote and hybrid meetings to be made permanent. ...



[MMA webinar highlights navigation of contracts, purchasing in COMMBUYS](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Operational Services Division reviewed how to access statewide contract information and use COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants. ...



[DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September](#)

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “What’s New in Municipal Law” seminar for local officials on Sept. 21 in Waltham and on Sept. 28 in Holyoke. ...



[IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)

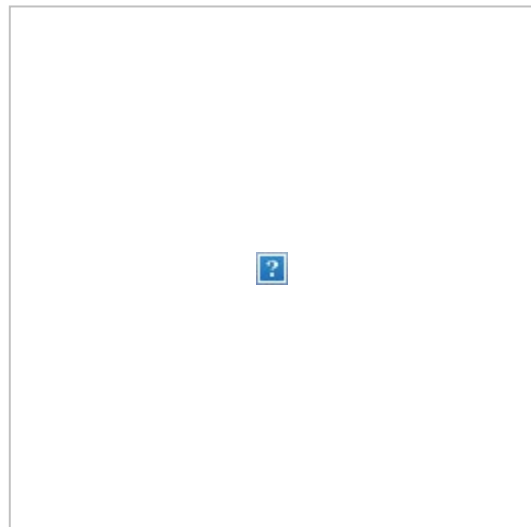
The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



In Case You Missed It

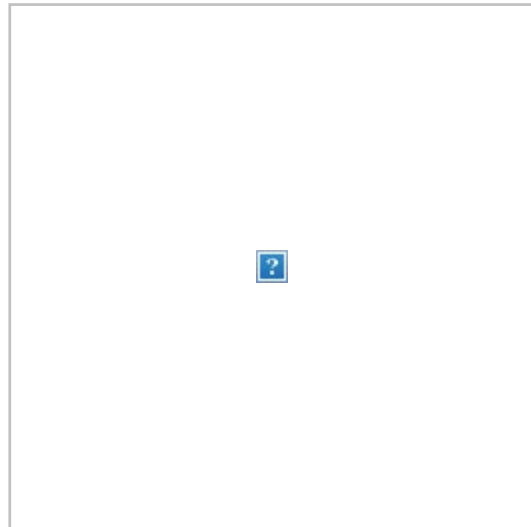
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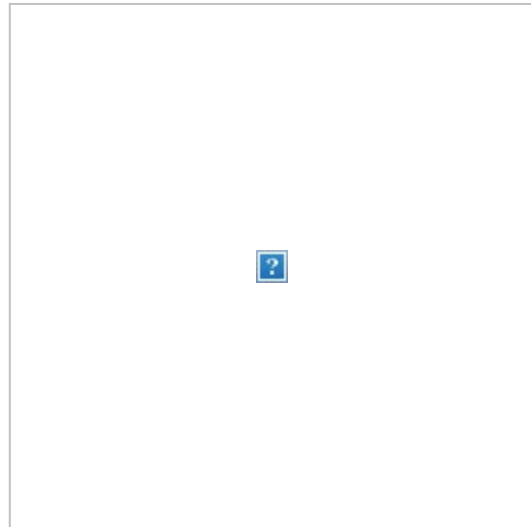
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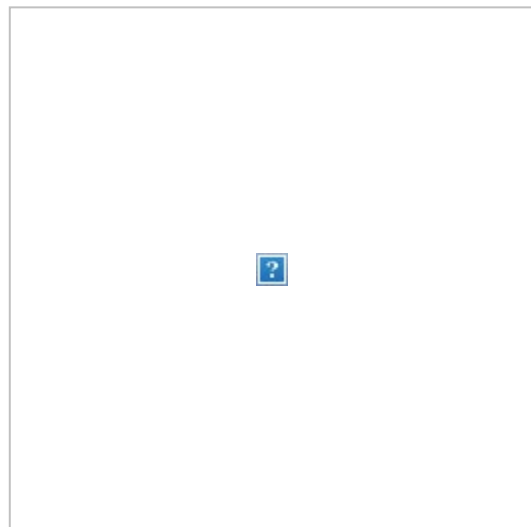
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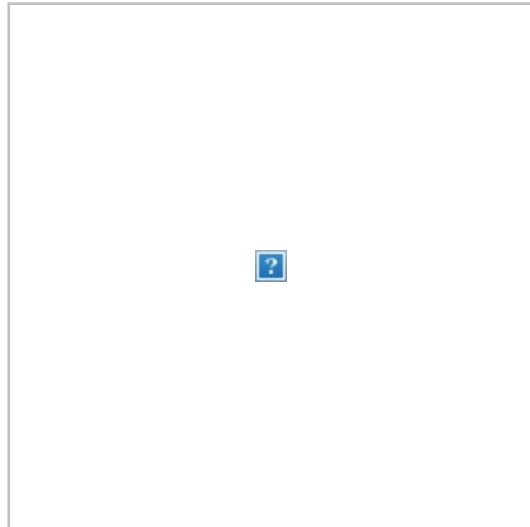
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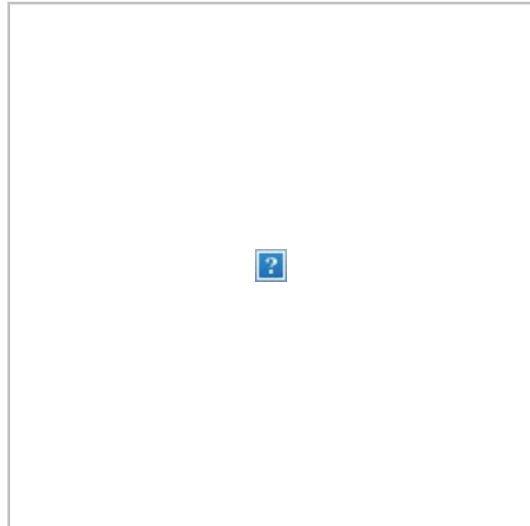
[USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants](#)

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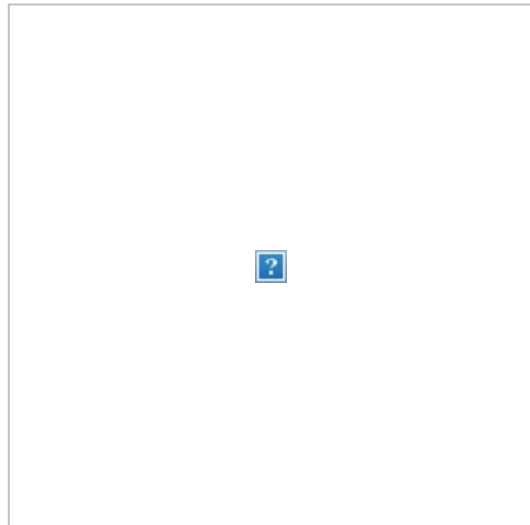
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 14

[Grants 101 webinar](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

[Effective Constituent Communication: The Key to Fostering Public Engagement webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Just 14 days until Connect 351!

In local happenings: The Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks [announced the winners](#) of the “Name a Snowplow” contest, held with students at Worcester Public Schools and voted on by the public. Four trucks will be named Scoop Dogg, Sleetwood Mac, William Scrapespeare and Snow More Mr Ice Guy.

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](#)!

**[SJC issues ruling in MBTA
Communities case](#)**

The Supreme Judicial Court has

upheld a state law intended to promote new housing in MBTA Communities and the power of the attorney general to enforce it, but threw out guidelines specifying the terms of compliance. ...



[Connect 351 is just 2 weeks away](#)

More than 1,100 local leaders have already registered for Connect 351, the MMA's annual conference, which will be held Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. ...



[U.S. Sens. Warren, Markey to speak at Connect 351](#)

Massachusetts' two U.S. senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, will address local leaders from across the state during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, on Saturday, Jan. 25. ...



[MMA publishes January issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA published the January

2025 issue of The Beacon, covering the latest news affecting local government and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars, including Connect 351. ...



[New legislative session brings opportunities for cities and towns](#)

Jan. 1 kicked off a new legislative session, and state revenues will be a focal point for the first half of the year, with a cautious outlook guiding the development of the fiscal 2026 state budget. ...



[MMA to host webinar on transportation grants on Jan. 13](#)

The MMA will host a webinar on Jan. 13 covering transportation-related grants available to communities across Massachusetts. ...



[Legislature OK's bill to allow video for school bus safety enforcement](#)

In the final hours of the session on Dec. 31, the Legislature passed a bill giving communities the option to use video monitoring systems for school bus traffic violations. ...



[EOEEA accepting comments on Article 97 open space regulations](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting comments through Jan. 22 on draft regulations relating to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. ...



[Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program. ...



[DOER opens program to promote on-street EV charging](#)

The Department of Energy

Resources is accepting applications for the On-Street EV Charging Program, which provides grants and technical assistance. ...



[\\$25M in Rural Roadway Funding available to communities](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has apportioned and released \$25 million for the Rural Roadway Funding Program to cities and towns. ...



[NLC publishes book recognizing 100th anniversary](#)

The National League of Cities celebrated its 100th anniversary throughout 2024, recognizing a century of municipal advocacy, education, and innovation at the national level. ...



[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On Jan. 3, In Testimony

[As challenges abound, let's use kindness as a tool](#)

On Jan. 3, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Methuen finds short-term use for Searles Estate](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Nantucket's African Meeting House Celebrates Its Bicentennial](#) - Nantucket Current

[A lot of 'little snowstorms' are still eating up Berkshire snow removal budgets](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[It's red, plastic, and snaps together: Provincetown's new flood barrier](#) - GBH

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-

What We're Reading

[Confronting the Local Government Trust Dilemma, Part 2](#) - second in a three-part series discussing community-based strategic planning as an approach to building trust, from International City/County Management Association.

"I would like to share the basic recipe for a community-based approach. There are five basic steps to the creation of a community-based strategic plan: set the stage, listen, identify priorities, compose the plan, and return and report."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation Grants: MassDOT and MassTrails Funding Opportunities webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action: Prioritizing and Funding Decarbonization Measures webinar](#) - Jan. 29

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[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

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Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

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Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe](#)!

[Administration awards \\$31.5M in climate resiliency funding to communities](#)

At an event in Stockbridge today, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announced \$31.5

million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grants for climate resilience implementation and planning throughout Massachusetts.

...

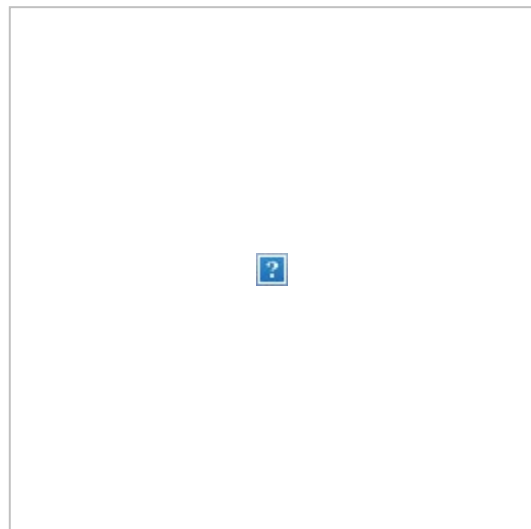
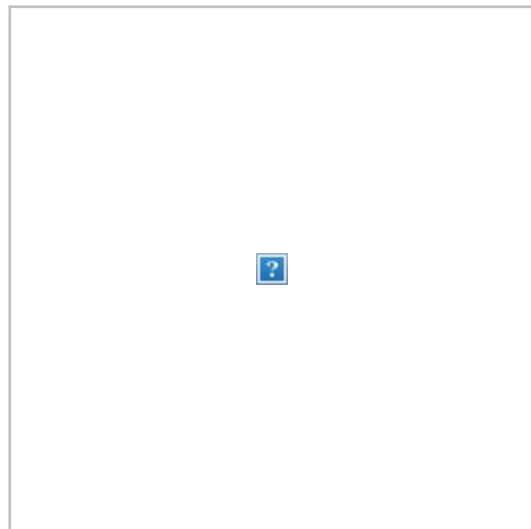
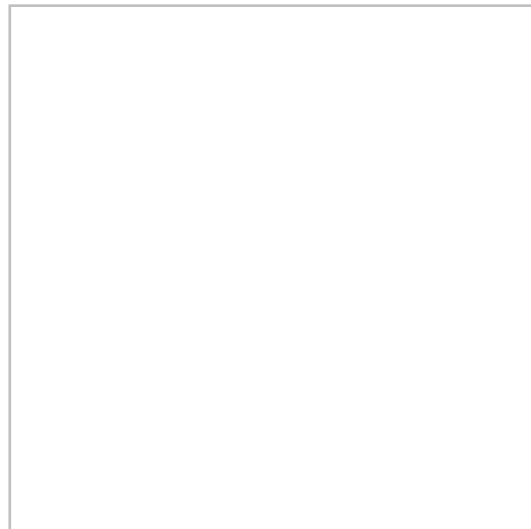
[Treasury issues new guidance on ARPA Flex provision](#)

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[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



Massachusetts Broadband Institute seeks input on Internet for All plan

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute this month will begin a series of public listening sessions as it develops a five-year plan to deploy \$147 million in federal investments to support actions to bridge the digital divide. ...



Grants available to boost resilience in disadvantaged communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities. ...



Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future

Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[EV charger report forecasts significant needs for infrastructure](#)

A new report from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council provides a comprehensive view of the current electric vehicle charging landscape, as well as recommendations for policy actions to support a robust, equitable and accessible charging network across the Commonwealth. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



In Case You Missed It

[DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September](#)

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The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



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The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



[MassCyberCenter to hold annual](#)

[municipal summit Oct. 5](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



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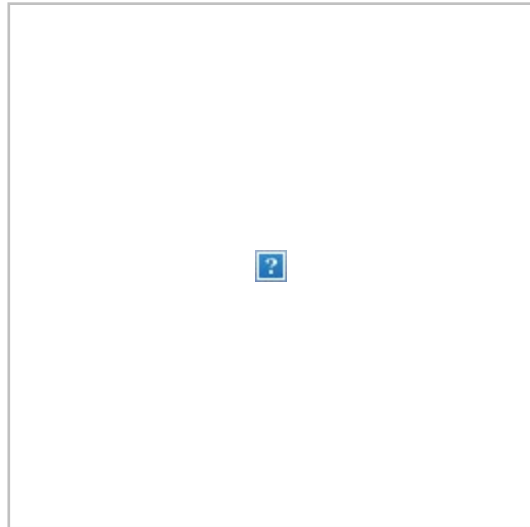
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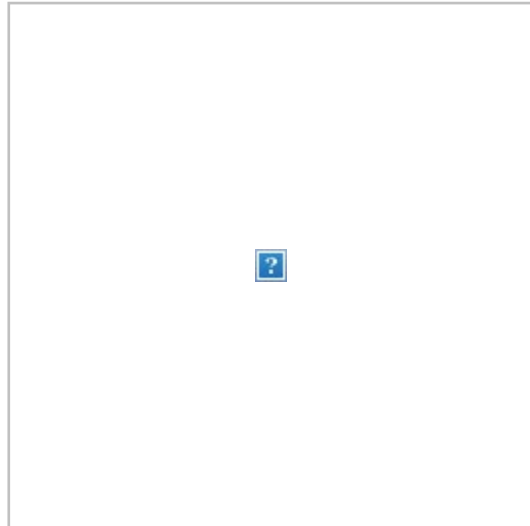
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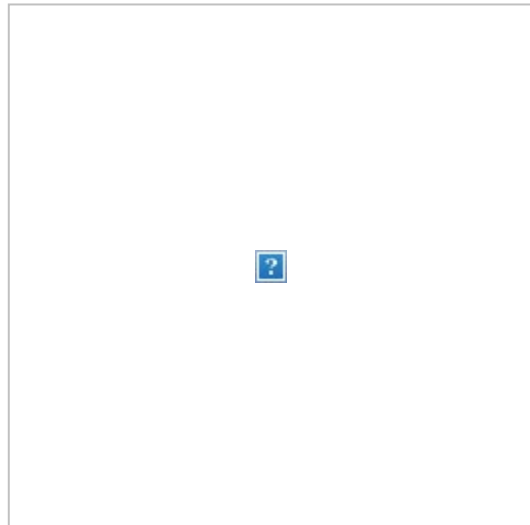
[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 14

[Grants 101 webinar](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

[Effective Constituent Communication: The Key to Fostering Public Engagement webinar](#) - Sept. 26

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[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 61 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Project Engineer, Water Technician, Senior Clerk, Deputy Fire Chief, Equity Analyst, Finance Director and Librarian. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

[Incoming Director Chapdelaine prepares for MMA's future](#)

When Adam Chapdelaine becomes the MMA's new executive director on Sept. 9, he will bring his years of experience working in city and town halls, his firsthand knowledge of the

inner workings of the State House,
and an abiding belief in the essential
role of local government in our
quality of life. ...

[Beckwith reflects on 31 years leading the MMA](#)

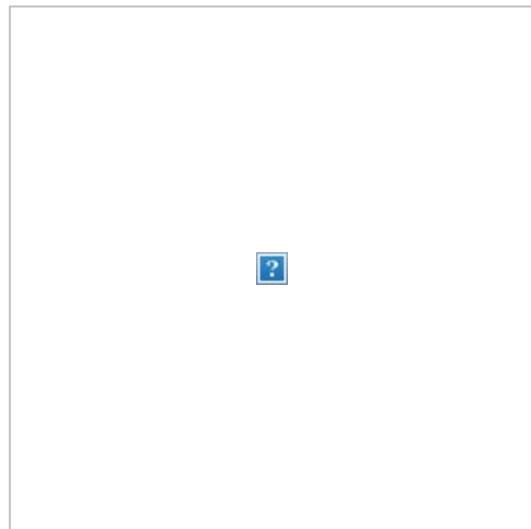
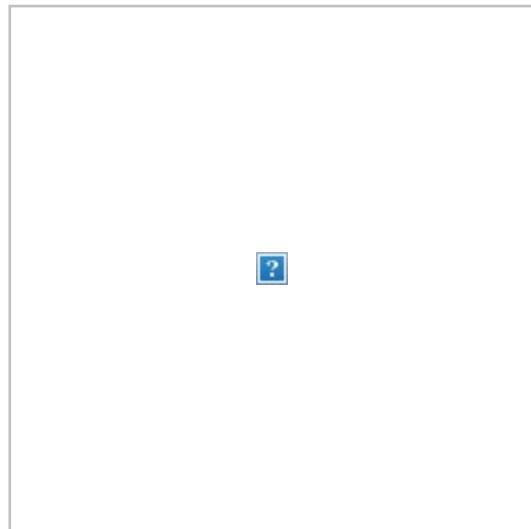
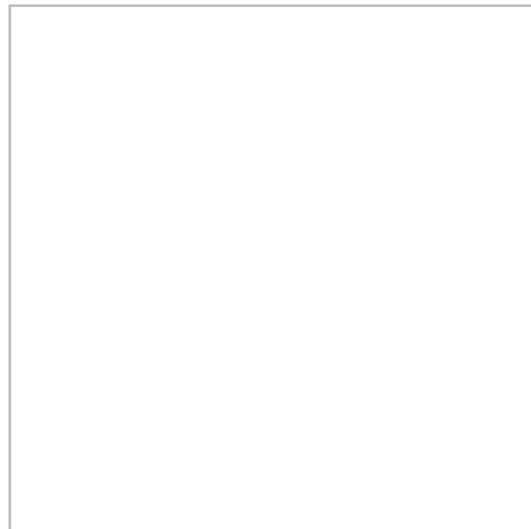
Geoff Beckwith welcomes a visitor
into his office of the past two years
and points out that, despite his
collection of plaques, photos and
memorabilia, nothing is hung up. ...

[Racial Equity Group selected to lead MMA's DEI work](#)

The MMA has contracted with the
Racial Equity Group to develop a
strategic plan to advance diversity,
equity and inclusion efforts in local
government. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the



MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...



[MMA publishes September issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the September 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government — including the change in leadership at the MMA — plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



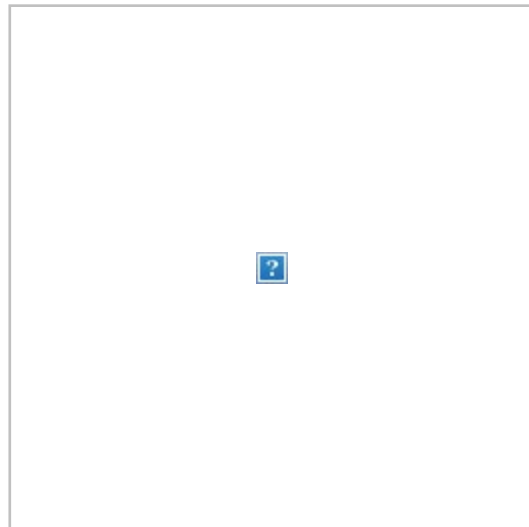
[Save the date for MMA Annual Meeting in 2024](#)

The MMA is hard at work on plans for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...



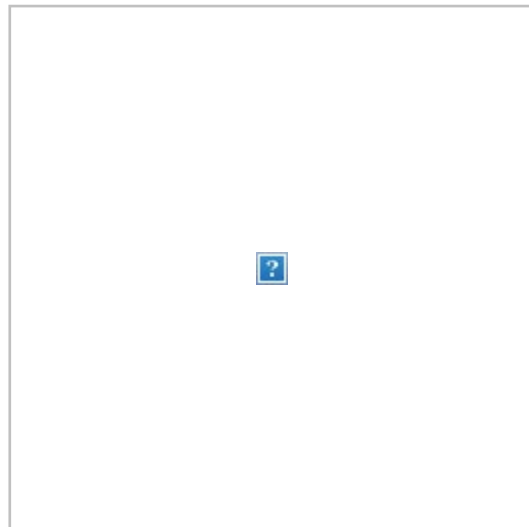
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[DPU seeks feedback on municipal aggregation investigation through Oct. 6](#)

The Department of Public Utilities opened an investigation on Aug. 15 into municipal aggregation, with a goal to create a streamlined process for Massachusetts municipalities to establish new programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA, MMLA offer to work with CCC to recraft draft regulations viewed as unconstitutional and an unfunded mandate](#)

On Sept. 7, Testimony

[MMA's best days are ahead of us](#)

On Sept. 5, Executive Director's Report

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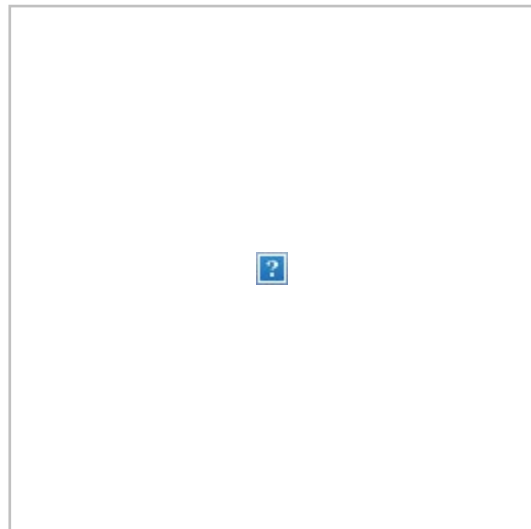
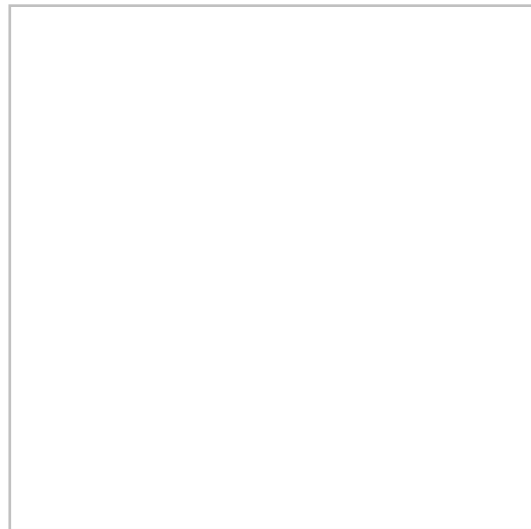
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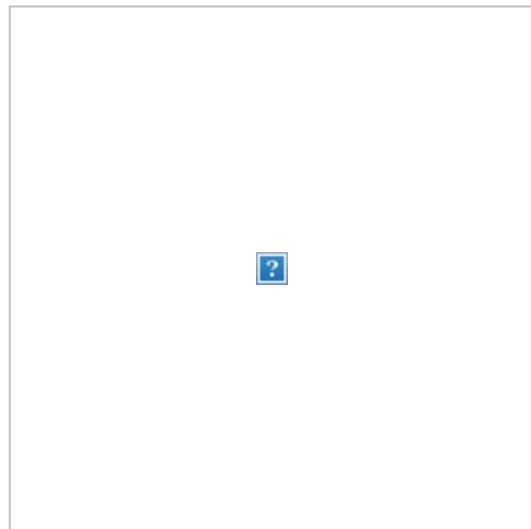
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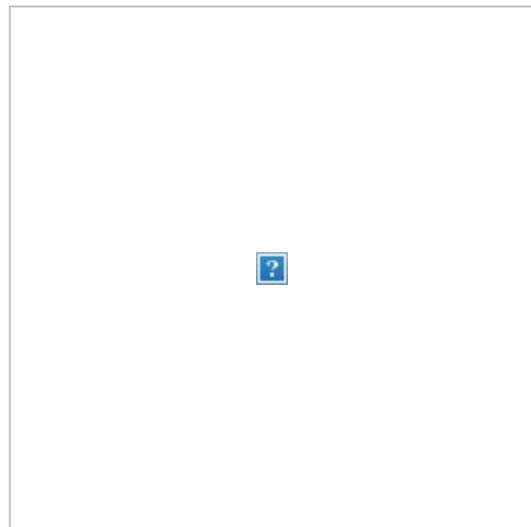
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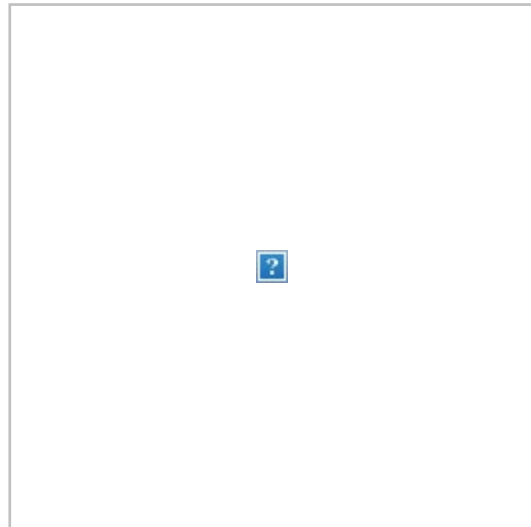


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We've added 61 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Budget Coordinator, Principal Assessor, Staff Engineer, Design Planner, Housing Director, Conservation Assistant and Assistant Town Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



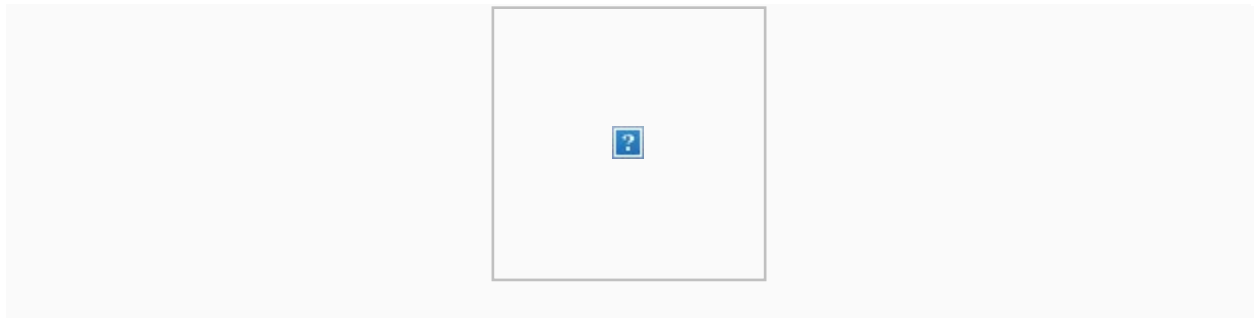
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: A [guide to living in New Bedford](#) was featured in the New York Times Real Estate section last week. Highlights include the city's rich maritime history, new South Coast Rail service and the diverse food scene.

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](#)!

[MMA continues push on Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

The MMA and local leaders are continuing their advocacy for the

governor's proposed Municipal Empowerment Act, a multifaceted package to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government. ...



[Rule-making process continues for MBTA Communities Act](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is working to finalize new regulations relative to the MBTA Communities Act. ...



[Governor's bill would make historic investment in Ch. 90](#)

At the heart of the transportation bond bill Gov. Maura Healey filed on Jan. 24 is a historic investment in municipal roads and bridges — \$300 million per year for the Chapter 90 program for a period of five years. ...



[MassDOT finalizes truck safety device regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of

Transportation has finalized updated regulations pertaining to truck safety devices. ...



[Special housing production commission releases report](#)

A special commission today shared a report with the governor that offers more than 50 recommendations to increase the supply of housing across Massachusetts. ...



[MSA hosts workshop with Moderators Association](#)

The Mass. Select Board Association held a virtual workshop with the Mass. Moderators Association on Feb. 25 to discuss select board roles and responsibilities relative to town meetings. ...



[Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

The Mass. Housing Partnership will host a three-part, virtual affordable housing training series in March for local boards and commissions. ...



[BEAD application deadline extended to March 10](#)

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment funding program has extended its Round 1 application deadline to March 10. ...



[Environmental Justice Grant available to municipalities](#)

Municipalities are invited to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grantmaking program. ...



[Planner Training Collaborative to hold annual conference on March 15](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its 30th Annual Conference on Saturday, March 15 in Worcester. ...



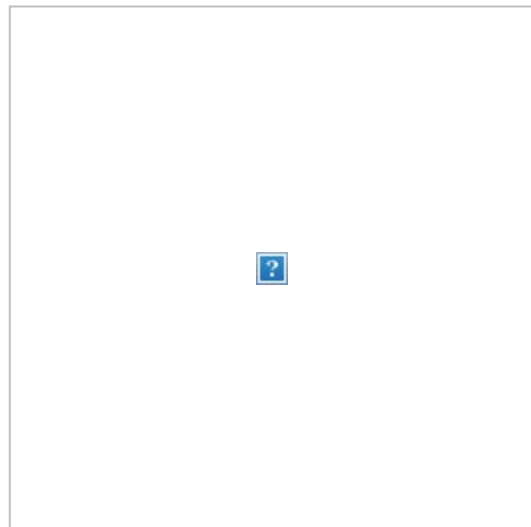
[Travel and tourism conference is March 18-19 in Springfield](#)

The 2025 Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, where tourism and hospitality professionals learn about the latest industry trends, will be held on March 18 and 19 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.



[5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Remote, hybrid meetings are local government success story](#)

On Feb. 28, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Secretary Augustus, MMA and Municipal Lawyers Association identify municipal concerns with MBTA Communities draft regulations](#)

On Feb. 21, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Seven years in the making: North Truro housing development groundbreaking date set](#) - Cape Cod Times

[After Steward hospital closure, ambulances rush patients out of town](#) - Boston Globe

[Somerville and Chelsea are asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration's "illegal campaign of bullying and intimidation"](#) - Boston.com

[Natick voters must decide on \\$7M override at town election](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Hudson Town Election to have override question: What money will pay for, plus tax impact](#) - MetroWest Daily News

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Amherst Town Councillor Elisha Walker



What We're Reading

[Resident Engagement: Taking transparency to the next level in cities](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Whether it's erecting glass-walled municipal buildings or launching open-data platforms, cities have long strived to be transparent as a way to engender trust in government. Yet, as confidence in public institutions continues to be challenged, local leaders also realize that the old ways of "being open" aren't enough—and that they have to do more.

A growing number of cities are responding by pushing the boundaries of transparency. Syracuse, N.Y., is reimagining service-delivery communications. Portland, Ore., is raising the bar for open procurement. And Boston is making the mayor's one-on-one meetings accessible in public spaces. These efforts underscore a key lesson: innovation is essential to advancing transparency and deepening public trust."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Dalton & Marlborough\)](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Amesbury & Fall River\)](#) - March 14

[Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Laws webinar](#) - March 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Professional Development Conference](#) - March 20

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Conference](#) - March 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - March 25

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Reading\)](#) - March 27

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Hadley\)](#) - March 27

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [**Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications**](#)
 - [**NLC seeks data on municipal infrastructure needs**](#)
 - [**Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program**](#)
 - [**MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings March 7, 14**](#)
 - [**U.S. Rep. Clark to keynote WEMO Conference in March**](#)
 - [**MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025**](#)
 - [**Administration announces opening of Community One Stop for Growth**](#)
 - [**Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7**](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The bronze sculpture called "Reach for Knowledge," by Nancy Schön, welcomes patrons at the entrance of the Wellesley Free Library on a sunny day this week.

Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

Job Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

- [MMA Senior Executive and Director of Membership](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA & MIIA Executive Assistant](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Technical Records Specialist, Library Branch Manager, Systems Engineer, Town Administrator, Town Planner, Treasurer/Collector, DPW Laborer and Accounting Assistant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA has joined Bluesky! Follow us there: [@mma.org](#).

In local happenings: Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick [reflected on her tenure](#) in The Needham Observer. Fitzpatrick, who is planning to retire in early July, cofounded Massachusetts Women Leading Government, a formal committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

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](#)!

[Supplemental road funding now available; Chapter 90 hearing set](#)

MassDOT announced that \$45

million in supplemental funding for road and bridge repair and construction is now available to communities. ...



President signs order calling for dismantling of Education Department

State and local officials, and the state's congressional delegation, are raising concerns about the potential implications of an executive order signed by the president. ...



Program awards \$500,000 for drought resiliency, water efficiency projects

The new grant program supports projects that promote climate resiliency by reducing indoor and outdoor water use, as well as improving water loss control programs. ...



Cyber resilience grant program opens

Massachusetts municipalities can

now apply for the
MassCyberCenter's Cyber Resilient
Massachusetts Grant program,
which provides funding for managed
detection and response services. ...



Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30

The first reports are due on June 30
under a new energy reporting
requirement for buildings larger than
20,000 square feet. ...



Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group

The Mass. Hydrography Framework
Committee is seeking municipal
leaders to participate in its work to
create “next generation hydrographic
spatial data.” ...



MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence

The MMA will host an introductory

webinar on artificial intelligence for municipalities on April 17. ...



MMA to host ‘Demystifying DEI’ webinar on May 6

The MMA will host a webinar, “Demystifying DEI,” on May 6 to provide clarity on the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion. ...



Administration announces ‘Energy Affordability Agenda’

At an event in Lowell on March 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced an “Energy Affordability Agenda” to identify and advance actions to lower energy bills for Massachusetts residents. ...



UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects

The Municipal Fellows program

supports municipalities with clean energy transition projects in conjunction with the state's Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition Initiative. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Are local government and school board meetings getting too long? Some in Fall River say limits needed](#) - Herald News

[Strapped for school funding, Valley schools eye lagging state aid](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

['Live, work, play': Is form-based code the recipe for Eastham's strategic plan](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Mayor Petty: Worcester schools threatened by 'heartbreaking' Trump bid to kill Education Department](#) - Telegram and Gazette

[New Bedford drafts new plan for dealing with disasters](#) - New Bedford Light

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Holyoke City Councillor Israel Rivera



What We're Reading

[Flipping the script on youth engagement](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Young people can be transformative partners to local government. Not only do they possess a font of fresh ideas, but also—because of all the years they have ahead of them—they are the group likely to benefit the most when those ideas are put into action. Yet youth are sometimes among the most challenging communities for leaders to include meaningfully in public problem solving, whether that's because they don't think their values are aligned with those of city hall, they don't trust that they'll be heard, or they're simply focused on other pursuits."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA and Constellation MunEnergy Spring Zoom webinar](#) - April 2

[Bridging the Knowledge Gap: Key Insights for Overseeing Local Assessing Operations webinar](#) - April 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference - May 3](#)

[Demystifying DEI webinar - May 6](#)

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MunEnergy program offers spring energy webinar on April 2](#)
- [MMA webinar to cover assessing on April 3](#)
- [MVP Program Action Grant applications due April 4](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)
- [Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
 - [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)
 - [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Riverwalk in Amesbury is a multi-use path along the Powwow River that connects downtown Amesbury to Carriagetown Marketplace. Photo by John Ouellette, MMA Communications Director.

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

work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 71 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Tree Warden, Local Building Inspector, Finance Manager, Community Outreach Librarian and Mental Health Clinician. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



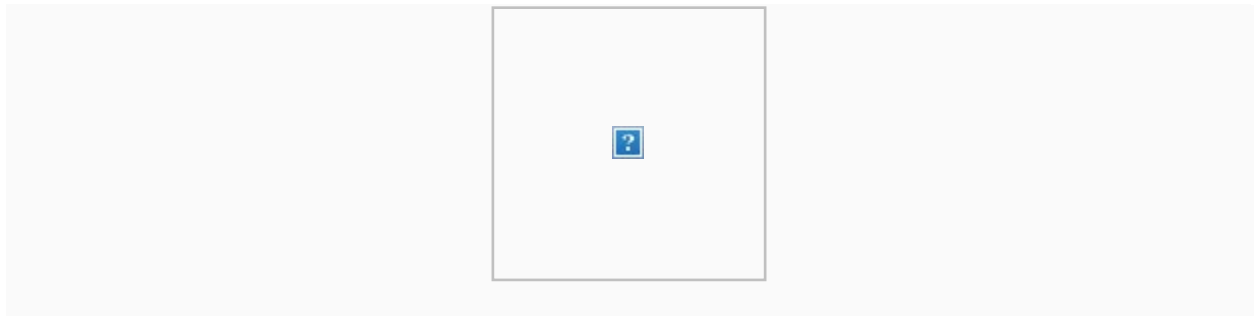
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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

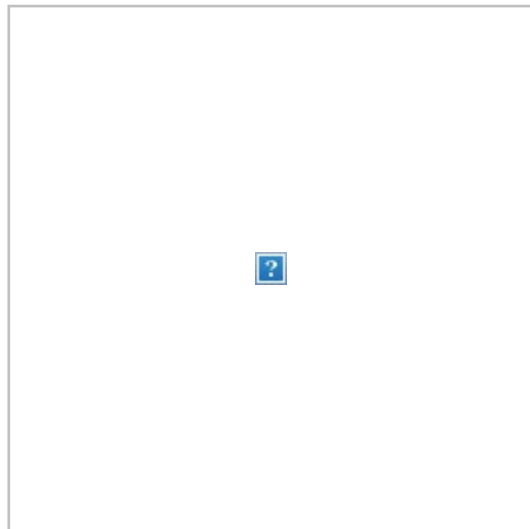
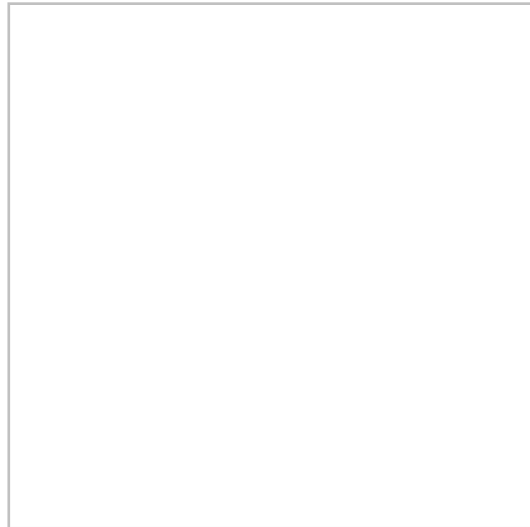
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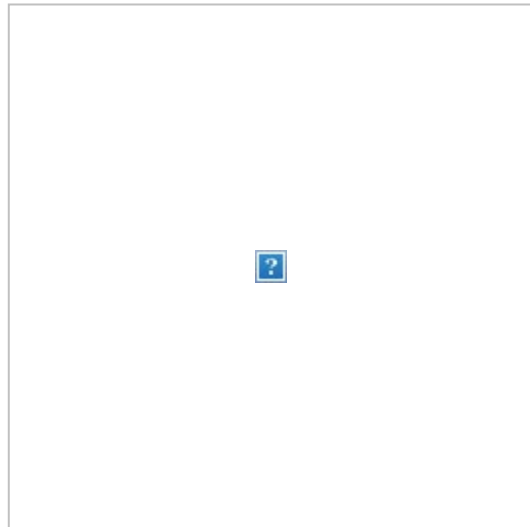
[Save the date for MMA Annual Meeting in 2024](#)

The MMA is hard at work on plans for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[MSA seeks nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board

Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors. ...



MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants. ...



MMA webinar to explore communicating with constituents, fostering engagement

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 26 will discuss how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to the target audience. ...



NLC launches 4th series of federal grant-writing boot camps

The National League of Cities is

launching a fourth set of free grant-writing “boot camps” this fall to help local officials keep pace with federal grant opportunities. ...



[MTF webinar will explore migration trends and their impact on Mass.](#)

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



[Safe Routes to School grants available](#)

Safe Routes to School, a federally funded program that works to increase safe walking, biking and rolling by public school students, is accepting applications for its Signs and Lines and Infrastructure Project grant programs. ...

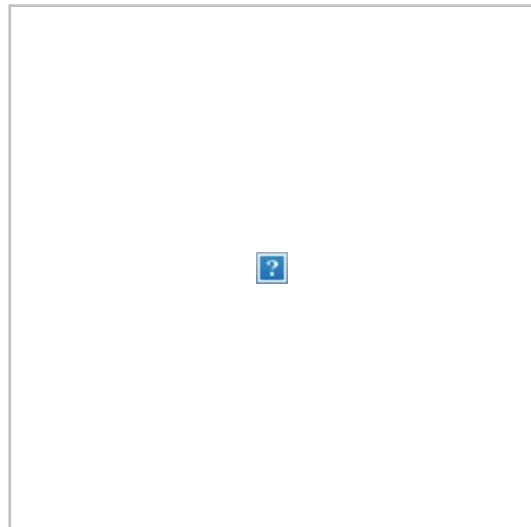


[30 watersheds impacted by new nitrogen pollution restrictions](#)

Updates to septic system and

watershed regulations, intended to combat nitrogen pollution in certain coastal areas, took effect on July 7.

...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Grants 101 webinar](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

[Effective Constituent Communication: The Key to Fostering Public Engagement webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted](#)

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[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)

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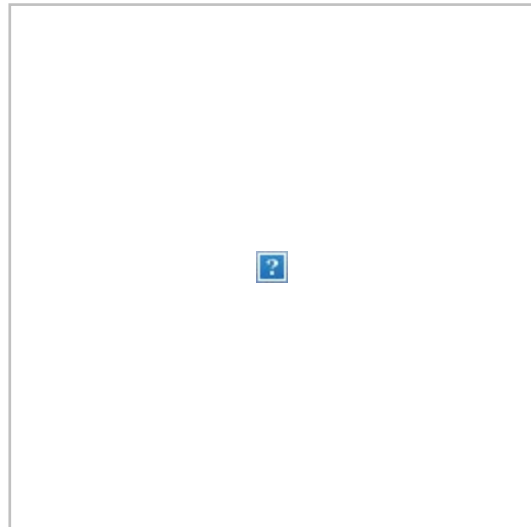
[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

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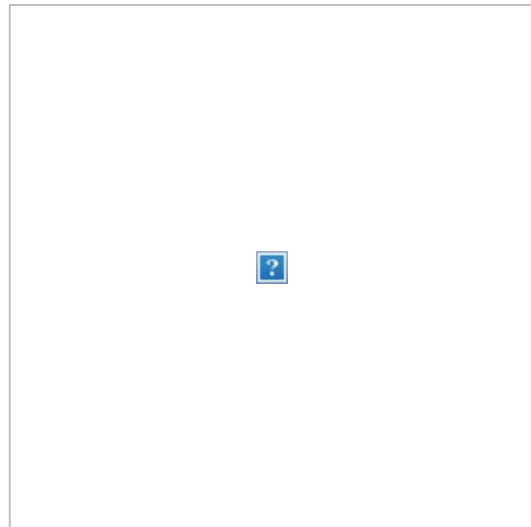
DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September

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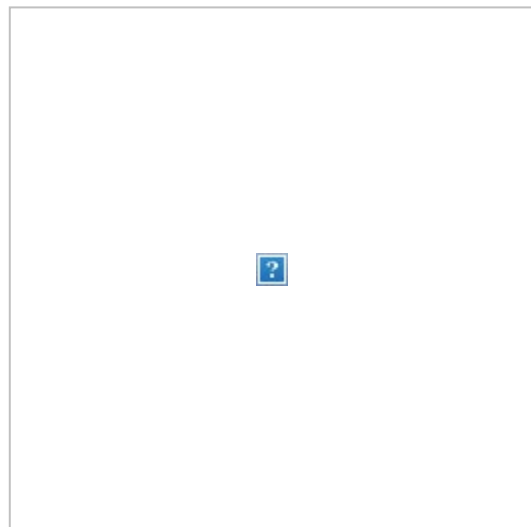
IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland

The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest

Has your community recently launched an innovative new project that has transformed the delivery of services or helped solve a common problem facing cities and towns? ...



Entries sought for municipal website contest

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA Annual Meeting in January 2024. ...



Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31

The MMA is accepting entries for its

Annual Town Report Contest. ...



[State announces \\$11.5 million grant program to electrify heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently announced a new competitive grant program as part of the Volkswagen Settlement and the state's climate trust: the Massachusetts VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation. ...



[\\$575M available for coastal resilience projects](#)

Approximately \$575 million is available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



[USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced on July 5 that up to \$3.16 billion is available for planning and construction projects through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods discretionary grant program. ...



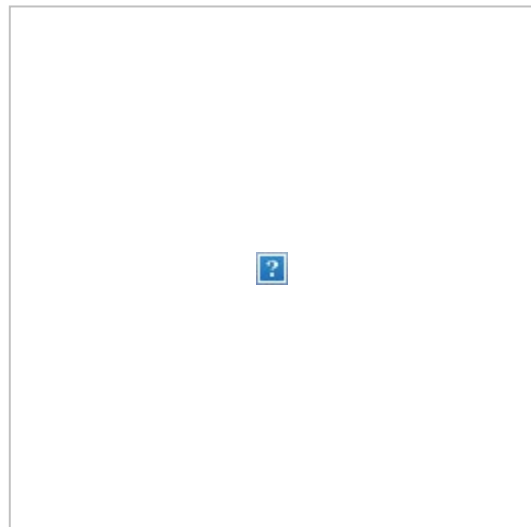
[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 48 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Chief Equity Officer, Assistant Planner, Conservation Officer, Town Counsel, Senior Computer Technician, Junior Accountant and Public Health Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It is Opening Day - Go Sox!

In local happenings: Deerfield is [piloting a child care program](#) during Annual Town Meeting on April 28. The program is a collaborative effort to make attendance at the meeting more accessible to parents.

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](#)!

[MMA outlines budget pressures at local aid hearing](#)

An MMA panel called for an increase of at least 3% for discretionary

municipal aid and an increase in Chapter 70 minimum new aid to address rising school costs. ...



MMA publishes April issue of The Beacon

The April Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



Tax-exempt municipal bonds a focus of federal advocacy

In Washington, D.C., an MMA delegation focused advocacy efforts on the continuation of the tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. ...



Gov. signs extension of remote and hybrid meeting allowances

Gov. Healey signed a bill to extend

authorizations for local boards and committees to hold public meetings remotely or in a hybrid format through June of 2027. ...



Trump administration targets \$106M in K-12 grant funding for Mass.

State and local officials are condemning federal moves to terminate \$106 million in education grant funding for Massachusetts. ...



Stakeholder sessions set on clean energy siting, permitting

Four stakeholder sessions will be held this spring regarding siting and permitting reforms prompted by a recent clean energy law. ...



Trump administration delays lead pipe replacement funds

State officials are strongly objecting

to a Trump administration decision to delay \$50 million in federal funding for the replacement of lead service lines in Massachusetts. ...



EOHLC issues model zoning for ADUs

The administration has published a model zoning and guidance document for municipalities to help them with the regulation of accessory dwelling units. ...



NLC covers federal issues during partnership meeting

The National League of Cities gave an update to the Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership. ...



U.S. Rep. Clark urges WEMO members to make voices heard

Municipal officials should be the

storytellers who explain the impacts of federal cutbacks that impact local services, U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark told women leaders on March 21 in Wrentham. ...



Women leaders discuss self-advocacy, AI, constructive criticism tips

Women Leading Government discussed timely topics during its fifth annual conference on March 6 in Wrentham. ...



Immigration and employment law

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources' annual spring program webinar on March 13 covered recent updates in immigration and employment law. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[It's budget time on Beacon Hill, and the MMA is working for you](#)

On April 1, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Joint Committee on Ways and Means, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On March 24, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Chatham installs alternative nesting platform for ospreys to prevent fires, outages and electrocutions](#) - Cape Cod Chronicle

[Reading's first mosque opens its doors and receives a warm welcome from the town](#) - GBH

[How Holyoke is fighting blight](#) - MassLive Media

[Nantucket launches "Digital Archive Project" to move land use documents online](#) - Nantucket Current

[Winchendon Schools chosen for cybersecurity pilot](#) - Athol Daily News

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Monson Finance Director/Town Accountant Jamie Farnum



What We're Reading

[A Comprehensive Guide for Local Leaders on Managing PFAS Waste](#) - National League of Cities

"The interventions to combat PFAS range from disposal and destruction to advanced filtration techniques. The brief explores various disposal and destruction options for managing PFAS-containing waste from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and landfills, including underground injection, thermal treatment (pyrolysis) and land application, while also highlighting emerging technologies. While these methods offer benefits such as low life cycle costs and a small footprint, they also present challenges, including environmental impacts related to disposal, increased complexity and higher maintenance requirements."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
- [Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group](#)
- [UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
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- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Memorial Hall in Milford was built in 1884 as a Civil War tribute and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. It is now home to the Milford Historical Commission, whose museum is open to visitors on Thursdays. Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 32 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, Health Director, Office Manager, Police Chief, Outreach Coordinator, Civil Engineer and Assistant Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Gov. files closeout budget with funds for emergency shelter crisis](#)

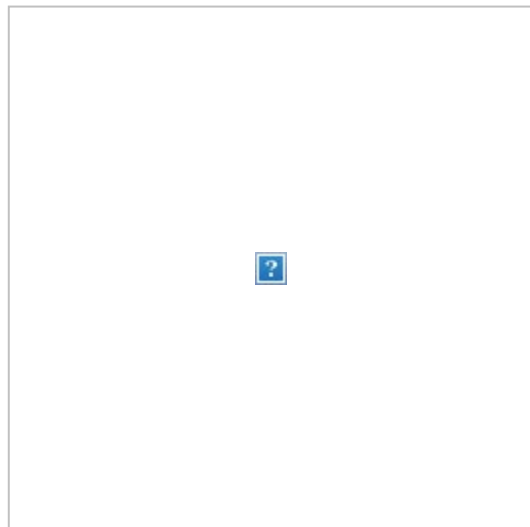
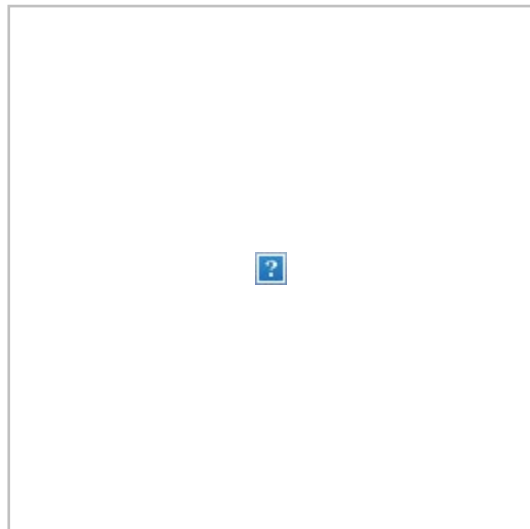
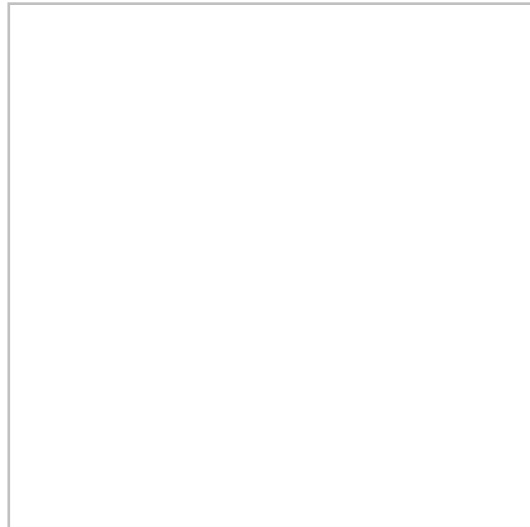
Looking to close the books on fiscal 2023, Gov. Maura Healey filed a final supplemental budget bill on Sept. 13 that would allocate additional funding for several key priorities. ...

[MMA, local leaders working with administration to address shelter crisis](#)

With a surge of emergency shelter needs that shows no signs of abating, and temporary placements in hotels and other settings in roughly 80 communities across the state, the MMA and the administration will begin conducting biweekly briefings with chief municipal officials later this month to provide the latest information and take questions. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...



[MMA “Grants 101” webinar shares resources to assist municipalities](#)

A free MMA webinar yesterday offered an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities, as well as best practices for writing grant applications and administering grants. ...



[MMA webinar to explore communicating with constituents, fostering engagement](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 26 will discuss how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to the target audience. ...



[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[Cambridge focuses on flood prevention, zoning as part of larger climate action](#)

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the city of Cambridge is taking a multi-pronged approach to resiliency, looking at the impacts of flooding, heat and emissions. ...



[Boston program encourages office-to-residential conversions downtown](#)

As big cities nationwide attempt to revitalize downtown office districts hollowed out by the pandemic and the rise of remote work, the city of Boston is seeking to incentivize the conversion of underused office buildings into residential units. ...



[Southern Berkshire County towns offer public ride-share service](#)

Seeking to bridge the gap for seniors, workers and others lacking transportation options, several Berkshire County towns have banded together to create a public on-demand ride service. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial

Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee to support bills to create municipal and public safety building authority](#)

On Sept. 20, Testimony

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[Municipal Leadership Academy: Communication Foundations webinar](#) - Oct. 17

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[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

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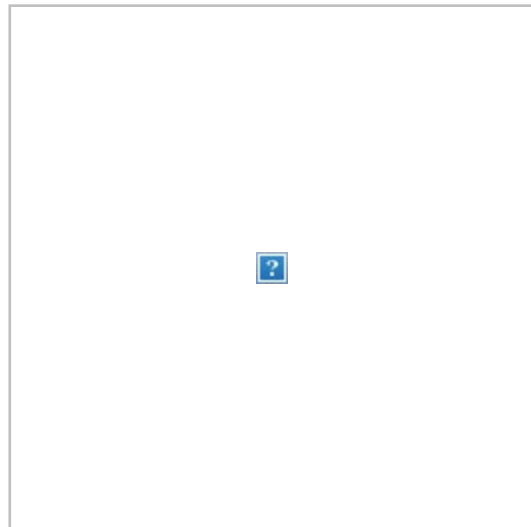
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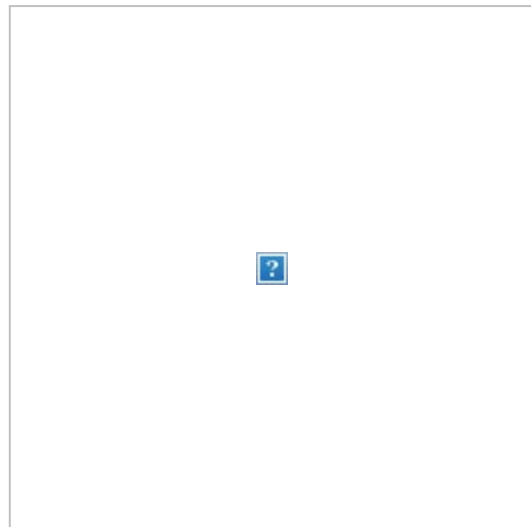
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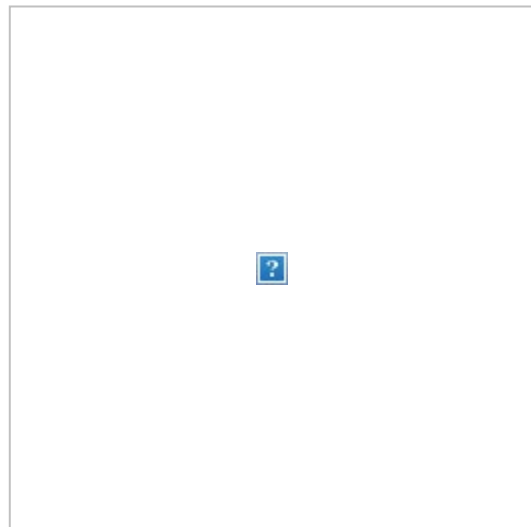
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DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September

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IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds

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MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5

The MassCyberCenter will hold its

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Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on
Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



**Annual Town Forest Conference
is Oct. 21 in Ashland**

The annual Massachusetts Town
Forest Conference, a platform for
fostering collaboration among a
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**MMA seeks entries for Municipal
Innovation Award contest**

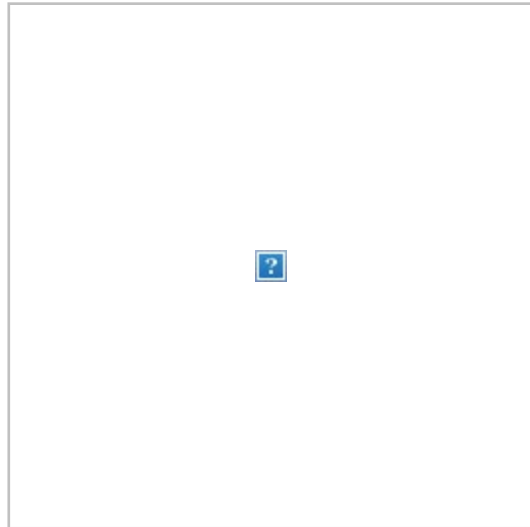
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**Entries sought for municipal
website contest**

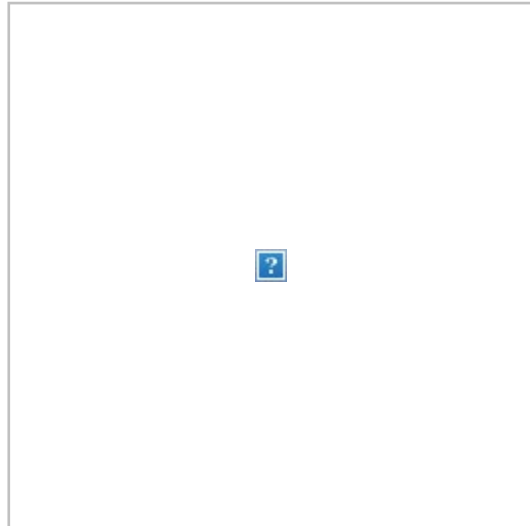
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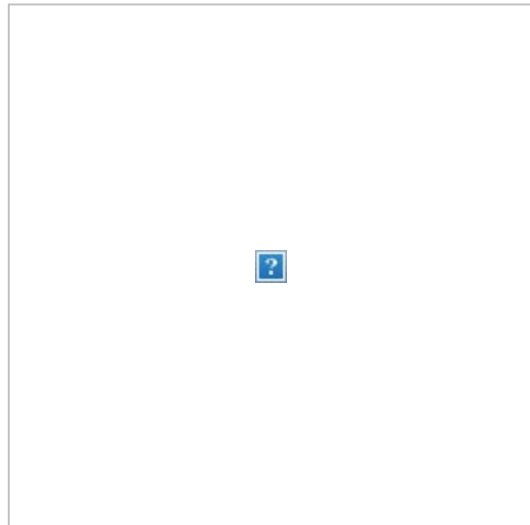
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Welcome to May.

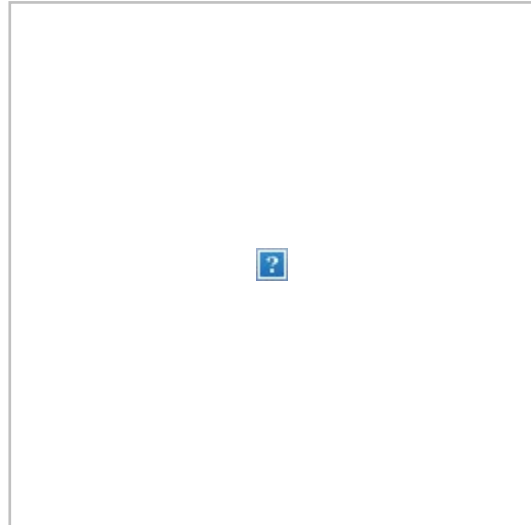
In local happenings: Spring often brings wildlife stories, and this year is no exception. A woodpecker in Rockport has made [national headlines for damaging vehicle windows](#), likely due to mating season behaviors.

In less destructive news, firefighters in [Longmeadow rescued two baby bald eagles](#) from a fallen nest. The protected birds will be rehabilitated until they can be released back into the wild.

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](#)!

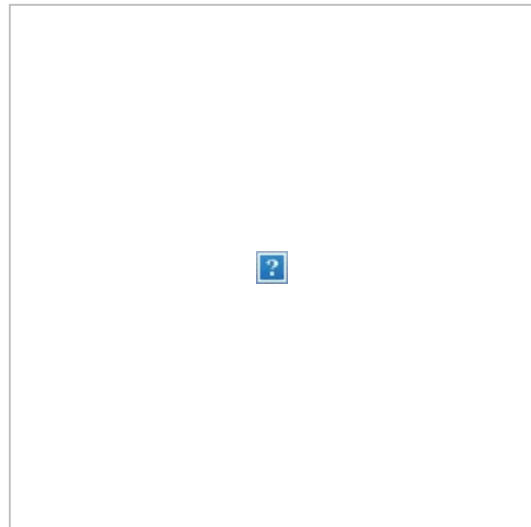
House OK's state budget for FY26

The House approved its state budget bill for fiscal 2026 with several important investments in schools and municipalities despite modest state revenue expectations. ...



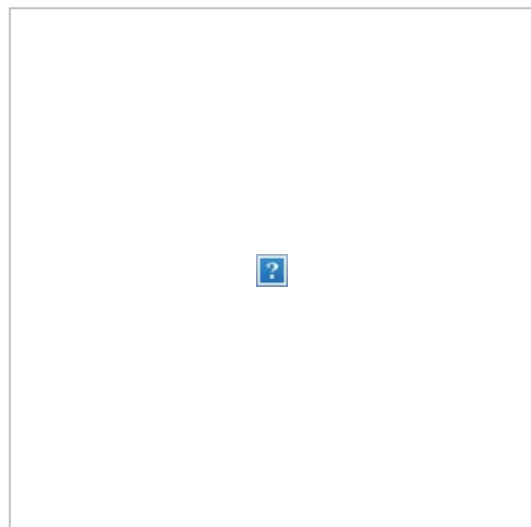
Senate releases surplus surtax supplemental budget

A Senate committee proposed a supplemental budget bill that leverages surplus surtax funds to designate \$613 million for education investments and \$670 million for transportation. ...



Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit in Worcester on May 8. ...



Extended Producer Responsibility Commission begins its work

A new Extended Producer Responsibility Commission, established by a clean energy law enacted last November, held its inaugural meeting on April 14 in Boston. ...



[MMA webinar discusses Office of the Veteran Advocate](#)

An MMA webinar on April 30 introduced the resources available to municipalities and veterans through the Office of the Veteran Advocate. ...



[MMHR, MMMA discuss 'psychological first aid' at joint meeting](#)

Psychological first aid was the focus of a joint meeting of Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources and the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association. ...



[MMHR to hold annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Human Resources association will hold its annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8 in Boylston. ...



Federal funds office to hold listening session May 7 in Springfield

Municipal and nonprofit leaders are invited to an information and listening session being held by the state's Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office on May 7 in Springfield. ...



Report: Cities, towns embrace 'green' recovery strategies

A UMass Amherst survey examines the post-pandemic recovery of Massachusetts cities and towns, highlighting progress and persistent challenges in rebuilding while advancing sustainability. ...



Program offers electrification advice for fleets

The Mass Fleet Advisor program is

offering free technical assistance to operators of medium- and heavy-duty truck fleets that want to explore electrification but don't qualify for utility fleet advisory services. ...



[Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)

The Automotive Career Development Center is offering training to help operators of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets better understand high-voltage systems and technician safety. ...



[MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)

The MassDEP's Electric Vehicle Incentive Program will fund level 1 and 2 charging station projects for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets, in addition to light-duty fleets. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Artificial intelligence is ready for us; are we ready for it?](#)

On May 1, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Milton votes 'yes' on \\$9.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override request](#) - Boston Globe

[Teen voting petition falls short for second year at Deerfield Town Meeting](#) - Greenfield Recorder

[Sandwich buys 88 acres of undeveloped land for future wastewater infrastructure needs](#) - Cape Cod Times

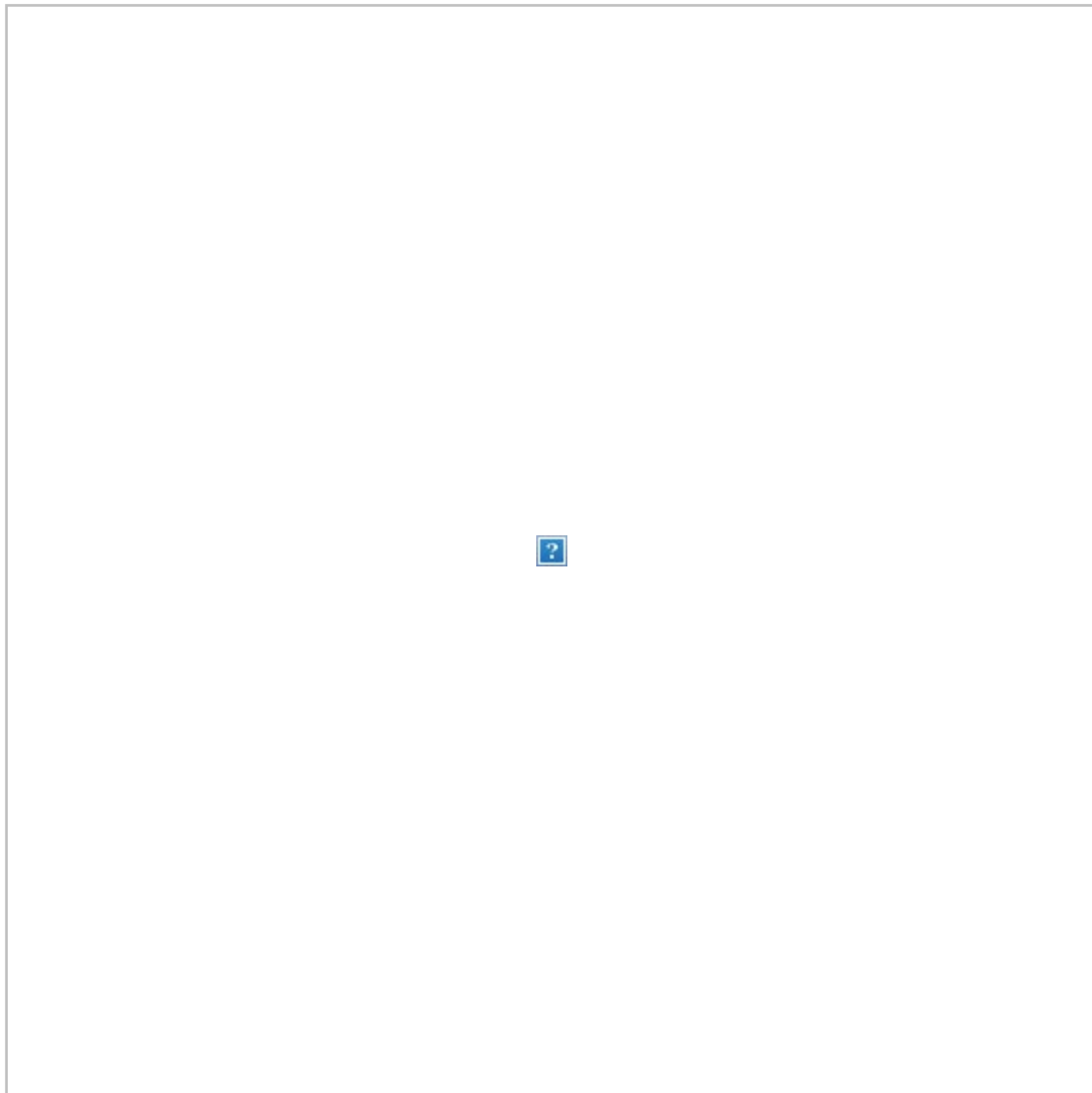
[Foxborough eyes second water treatment plant equipped to remove 'forever chemicals'](#) - The Sun Chronicle

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Bridgewater Town Councillor Mark Linde



What We're Reading

[Sharing data helps cities take anticipation to the next level](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Cities with robust data operations often aim to use that capacity to both

manage performance and anticipate emerging challenges. It's a pursuit that New York City helped pioneer as far back as 2010, when it began more systematically using predictive analytics to better spot nascent trends and fine-tune resource allocation accordingly. However, scaling these efforts citywide has often been challenging due to barriers in data sharing across any given city's agencies.

Now, as more cities enhance their data capabilities, many are also prioritizing breaking down these silos—building on the vision set by New York and other major cities over a decade ago: to share and integrate data to anticipate and prevent problems before they escalate. Whether that means protecting people from potential housing displacement or micro-targeting personalized support for youth who appear likely to miss school, here's how two cities—Charlotte, N.C. and Recife, Brazil—are using stronger internal collaboration to power data-driven anticipation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Mass. Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#)

- May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp](#) - May 8

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Spring Conference](#) - May 28-30

[Introduction to Developing Municipal Financial Policies webinar](#) - June 3

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 5

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - June 12

[Mass. Select Board Association Newly Elected Training](#) - June 13

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - June 26

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
 - [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
 - [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
 - [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
 - [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
 - [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
 - [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Jill Hai, a select board member in Lexington, for sharing this photo from the town's Massachusetts 250th anniversary celebrations. Dawn battles were reenacted at Lexington Green and Concord's North Bridge.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at **MMA & MIIA**

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 57 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Permitting and Engineering Manager, Health Inspector, Senior Clerk, Town Accountant, Building Commissioner, Administrative Coordinator and Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Porchfest season [kicks off this weekend](#) in Somerville.

In local happenings: Weston Town Manager Leon Gaumond Jr. has been recognized by the nonprofit Engaging Local Government Leaders as a [Top Influencer in Local Government](#), for his “openness and proactive attitude toward exploring innovative methods of engaging with the community.” Congrats, Leon!

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](#)!

[Senate budget committee's proposal would boost key local accounts](#)

The Senate Way and Means Committee has released a proposed state spending plan for fiscal 2026 with important investments in schools and municipalities. ...



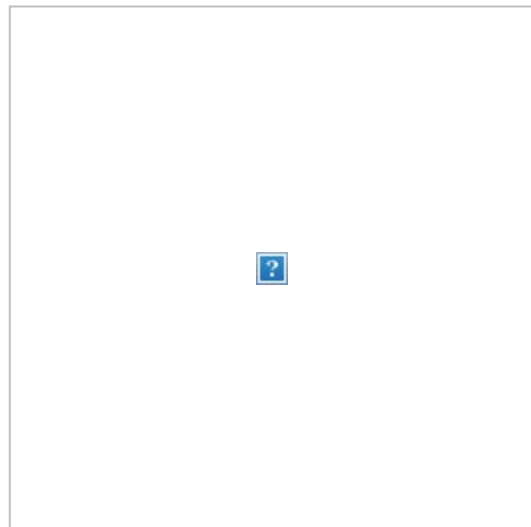
[Senate OK's supplemental budget bill](#)

The Senate approved a supplemental budget bill that would primarily allocate surplus surtax funds from fiscal 2024. ...



[250th battle commemorations were years in the making](#)

When reenactors fired their muskets on Patriots' Day weekend to mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, they were participating in public events that were years in the making. ...



[Community One Stop accepting applications May 5-June 4](#)

Fiscal 2026 funding applications

through the state's Community One Stop for Growth portal must be filed between May 5 and June 4. ...



Culvert replacement grant funding available

The Division of Ecological Restoration is accepting applications for the Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program to assist with local culvert removal and replacement efforts. ...



FEMA cancels \$90M in BRIC aid for Mass.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has cancelled the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program for fiscal 2024. ...



MSA to hold free training for newly elected select board members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a free training for newly elected select board members on Friday, June 13, in Devens. ...



[MMA publishes May issue of The Beacon](#)

The May issue of The Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, as well as grant opportunities and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Somerville installs outdoor kiosk for used needles](#)

In a city park, Somerville has installed an outdoor collection kiosk for needles and other “sharps” — a resource believed to be the first of its kind in the country. ...



[Whitlock Scholarship applications sought](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Management Association is accepting applications for its Gerry Whitlock Scholarship for students enrolled in a masters in public administration program. ...



Clean Water Trust issues nearly \$40 million in loans, grants

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees on April 2 approved \$39.7 million in new low-interest loans and grants. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[Amherst councilors float idea of new 'Four Towns' task force to develop long-term school funding strategy](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[A new project is helping Chelsea residents better understand their air quality](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[The challenges of climate change: Weather events wreak havoc in Merrimack Valley, North Shore](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Cambridge's Community Assistance Response and Engagement \(CARE\) Team releases first impact report](#) - Wicked Local

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Middleton Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Jackie Bresnahan

What We're Reading

[Revolutionizing Crisis Intervention](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The need for mobile crisis response teams in the United States has become increasingly apparent. High-profile incidents across the United States underscore the inadequacy of traditional law enforcement responses to behavioral health crises. Such crises often involve disruptions in mental or emotional stability requiring immediate intervention to prevent severe health deterioration. In the United States, the numbers are staggering:

1. One in five adults experiences a mental illness during their lifetime.
2. Over 12 million people have serious thoughts of suicide annually.
3. Nearly a quarter of those shot by police from 2015 to 2020 had a mental health condition.
4. Two million individuals with serious mental illnesses are incarcerated annually.

These figures highlight the urgent need for community-based mobile crisis response teams that address behavioral health emergencies without relying solely on police intervention. Behavioral health incidents are complex scenarios that require a multi-disciplinary approach in order to achieve a measure of resolution."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

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- [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Samantha Giffen, communications manager in Amherst, for sharing this photo from the town's Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative on April 18. The photo shows two lanterns, provided by Rep. Mindy Domb, shining in a window at Amherst Town Hall.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Local Inspector, Town Engineer, Utility Director, Outreach Coordinator, Chief of Police, Assistant Town Planner and Conservation Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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!](#)

[CCC approves extensive revisions to marijuana regulations](#)

On Sept. 22, the Cannabis Control Commission voted, 3-1, to approve extensive revisions to state regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana. ...

[House, Senate send tax relief bill to governor's desk](#)

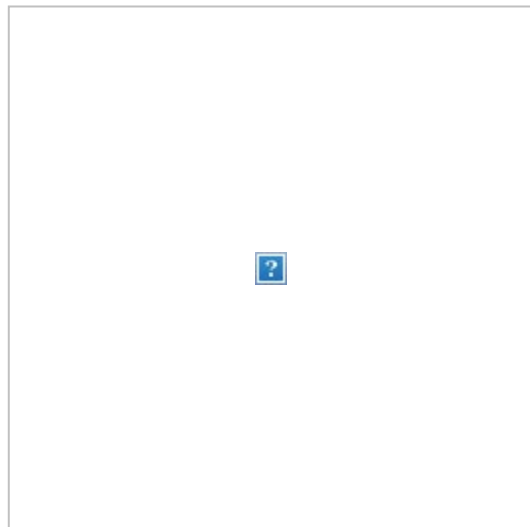
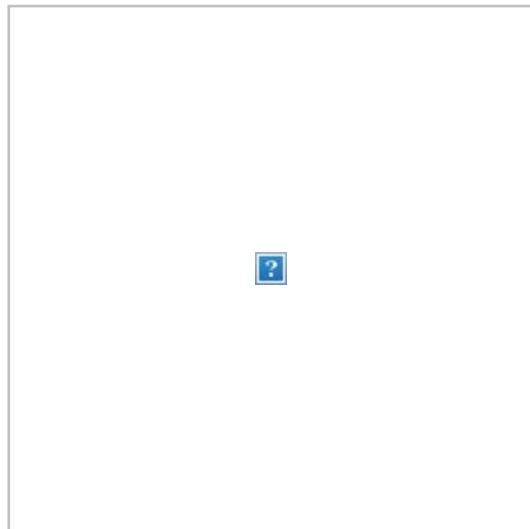
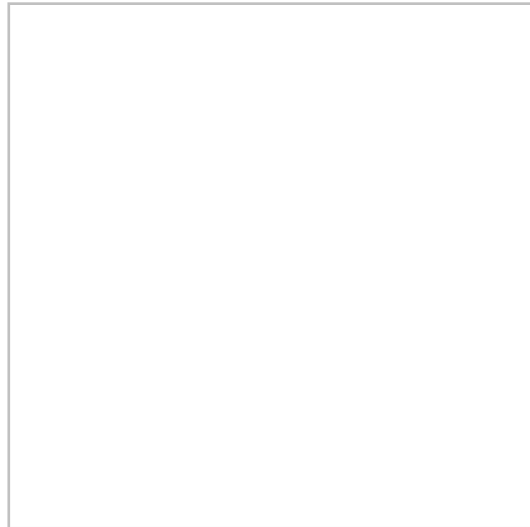
The House and Senate have passed a compromise tax relief bill that would provide \$561 million in tax breaks and credits this year, with the value growing to approximately \$1 billion once the law is fully implemented in 2027. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...

[What to know about \\$325M for municipal roads, bridges in FY24](#)

A bond terms bill signed by Gov.



Maura Healey on Sept. 12 concludes the legislative process for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2024 and will enable the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to process reimbursements for approved projects. ...



[MMA webinar shares tips for communicating with constituents](#)

An MMA webinar yesterday discussed how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to your target audience. ...



[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[MunEnergy to hold webinar on winter energy costs](#)

On Oct. 24 at noon, the MunEnergy

program will hold a one-hour webinar to provide timely information about winter energy costs and what winter weather will mean for energy markets. ...



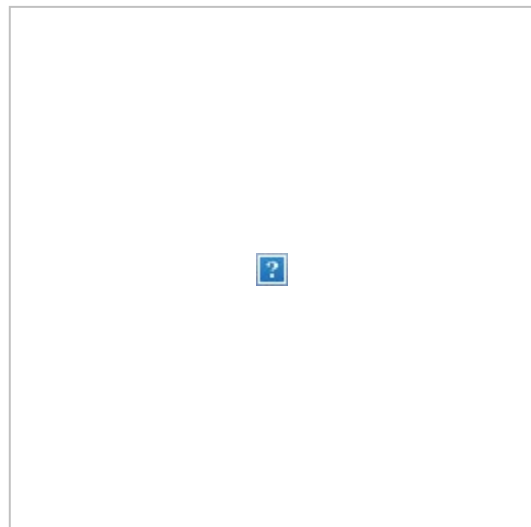
[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



[AG holds webinars to help government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA weighs in on several bills related to procurement before the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee](#)

On Sept. 22, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Communication Foundations webinar](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MSA seeks nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its

2024 Board of Directors. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



[MTF webinar will explore migration trends and their impact on Mass.](#)

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



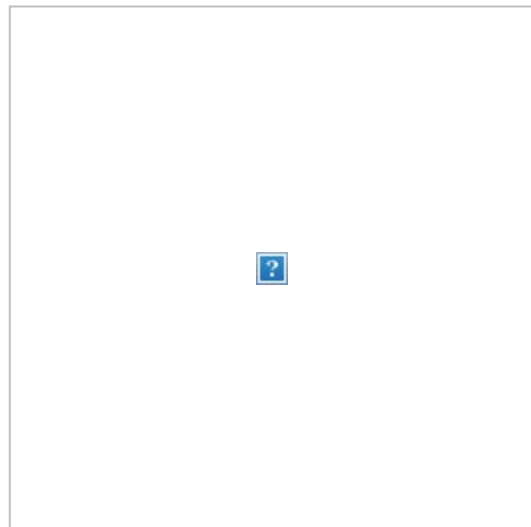
[Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted](#)

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of

Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



[IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)

The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



[MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



[Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland](#)

The annual Massachusetts Town

Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



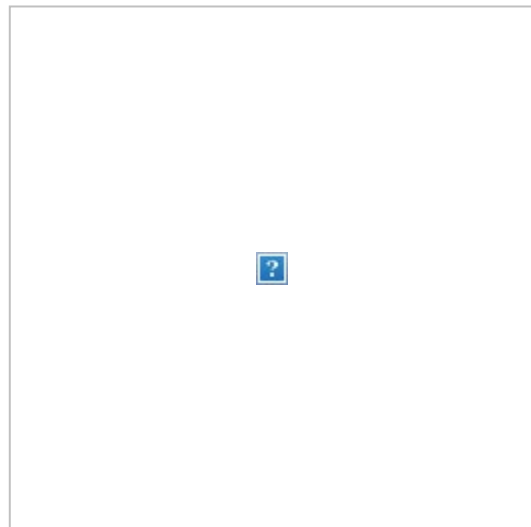
MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest

Has your community recently launched an innovative new project that has transformed the delivery of services or helped solve a common problem facing cities and towns? ...



Entries sought for municipal website contest

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA Annual Meeting in January 2024. ...



Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31

The MMA is accepting entries for its

Annual Town Report Contest. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 66 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Community Planner, Local Building Inspector, Assistant City Attorney, Operations Manager, Cybersecurity Specialist, Engineer and Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: This weekend, the [Framingham History Center is hosting](#) “Stitching Revolution in Massachusetts: Quilting, Lectures and Dancing,” highlighting the role of Massachusetts in the American Revolution.

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, July 3.

[Healey signs surplus surtax bill](#)

[with investments for cities, towns](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has signed a \$1.3 billion supplemental budget bill to allocate surplus Fair Share surtax revenue for investments in education and transportation. ...



[Gov. Healey files \\$2.9B, 5-year environmental bond bill](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration joined partners, advocates and municipal officials in Braintree to announce the filing of a \$2.9 billion, five-year environmental bond bill, called the Mass Ready Act. ...



[Lawsuit challenges federal halt of grant funding to states](#)

A coalition of 22 state attorneys general has filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's use of a provision in federal regulations to stop billions in federal grant funding. ...



[MMHR discusses Medicare, elects FY26 officers and board members](#)

At its Annual Meeting in Danvers,

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources focused on strategies for helping employees navigate the Medicare system. ...



Federal judge blocks immigration enforcement conditions on transportation funding

A U.S. District Court has issued an injunction preventing the federal government from making immigration enforcement a condition for receipt of transportation funding. ...



MMA webinar discusses mental health in the workplace for staff

An MMA webinar discussed understanding and supporting mental health in the workplace. ...



MMA to host webinar on private roads

An MMA webinar on July 15 will

provide an overview of private roads, with examples of local practices and insights from an experienced attorney. ...



[NLC awards grant to Chelsea for economic mobility program](#)

The National League of Cities has awarded a \$20,000 grant to the city of Chelsea as part of its 2025 Advancing Economic Mobility Rapid Grant program. ...



[AGs issue guidance affirming legality of environmental justice initiatives](#)

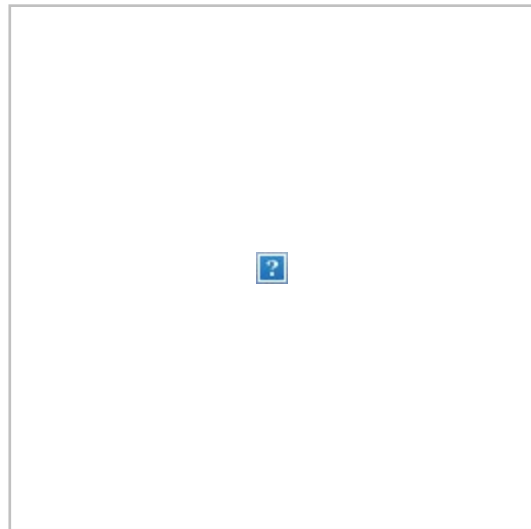
A coalition of 13 state attorneys general, including Andrea Joy Campbell of Massachusetts, has issued guidance affirming the “necessity and legality” of environmental justice initiatives. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Utilities Committee to support legislation protecting municipal authority in public rights of way and expediting double pole removal](#)

On June 18, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Burlington Select Board demands inspection of ICE facility amid reports of poor conditions](#) - Lowell Sun

[Eastham approves \\$170 million wastewater, sewer plans](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Nantucket has a PFAS problem in the drinking water. It's Environmental Contamination Administrator Andrew Shapero's job to solve it](#) - Boston Globe

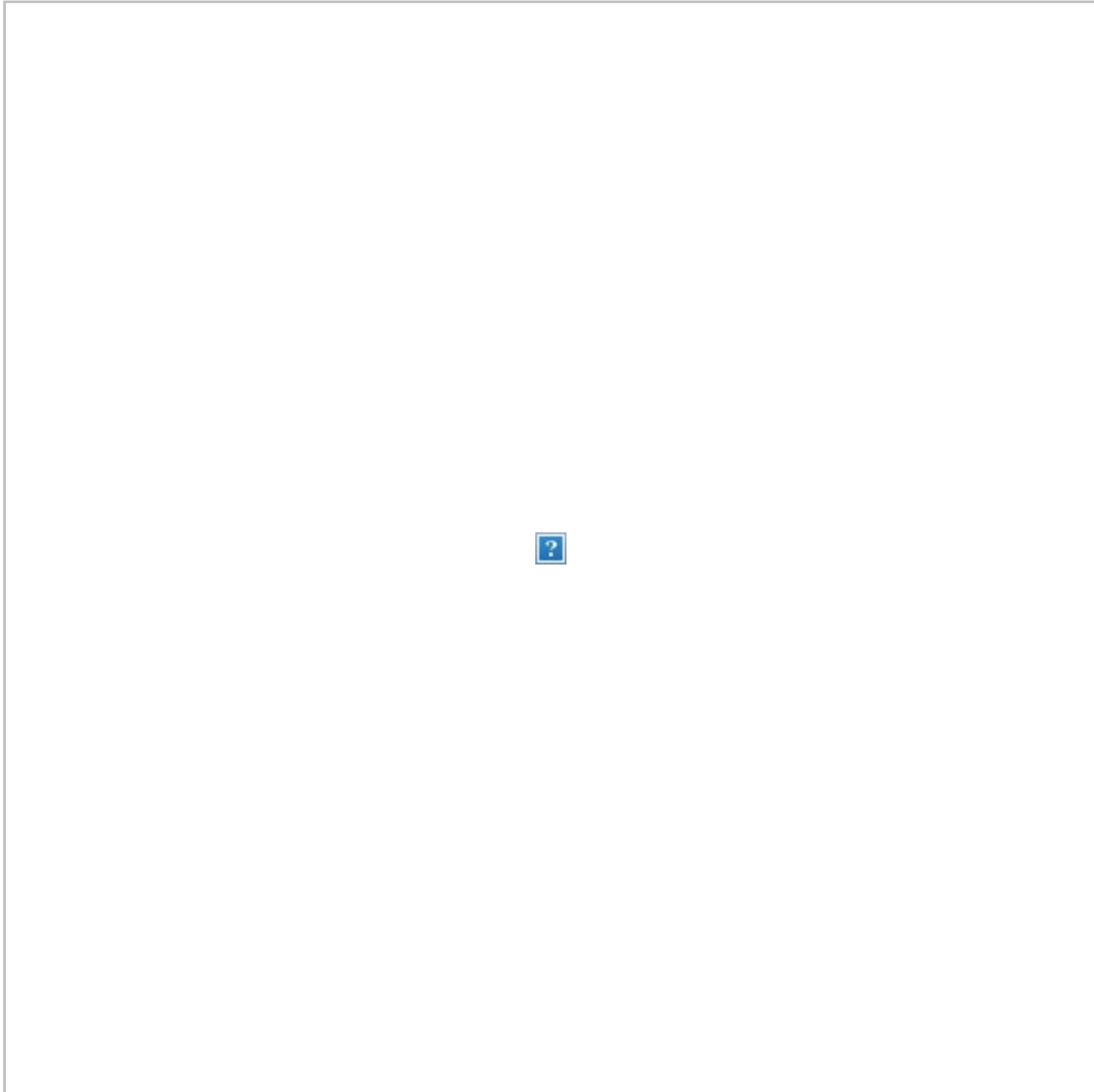
[Orange takes ownership of old cereal factory lot](#) - Greenfield Recorder

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Barnstable Government Access Station Manager Sarah Beal-Fletcher



What We're Reading

[What City Leaders Need to Know About the Senate's Budget Reconciliation Bill](#) - National League of Cities

"The Senate's version of the "One Big, Beautiful Bill" has arrived, with major

implications for local governments. While it mirrors several provisions in the House-passed bill (H.R. 1), it also includes key differences, particularly around Medicaid. The path to passage in the Senate is not straightforward, with negotiations still ongoing on Medicaid, clean energy tax credits and public lands. As the House and Senate move toward negotiations on a final package, local leaders should understand how the Senate's proposal could shape city budgets, services and infrastructure planning."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
- [State sets office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [Electric grid council to hold in-person event on July 17](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxEd on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)

- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Sean Dugan, assistant town administrator in Easton, for sharing this photo from the town's Flag Day ceremony. Dozens of volunteers unfurled several flags spanning the football field at Oliver Ames High School during the event, which was hosted by Easton's Tricentennial Committee as part of a yearlong celebration of the town's 300th anniversary.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for

possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects Manager, DPW Foreman, Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Comptroller, Conservation Agent and Town Planner. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



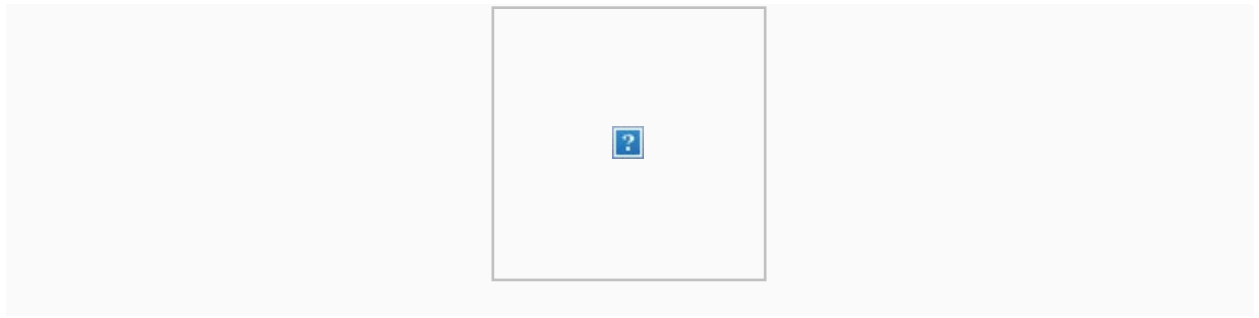
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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

[Administration announces \\$164M in Community One Stop for Growth grants](#)

At an event in Revere today, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced \$164 million for 338 grant awards through the Community

One Stop for Growth program to support local economic development projects in 161 communities across the state. ...

[Climate chief makes recommendations for addressing climate crisis](#)

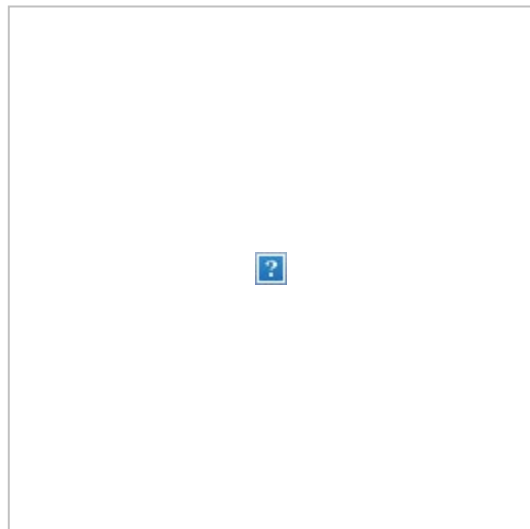
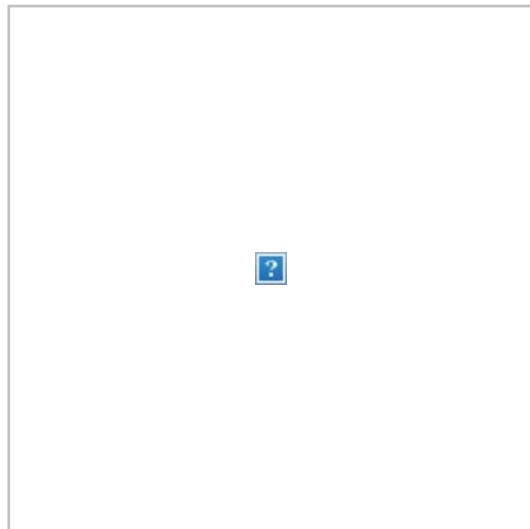
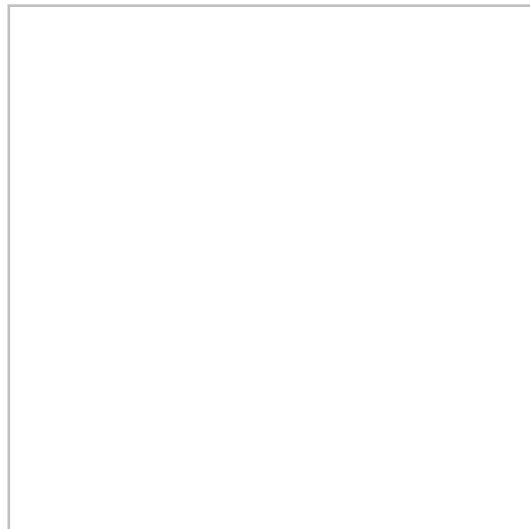
The state's climate chief, Melissa Hoffer, published a report today with recommendations to implement the Healey-Driscoll administration's whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis. ...

[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...

[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free,



75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[New podcast highlights Mass. as age- and dementia-friendly leader](#)

The administration on Oct. 10 announced the release of a podcast series on age- and dementia-friendly innovations across Massachusetts called “ReiMAging Aging.” ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate

Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



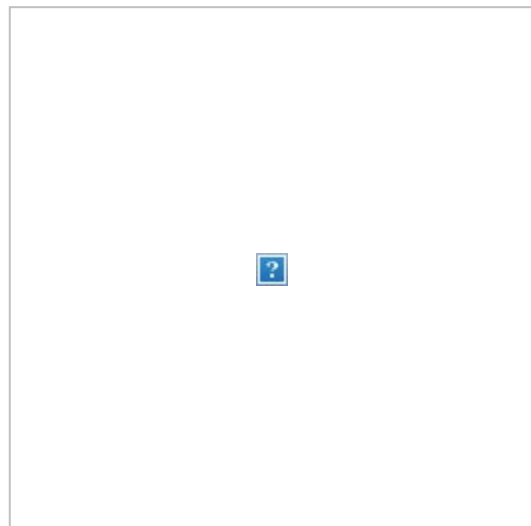
[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[State offers grants for AED equipment](#)

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...

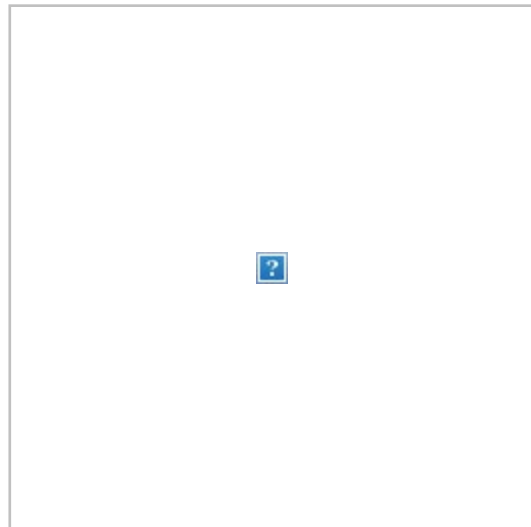


[Timely responses sought for Survey of Occupational Injuries](#)

[and Illnesses](#)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is reminding selected municipal departments to continue their record-keeping efforts needed to complete the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, a federal/state program that collects information on and provides estimates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges State Administration Committee to support bills to enhance grant opportunities for rural communities and provide for alternative delivery of infrastructure projects](#)

On Oct. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Live Demonstration of COMMBUYS webinar](#) - Nov. 7

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Embracing Critical Feedback webinar](#) - Nov. 8

[State-Level Disaster Response and The Recovery Process for Municipalities webinar](#) - Nov. 13

[Running an Effective Meeting: How to Set Yourself Up for Success webinar](#) - Nov. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-

[Legislative Session Review webinar](#) - Nov. 20

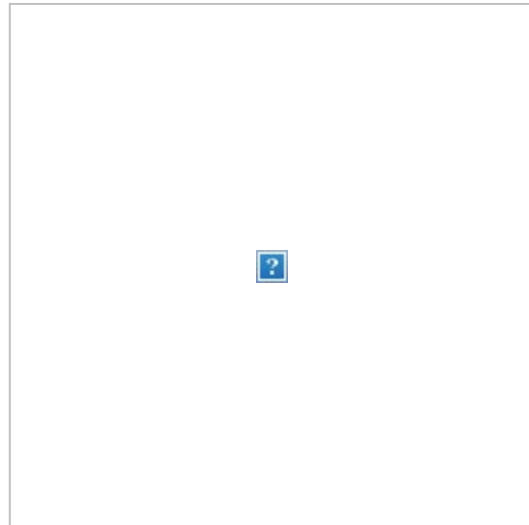
[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

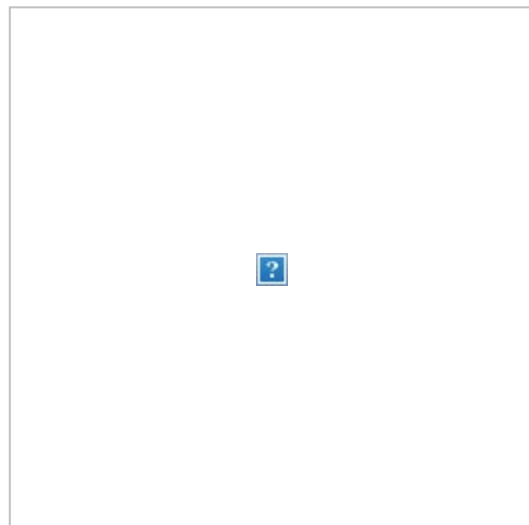
[MMA launches new On-Demand Webinar Library](#)

Today, the MMA launched an On-Demand Webinar Library to enhance members' virtual learning experience. ...



[WEMO seeks nominations for its 2024 Steering Committee](#)

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2024 steering committee. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Webinar will cover upcoming SCOTUS cases affecting local government](#)

The Local Government Legal Center will host a free webinar on Oct. 31 to discuss the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court term and cases relevant to local governments. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

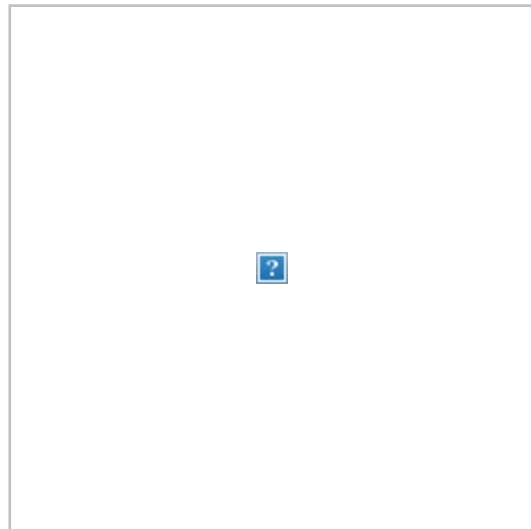
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



[AG holds webinars to help](#)

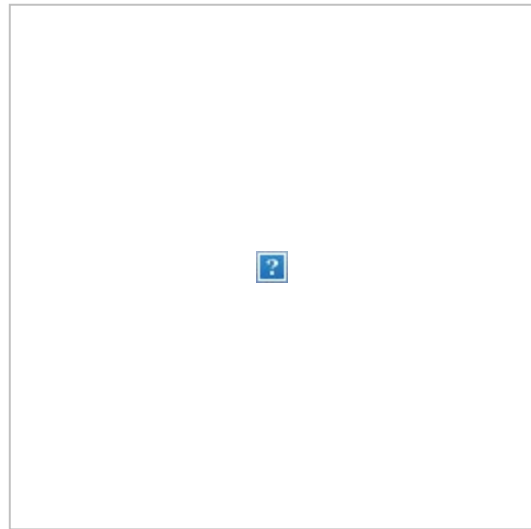
[government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

[Executive Assistant](#)

[Human Resources Manager](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 62 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Library Director, Local Building Inspector, Social Worker, Communications Specialist, Public Health Agent, Finance Director and Town Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Communities across the state will be observing the Fourth of July with public events tomorrow and this weekend. We'd love to highlight your parades and gatherings in the Weekly Review! Send your photos to photos@mma.org.

In local happenings: In a [ceremony last month](#), the Danvers Rail Trail was dedicated in memory of former longtime Town Manager Wayne Marquis. Marquis, who died in 2022, served as town manager from 1979 to 2014.

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

[Legislature sends FY26 state budget to governor](#)

The Legislature has enacted a \$61 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2026, an increase of \$3.3 billion over fiscal 2025. ...



[MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)

The MMA this week unveiled new features for its popular Municipal Career Opportunities service and a new, streamlined classified ad rate structure. ...



[Mass. mayors and officials issue statement on ICE actions in communities](#)

Leaders from 13 cities and one town issued a joint statement calling on the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate the activity of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ...

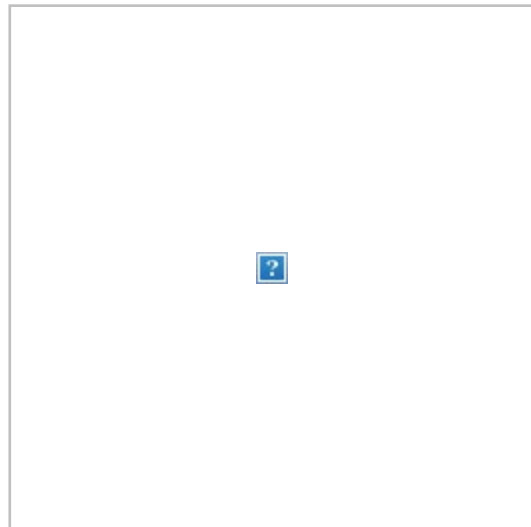


[MA250 grant program expands to support Revolutionary storytelling](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

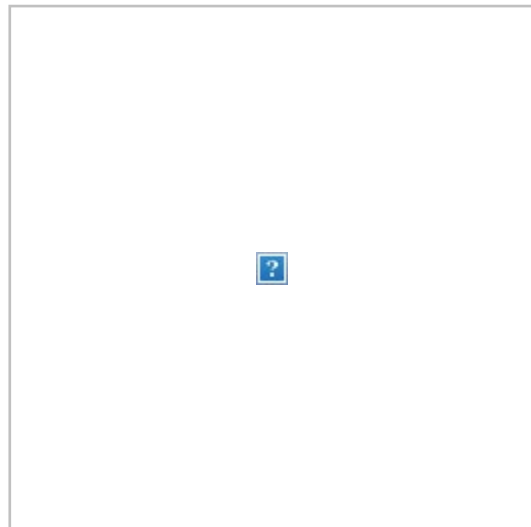
and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism announced a second round of funding through the Massachusetts 250 Grant Program.

...



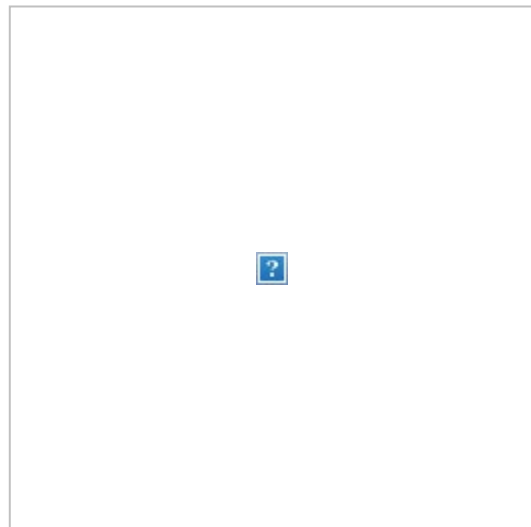
[MSA hosts annual training for newly elected select board members](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association held its annual free training for newly elected members in Devens. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[MMA urges Veterans Committee to support bills to streamline veterans benefits](#)

On June 30, Testimony

[MMA urges Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support bottle bill expansion](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[In testimony to Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, MMA expresses strong support for series of bills that would increase municipal efficiency and effectiveness](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA offers feedback and concerns on a number of water-related bills before Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#)

On June 27, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Local communities taking varied approach to spending opioid settlement money](#)

- The Sun Chronicle

[Many of the more than 58,000 laid-off federal workers are looking to move to Boston](#) - Boston Globe

[Bullet hole by bullet hole, an Arlington house shows the struggle for America's independence](#) - WBUR

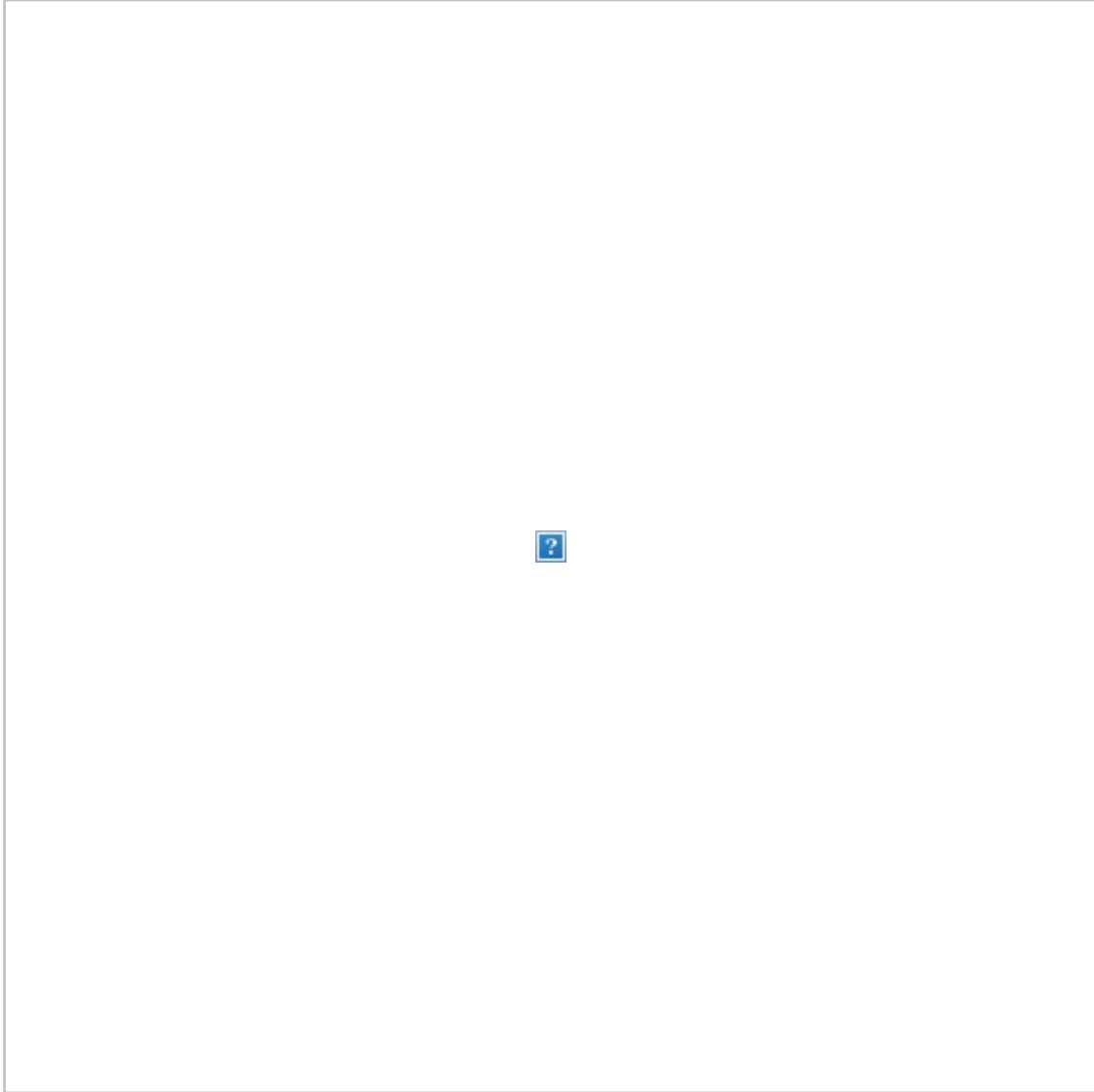
[Peabody Mayor Bettencourt shares 4 new anti-bullying initiatives for Peabody schools](#) - Salem News

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Norfolk Select Board Member Anita Mecklenburg



What We're Reading

[5 summer reads for urban innovators](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"If there are two plot lines that resonate with every local leader, they are that making government work well is a nonstop challenge and that the best ideas often come from the outside. This collection of books reflects both realities by

spotlighting stories and strategies that demonstrate how to make cities more effective and how to better connect them to what residents need. From an Alabama mayor's moving story about reimagining government in his hometown to lessons on improving public services from the United Kingdom, these works offer something to any city innovator looking to raise their game."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar on private roads](#)
- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
- [State sets office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [Electric grid council to hold in-person event on July 17](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxEd on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Stacy Kilb, sustainability engagement coordinator in Salem, for sharing this photo from Volt & Vibe: An Eco-Rider Showcase, an e-bike and personal electric vehicle expo hosted by the city at Salem State University on June 29.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 38 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Health Agent, Facilities Superintendent, Office Manager, Assistant City Clerk, HVAC Technician and Town Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The town of [Stow will temporarily rename itself “Dunkin”](#) for the day on July 24 to celebrate the opening of a new location. The town has been without a Dunkin' since 2022.

In local happenings: The [38th annual Lowell Folk Festival](#) kicks off on July 25. The free festival celebrates traditional music and arts, and features numerous food vendors, dance spaces and family-friendly areas.

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](#)!

[Connect 351 planning underway at MMA](#)

The MMA staff is hard at work planning the MMA's annual conference, which will return to Boston's Seaport District, at the newly renamed Menino Convention and Exhibition Center, on Jan. 22 through 24. ...



[**MMA publishes Summer issue of The Beacon**](#)

The Summer Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, grant opportunities, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[**Gov. Healey's FY26 supplemental budget seeks expanded 9C authority**](#)

As Gov. Healey signed the fiscal 2026 state budget into law on July 4, and vetoed \$130 million in spending, she also filed a fiscal 2026 supplemental budget bill. ...



[**State holds office hours to discuss ADUs**](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is holding office hours to support municipal planners and building officials in understanding the state's new accessory dwelling unit law and regulations. ...



[Leaving Needham, Fitzpatrick says now's 'best time ever' to serve](#)

State and local officials celebrated longtime Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick's retirement after 35 years with the town. ...



['Andover At Work' exhibit focuses on municipal staff](#)

Photographer David Whitney's "Andover at Work" exhibit is the culmination of a year-long volunteer project highlighting the daily work of municipal employees in Andover. ...



[MMA webinar discusses private roadway issues](#)

An MMA webinar on July 15 gave an

overview of private roadways and related issues, providing information municipal officials need to navigate community conversations. ...



DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources is studying the potential for load management tools like demand flexibility, energy efficiency, and virtual power plants. ...



Green School Works program offers technical assistance

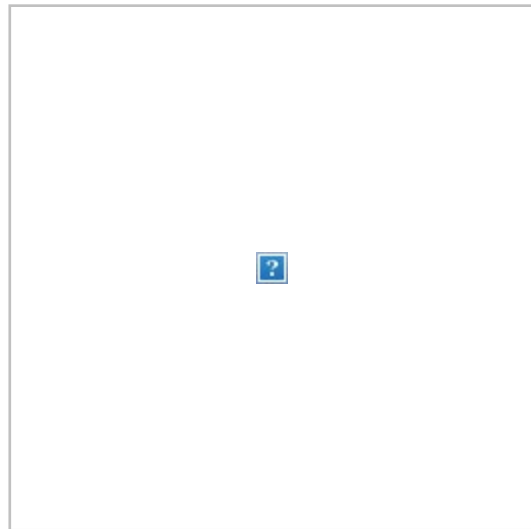
The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting requests for technical assistance through the Green School Works program to decarbonize the state's public schools. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[In face of federal pressures, protecting local funding is critical](#)

On July 16, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges legislators to reject proposal to expand emergency budget-cutting authority under Section 9C](#)

On July 14, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Republic Services sees mounting frustration from towns, officials amid worker strike](#) - Boston Globe

[Pittsfield expands list of city-run public restrooms, including the only 24/7 option](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Marlborough Police have something to offer kids in crisis situations. Here's how it works](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Western Mass. communities brace for weather, climate effects with hazard plans](#) - MassLive Media

[Andover Bookstore is the oldest in the country. What to expect when you visit](#) -
Wicked Local

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Methuen City Councillor Neily Soto



What We're Reading

[Chelsea named 2025 All-America city for sustainability projects](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

"Sustainability was this year's theme for the All-America city awards, given annually by the National Civic League. But environmental awareness is nothing new for Chelsea, one of 10 US communities recognized by the organization on June 29 for their "transformative, community-driven efforts to strengthen environmental sustainability and their civic infrastructure."

"Chelsea has been doing this work before this work was catchy," said City Manager Fidel Maltez, who traveled to Denver last month for the awards ceremony.

Many communities have come to value sustainable practices like recycling or increasing green space. But Chelsea's commitment to sustainability was born from years of environmental injustice. The densely populated city of 40,000 residents just north of Boston has long had to contend with a litany of environmental hazards – and the public health problems they bring."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
 - [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
 - [MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)
 - [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
 - [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
 - [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Christopher Holt, human resources administrative assistant in Lakeville, for sharing this photo of the old Lakeville Town Hall, built in 1856.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator](#)

[Instructor](#)

- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Conservation Planner, Director of Elder Affairs, Assessor's Clerk, Senior Town Planner, Town Accountant, Communications Officer and Assistant Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: The city of Lynn has [officially opened Harbor Park](#), a new 30-acre public space along the waterfront that offers walking paths, recreation areas and an outdoor amphitheater.

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](#)!

[House passes transportation bond bill with \\$300M for Ch. 90](#)

The House has passed a transportation bond bill that would

authorize \$300 million for the Chapter 90 road and bridge program for the upcoming year. ...



MassDOT's LEAP program seeks to jump-start local infrastructure

A program launched by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation seeks to help municipal officials jump-start infrastructure projects, particularly in rural and underserved areas. ...



MMA to host Aug. 20 webinar on crisis communications

An MMA webinar on Aug. 20 will focus on crisis communications and the importance of consistent messaging when cities and towns face unexpected challenges. ...



MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24

The MMA and its partners at

Constellation will hold a free presentation and conversation via Zoom on Sept. 24 to cover two energy topics. ...



MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30

The MMA will hold a half-day municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept 30 in Wrentham. ...



MMLA to hold program on code enforcement on Aug. 7

Effective and efficient code enforcement will be the focus of a Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association half-day program on Aug. 7 in Sturbridge. ...



Malloy joins managers' Senior Advisor Program

Retired manager James Malloy is

available as a senior advisor to other managers and administrators through a partnership between the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and the International City/County Management Association. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Lenox 'tourist tax' brings in \\$4.5 million for the town as summer season revs up](#)
- Berkshire Eagle

[Hadley weighs removal of three dams](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Western Mass. cities seeking public input on how to spend opioid settlement money](#) - GBH

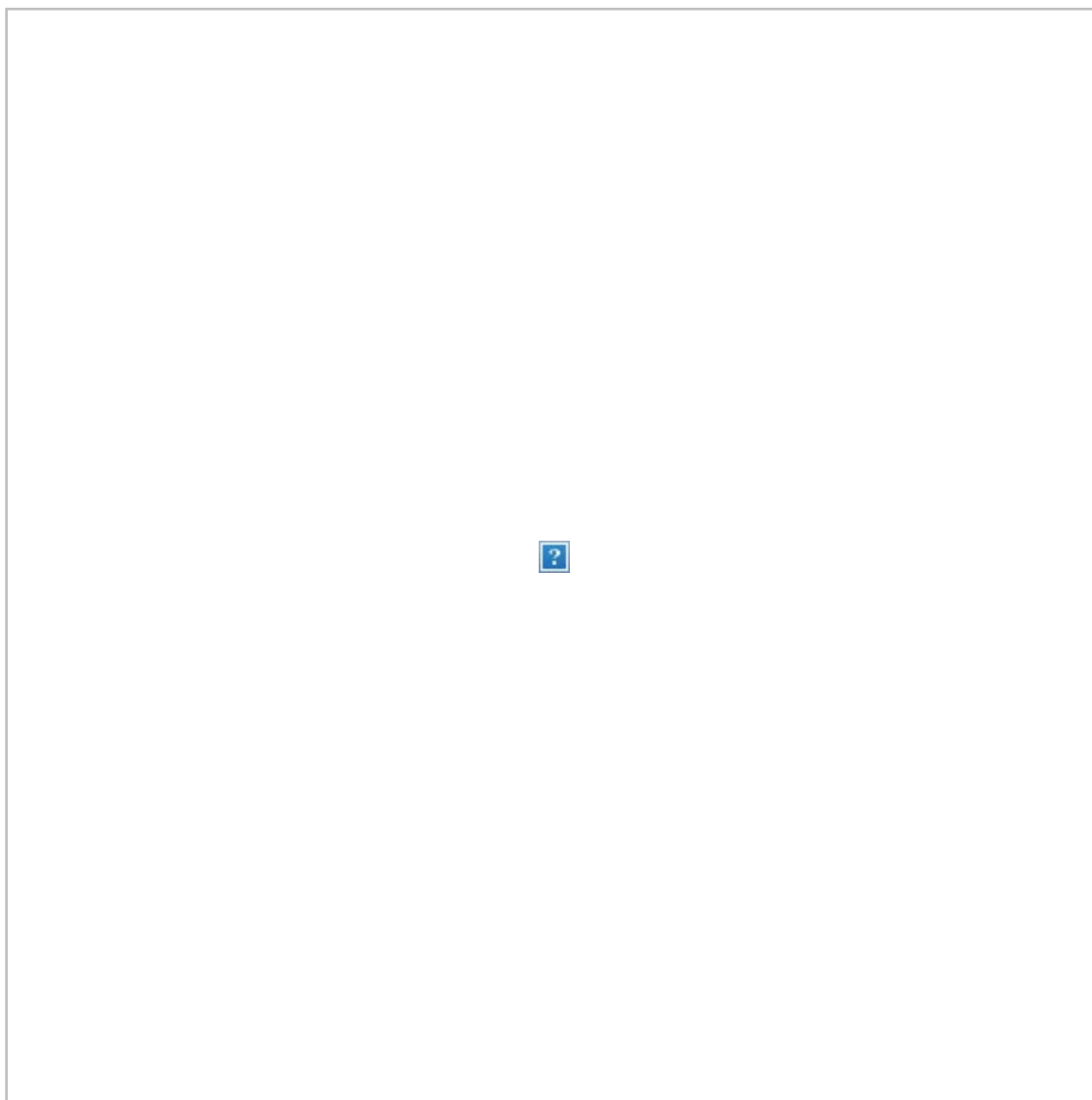
[City shaper: Kolofos honored for 65 years of service to Lawrence](#) - Eagle Tribune

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#WhyIServe

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Fitchburg City Councillor Sally Cragin



What We're Reading

[Food \(Insecurity\) for Thought: In Fresno, California, brownfield redevelopment and local partnerships have generated significant community and climate benefits](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The U.S. food supply is a study in inefficiency, inequity, and contradictions. Americans waste an estimated 30–40% of the country's food, and although much of it is safe and edible, that food ends up in landfills as 22–24% of municipal solid waste. There it becomes a potent source of methane, a greenhouse gas with four times the warming potential of carbon dioxide. At the same time, one in seven Americans, or 47 million people, including 14 million children, experienced food insecurity in 2023. This marked a 6% increase from 2022, and the highest level recorded since 2014.

Located in California's Central Valley, which produces 25% of the nation's food supply, Fresno County is the third hungriest county in the United States. In Fresno, nonprofits like Fresno Metropolitan Ministry (Metro) help feed hungry people by running just-in-time rescue operations that glean surplus food from institutions and retail outlets. It's an effective strategy, but not a simple one. As Metro's Executive Director Emogene Nelson describes, "Rescuing food involves more than just picking it up. It requires storage, transportation, timing, and trust. If one link in the chain breaks, the entire system is disrupted. Behind every pound of food saved is a mountain of invisible labor."

To streamline and expand their food rescue operations, Metro teamed up with St. Rest Baptist Church (SRBC) to redevelop a vacant and environmentally contaminated former meatpacking warehouse into the St. Rest + Food to Share Hub. The Hub, which opened in May 2024, started with a brownfield—land that is frequently vacant, underutilized, or abandoned, and may be contaminated. Metro and SRBC worked with the city of Fresno to leverage multiple federal funding sources that addressed environmental contamination and cleared the way for redevelopment. Their story exemplifies the power of partnerships to build social resilience and contribute to a sense of place, especially in resource-scarce settings."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Foundations of Crisis Communications webinar](#) - Aug. 20

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

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- [DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction](#)
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- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Ralph Waldo Emerson House in Concord is open for guided tours for the season. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources,

downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Animal Control Officer, Senior Planner, Town Administrator, Employee Relations Manager, Wastewater Superintendent and Part-time Local Inspector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



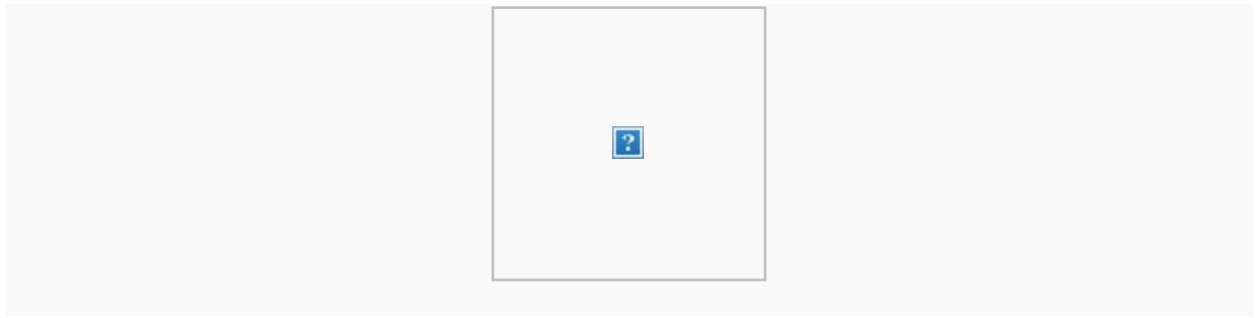
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA will host the first of four [fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#) on Sept. 26 in Lee.

In local happenings: The Big E kicks off in West Springfield tomorrow, featuring [17 days of food, rides, music and fun](#)! The fair welcomed more than 1.6 million people last year and is celebrating its 109th year.

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](#)!

[Two grant programs launched to support local efforts on federal funding](#)

The administration has launched grant programs to advance local infrastructure and economic development projects and bring more federal dollars into the state. ...



[Gov. Healey unveils plan to cut environmental rules to fast-track housing](#)

The plan would cut environmental regulations in order to expedite housing production in Massachusetts and reduce costs. ...



[MMA offers municipal guide to inclusive holidays, recognition days](#)

Cities and towns can determine additional days that they include as holidays, during which no business is conducted. ...



[MMA survey seeks feedback on Connect 351 experience and needs](#)

We're asking members to respond to a brief survey by Sept. 18 to help us make the Connect 351 experience more meaningful and enjoyable. ...



[Stormwater MS4 grant program applications due Oct. 3](#)

Applications are available for the Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on Workplace Equity Act](#)

The MMA hosted a webinar about the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, enacted in 2024. ...



[MMA to hold Health Care Costs Forum on Sept. 30](#)

The MMA will hold a half-day

municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept. 30 in Wrentham. ...



State awards \$10.9 million for dams and coastal infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration has announced nearly \$11 million in grant funding to support the repair or removal of aging dams, levees and coastal infrastructure. ...



MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston

Climate Beacon, New England's

premier climate solutions conference, will be held on Oct. 22-24 in Boston. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In Advocacy

[MMA joins Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association in providing comments to CCC on municipal implications of draft social consumption regulations](#)

On Sept. 8, Testimony

Planning for Connect 351 in



January is underway! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video!](#)



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Cassandra Madison](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[How can Hopedale attract a buyer for Town Hall? What's being discussed](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Meet Somerville's 'rat czar.' He leads the battle against rodents](#) - Boston Globe

[Holyoke seeks public input on how to spend \\$1M opioid settlement funds](#) - New England Public Media

[Five tornadoes confirmed in the Worcester area and Stow, National Weather Service says](#) - Boston Globe

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Northeastern University students Jonathan Oubenslimane, left, and Vamini Jain

What We're Reading

[3 AI roadblocks—and how to overcome them](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Evidence of uneven AI adoption in the private sector grows by the day, with executives worried about falling behind more tech-savvy competitors. But the stakes are different, and considerably higher, in government. For local leaders, AI isn't about winning a race. It's about unlocking new problem-solving capacity to deliver better services and meet pressing resident needs.

Even so, city governments face real barriers to further adoption, including persistent concerns about accuracy and privacy, procurement hurdles, and too

little space for civil-servant experimentation. The good news? Innovative leaders are already showing how to overcome these obstacles. And, in doing so, they're reaping insights of use to others aiming to do the same."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Support from the Red Cross webinar](#) - Sept. 16

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[From Resources to Relationships: Why Councils on Aging Matter webinar](#) - Sept. 25

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Lee](#) - Sept. 26

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Athol & Middleborough](#) - Oct. 3

[Massachusetts Select Board Association fall conference](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Boot Camp](#) - Oct. 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Chelmsford](#) - Oct. 17

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 18-19 in Springfield](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar with Mass. Councils on Aging Sept. 25](#)
 - [Public Works Expo is Sept. 17 and 18 in Marlborough](#)
 - [Green Building Council to hold Local Government Leadership Summit](#)
 - [MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 17](#)
 - [MARPA and DLS Conference is Oct. 7](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar with Red Cross Sept. 16](#)
 - [Town Forest Conference is Oct. 4](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars](#)
 - [Mass. Digital Government Summit to be held on Sept. 18](#)
 - [MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24](#)
 - [MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





The Morse-Kelley Pollinator Habitat Garden in Somerville is a pollinator-friendly pocket park created with Community Preservation Act funds. Other pollinator-friendly spaces are located throughout the city as part of broader pollinator initiatives. Photo by Meredith Gabriliska, MMA Digital Communications Manager.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Treasurer/Collector, Public Safety Dispatchers, Outreach Coordinator, Paramedic, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Municipal Hearing Officer and Grants Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

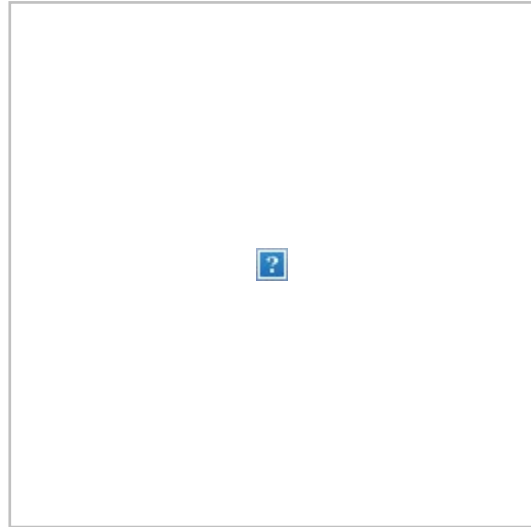
In local happenings: Cambridge and Boston are expecting close to 400,000 spectators over the course of the weekend for the [Head of the Charles Regatta](#). The three-day rowing event features local music and food vendors and family-friendly activities, in addition to cheering on the athletes from nearly 30 countries competing in 74 events.

Send us photos from your community's seasonal celebrations to be featured in a future edition of the Weekly Review!

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](#)!

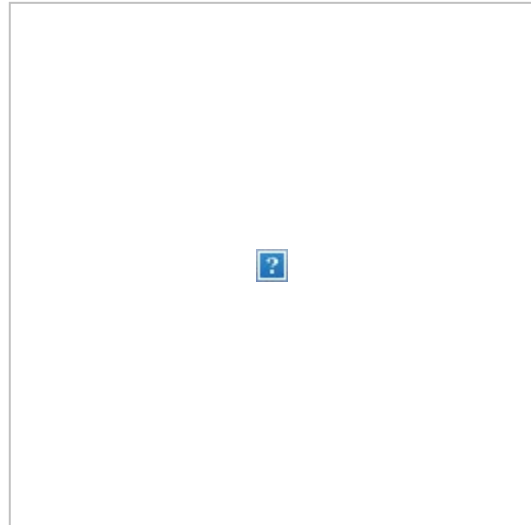
**[Input sought on draft model
bylaws for solar, battery systems](#)**

The Department of Energy Resources is developing model bylaws for photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems to serve as a resource to municipalities. ...



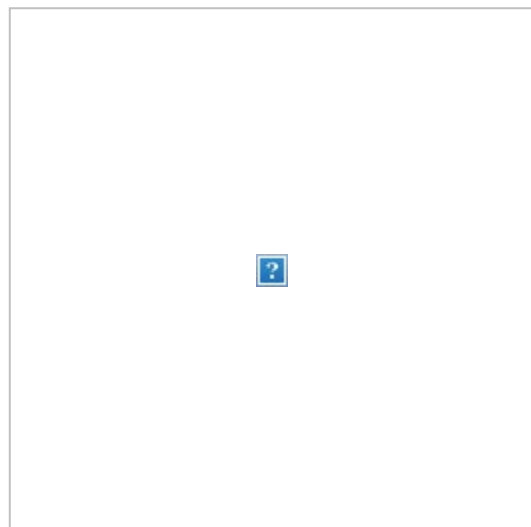
**[Grants opened for drought
resiliency, water efficiency
projects](#)**

The state has opened the second round of a grant program for projects that support climate resiliency through reduced water usage and improved water loss control. ...



**[MSBA to hold roundtable on ballot
questions Nov. 20](#)**

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is hosting a roundtable discussion via Zoom on Nov. 20 on the topic of local ballot question rules. ...



**[MMA webinar addresses
cybersecurity for municipalities](#)**

The MMA hosted a webinar on Oct. 15 on the minimum cybersecurity goals for municipalities. ...



[MMA-Suffolk kick off certificate programs](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University kicked off two Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs in September, in Barnstable and Winchester. ...



[Pittsfield to begin ecological restoration project in park](#)

A new phase in the cleanup and restoration of the Housatonic River is set to begin this fall, with ecological restoration in Kirvin Park, an active recreation area in the city of Pittsfield. ...



[Grant supports military base redevelopment in Weymouth](#)

State and local officials hope that a

\$32.4 million grant that Weymouth received this summer will help remove longstanding obstacles to the redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. ...



What to know about seasonal affective disorder

For some people, the significant loss of daylight that comes with the fall season can worsen their mood, sap energy, and impair concentration due to what's known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. ...



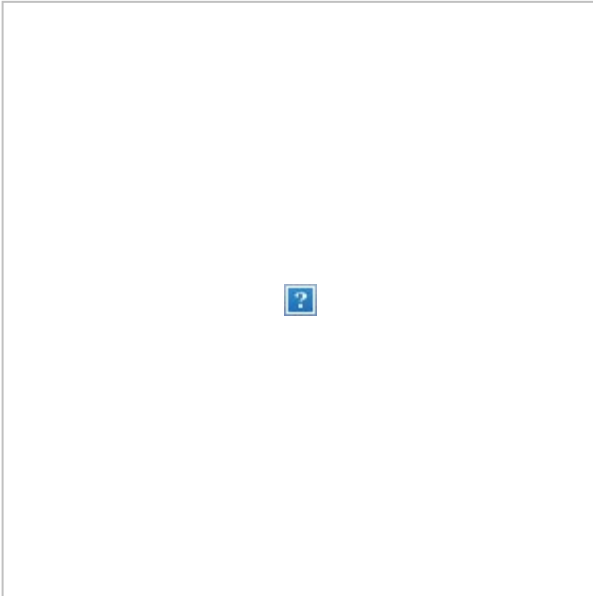
Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...

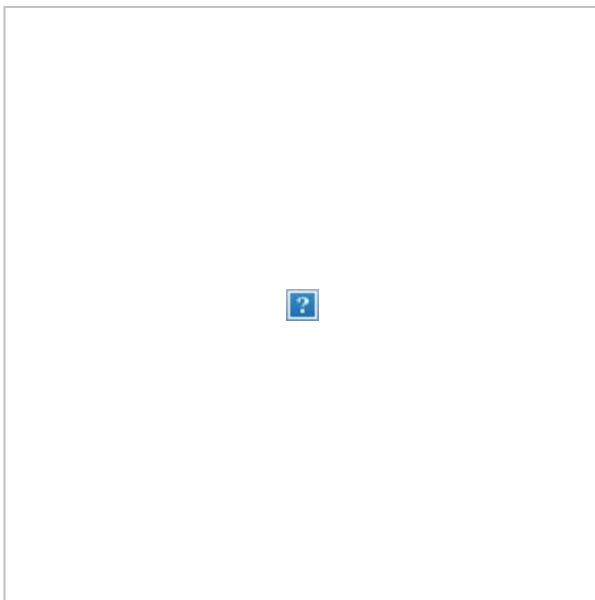


[A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures](#)

Published Oct. 9, The MMA and The Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University



[Register now](#) for Connect 351 in January! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video](#)!



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

['60 Minutes' reports on Chinese hacking of a Massachusetts town's utility network](#) - Boston Dot Com

[Hadley officials to discuss looming layoffs; fire Department facing cuts after failed override](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Methuen housing plan highlights growing senior population](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Taller, and made of timber, a new way to build affordable housing could soon rise in Cambridge](#) - Boston Globe

[Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo 'On the Record' about Halloween tourism, local challenges](#) - WCVB

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

What We're Reading

[Applying a new lens on city storytelling](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Anybody passing through the concourse level of Philadelphia's Municipal Services Building to secure a business license or pay a water bill has probably noticed them: photographs of office windows looking out at skyscrapers, parking lots, thoroughfares. Each of them presents a different perspective of the city from within a civil servant's workplace, and they are interspersed with quotes from city employees describing what it means to them to deliver for residents every day.

Capturing people's attention is one of the first steps in successful storytelling. And, in today's fast-paced and fragmented media space, newsletters, press releases, and Facebook posts are rarely enough for city leaders looking to

connect with residents. That's what makes this effort in Philadelphia stand out. The work of Emilio Martínez Poppe, himself a city employee in New York City, the project powerfully conveys the determination and value of the people who patrol the streets, maintain the parks, and respond to resident complaints. And, in doing so, it offers a model for how cities can be more ambitious, more experimental and, ultimately, more effective in their outreach.

By thinking outside the box, Philadelphia—whose Mayor Cherelle Parker is a participant in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative—is offering lessons to local leaders everywhere as they seek to build trust, improve morale, and show that their city is ready to deliver."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[Navigating Student Debt with Savi webinar](#) - Oct. 22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Fall Mentorship Session](#) - Oct. 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 23

[Unlock MassDOT Funding for your Municipality webinar](#) - Nov. 6

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - Nov. 13

[Planning and Partnering for Impact: Best Practices for Municipal Opioid Settlement Funds webinar](#) - Nov. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 20-21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

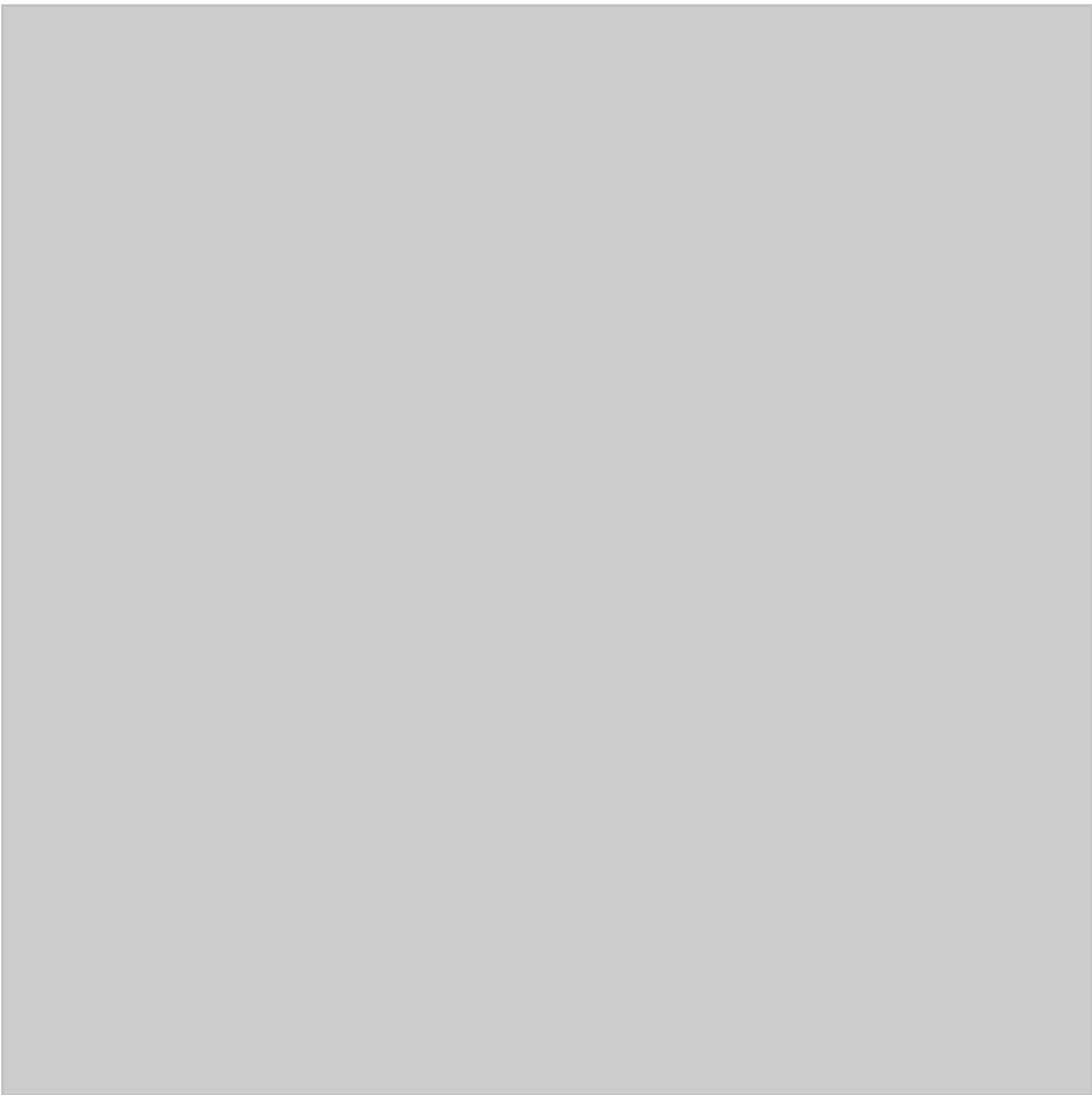
In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar to cover student loan debt strategies for public employees](#)
 - [MMLA to hold conference in Northampton on Oct. 23-24](#)
 - [State to host public hearings to review K-12 school finance formula](#)
 - [ASPA virtual meeting will explore government careers](#)
 - [ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Oct. 18](#)
 - [Survey seeks to assess how cities, towns engage with technology](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars Oct. 21 and 23](#)
 - [Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Runners took part in the Cape Code Marathon Weekend this past weekend in Falmouth. Races included a half-marathon on Oct. 11 (left) and a marathon on Oct. 12 (right). The course hugs the town's coastline, providing views of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Sound. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Medicare Specialist](#)

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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, Nov. 9.

[Administration gives emergency shelter update as system approaches limit](#)

With the emergency family shelter system quickly approaching its

capacity limit, the administration gave an update today on next steps.

...



[MMA publishes November issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the November 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including federal grant opportunities, the emergency shelter system, and climate change, plus details about the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show and other upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[MMA Annual Meeting planning continues](#)

Planning continues for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held in person on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...

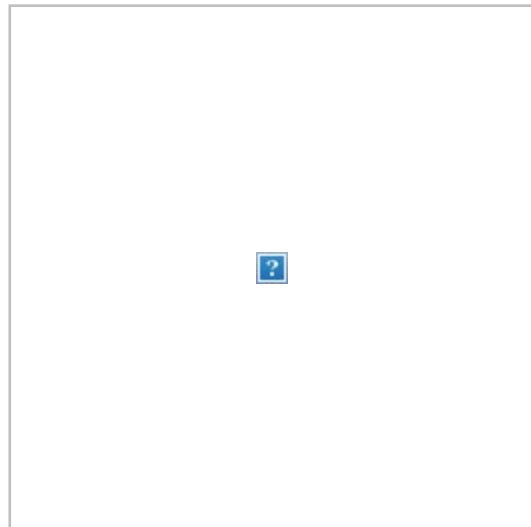


[MMA's DEI work moving forward](#)

[on several tracks](#)

The MMA is continuing to move forward with its diversity, equity and inclusion work on a number of fronts.

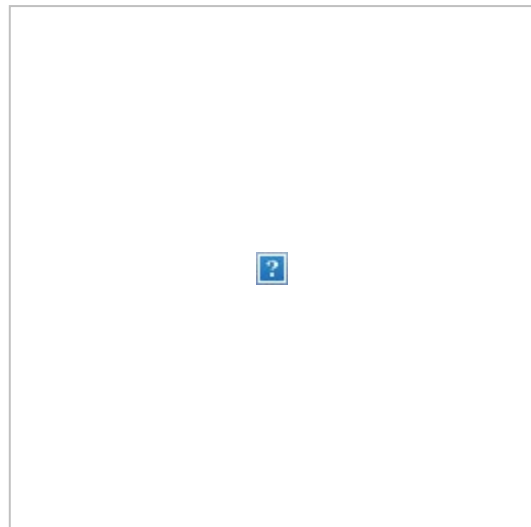
...



[Final CCC marijuana regulations published](#)

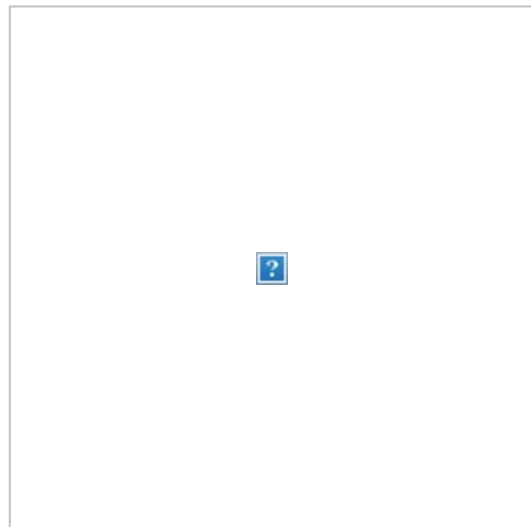
The Secretary of the Commonwealth on Oct. 27 published the Cannabis Control Commission's final updated regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana, the final step in enacting the new regulations.

...



[MMA holds fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#)

On two Fridays in October, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a

virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free, 75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[Changes proposed for CDBG one-year action plan for FY24](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is proposing changes to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program for federal fiscal 2024. ...



[Applications for sewage notification grant program due Nov. 10](#)

Regional and municipal wastewater utilities have until Nov. 10 to apply for a grant to help them meet notification requirements for wastewater discharges. ...



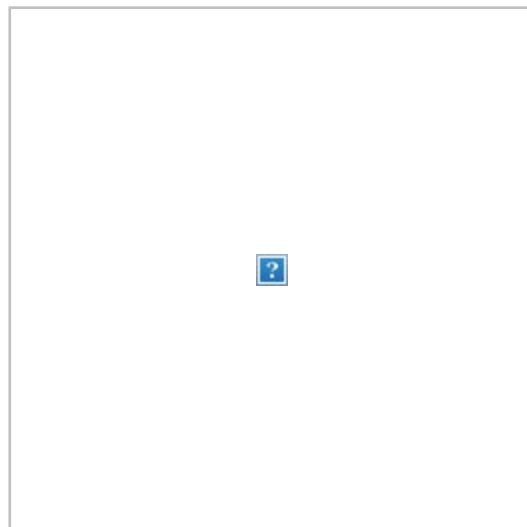
[Federal funding available for EV charging infrastructure](#)

Applications are due by Nov. 13 for up to \$100 million in federal funding available for the repair and replacement of non-operational electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[MassDEP awards \\$5.2M to support recycling, composting and waste reduction](#)

On Sept. 28, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced the award of \$5.2 million in grants to 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts for recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[On migrant shelter crisis, cities and towns need help in 3 key areas](#)

On Nov. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support bills to label wipe products with "Do Not Flush" to avoid costly wastewater problems](#)

On Oct. 25, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA](#)

[Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

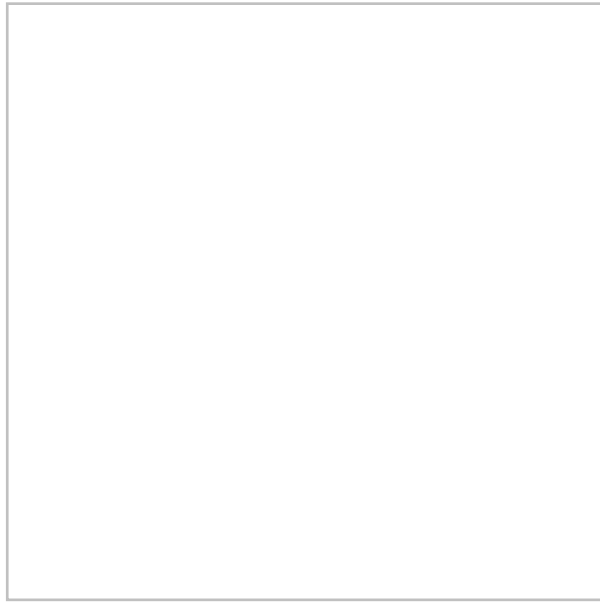
Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie](#)

[Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina](#)

[McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Live Demonstration of COMMBUYS webinar](#) - Nov. 7

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Embracing Critical Feedback webinar](#) - Nov. 8

[State-Level Disaster Response and The Recovery Process for Municipalities webinar](#) - Nov. 13

[Running an Effective Meeting: How to Set Yourself Up for Success webinar](#) - Nov. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

[Legislative Session Review webinar](#) - Nov. 20

[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Dec. 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

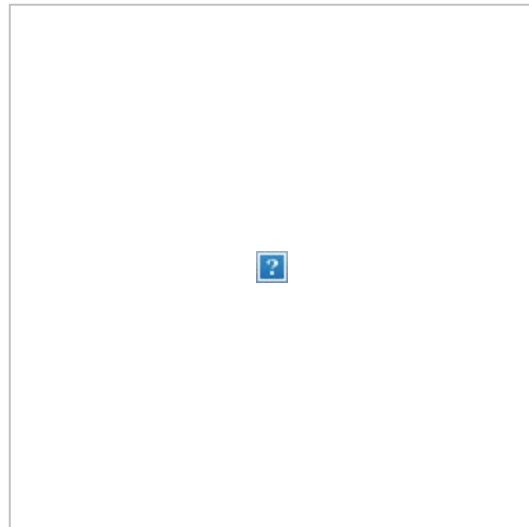
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MMA launches new On-Demand Webinar Library](#)

Today, the MMA launched an On-Demand Webinar Library to enhance members' virtual learning experience. ...

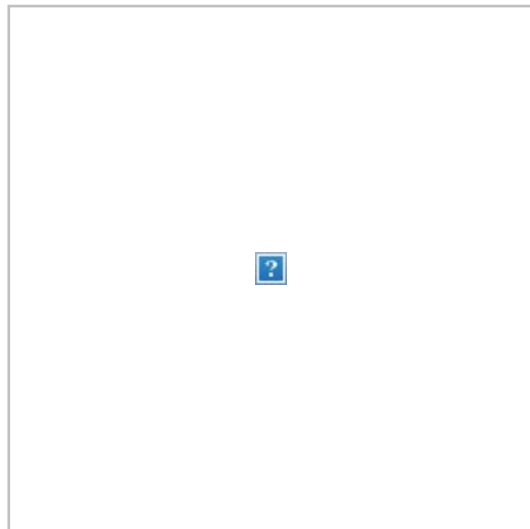
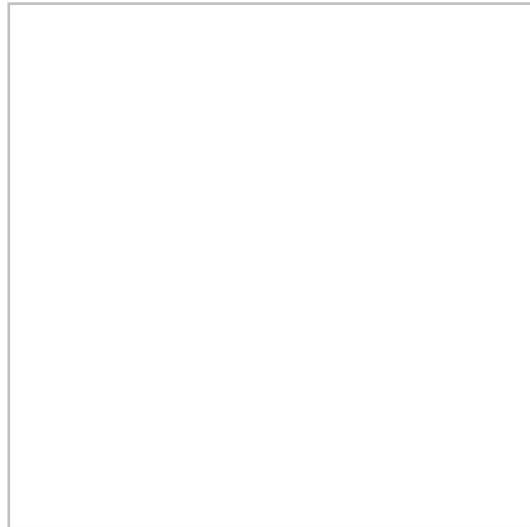


[WEMO seeks nominations for its 2024 Steering Committee](#)

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2024 steering committee. ...

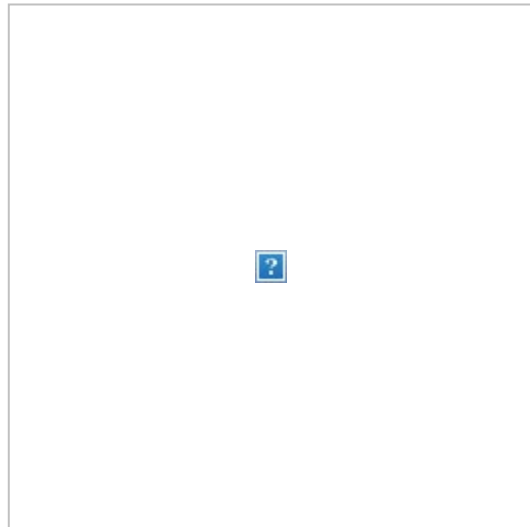
[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[State offers grants for AED equipment](#)

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate

Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



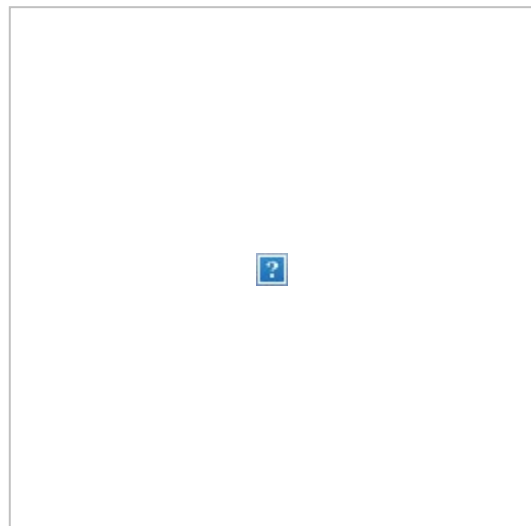
[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



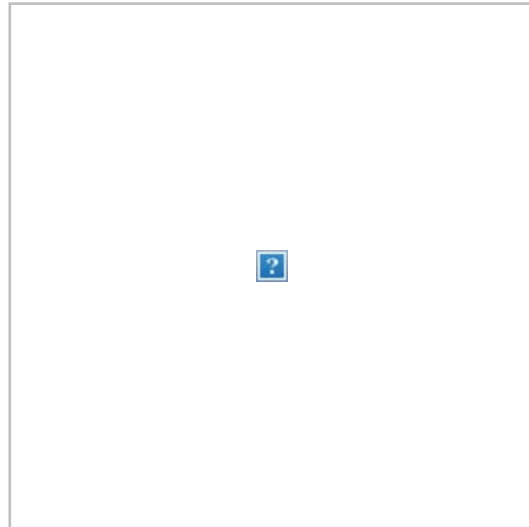
[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 44 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Manager, Senior Planner, Finance Manager, Town Engineer, Town Administrator, Conservation Agent, Senior Climate Program Manager, and Planner and Land Use Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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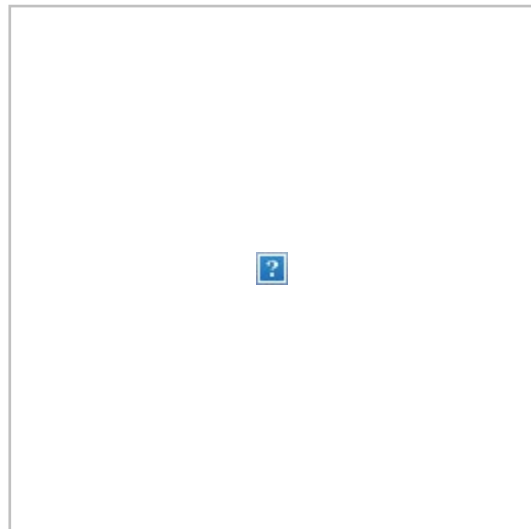
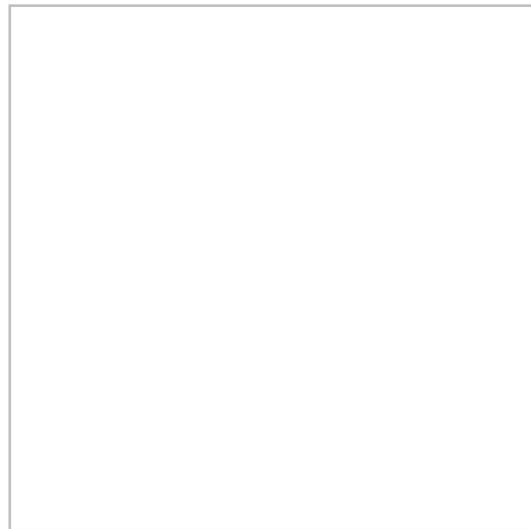
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[Voters elect 33 mayors across Massachusetts](#)

Voters yesterday elected mayors in 33 cities across the state, including nine new mayors. ...

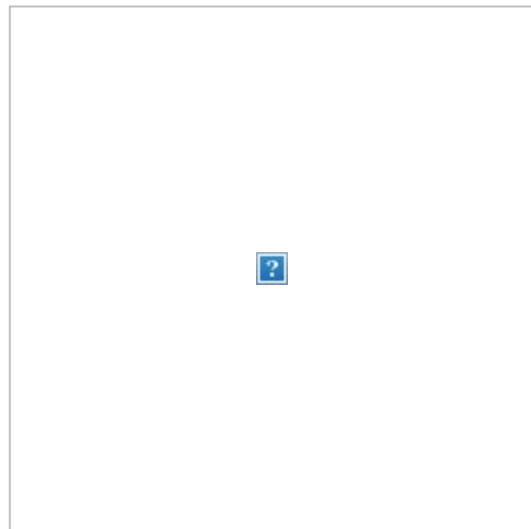
[**MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20**](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[**Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program opens**](#)

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



[**MMA webinar to review state-level disaster response protocol**](#)

The MMA will host a free, one-hour

webinar on Nov. 13 with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency sharing municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[House, Senate adopt wage equity bill](#)

The House and Senate have both adopted their own versions of legislation aimed at closing gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



[‘Form of Government FAQ’ webinar is Nov. 29](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Management Association will host a “Form of Government FAQ” webinar for all MMA members on Nov. 29 from noon to 1 p.m. ...



[MMA webinar reviews key features of COMMBUYS](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Operational Services Division’s Local Government Enablement Team demonstrated how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[Broadband Institute launches \\$145M Gap Networks Infrastructure Grant Program](#)

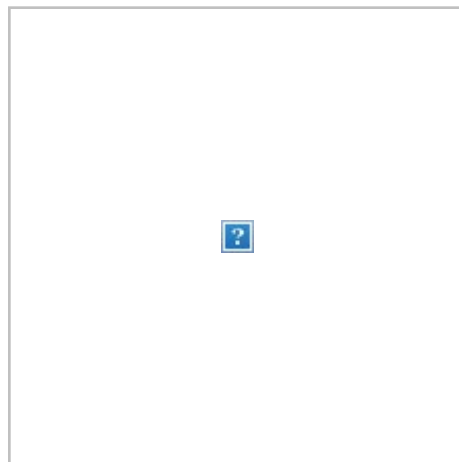
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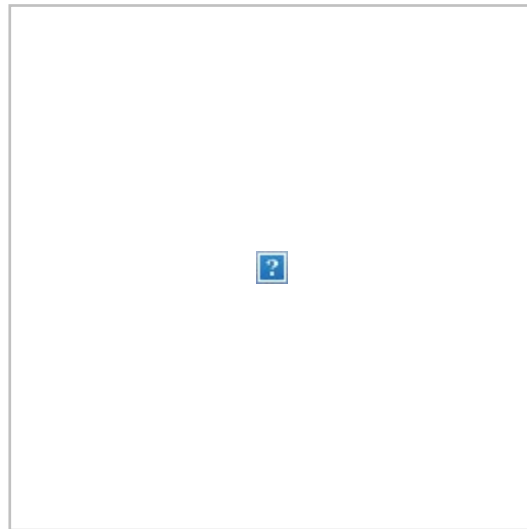
The Municipal Vulnerability

Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal 2025 Action Grant round. ...



[DOER launches Climate Leader program, awards green grants](#)

The Department of Energy Resources has announced a new program that builds on the Green Communities designation and grant program. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Municipalities and Regional Government Committee to support bill to expand the uses of water banking](#)

On Oct. 24, Testimony

[MMA urges Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to support bills to expedite removal of doubled up utility poles](#)

On Oct. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

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WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[State-Level Disaster Response and The Recovery Process for Municipalities webinar](#) - Nov. 13

[Running an Effective Meeting: How to Set Yourself Up for Success webinar](#) - Nov. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

[Legislative Session Review webinar](#) - Nov. 20

[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Dec. 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[WEMO seeks nominations for its 2024 Steering Committee](#)

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2024 steering committee. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Federal funding available for EV charging infrastructure](#)

Applications are due by Nov. 13 for up to \$100 million in federal funding

available for the repair and replacement of non-operational electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[Applications for sewage notification grant program due Nov. 10](#)

Regional and municipal wastewater utilities have until Nov. 10 to apply for a grant to help them meet notification requirements for wastewater discharges. ...



[State offers grants for AED equipment](#)

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate

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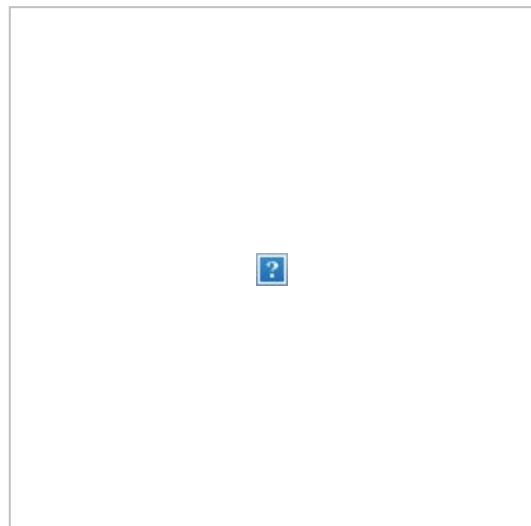
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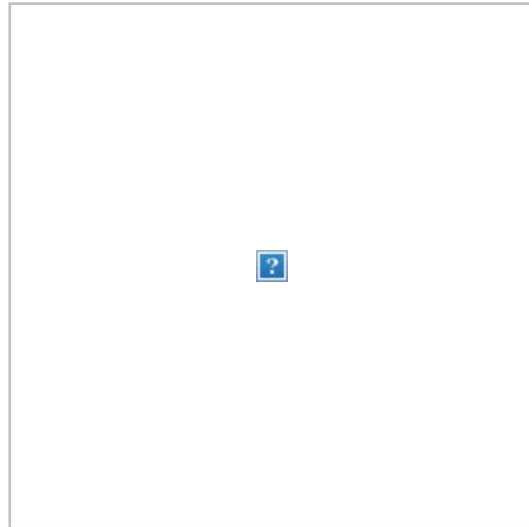
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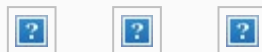
ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 32 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Neighborhood Planner, Assistant Assessor, Water Sewer Foreman, Patrol Officer, Conservation and Planning Agent, Program Coordinator and Director of Public Works. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be back in your inbox on Dec. 1.

[Conference committee takes up
FY23 closeout supplemental
budget](#)

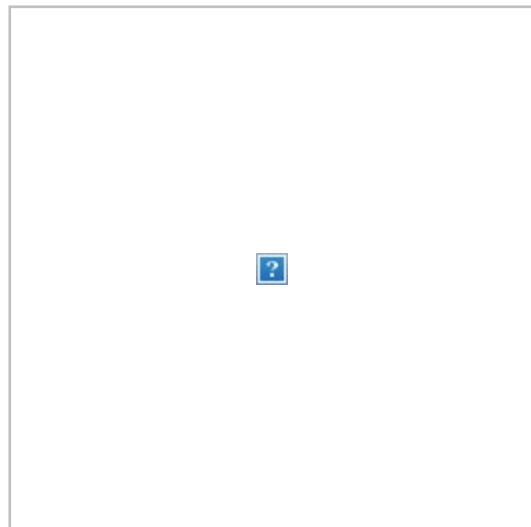
As the formal legislative session

came to a close for the calendar year yesterday, the House and Senate were unable to reach a consensus on a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget bill, and a six-member conference committee was named to resolve differences between the two branches. ...



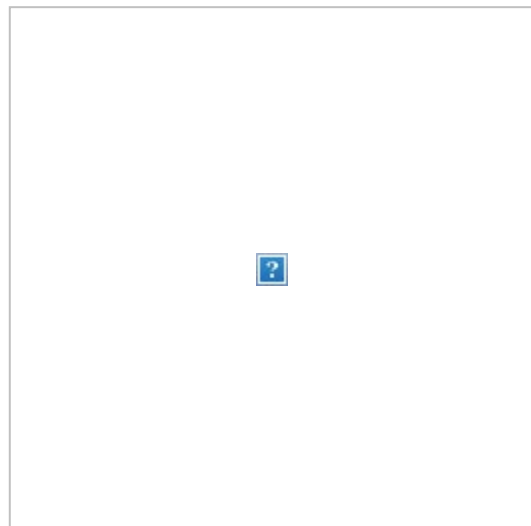
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[MMA webinar reviews MEMA's role in municipal disaster response](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency shared municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar shares best practices and pitfalls of meeting](#)

[management](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed best practices for running an effective meeting from start to finish.

...



[MMHR seminar focuses on DEI, negotiations, accommodations, health plans](#)

Diversity, equity and inclusion, union contract negotiations, reasonable ADA accommodations, and health plan conversations were the main topics of the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Labor Relations Seminar on Oct. 27 in Devens. ...



[Augustus to address MSA Leadership Conference on Dec. 8](#)

Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Leadership Conference on Dec. 8 in Stow. ...



[MBI seeks feedback on Internet for All plan](#)

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts

Broadband Institute opened a month-long public comment period to gather feedback about the state's Internet for All Plan. ...



'Form of Government FAQ' webinar is Nov. 29

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MMA to host 2nd annual POST update

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...



Gov. appoints Monica Tibbits-Nutt as Transportation secretary

Gov. Maura Healey today

announced that she is appointing Monica Tibbits-Nutt as secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation effective today. ...



Worcester receives federal funds for lead remediation

Worcester has received a \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a lead hazard reduction program for qualified property owners. The city plans to use the grant to rehabilitate 165 units that house low-income families with children. ...



Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge consolidate building inspection services

Faced with a staffing crunch and a lack of qualified job applicants in the region, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge have created a regional building inspection department to serve the four towns. ...



Reading looks to address flooding, watershed concerns

In collaboration with regional

partners, the town of Reading has embarked on a project to reduce the effects of precipitation-based flooding from the Aberjona River, a Mystic River tributary, by constructing a stormwater wetland storage system, essentially a series of storage pools. ...



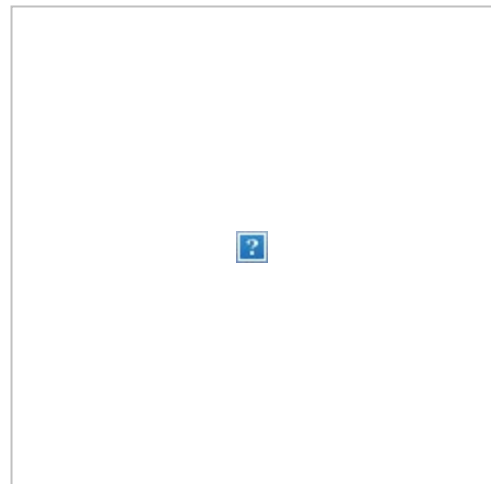
[Guidance released to help municipalities promote EV charging infrastructure](#)

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council and RMI have released a free guidance document designed to help municipalities as they develop and implement strategies to provide their communities with electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[Rural community leaders invited to apply for Reaching Rural Initiative Fellowships](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance will be selecting a new group of fellows to participate in a rural leadership program called Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions. ...



[Now is the time to prepare for winter maintenance emergencies](#)

With unpredictable weather patterns

and a volatile property insurance market, it's more crucial than ever to complete comprehensive maintenance protocols ahead of winter. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Education Committee to support bills targeting challenges facing rural school districts, MSBA rules, transportation for out-of-district vocational education, and special ed costs](#)

On Nov. 8, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

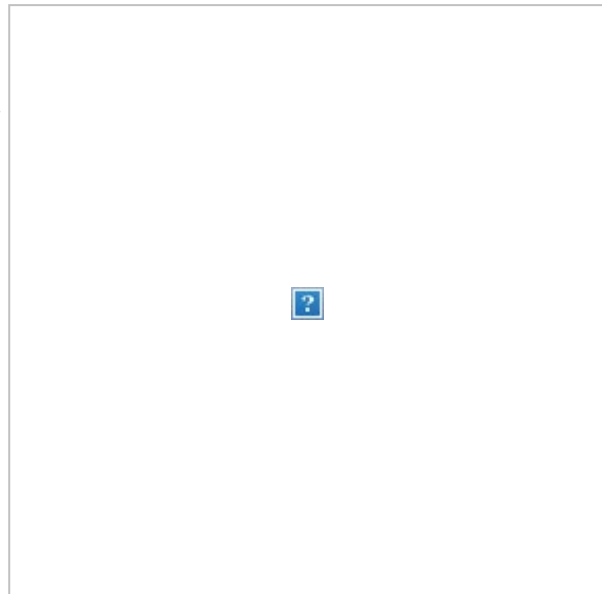
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[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

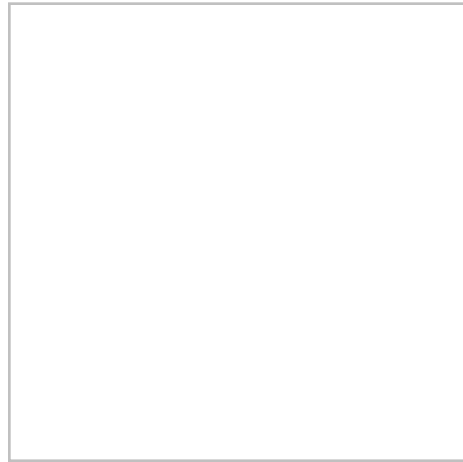
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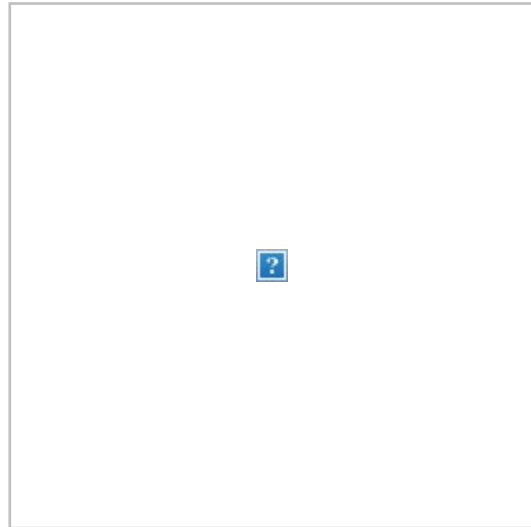
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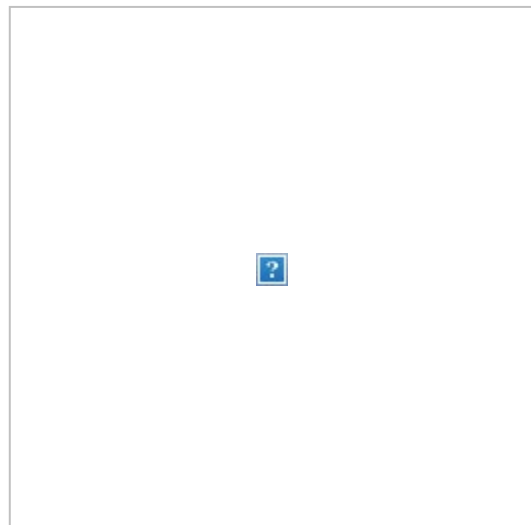
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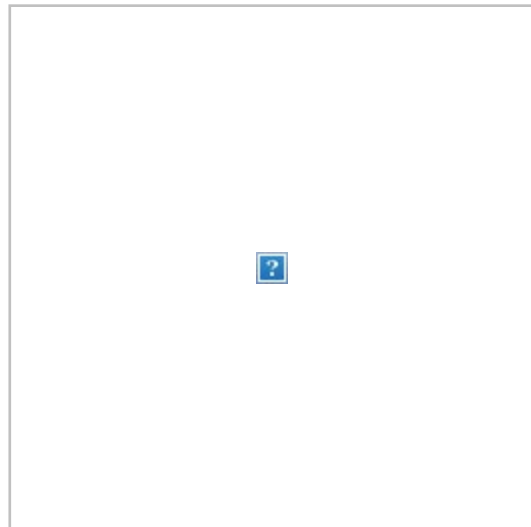
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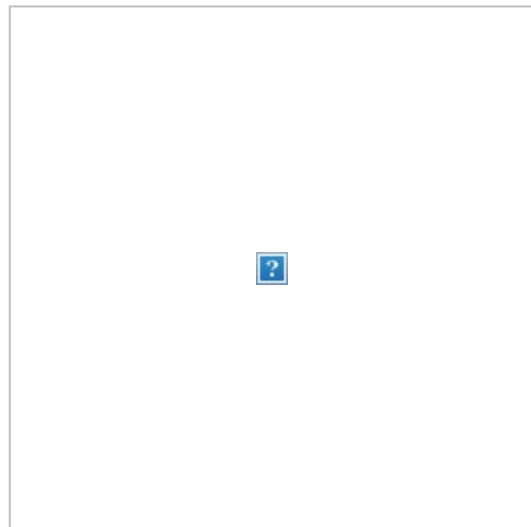
[heavy-duty vehicles](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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We've added 56 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Treasurer, DPW Project Manager, House Inspector, Assessor Data Manager, Downtown/Business Coordinator, City Solicitor, Social Service Specialist and Library Associate. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll to address MMA Annual Business Meeting](#)

A year into her tenure as lieutenant governor — following 17 years as mayor of Salem — Kim Driscoll will address local leaders during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on

Saturday morning, Jan. 20, in
Boston. ...

State budget writers to hold revenue hearing on Dec. 4

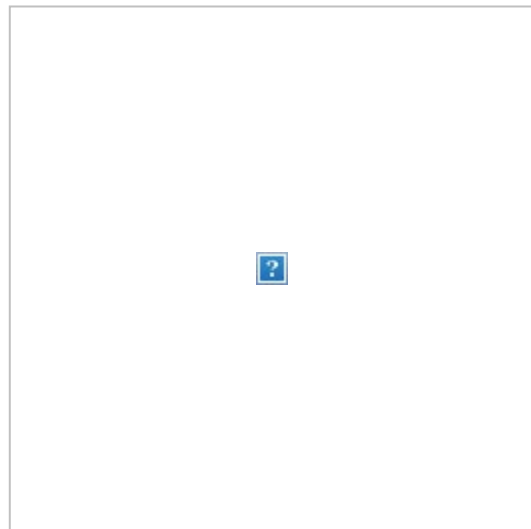
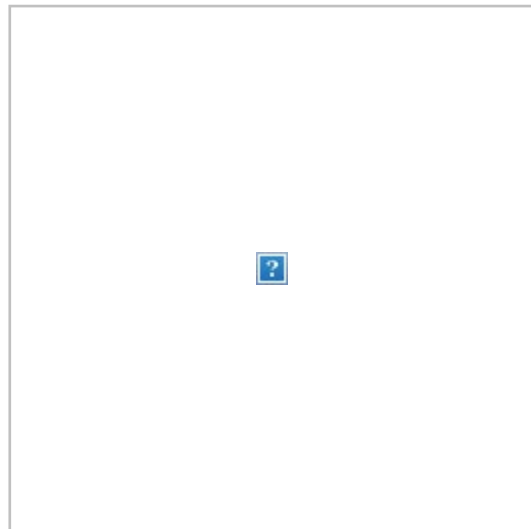
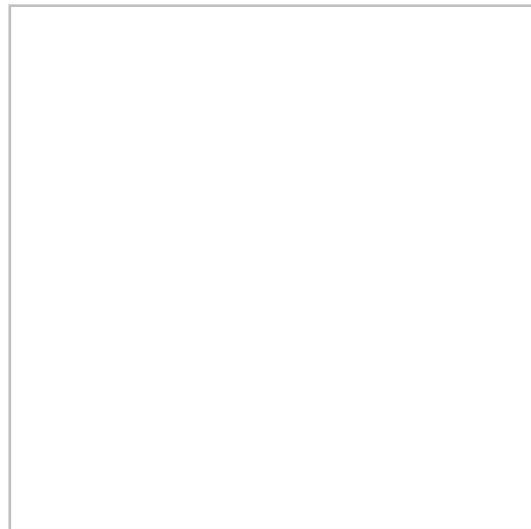
The fiscal 2025 state budget process will begin in earnest on Dec. 4 with the annual hearing where the Department of Revenue and other fiscal experts and economists discuss the prospects for the economy and state revenue over the second half of the current fiscal year and in the fiscal year to come. ...

FY23 closeout supplemental budget moves a step closer

A legislative conference committee named to iron out differences between House and Senate versions of a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget released a compromise bill on Nov. 30. ...

MMA publishes December issue of The Beacon

The MMA today published the



December 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, ARPA funding and numerous grant opportunities, coastal resilience and climate change, and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[Annual Meeting to feature 21 timely workshops](#)

Timely and informative workshops are a central feature of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January, and this year attendees can learn how to protect municipal infrastructure from climate impacts, improve their advocacy for their community, boost their local diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and build thriving business districts, among other topics. ...

[Administration launches statewide coastal resilience strategy](#)

At an event held at a waterfront park in Beverly yesterday, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced a new effort to pursue a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the Massachusetts coastline. ...



Federal funds office provides support to municipalities

Looking to maximize federal funding for Massachusetts through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act, a new state office is reaching out to cities and towns with key details on grant opportunities and technical assistance to help them reel in federal dollars. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



More MMA Annual Meeting details finalized

In the past few days, the MMA has announced its roster of workshops and another key speaker, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...



ARPA deadline is one year away

Cities and towns have about a year

left — until Dec. 31, 2024 — to obligate their State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



MMA webinar on Dec. 11 will discuss new CCC regulations

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 11 with attorney Nicole Costanzo of KP Law will discuss the Cannabis Control Commission's [newly promulgated regulations](#) and their impact on host communities. ...



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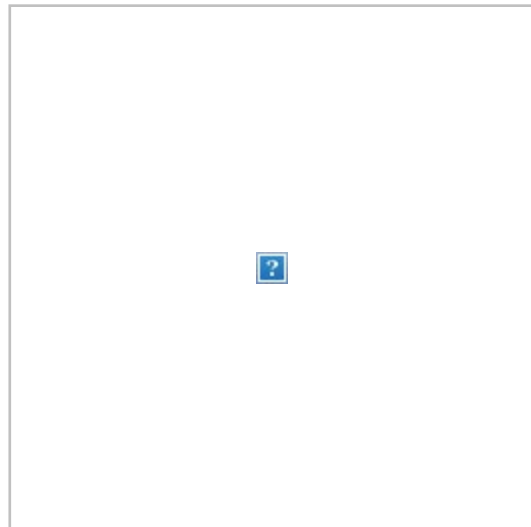


Form of government webinar answers FAQs

A Massachusetts Municipal

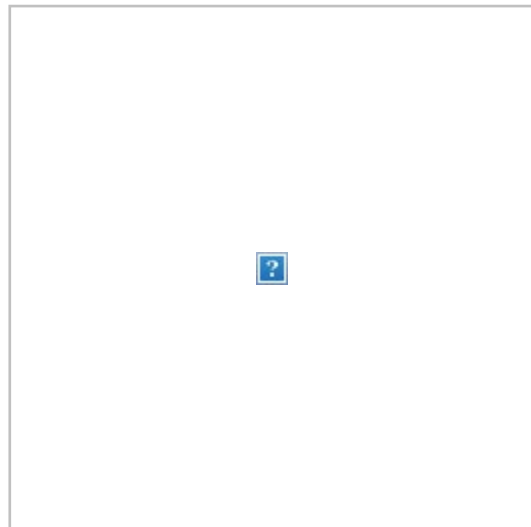
Management Association “Form of Government FAQ’s” webinar today addressed common questions that arise when a community is considering a change in governance.

...



[MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials](#)

As a busy formal legislative session recently came to a close, the MMA’s Legislative Division hosted a webinar for local officials yesterday to provide updates on key legislative and regulatory matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[December is a great time to think about the year ahead](#)

On Dec. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Revenue Committee to support bills to allow municipalities, at local option, to increase local revenue](#)

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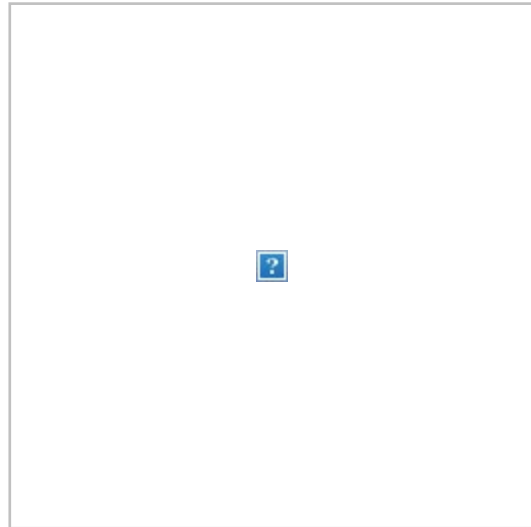
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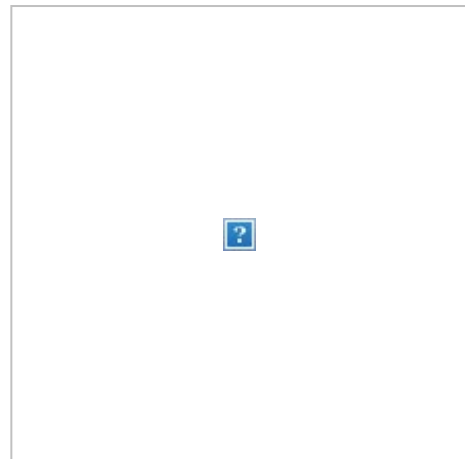
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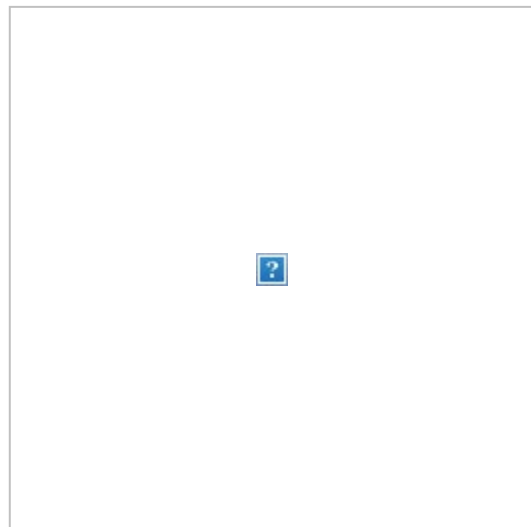
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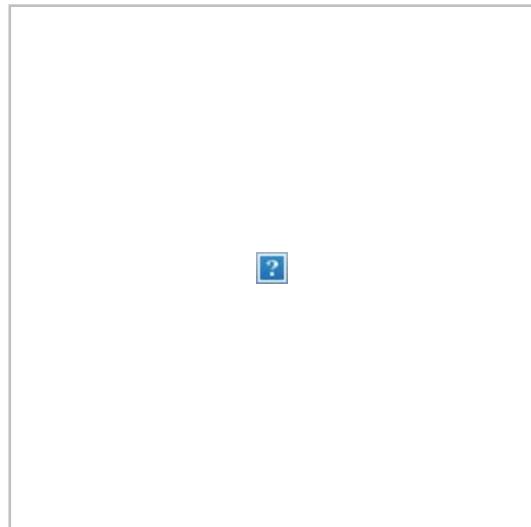


[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)

[Awareness Grant Program opens](#)

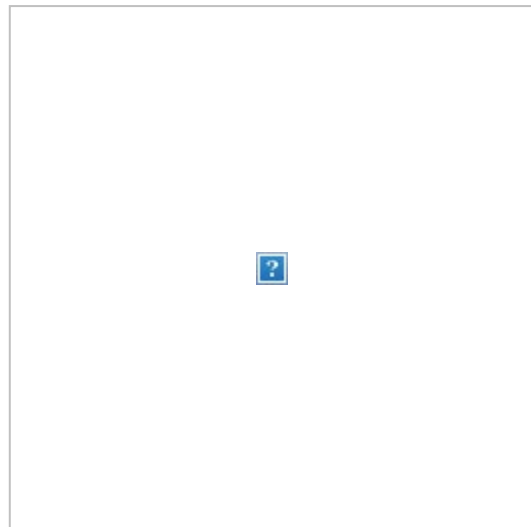
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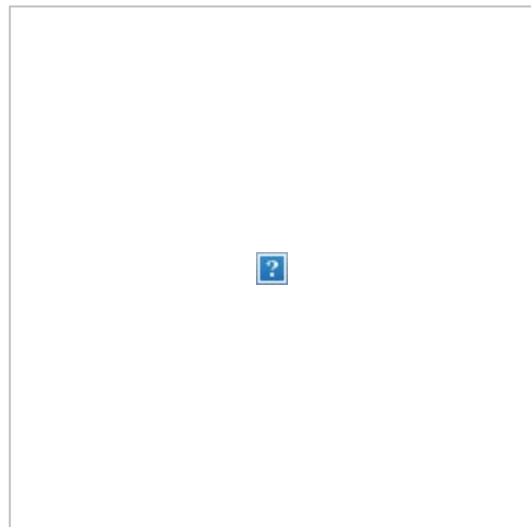
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[Administration makes 9C budget cuts, but avoids cutting local aid](#)

After six months of state tax collections falling short of benchmarks, the Healey-Driscoll administration today announced \$375 million in mid-year budget cuts

under Section 9C for fiscal 2024. ...

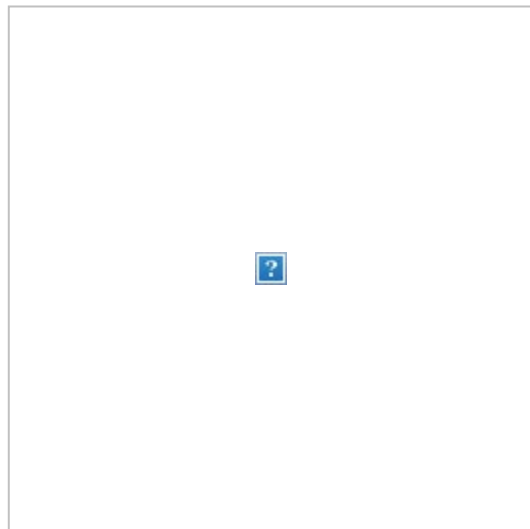
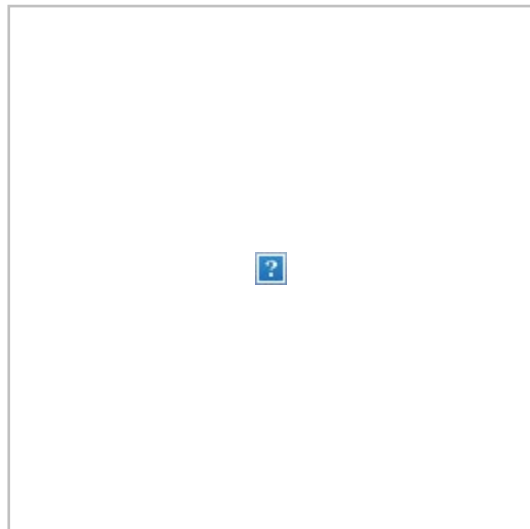
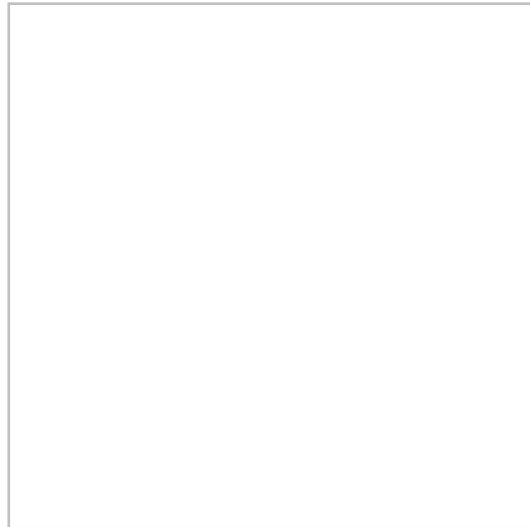
[Administration's \\$1.23B IT bond bill includes funds for local grant programs](#)

On Jan. 9, the Healey-Driscoll administration filed a \$1.23 billion, five-year bond bill intended to modernize IT systems across state agencies. ...

[Inspector General releases first in series of advisories for municipal officials](#)

The Office of the Inspector General today released its first OIG Advisory for municipal officials. ...

[MMA hosts webinar on conducting empathetic dialogue during conflict](#)



An MMA webinar today shared practical tips for fostering constructive dialogue and overcoming volatile feelings in challenging times. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on performance appraisals and ‘SMART’ goals](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed performance appraisals and offered practical tips for setting “SMART” goals to help local officials start the year off right. ...



[Utilities submit drafts of electric sector modernization plans](#)

The state’s investor-owned electric distribution companies — Eversource, National Grid and Unitil — have submitted drafts of their electric sector modernization plans. ...



[Video features Franklin officials discussing road salt reduction strategies](#)

Just in time for winter, two public works officials from Franklin are featured in a short video offering advice on treating roads in ways that promote safety while minimizing impacts on the environment. ...



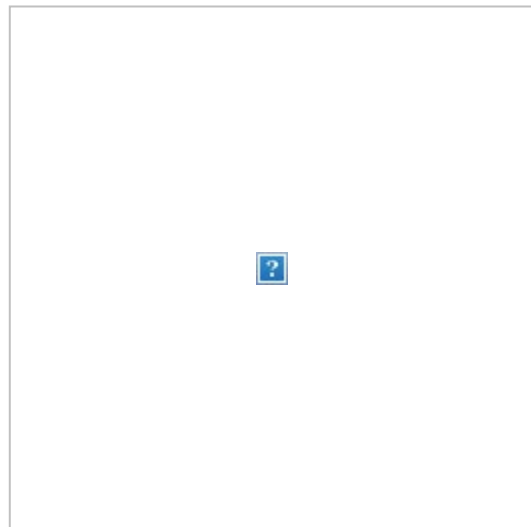
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Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Opening Session: [Gov. Maura Healey](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speakers: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#), [Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)

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The MMA and Suffolk University are announcing an expansion of their professional development partnership with the launch of a new Municipal Human Resources Seminar that will begin in April. ...



[MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)

Local officials are invited to fill a limited number of positions available on the MMA's five policy committees

for 2024. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

Federal Funds Resource Area



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We've added 39 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant DPW Director, Town Administrator, Assessor Data Manager, Town Accountant, Chief Civilian Dispatcher, Executive Assistant and Recreation Coordinator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[MMA's 45th Annual Meeting & Trade Show starts today!](#)

The Hynes Convention Center in Boston will be buzzing today and tomorrow as more than 1,300 local leaders gather for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show. ...

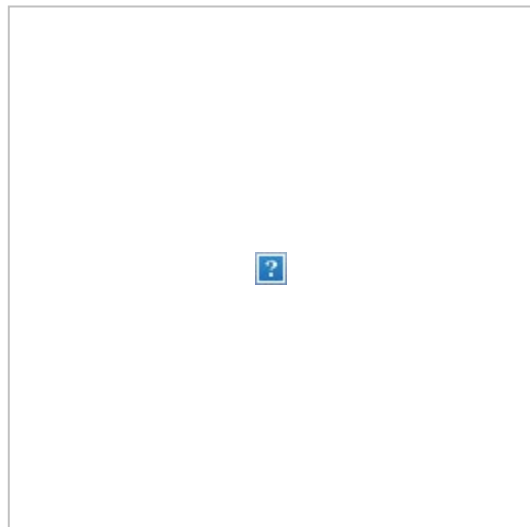
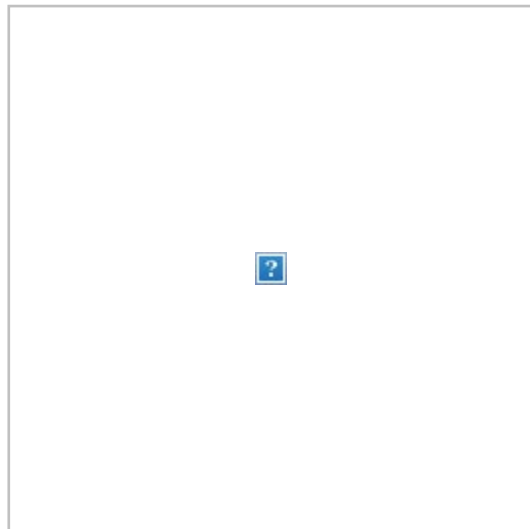
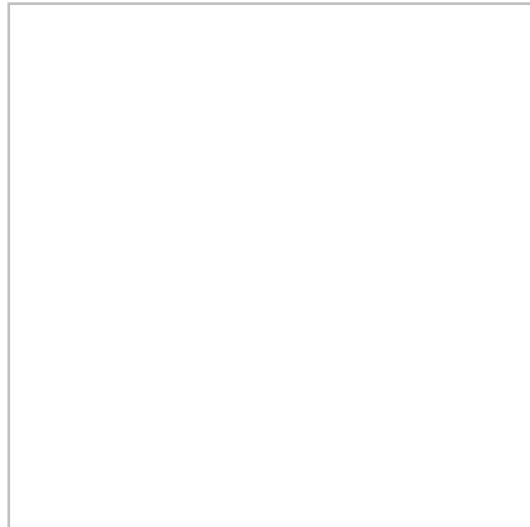
**[Budget writers announce
consensus revenue growth
forecast of 2% for FY25](#)**

The state's budget writers announced on Jan. 8 that state tax collections are expected to grow by 2% in fiscal 2025 over a recently reduced projection for fiscal 2024 revenue. ...

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[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



[Easthampton updates hate crimes policy](#)

With war raging abroad and hate crimes increasing nationally, Easthampton recently updated its Hate Crimes Policy to improve public safety, promote inclusivity, and provide greater clarity around its investigation processes and community outreach. ...



[Methuen takes collaborative approach to mental health, homelessness, addiction issues](#)

In an effort to address concerns about mental health, addiction and homelessness in the community, Methuen has convened a monthly mental health task force with representation from across municipal departments to collaborate on addressing the issues. ...



[Cambridge/Anmoughcawgen to add Indigenous language translations to some street signs](#)

As it seeks to acknowledge its Indigenous past and present, the city of Cambridge will soon install bilingual street signs translated in the Massachusetts language on several streets in the eastern part of town. ...



Climate change drives municipal planning challenges

With changing weather patterns creating a growing challenge for communities, multiple sessions during this year's MMA Annual Meeting will focus on the impacts of climate change, as well as what municipalities can do to maintain buildings and prevent costly damages. ...



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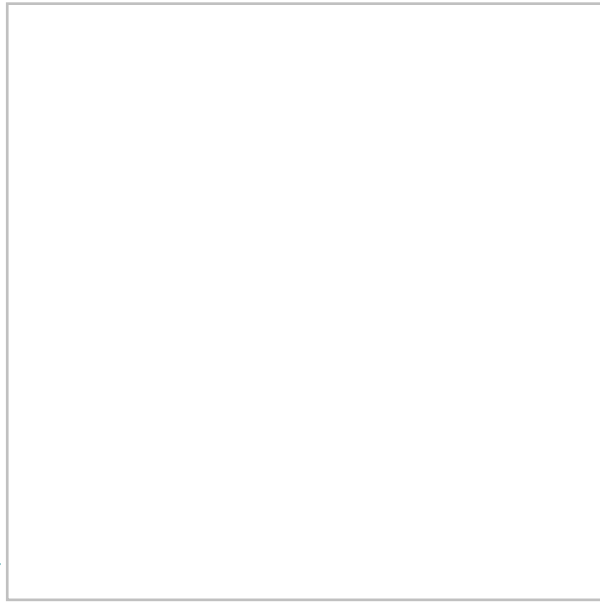
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New In [Advocacy](#)

[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY25 state budget](#)
On Jan. 17, Testimony

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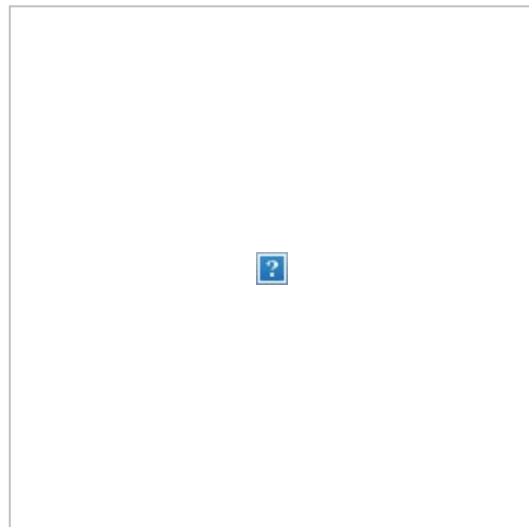
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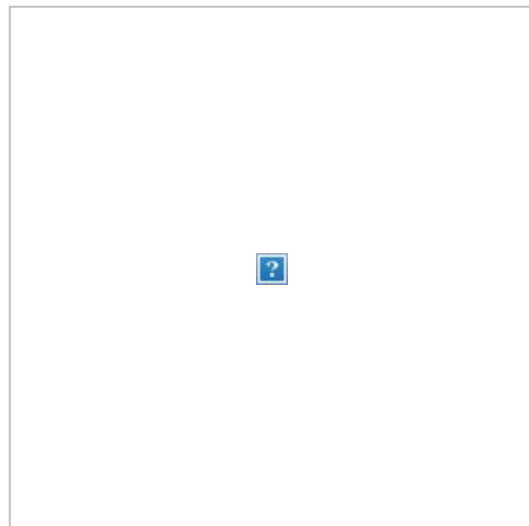
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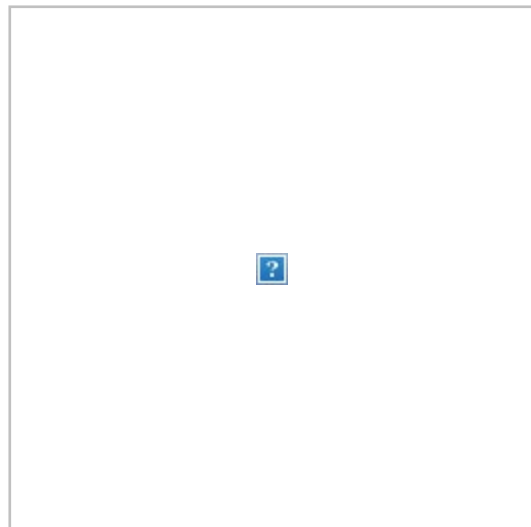
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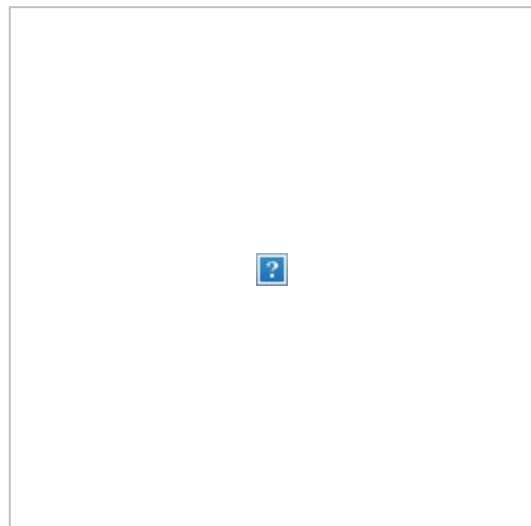
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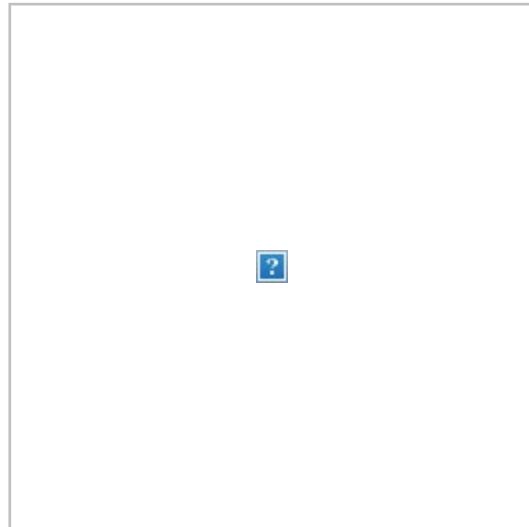
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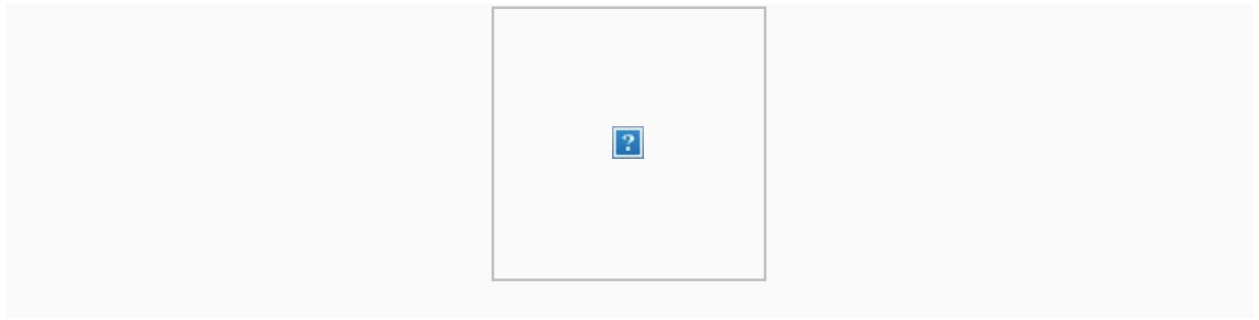


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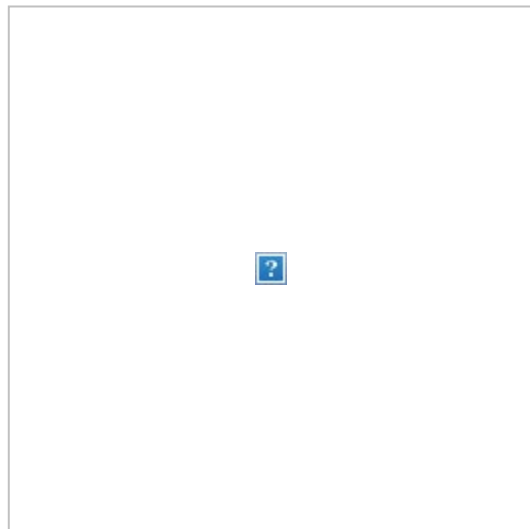
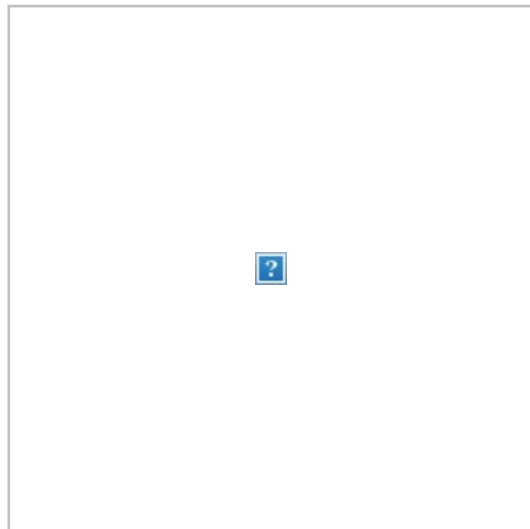
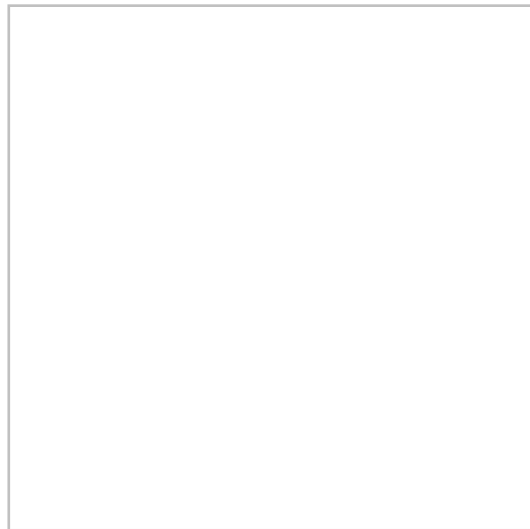
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Administration announces \$50M for EV charging infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 7 announced an investment of \$50 million in initiatives to build out electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Massachusetts. ...

MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions



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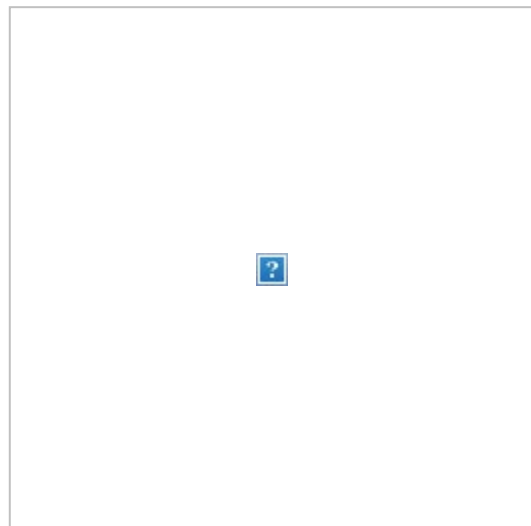
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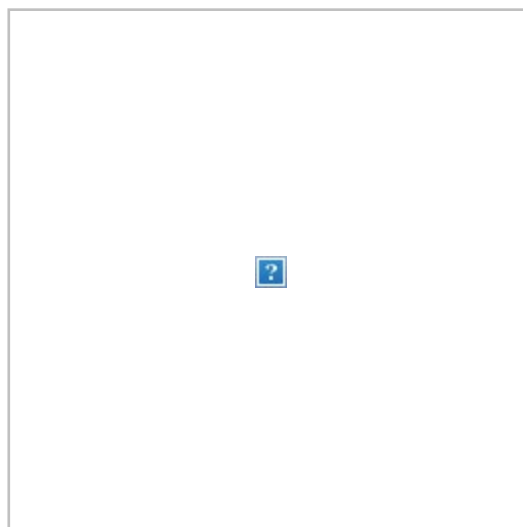
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MIIA presents safety, risk management, wellness awards

During its Annual Business Meeting in Boston on Jan. 20, MIIA presented awards to outstanding member communities and municipal entities to recognize their commitment to safety, risk management, and employee wellness. ...



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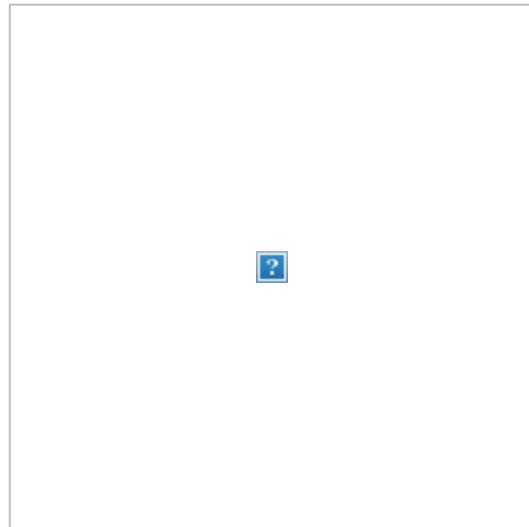
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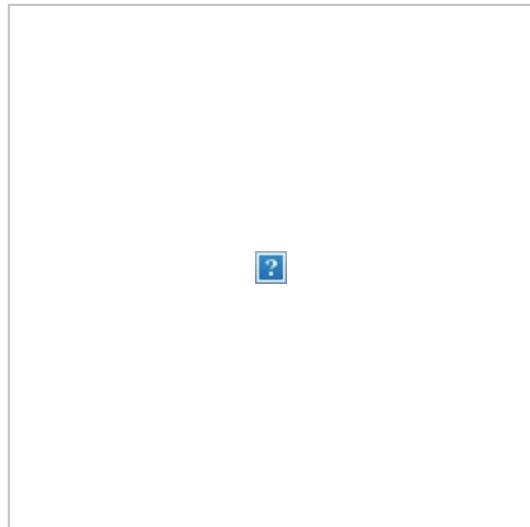
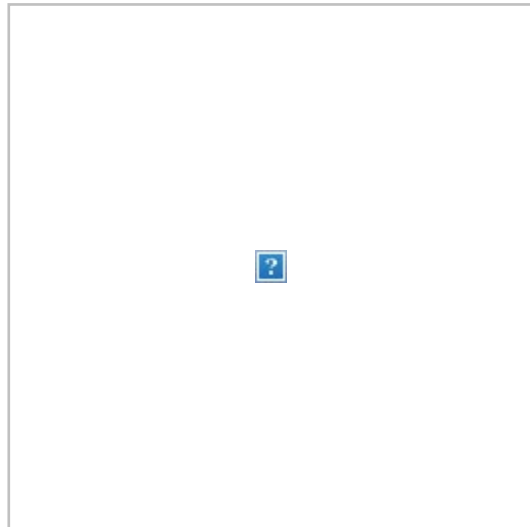
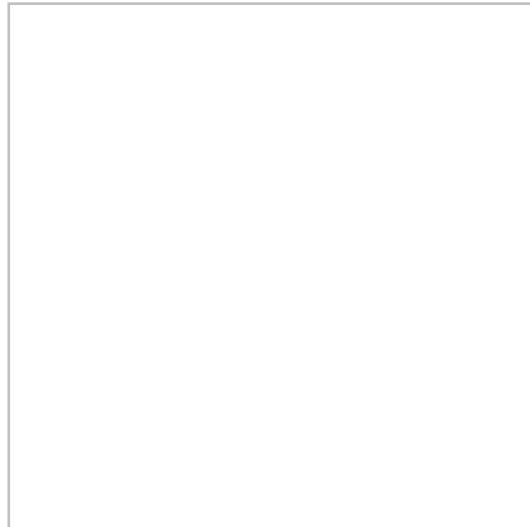
[Community One Stop for Growth opens for fiscal 2025](#)

Community One Stop for Growth, a portal where municipalities can apply for state community and economic development grant programs, has opened for fiscal 2025. ...

[MSA launches online Handbook for Massachusetts Select Board Members](#)

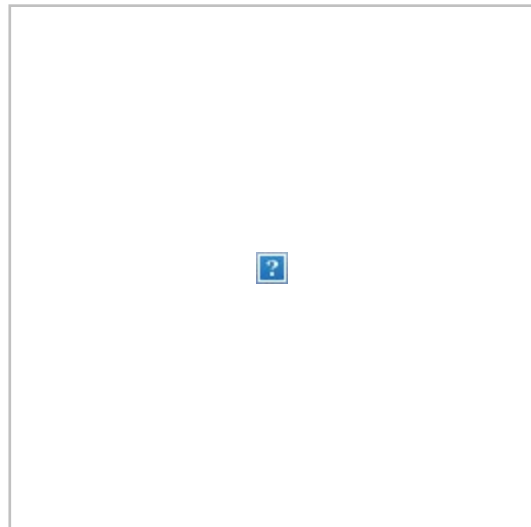
At the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston this morning, the Massachusetts Select Board Association launched a new online version of its comprehensive guide for Select Board members. ...

[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)



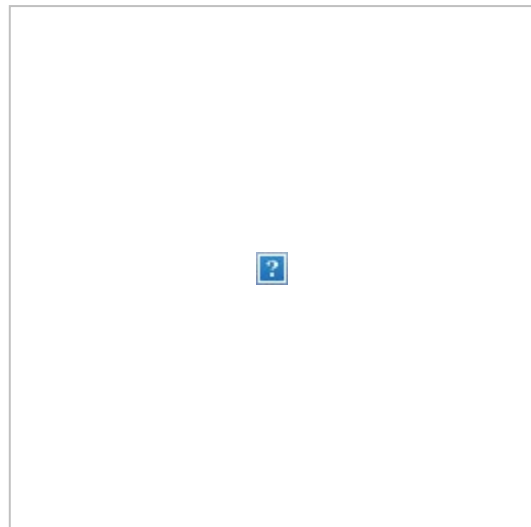
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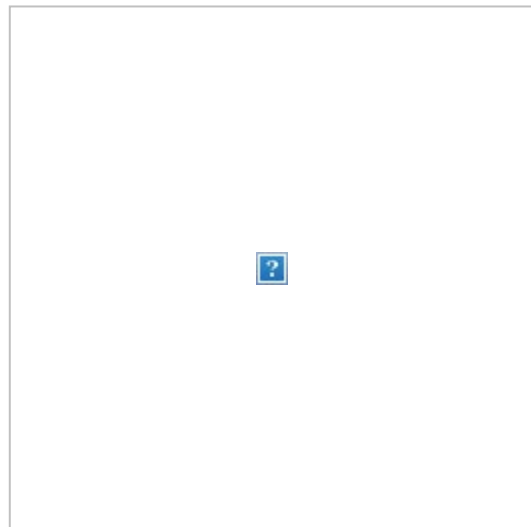
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[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several

regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...

[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

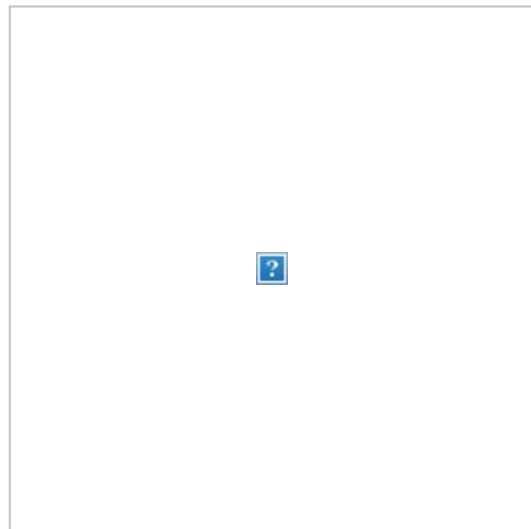
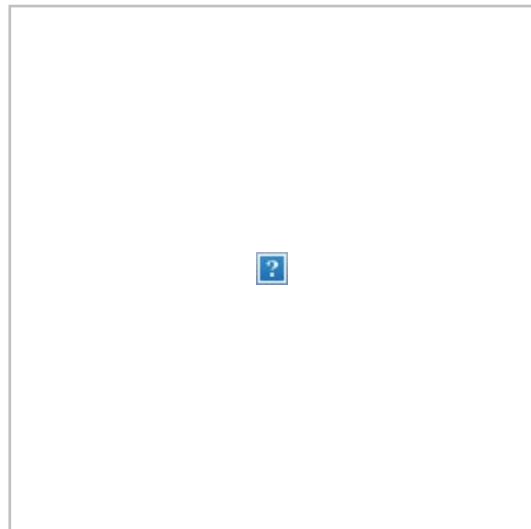
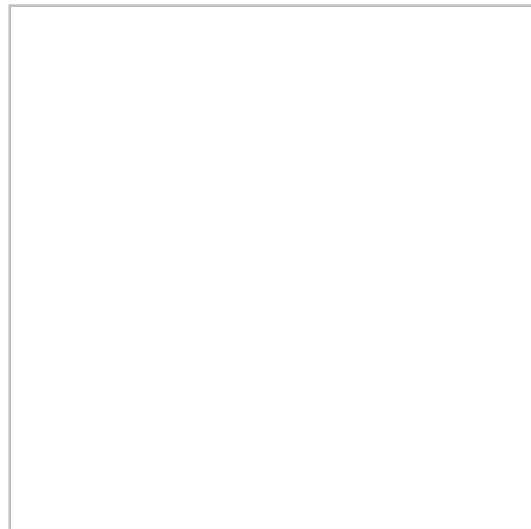
The Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting is seeking public input through March 15 on questions related to the siting of clean energy infrastructure. ...

[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...

[Executive order establishes AI Strategic Task Force](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed an

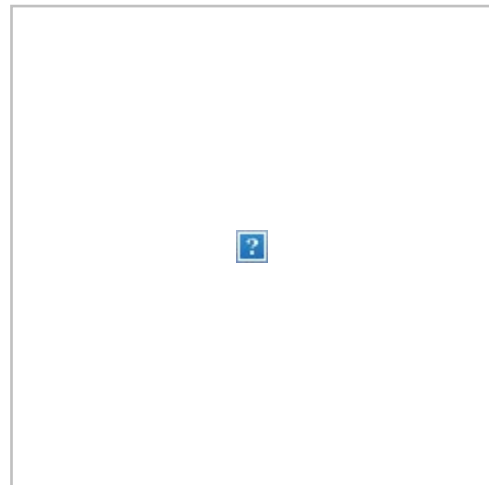


Executive Order on Feb. 14 establishing the Artificial Intelligence Strategic Task Force to study AI and Generative Artificial Intelligence technology and its impact on the state, private businesses, higher education institutions, and constituents. ...



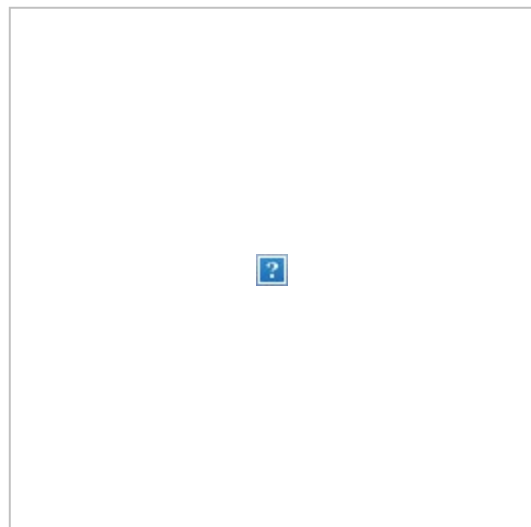
[NLC's Congressional City Conference is March 11-13](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[Public water systems to conduct service line inventories](#)

Under recent revisions to lead and copper rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, all community public water systems and non-transient, non-community public water systems in Massachusetts must develop and submit a service line inventory to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection by Oct. 16. ...



[State leaders urge EPA to restore lead water pipe replacement funding](#)

Top state officials submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Feb. 1 urging the agency to reconsider a new grant formula that has reduced lead service line replacement funding to Massachusetts by more than \$30 million. ...



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[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

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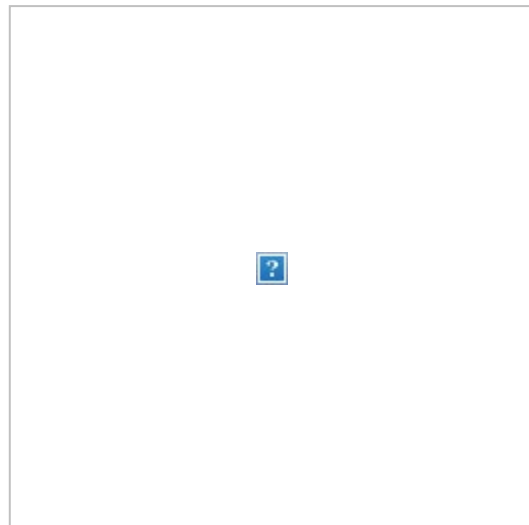
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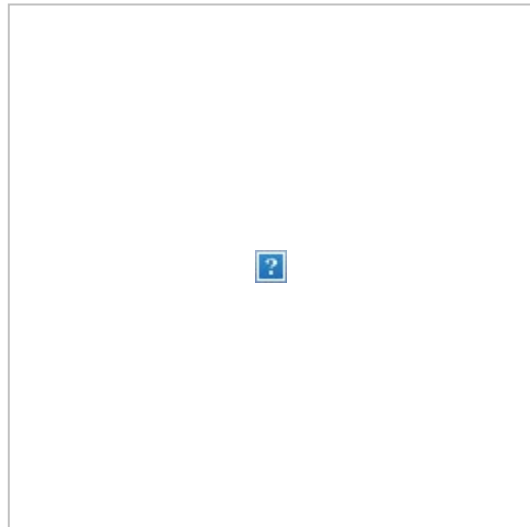
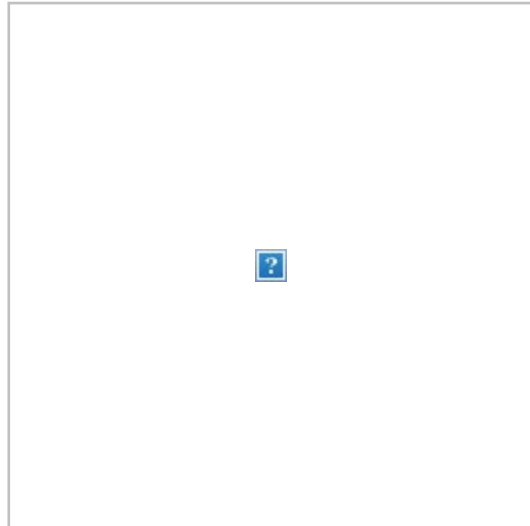
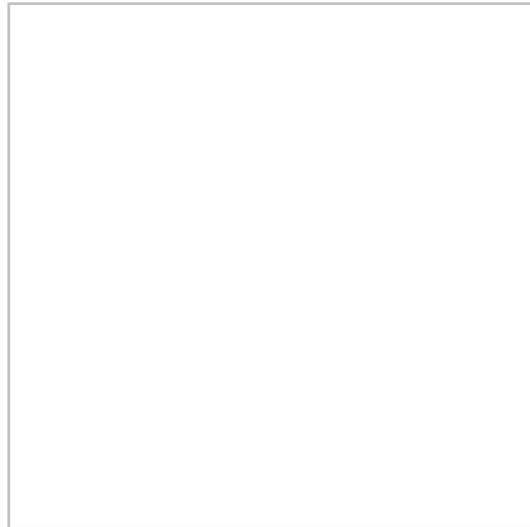
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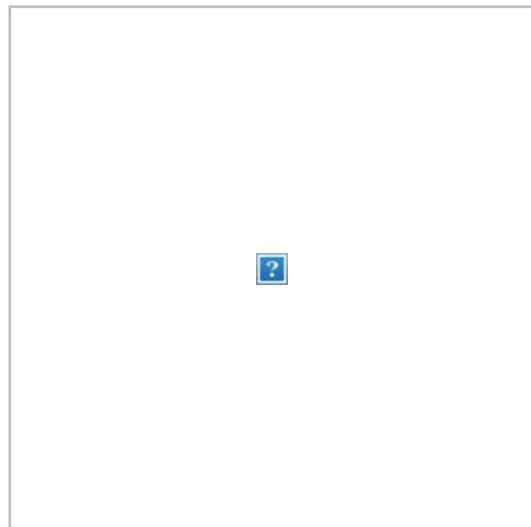


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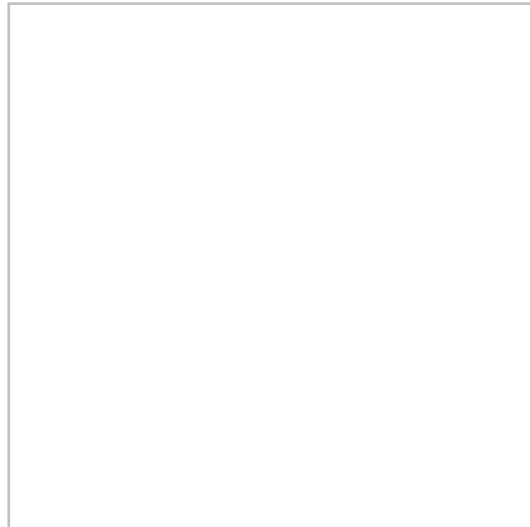
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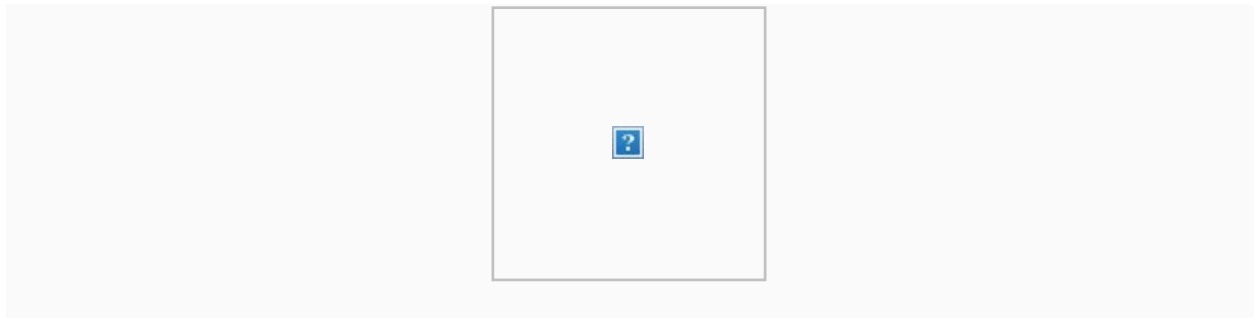
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[CCC approves model host community agreement](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission today voted to approve a model host community agreement that it developed in accordance with a comprehensive cannabis law

enacted in 2022 that requires the CCC to draft rules around HCAs, as well as social equity. ...

[State to begin lodging tax reimbursements for shelters in cities, towns](#)

State officials have announced a new program to financially support municipalities that have lost local hotel excise tax revenue due to emergency assistance shelter placements in hotels and motels in their community. ...

[MMA to host ‘Climate Action’ webinar series](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a “climate action” webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...

[MMA Board approves policy committees for 2024](#)

At its Feb. 13 meeting, the MMA



Board of Directors approved the rosters for the MMA's five policy committees for 2024. ...



[MMA panel testifies at Chapter 90 hearing](#)

On Jan. 30, the MMA and several municipal officials testified before the Joint Committee on Transportation in support of Gov. Maura Healey's Chapter 90 bond bill. ...



[MMA joins 23 municipal leagues, NLC for congressional visit](#)

A delegation from the MMA joined 23 municipal organizations from other states and the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C., in late January to meet with members of Congress and push for federal help on issues such as infrastructure investment, cybersecurity, gun safety, PFAS regulations, and avoiding a federal government shutdown. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MBTA](#)

Communities law

An MMA webinar today outlined the process and schedule for municipal compliance with the MBTA Communities law. ...



MMA webinar to share best practices for procurement

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 5 exploring how to streamline the procurement process. ...



MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...



MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education

The MMA will host a free webinar on

March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



MassDEP updates recycling market development plan

In February, the Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Protection released a revised Recycling Market Development Action Plan. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[Municipalities can't be left to recover from climate disasters alone](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

Upcoming MMA Events

[Perfecting Your Procurement Process: Best Practices and Lessons Learned webinar](#) - March 5

[Women Leading Government conference](#) - March 7

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Holyoke & Rockland](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 8

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Wareham & Westborough](#) - March 15

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March

20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March

21

[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

Registration is now open for the MMA's spring series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on March 1, 8 and 15. ...

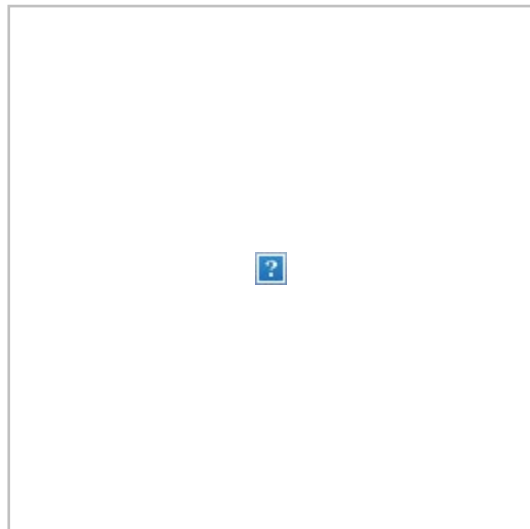
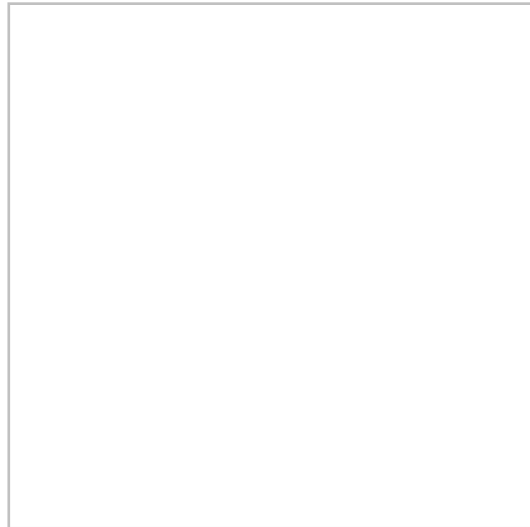


[MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University will hold an information session about the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program on March 13 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. ...

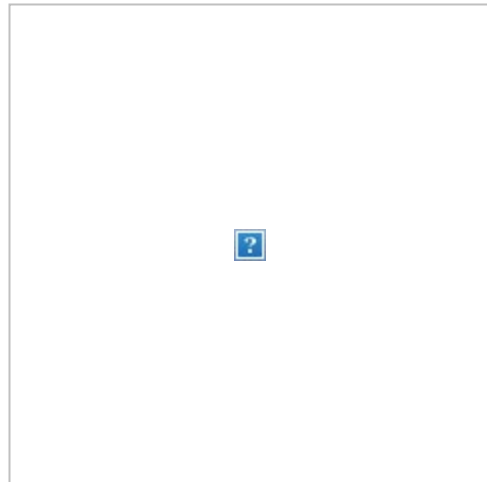
[‘Meet DLS’ webinar set for March 11](#)

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “Meet DLS” webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



[NLC’s Congressional City Conference is March 11-13](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband

Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...



[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

The Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting is seeking public input through March 15 on questions related to the siting of clean energy infrastructure. ...



[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



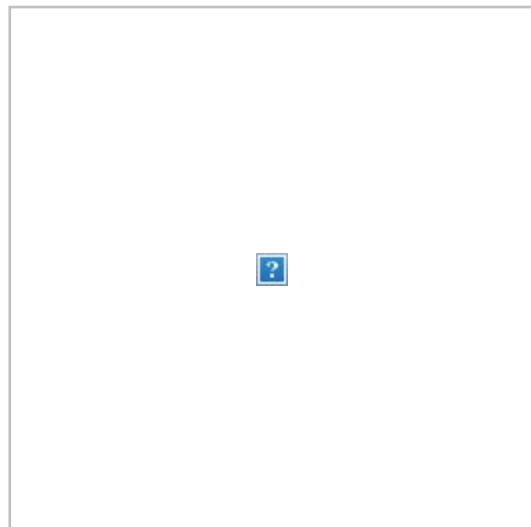
[Applications due March 8 for \\$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 53 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Conservation Agent, Town Accountant, Resilience Manager, Treatment Operator, DPW Principal Clerk, Regional Inspector, Senior Planner and Land Use Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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Subject: MMA Weekly Review
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MMA Weekly Review

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 appeals denial of major disaster declaration for September storms](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has formally appealed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's denial of her request for a major disaster

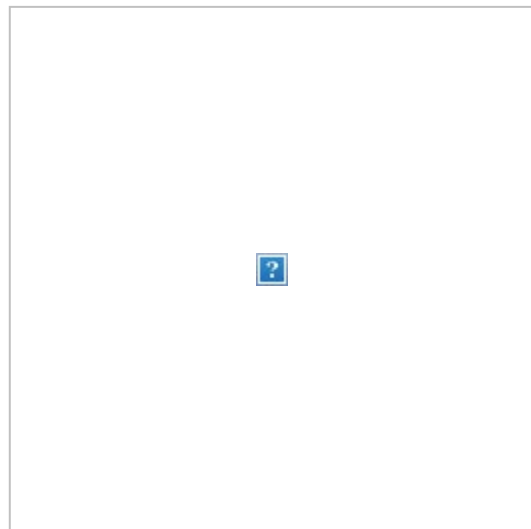
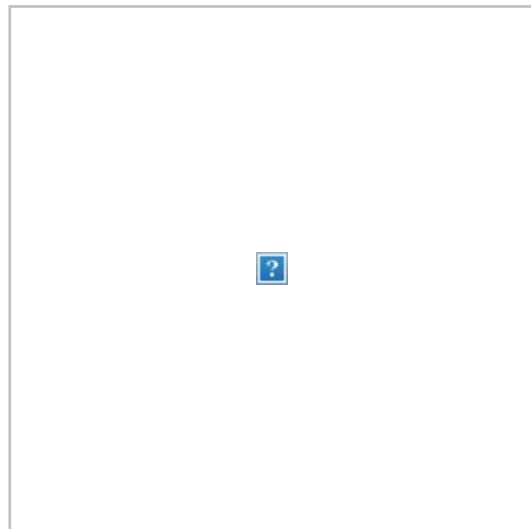
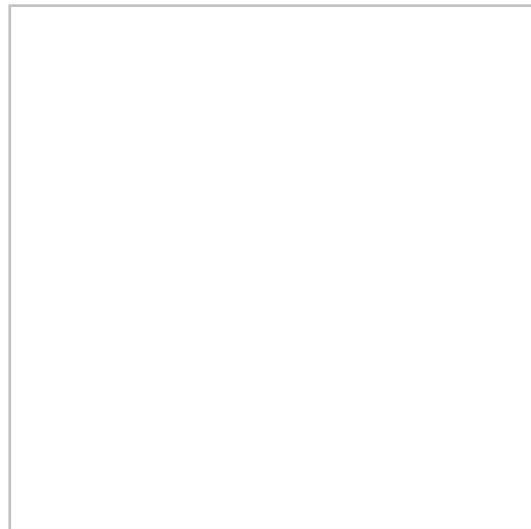
declaration to support the ongoing recovery of Massachusetts communities impacted by severe weather and flooding last September in Worcester, Hampden and Bristol counties. ...

[Administration announces \\$335M in federal funds for Mass Pike project](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state has won \$335.4 million in federal grant funding for a major “Reconnecting Communities” project around the Massachusetts Turnpike near the Charles River in Boston. ...

[MMA-MMLA webinar reviews best practices for MBTA zoning proposals](#)

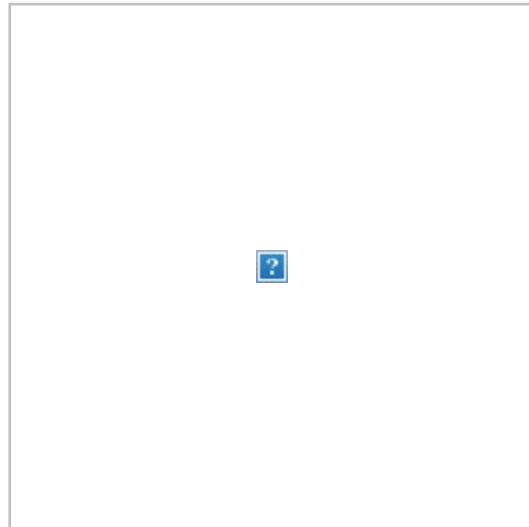
An MMA webinar with the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association reviewed what the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Attorney General’s Municipal Law Unit have learned from their preliminary review of proposed local zoning amendments relative to the



MBTA Communities Act. ...

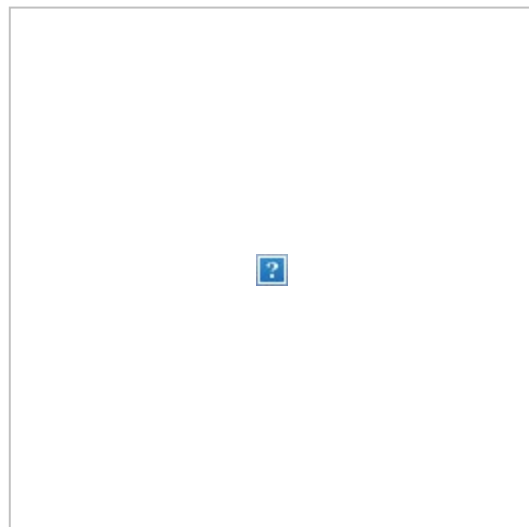
[Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference](#)

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



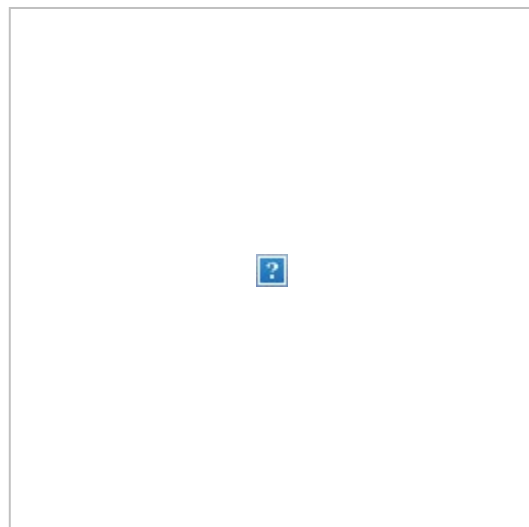
[Applications due March 25 for CDBG program](#)

The application deadline is March 25 for federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

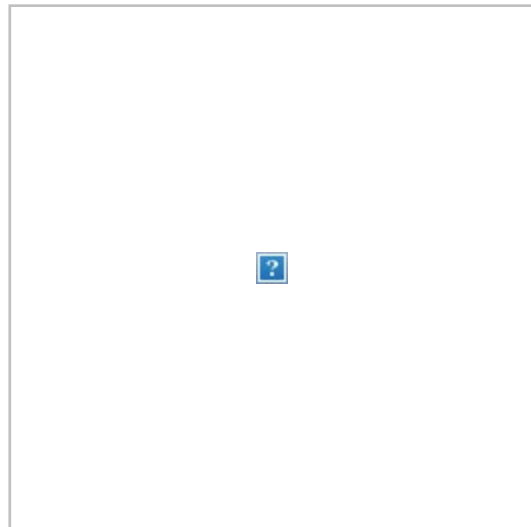
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[DPU to host 4 'Road Show'](#)

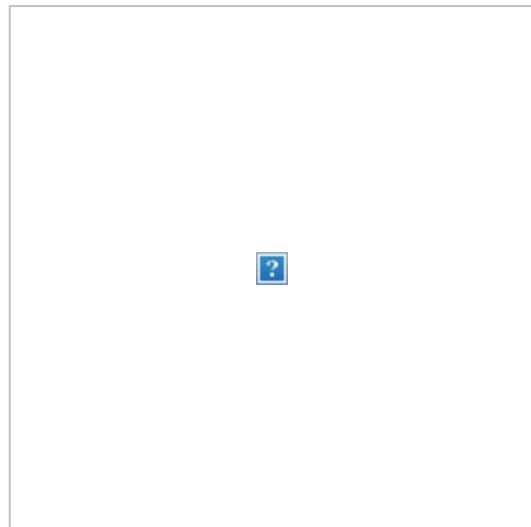
[meetings with public in 2024](#)

The Department of Public Utilities will be hosting four “Road Show” events during 2024, starting in Boston on March 27. ...



[\\$22M retrofit program will expand high-speed internet in affordable housing](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech on March 6 announced the launch of the Residential Internet Retrofit Program, a \$22 million statewide initiative to equip public and affordable housing units across the state with high-speed internet for current and future residents. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to support Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

On March 8, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March 20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

[Conflict Conversations \(Part 2\): Productive Dialogue in Volatile Times webinar](#) - April 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

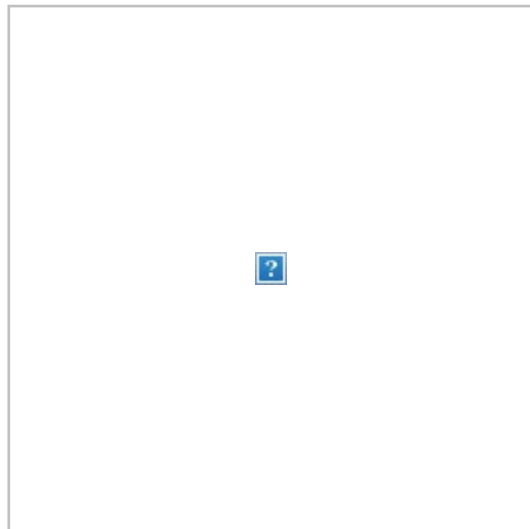
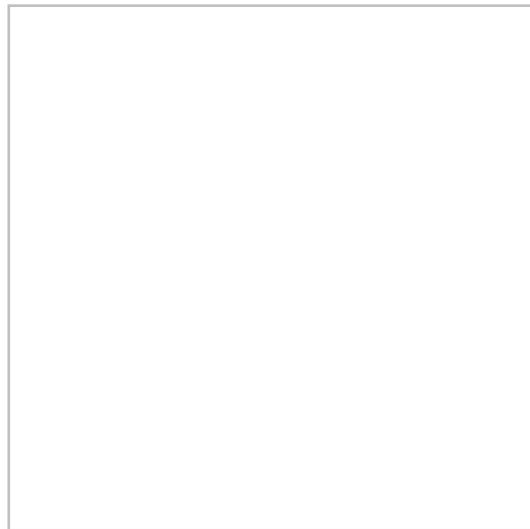
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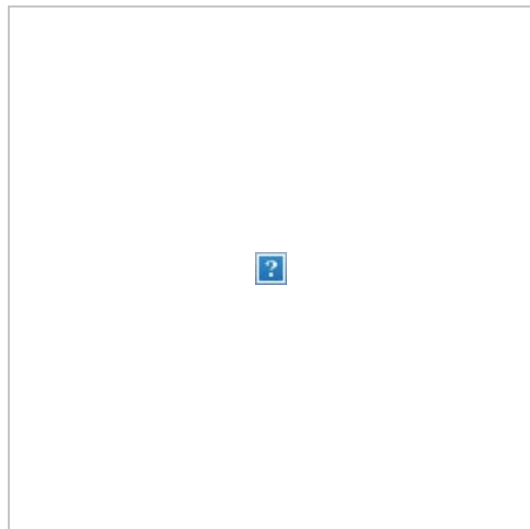
[MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education](#)

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



[MMA to host 'Climate Action' webinar series](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a "climate action" webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...



[MMA to host second 'Conflict Conversations' webinar](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 2 will

review, step-by-step, how to have productive conversations amidst tension and volatility. ...



[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Authority is accepting applications through April 25 for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. ...



[Local leaders invited to happiness symposium at Kennedy School](#)

Massachusetts municipal leaders can discover how to become “happiness teachers” during a free symposium being held June 19 through 21 by the Leadership and Happiness Laboratory at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Center for Public Leadership. ...



[Culvert replacement grant program opening soon for FY25](#)

The Division of Ecological

Restoration announced that it will soon be accepting applications for the fiscal 2025 Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program. ...



[ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12](#)

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



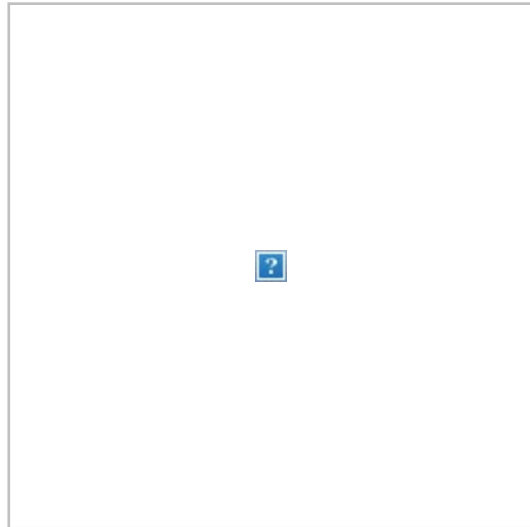
[MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



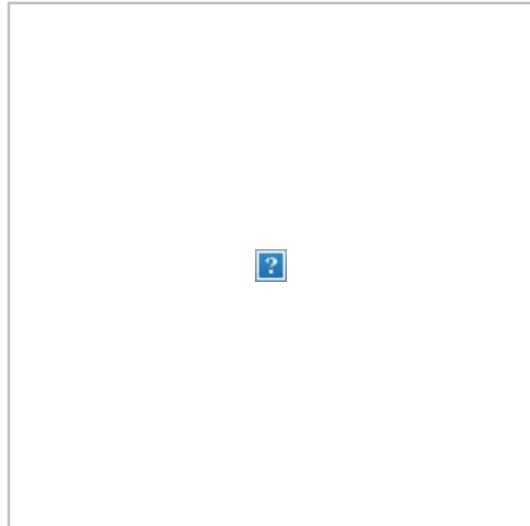
[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

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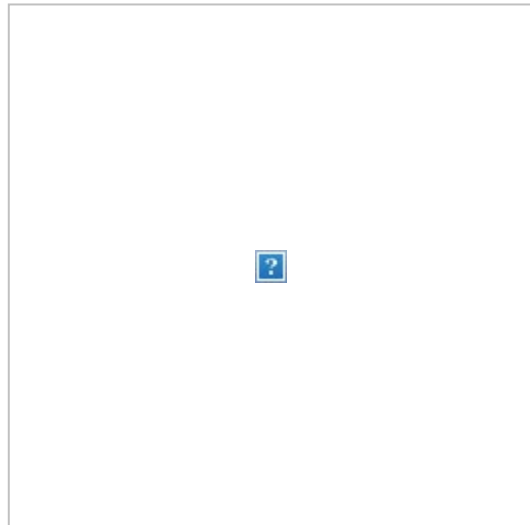
[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Budget and Fiscal Analyst, Town Planner, Police Officer, Administrative Assistant, Firefighter, Assistant City Clerk, Conservation Agent and Community and Development Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

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](#)!

[House budget committee files \\$57.9B state spending proposal for FY25](#)

The House Ways and Means
Committee released a \$57.9 billion
state spending plan for fiscal 2025
that includes several important

investments in schools and municipalities despite state revenue expectations that are more modest than in recent years. ...

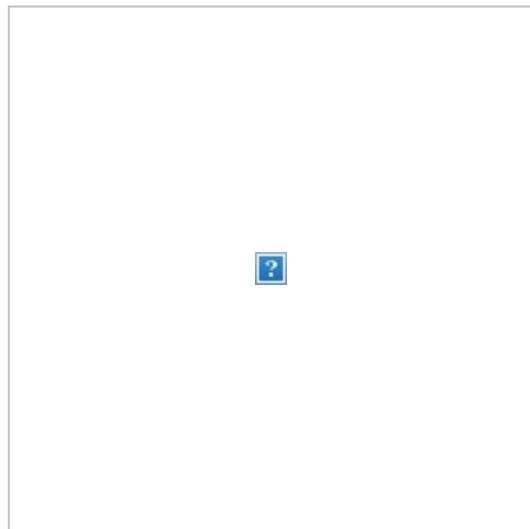
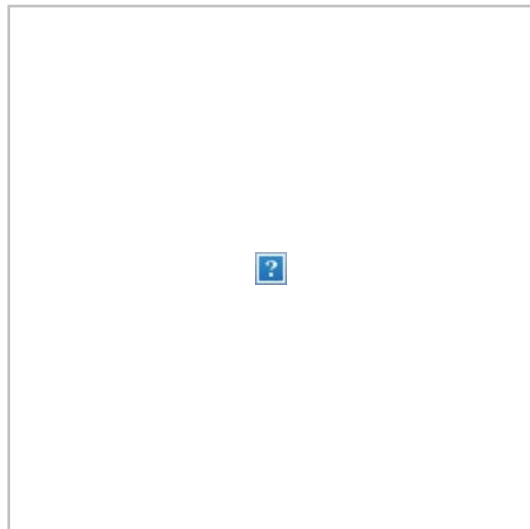
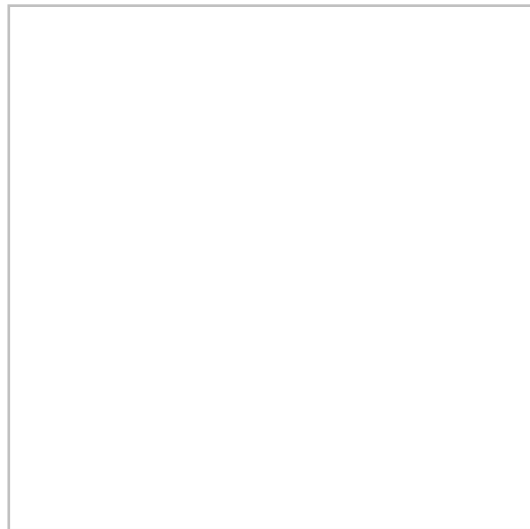
[Senate OK's transportation bond bill with Ch. 90 funds](#)

The Senate passed a transportation bond bill that includes \$200 million for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2025, as well as \$175 million for specified additional infrastructure programs. ...

[EPA sets national limits on PFAS contamination](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “forever chemicals.” ...

[EOHLC seeks comments on draft plan for CDBG and other federal programs](#)



The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is accepting comments on its draft one-year Action Plan for federal fiscal 2024 for a range of federal programs (CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA and HTF), and will hold a public hearing on April 18. ...

[Applications sought through April 12 for SAFER fire dept. grants](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications through April 12 for a new round of federal grant funding for fire departments. ...

[Equitable land development is focus of April 18 forum](#)

Municipal leaders, state officials and developers seeking best practices and strategies for creating an equitable development environment within their communities are invited to a Land Access Forum in Boston on April 18. ...

[Municipal hearings officer training is April 25](#)

A free, virtual training program for



municipal hearings officers will be held on April 25, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams. ...



MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program

Applications are due April 30 for the MMA-Suffolk University Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program. ...



DEI strategic plan for municipalities nears completion

The MMA's DEI Advisory Committee is working with Racial Equity Group CEO Bird Guess to complete its DEI strategic plan for municipalities. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 18

[Digital Equity Planning webinar](#) - April 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[Promoting Civil Discourse at Town Meeting webinar](#) - May 2

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium webinar](#) - May 3

[Municipal Law 101 webinar](#) - May 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources boot camp](#) - May 9

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Women's Equality Day webinar](#) - May 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association spring conference](#) - May 29-31

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Application period opens for Housing Choice Designation](#)

Applications are being accepted through April 26 for the 2024 Housing Choice Communities

Designation. ...



MMA's 'Climate Action' webinar series continues on April 18

The second session in the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, "From Planning to Practice," will be held on April 18. ...



Third 'Climate Action' webinar will discuss community engagement

The third session of the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, on April 30, will explore how to design effective community engagement efforts. ...



Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



USDOT seeks applications for Safe Streets and Roads for All

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the third year of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. ...



School districts eligible for federal credits under IRA, BIL for 'green' projects

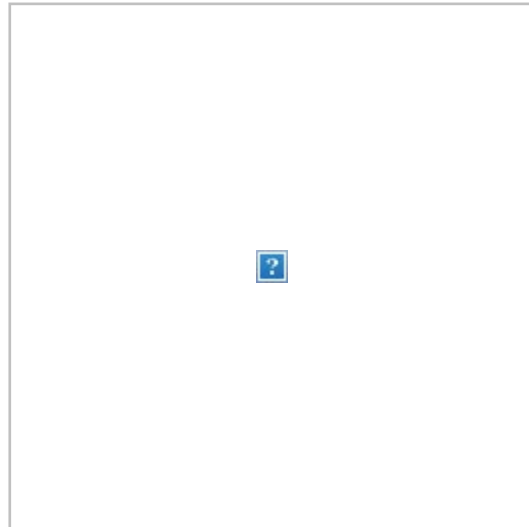
School districts that do not file federal taxes are eligible for some fully refundable credits this fiscal year under the Inflation Reduction Act, particularly for green infrastructure (e.g., installing heat pumps or buying electric vehicles). Schools may also be eligible to access other grants and credits through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). ...

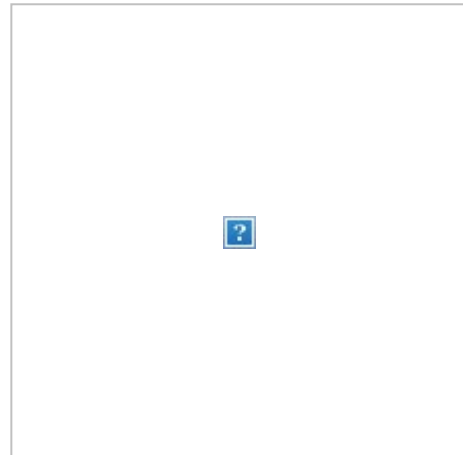
[Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit is May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on May 8 in Worcester. ...



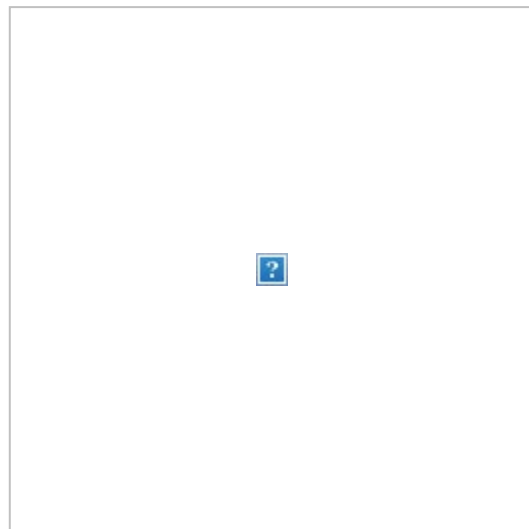
[MVP Action Grant applications due April 24](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting proposals through April 24 for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grants for fiscal 2025. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[FTA accepting applications for](#)

[bus and bus facility grants](#)

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The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Principal Assessor, Financial Analyst, Police Officer, Director of Planning, Assistant City Engineer, Collector and Assistant Accountant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It's a long weekend.

In local happenings: The 2024 Paris Paralympics kicked off this week with at least [6 athletes](#) sporting Massachusetts roots.

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](#)!

[Gov. signs law addressing PFAS in firefighter turnout gear](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a bill that addresses exposure to so-called

“forever chemicals,” also known as PFAS, in personal protective equipment worn by firefighters. ...



[Language in psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control](#)

The five statewide ballot initiatives certified for the November election include one that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, with language that would preempt local control. ...



[Gov. signs veterans services bill](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a broad bill known as the HERO Act that aims to modernize and increase veterans benefits with a mix of policy changes and tax incentives. ...



[Emergency Assistance shelter policies updated](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

has implemented new policies for the overburdened Emergency Assistance shelter system that are aimed at limiting shelter stays while prioritizing the needs of Massachusetts residents over migrants for long-term placements.

...

Budget included concerning tax title changes

The fiscal 2025 state budget signed by Gov. Maura Healey on July 29 included changes to the tax title foreclosure process that were intended to bring the state into compliance with a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the issue.

...

Applications sought for Cyber Resilient grant program

The MassCyberCenter at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is accepting applications for the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program from municipalities across the state to boost their cybersecurity infrastructure. ...

MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 12-13 in Falmouth

Massachusetts Municipal Human



Resources will hold its annual Fall Conference on Sept. 12 and 13 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth. ...



[MMA webinar to review essentials of capital planning](#)

A free MMA webinar on Sept. 24 will highlight best practices for maintaining and building a community's capital assets. ...



[MMA webinar to cover use of opioid settlement funds](#)

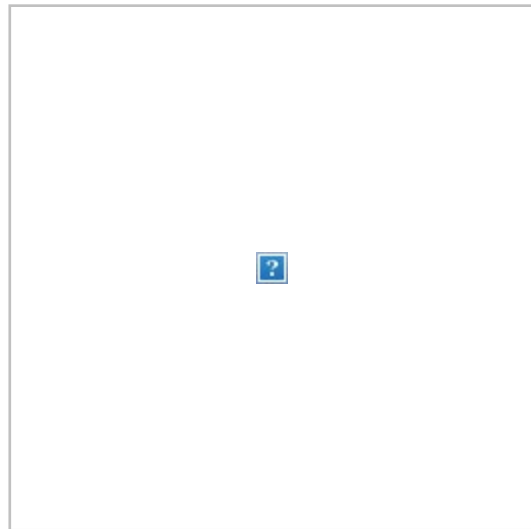
A free MMA webinar on Sept. 26 will review issues and strategies related to the use of opioid settlement funds. ...



[WEMO to hold annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27](#)

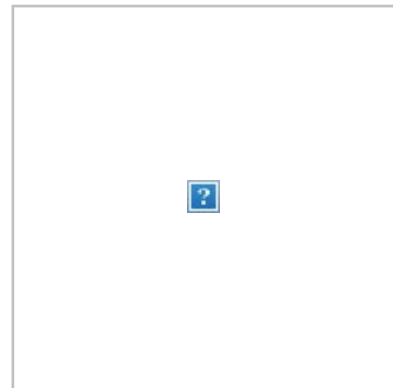
With the theme "Growing Trust in

Local Government,” Women Elected Municipal Officials will hold its sixth annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27 in Devens. ...



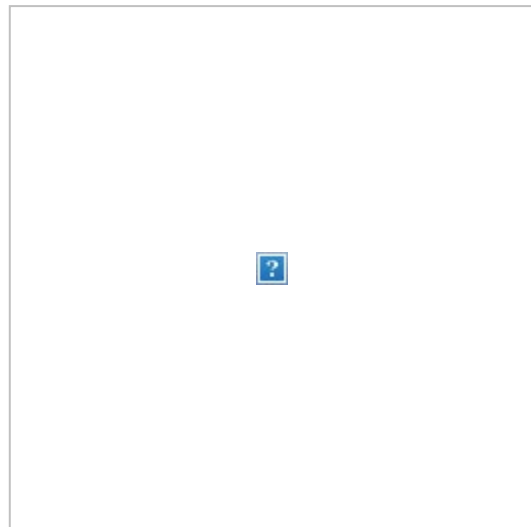
[MMHR seeking nominations for the 2024 Skop Award](#)

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources is accepting nominations for its annual Emil S. Skop Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the field of municipal human resources management. ...



[MCOA seeks annual award submissions](#)

The Massachusetts Councils on Aging is accepting nominations through Sept. 6 for its annual awards, which honor individuals, groups, and programs that have significantly impacted the lives of older adults. ...



[COPS Office to provide technical assistance to Boston Police Department](#)

The U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services announced on Aug. 8 that it will engage with the Boston Police Department to provide a review and assessment of operations within the Boston Police Department's Human Resources section. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 12-13

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 19

[Capital planning webinar](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Opioid settlement funds webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 27

[First Amendment audits webinar](#) - Oct. 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Oct. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Oct. 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



[Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA's annual conference in January 2025. ...



[Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 7 in Norwood](#)

Municipal fleet managers can learn about sustainable transportation

options at the 21st annual AltWheels Fleet Day event on Oct. 7 in Norwood. ...



MMA seeks input on local roadway needs with Ch. 90 survey

The MMA will be sending its biennial Chapter 90 funding survey this summer to chief municipal officials and public works and highway department officials in all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. ...



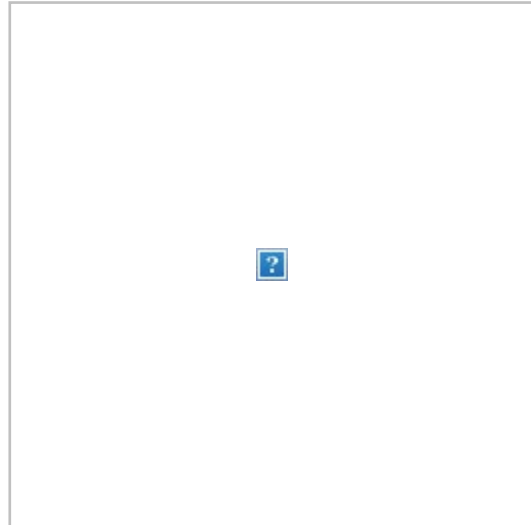
MMA announces new name, location, dates for conference

Big changes are in store for the MMA's conference in January, as the event moves to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and expands into a third afternoon. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Local photos sought

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or the important work of your local government? Whether it's municipal buildings or natural resources, construction projects or downtown streets, the MMA would appreciate a copy of your photos for possible use in future editions of The Beacon or on the MMA website. Photos must be free of copyright restrictions. Municipal officials and staff may email photos (.jpeg format and high resolution if possible) to **photos@mma.org** as an attachment.

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Risk Management Program Coordinator](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Planning Director, Recreation Services Coordinator, Senior Traffic Engineer,

Conservation Agent, Fiscal Manager, Solutions Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! POLCO asked practitioners & thought leaders to reflect on the [biggest challenges facing local governments today](#) and identified 8 key areas.

In local happenings: Worcester residents interested in working on their physical fitness now have a new [fitness court at University Park](#).

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](#)!

[Community One Stop awards](#)
[\\$161M for economic development projects](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

announced that \$161 million in grant funding is going to 313 projects to support economic development in 171 communities across the state. ...



[EPA sets lead pipe removal deadline, awards new funding](#)

President Joe Biden has announced a 10-year deadline for public water systems across the country to replace lead service lines, a requirement aimed at ensuring safe drinking water for all Americans. ...



[Psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control](#)

The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth has published a summary of a statewide ballot initiative that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, without an avenue for individual cities and towns to opt out. ...



[MMA webinar outlines strategies for 'First Amendment audits'](#)

An MMA webinar addressed the

challenge of so-called “First Amendment audits” and strategies for dealing with them. The webinar was led by attorneys Lauren Goldberg and Janelle Austin from KP Law. ...



MMA offers range of conflict management webinars

At a time when effective conflict management has become increasingly important, the MMA offers a number of webinars that are available on www.mma.org and MMA On-Demand. ...



Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens

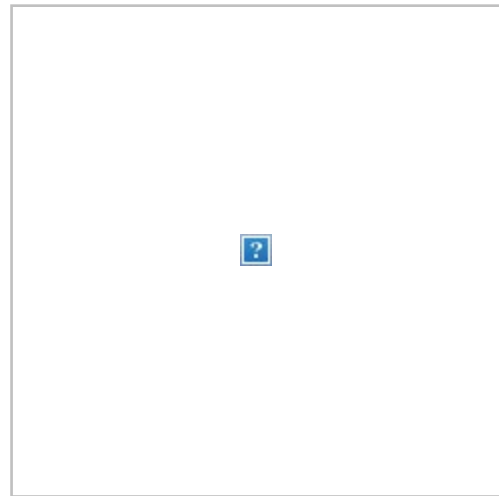
The Green Communities Division will hold the first Green Communities Summit on Nov. 22 to discuss innovative energy solutions and share best practices. ...



National League of Cities to mark 100 years at City Summit in Nov.

The National League of Cities will

continue its celebration of its 100th anniversary during its annual City Summit on Nov. 13-16 in Tampa, Florida. ...



[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

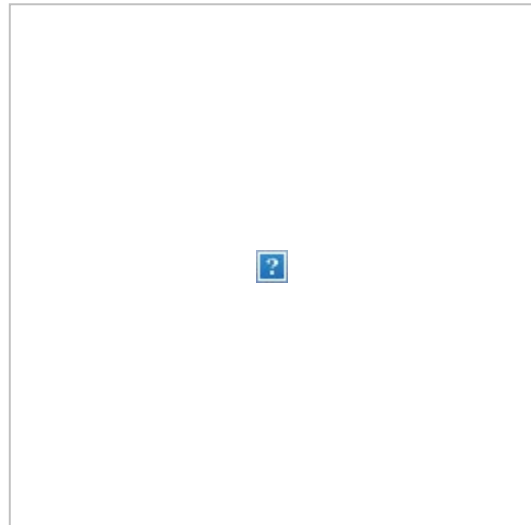
[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).



Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 30

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 7

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 2

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

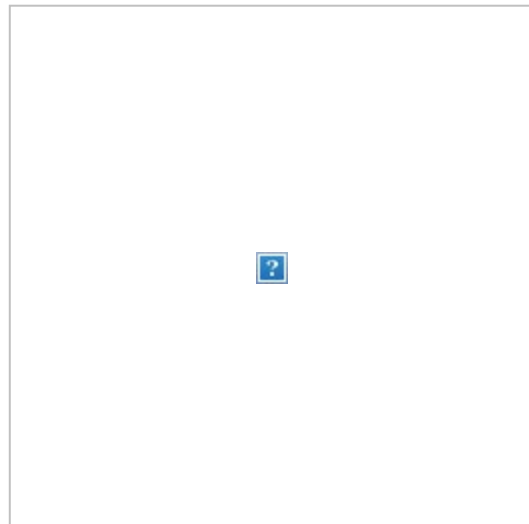
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

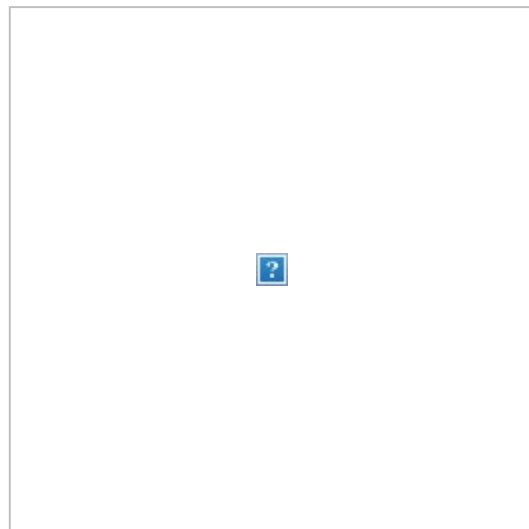
[WEMO seeks nominations for its 2025 Steering Committee](#)

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2025 steering committee. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Just City Mayoral Fellowship](#)

[seeks 2025 fellows](#)

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is accepting expressions of interest through Nov. 15 from mayors who want to participate in the fifth year of the institute's Just City Mayoral Fellowship program in spring 2025.

...



[MVP Expressions of Interest due Nov. 1](#)

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Nov. 1 for its fiscal 2026 Action Grant round. ...



[ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Nov. 2](#)

Local finance committee members are invited to the Association of Town Finance Committees' Annual Meeting on Nov. 2 at the Sharon Community Center. ...



[FCC seeks applicants for Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program](#)

The Federal Communications

Commission is accepting applications for the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)

Local photos sought

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We've added 42 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Associate Town Counsel, Building Commissioner, Part-time Benefits Coordinator, Procurement & Project Administrator and Traffic Engineer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Visitors to Saint Mary's Cemetery in Milford have likely noticed the [Milford Round Tower](#). Built in 1986, the 73 foot tall tower might be the only of its kind found outside of Ireland.

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](#)!

[Legislature OK's economic
development bill with local
funding](#)

The House and Senate approved a

\$4 billion economic development bill that includes funding for a range of grants and programs that benefit cities and towns. ...



MassDEP amends rules for Low Emission Vehicle Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection filed emergency regulation amendments on Nov. 4 affecting the Low Emission Vehicle Program (310 CMR 7.40). ...



\$5.8M in Public Safety Staffing grants awarded

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on Oct. 31 announced nearly \$5.8 million in fiscal 2025 Municipal Public Safety Staffing grant awards. ...



DLS reminds communities to report ballot question results

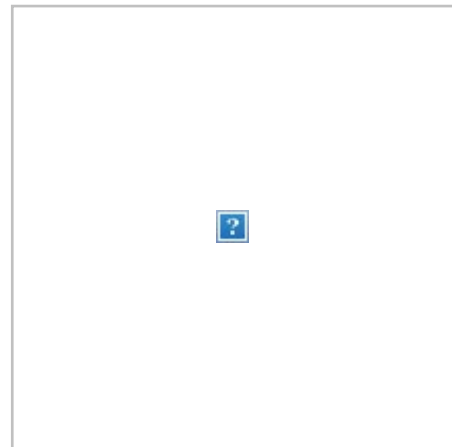
The Division of Local Services is

reminding communities that they must report the outcomes of certain ballot measures using the division's online Gateway. ...



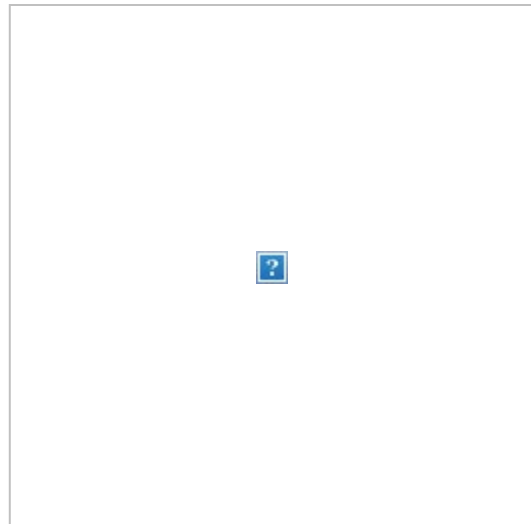
New guidelines in Devens seek to reduce 'embodied carbon'

Devens, a former military base that's now a regional enterprise zone, has spent the past two decades redeveloping with sustainability as an objective. ...



New Bedford and region have new roadmap to address homelessness

In late September, New Bedford Mayor John Mitchell released a report about a city-commissioned study that analyzed New Bedford's response to homelessness. ...



Boston tests 'green' roofs on MBTA bus shelters

Boston has added "green" roofs to 30 bus shelters along a popular

route, shielding bus riders from increasingly hot weather, and better equipping neighborhoods to manage stormwater runoff and flooding risks.

...



Reducing risk, ensuring smooth transitions when decommissioning buildings

When planning for a new municipal building, the disposition of the existing building — whether through sale, demolition or re-commissioning — should be part of the plan. ...



MunEnergy can help with managing winter energy needs

As cities and towns prepare for winter and a high-demand heating season, the MMA's MunEnergy program can help municipal leaders manage these costs. ...



[Great Barrington just got more than \\$6 million in grants. Here's where the money is going.](#)

[Stockbridge and West Stockbridge have agreed to share a fire chief as a possible first step to a larger agreement.](#)

[51 years later, overdue book is finally returned to Worcester Public Library.](#)

What We're Reading

[Strategies for spreading AI throughout local government](#) - Bloomberg Cities
(6 minute read)

"Take Boston, which is currently developing a customized chatbot—trained on the city's hundreds of pages of procurement procedures and rules—to accelerate purchases. To Chief Information Officer Santiago Garces, this work is primarily geared at producing greater efficiency for civil servants by reducing the time they spend seeking approval for purchases."

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

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[Thursday afternoon!](#)

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Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Holiday Decorations in Your Community: Overview and Legal Considerations](#) - Nov. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Situational Supervision](#) - Dec. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

- [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
- [Mass Save introduces municipal energy manager grant](#)
- [‘Climate tech’ event on Nov. 19 to focus on municipal continuity during emergencies](#)
- [Treasury offers resources as ARPA obligation deadline nears](#)
- [Foundation offers grants to help apply for opioid settlement funds](#)
- [Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of Koran's Farm!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Longfellow's Wayside Inn, located in Sudbury, is the [oldest restaurant in the state and the oldest inn in the country](#). It opened for business in 1716.

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](#)!

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the holidays. We will be back in your inbox on Jan. 3.

[Countdown to ARPA obligation](#)

deadline

With the Dec. 31 deadline quickly approaching for obligating American Rescue Plan Act funds, municipal officials are leveraging U.S. Department of the Treasury resources to help them avoid any potential clawing back of federal funds. ...



Webinar covers select board role in community arts, culture

A Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with the Mass Cultural Council discussed how select boards can support arts and culture initiatives and advance economic development. ...



MIIA workshops to cover legal, cyber, wellness topics

MIIA will present several training sessions during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, to be held Jan. 23 through 25 in Boston. ...

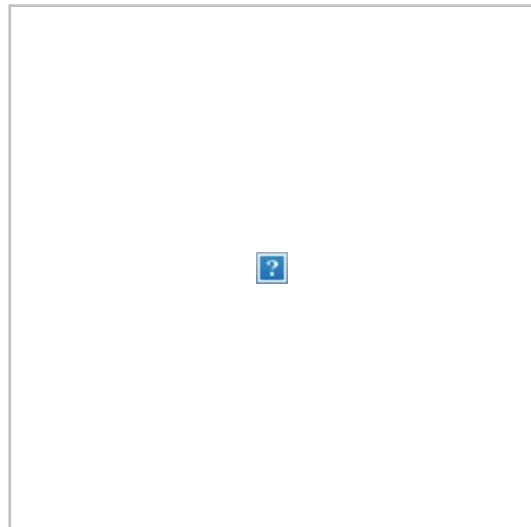


Staying ahead of emerging cyberthreats

As cyberthreats become more

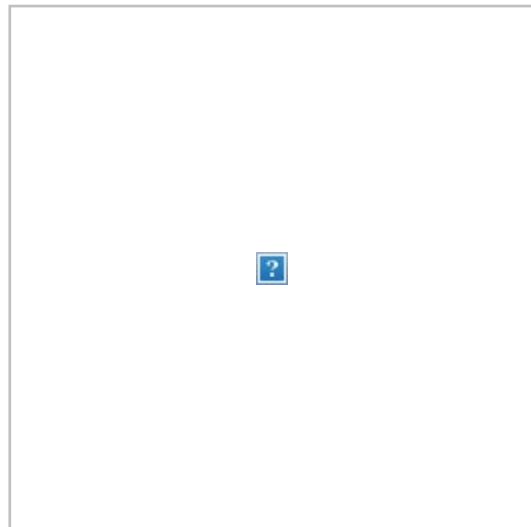
sophisticated, local governments and public entities face increased risk, especially from ransomware attacks.

...



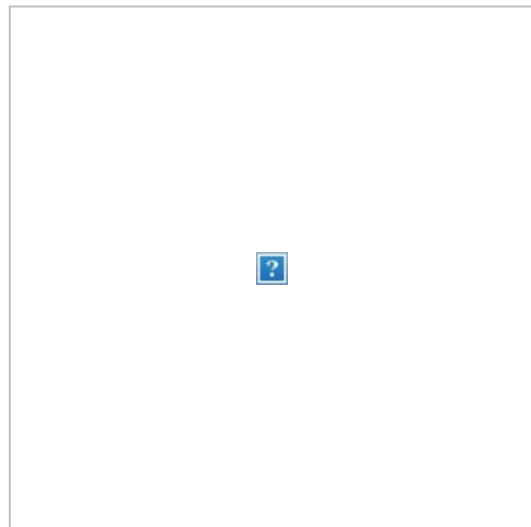
Pittsfield restores pond, enhances park accessibility

A quarter century in the making, a pond restoration project has brought new life to a somewhat neglected section of a Pittsfield park, completing a mission that was both professional and personal for city officials. ...



Worcester conducts Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

In a shift toward a more proactive approach for management of city-owned land, the Worcester Conservation Commission conducted a forest health assessment of more than 850 acres earlier this year. ...



Bourne to scan municipal property for tribal history

The town of Bourne is planning to

deploy ground-penetrating radar on a historic municipal property to search for tribal graves and artifacts, and attempt to forge a deeper connection with its Indigenous past.

...

[Retrofitting outdoor lighting can save energy and cut light pollution](#)

Municipalities must eventually replace components of critical building systems in schools, libraries and other public facilities.



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges legislators to support corrective legislation that would help retain CDL drivers](#)

On Dec. 16, In Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[A \\$180K state grant for a group of South Berkshire towns aims to prevent ambulance deserts](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Somerville City Council votes to ditch required parking rules for new developments](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[New dashboard will offer deep dive into city finances, including salaries](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Computer servers, radio equipment among items approved for ARPA funding in Mattapoisett](#) - Sippican Week

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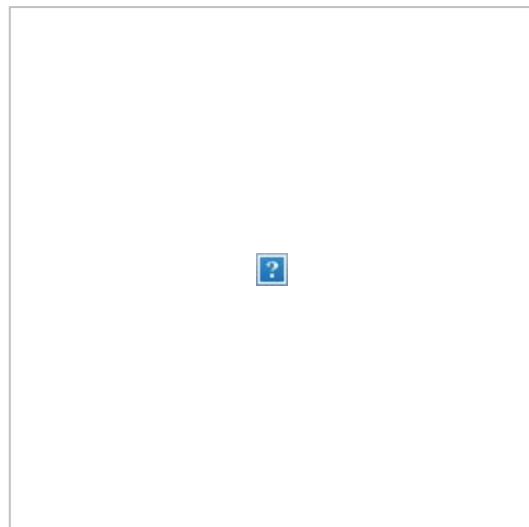
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What We're Reading

[Beyond the noise: How to engage residents effectively](#) - an 8 minute listen from Bloomberg Cities.

"According to a recent Bloomberg Philanthropies survey, 60 percent of mayors believe polarization in their cities is "more extreme than ever." Forty-four percent say they lack sufficient feedback loops with residents, and—with local news outlets vanishing across the world—53 percent report a struggle to wade through the maze of an increasingly fragmented media landscape that's rife with misinformation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation funding webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 12

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Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)

- [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



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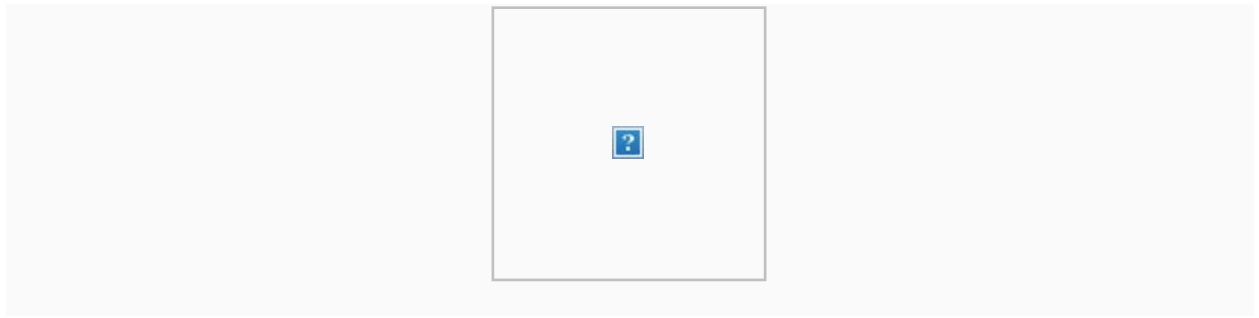


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Just 14 days until Connect 351!

In local happenings: The Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks [announced the winners](#) of the “Name a Snowplow” contest, held with students at Worcester Public Schools and voted on by the public. Four trucks will be named Scoop Dogg, Sleetwood Mac, William Scrapespeare and Snow More Mr Ice Guy.

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](#)!

[SJC issues ruling in MBTA](#)

[Communities case](#)

The Supreme Judicial Court has

upheld a state law intended to promote new housing in MBTA Communities and the power of the attorney general to enforce it, but threw out guidelines specifying the terms of compliance. ...



[Connect 351 is just 2 weeks away](#)

More than 1,100 local leaders have already registered for Connect 351, the MMA's annual conference, which will be held Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. ...



[U.S. Sens. Warren, Markey to speak at Connect 351](#)

Massachusetts' two U.S. senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, will address local leaders from across the state during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, on Saturday, Jan. 25. ...



[MMA publishes January issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA published the January

2025 issue of The Beacon, covering the latest news affecting local government and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars, including Connect 351. ...



[New legislative session brings opportunities for cities and towns](#)

Jan. 1 kicked off a new legislative session, and state revenues will be a focal point for the first half of the year, with a cautious outlook guiding the development of the fiscal 2026 state budget. ...



[MMA to host webinar on transportation grants on Jan. 13](#)

The MMA will host a webinar on Jan. 13 covering transportation-related grants available to communities across Massachusetts. ...



[Legislature OK's bill to allow video for school bus safety enforcement](#)

In the final hours of the session on Dec. 31, the Legislature passed a bill giving communities the option to use video monitoring systems for school bus traffic violations. ...



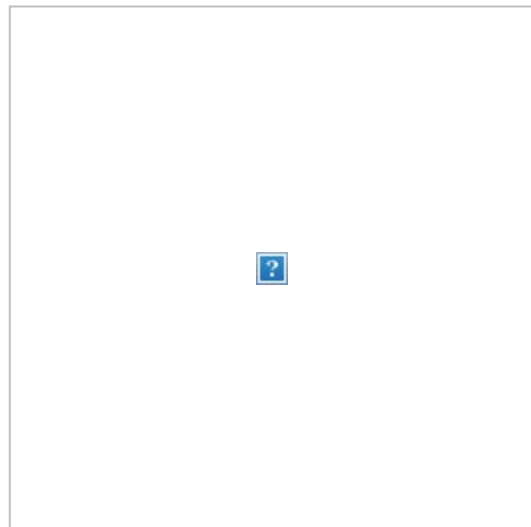
[EOEEA accepting comments on Article 97 open space regulations](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting comments through Jan. 22 on draft regulations relating to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. ...



[Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program. ...



[DOER opens program to promote on-street EV charging](#)

The Department of Energy

Resources is accepting applications for the On-Street EV Charging Program, which provides grants and technical assistance. ...



[\\$25M in Rural Roadway Funding available to communities](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has apportioned and released \$25 million for the Rural Roadway Funding Program to cities and towns. ...



[NLC publishes book recognizing 100th anniversary](#)

The National League of Cities celebrated its 100th anniversary throughout 2024, recognizing a century of municipal advocacy, education, and innovation at the national level. ...



[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On Jan. 3, In Testimony

[As challenges abound, let's use kindness as a tool](#)

On Jan. 3, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Methuen finds short-term use for Searles Estate](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Nantucket's African Meeting House Celebrates Its Bicentennial](#) - Nantucket Current

[A lot of 'little snowstorms' are still eating up Berkshire snow removal budgets](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[It's red, plastic, and snaps together: Provincetown's new flood barrier](#) - GBH

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-

What We're Reading

[Confronting the Local Government Trust Dilemma, Part 2](#) - second in a three-part series discussing community-based strategic planning as an approach to building trust, from International City/County Management Association.

"I would like to share the basic recipe for a community-based approach. There are five basic steps to the creation of a community-based strategic plan: set the stage, listen, identify priorities, compose the plan, and return and report."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation Grants: MassDOT and MassTrails Funding Opportunities webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action: Prioritizing and Funding Decarbonization Measures webinar](#) - Jan. 29

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[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - Feb. 27

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[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

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- [MMA webinar on Jan. 16 will discuss fire mutual aid](#)
 - [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)
 - [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: A [guide to living in New Bedford](#) was featured in the New York Times Real Estate section last week. Highlights include the city's rich maritime history, new South Coast Rail service and the diverse food scene.

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](#)!

[MMA continues push on Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

The MMA and local leaders are continuing their advocacy for the

governor's proposed Municipal Empowerment Act, a multifaceted package to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government. ...



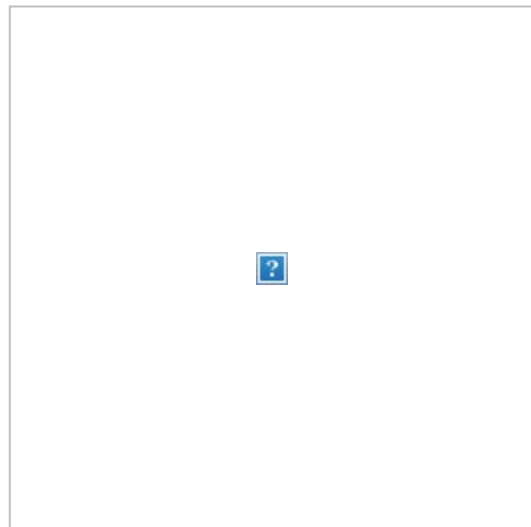
Rule-making process continues for MBTA Communities Act

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is working to finalize new regulations relative to the MBTA Communities Act. ...



Governor's bill would make historic investment in Ch. 90

At the heart of the transportation bond bill Gov. Maura Healey filed on Jan. 24 is a historic investment in municipal roads and bridges — \$300 million per year for the Chapter 90 program for a period of five years. ...



MassDOT finalizes truck safety device regulations

The Massachusetts Department of

Transportation has finalized updated regulations pertaining to truck safety devices. ...



[Special housing production commission releases report](#)

A special commission today shared a report with the governor that offers more than 50 recommendations to increase the supply of housing across Massachusetts. ...



[MSA hosts workshop with Moderators Association](#)

The Mass. Select Board Association held a virtual workshop with the Mass. Moderators Association on Feb. 25 to discuss select board roles and responsibilities relative to town meetings. ...



[Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

The Mass. Housing Partnership will host a three-part, virtual affordable housing training series in March for local boards and commissions. ...



[BEAD application deadline extended to March 10](#)

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment funding program has extended its Round 1 application deadline to March 10. ...



[Environmental Justice Grant available to municipalities](#)

Municipalities are invited to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grantmaking program. ...



[Planner Training Collaborative to hold annual conference on March 15](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its 30th Annual Conference on Saturday, March 15 in Worcester. ...



[Travel and tourism conference is March 18-19 in Springfield](#)

The 2025 Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, where tourism and hospitality professionals learn about the latest industry trends, will be held on March 18 and 19 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.



[5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Remote, hybrid meetings are local government success story](#)

On Feb. 28, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Secretary Augustus, MMA and Municipal Lawyers Association identify municipal concerns with MBTA Communities draft regulations](#)

On Feb. 21, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Seven years in the making: North Truro housing development groundbreaking date set](#) - Cape Cod Times

[After Steward hospital closure, ambulances rush patients out of town](#) - Boston Globe

[Somerville and Chelsea are asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration's "illegal campaign of bullying and intimidation"](#) - Boston.com

[Natick voters must decide on \\$7M override at town election](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Hudson Town Election to have override question: What money will pay for, plus tax impact](#) - MetroWest Daily News

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Amherst Town Councillor Elisha Walker



What We're Reading

[Resident Engagement: Taking transparency to the next level in cities](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Whether it's erecting glass-walled municipal buildings or launching open-data platforms, cities have long strived to be transparent as a way to engender trust in government. Yet, as confidence in public institutions continues to be challenged, local leaders also realize that the old ways of "being open" aren't enough—and that they have to do more.

A growing number of cities are responding by pushing the boundaries of transparency. Syracuse, N.Y., is reimagining service-delivery communications. Portland, Ore., is raising the bar for open procurement. And Boston is making the mayor's one-on-one meetings accessible in public spaces. These efforts underscore a key lesson: innovation is essential to advancing transparency and deepening public trust."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Dalton & Marlborough\)](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Amesbury & Fall River\)](#) - March 14

[Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Laws webinar](#) - March 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Professional Development Conference](#) - March 20

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Conference](#) - March 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - March 25

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Reading\)](#) - March 27

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Hadley\)](#) - March 27

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [**Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications**](#)
 - [**NLC seeks data on municipal infrastructure needs**](#)
 - [**Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program**](#)
 - [**MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings March 7, 14**](#)
 - [**U.S. Rep. Clark to keynote WEMO Conference in March**](#)
 - [**MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025**](#)
 - [**Administration announces opening of Community One Stop for Growth**](#)
 - [**Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7**](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The bronze sculpture called "Reach for Knowledge," by Nancy Schön, welcomes patrons at the entrance of the Wellesley Free Library on a sunny day this week.

Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

Job Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

- [MMA Senior Executive and Director of Membership](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA & MIIA Executive Assistant](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Technical Records Specialist, Library Branch Manager, Systems Engineer, Town Administrator, Town Planner, Treasurer/Collector, DPW Laborer and Accounting Assistant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA has joined Bluesky! Follow us there: [@mma.org](#).

In local happenings: Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick [reflected on her tenure](#) in The Needham Observer. Fitzpatrick, who is planning to retire in early July, cofounded Massachusetts Women Leading Government, a formal committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

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](#)!

[Supplemental road funding now available; Chapter 90 hearing set](#)

MassDOT announced that \$45

million in supplemental funding for road and bridge repair and construction is now available to communities. ...



President signs order calling for dismantling of Education Department

State and local officials, and the state's congressional delegation, are raising concerns about the potential implications of an executive order signed by the president. ...



Program awards \$500,000 for drought resiliency, water efficiency projects

The new grant program supports projects that promote climate resiliency by reducing indoor and outdoor water use, as well as improving water loss control programs. ...



Cyber resilience grant program opens

Massachusetts municipalities can

now apply for the
MassCyberCenter's Cyber Resilient
Massachusetts Grant program,
which provides funding for managed
detection and response services. ...



Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30

The first reports are due on June 30
under a new energy reporting
requirement for buildings larger than
20,000 square feet. ...



Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group

The Mass. Hydrography Framework
Committee is seeking municipal
leaders to participate in its work to
create “next generation hydrographic
spatial data.” ...



MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence

The MMA will host an introductory

webinar on artificial intelligence for municipalities on April 17. ...



MMA to host ‘Demystifying DEI’ webinar on May 6

The MMA will host a webinar, “Demystifying DEI,” on May 6 to provide clarity on the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion. ...



Administration announces ‘Energy Affordability Agenda’

At an event in Lowell on March 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced an “Energy Affordability Agenda” to identify and advance actions to lower energy bills for Massachusetts residents. ...



UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects

The Municipal Fellows program

supports municipalities with clean energy transition projects in conjunction with the state's Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition Initiative. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Are local government and school board meetings getting too long? Some in Fall River say limits needed](#) - Herald News

[Strapped for school funding, Valley schools eye lagging state aid](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

['Live, work, play': Is form-based code the recipe for Eastham's strategic plan](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Mayor Petty: Worcester schools threatened by 'heartbreaking' Trump bid to kill Education Department](#) - Telegram and Gazette

[New Bedford drafts new plan for dealing with disasters](#) - New Bedford Light

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Holyoke City Councillor Israel Rivera



What We're Reading

[Flipping the script on youth engagement](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Young people can be transformative partners to local government. Not only do they possess a font of fresh ideas, but also—because of all the years they have ahead of them—they are the group likely to benefit the most when those ideas are put into action. Yet youth are sometimes among the most challenging communities for leaders to include meaningfully in public problem solving, whether that's because they don't think their values are aligned with those of city hall, they don't trust that they'll be heard, or they're simply focused on other pursuits."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA and Constellation MunEnergy Spring Zoom webinar](#) - April 2

[Bridging the Knowledge Gap: Key Insights for Overseeing Local Assessing Operations webinar](#) - April 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference - May 3](#)

[Demystifying DEI webinar - May 6](#)

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MunEnergy program offers spring energy webinar on April 2](#)
- [MMA webinar to cover assessing on April 3](#)
- [MVP Program Action Grant applications due April 4](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)
- [Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
 - [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)
 - [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Riverwalk in Amesbury is a multi-use path along the Powwow River that connects downtown Amesbury to Carriagetown Marketplace. Photo by John Ouellette, MMA Communications Director.

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

work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 71 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Tree Warden, Local Building Inspector, Finance Manager, Community Outreach Librarian and Mental Health Clinician. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).

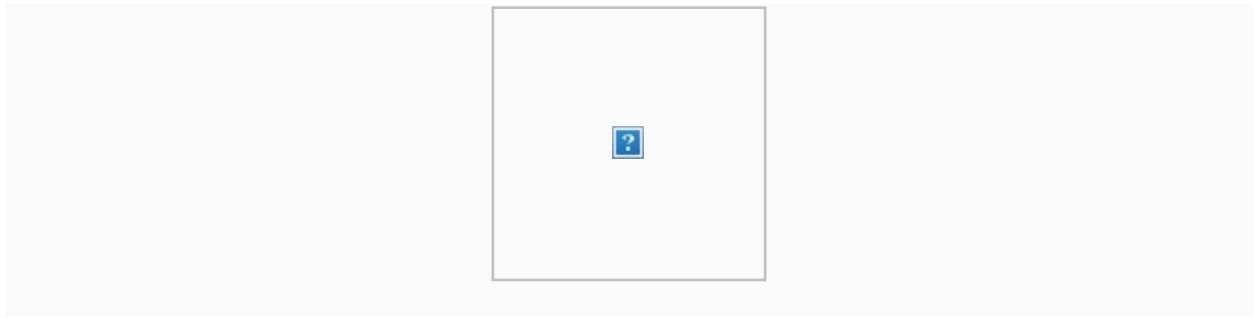


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It is Opening Day - Go Sox!

In local happenings: Deerfield is [piloting a child care program](#) during Annual Town Meeting on April 28. The program is a collaborative effort to make attendance at the meeting more accessible to parents.

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](#)!

[MMA outlines budget pressures at local aid hearing](#)

An MMA panel called for an increase of at least 3% for discretionary

municipal aid and an increase in Chapter 70 minimum new aid to address rising school costs. ...



MMA publishes April issue of The Beacon

The April Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



Tax-exempt municipal bonds a focus of federal advocacy

In Washington, D.C., an MMA delegation focused advocacy efforts on the continuation of the tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. ...



Gov. signs extension of remote and hybrid meeting allowances

Gov. Healey signed a bill to extend

authorizations for local boards and committees to hold public meetings remotely or in a hybrid format through June of 2027. ...



Trump administration targets \$106M in K-12 grant funding for Mass.

State and local officials are condemning federal moves to terminate \$106 million in education grant funding for Massachusetts. ...



Stakeholder sessions set on clean energy siting, permitting

Four stakeholder sessions will be held this spring regarding siting and permitting reforms prompted by a recent clean energy law. ...



Trump administration delays lead pipe replacement funds

State officials are strongly objecting

to a Trump administration decision to delay \$50 million in federal funding for the replacement of lead service lines in Massachusetts. ...



EOHLC issues model zoning for ADUs

The administration has published a model zoning and guidance document for municipalities to help them with the regulation of accessory dwelling units. ...



NLC covers federal issues during partnership meeting

The National League of Cities gave an update to the Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership. ...



U.S. Rep. Clark urges WEMO members to make voices heard

Municipal officials should be the

storytellers who explain the impacts of federal cutbacks that impact local services, U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark told women leaders on March 21 in Wrentham. ...



Women leaders discuss self-advocacy, AI, constructive criticism tips

Women Leading Government discussed timely topics during its fifth annual conference on March 6 in Wrentham. ...



Immigration and employment law

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources' annual spring program webinar on March 13 covered recent updates in immigration and employment law. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[It's budget time on Beacon Hill, and the MMA is working for you](#)

On April 1, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Joint Committee on Ways and Means, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On March 24, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Chatham installs alternative nesting platform for ospreys to prevent fires, outages and electrocutions](#) - Cape Cod Chronicle

[Reading's first mosque opens its doors and receives a warm welcome from the town](#) - GBH

[How Holyoke is fighting blight](#) - MassLive Media

[Nantucket launches "Digital Archive Project" to move land use documents online](#) - Nantucket Current

[Winchendon Schools chosen for cybersecurity pilot](#) - Athol Daily News

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Monson Finance Director/Town Accountant Jamie Farnum



What We're Reading

[A Comprehensive Guide for Local Leaders on Managing PFAS Waste](#) - National League of Cities

"The interventions to combat PFAS range from disposal and destruction to advanced filtration techniques. The brief explores various disposal and destruction options for managing PFAS-containing waste from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and landfills, including underground injection, thermal treatment (pyrolysis) and land application, while also highlighting emerging technologies. While these methods offer benefits such as low life cycle costs and a small footprint, they also present challenges, including environmental impacts related to disposal, increased complexity and higher maintenance requirements."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
- [Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group](#)
- [UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Memorial Hall in Milford was built in 1884 as a Civil War tribute and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. It is now home to the Milford Historical Commission, whose museum is open to visitors on Thursdays. Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 32 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, Health Director, Office Manager, Police Chief, Outreach Coordinator, Civil Engineer and Assistant Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Welcome to May.

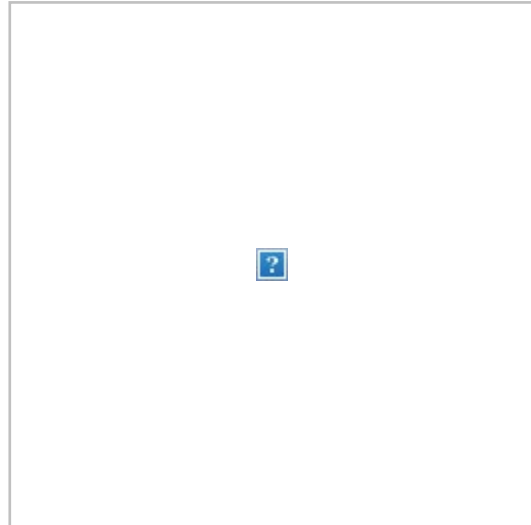
In local happenings: Spring often brings wildlife stories, and this year is no exception. A woodpecker in Rockport has made [national headlines for damaging vehicle windows](#), likely due to mating season behaviors.

In less destructive news, firefighters in [Longmeadow rescued two baby bald eagles](#) from a fallen nest. The protected birds will be rehabilitated until they can be released back into the wild.

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](#)!

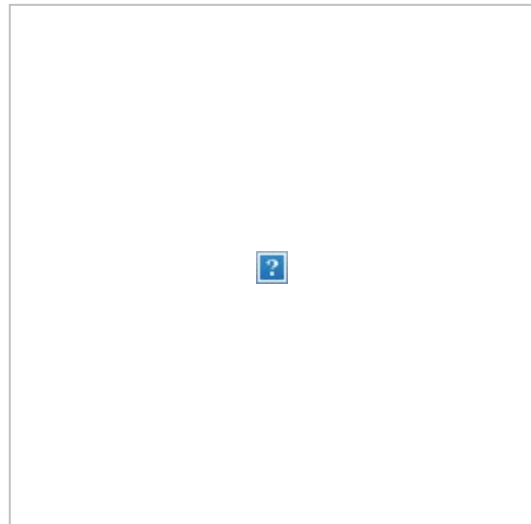
House OK's state budget for FY26

The House approved its state budget bill for fiscal 2026 with several important investments in schools and municipalities despite modest state revenue expectations. ...



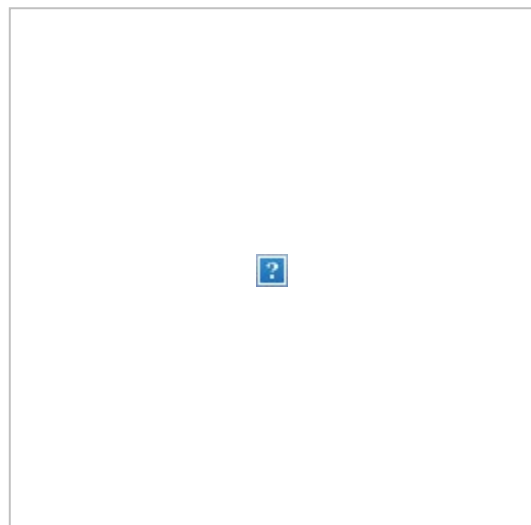
Senate releases surplus surtax supplemental budget

A Senate committee proposed a supplemental budget bill that leverages surplus surtax funds to designate \$613 million for education investments and \$670 million for transportation. ...



Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit in Worcester on May 8. ...



Extended Producer Responsibility Commission begins its work

A new Extended Producer Responsibility Commission, established by a clean energy law enacted last November, held its inaugural meeting on April 14 in Boston. ...



[MMA webinar discusses Office of the Veteran Advocate](#)

An MMA webinar on April 30 introduced the resources available to municipalities and veterans through the Office of the Veteran Advocate. ...



[MMHR, MMMA discuss 'psychological first aid' at joint meeting](#)

Psychological first aid was the focus of a joint meeting of Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources and the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association. ...



[MMHR to hold annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Human Resources association will hold its annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8 in Boylston. ...



Federal funds office to hold listening session May 7 in Springfield

Municipal and nonprofit leaders are invited to an information and listening session being held by the state's Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office on May 7 in Springfield. ...



Report: Cities, towns embrace 'green' recovery strategies

A UMass Amherst survey examines the post-pandemic recovery of Massachusetts cities and towns, highlighting progress and persistent challenges in rebuilding while advancing sustainability. ...



Program offers electrification advice for fleets

The Mass Fleet Advisor program is

offering free technical assistance to operators of medium- and heavy-duty truck fleets that want to explore electrification but don't qualify for utility fleet advisory services. ...



[Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)

The Automotive Career Development Center is offering training to help operators of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets better understand high-voltage systems and technician safety. ...



[MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)

The MassDEP's Electric Vehicle Incentive Program will fund level 1 and 2 charging station projects for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets, in addition to light-duty fleets. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Artificial intelligence is ready for us; are we ready for it?](#)

On May 1, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Milton votes 'yes' on \\$9.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override request](#) - Boston Globe

[Teen voting petition falls short for second year at Deerfield Town Meeting](#) - Greenfield Recorder

[Sandwich buys 88 acres of undeveloped land for future wastewater infrastructure needs](#) - Cape Cod Times

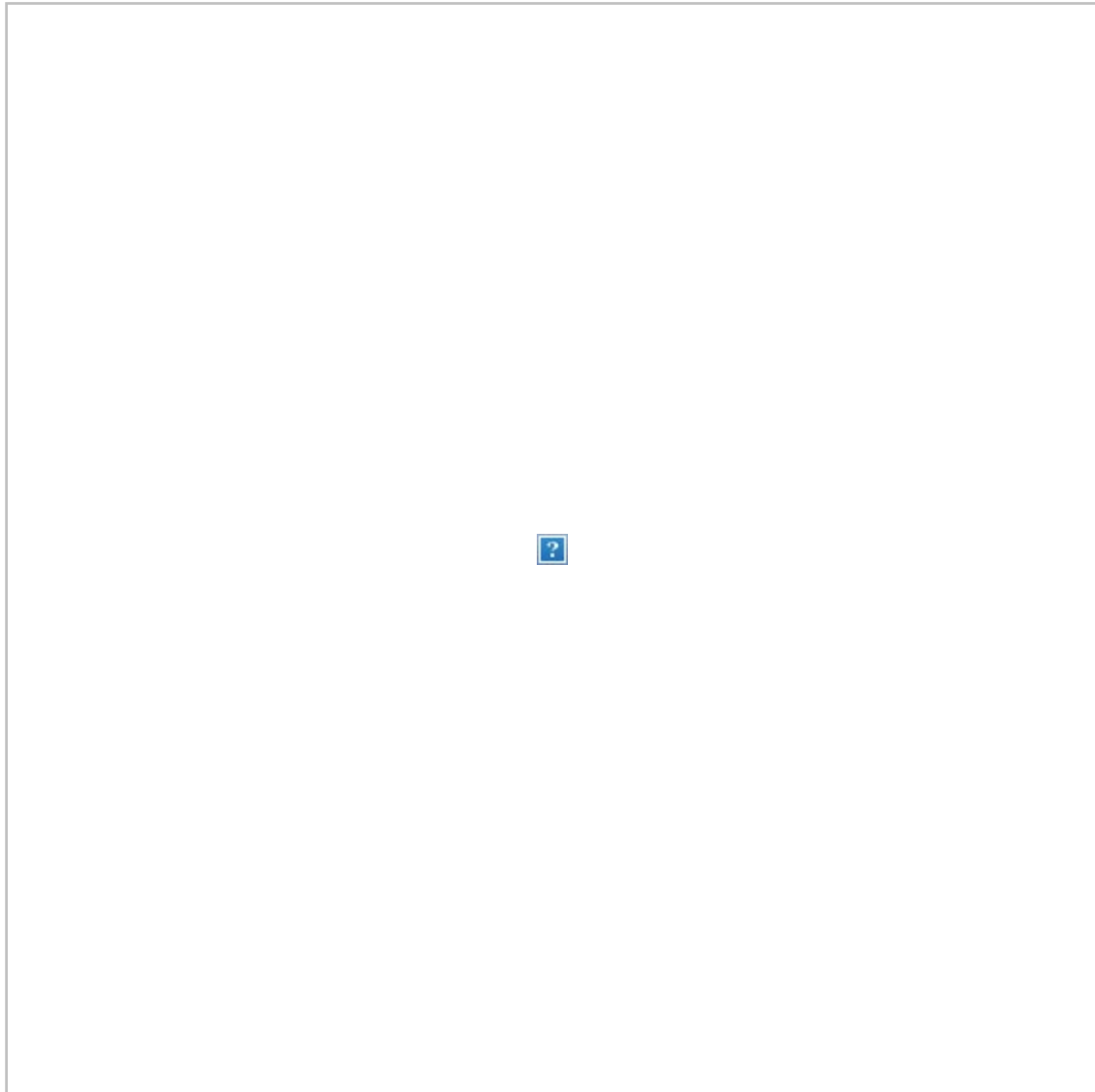
[Foxborough eyes second water treatment plant equipped to remove 'forever chemicals'](#) - The Sun Chronicle

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Bridgewater Town Councillor Mark Linde



What We're Reading

[Sharing data helps cities take anticipation to the next level](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Cities with robust data operations often aim to use that capacity to both

manage performance and anticipate emerging challenges. It's a pursuit that New York City helped pioneer as far back as 2010, when it began more systematically using predictive analytics to better spot nascent trends and fine-tune resource allocation accordingly. However, scaling these efforts citywide has often been challenging due to barriers in data sharing across any given city's agencies.

Now, as more cities enhance their data capabilities, many are also prioritizing breaking down these silos—building on the vision set by New York and other major cities over a decade ago: to share and integrate data to anticipate and prevent problems before they escalate. Whether that means protecting people from potential housing displacement or micro-targeting personalized support for youth who appear likely to miss school, here's how two cities—Charlotte, N.C. and Recife, Brazil—are using stronger internal collaboration to power data-driven anticipation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Mass. Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#)

- May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp](#) - May 8

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Spring Conference](#) - May 28-30

[Introduction to Developing Municipal Financial Policies webinar](#) - June 3

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 5

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - June 12

[Mass. Select Board Association Newly Elected Training](#) - June 13

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - June 26

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
 - [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
 - [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
 - [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
 - [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
 - [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
 - [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Jill Hai, a select board member in Lexington, for sharing this photo from the town's Massachusetts 250th anniversary celebrations. Dawn battles were reenacted at Lexington Green and Concord's North Bridge.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at **MMA & MIIA**

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 57 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Permitting and Engineering Manager, Health Inspector, Senior Clerk, Town Accountant, Building Commissioner, Administrative Coordinator and Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Porchfest season [kicks off this weekend](#) in Somerville.

In local happenings: Weston Town Manager Leon Gaumond Jr. has been recognized by the nonprofit Engaging Local Government Leaders as a [Top Influencer in Local Government](#), for his “openness and proactive attitude toward exploring innovative methods of engaging with the community.” Congrats, Leon!

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](#)!

[Senate budget committee's proposal would boost key local accounts](#)

The Senate Way and Means Committee has released a proposed state spending plan for fiscal 2026 with important investments in schools and municipalities. ...



[Senate OK's supplemental budget bill](#)

The Senate approved a supplemental budget bill that would primarily allocate surplus surtax funds from fiscal 2024. ...



[250th battle commemorations were years in the making](#)

When reenactors fired their muskets on Patriots' Day weekend to mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, they were participating in public events that were years in the making. ...



[Community One Stop accepting applications May 5-June 4](#)

Fiscal 2026 funding applications

through the state's Community One Stop for Growth portal must be filed between May 5 and June 4. ...



Culvert replacement grant funding available

The Division of Ecological Restoration is accepting applications for the Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program to assist with local culvert removal and replacement efforts. ...



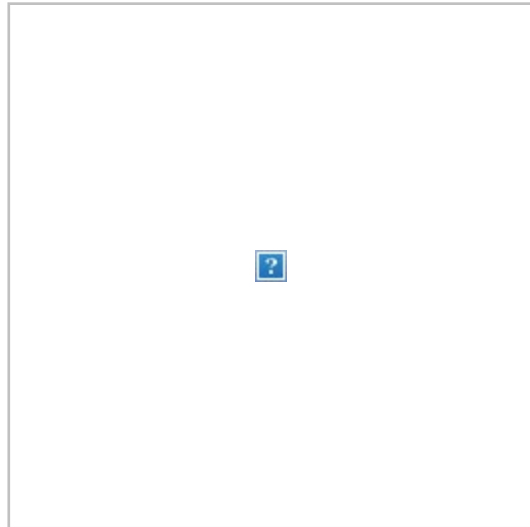
FEMA cancels \$90M in BRIC aid for Mass.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has cancelled the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program for fiscal 2024. ...



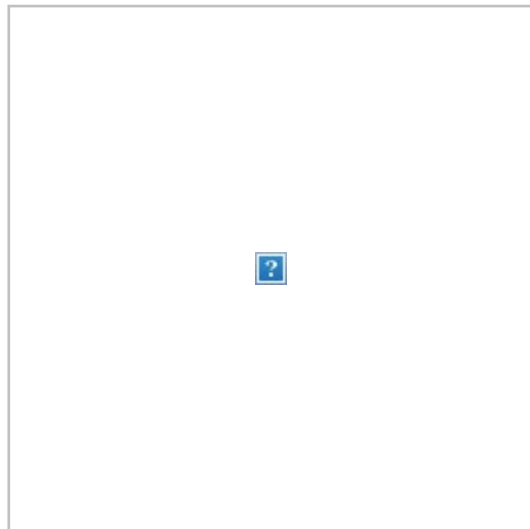
MSA to hold free training for newly elected select board members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a free training for newly elected select board members on Friday, June 13, in Devens. ...



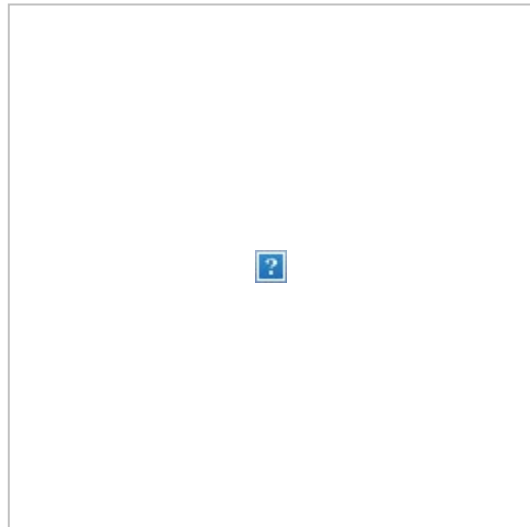
[MMA publishes May issue of The Beacon](#)

The May issue of The Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, as well as grant opportunities and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Somerville installs outdoor kiosk for used needles](#)

In a city park, Somerville has installed an outdoor collection kiosk for needles and other “sharps” — a resource believed to be the first of its kind in the country. ...



[Whitlock Scholarship applications sought](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Management Association is accepting applications for its Gerry Whitlock Scholarship for students enrolled in a masters in public administration program. ...



Clean Water Trust issues nearly \$40 million in loans, grants

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees on April 2 approved \$39.7 million in new low-interest loans and grants. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[Amherst councilors float idea of new 'Four Towns' task force to develop long-term school funding strategy](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[A new project is helping Chelsea residents better understand their air quality](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[The challenges of climate change: Weather events wreak havoc in Merrimack Valley, North Shore](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Cambridge's Community Assistance Response and Engagement \(CARE\) Team releases first impact report](#) - Wicked Local

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Middleton Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Jackie Bresnahan

What We're Reading

[Revolutionizing Crisis Intervention](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The need for mobile crisis response teams in the United States has become increasingly apparent. High-profile incidents across the United States underscore the inadequacy of traditional law enforcement responses to behavioral health crises. Such crises often involve disruptions in mental or emotional stability requiring immediate intervention to prevent severe health deterioration. In the United States, the numbers are staggering:

1. One in five adults experiences a mental illness during their lifetime.
2. Over 12 million people have serious thoughts of suicide annually.
3. Nearly a quarter of those shot by police from 2015 to 2020 had a mental health condition.
4. Two million individuals with serious mental illnesses are incarcerated annually.

These figures highlight the urgent need for community-based mobile crisis response teams that address behavioral health emergencies without relying solely on police intervention. Behavioral health incidents are complex scenarios that require a multi-disciplinary approach in order to achieve a measure of resolution."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Spring Conference](#) - May 28-30

[Introduction to Developing Municipal Financial Policies webinar](#) - June 3

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 5

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - June 12

[Mass. Select Board Association Newly Elected Training](#) - June 13

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - June 26

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Program offers electrification advice for fleets](#)
- [Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)
- [MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)
- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
- [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
- [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Samantha Giffen, communications manager in Amherst, for sharing this photo from the town's Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative on April 18. The photo shows two lanterns, provided by Rep. Mindy Domb, shining in a window at Amherst Town Hall.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Local Inspector, Town Engineer, Utility Director, Outreach Coordinator, Chief of Police, Assistant Town Planner and Conservation Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: This weekend, the [Framingham History Center is hosting](#) “Stitching Revolution in Massachusetts: Quilting, Lectures and Dancing,” highlighting the role of Massachusetts in the American Revolution.

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, July 3.

[Healey signs surplus surtax bill](#)

[with investments for cities, towns](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has signed a \$1.3 billion supplemental budget bill to allocate surplus Fair Share surtax revenue for investments in education and transportation. ...



[Gov. Healey files \\$2.9B, 5-year environmental bond bill](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration joined partners, advocates and municipal officials in Braintree to announce the filing of a \$2.9 billion, five-year environmental bond bill, called the Mass Ready Act. ...



[Lawsuit challenges federal halt of grant funding to states](#)

A coalition of 22 state attorneys general has filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's use of a provision in federal regulations to stop billions in federal grant funding. ...



[MMHR discusses Medicare, elects FY26 officers and board members](#)

At its Annual Meeting in Danvers,

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources focused on strategies for helping employees navigate the Medicare system. ...



Federal judge blocks immigration enforcement conditions on transportation funding

A U.S. District Court has issued an injunction preventing the federal government from making immigration enforcement a condition for receipt of transportation funding. ...



MMA webinar discusses mental health in the workplace for staff

An MMA webinar discussed understanding and supporting mental health in the workplace. ...



MMA to host webinar on private roads

An MMA webinar on July 15 will

provide an overview of private roads, with examples of local practices and insights from an experienced attorney. ...



NLC awards grant to Chelsea for economic mobility program

The National League of Cities has awarded a \$20,000 grant to the city of Chelsea as part of its 2025 Advancing Economic Mobility Rapid Grant program. ...



AGs issue guidance affirming legality of environmental justice initiatives

A coalition of 13 state attorneys general, including Andrea Joy Campbell of Massachusetts, has issued guidance affirming the “necessity and legality” of environmental justice initiatives. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here’s a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Utilities Committee to support legislation protecting municipal authority in public rights of way and expediting double pole removal](#)

On June 18, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Burlington Select Board demands inspection of ICE facility amid reports of poor conditions](#) - Lowell Sun

[Eastham approves \\$170 million wastewater, sewer plans](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Nantucket has a PFAS problem in the drinking water. It's Environmental Contamination Administrator Andrew Shapero's job to solve it](#) - Boston Globe

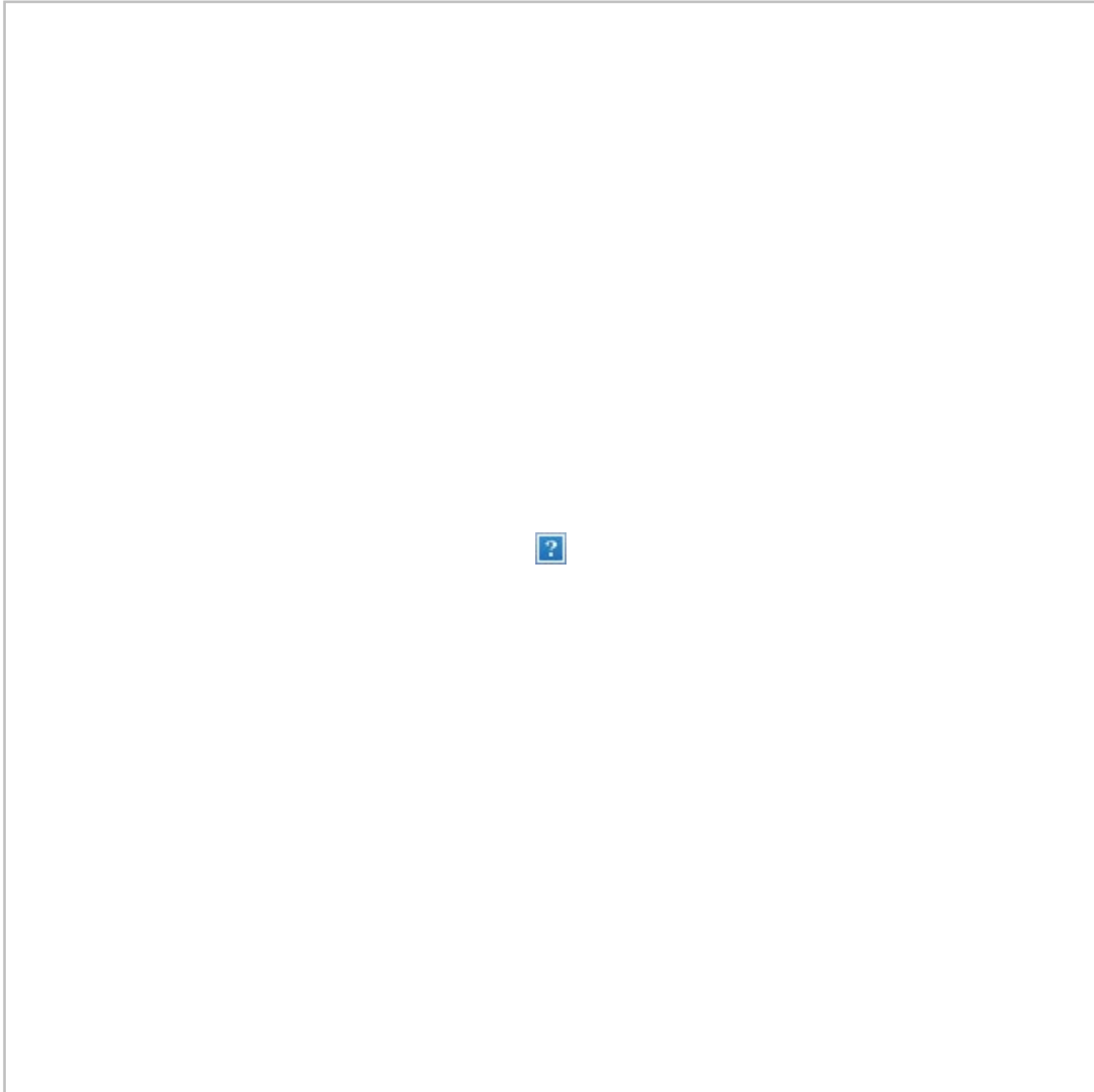
[Orange takes ownership of old cereal factory lot](#) - Greenfield Recorder

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Barnstable Government Access Station Manager Sarah Beal-Fletcher



What We're Reading

[What City Leaders Need to Know About the Senate's Budget Reconciliation Bill](#) - National League of Cities

"The Senate's version of the "One Big, Beautiful Bill" has arrived, with major

implications for local governments. While it mirrors several provisions in the House-passed bill (H.R. 1), it also includes key differences, particularly around Medicaid. The path to passage in the Senate is not straightforward, with negotiations still ongoing on Medicaid, clean energy tax credits and public lands. As the House and Senate move toward negotiations on a final package, local leaders should understand how the Senate's proposal could shape city budgets, services and infrastructure planning."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
- [State sets office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [Electric grid council to hold in-person event on July 17](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxEd on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)

- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Sean Dugan, assistant town administrator in Easton, for sharing this photo from the town's Flag Day ceremony. Dozens of volunteers unfurled several flags spanning the football field at Oliver Ames High School during the event, which was hosted by Easton's Tricentennial Committee as part of a yearlong celebration of the town's 300th anniversary.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for

possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects Manager, DPW Foreman, Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Comptroller, Conservation Agent and Town Planner. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



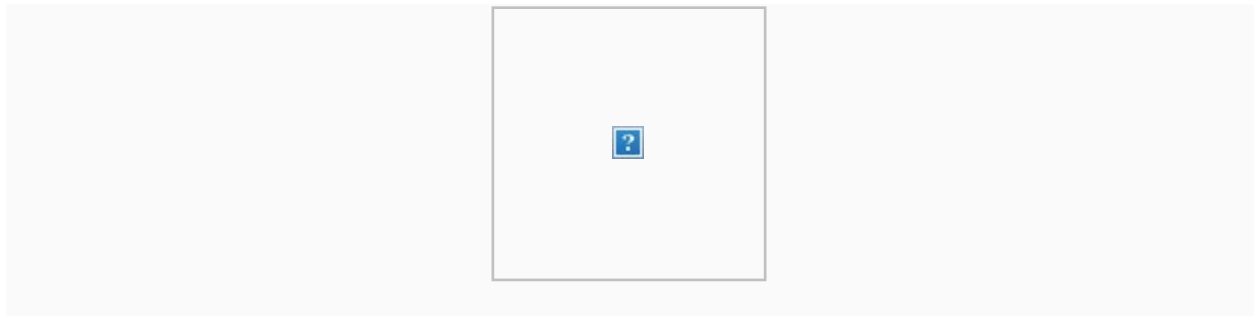
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Communities across the state will be observing the Fourth of July with public events tomorrow and this weekend. We'd love to highlight your parades and gatherings in the Weekly Review! Send your photos to photos@mma.org.

In local happenings: In a [ceremony last month](#), the Danvers Rail Trail was dedicated in memory of former longtime Town Manager Wayne Marquis. Marquis, who died in 2022, served as town manager from 1979 to 2014.

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

[Legislature sends FY26 state budget to governor](#)

The Legislature has enacted a \$61 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2026, an increase of \$3.3 billion over fiscal 2025. ...



[MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)

The MMA this week unveiled new features for its popular Municipal Career Opportunities service and a new, streamlined classified ad rate structure. ...



[Mass. mayors and officials issue statement on ICE actions in communities](#)

Leaders from 13 cities and one town issued a joint statement calling on the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate the activity of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ...

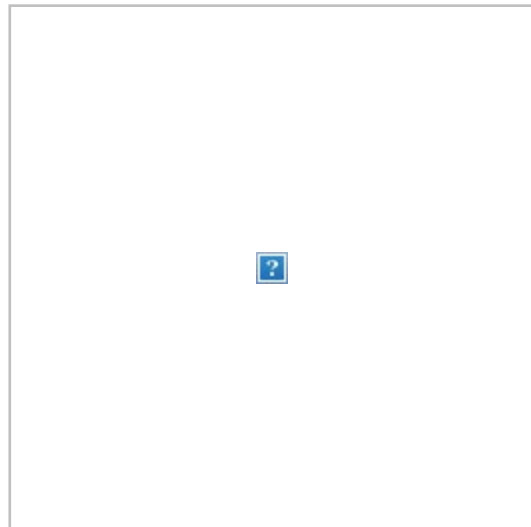


[MA250 grant program expands to support Revolutionary storytelling](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

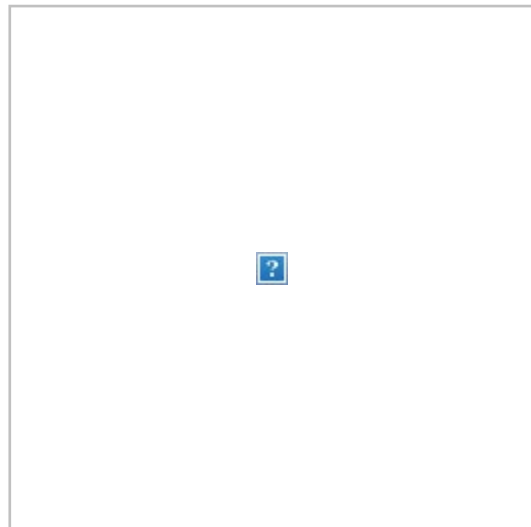
and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism announced a second round of funding through the Massachusetts 250 Grant Program.

...



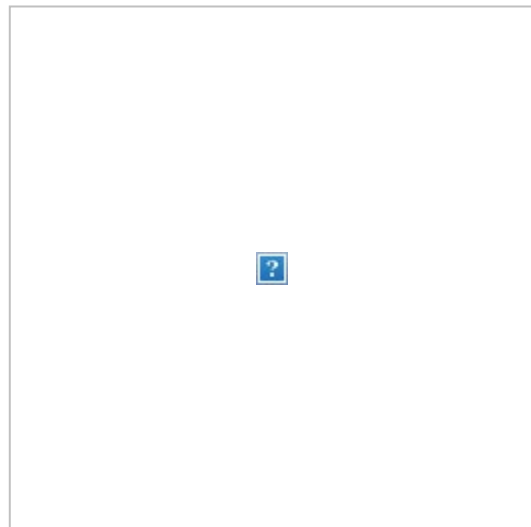
[MSA hosts annual training for newly elected select board members](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association held its annual free training for newly elected members in Devens. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[MMA urges Veterans Committee to support bills to streamline veterans benefits](#)

On June 30, Testimony

[MMA urges Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support bottle bill expansion](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[In testimony to Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, MMA expresses strong support for series of bills that would increase municipal efficiency and effectiveness](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA offers feedback and concerns on a number of water-related bills before Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#)

On June 27, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Local communities taking varied approach to spending opioid settlement money](#)

- The Sun Chronicle

[Many of the more than 58,000 laid-off federal workers are looking to move to Boston](#) - Boston Globe

[Bullet hole by bullet hole, an Arlington house shows the struggle for America's independence](#) - WBUR

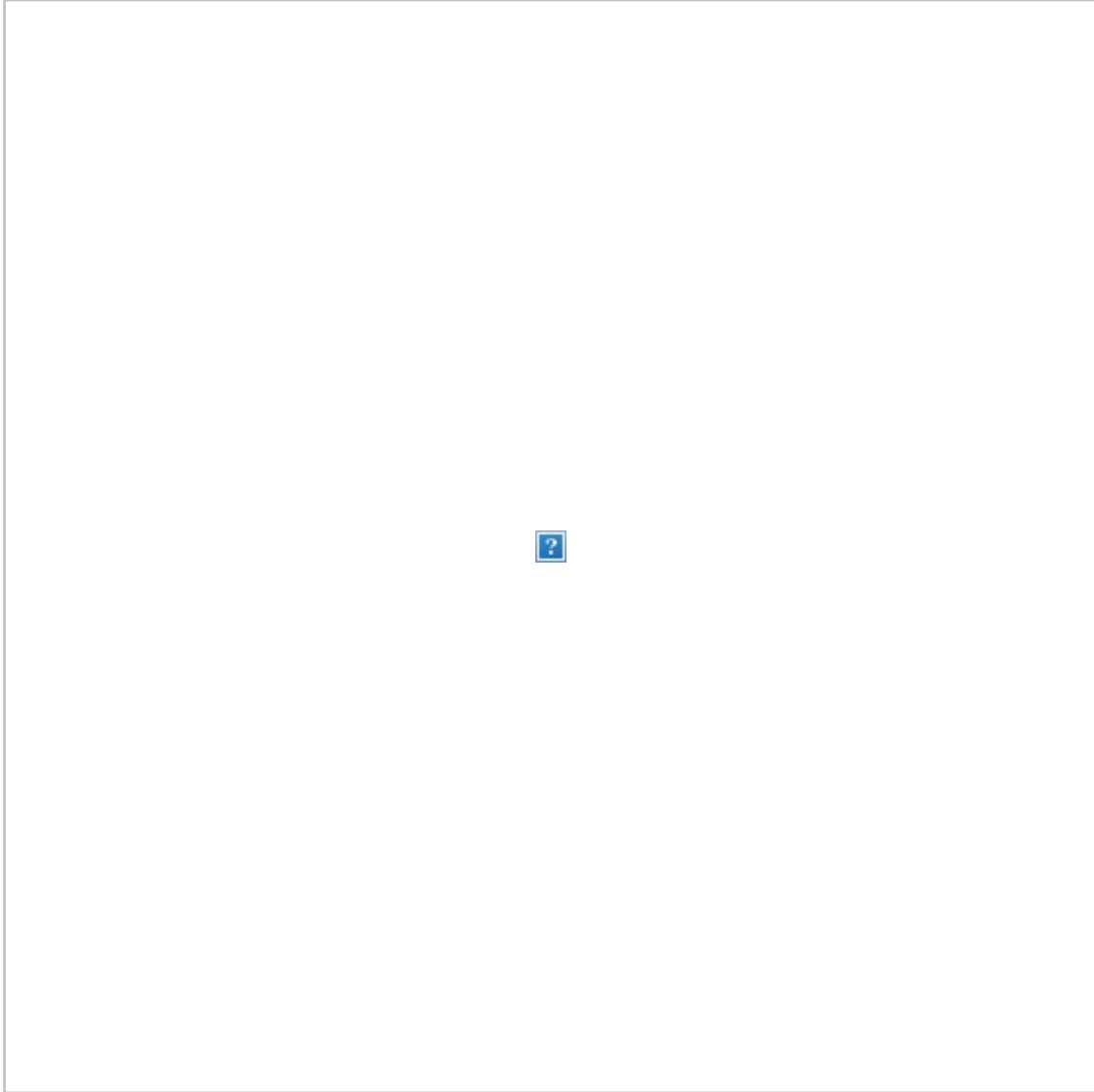
[Peabody Mayor Bettencourt shares 4 new anti-bullying initiatives for Peabody schools](#) - Salem News

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Norfolk Select Board Member Anita Mecklenburg



What We're Reading

[5 summer reads for urban innovators](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"If there are two plot lines that resonate with every local leader, they are that making government work well is a nonstop challenge and that the best ideas often come from the outside. This collection of books reflects both realities by

spotlighting stories and strategies that demonstrate how to make cities more effective and how to better connect them to what residents need. From an Alabama mayor's moving story about reimagining government in his hometown to lessons on improving public services from the United Kingdom, these works offer something to any city innovator looking to raise their game."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar on private roads](#)
- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
- [State sets office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [Electric grid council to hold in-person event on July 17](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxEd on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Stacy Kilb, sustainability engagement coordinator in Salem, for sharing this photo from Volt & Vibe: An Eco-Rider Showcase, an e-bike and personal electric vehicle expo hosted by the city at Salem State University on June 29.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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 - [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 38 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Health Agent, Facilities Superintendent, Office Manager, Assistant City Clerk, HVAC Technician and Town Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The town of [Stow will temporarily rename itself “Dunkin”](#) for the day on July 24 to celebrate the opening of a new location. The town has been without a Dunkin' since 2022.

In local happenings: The [38th annual Lowell Folk Festival](#) kicks off on July 25. The free festival celebrates traditional music and arts, and features numerous food vendors, dance spaces and family-friendly areas.

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](#)!

[Connect 351 planning underway at MMA](#)

The MMA staff is hard at work planning the MMA's annual conference, which will return to Boston's Seaport District, at the newly renamed Menino Convention and Exhibition Center, on Jan. 22 through 24. ...



[MMA publishes Summer issue of The Beacon](#)

The Summer Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, grant opportunities, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Gov. Healey's FY26 supplemental budget seeks expanded 9C authority](#)

As Gov. Healey signed the fiscal 2026 state budget into law on July 4, and vetoed \$130 million in spending, she also filed a fiscal 2026 supplemental budget bill. ...



[State holds office hours to discuss ADUs](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is holding office hours to support municipal planners and building officials in understanding the state's new accessory dwelling unit law and regulations. ...



[Leaving Needham, Fitzpatrick says now's 'best time ever' to serve](#)

State and local officials celebrated longtime Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick's retirement after 35 years with the town. ...



['Andover At Work' exhibit focuses on municipal staff](#)

Photographer David Whitney's "Andover at Work" exhibit is the culmination of a year-long volunteer project highlighting the daily work of municipal employees in Andover. ...



[MMA webinar discusses private roadway issues](#)

An MMA webinar on July 15 gave an

overview of private roadways and related issues, providing information municipal officials need to navigate community conversations. ...



DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources is studying the potential for load management tools like demand flexibility, energy efficiency, and virtual power plants. ...



Green School Works program offers technical assistance

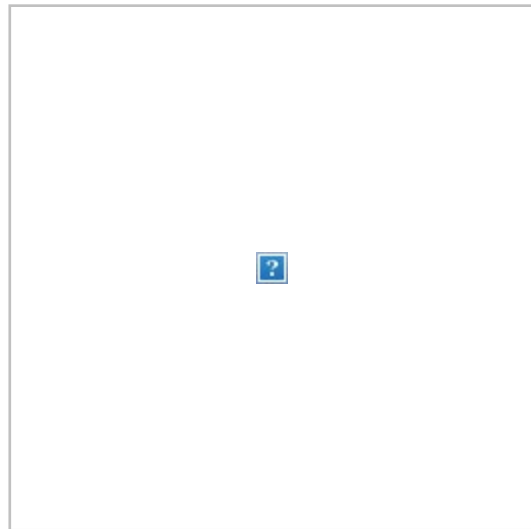
The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting requests for technical assistance through the Green School Works program to decarbonize the state's public schools. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[In face of federal pressures, protecting local funding is critical](#)

On July 16, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges legislators to reject proposal to expand emergency budget-cutting authority under Section 9C](#)

On July 14, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Republic Services sees mounting frustration from towns, officials amid worker strike](#) - Boston Globe

[Pittsfield expands list of city-run public restrooms, including the only 24/7 option](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Marlborough Police have something to offer kids in crisis situations. Here's how it works](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Western Mass. communities brace for weather, climate effects with hazard plans](#) - MassLive Media

[Andover Bookstore is the oldest in the country. What to expect when you visit](#) - Wicked Local

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Methuen City Councillor Neily Soto



What We're Reading

[Chelsea named 2025 All-America city for sustainability projects](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

"Sustainability was this year's theme for the All-America city awards, given annually by the National Civic League. But environmental awareness is nothing new for Chelsea, one of 10 US communities recognized by the organization on June 29 for their "transformative, community-driven efforts to strengthen environmental sustainability and their civic infrastructure."

"Chelsea has been doing this work before this work was catchy," said City Manager Fidel Maltez, who traveled to Denver last month for the awards ceremony.

Many communities have come to value sustainable practices like recycling or increasing green space. But Chelsea's commitment to sustainability was born from years of environmental injustice. The densely populated city of 40,000 residents just north of Boston has long had to contend with a litany of environmental hazards – and the public health problems they bring."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
 - [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
 - [MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)
 - [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
 - [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
 - [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Christopher Holt, human resources administrative assistant in Lakeville, for sharing this photo of the old Lakeville Town Hall, built in 1856.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator](#)

[Instructor](#)

- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Conservation Planner, Director of Elder Affairs, Assessor's Clerk, Senior Town Planner, Town Accountant, Communications Officer and Assistant Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: The city of Lynn has [officially opened Harbor Park](#), a new 30-acre public space along the waterfront that offers walking paths, recreation areas and an outdoor amphitheater.

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](#)!

[House passes transportation bond bill with \\$300M for Ch. 90](#)

The House has passed a transportation bond bill that would

authorize \$300 million for the Chapter 90 road and bridge program for the upcoming year. ...



MassDOT's LEAP program seeks to jump-start local infrastructure

A program launched by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation seeks to help municipal officials jump-start infrastructure projects, particularly in rural and underserved areas. ...



MMA to host Aug. 20 webinar on crisis communications

An MMA webinar on Aug. 20 will focus on crisis communications and the importance of consistent messaging when cities and towns face unexpected challenges. ...



MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24

The MMA and its partners at

Constellation will hold a free presentation and conversation via Zoom on Sept. 24 to cover two energy topics. ...



MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30

The MMA will hold a half-day municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept 30 in Wrentham. ...



MMLA to hold program on code enforcement on Aug. 7

Effective and efficient code enforcement will be the focus of a Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association half-day program on Aug. 7 in Sturbridge. ...



Malloy joins managers' Senior Advisor Program

Retired manager James Malloy is

available as a senior advisor to other managers and administrators through a partnership between the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and the International City/County Management Association. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Lenox 'tourist tax' brings in \\$4.5 million for the town as summer season revs up](#)
- Berkshire Eagle

[Hadley weighs removal of three dams](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Western Mass. cities seeking public input on how to spend opioid settlement money](#) - GBH

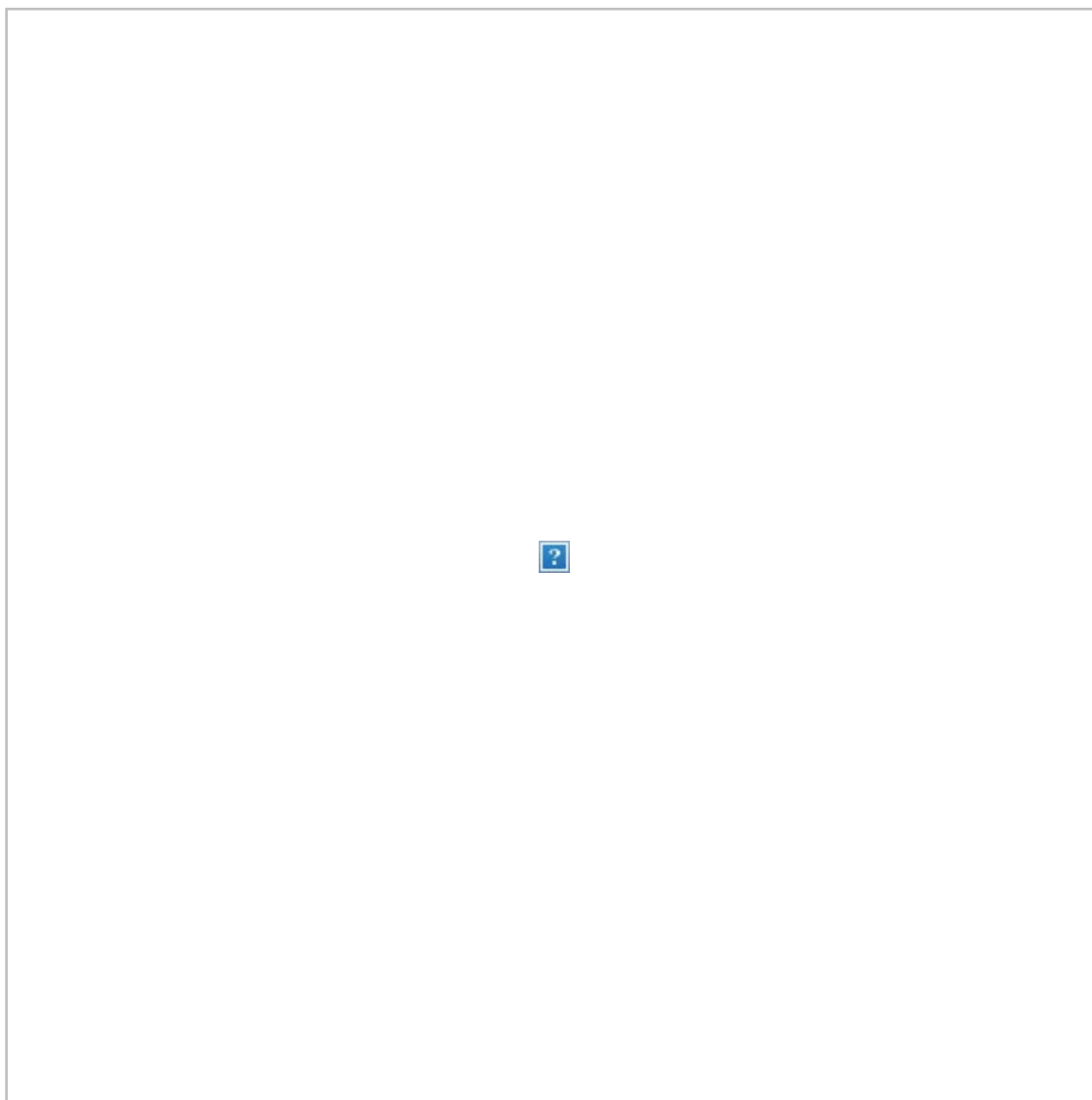
[City shaper: Kolofos honored for 65 years of service to Lawrence](#) - Eagle Tribune

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Fitchburg City Councillor Sally Cragin



What We're Reading

[Food \(Insecurity\) for Thought: In Fresno, California, brownfield redevelopment and local partnerships have generated significant community and climate benefits](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The U.S. food supply is a study in inefficiency, inequity, and contradictions. Americans waste an estimated 30–40% of the country's food, and although much of it is safe and edible, that food ends up in landfills as 22–24% of municipal solid waste. There it becomes a potent source of methane, a greenhouse gas with four times the warming potential of carbon dioxide. At the same time, one in seven Americans, or 47 million people, including 14 million children, experienced food insecurity in 2023. This marked a 6% increase from 2022, and the highest level recorded since 2014.

Located in California's Central Valley, which produces 25% of the nation's food supply, Fresno County is the third hungriest county in the United States. In Fresno, nonprofits like Fresno Metropolitan Ministry (Metro) help feed hungry people by running just-in-time rescue operations that glean surplus food from institutions and retail outlets. It's an effective strategy, but not a simple one. As Metro's Executive Director Emogene Nelson describes, "Rescuing food involves more than just picking it up. It requires storage, transportation, timing, and trust. If one link in the chain breaks, the entire system is disrupted. Behind every pound of food saved is a mountain of invisible labor."

To streamline and expand their food rescue operations, Metro teamed up with St. Rest Baptist Church (SRBC) to redevelop a vacant and environmentally contaminated former meatpacking warehouse into the St. Rest + Food to Share Hub. The Hub, which opened in May 2024, started with a brownfield—land that is frequently vacant, underutilized, or abandoned, and may be contaminated. Metro and SRBC worked with the city of Fresno to leverage multiple federal funding sources that addressed environmental contamination and cleared the way for redevelopment. Their story exemplifies the power of partnerships to build social resilience and contribute to a sense of place, especially in resource-scarce settings."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Foundations of Crisis Communications webinar](#) - Aug. 20

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [State holds office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction](#)
- [Green School Works program offers technical assistance](#)
- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
- [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Ralph Waldo Emerson House in Concord is open for guided tours for the season. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources,

downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Animal Control Officer, Senior Planner, Town Administrator, Employee Relations Manager, Wastewater Superintendent and Part-time Local Inspector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



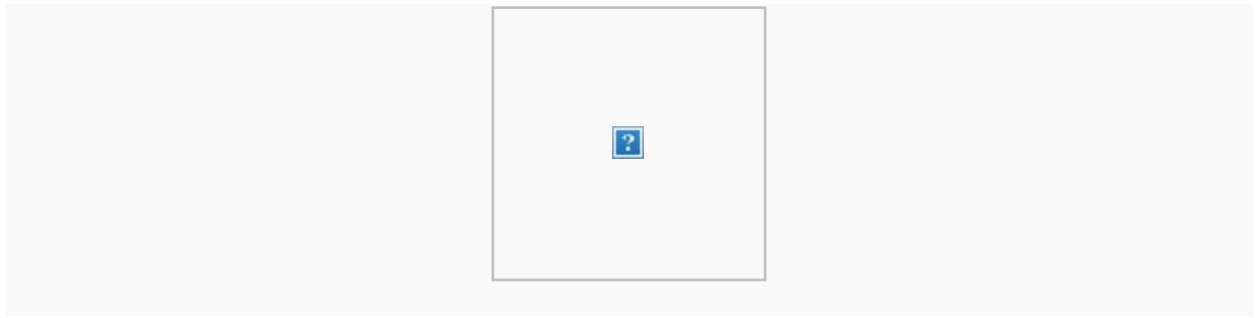
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA will host the first of four [fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#) on Sept. 26 in Lee.

In local happenings: The Big E kicks off in West Springfield tomorrow, featuring [17 days of food, rides, music and fun](#)! The fair welcomed more than 1.6 million people last year and is celebrating its 109th year.

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](#)!

[Two grant programs launched to support local efforts on federal funding](#)

The administration has launched grant programs to advance local infrastructure and economic development projects and bring more federal dollars into the state. ...



[Gov. Healey unveils plan to cut environmental rules to fast-track housing](#)

The plan would cut environmental regulations in order to expedite housing production in Massachusetts and reduce costs. ...



[MMA offers municipal guide to inclusive holidays, recognition days](#)

Cities and towns can determine additional days that they include as holidays, during which no business is conducted. ...



[MMA survey seeks feedback on Connect 351 experience and needs](#)

We're asking members to respond to a brief survey by Sept. 18 to help us make the Connect 351 experience more meaningful and enjoyable. ...



[Stormwater MS4 grant program applications due Oct. 3](#)

Applications are available for the Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on Workplace Equity Act](#)

The MMA hosted a webinar about the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, enacted in 2024. ...



[MMA to hold Health Care Costs Forum on Sept. 30](#)

The MMA will hold a half-day

municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept. 30 in Wrentham. ...



State awards \$10.9 million for dams and coastal infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration has announced nearly \$11 million in grant funding to support the repair or removal of aging dams, levees and coastal infrastructure. ...



MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston

Climate Beacon, New England's

premier climate solutions conference, will be held on Oct. 22-24 in Boston. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In Advocacy

[MMA joins Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association in providing comments to CCC on municipal implications of draft social consumption regulations](#)

On Sept. 8, Testimony

Planning for Connect 351 in



January is underway! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video!](#)



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Cassandra Madison](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[How can Hopedale attract a buyer for Town Hall? What's being discussed](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Meet Somerville's 'rat czar.' He leads the battle against rodents](#) - Boston Globe

[Holyoke seeks public input on how to spend \\$1M opioid settlement funds](#) - New England Public Media

[Five tornadoes confirmed in the Worcester area and Stow, National Weather Service says](#) - Boston Globe

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Northeastern University students Jonathan Oubenslimane, left, and Vamini Jain

What We're Reading

[3 AI roadblocks—and how to overcome them](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Evidence of uneven AI adoption in the private sector grows by the day, with executives worried about falling behind more tech-savvy competitors. But the stakes are different, and considerably higher, in government. For local leaders, AI isn't about winning a race. It's about unlocking new problem-solving capacity to deliver better services and meet pressing resident needs.

Even so, city governments face real barriers to further adoption, including persistent concerns about accuracy and privacy, procurement hurdles, and too

little space for civil-servant experimentation. The good news? Innovative leaders are already showing how to overcome these obstacles. And, in doing so, they're reaping insights of use to others aiming to do the same."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Support from the Red Cross webinar](#) - Sept. 16

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[From Resources to Relationships: Why Councils on Aging Matter webinar](#) - Sept. 25

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Lee](#) - Sept. 26

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Athol & Middleborough](#) - Oct. 3

[Massachusetts Select Board Association fall conference](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Boot Camp](#) - Oct. 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Chelmsford](#) - Oct. 17

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 18-19 in Springfield](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar with Mass. Councils on Aging Sept. 25](#)
 - [Public Works Expo is Sept. 17 and 18 in Marlborough](#)
 - [Green Building Council to hold Local Government Leadership Summit](#)
 - [MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 17](#)
 - [MARPA and DLS Conference is Oct. 7](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar with Red Cross Sept. 16](#)
 - [Town Forest Conference is Oct. 4](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars](#)
 - [Mass. Digital Government Summit to be held on Sept. 18](#)
 - [MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24](#)
 - [MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





The Morse-Kelley Pollinator Habitat Garden in Somerville is a pollinator-friendly pocket park created with Community Preservation Act funds. Other pollinator-friendly spaces are located throughout the city as part of broader pollinator initiatives. Photo by Meredith Gabriliska, MMA Digital Communications Manager.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Treasurer/Collector, Public Safety Dispatchers, Outreach Coordinator, Paramedic, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Municipal Hearing Officer and Grants Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

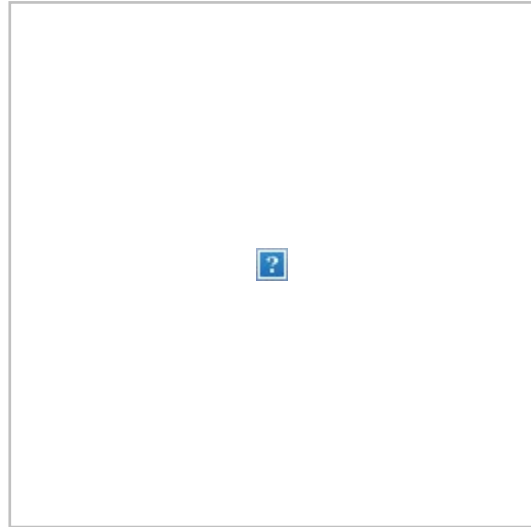
In local happenings: Cambridge and Boston are expecting close to 400,000 spectators over the course of the weekend for the [Head of the Charles Regatta](#). The three-day rowing event features local music and food vendors and family-friendly activities, in addition to cheering on the athletes from nearly 30 countries competing in 74 events.

Send us photos from your community's seasonal celebrations to be featured in a future edition of the Weekly Review!

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](#)!

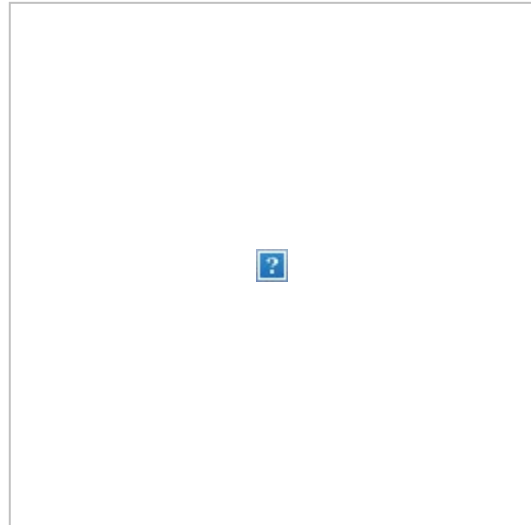
**[Input sought on draft model
bylaws for solar, battery systems](#)**

The Department of Energy Resources is developing model bylaws for photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems to serve as a resource to municipalities. ...



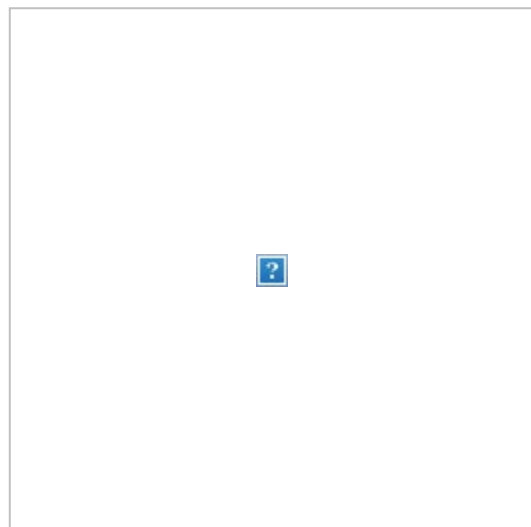
**[Grants opened for drought
resiliency, water efficiency
projects](#)**

The state has opened the second round of a grant program for projects that support climate resiliency through reduced water usage and improved water loss control. ...



**[MSBA to hold roundtable on ballot
questions Nov. 20](#)**

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is hosting a roundtable discussion via Zoom on Nov. 20 on the topic of local ballot question rules. ...



**[MMA webinar addresses
cybersecurity for municipalities](#)**

The MMA hosted a webinar on Oct. 15 on the minimum cybersecurity goals for municipalities. ...



[MMA-Suffolk kick off certificate programs](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University kicked off two Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs in September, in Barnstable and Winchester. ...



[Pittsfield to begin ecological restoration project in park](#)

A new phase in the cleanup and restoration of the Housatonic River is set to begin this fall, with ecological restoration in Kirvin Park, an active recreation area in the city of Pittsfield. ...



[Grant supports military base redevelopment in Weymouth](#)

State and local officials hope that a

\$32.4 million grant that Weymouth received this summer will help remove longstanding obstacles to the redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. ...



What to know about seasonal affective disorder

For some people, the significant loss of daylight that comes with the fall season can worsen their mood, sap energy, and impair concentration due to what's known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. ...



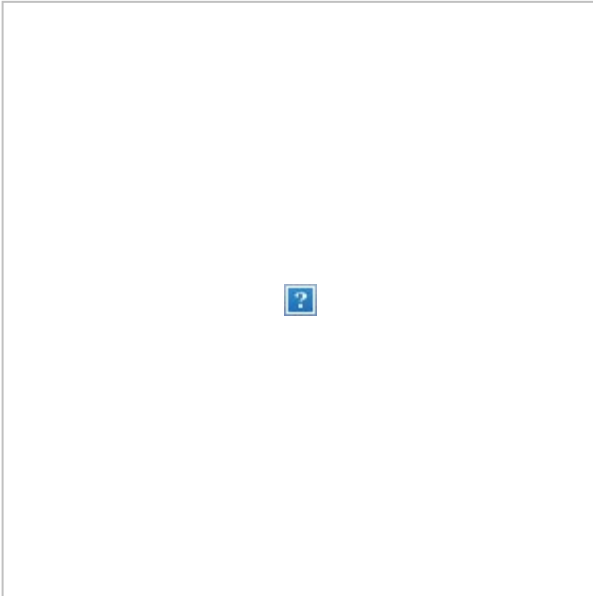
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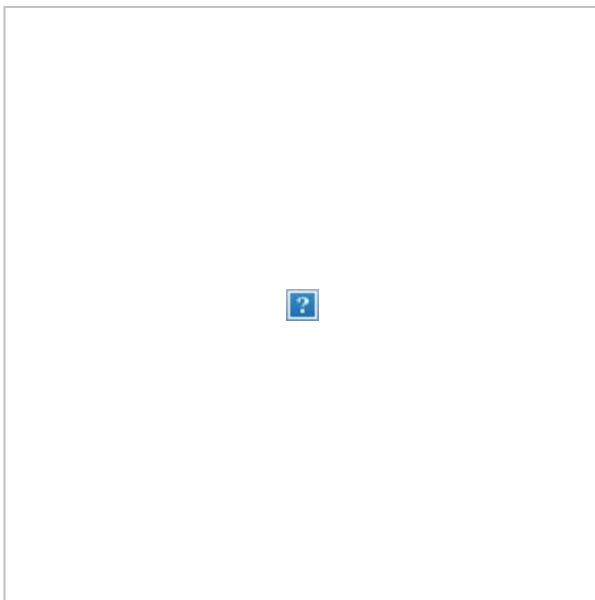


[A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures](#)

Published Oct. 9, The MMA and The Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University



[Register now](#) for Connect 351 in January! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video](#)!



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

['60 Minutes' reports on Chinese hacking of a Massachusetts town's utility network](#) - Boston Dot Com

[Hadley officials to discuss looming layoffs; fire Department facing cuts after failed override](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Methuen housing plan highlights growing senior population](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Taller, and made of timber, a new way to build affordable housing could soon rise in Cambridge](#) - Boston Globe

[Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo 'On the Record' about Halloween tourism, local challenges](#) - WCVB

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What We're Reading

[Applying a new lens on city storytelling](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Anybody passing through the concourse level of Philadelphia's Municipal Services Building to secure a business license or pay a water bill has probably noticed them: photographs of office windows looking out at skyscrapers, parking lots, thoroughfares. Each of them presents a different perspective of the city from within a civil servant's workplace, and they are interspersed with quotes from city employees describing what it means to them to deliver for residents every day.

Capturing people's attention is one of the first steps in successful storytelling. And, in today's fast-paced and fragmented media space, newsletters, press releases, and Facebook posts are rarely enough for city leaders looking to

connect with residents. That's what makes this effort in Philadelphia stand out. The work of Emilio Martínez Poppe, himself a city employee in New York City, the project powerfully conveys the determination and value of the people who patrol the streets, maintain the parks, and respond to resident complaints. And, in doing so, it offers a model for how cities can be more ambitious, more experimental and, ultimately, more effective in their outreach.

By thinking outside the box, Philadelphia—whose Mayor Cherelle Parker is a participant in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative—is offering lessons to local leaders everywhere as they seek to build trust, improve morale, and show that their city is ready to deliver."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[Navigating Student Debt with Savi webinar](#) - Oct. 22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Fall Mentorship Session](#) - Oct. 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 23

[Unlock MassDOT Funding for your Municipality webinar](#) - Nov. 6

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - Nov. 13

[Planning and Partnering for Impact: Best Practices for Municipal Opioid Settlement Funds webinar](#) - Nov. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 20-21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

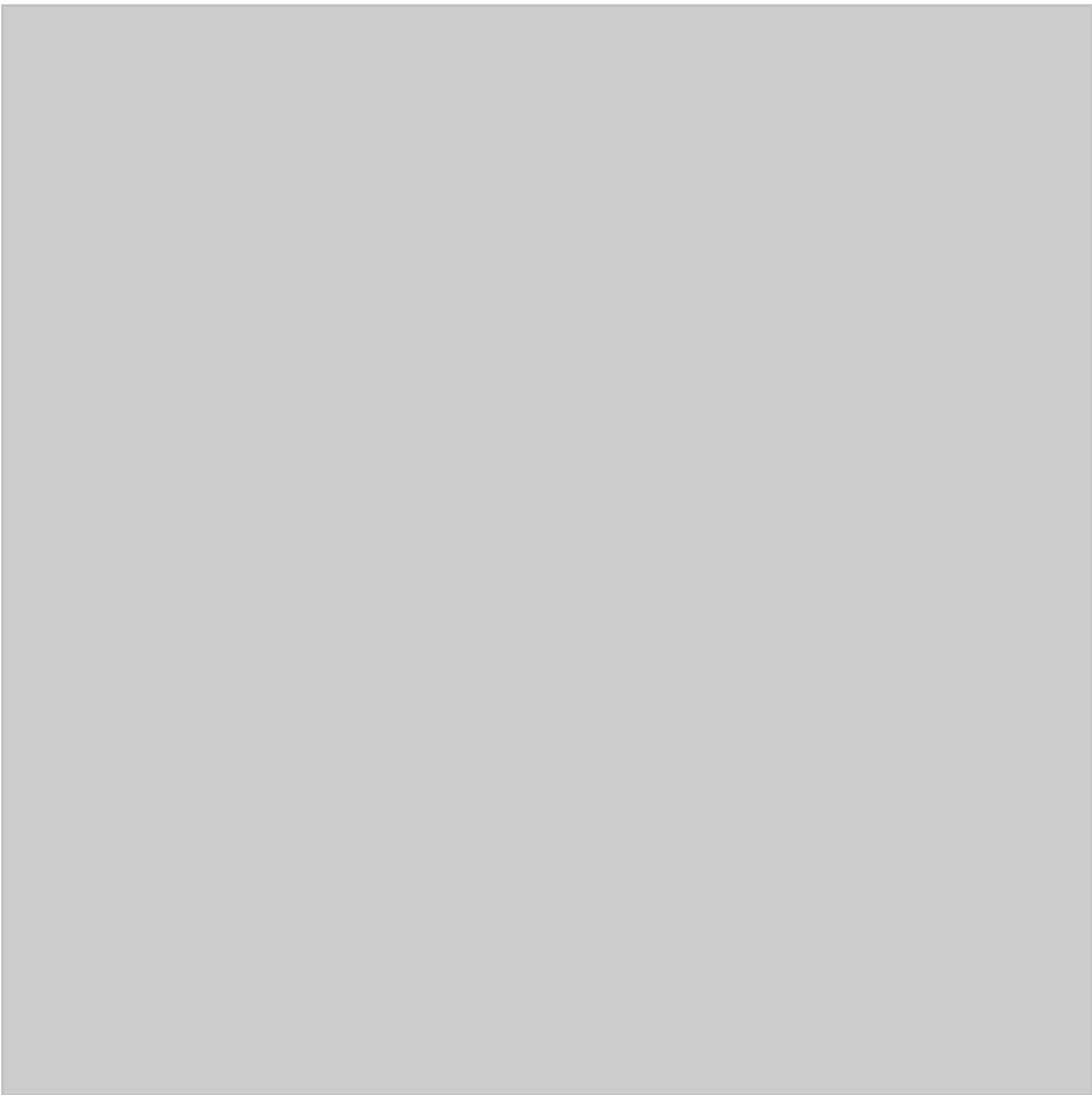
In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar to cover student loan debt strategies for public employees](#)
 - [MMLA to hold conference in Northampton on Oct. 23-24](#)
 - [State to host public hearings to review K-12 school finance formula](#)
 - [ASPA virtual meeting will explore government careers](#)
 - [ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Oct. 18](#)
 - [Survey seeks to assess how cities, towns engage with technology](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars Oct. 21 and 23](#)
 - [Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Runners took part in the Cape Code Marathon Weekend this past weekend in Falmouth. Races included a half-marathon on Oct. 11 (left) and a marathon on Oct. 12 (right). The course hugs the town's coastline, providing views of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Sound. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

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- [MIIA Medicare Specialist](#)

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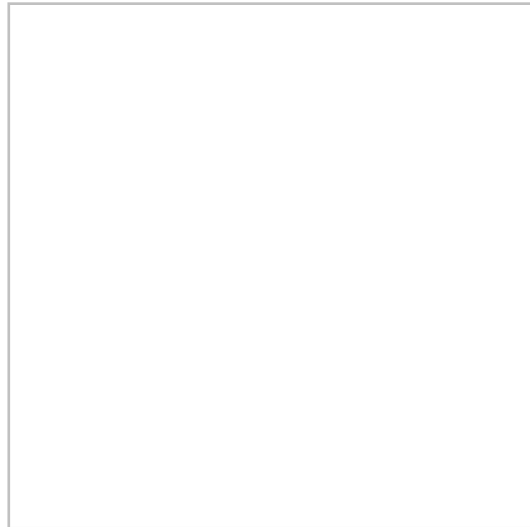
MMA Website Weekly Review

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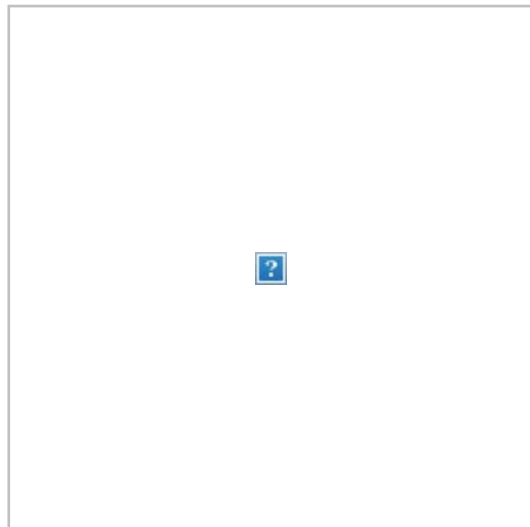
[Gov. Healey files FY24 state budget proposal](#)

Today Gov. Maura Healey filed her \$55.5 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2024, which includes funding for local accounts that she announced last week. ...



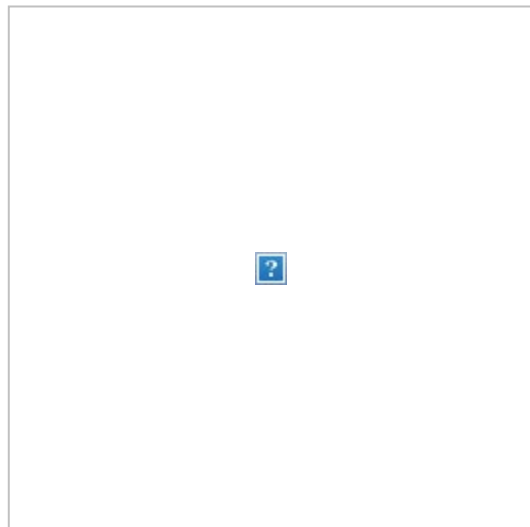
[MMA publishes March issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the March 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[House OK's budget bill with pandemic extensions](#)

Today the House passed a redrafted version of a \$282 million supplemental 2023 budget bill filed by Gov. Maura Healey in January that includes a majority of her "immediate needs" bond bill, as well as extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining. ...



[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

Registration is now open for the

MMA's spring series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on March 17 and March 24. ...



Housing task force files report

A special task force established to help determine the structure of a new housing secretariat and inform the process of filling the position has filed its report with Gov. Maura Healey. ...



Community One Stop for Growth accepting Expressions Of Interest

Community One Stop for Growth is accepting Expressions of Interest through March 17 from potential applicants prior to submitting a full application. ...



'Nero's Law' training deadline extended by a year

The Office of Emergency Medical

Services in the Department of Public Health has extended the compliance deadline for emergency medical service providers to be trained in police dog treatment and transport.

...

MMA to host social media best practices webinar on March 7

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 7 about how to use social media as a tool to communicate and engage with communities while complying with the unique requirements imposed on municipal officials. ...

Local Technical Assistance Program to host grant writing webinar on March 9

The Local Technical Assistance Program will host a free grant writing webinar on March 9 covering the basics of completing a grant or funding application and a method for approaching and completing applications. ...

MMA to host 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series

On March 15, the MMA will launch



“Reframing Recruitment,” a free monthly webinar series for appointed and elected municipal officials that will showcase timely hiring strategies that can set your community up for success. ...



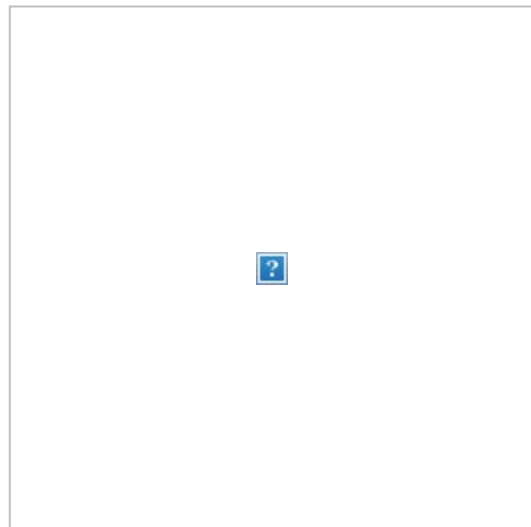
[MMA to host webinar on dealing with conflict March 28](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 28 will highlight strategies for effective conflict management. ...



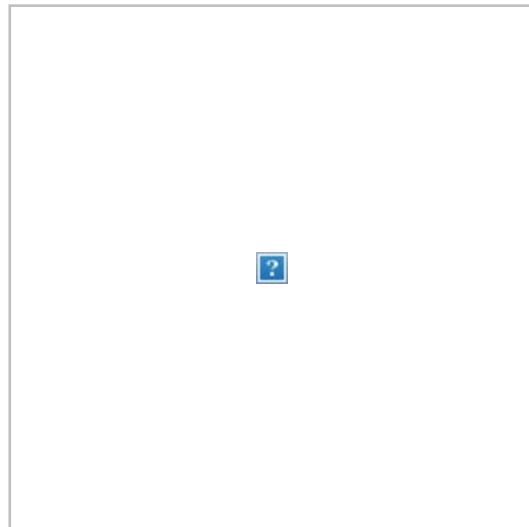
[TransitMatters publishes toolkit to promote 'Mobility Hubs'](#)

TransitMatters has published a new toolkit to help municipalities, nonprofits and other community leaders bring Mobility Hubs into their neighborhoods. ...



[Citizen Planner Training Collaborative annual conference is March 18](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its annual conference on March 18 in Worcester. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Budget-setting season kicks off on Beacon Hill](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

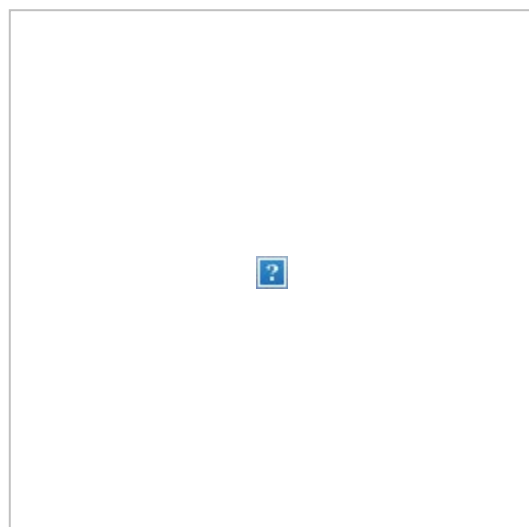
[MMA urges legislators to extend remote meeting authority](#)

On Feb. 24, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

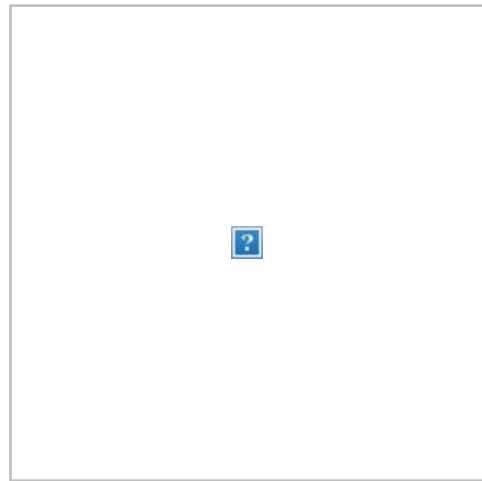
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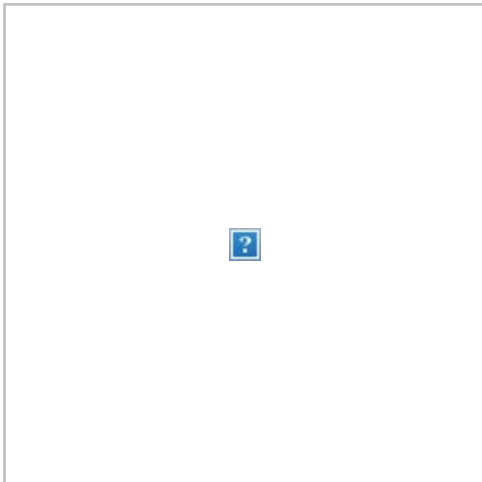
[MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show is March 23](#)

The MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show will be held on March 23 in Marlborough. ...



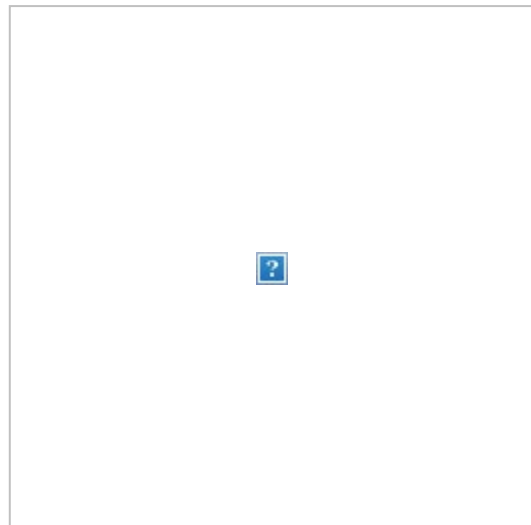
[NLC holding Congressional City Conference March 26-28](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 26-28, in Washington, DC. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

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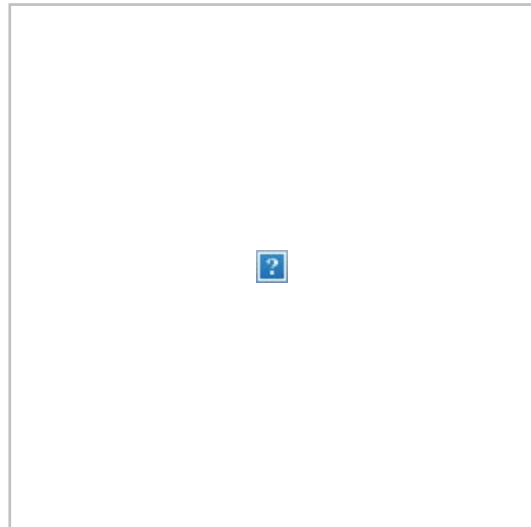
[CDBG application deadline coming soon](#)

The Department of Housing and Community Development is accepting applications for a round of Community Development Block Grants, with a deadline of March 3. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

Federal Funds Resource Area



New in COVID-19 Guidance

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[Social Media Best Practices Webinar](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Association webinar](#) - March 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Setting the Table – Vacancies and Advertising](#) - March 15

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Fairhaven and Tyngsborough\)](#) - March 17

[Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - March 23

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Adams and Westfield\)](#) - March 24

[Coping with Conflict Webinar](#) - March 28

[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 58 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Accountant, Library Director, Electrician, Public Health Nurse, Finance Director, Assistant Conservation Agent, Office Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Accounting Clerk. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



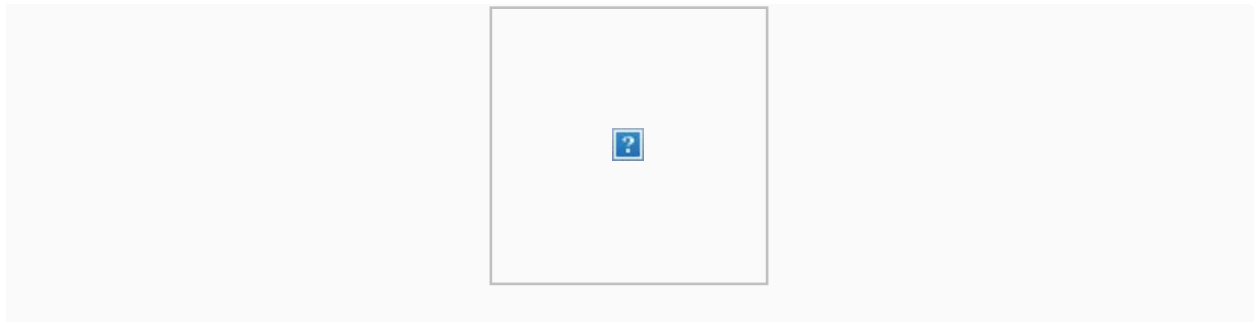
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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Gov. signs supplemental budget with pandemic-era extensions, key investments](#)

Gov. Maura Healey this afternoon signed a fiscal 2023 spending package that includes more than \$740 million in bonding

authorizations, \$389 million in supplemental spending, and a number of policy provisions, including extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining.

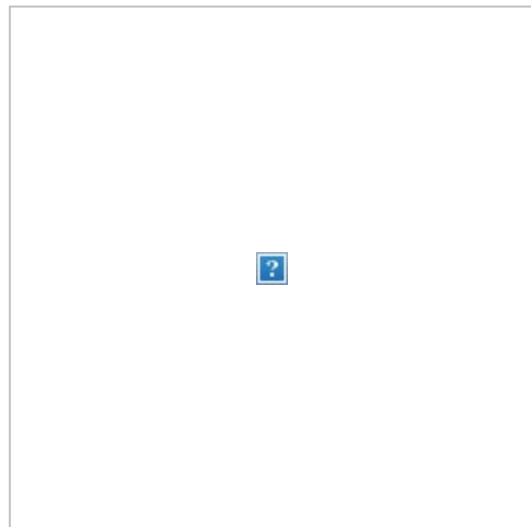
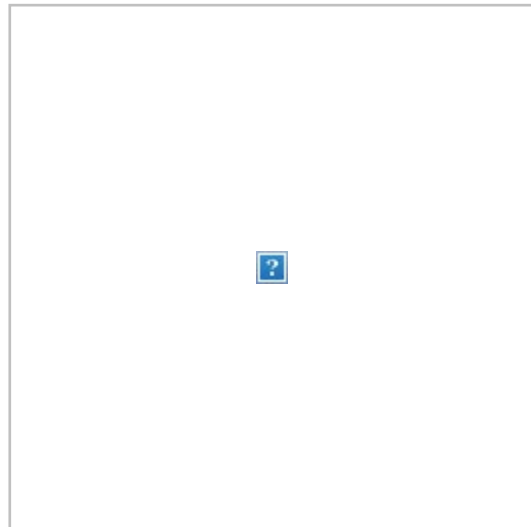
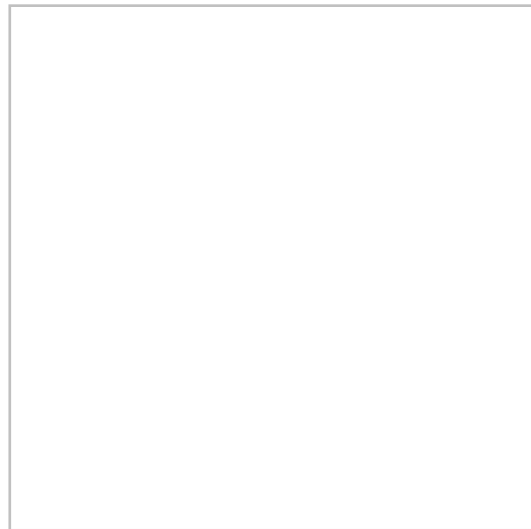
...

Senate passes Ch. 90 bill with small variations from House version

The Senate today passed a Chapter 90 bond bill that would level-fund the local road and bridge program at \$200 million for fiscal 2024, while also providing a total of \$150 million for six transportation-related programs. ...

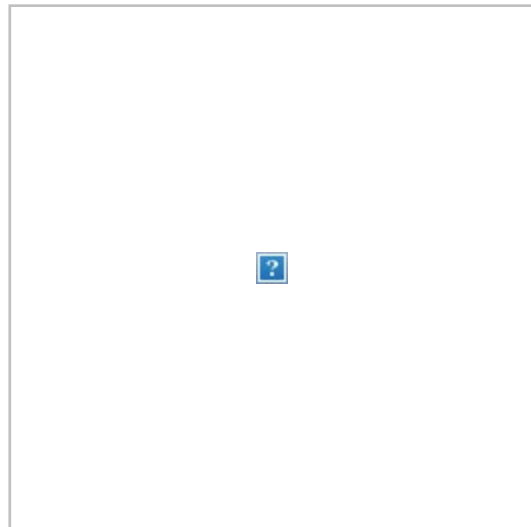
MMA holds spring Legislative Breakfast Meetings

On two Fridays in March, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for a series of four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



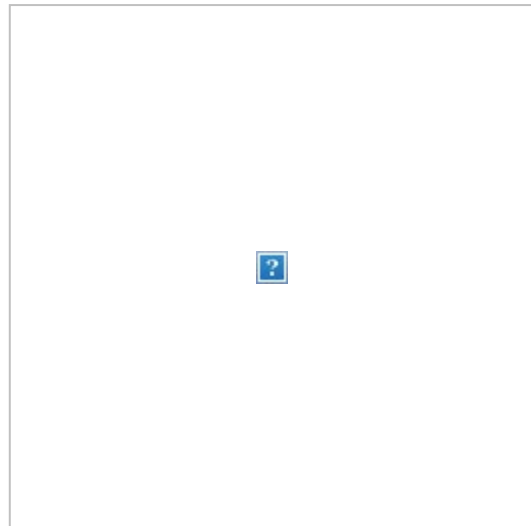
[**MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials**](#)

Amid a busy start for the 2023-24 legislative session and the new Healey-Driscoll administration, the MMA's Legislative team hosted a briefing webinar for local officials today to provide updates on key legislative matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



[**EPA seeks to regulate 6 PFAS in drinking water nationwide**](#)

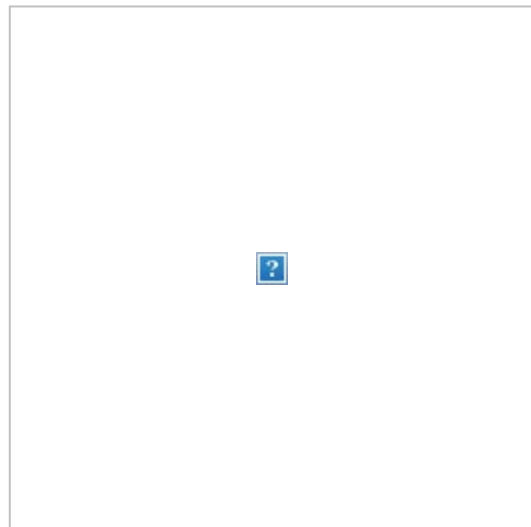
On March 14, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a new regulatory proposal to set enforceable limits on six PFAS, known as “forever chemicals,” in drinking water across the nation. ...



[**Administration announces end of COVID public health emergency**](#)

Three years after it began, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state's COVID-19 public health emergency will end on May 11, to align with the end of the federal public health emergency.

...



[**MMA webinar shares effective internal conflict resolution strategies**](#)

An MMA webinar today covered how to skillfully manage internal conflict, neutralize its negative effects, and maintain a positive and healthy work culture. ...



[2nd session of 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series is April 19](#)

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[MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



[Communities form new coalition to facilitate broadband efforts](#)

More than 25 cities and towns have

formed a coalition to facilitate networking among communities with broadband ambitions. ...



[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



New in [Resources](#)

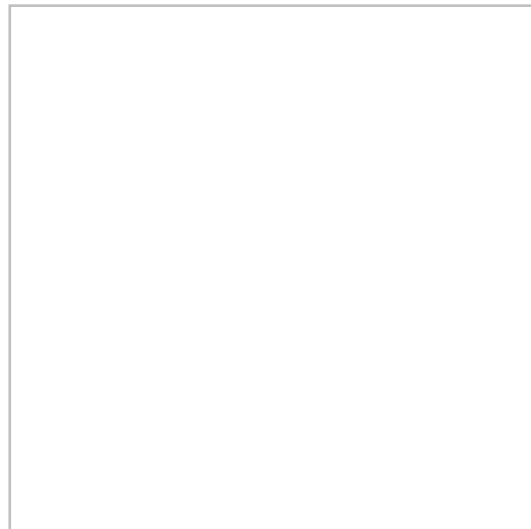
[Seven Strategies to Minimize Negative Impacts of Outdoor Light at Night](#)

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[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

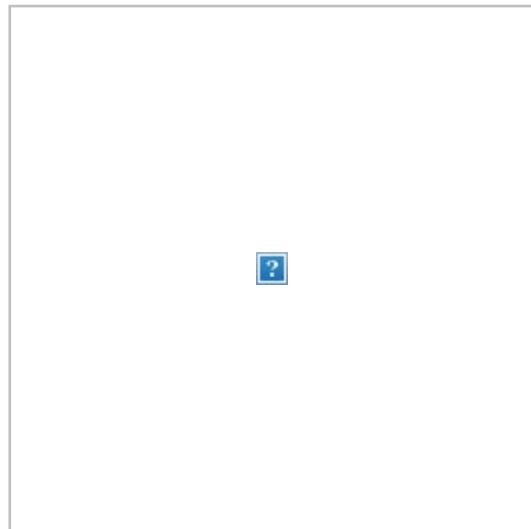
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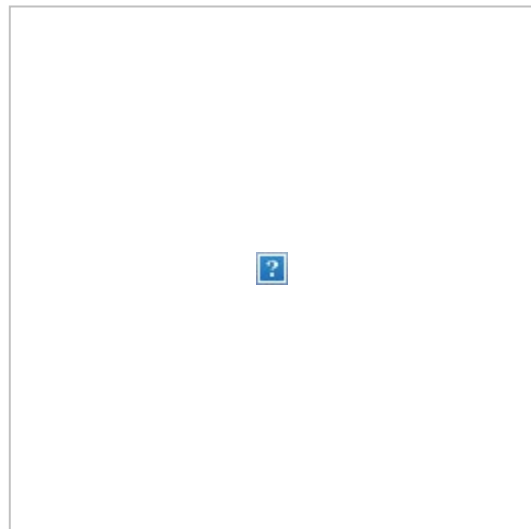
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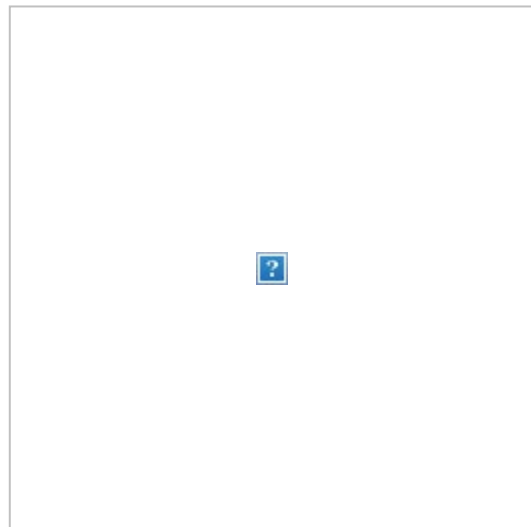
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Upcoming MMA Events

[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[MMA Policy Briefing Webinar: The Future of Cannabis & Municipalities](#) - April 6

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: The Interview Process](#) - April 19

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[View our entire event calendar](#)

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We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Director, Town Clerk, Youth Development Coordinator, Network

Engineer, Fire Chief, ARPA Grants Manager, Land Use Planner and Facilities Coordinator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[MMA hosts webinar on regulatory developments related to cannabis](#)

The MMA held a virtual briefing today to discuss regulatory developments at the Cannabis Control Commission and how regulations being developed for

three areas — host community agreements, municipal equity, and social consumption — will impact municipalities. ...

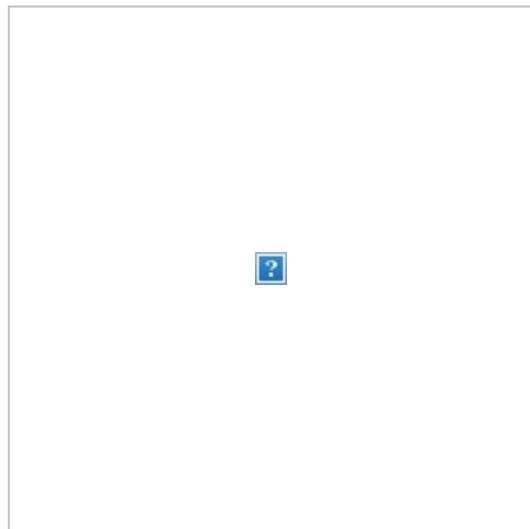
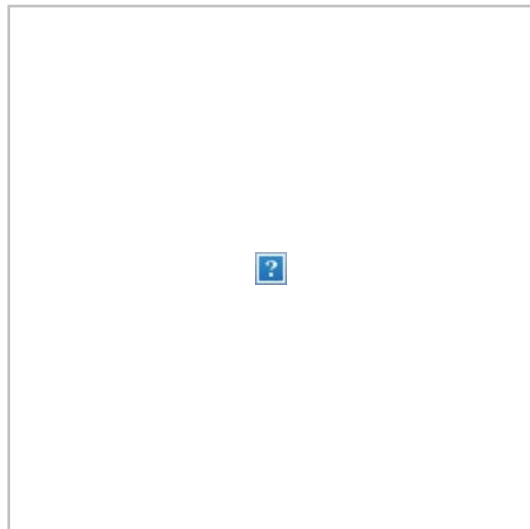
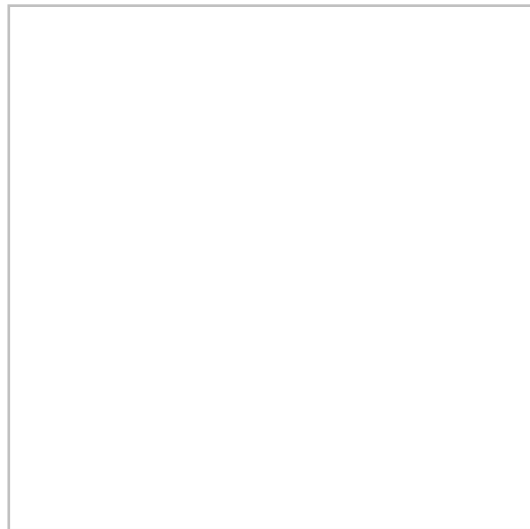
[**MMA publishes April issue of The Beacon**](#)

The MMA today published the April 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

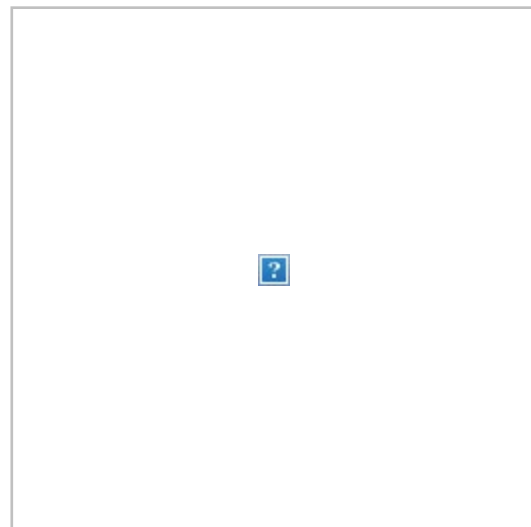
[**Officials discuss unique challenges facing western and rural Mass.**](#)

Municipal officials from across the western part of the state gathered on April 1 in Holyoke to hear from state officials and legislators about priorities and opportunities for collaboration. ...

[**MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program**](#)

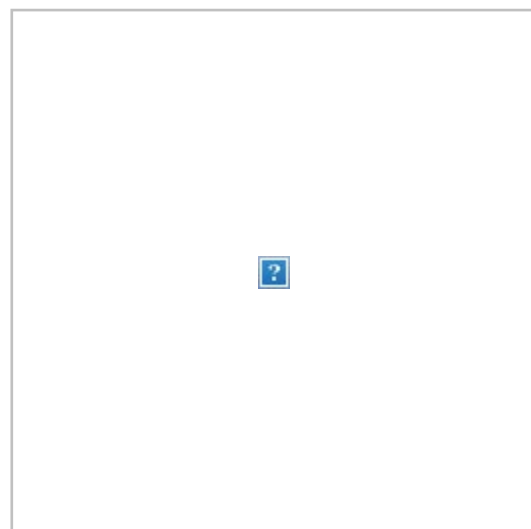


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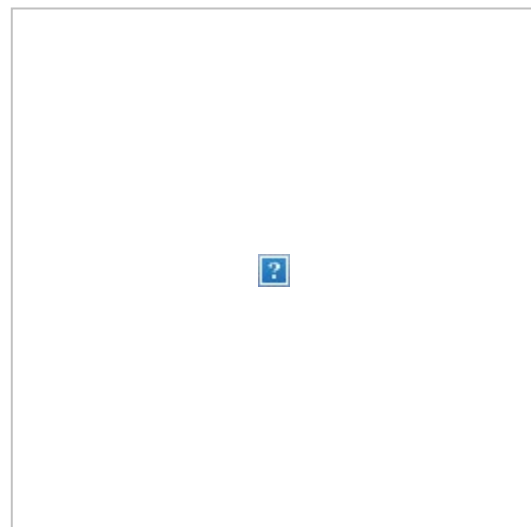
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Franklin County, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket team up to improve road safety

Relying on their shared rural character instead of geographic proximity, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and the communities of Franklin County are sharing a federal grant to improve road safety. ...



[Northampton creates new climate department](#)

Hoping to inject climate awareness into all of City Hall's operations, Northampton is assembling a new department that focuses on climate change and sustainability. ...



[Police turn to co-response protocol for mental health crises](#)

Local police departments are increasingly implementing "co-response" protocols for calls involving mental health crises, where a licensed social worker serves on department staff and responds to calls alongside police officers. ...



[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[DEI builds stronger, healthier communities](#)

On March 31, Executive Director's Report

[MMA joins firefighters, fire chiefs and ambulance association in asking legislators to help address staffing crisis impacting emergency medical service providers](#)

On March 31, Testimony

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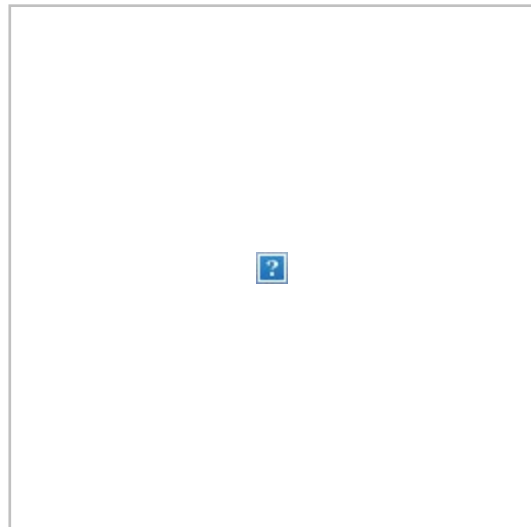
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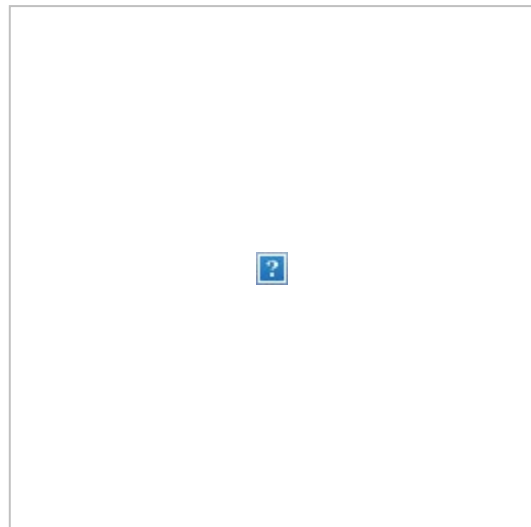
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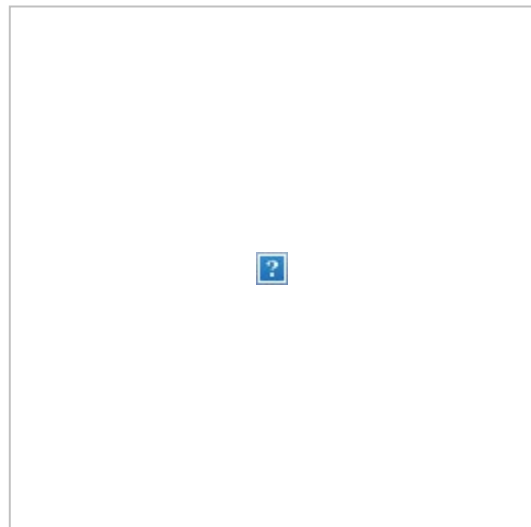
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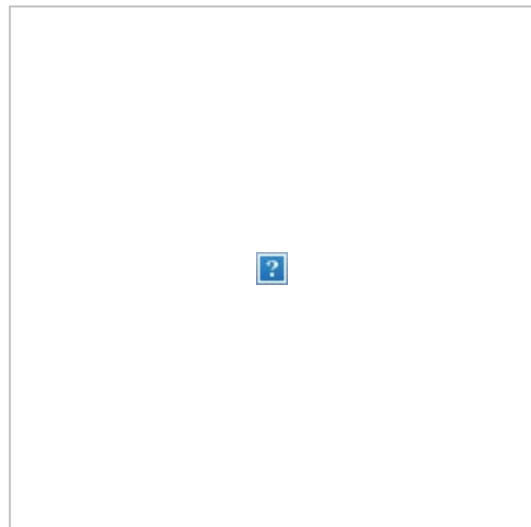
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[House releases FY24 state budget proposal](#)

The House Committee on Ways and Means today released a \$56.2 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2024 that will be taken up by the full House later this month. ...

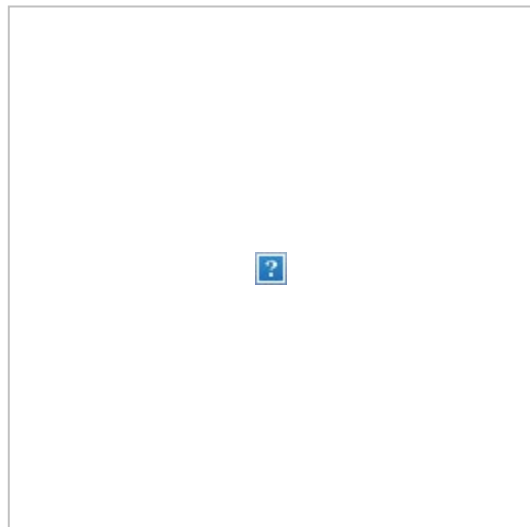
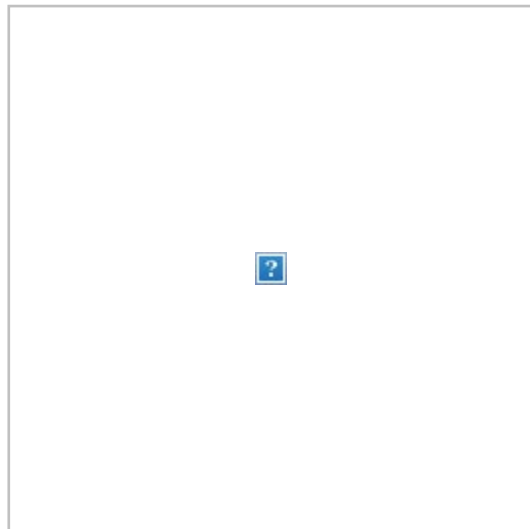
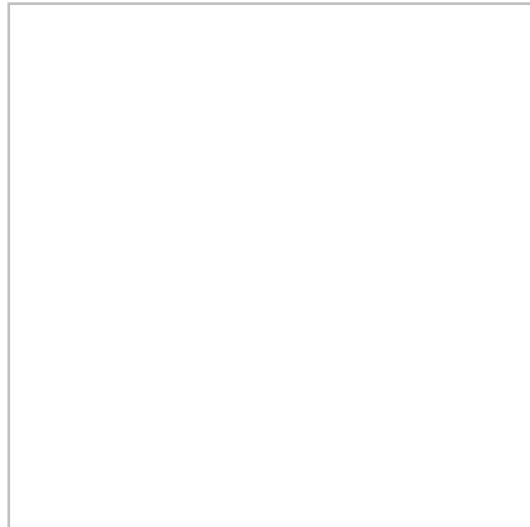
[Deadline is Friday for MSBA Core Program Statements of Interest](#)

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is reminding school districts that they have until Friday to submit Core Program Statements of Interest for consideration in 2023. ...

[MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Boylston on May 11](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 11 in Boylston. ...

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New in [Advocacy](#)

[In developing regulations, MMA urges CCC to avoid infringing on existing host community agreements](#)

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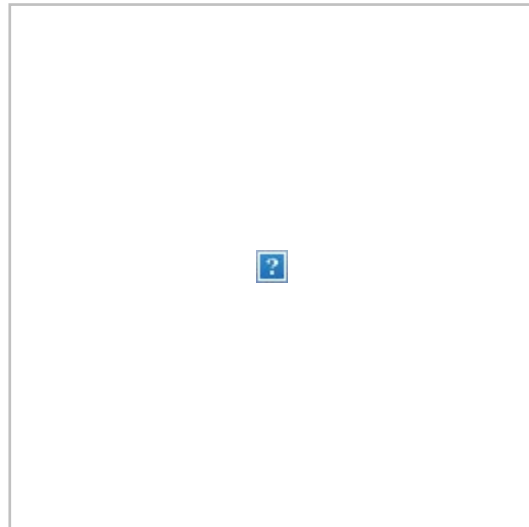


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[FY24 MVP Action Grant applications due May 4](#)

Applications are due by 2 p.m. on May 4 for fiscal 2024 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants, which offer financial assistance to communities seeking

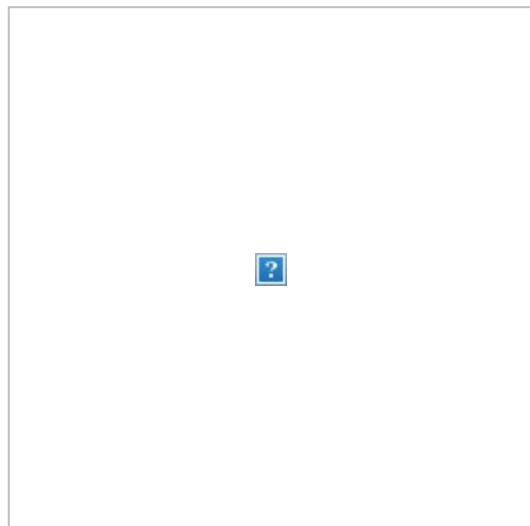
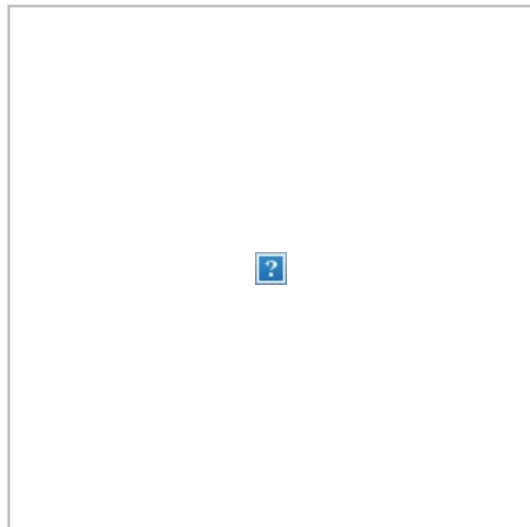
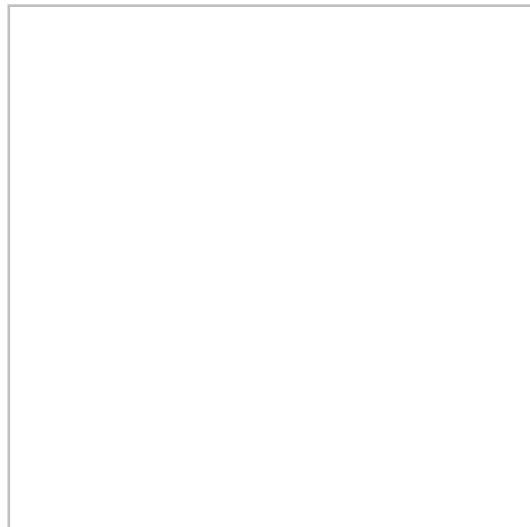
to address climate change impacts such as extreme weather and heat, sea level rise, flooding of inland and coastal areas, and other impacts. ...

[CCC working groups seek comment on regulatory areas under review](#)

Three working groups set up by the Cannabis Control Commission are seeking public comment through April 28 on areas where the CCC is reviewing its regulations and considering policy changes that respond to a comprehensive cannabis law enacted in August 2022. ...

[Administration awards \\$1.3B in loans, grants for water infrastructure projects](#)

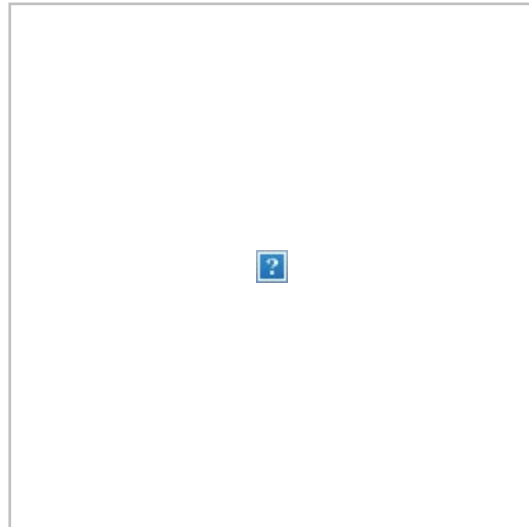
On April 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced that 185 projects across the Commonwealth are eligible to receive approximately \$1.3 billion in low-interest-rate loans and grants to fund construction, planning and asset management projects designed to improve water quality, upgrade or replace aging drinking water and wastewater



infrastructure, and cut treatment plant energy use and costs. ...

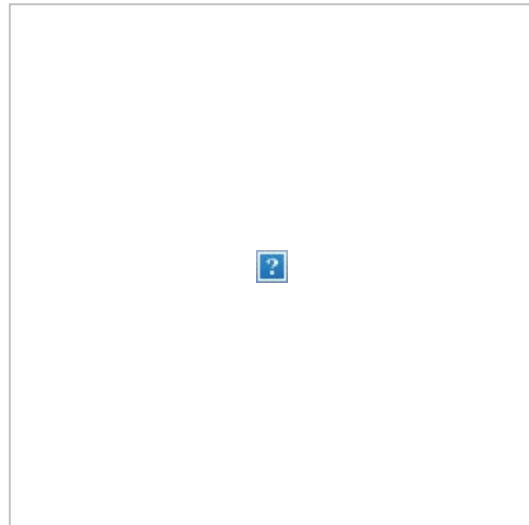
[Grants awarded for municipal clean energy projects](#)

On April 10, the Department of Energy Resources awarded 24 grants totaling \$344,736 to cities and towns across the Commonwealth to support clean energy projects. ...



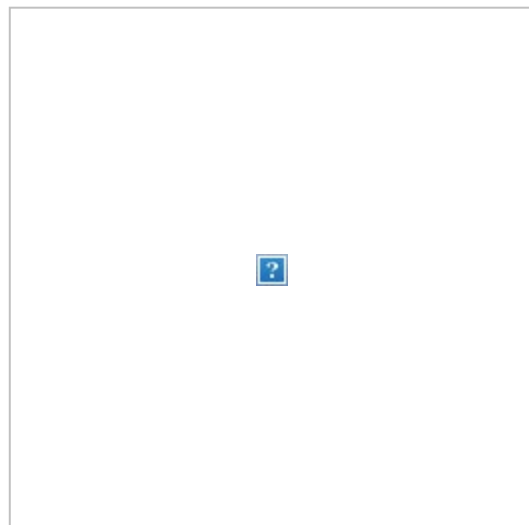
[CISA and partners release 'Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities'](#)

An international coalition of cybersecurity agencies today announced the publication of "Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities." ...



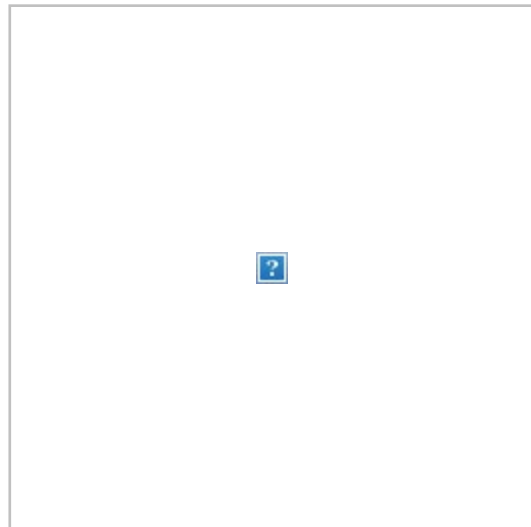
[AG reminds employers about laws for youth employment](#)

With summer employment on the horizon, the office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell is reminding municipal officials of the laws relating to employment of workers under the age of 18. ...



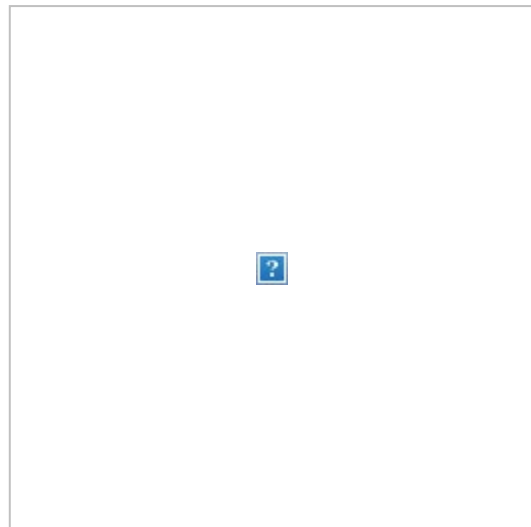
[Interview process is topic of 2nd 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar](#)

The MMA today hosted the second in a series of webinars for municipal officials to showcase timely hiring strategies to help communities succeed in a tight labor market. ...



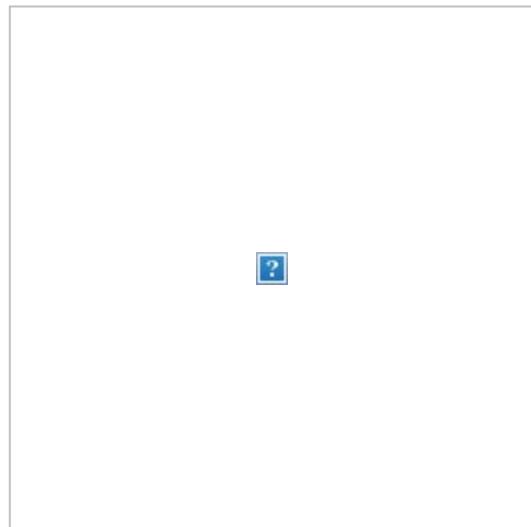
[MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



[MunEnergy to hold webinar on summer energy costs](#)

The MunEnergy program will hold a one-hour webinar on May 10 beginning at 11:30 a.m. to provide timely information about summer energy costs and sustainability opportunities for cities and towns. ...



[MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Boylston on May 11](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 11 in Boylston. ...



[May 23 webinar to offer practical guidelines for affordable housing](#)

A free MMA webinar on May 23 will discuss the “why” behind affordable housing and highlight the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...



[Newly enhanced BioMap available to support local conservation efforts](#)

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy have enhanced an online resource, known as BioMap, that identifies critical lands and waters throughout Massachusetts most in need of conservation. ...



[MMA urges House members to support and build on impressive investments in House budget bill](#)

On April 20, Testimony

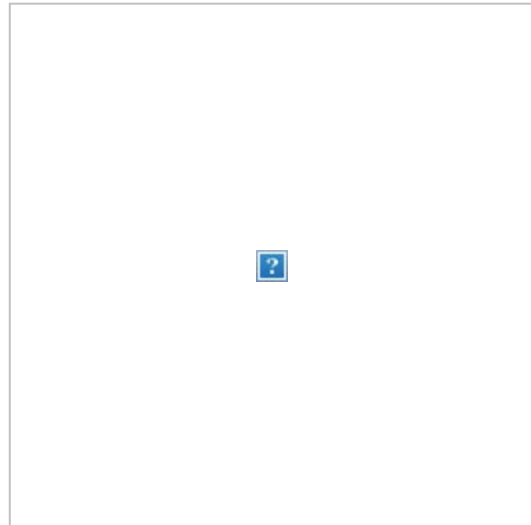
New in [Resources](#)

[Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities](#)

In Case You Missed It

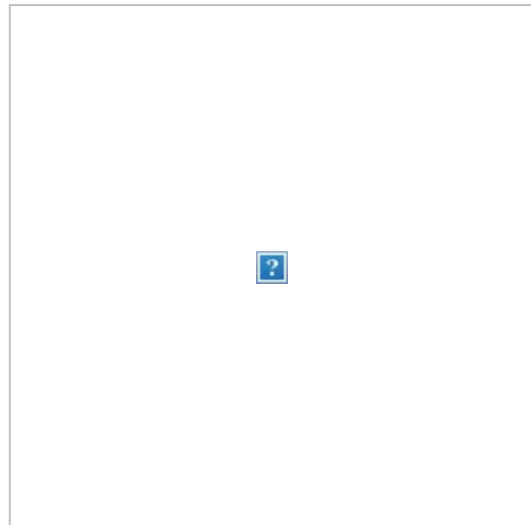
[MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program](#)

The application deadline is April 30 for the MMA and Suffolk University's Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs scheduled for this fall. ...



[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



[Tech support available through](#)

[federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



[Electric and alternative vehicle charging infrastructure grant opens](#)

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI program), a new competitive grant program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration, is accepting applications through May 30. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Webinar](#) - April 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association statewide meeting](#) - April 27

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium](#) - April 28

[Association of Town Finance Committees Spring Conference](#) - April 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources HR101 bootcamp](#) - May 11

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: What Happens After the Offer](#) - May 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association webinar](#) - May 18

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects and Grant Manager, Park and Tree Superintendent, Head Clerk, City Treasurer/Collector, Economic Development Planner, Data Analyst and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[House approves \\$56.2B state budget for FY24](#)

On Wednesday evening, the House of Representatives approved a \$56.2 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2024 that would increase Unrestricted General Government

Aid by 1.6% over the current year and significantly increase Chapter 70 school aid, in part by doubling minimum new aid to \$60 per pupil. ...

[MMA advertises executive director position, outlines schedule](#)

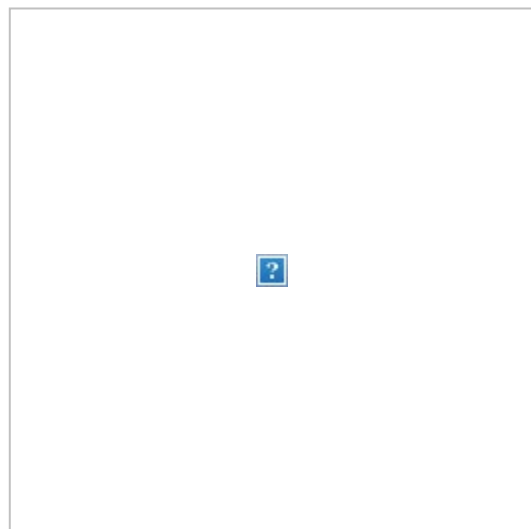
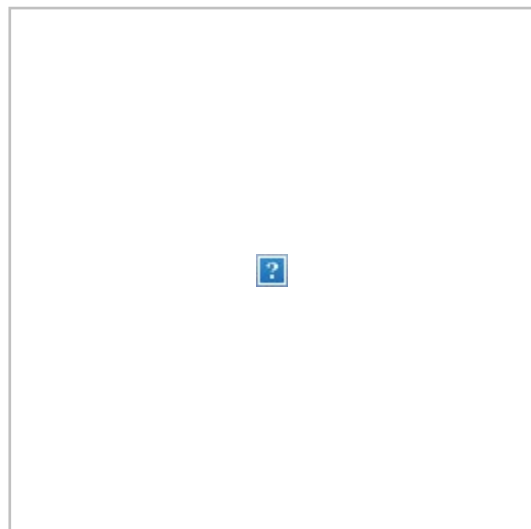
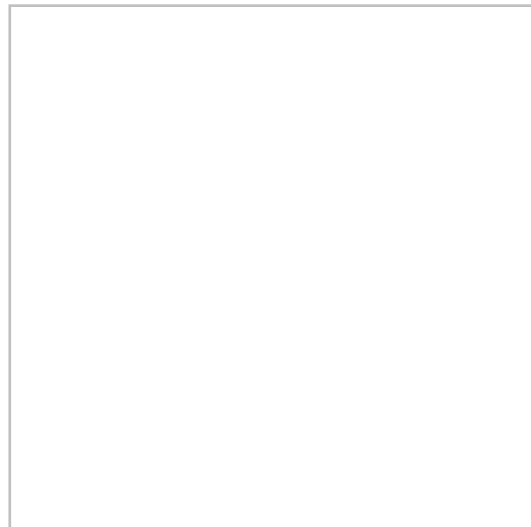
On April 21, the MMA published the job advertisement, along with a brochure, for the next executive director of the association. ...

[Gov. Healey announces next phase of climate resilience grant program](#)

Gov. Maura Healey and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper have announced a relaunch of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program's planning component, which they're calling MVP 2.0. ...

[Administration can move forward with new housing secretariat](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration



can now move forward with its plans to divide the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development into two separate offices, creating a new Office of Housing and Livable Communities and renaming the current office to the Office on Economic Development. ...

Chapter 90 bills await reconciliation

With the Legislature focused on the state budget process, the Chapter 90 bond bills passed by both the House and Senate in March have yet to be reconciled. ...

Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...

Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications

Back for its second year of awards,



the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. ...



[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



[MMA webinar covers public records and open meeting laws](#)

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[Third 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar is May 17](#)

"What Happens After the Offer," the

third session in the MMA's monthly "Reframing Recruitment" webinar series, will be held on May 17 at noon. ...



[MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Boylston on May 11](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 11 in Boylston. ...



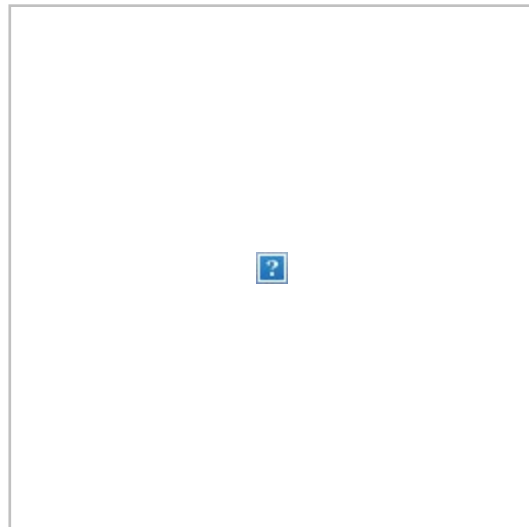
[May 23 webinar to offer practical guidelines for affordable housing](#)

A free MMA webinar on May 23 will discuss the "why" behind affordable housing and highlight the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...



[Former Beverly school to be reused as affordable housing for seniors and artists](#)

The city of Beverly held a ceremonial groundbreaking with state and local officials on March 6 at the site of a new housing project that will have 85 units for low-income seniors along with six live/work studio spaces for artists. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

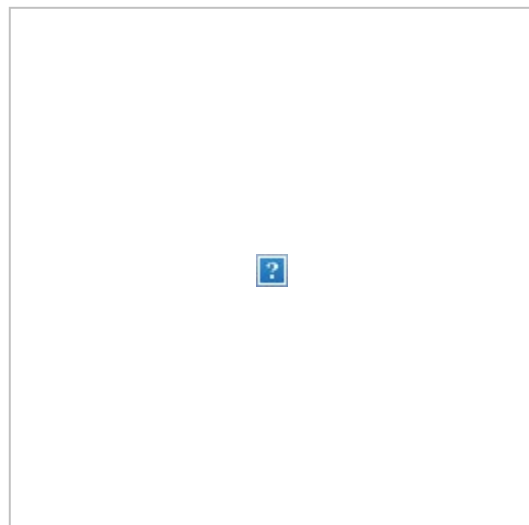
[MMA opposes costly bills that would move municipal employees into different retirement groups, increasing pension and health liabilities](#)

On April 21, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program](#)

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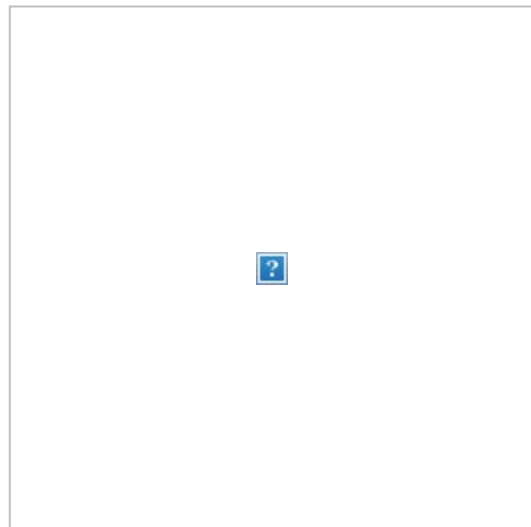
[FY24 MVP Action Grant applications due May 4](#)

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[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

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The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI program), a new competitive grant program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration, is accepting applications through May 30. ...



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[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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Upcoming MMA Events

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[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA

[MMA Executive Director & CEO](#)

[Member Program Coordinator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 61 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Energy Advocate, Health Inspector, Town Accountant, Assistant Town Clerk, Finance Director, Executive Assistant, Deputy Commissioner and City Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Senate passes \\$55.9B state budget for FY24](#)

The Senate last night approved a \$55.9 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that would increase discretionary local aid by 3.2% and provide \$60 per student in minimum

new Chapter 70 aid. ...

Sen. Anne Gobi named as director of rural affairs

Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced today that Sen. Anne Gobi will join the administration as the new director of rural affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development. ...

MMA webinar offers practical guidance for affordable housing

The MMA today hosted a webinar that explored the “why” behind affordable housing and emphasized the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...

Management Association, DLS discuss role of assessors

The local assessing function was the



topic of a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association webinar on May 18 led by Chris Wilcock, chief of the Bureau of Local Assessment at the Division of Local Services. ...



MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



Final ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar is June 14

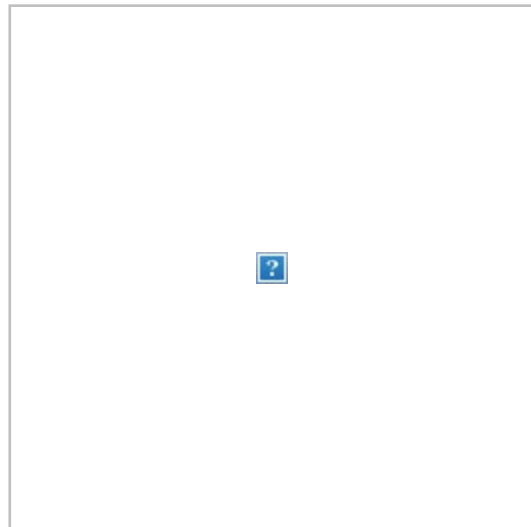
“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



Moderators Association to hold workshop for new moderators June 7

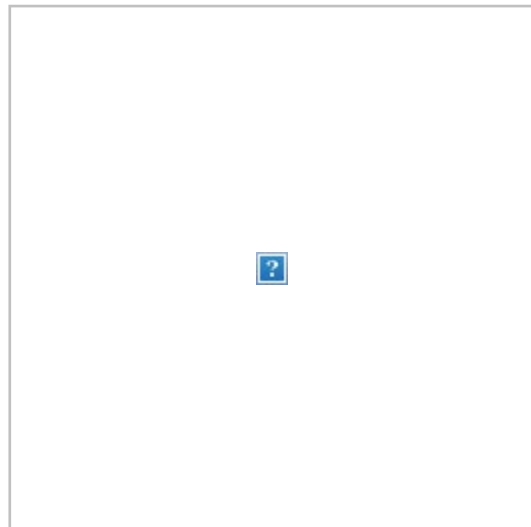
The Massachusetts Moderators Association will hold a free workshop for newly elected moderators on June 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom.

...



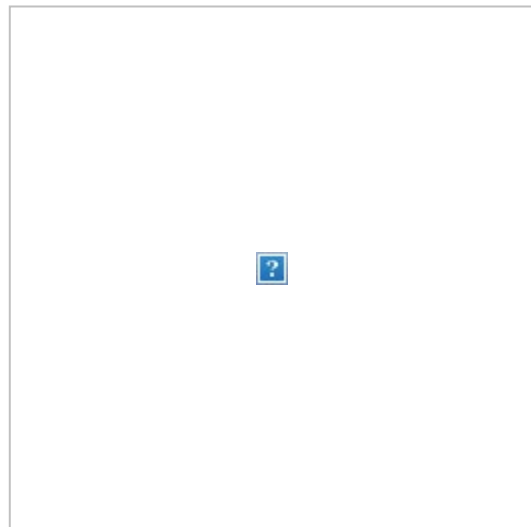
[MBLC to hold webinar on library operations and statutory requirements](#)

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will host a webinar for municipal leaders on June 15 to provide an overview of library operations, procedures and statutory requirements. ...



[Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



In Case You Missed It

[Administration makes additional grants available for housing production](#)

At the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting with local officials from across the state this afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the availability of additional funding for municipalities to support community planning and engagement efforts geared toward increasing the production of housing.

...

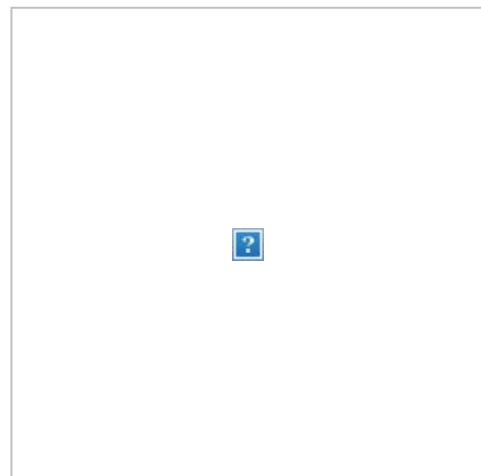
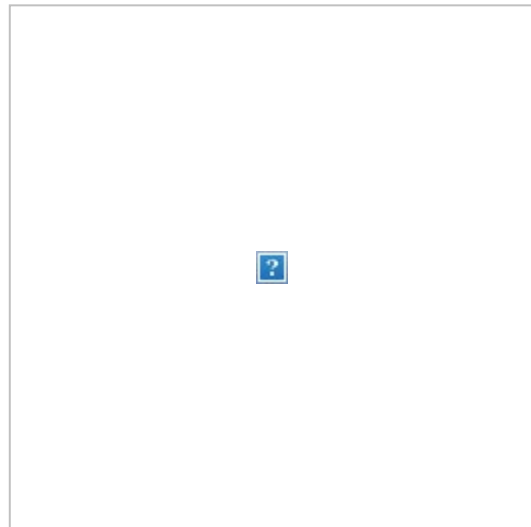
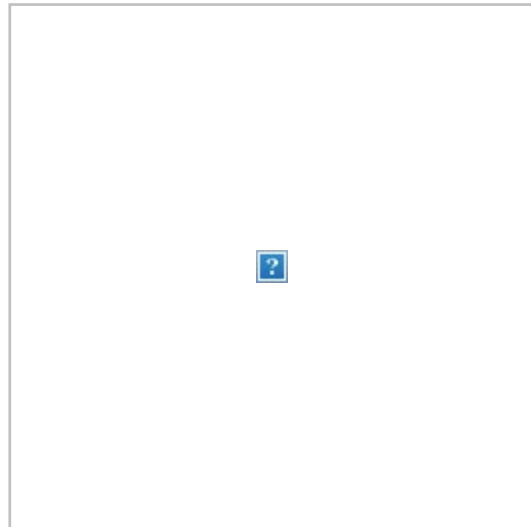
[MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7 in Boston](#)

The MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show will be held on June 7 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...

[Performance Recognition Program nomination process opens](#)

The Human Resources Division has opened the nomination process for the Commonwealth's Performance Recognition Program, which has been publicly acknowledging the outstanding performance of public employees for 38 years. ...

[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)



**[Awareness Grant Program
accepting applications](#)**

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...



**[Infrastructure workforce
development grants available](#)**

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



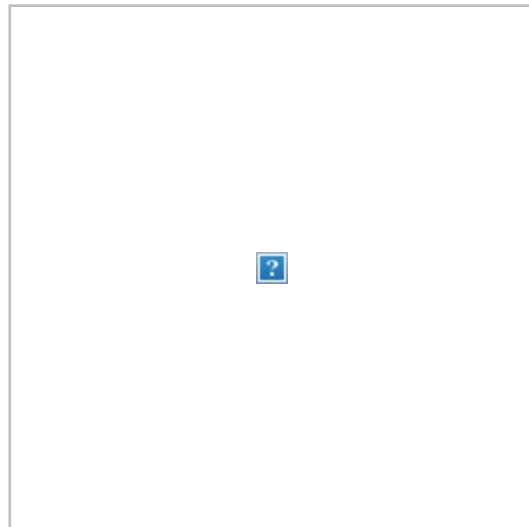
**[Safe Streets and Roads for All
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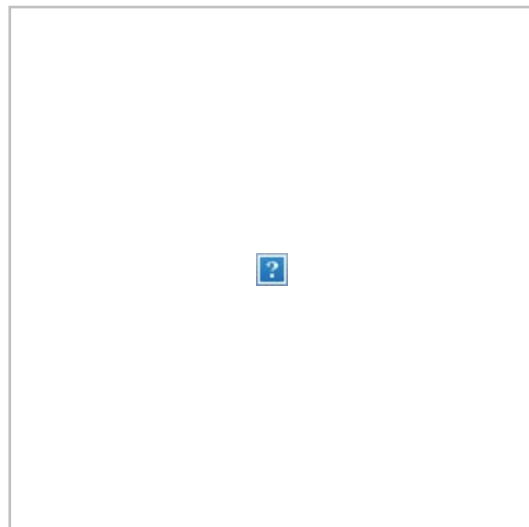
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: The Legal and Operational Perspective webinar](#) - June 5

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: De-Escalation Strategies for Uncivilized Discourse webinar](#) - June 12

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

[Wellness Representative](#)

[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

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We've added 54 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Administrator, Town Engineer, Veterans Services Officer, Deputy Fire Chief, Community Development Accountant, HR Generalist and Director of Public Works. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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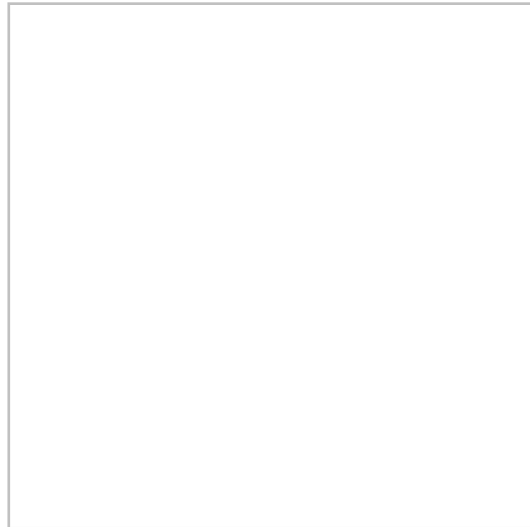
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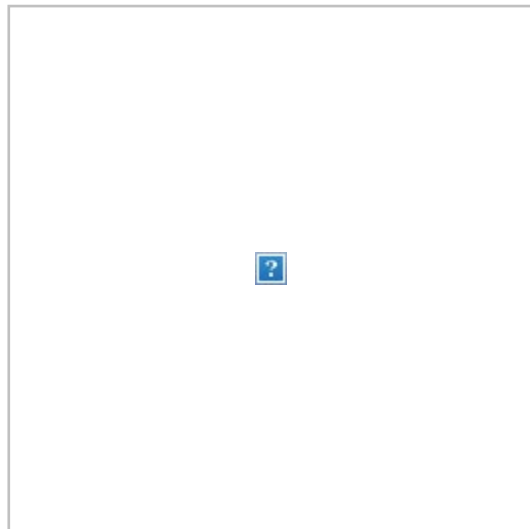
[Gov. Healey files FY24 state budget proposal](#)

Today Gov. Maura Healey filed her \$55.5 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2024, which includes funding for local accounts that she announced last week. ...



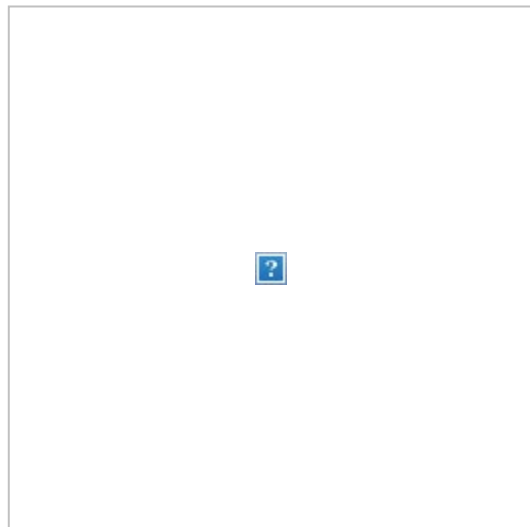
[MMA publishes March issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the March 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[House OK's budget bill with pandemic extensions](#)

Today the House passed a redrafted version of a \$282 million supplemental 2023 budget bill filed by Gov. Maura Healey in January that includes a majority of her "immediate needs" bond bill, as well as extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining. ...



[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

Registration is now open for the

MMA's spring series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on March 17 and March 24. ...



Housing task force files report

A special task force established to help determine the structure of a new housing secretariat and inform the process of filling the position has filed its report with Gov. Maura Healey. ...



Community One Stop for Growth accepting Expressions Of Interest

Community One Stop for Growth is accepting Expressions of Interest through March 17 from potential applicants prior to submitting a full application. ...



'Nero's Law' training deadline extended by a year

The Office of Emergency Medical

Services in the Department of Public Health has extended the compliance deadline for emergency medical service providers to be trained in police dog treatment and transport.

...



MMA to host social media best practices webinar on March 7

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 7 about how to use social media as a tool to communicate and engage with communities while complying with the unique requirements imposed on municipal officials. ...



Local Technical Assistance Program to host grant writing webinar on March 9

The Local Technical Assistance Program will host a free grant writing webinar on March 9 covering the basics of completing a grant or funding application and a method for approaching and completing applications. ...



MMA to host 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series

On March 15, the MMA will launch

“Reframing Recruitment,” a free monthly webinar series for appointed and elected municipal officials that will showcase timely hiring strategies that can set your community up for success. ...



[MMA to host webinar on dealing with conflict March 28](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 28 will highlight strategies for effective conflict management. ...



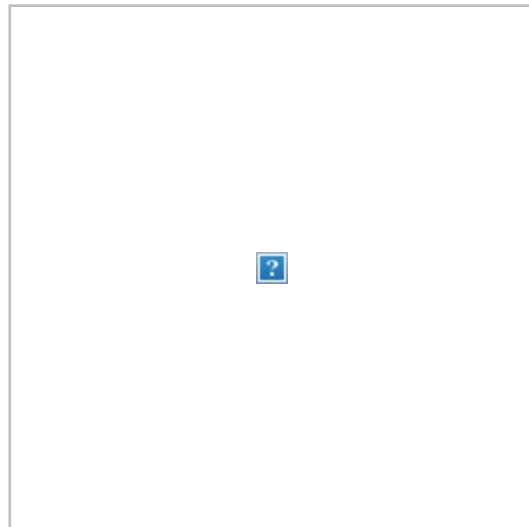
[TransitMatters publishes toolkit to promote 'Mobility Hubs'](#)

TransitMatters has published a new toolkit to help municipalities, nonprofits and other community leaders bring Mobility Hubs into their neighborhoods. ...



[Citizen Planner Training Collaborative annual conference is March 18](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its annual conference on March 18 in Worcester. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Budget-setting season kicks off on Beacon Hill](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

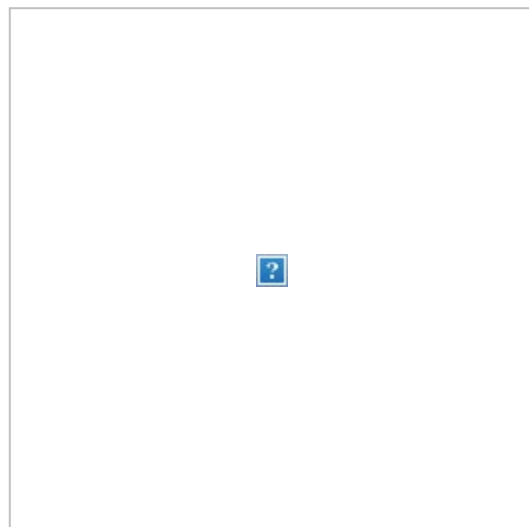
[MMA urges legislators to extend remote meeting authority](#)

On Feb. 24, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

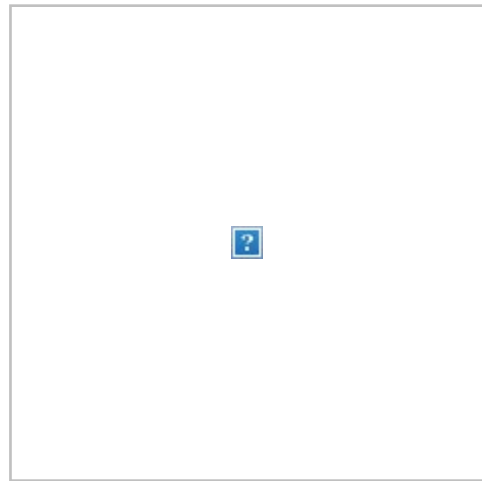
[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Administration is accepting project proposals and grant applications through April 13 for the Low or No Emission (Low-No) and Buses and Bus Facilities grant programs. ...



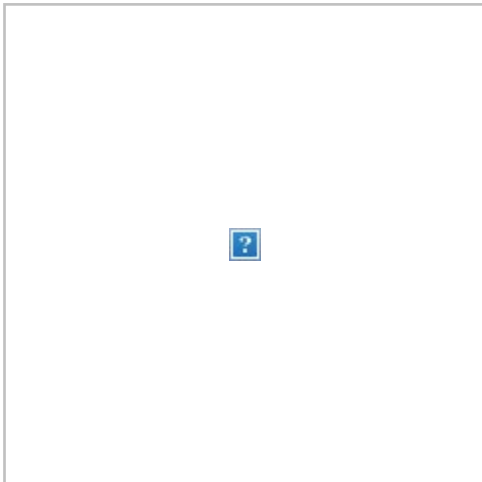
[MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show is March 23](#)

The MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show will be held on March 23 in Marlborough. ...



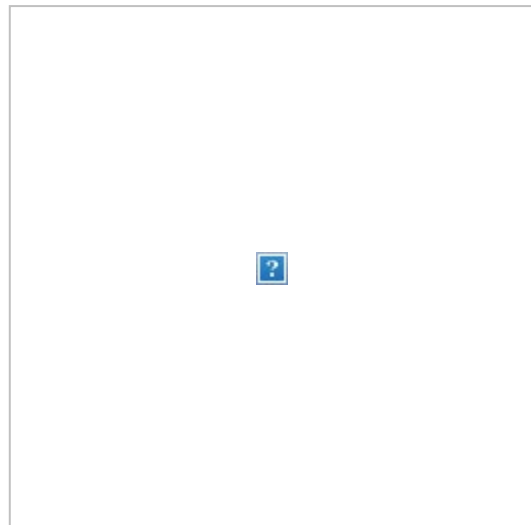
[NLC holding Congressional City Conference March 26-28](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 26-28, in Washington, DC. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

MassHousing has opened the application period for the Planning for Housing Production Grant Program, which provides cities and towns with the technical capacity needed to implement local planning and transform priority development sites into new affordable homes. ...



[Municipalities must respond by April 18 for additional opioid settlement funds](#)

In late 2022, the Attorney General's Office announced proposed opioid

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[MMA launches Mass Municipal Data Hub](#)

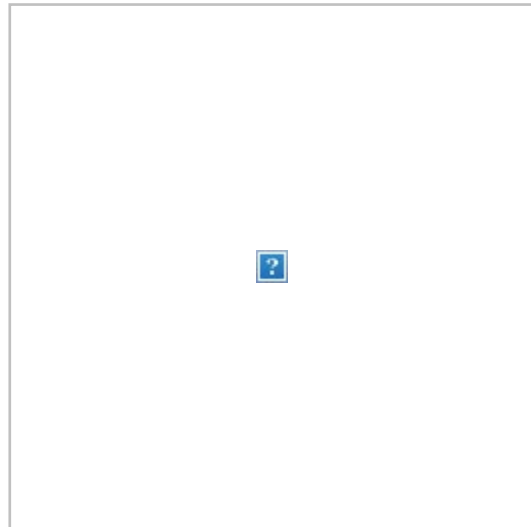
Just hours before its Annual Meeting began on Jan. 20, the MMA launched a new, online members service: the Mass Municipal Data Hub. ...

[CDBG application deadline coming soon](#)

The Department of Housing and Community Development is accepting applications for a round of Community Development Block Grants, with a deadline of March 3. ...



[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[Social Media Best Practices Webinar](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Association webinar](#) - March 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Setting the Table – Vacancies and Advertising](#) - March 15

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Fairhaven and Tyngsborough\)](#) - March 17

[Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - March 23

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Adams and Westfield\)](#) - March 24

[Coping with Conflict Webinar](#) - March 28

[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 58 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Accountant, Library Director, Electrician, Public Health Nurse, Finance Director, Assistant Conservation Agent, Office Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Accounting Clerk. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



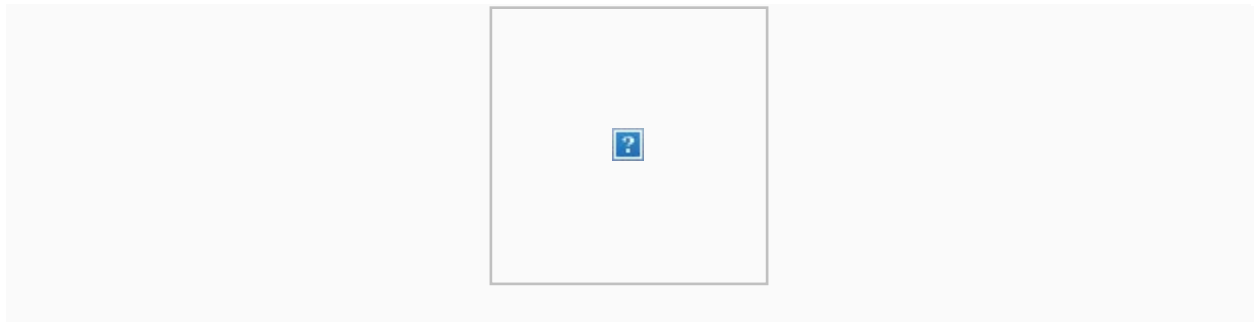
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MMA Website Weekly Review

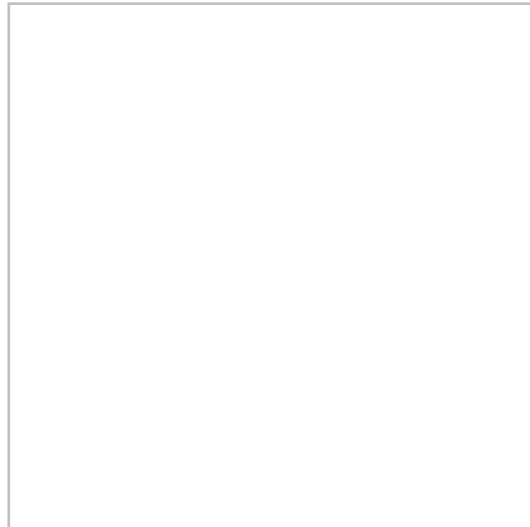
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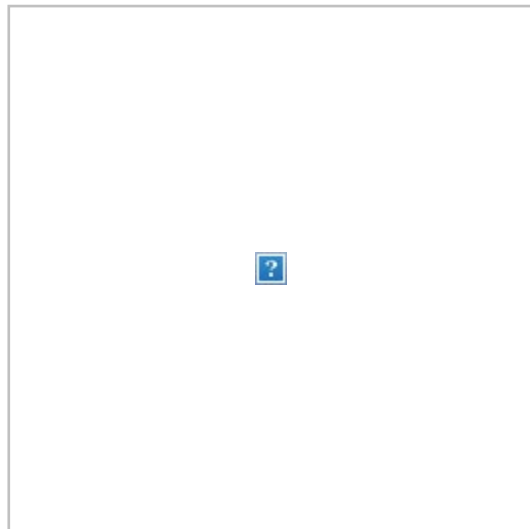
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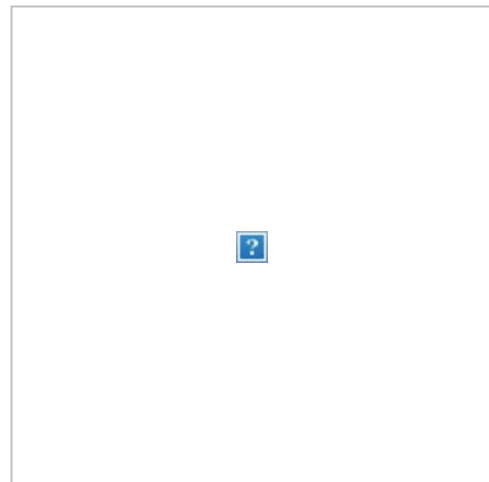
MMA testifies in support of wage equity push

The MMA testified on May 9 in support of a group of bills intended to close gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



NLC report: SLFRF funds not affected by debt ceiling agreement

As the U.S. Congress and the president work to lift the federal debt ceiling, the National League of Cities is reporting that State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act are not at risk of rescission by the federal government. ...



Training for newly elected select board members is June 9

On June 9, the Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a

free training session for newly elected select board members to help them have a successful start in their new role. ...



[MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case](#)

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



[Final ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar is June 14](#)

“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



[Sustainable materials recovery program grant applications due June 14](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has opened the application period for a new round of Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants. ...



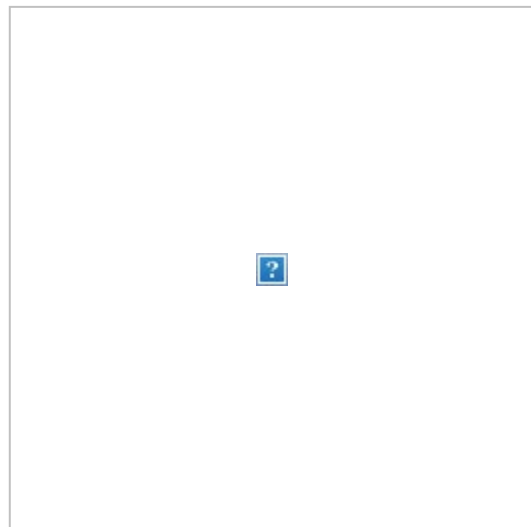
[Broadband and Digital Equity Summit is June 13](#)

A Broadband and Digital Equity Summit on June 13 at Union Station in Worcester will bring together state, local and federal government officials, as well as representatives from industry, community organizations and others, to discuss the once-in-a-generation federal investment coming to the Commonwealth to close the digital divide and provide internet for all. ...



[Federal, state clean school bus programs accepting applications](#)

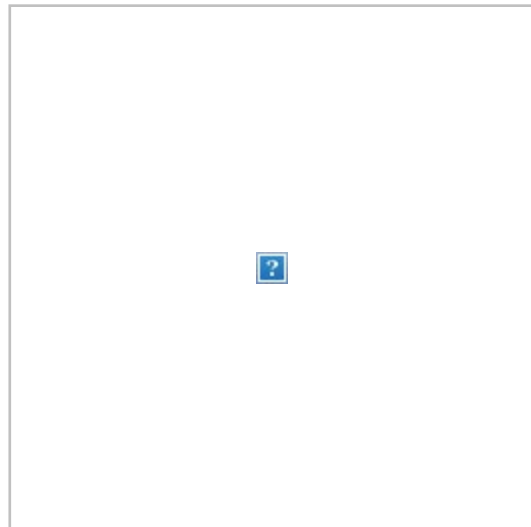
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications for the second year of Clean School Bus program grants, while the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting interest forms for the Accelerating Clean Transportation School Bus Advisory Services Program. ...



[EPA grants available for habitat](#)

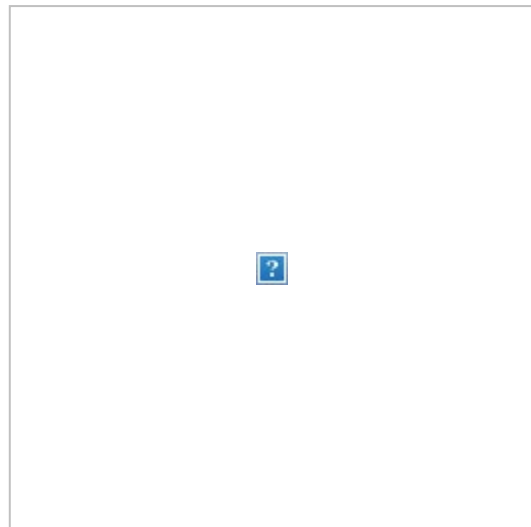
[restoration, ecosystem protection](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 is accepting applications for grants to fund climate resilient infrastructure that promotes nature-based solutions, habitat restoration, and restoration of ecosystems degraded by poor stormwater and development practices. ...



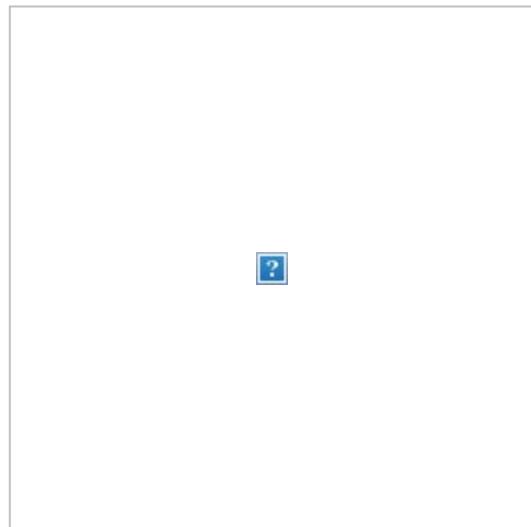
[Moderators Association to hold workshop for new moderators](#) [June 7](#)

The Massachusetts Moderators Association will hold a free workshop for newly elected moderators on June 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom. ...



[MBLC to hold webinar on library operations and statutory requirements](#)

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will host a webinar for municipal leaders on June 15 to provide an overview of library operations, procedures and statutory requirements. ...



[Unchecked, AI will disrupt government and communities](#)

On June 1, Executive Director's Report

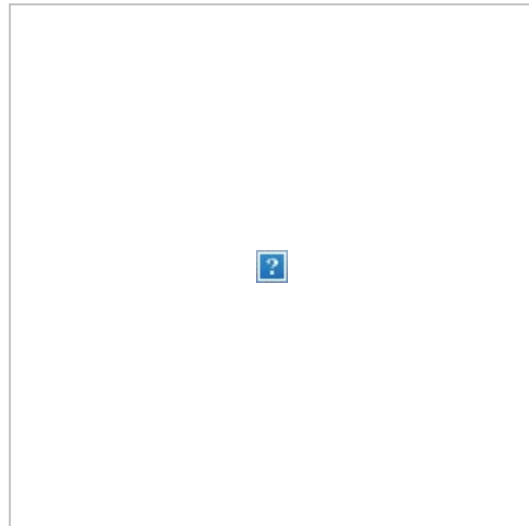
[In letter to EPA, MMA raises concerns about costs and timelines for PFAS remediation](#)

On May 30, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

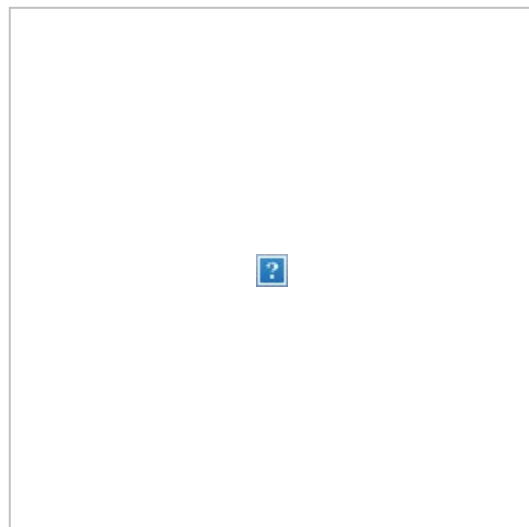
[Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



[Administration makes additional grants available for housing production](#)

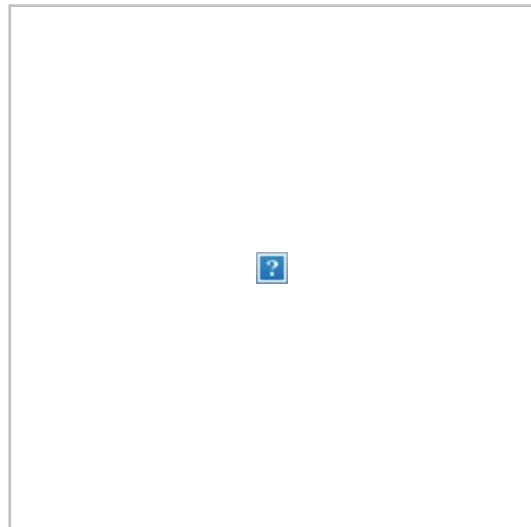
At the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting with local officials from across the state this afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the availability of additional funding for municipalities to support community planning and engagement efforts geared toward increasing the production of housing. ...



[MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7](#)

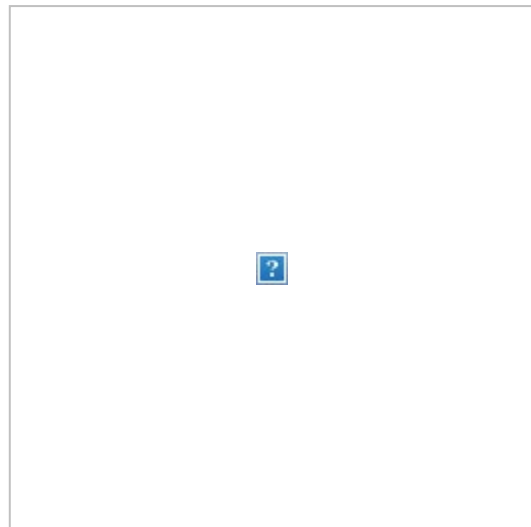
[in Boston](#)

The MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show will be held on June 7 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...



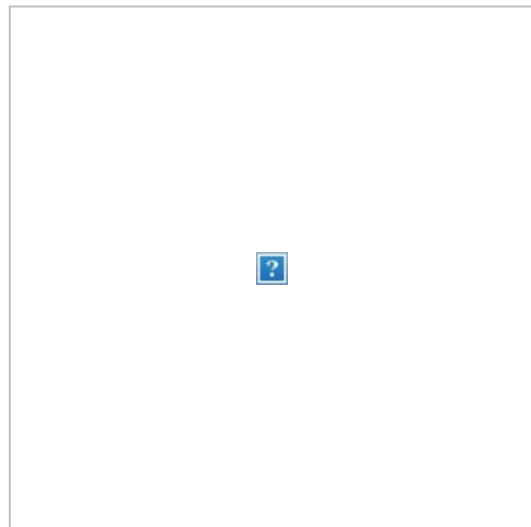
[Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications](#)

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...



[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



[Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications](#)

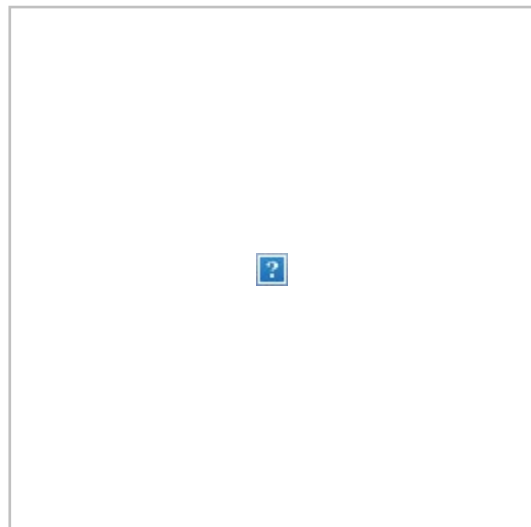
Back for its second year of awards,

the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: The Legal and Operational Perspective webinar](#) - June 5

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: De-Escalation Strategies for Uncivilized Discourse webinar](#) - June 12

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

[Wellness Representative](#)

[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Business Manager, Town Clerk, Chief Financial Officer, Administrative Coordinator, Community Health Manager, Deputy Town Manager and Operations Service Technician. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[Gov. signs supplemental budget with pandemic-era extensions, key investments](#)

Gov. Maura Healey this afternoon signed a fiscal 2023 spending package that includes more than \$740 million in bonding

authorizations, \$389 million in supplemental spending, and a number of policy provisions, including extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining.

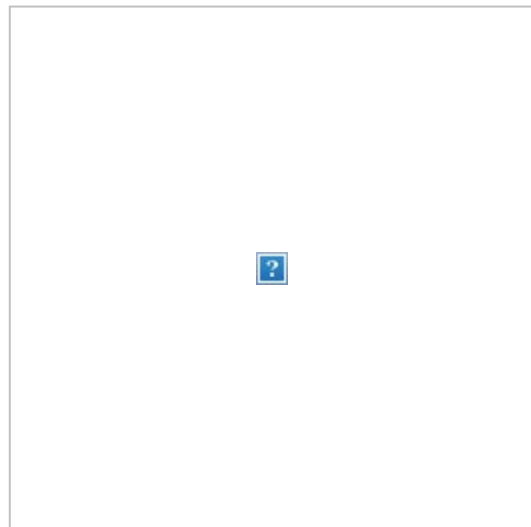
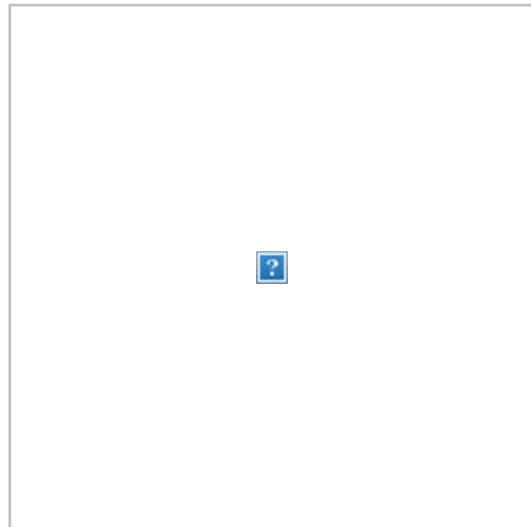
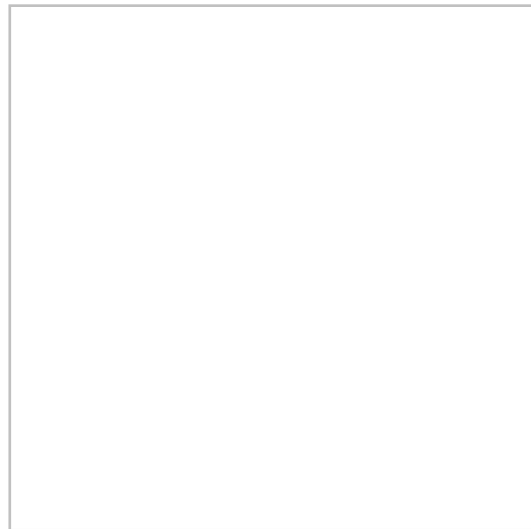
...

Senate passes Ch. 90 bill with small variations from House version

The Senate today passed a Chapter 90 bond bill that would level-fund the local road and bridge program at \$200 million for fiscal 2024, while also providing a total of \$150 million for six transportation-related programs. ...

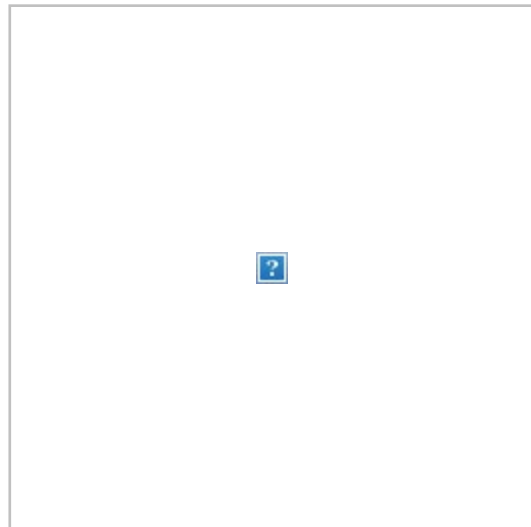
MMA holds spring Legislative Breakfast Meetings

On two Fridays in March, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for a series of four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



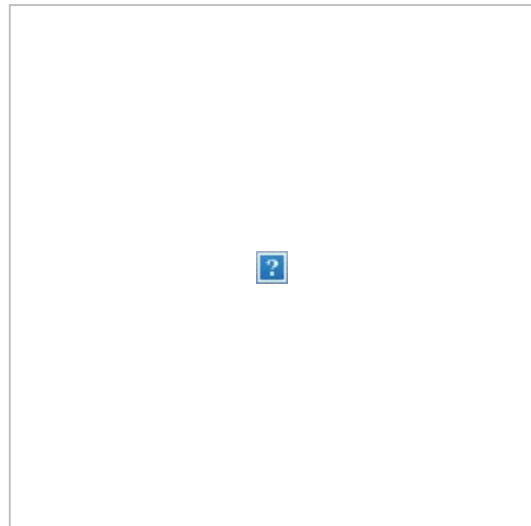
[**MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials**](#)

Amid a busy start for the 2023-24 legislative session and the new Healey-Driscoll administration, the MMA's Legislative team hosted a briefing webinar for local officials today to provide updates on key legislative matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



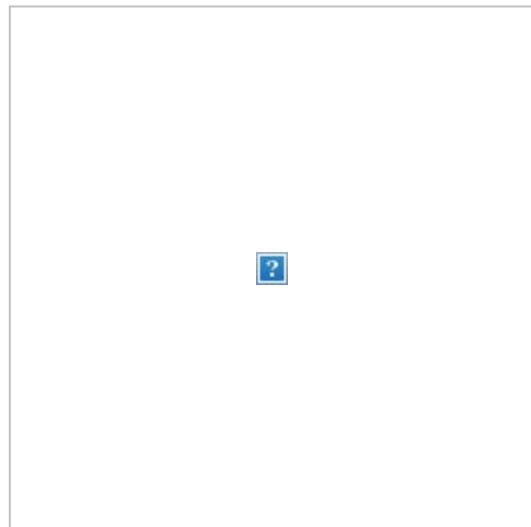
[**EPA seeks to regulate 6 PFAS in drinking water nationwide**](#)

On March 14, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a new regulatory proposal to set enforceable limits on six PFAS, known as “forever chemicals,” in drinking water across the nation. ...



[**Administration announces end of COVID public health emergency**](#)

Three years after it began, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state's COVID-19 public health emergency will end on May 11, to align with the end of the federal public health emergency. ...



[**MMA webinar shares effective internal conflict resolution strategies**](#)

An MMA webinar today covered how to skillfully manage internal conflict, neutralize its negative effects, and maintain a positive and healthy work culture. ...



2nd session of ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar series is April 19

“The Interview Process,” the second session in the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” webinar series, will be held on April 19. ...



MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state’s public records and open meeting laws. ...



Communities form new coalition to facilitate broadband efforts

More than 25 cities and towns have

formed a coalition to facilitate networking among communities with broadband ambitions. ...



[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



New in [Resources](#)

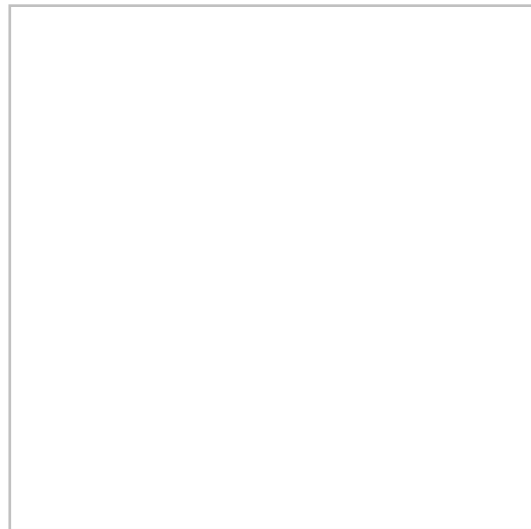
[Seven Strategies to Minimize Negative Impacts of Outdoor Light at Night](#)

In Case You Missed It

[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

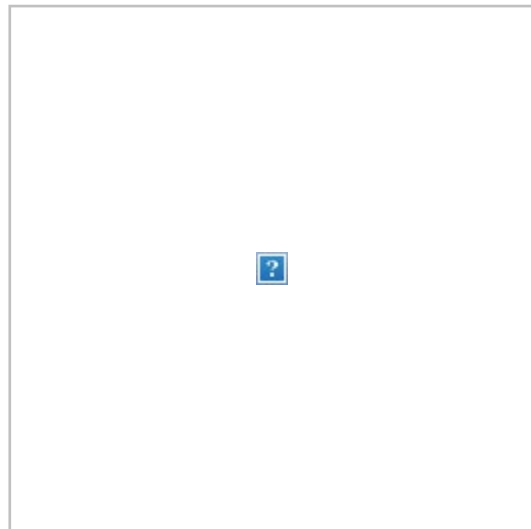
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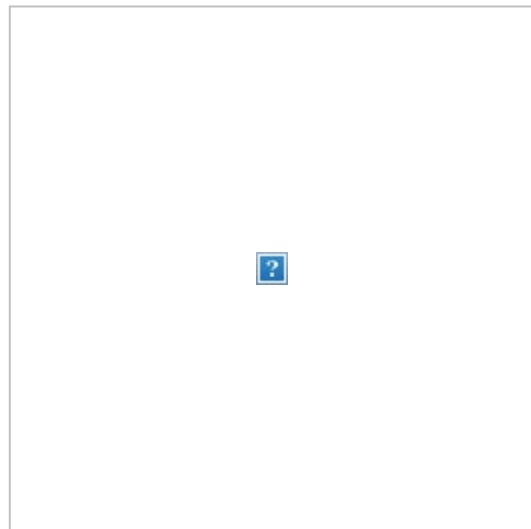
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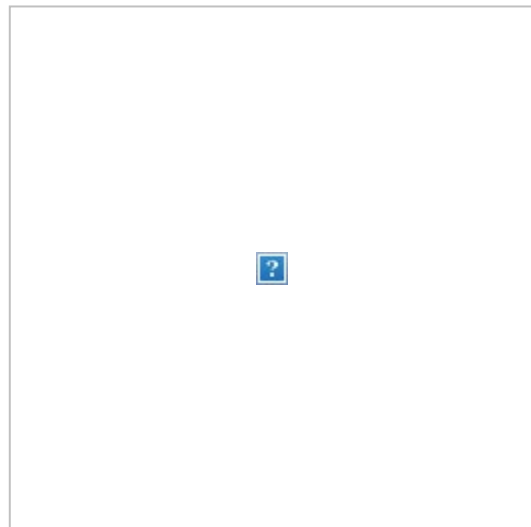
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New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[MMA Policy Briefing Webinar: The Future of Cannabis & Municipalities](#) - April 6

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: The Interview Process](#) - April 19

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Webinar](#) - April 25

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[MMA hosts webinar on regulatory developments related to cannabis](#)

The MMA held a virtual briefing today to discuss regulatory developments at the Cannabis Control Commission and how regulations being developed for

three areas — host community agreements, municipal equity, and social consumption — will impact municipalities. ...

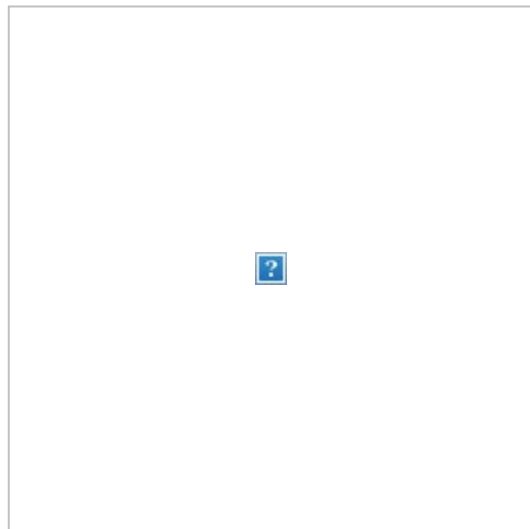
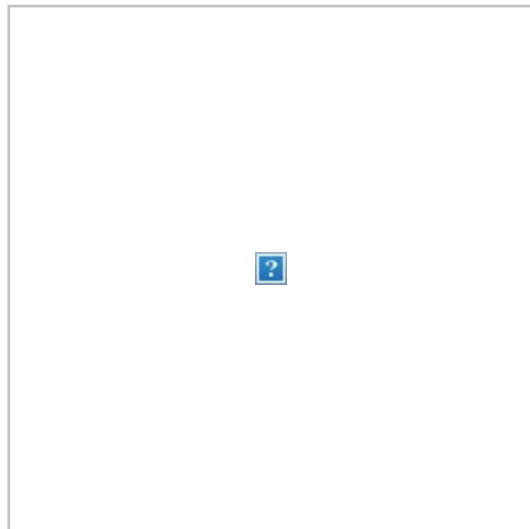
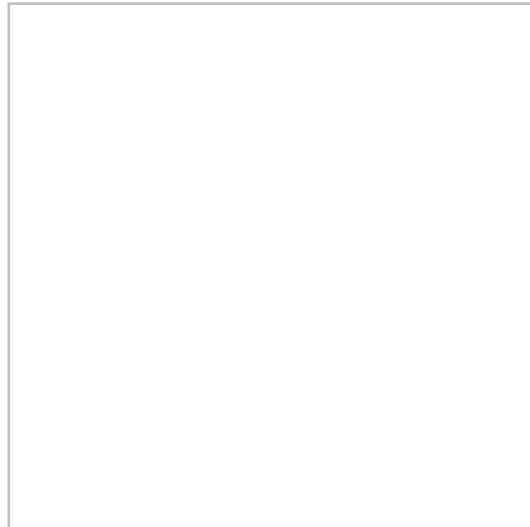
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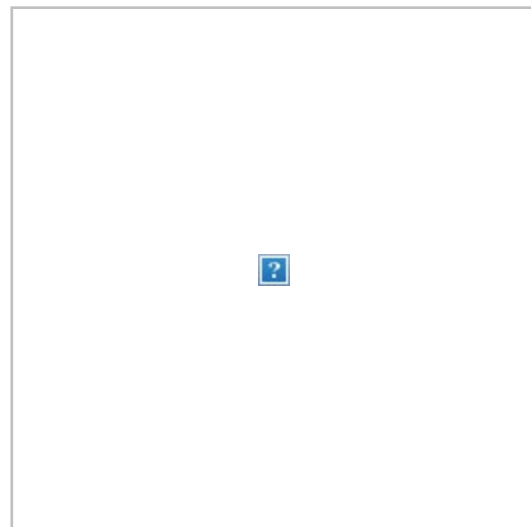
[**Officials discuss unique challenges facing western and rural Mass.**](#)

Municipal officials from across the western part of the state gathered on April 1 in Holyoke to hear from state officials and legislators about priorities and opportunities for collaboration. ...

[**MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program**](#)

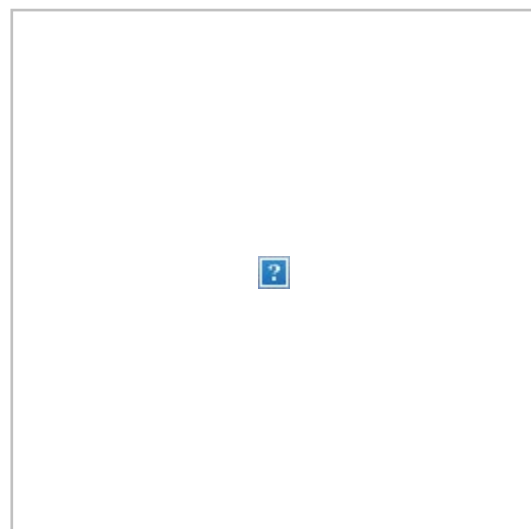


The application deadline is April 30 for the MMA and Suffolk University's Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs scheduled for this fall. ...



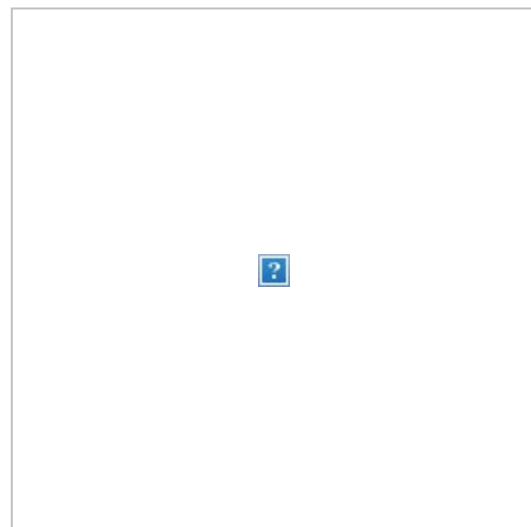
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Franklin County, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket team up to improve road safety

Relying on their shared rural character instead of geographic proximity, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and the communities of Franklin County are sharing a federal grant to improve road safety. ...



[Northampton creates new climate department](#)

Hoping to inject climate awareness into all of City Hall's operations, Northampton is assembling a new department that focuses on climate change and sustainability. ...



[Police turn to co-response protocol for mental health crises](#)

Local police departments are increasingly implementing "co-response" protocols for calls involving mental health crises, where a licensed social worker serves on department staff and responds to calls alongside police officers. ...



[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[DEI builds stronger, healthier communities](#)

On March 31, Executive Director's Report

[MMA joins firefighters, fire chiefs and ambulance association in asking legislators to help address staffing crisis impacting emergency medical service providers](#)

On March 31, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

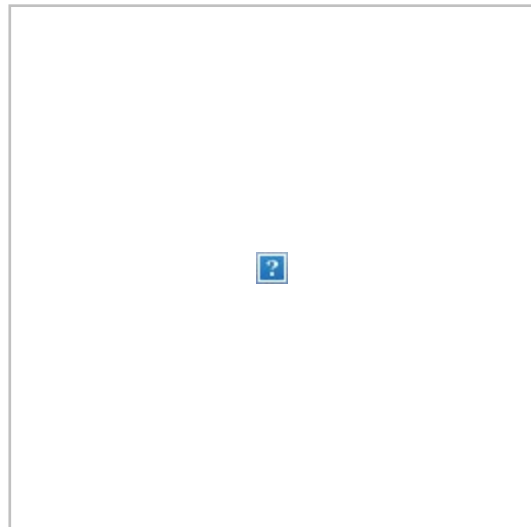
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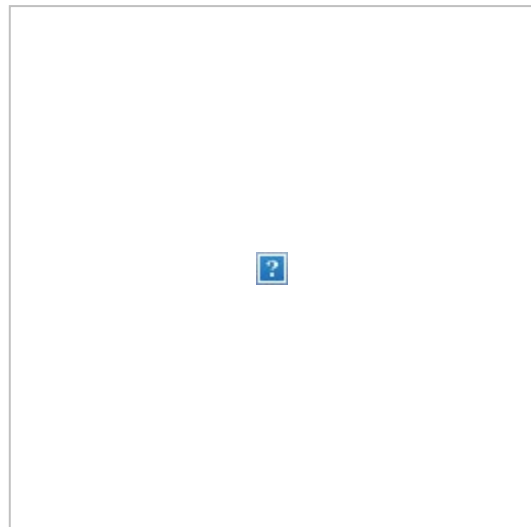
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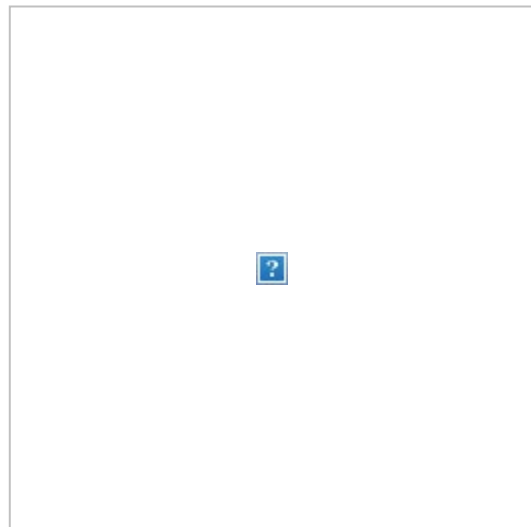
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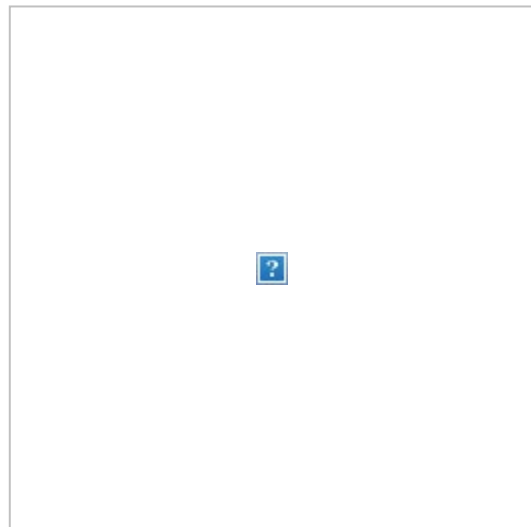
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[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 44 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Town Planner, Application Specialist, Project Manager, Building Commissioner, Heavy Equipment Operator, Staff Accountant and Principal Assessor. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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Date: Friday, April 14, 2023 9:15:11 AM

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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[House releases FY24 state budget proposal](#)

The House Committee on Ways and Means today released a \$56.2 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2024 that will be taken up by the full House later this month. ...

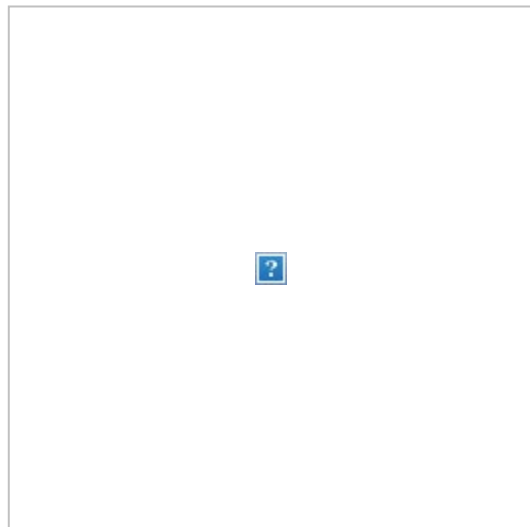
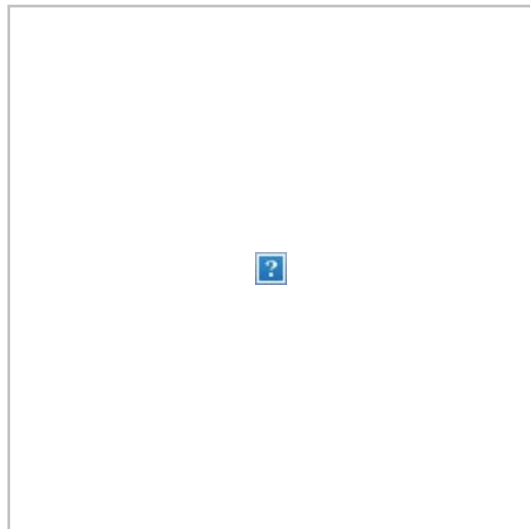
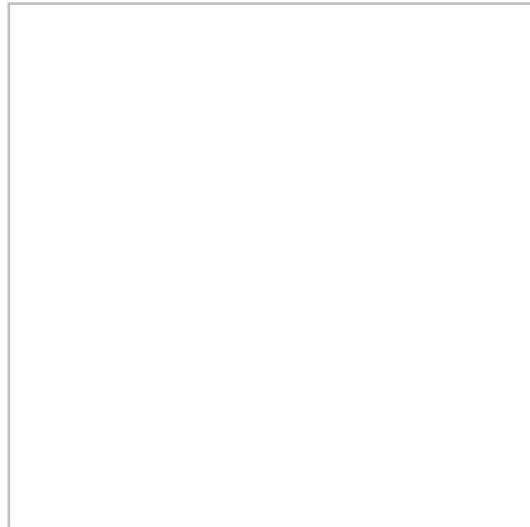
[Deadline is Friday for MSBA Core Program Statements of Interest](#)

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is reminding school districts that they have until Friday to submit Core Program Statements of Interest for consideration in 2023. ...

[MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Boylston on May 11](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 11 in Boylston. ...

[2nd session of 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series is April 19](#)



“The Interview Process,” the second session in the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” webinar series, will be held on April 19. ...



[MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state’s public records and open meeting laws. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[In developing regulations, MMA urges CCC to avoid infringing on existing host community agreements](#)

On April 10, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program](#)

The application deadline is April 30

for the MMA and Suffolk University's Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs scheduled for this fall. ...



[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



[Electric and alternative vehicle charging infrastructure grant opens](#)

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI program), a new competitive grant program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration, is accepting applications through May 30. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

MassHousing has opened the application period for the Planning for Housing Production Grant Program, which provides cities and towns with the technical capacity needed to implement local planning and transform priority development sites into new affordable homes. ...

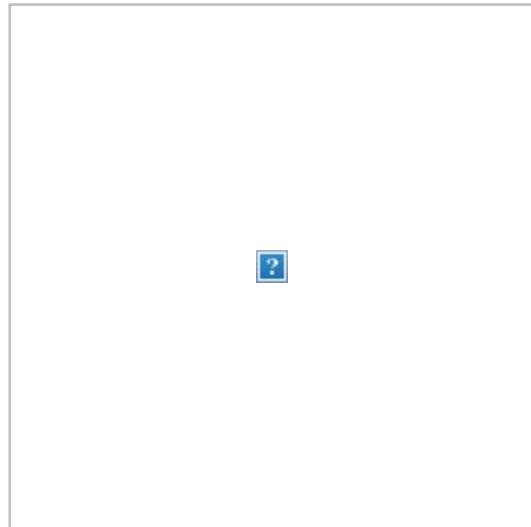


[Municipalities must respond by April 18 for additional opioid settlement funds](#)

In late 2022, the Attorney General's Office announced proposed opioid settlements with Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, Walmart and CVS, which will bring additional funds for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery across Massachusetts. ...



[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: The Interview Process](#) - April 19

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[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association statewide meeting](#) - April 27

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium](#) - April 28

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[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-](#)

[Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Director of Finance, Assistant Planner, Grants Administrative Assistant, Fire Chief, ISD Paralegal, Building Commissioner, Health Agent and Maintenance Craftsperson. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[FY24 MVP Action Grant](#) [applications due May 4](#)

Applications are due by 2 p.m. on May 4 for fiscal 2024 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants, which offer financial assistance to communities seeking

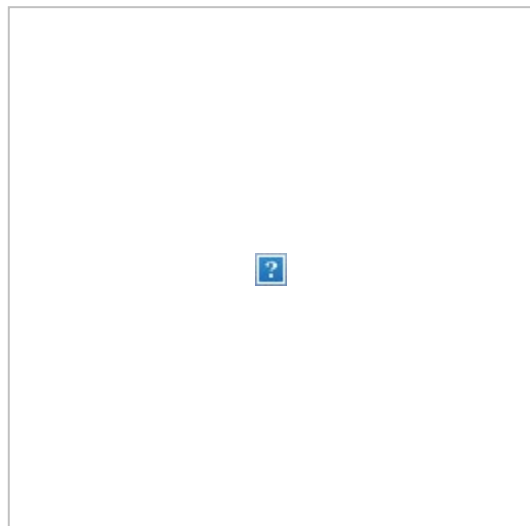
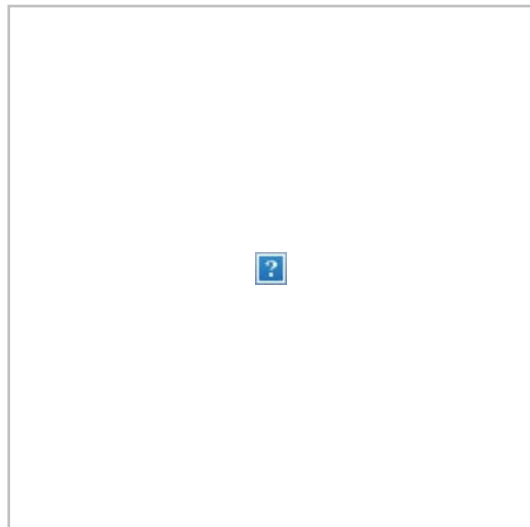
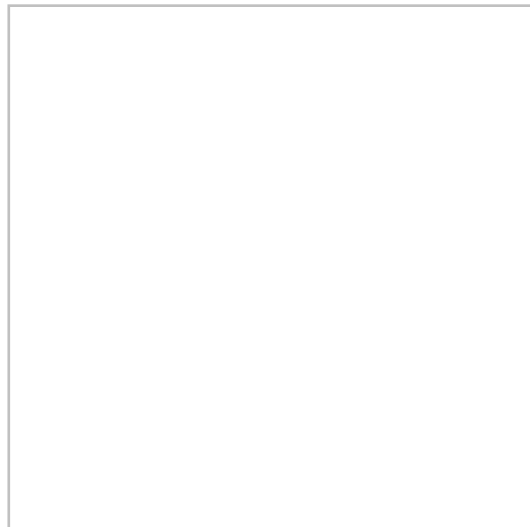
to address climate change impacts such as extreme weather and heat, sea level rise, flooding of inland and coastal areas, and other impacts. ...

[CCC working groups seek comment on regulatory areas under review](#)

Three working groups set up by the Cannabis Control Commission are seeking public comment through April 28 on areas where the CCC is reviewing its regulations and considering policy changes that respond to a comprehensive cannabis law enacted in August 2022. ...

[Administration awards \\$1.3B in loans, grants for water infrastructure projects](#)

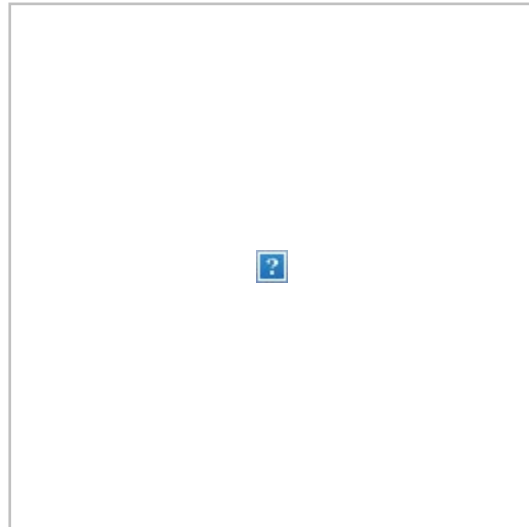
On April 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced that 185 projects across the Commonwealth are eligible to receive approximately \$1.3 billion in low-interest-rate loans and grants to fund construction, planning and asset management projects designed to improve water quality, upgrade or replace aging drinking water and wastewater



infrastructure, and cut treatment plant energy use and costs. ...

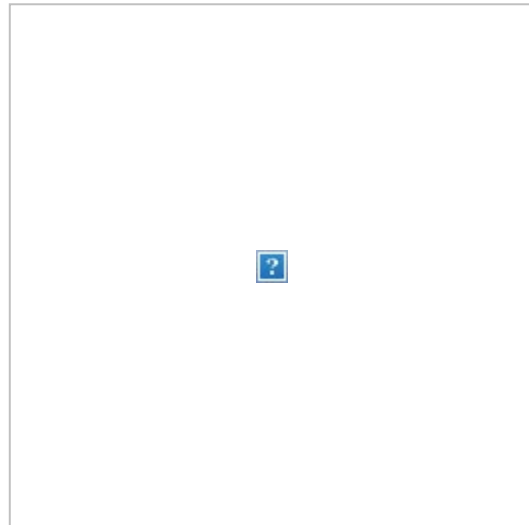
[Grants awarded for municipal clean energy projects](#)

On April 10, the Department of Energy Resources awarded 24 grants totaling \$344,736 to cities and towns across the Commonwealth to support clean energy projects. ...



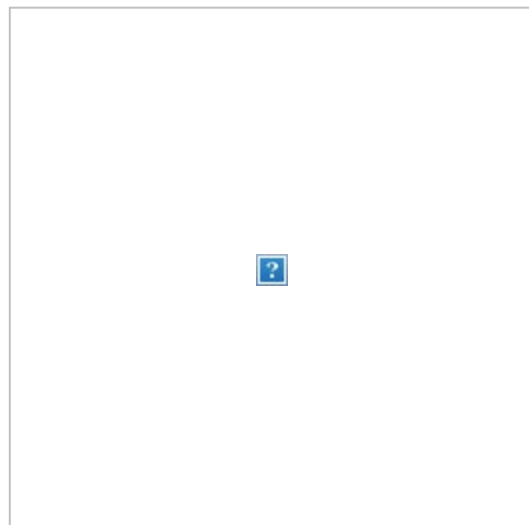
[CISA and partners release 'Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities'](#)

An international coalition of cybersecurity agencies today announced the publication of "Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities." ...



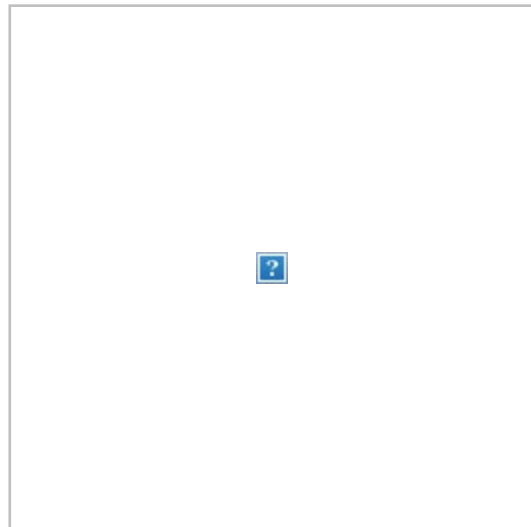
[AG reminds employers about laws for youth employment](#)

With summer employment on the horizon, the office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell is reminding municipal officials of the laws relating to employment of workers under the age of 18. ...



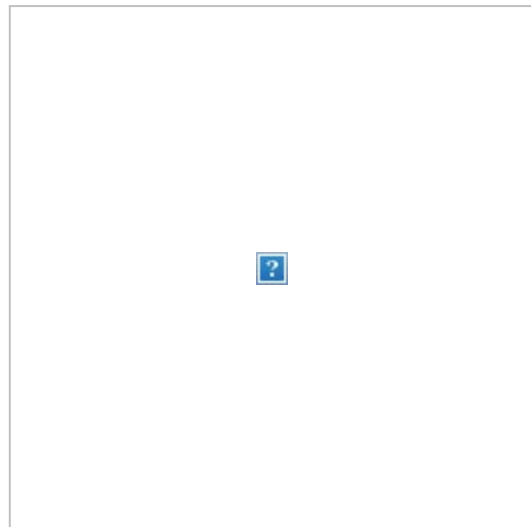
[Interview process is topic of 2nd 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar](#)

The MMA today hosted the second in a series of webinars for municipal officials to showcase timely hiring strategies to help communities succeed in a tight labor market. ...



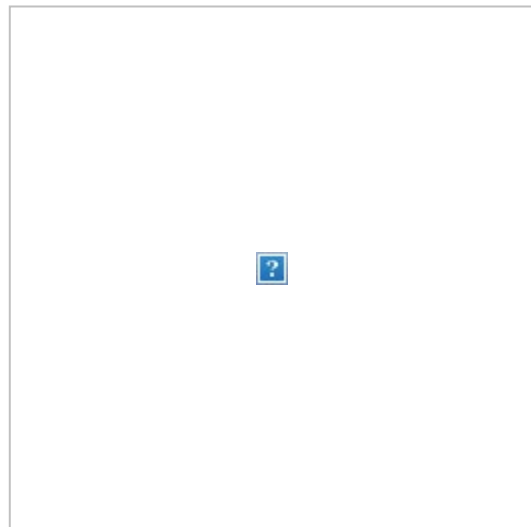
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The Massachusetts Municipal

Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 11 in Boylston. ...



[May 23 webinar to offer practical guidelines for affordable housing](#)

A free MMA webinar on May 23 will discuss the “why” behind affordable housing and highlight the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...



[Newly enhanced BioMap available to support local conservation efforts](#)

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy have enhanced an online resource, known as BioMap, that identifies critical lands and waters throughout Massachusetts most in need of conservation. ...



[MMA urges House members to support and build on impressive investments in House budget bill](#)

On April 20, Testimony

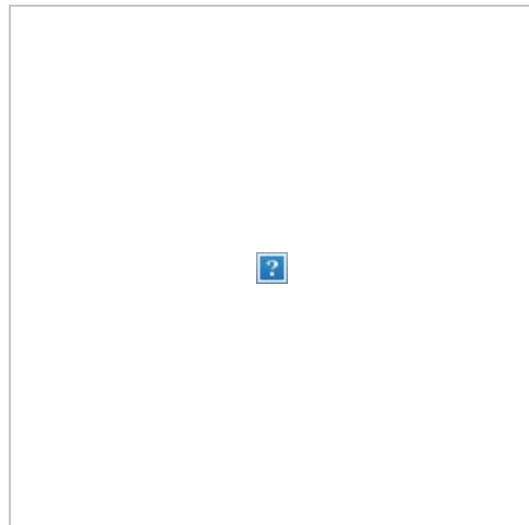
New in [Resources](#)

[Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities](#)

In Case You Missed It

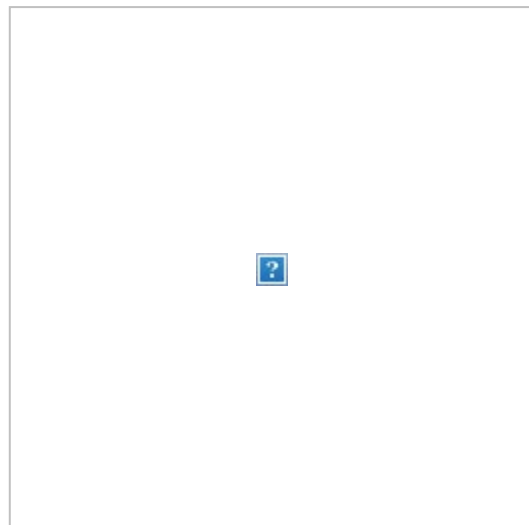
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[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



[Tech support available through](#)

[**federal Thriving Communities Network**](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



[**Electric and alternative vehicle charging infrastructure grant opens**](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[**Federal Funds Resource Area**](#)



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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects and Grant Manager, Park and Tree Superintendent, Head Clerk, City Treasurer/Collector, Economic Development Planner, Data Analyst and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[House approves \\$56.2B state budget for FY24](#)

On Wednesday evening, the House of Representatives approved a \$56.2 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2024 that would increase Unrestricted General Government

Aid by 1.6% over the current year and significantly increase Chapter 70 school aid, in part by doubling minimum new aid to \$60 per pupil. ...

[MMA advertises executive director position, outlines schedule](#)

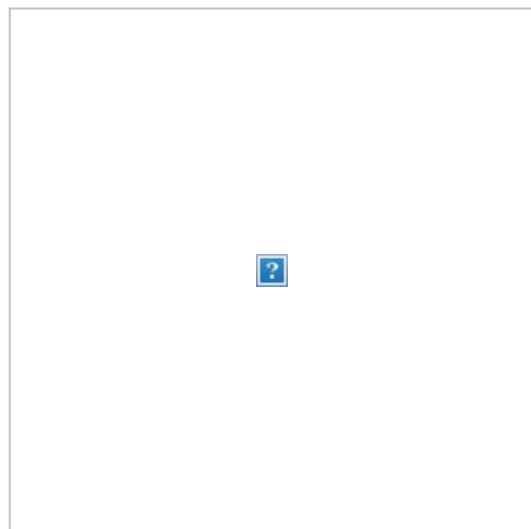
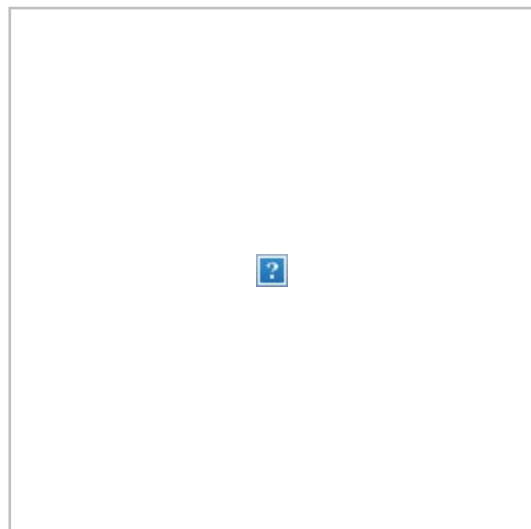
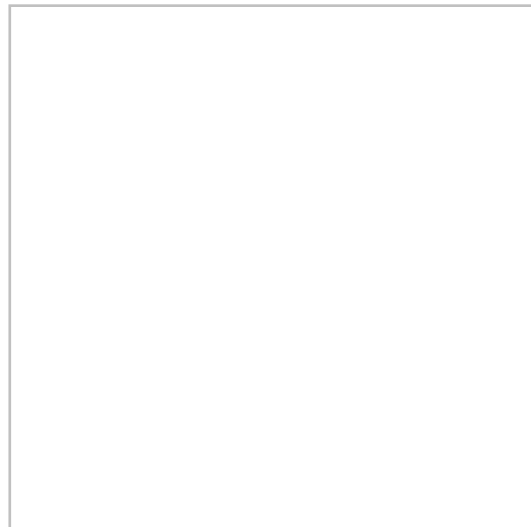
On April 21, the MMA published the job advertisement, along with a brochure, for the next executive director of the association. ...

[Gov. Healey announces next phase of climate resilience grant program](#)

Gov. Maura Healey and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper have announced a relaunch of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program's planning component, which they're calling MVP 2.0. ...

[Administration can move forward with new housing secretariat](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration



can now move forward with its plans to divide the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development into two separate offices, creating a new Office of Housing and Livable Communities and renaming the current office to the Office on Economic Development. ...

Chapter 90 bills await reconciliation

With the Legislature focused on the state budget process, the Chapter 90 bond bills passed by both the House and Senate in March have yet to be reconciled. ...

Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...

Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications

Back for its second year of awards,



the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. ...



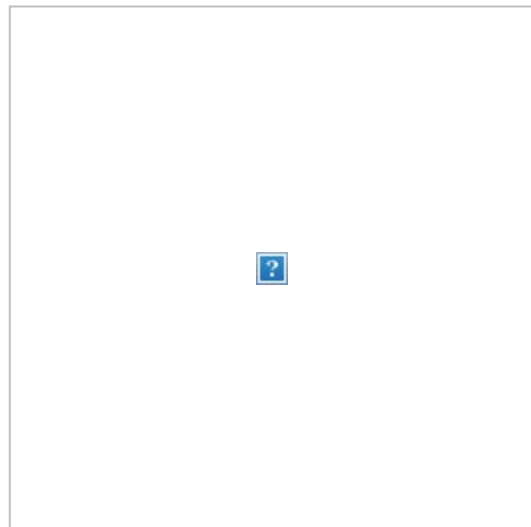
[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

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[MMA webinar covers public records and open meeting laws](#)

The MMA today hosted a webinar to highlight the importance of government transparency and review developments related to the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



[Third 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar is May 17](#)

"What Happens After the Offer," the

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[May 23 webinar to offer practical guidelines for affordable housing](#)

A free MMA webinar on May 23 will discuss the "why" behind affordable housing and highlight the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...



[Former Beverly school to be reused as affordable housing for seniors and artists](#)

The city of Beverly held a ceremonial groundbreaking with state and local officials on March 6 at the site of a new housing project that will have 85 units for low-income seniors along with six live/work studio spaces for artists. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

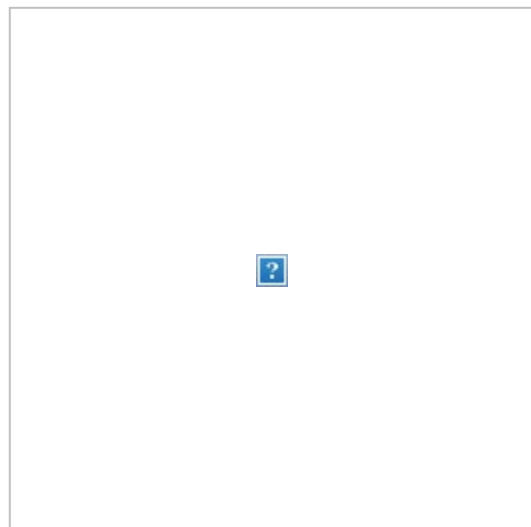
[MMA opposes costly bills that would move municipal employees into different retirement groups, increasing pension and health liabilities](#)

On April 21, Testimony

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

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[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

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[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA

[MMA Executive Director & CEO](#)

[Member Program Coordinator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 61 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Energy Advocate, Health Inspector, Town Accountant, Assistant Town Clerk, Finance Director, Executive Assistant, Deputy Commissioner and City Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[Senate passes \\$55.9B state budget for FY24](#)

The Senate last night approved a \$55.9 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that would increase discretionary local aid by 3.2% and provide \$60 per student in minimum

new Chapter 70 aid. ...

Sen. Anne Gobi named as director of rural affairs

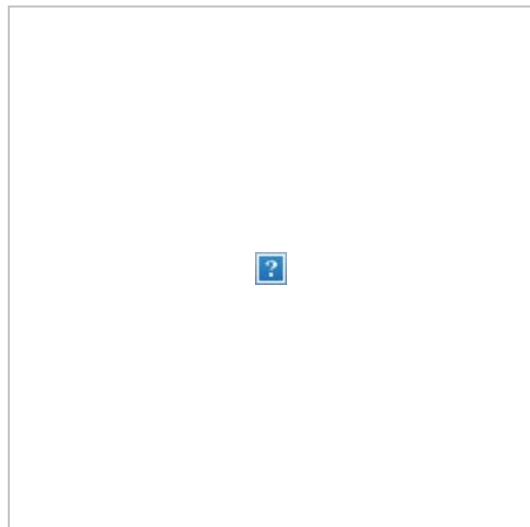
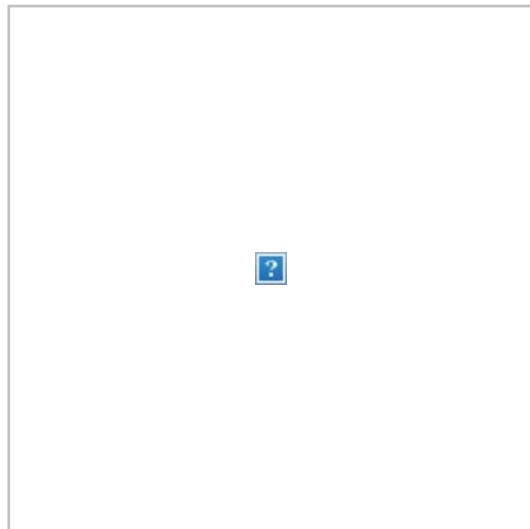
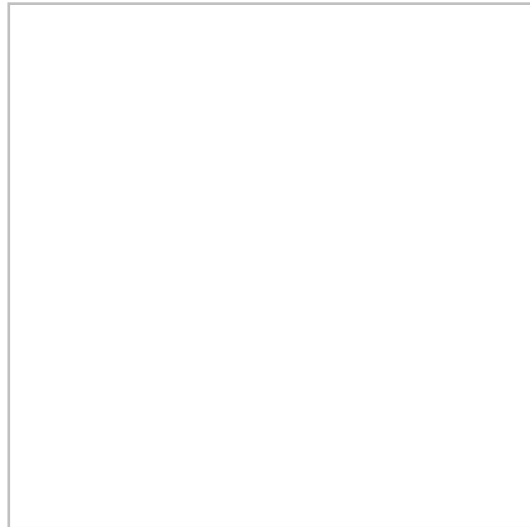
Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced today that Sen. Anne Gobi will join the administration as the new director of rural affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development. ...

MMA webinar offers practical guidance for affordable housing

The MMA today hosted a webinar that explored the “why” behind affordable housing and emphasized the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...

Management Association, DLS discuss role of assessors

The local assessing function was the



topic of a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association webinar on May 18 led by Chris Wilcock, chief of the Bureau of Local Assessment at the Division of Local Services. ...



MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



Final ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar is June 14

“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



Moderators Association to hold workshop for new moderators June 7

The Massachusetts Moderators Association will hold a free workshop for newly elected moderators on June 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom.

...

[MBLC to hold webinar on library operations and statutory requirements](#)

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will host a webinar for municipal leaders on June 15 to provide an overview of library operations, procedures and statutory requirements. ...

[Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



In Case You Missed It

[Administration makes additional grants available for housing production](#)

At the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting with local officials from across the state this afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the availability of additional funding for municipalities to support community planning and engagement efforts geared toward increasing the production of housing.

...

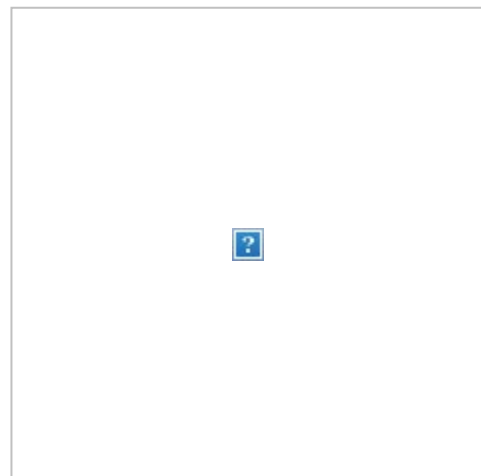
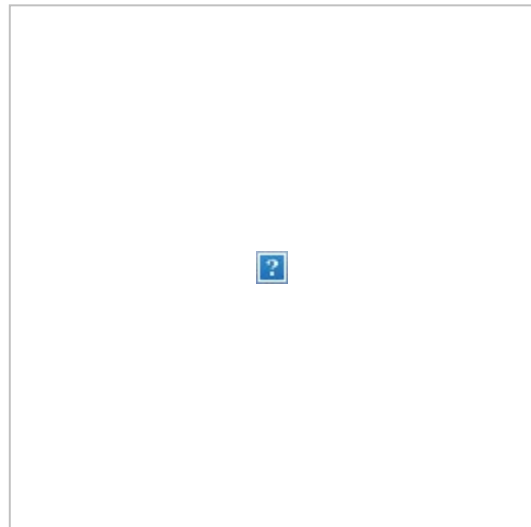
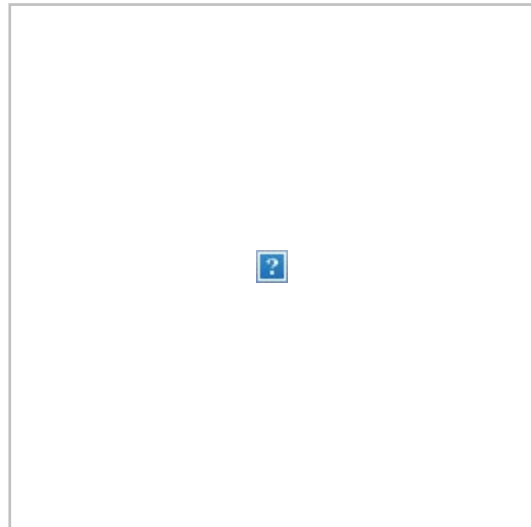
[MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7 in Boston](#)

The MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show will be held on June 7 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...

[Performance Recognition Program nomination process opens](#)

The Human Resources Division has opened the nomination process for the Commonwealth's Performance Recognition Program, which has been publicly acknowledging the outstanding performance of public employees for 38 years. ...

[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)



**[Awareness Grant Program
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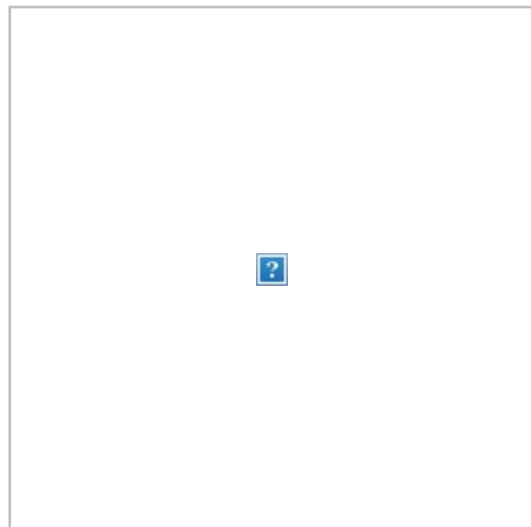
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: The Legal and Operational Perspective webinar](#) - June 5

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: De-Escalation Strategies for Uncivilized Discourse webinar](#) - June 12

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

[Wellness Representative](#)

[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

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Date: Friday, June 16, 2023 9:15:26 AM

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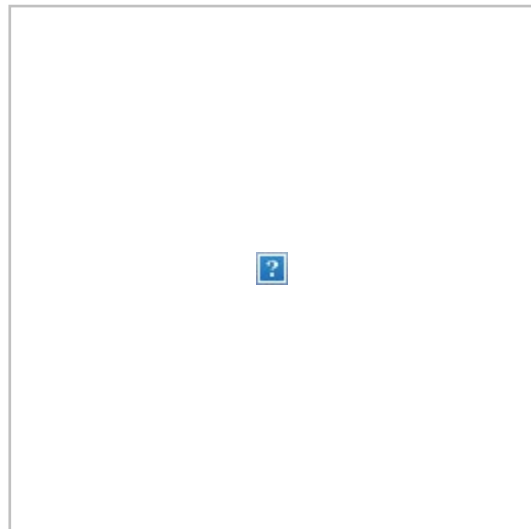
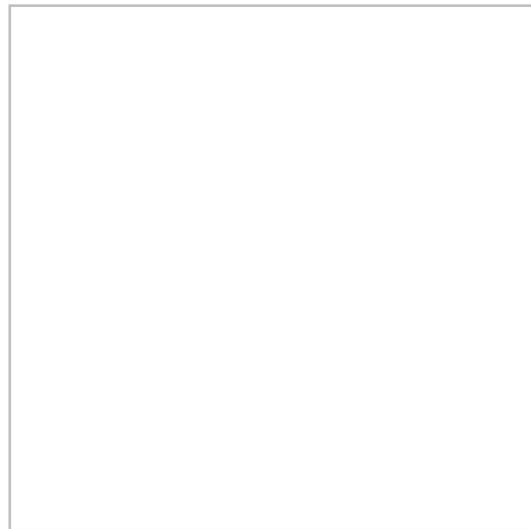
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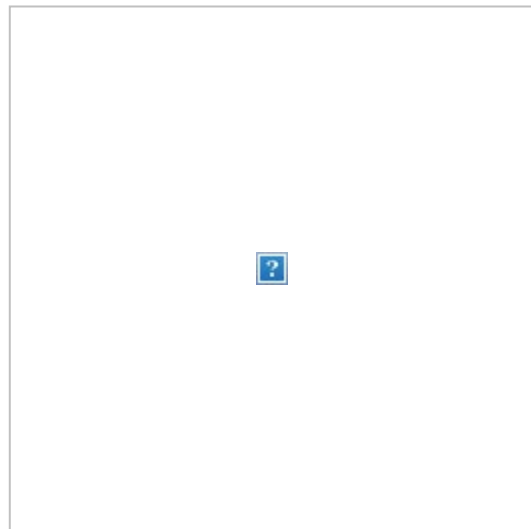
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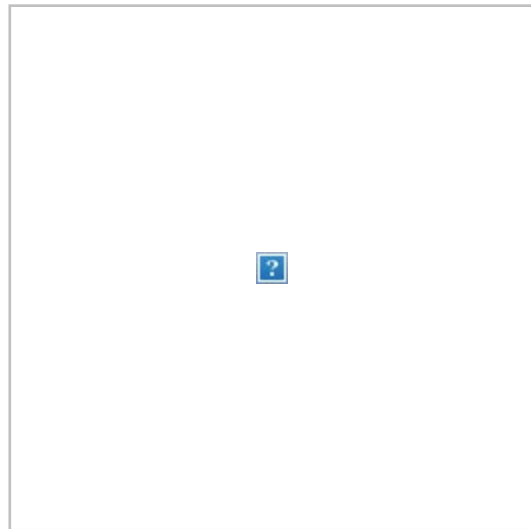
[Lexington OK's MBTA communities zoning well ahead of schedule](#)

Following an April Town Meeting vote approving 12 new overlay districts accounting for 227 acres of multifamily zoning, Lexington is on track to complete its MBTA communities zoning submission to the state a year and a half ahead of schedule. ...



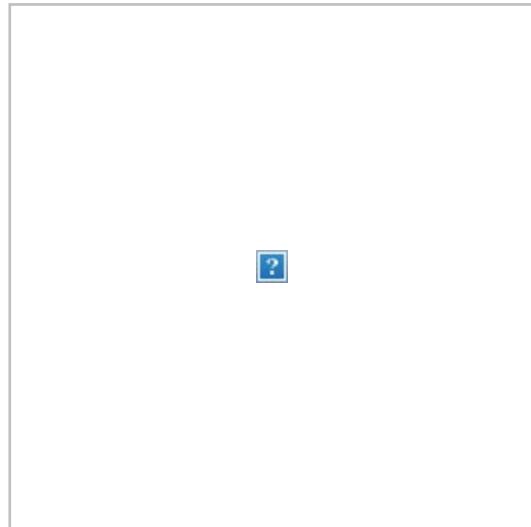
[Easthampton launches EV conversion plan and employee benefit](#)

To help the city meet a 2040 net-zero emissions goal set by a Climate Action Plan, and to provide pathways for residents to do the same, Easthampton is partnering with MoveEV, an electric vehicle consultant based in Somerville, to help the city transition the entire municipal fleet and provide a benefit to municipal employees. ...



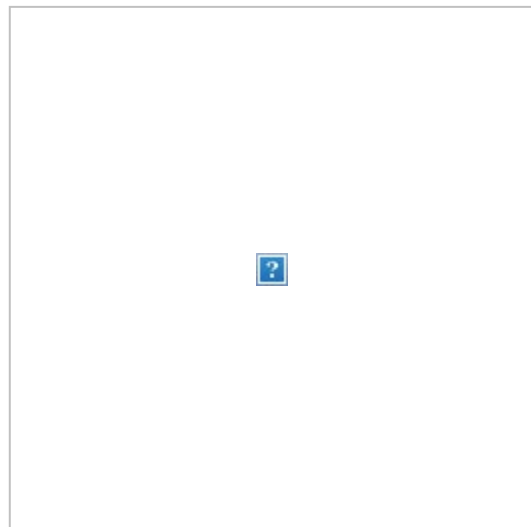
[West Tisbury invests funds, planning into tree population](#)

In the face of climate change, West Tisbury has established a tree committee, invested in new tree plantings, and developed plans to protect and expand its tree canopy. ...



[Many factors could drive up health care costs](#)

The combination of COVID-19 pandemic relief expiring, along with health care staff shortages, inflation and other general population health challenges, could continue to drive up health care costs over the next several years. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support product stewardship legislation](#)

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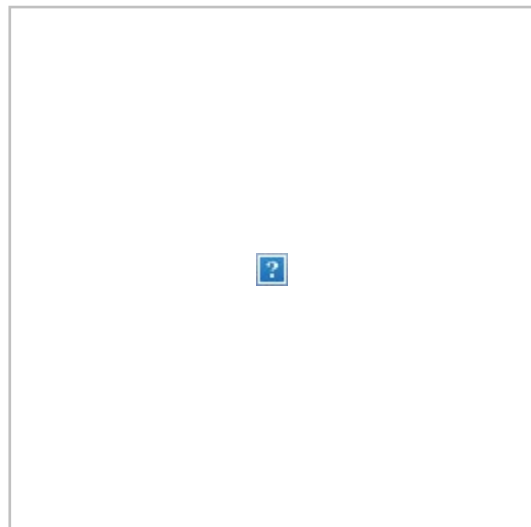
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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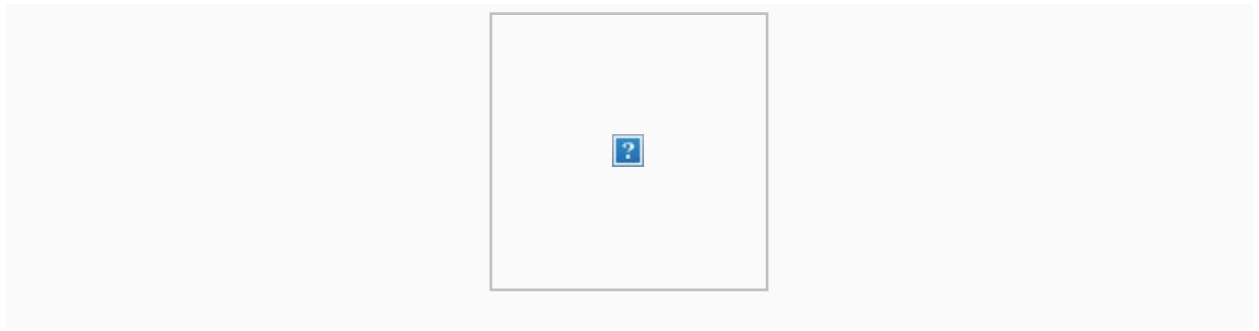
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MMA Website Weekly Review

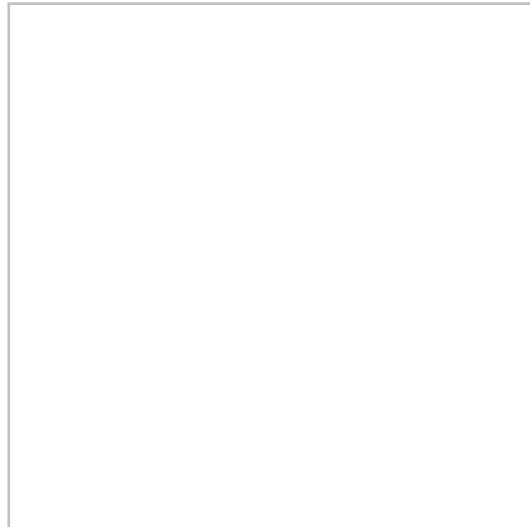
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[MMA publishes June issue of The Beacon](#)

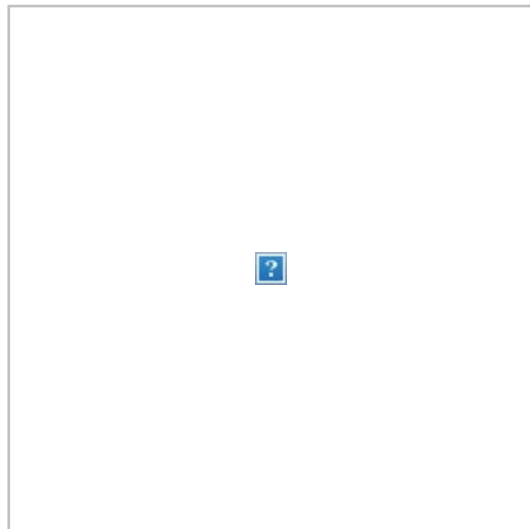
The MMA today published the June 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus

details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



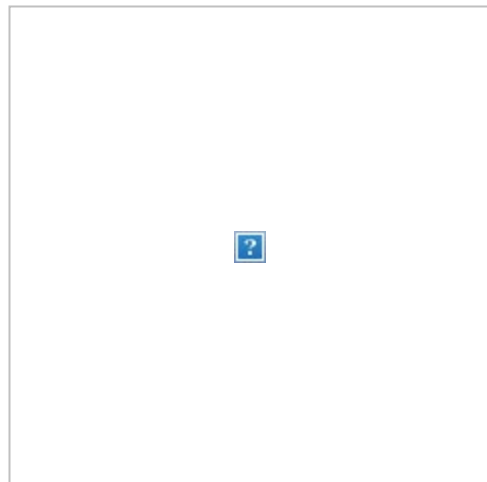
MMA testifies in support of wage equity push

The MMA testified on May 9 in support of a group of bills intended to close gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



NLC report: SLFRF funds not affected by debt ceiling agreement

As the U.S. Congress and the president work to lift the federal debt ceiling, the National League of Cities is reporting that State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act are not at risk of rescission by the federal government. ...



Training for newly elected select board members is June 9

On June 9, the Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a

free training session for newly elected select board members to help them have a successful start in their new role. ...



MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



Final ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar is June 14

“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



Sustainable materials recovery program grant applications due June 14

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has opened the application period for a new round of Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants. ...



Broadband and Digital Equity Summit is June 13

A Broadband and Digital Equity Summit on June 13 at Union Station in Worcester will bring together state, local and federal government officials, as well as representatives from industry, community organizations and others, to discuss the once-in-a-generation federal investment coming to the Commonwealth to close the digital divide and provide internet for all. ...



Federal, state clean school bus programs accepting applications

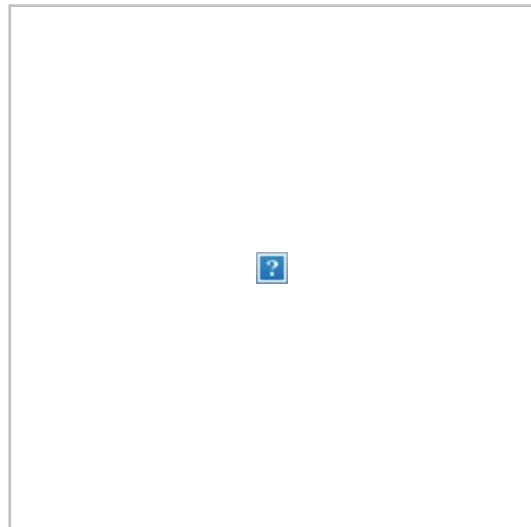
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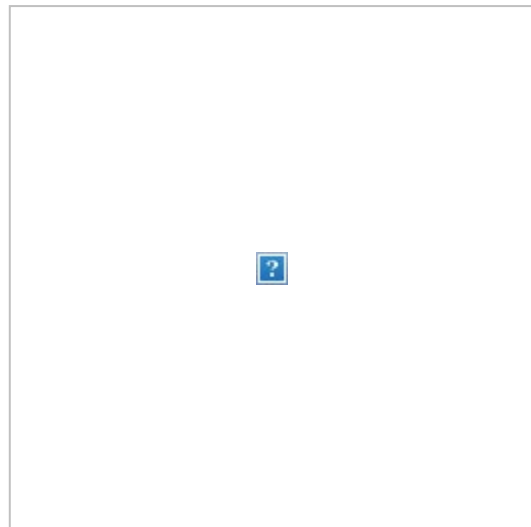
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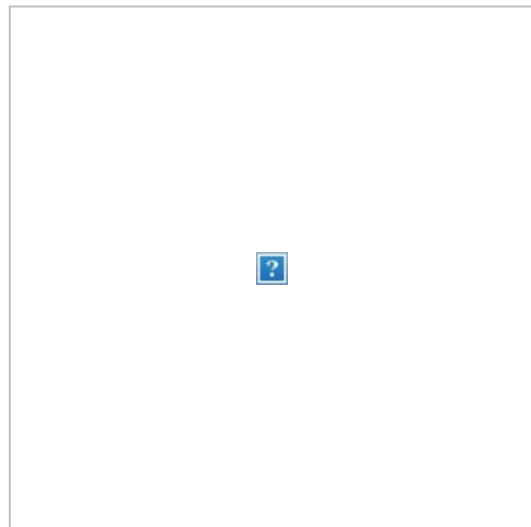
[Moderators Association to hold workshop for new moderators June 7](#)

The Massachusetts Moderators Association will hold a free workshop for newly elected moderators on June 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom. ...



[MBLC to hold webinar on library operations and statutory requirements](#)

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will host a webinar for municipal leaders on June 15 to provide an overview of library operations, procedures and statutory requirements. ...



[Unchecked, AI will disrupt government and communities](#)

On June 1, Executive Director's Report

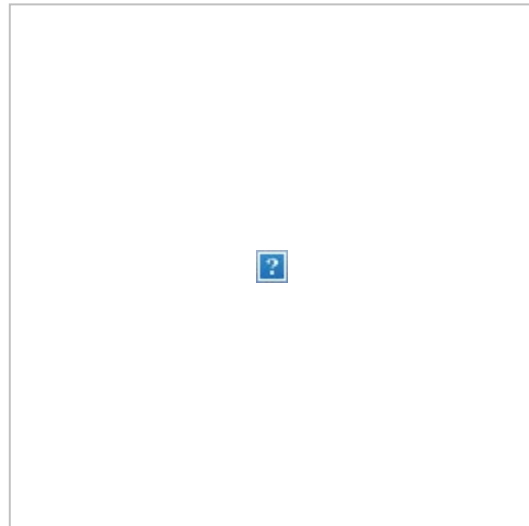
[In letter to EPA, MMA raises concerns about costs and timelines for PFAS remediation](#)

On May 30, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

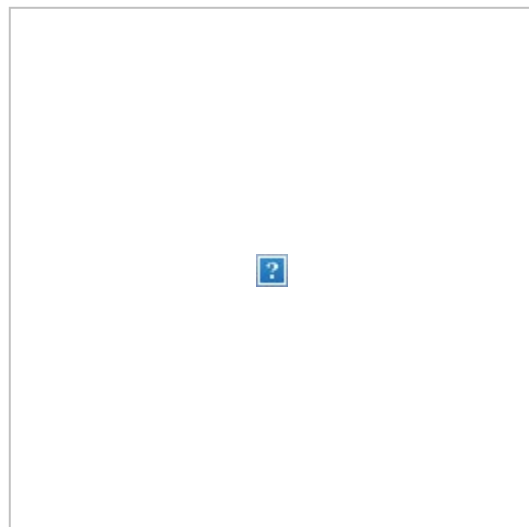
[**Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats**](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



[**Administration makes additional grants available for housing production**](#)

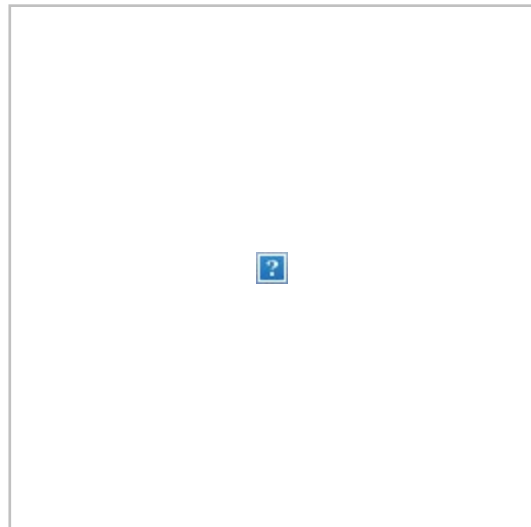
At the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting with local officials from across the state this afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the availability of additional funding for municipalities to support community planning and engagement efforts geared toward increasing the production of housing. ...



[**MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7**](#)

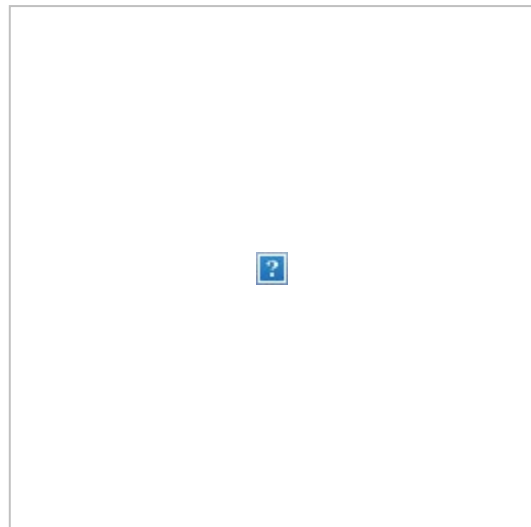
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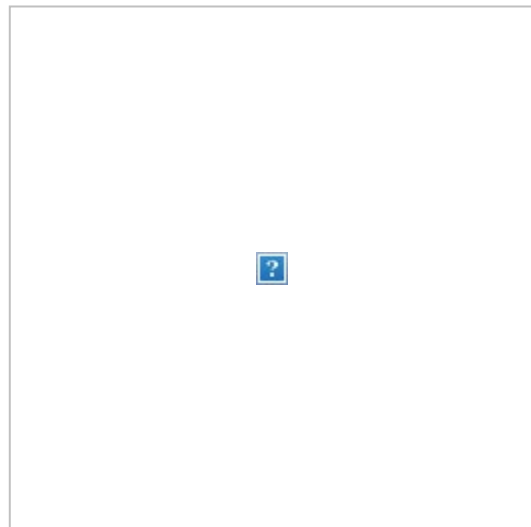
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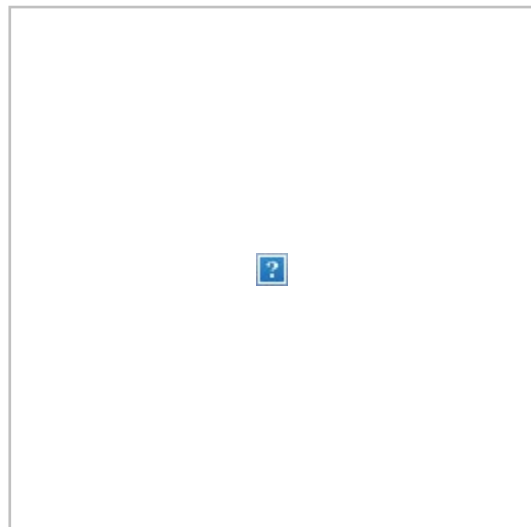
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[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: De-Escalation Strategies for Uncivilized Discourse webinar](#) - June 12

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[Gov. Healey announces capital plan, affordable housing program](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced today a new five-year, \$14 billion capital investment plan that includes more than \$1.5 billion in housing-related spending and a

new program to incentivize the creation of more affordable housing.

...

Administration announces \$11.6M in grants for 68 trail projects

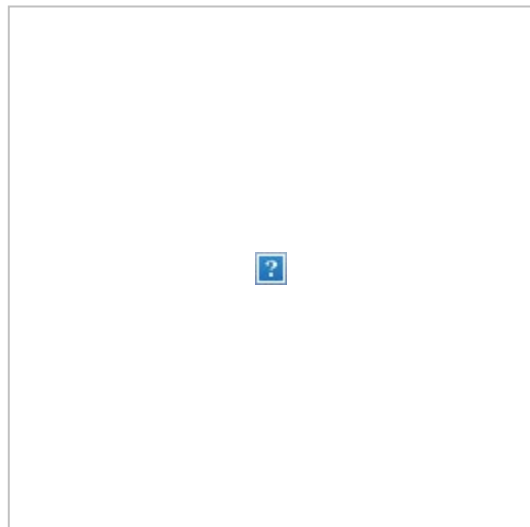
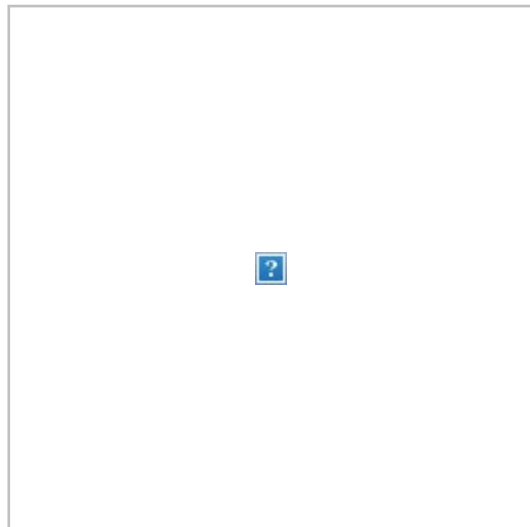
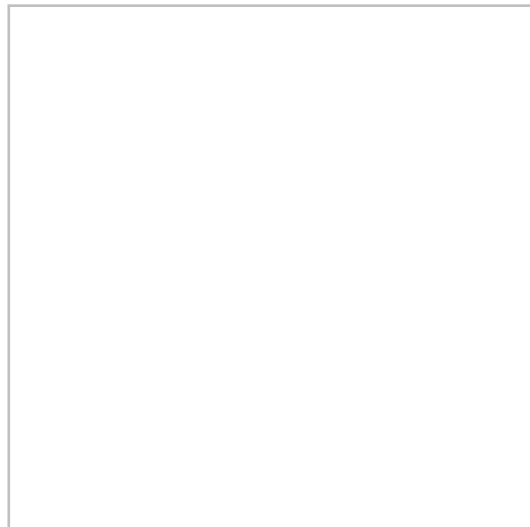
On June 15 in Billerica, Healey-Driscoll administration officials announced \$11.6 million in funding through the MassTrails Grant Program to support 68 trail improvement projects across the state. ...

DLS publishes issue dedicated to new local officials

The June 15 edition of the Division of Local Services' e-newsletter, City & Town, is dedicated to newly elected or appointed local officials, with municipal finance resources, information and policy guidance for those who might be new to local government. ...

STAM hosts state officials, elects officers at its Annual Meeting

Small Town Administrators of



Massachusetts held its Annual Meeting on June 15 in Boylston to hear from state officials on a variety of topics and to elect a new leadership team. ...



[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

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A free, interactive MMA webinar on the state's public records and open meeting laws on July 18 will offer an extended opportunity for discussion. ...

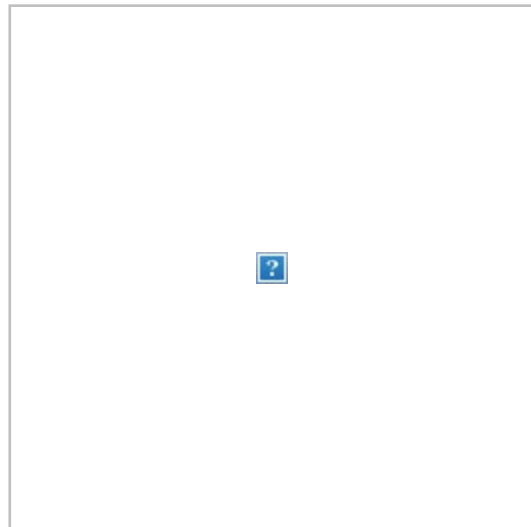


[Conference explores how cities, towns can boost their resilience](#)

The 2023 Resilient Cities Summit,

held June 6 through 8 in Falmouth, brought together municipal officials, advocates and nationally recognized experts in urban development, design, finance and infrastructure to discuss how cities and towns can better prepare for climate risks and work toward a more resilient future.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

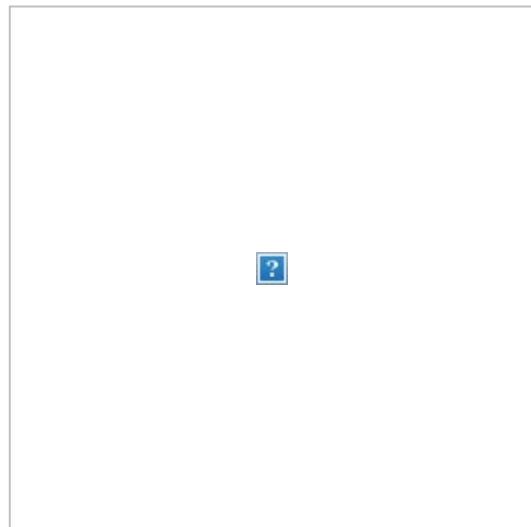
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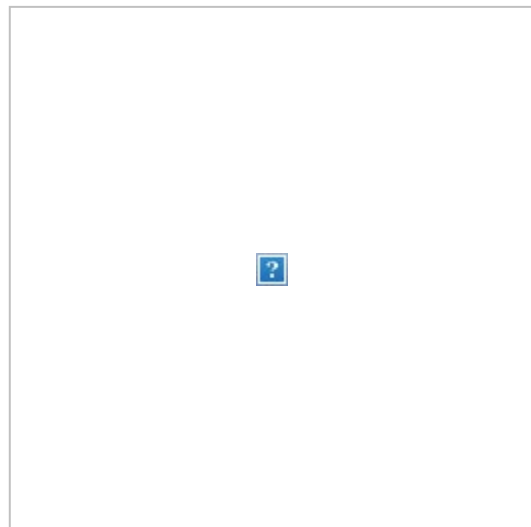
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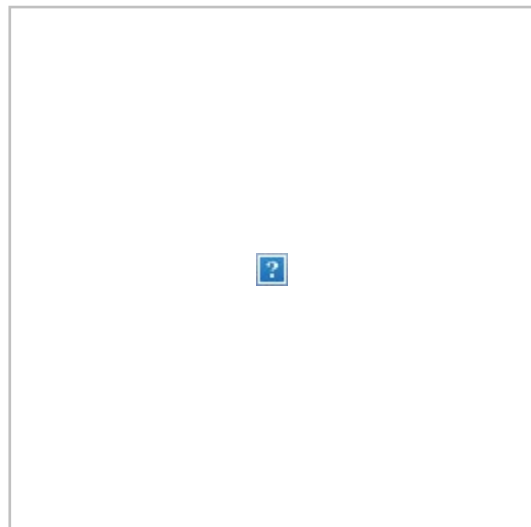
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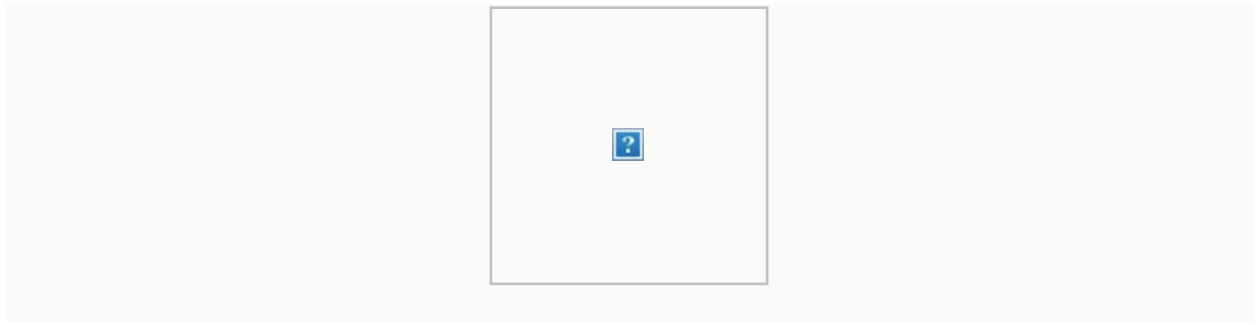
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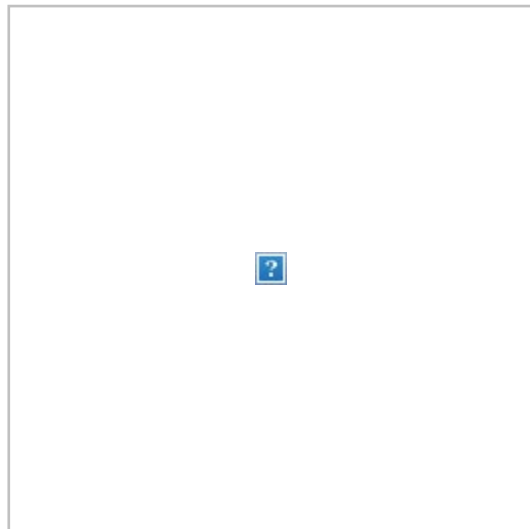
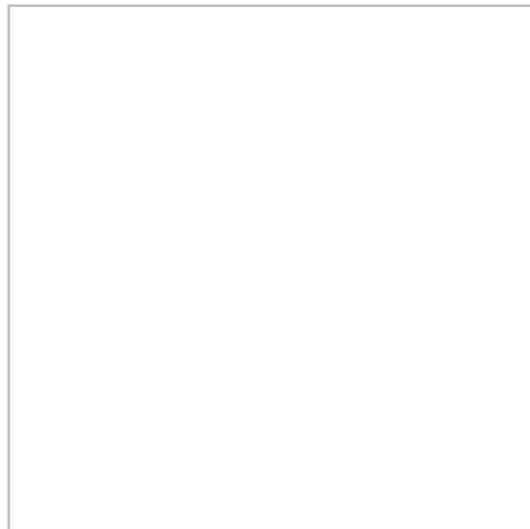
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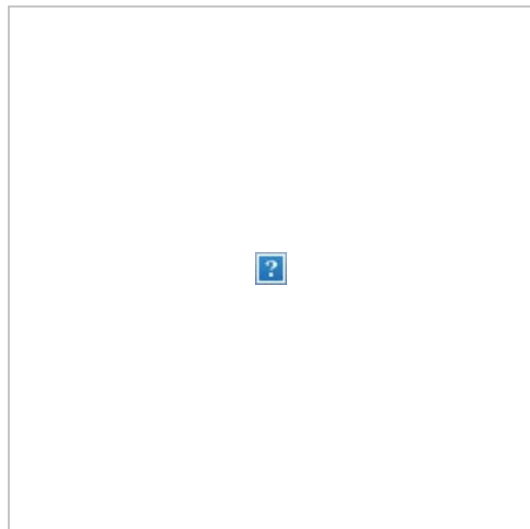
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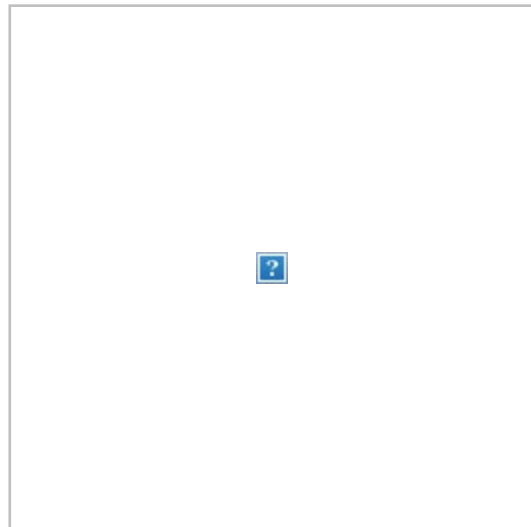
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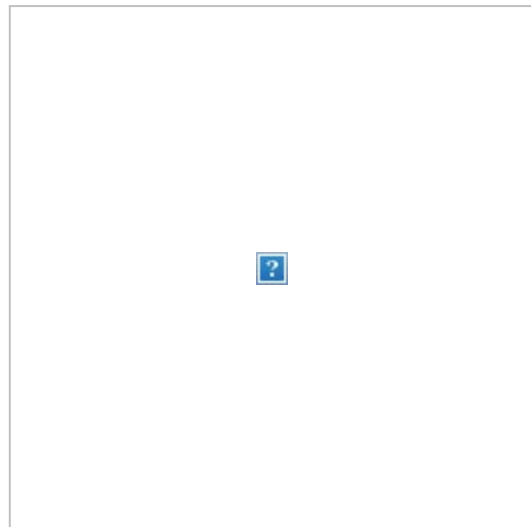
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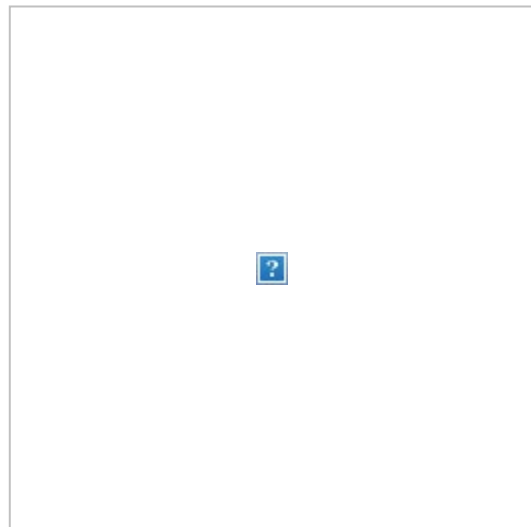
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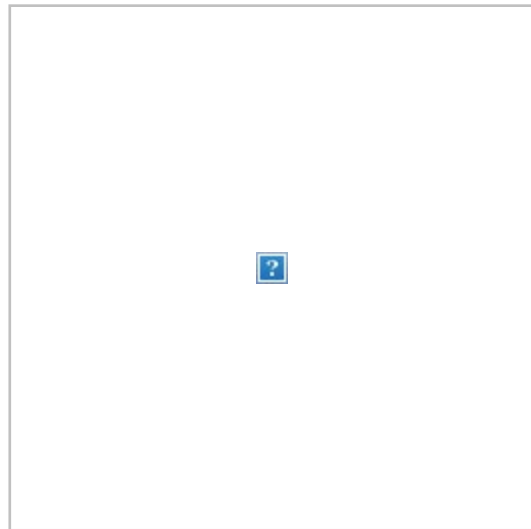
[Lexington OK's MBTA communities zoning well ahead of schedule](#)

Following an April Town Meeting vote approving 12 new overlay districts accounting for 227 acres of multifamily zoning, Lexington is on track to complete its MBTA communities zoning submission to the state a year and a half ahead of schedule. ...



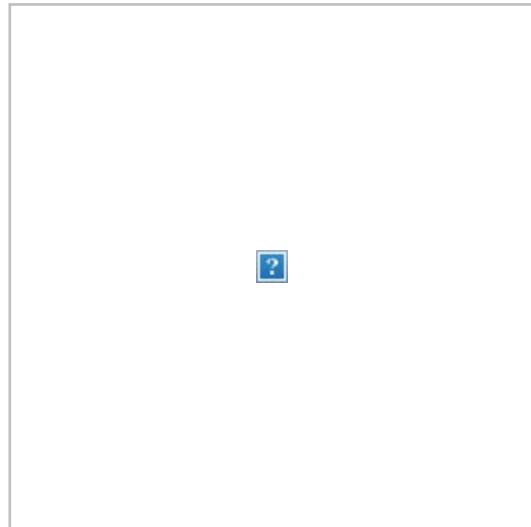
[Easthampton launches EV conversion plan and employee benefit](#)

To help the city meet a 2040 net-zero emissions goal set by a Climate Action Plan, and to provide pathways for residents to do the same, Easthampton is partnering with MoveEV, an electric vehicle consultant based in Somerville, to help the city transition the entire municipal fleet and provide a benefit to municipal employees. ...



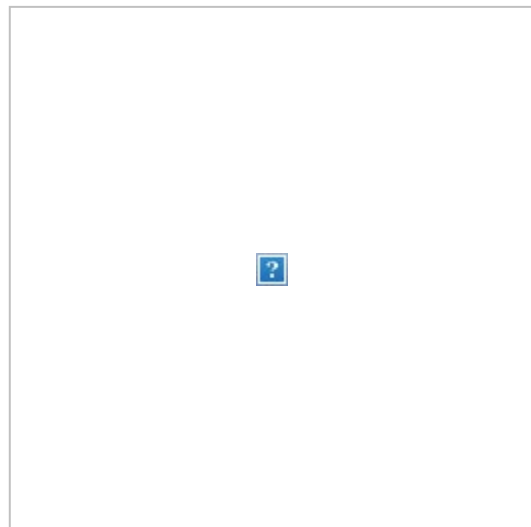
West Tisbury invests funds, planning into tree population

In the face of climate change, West Tisbury has established a tree committee, invested in new tree plantings, and developed plans to protect and expand its tree canopy. ...



Many factors could drive up health care costs

The combination of COVID-19 pandemic relief expiring, along with health care staff shortages, inflation and other general population health challenges, could continue to drive up health care costs over the next several years. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support product stewardship legislation](#)

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[Federal, state clean school bus programs accepting applications](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications for the second year of Clean School Bus program grants, while the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting interest forms for the Accelerating Clean Transportation School Bus Advisory Services Program. ...

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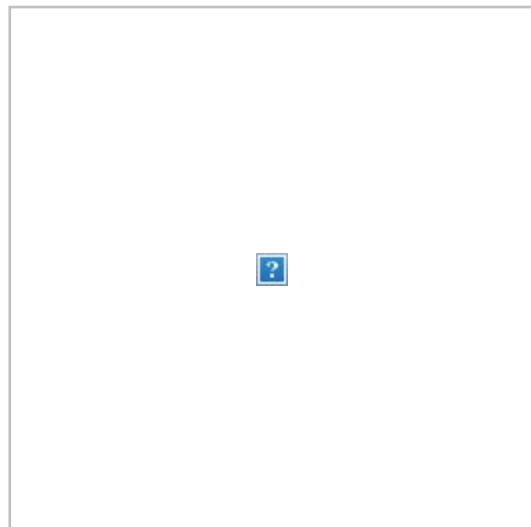
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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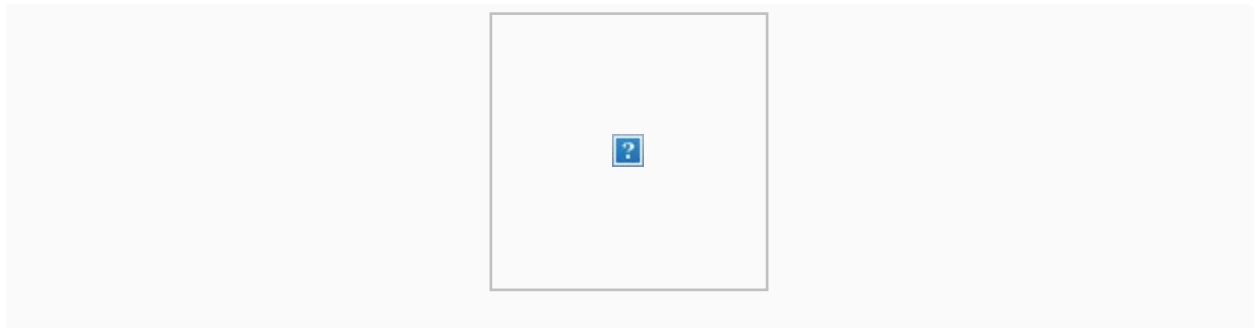
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[Gov. Healey announces capital plan, affordable housing program](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced today a new five-year, \$14 billion capital investment plan that includes more than \$1.5 billion in housing-related spending and a

new program to incentivize the creation of more affordable housing.

...

Administration announces \$11.6M in grants for 68 trail projects

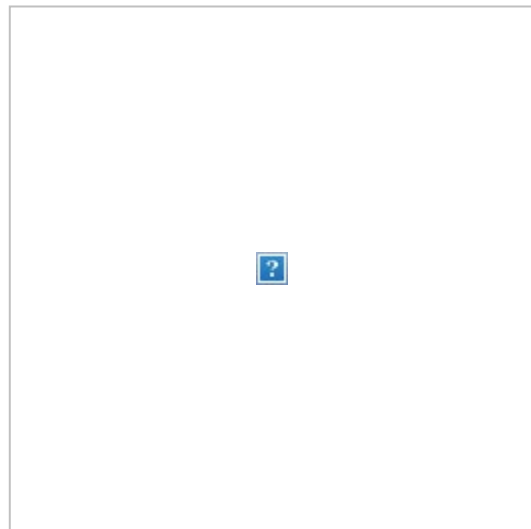
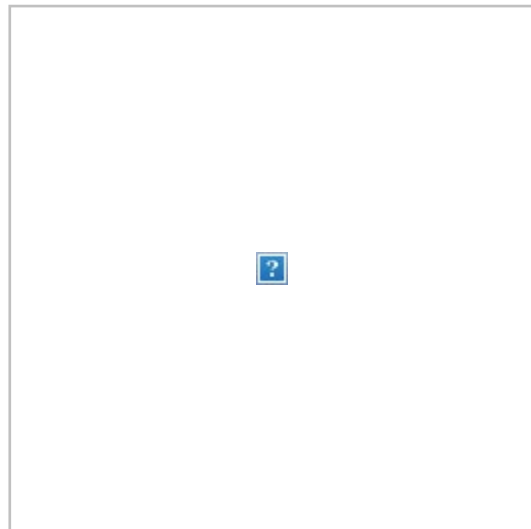
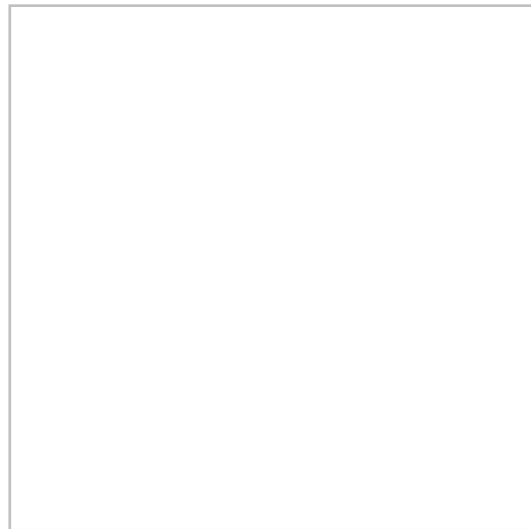
On June 15 in Billerica, Healey-Driscoll administration officials announced \$11.6 million in funding through the MassTrails Grant Program to support 68 trail improvement projects across the state. ...

DLS publishes issue dedicated to new local officials

The June 15 edition of the Division of Local Services' e-newsletter, City & Town, is dedicated to newly elected or appointed local officials, with municipal finance resources, information and policy guidance for those who might be new to local government. ...

STAM hosts state officials, elects officers at its Annual Meeting

Small Town Administrators of



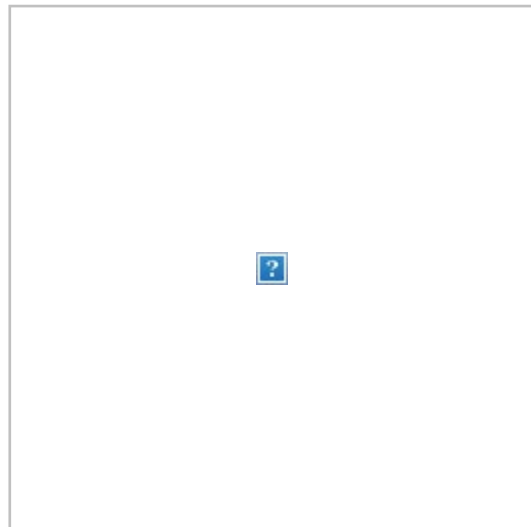
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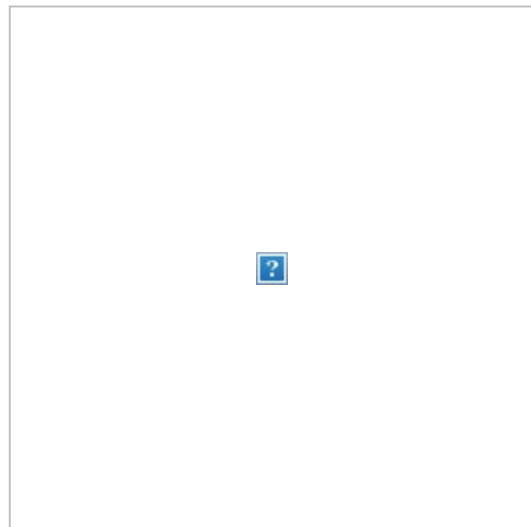
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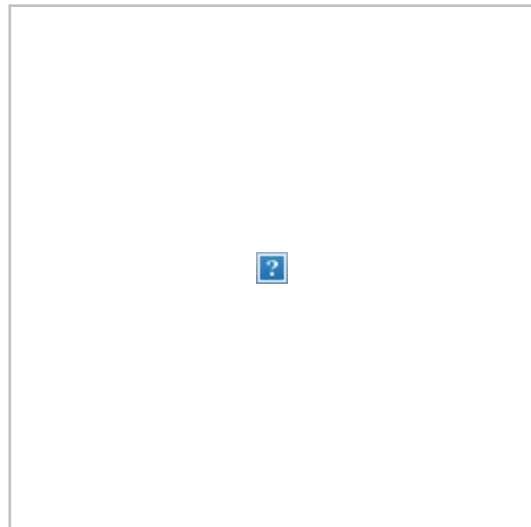


[Conference explores how cities, towns can boost their resilience](#)

The 2023 Resilient Cities Summit,

held June 6 through 8 in Falmouth, brought together municipal officials, advocates and nationally recognized experts in urban development, design, finance and infrastructure to discuss how cities and towns can better prepare for climate risks and work toward a more resilient future.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

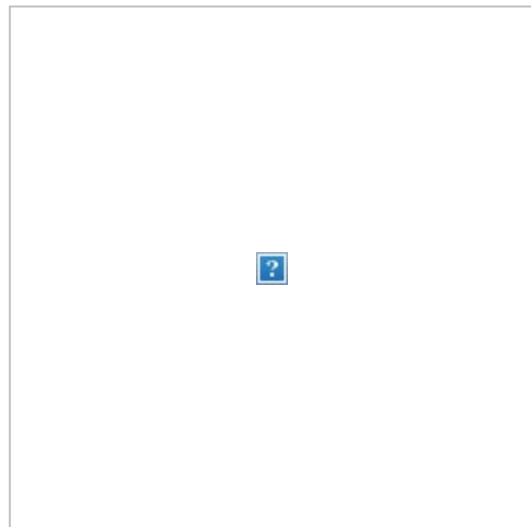
[MMA urges Education Committee to support bill to promote transparency and accountability in charter school finance](#)

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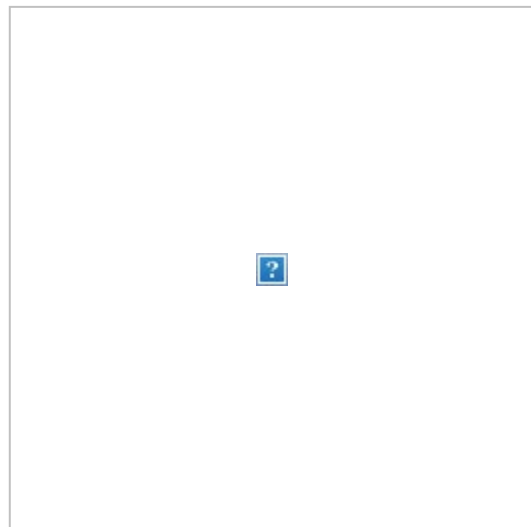
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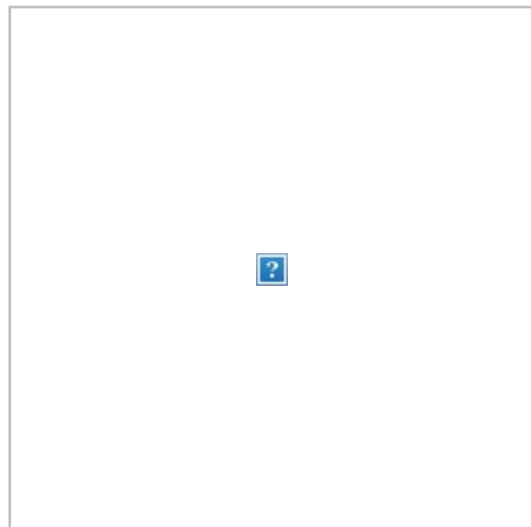
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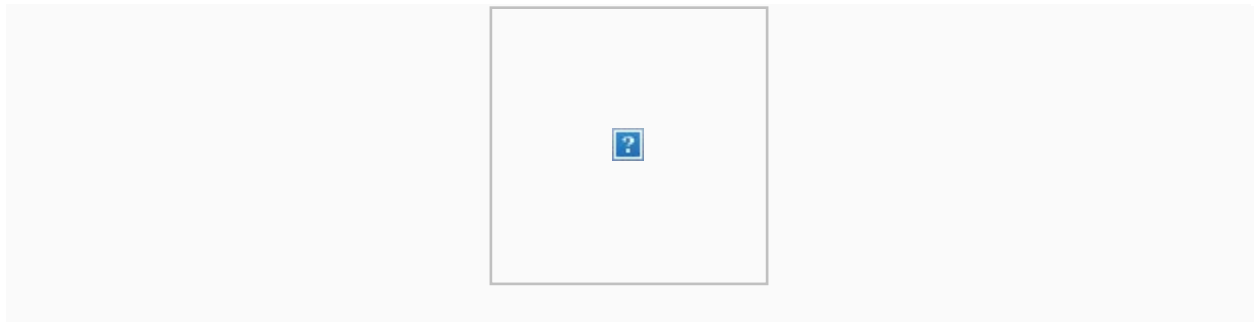
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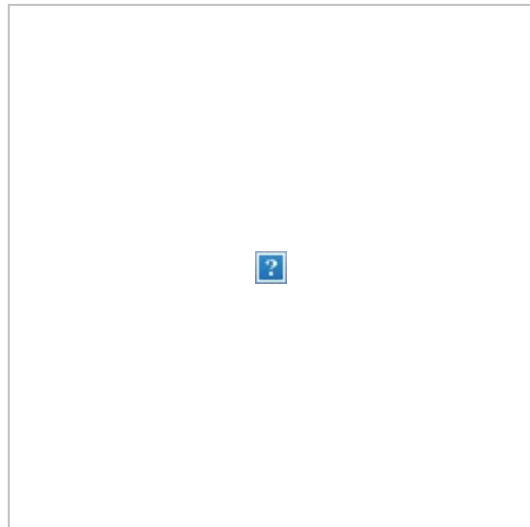
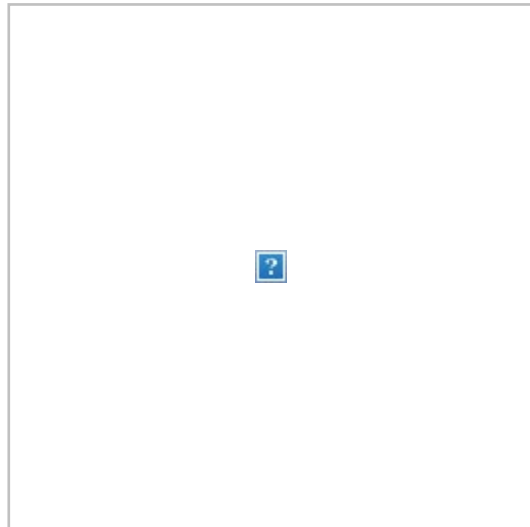
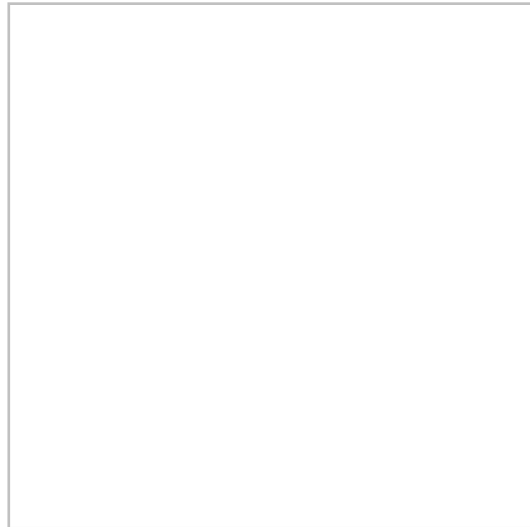
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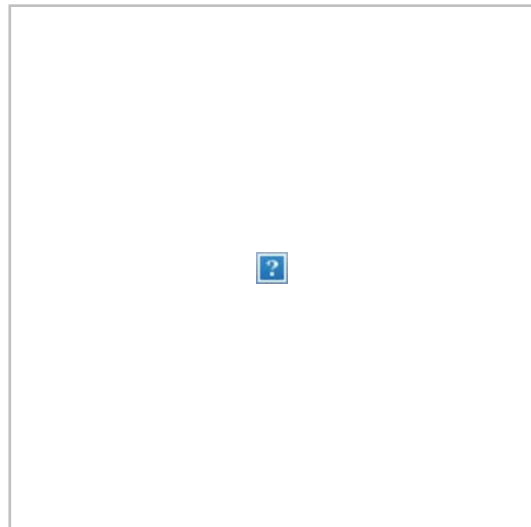
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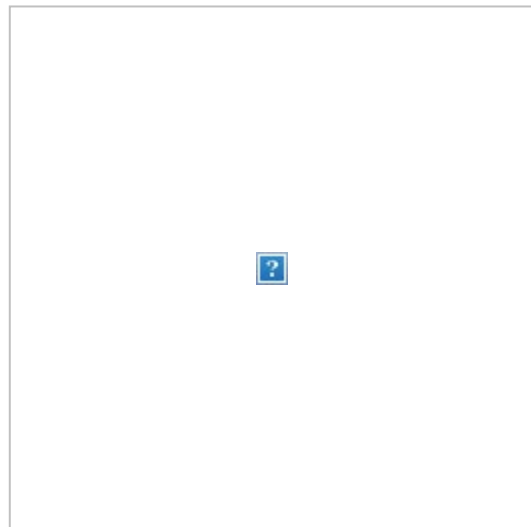
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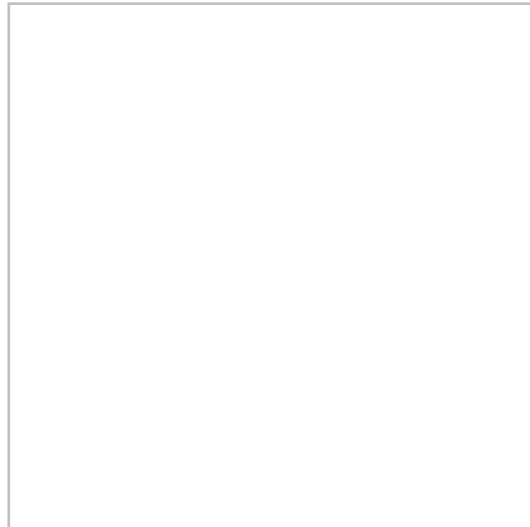
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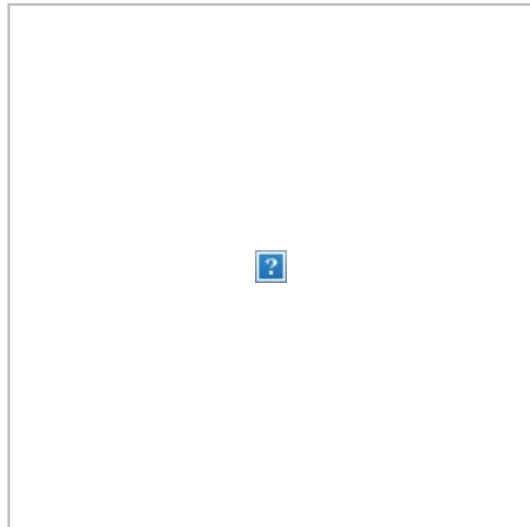
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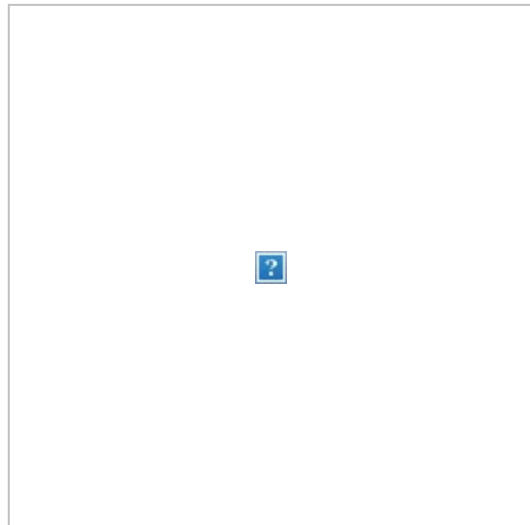
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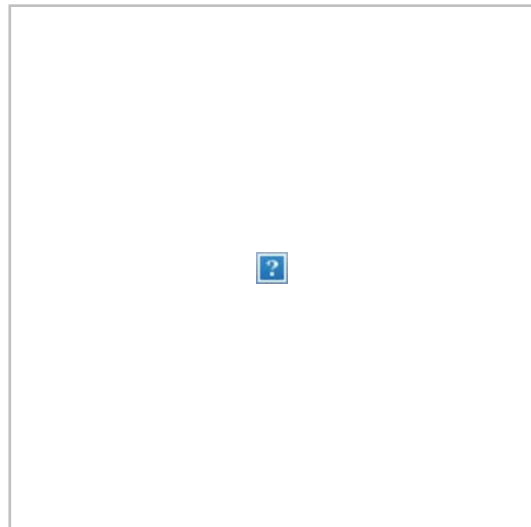


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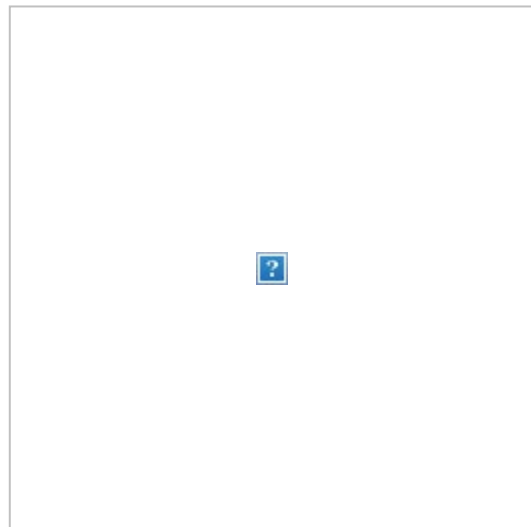
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[CCC publishes draft regulations: regulatory process to begin soon](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission yesterday published preliminary draft regulations regarding adult-use and medical cannabis that would upend existing host community contracts. ...

[House passes supplemental budget with conditional special education funding](#)

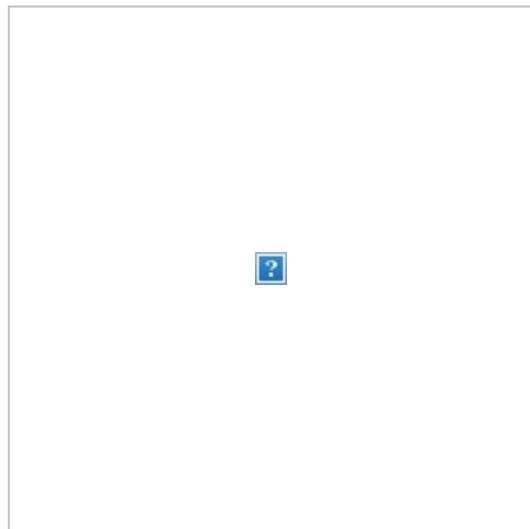
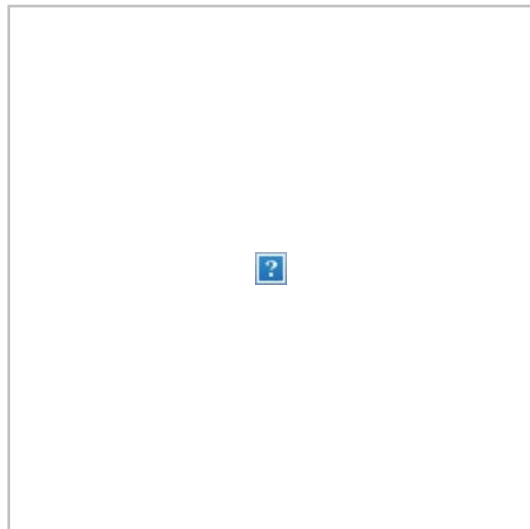
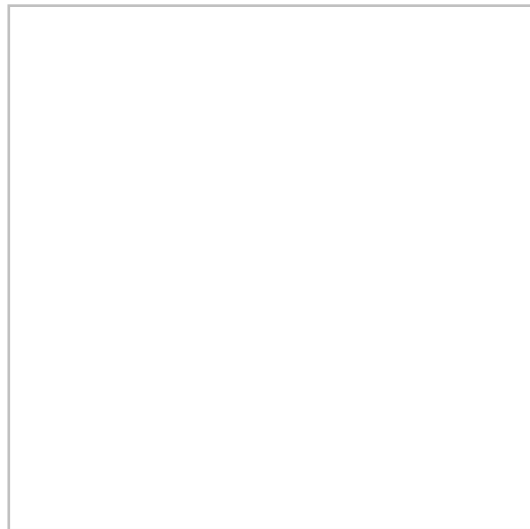
The House yesterday passed a \$693 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill that includes conditional funding to address extraordinary special education cost increases, as well as an expansion of the Housing Development Incentive Program. ...

[MMA-Suffolk certificate program graduates 2022-23 class](#)

On June 27, the MMA and Suffolk University graduated the 19th and 20th classes of the Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program. ...

[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging



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[\\$575M available for coastal resilience projects](#)

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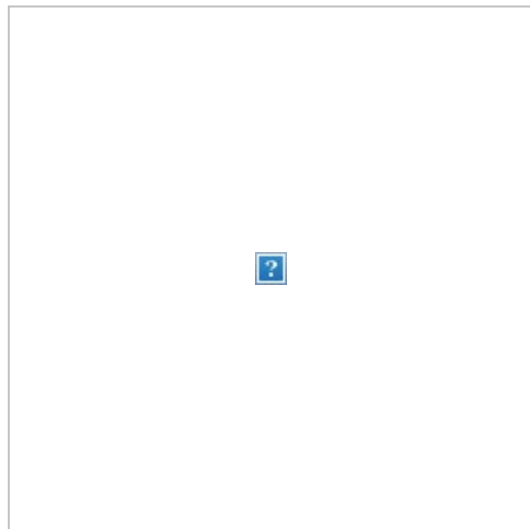
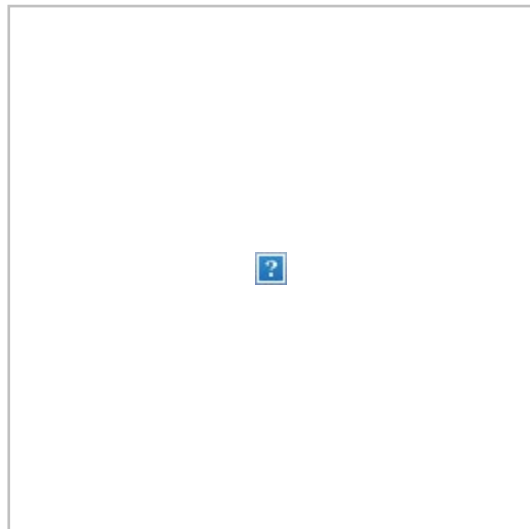
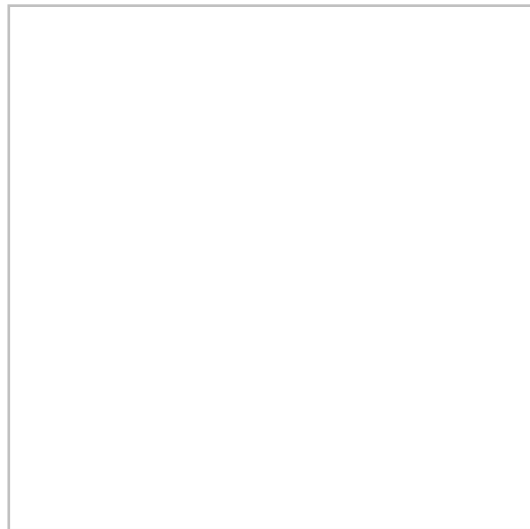
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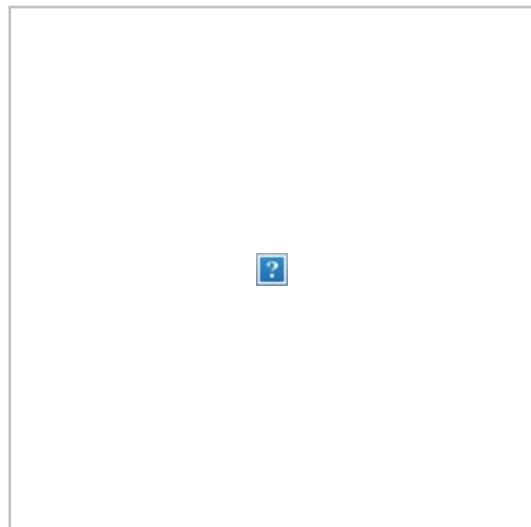


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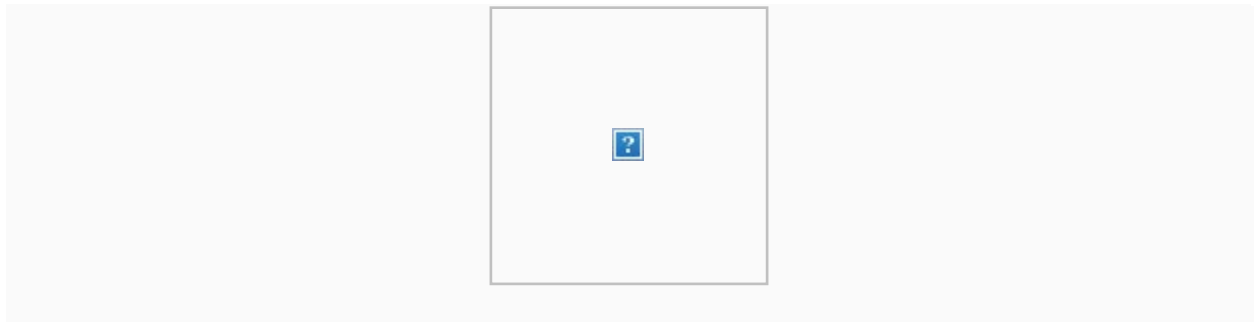
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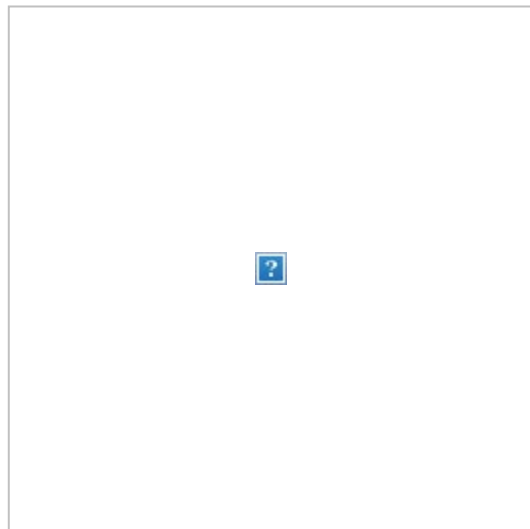
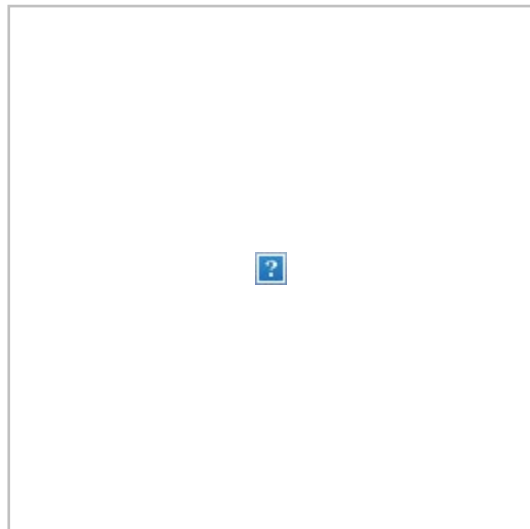
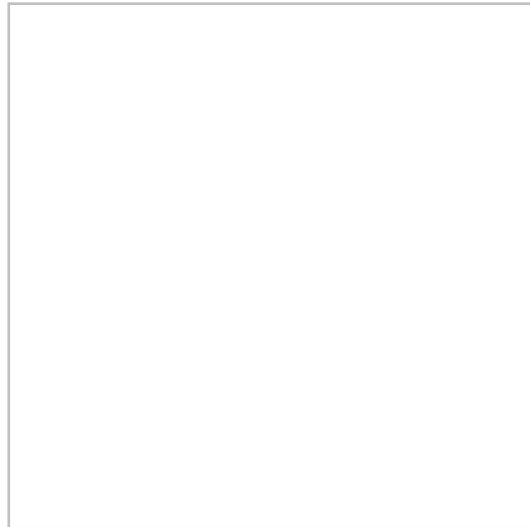
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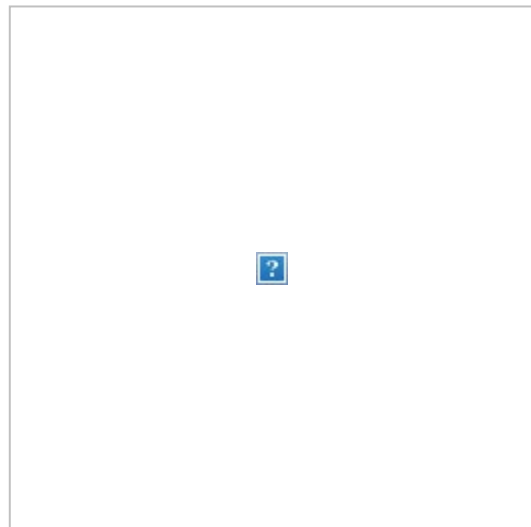
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[House, Senate approve FY24 Ch. 90 bill](#)

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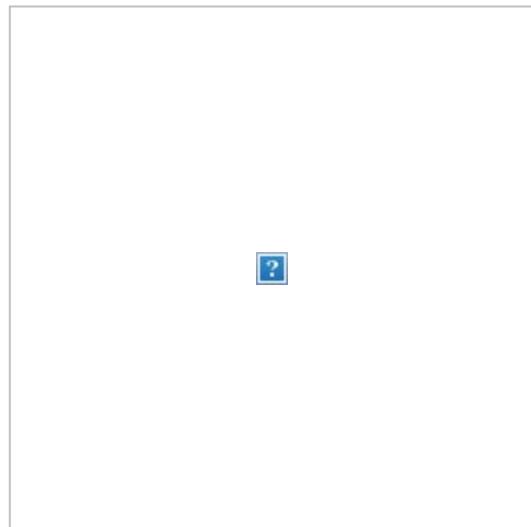
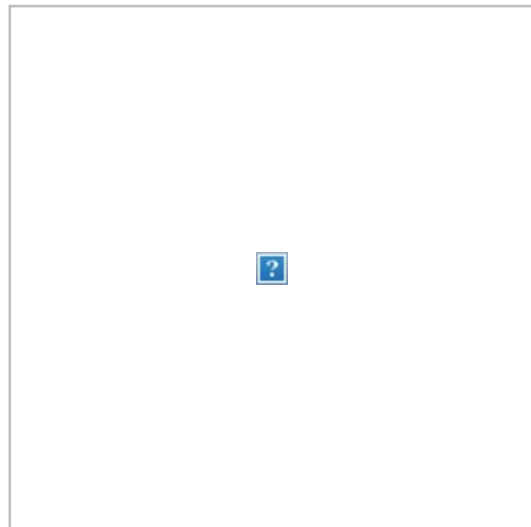
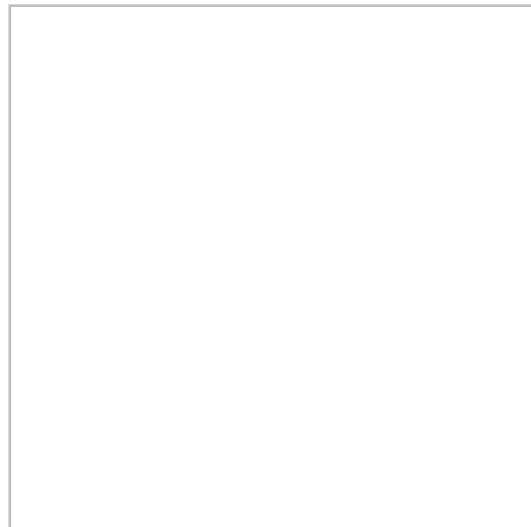
[Senate OK's \\$513M supplemental budget with \\$75M for special education](#)

The Senate today passed a \$513 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill that includes conditional funding to address extraordinary special education cost increases, as well as \$20 million in disaster relief related to recent flooding in western Massachusetts. ...

[MassCyberCenter releases 'Minimum Baseline of IT' guide](#)

Recent cyberattacks on cities and towns across the country have shed light on the importance of strengthening cybersecurity resiliency at the municipal level. ...

[MMA webinar on Aug. 7 will discuss proposed CCC regulations](#)



A free webinar for MMA members on Aug. 7 will review the Cannabis Control Commission's draft regulations on host community agreements and social equity. ...



[MMA members invited to MMLA meeting on climate change](#)

Climate change and related issues will be the focus of the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association's annual half-day program on Aug. 10 at the Publick House in Sturbridge. ...



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[DPH issues reminders to reduce risks of mosquito-borne illnesses](#)

With mosquito season upon us, the

Department of Public Health is reminding residents and municipal officials that mosquitoes can spread illness-causing viruses such as West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis.

...



Member Spotlight

[Pooler to retire as Arlington town manager](#)

After serving for a quarter century in municipal government, Arlington Town Manager Sandy Pooler will be retiring on July 28. ...



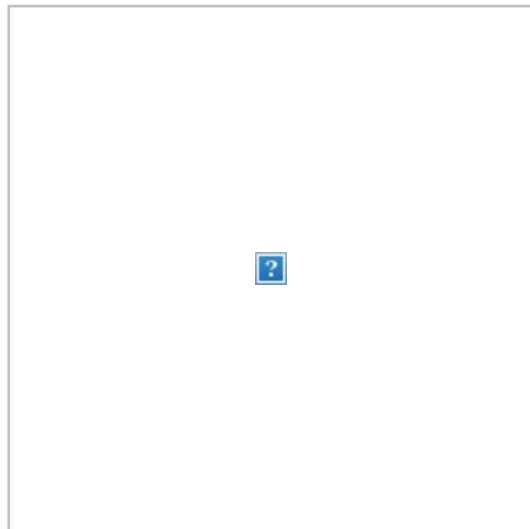
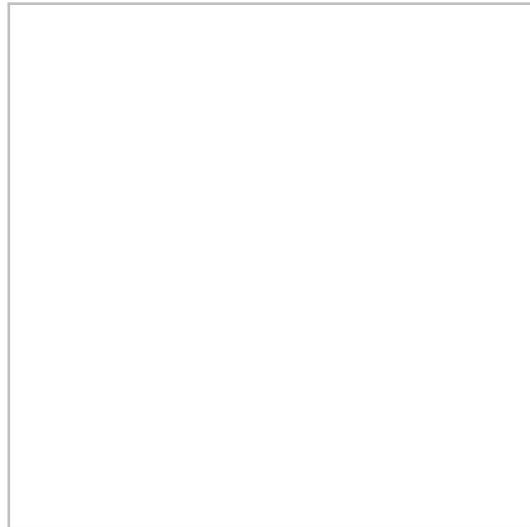
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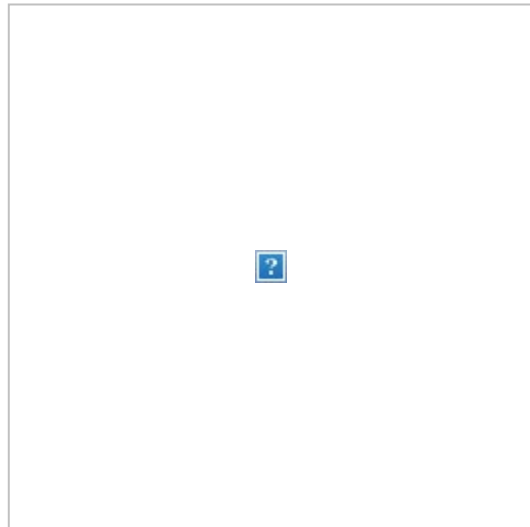
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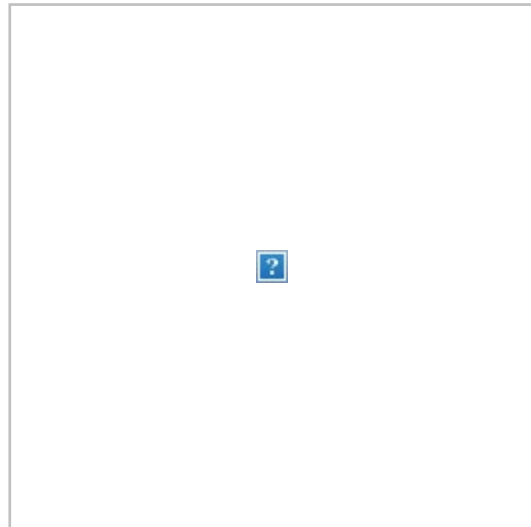


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[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

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[CCC publishes draft regulations: regulatory process to begin soon](#)

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[House passes supplemental budget with conditional special education funding](#)

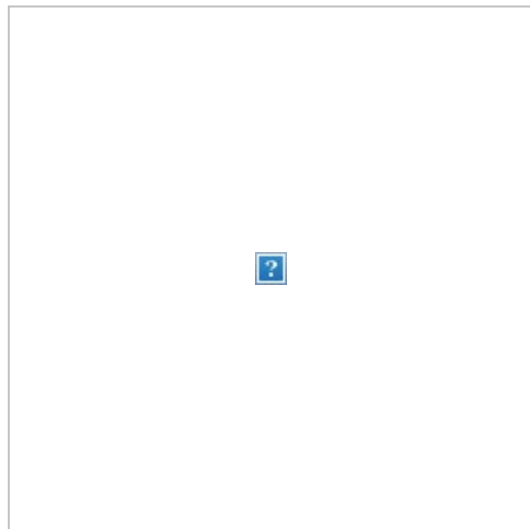
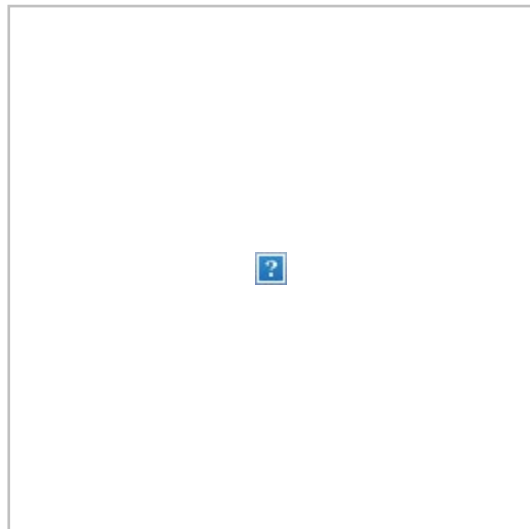
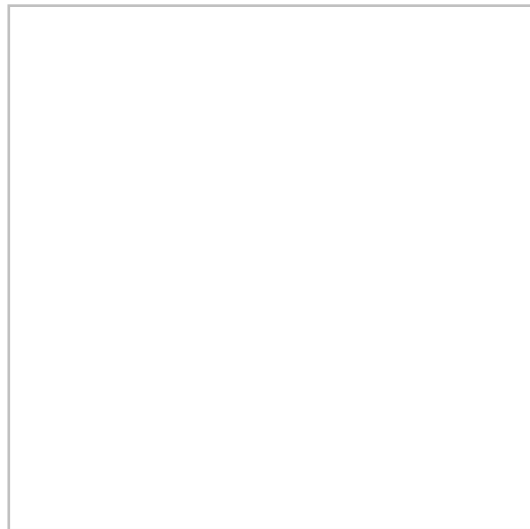
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[MMA-Suffolk certificate program graduates 2022-23 class](#)

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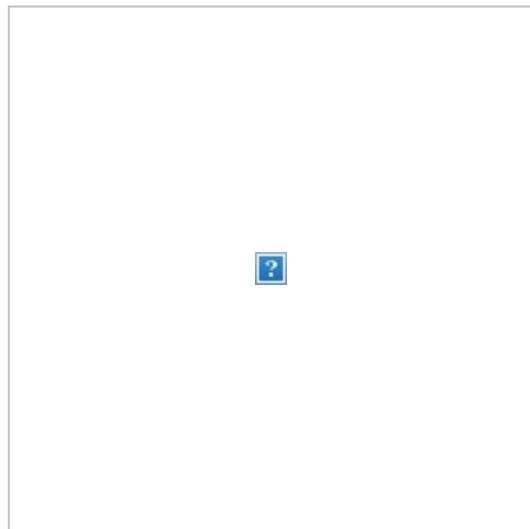
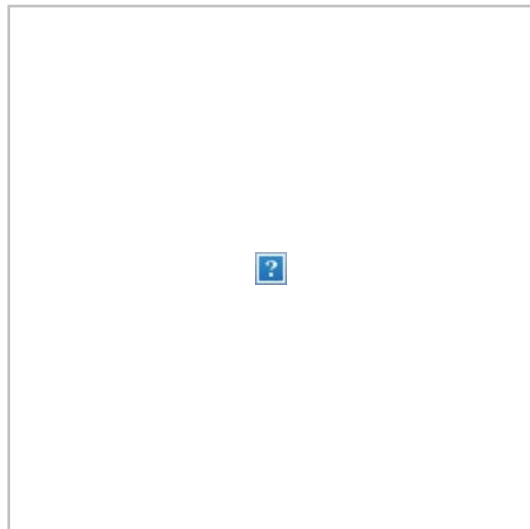
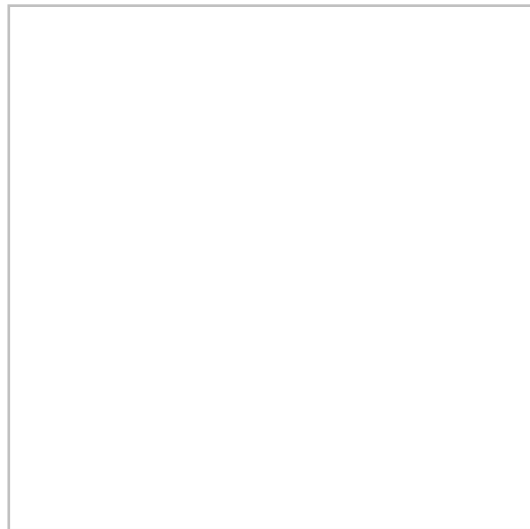
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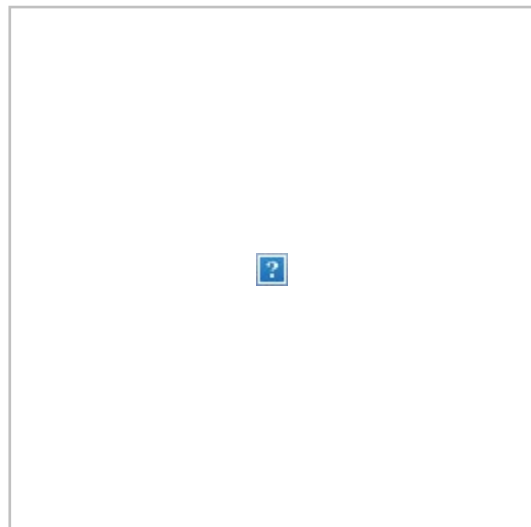


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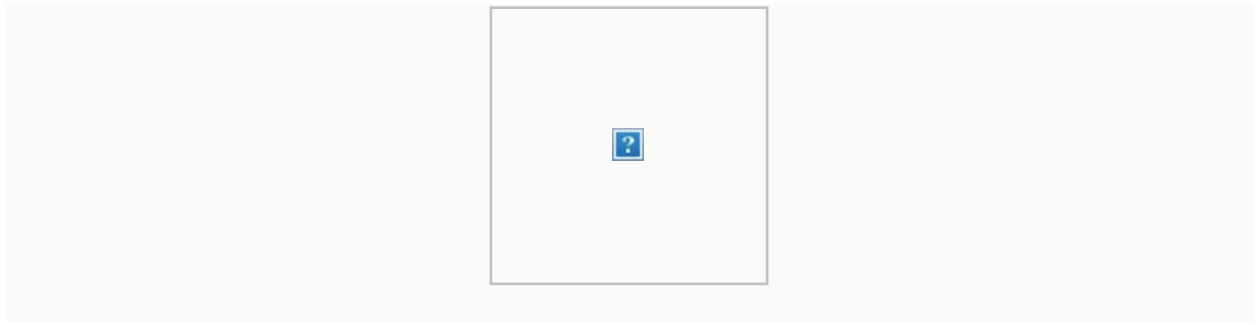
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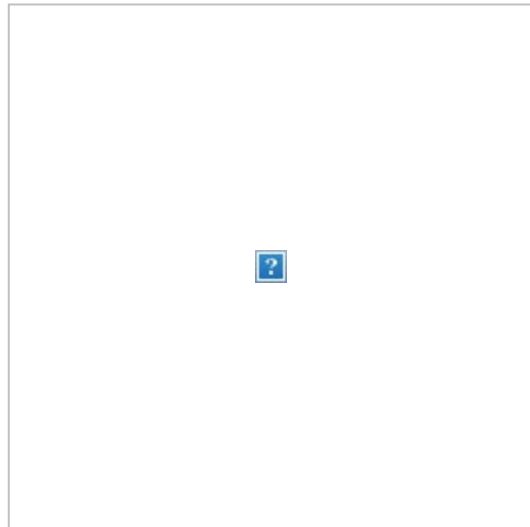
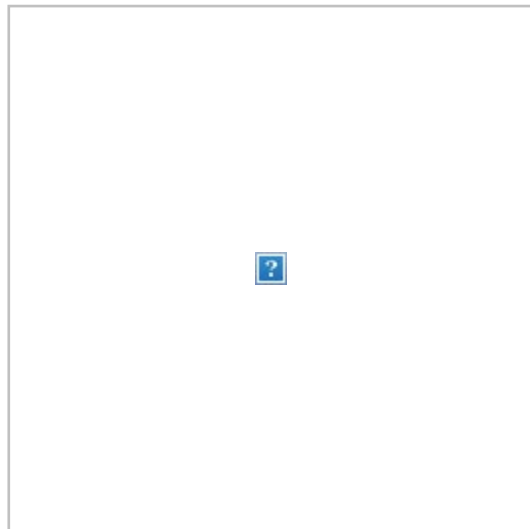
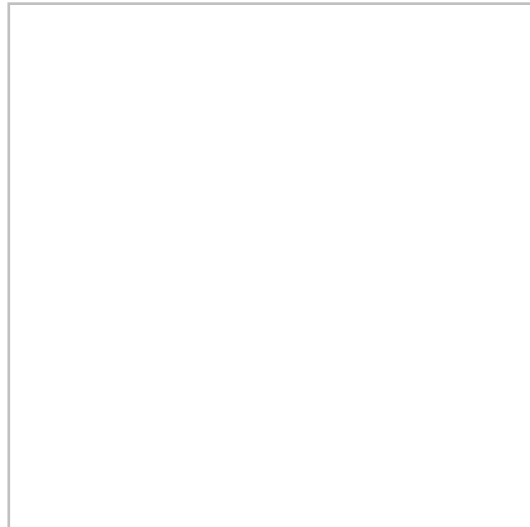
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The Legislature is considering several bills this session that would hold producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products and packaging, a concept that could help local governments manage their increasing recycling and solid waste costs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Local government is teamwork](#)

On July 18, Executive Director's Report

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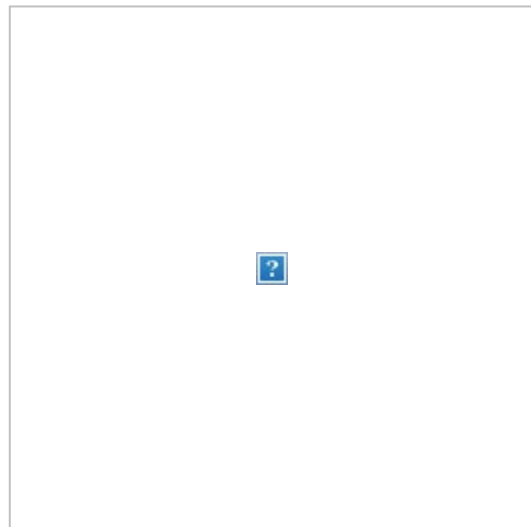
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MMA Website Weekly Review

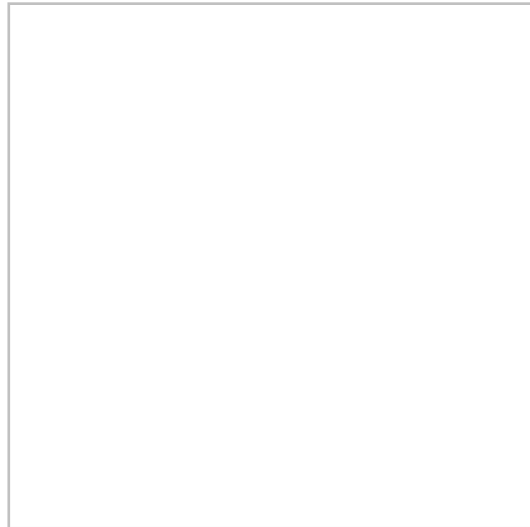
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[Governor signs Chapter 90 bill](#)

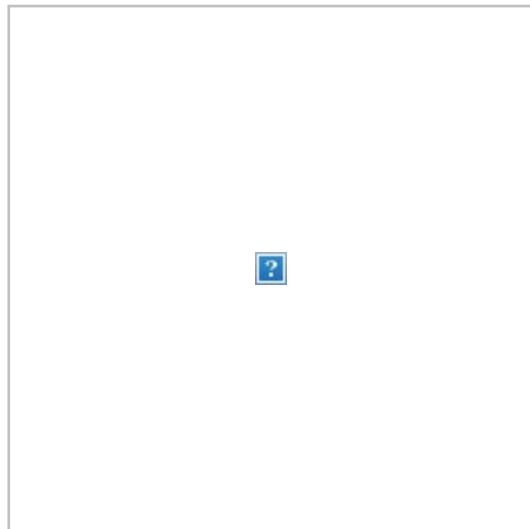
Alongside key stakeholders, Gov. Maura Healey signed the fiscal 2024 Chapter 90 bond bill today at an event in Lowell. The House-Senate compromise bill authorizes \$200 million for the road bridge program and \$175 million for seven

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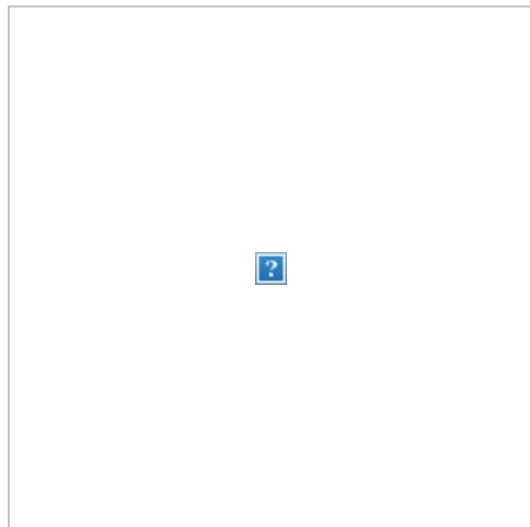
[Legislature enacts FY24 budget with key investments in municipal and school aid](#)

The House and Senate on July 31 passed a \$56.2 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024. ...



[Adam Chapdelaine appointed as MMA's new executive director](#)

The MMA Board of Directors today appointed Adam Chapdelaine as the association's next executive director to succeed the retiring Geoff Beckwith. ...



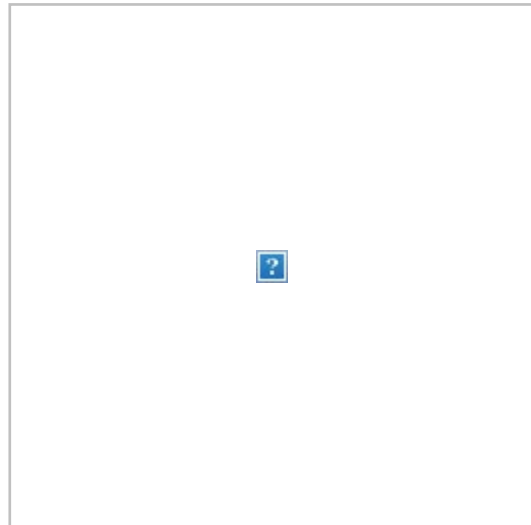
[Governor signs \\$200M FY23 supplemental budget bill, \\$20M for flood relief in western Mass.](#)

Soon after completing its work on the fiscal 2024 compromise state budget bill, the Legislature on Monday passed a fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill (H. 4034) providing \$20 million in mitigation funds for natural disasters, including the recent floods in western Massachusetts. Gov. Maura Healey signed the bill into law on Tuesday morning. ...



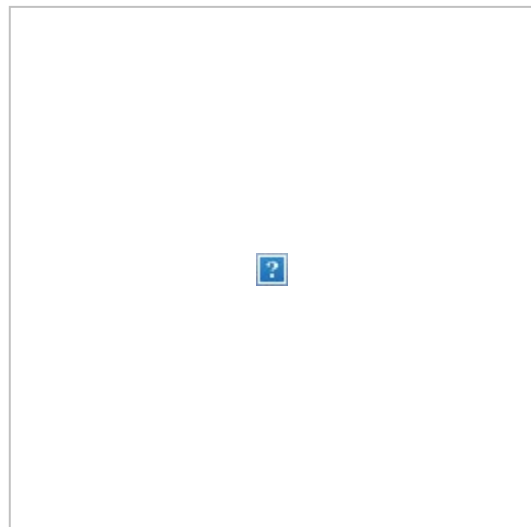
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On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[With override, Nantucket boosts affordable housing efforts](#)

Faced with an increasingly dire housing shortage, the town of Nantucket has invested more than \$67 million in housing efforts in recent years, approved an override for future projects, and partnered with developers to bring additional housing to the island. ...



[Amherst completes comprehensive solar assessment](#)

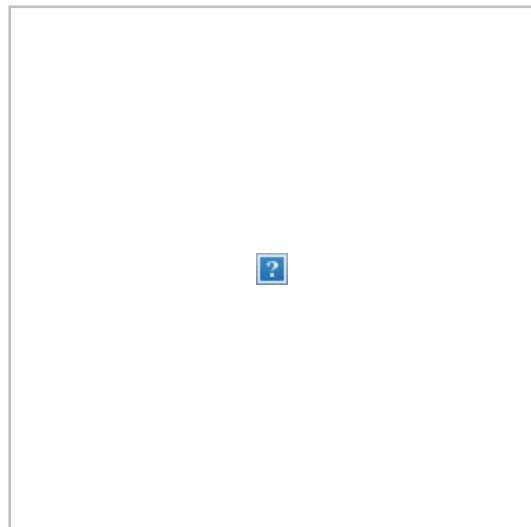
The town of Amherst recently

completed a townwide solar assessment as a part of an effort to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. As a result, the town now has a mapping tool that shows where solar is feasible for the town, as well as for businesses and residents who may be interested in solar installation in the future. ...



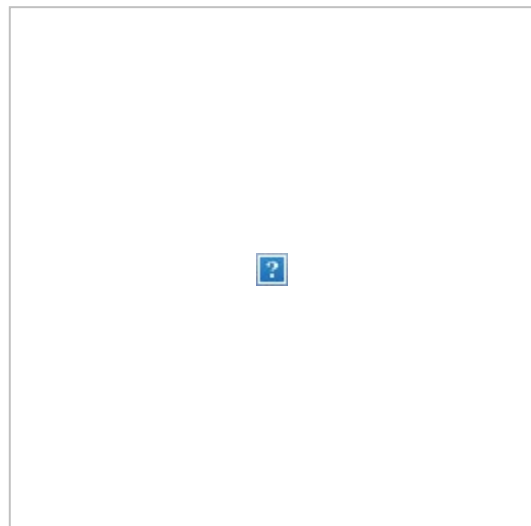
[Harvard report highlights Somerville's civic engagement](#)

A recent study on Somerville's civic engagement activities published by the Harvard Kennedy School offers insights on citizen interaction at a time when local governments seek new ways to engage residents and create a more civil environment for public discourse. ...



[MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest](#)

Has your community recently launched an innovative new project that has transformed the delivery of services or helped solve a common problem facing cities and towns? ...



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The Weekly Review is taking a vacation next week. We will be back in your inbox on Aug. 25.

[Gov. Healey signs FY24 state budget](#)

Gov. Maura Healey today signed a \$56 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that increases unrestricted

local aid by 3.2% over fiscal 2023 and boosts Chapter 70 education aid by \$603 million. ...



Governor declares emergency, calls for support for rush of migrant families

Gov. Maura Healey this morning declared that a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability. ...



MMA webinar reviews draft CCC regulations on host community agreements

An MMA webinar today discussed the implications of the Cannabis Control Commission's draft regulations on host community agreements and social equity. ...



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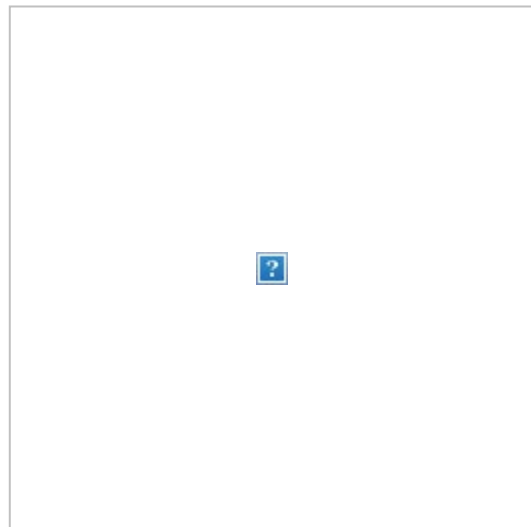
MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5

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The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



Navigating unemployment: fraud, complexity and safeguards

The Massachusetts Department of

Unemployment Assistance recently issued an alert about another uptick in fraudulent claims, three years after many states were hit with an initial spike during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

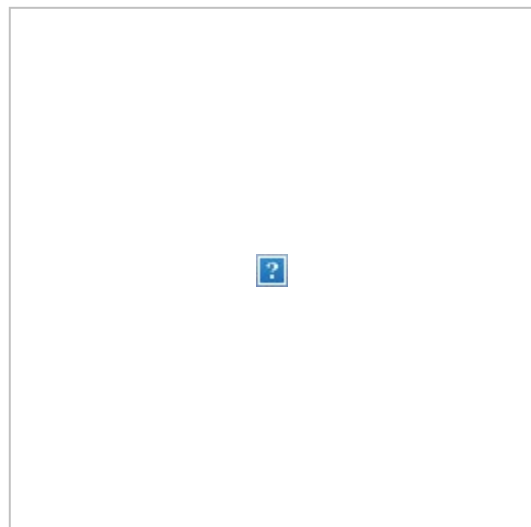
[MMA asks Public Service Committee to oppose bills that would add costly new unfunded mandates for employee benefits](#)

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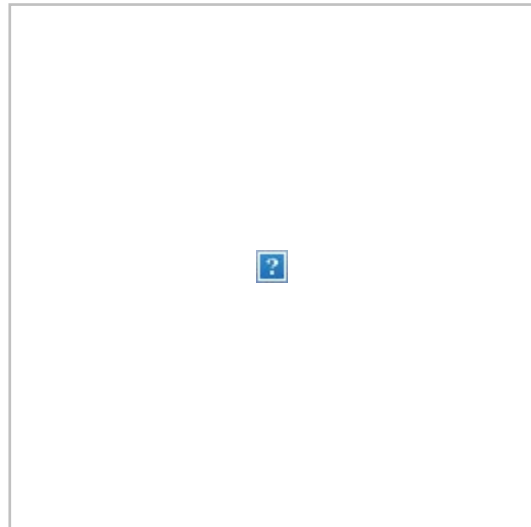
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[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

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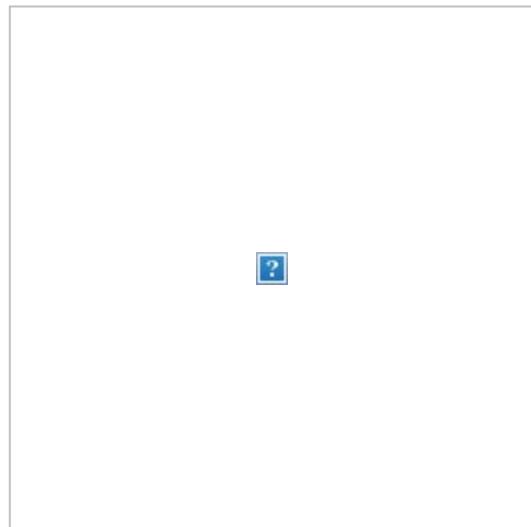
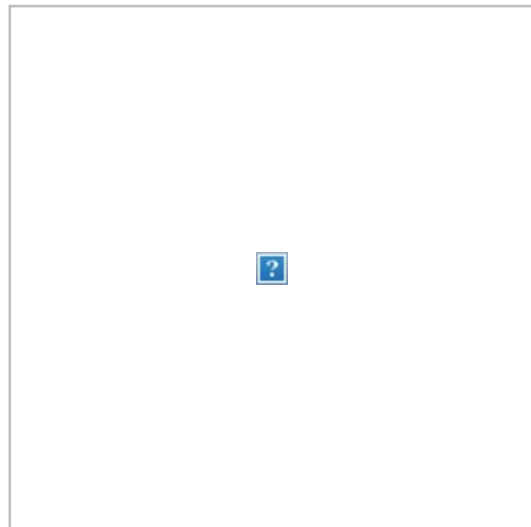
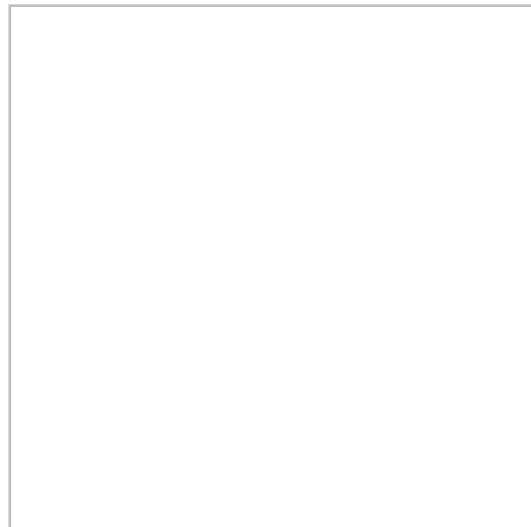
[Senate OK's \\$513M supplemental budget with \\$75M for special education](#)

The Senate today passed a \$513 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill that includes conditional funding to address extraordinary special education cost increases, as well as \$20 million in disaster relief related to recent flooding in western Massachusetts. ...

[MassCyberCenter releases 'Minimum Baseline of IT' guide](#)

Recent cyberattacks on cities and towns across the country have shed light on the importance of strengthening cybersecurity resiliency at the municipal level. ...

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[DPH issues reminders to reduce risks of mosquito-borne illnesses](#)

With mosquito season upon us, the

Department of Public Health is reminding residents and municipal officials that mosquitoes can spread illness-causing viruses such as West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis.

...



Member Spotlight

[Pooler to retire as Arlington town manager](#)

After serving for a quarter century in municipal government, Arlington Town Manager Sandy Pooler will be retiring on July 28. ...



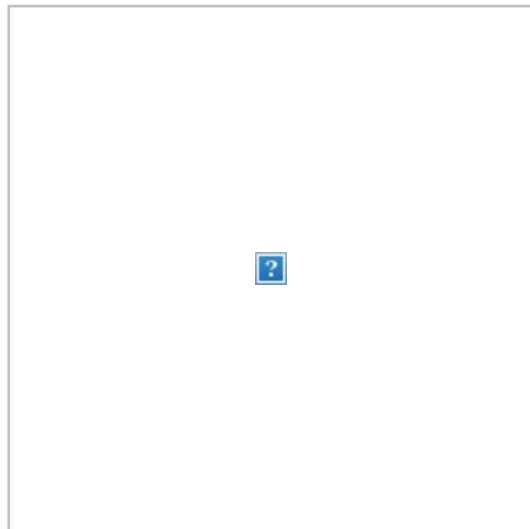
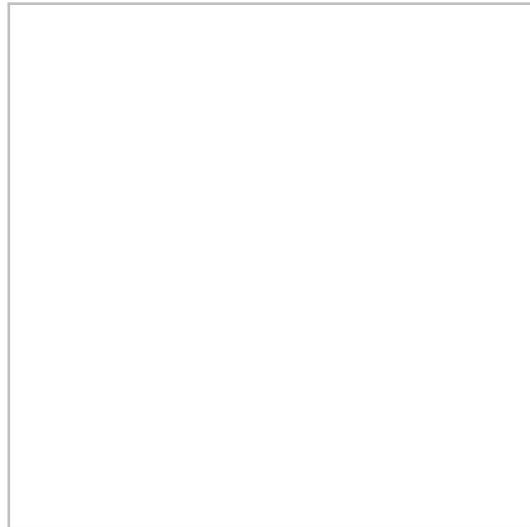
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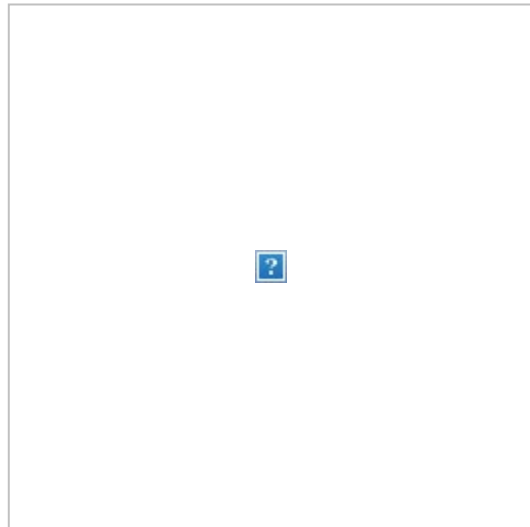
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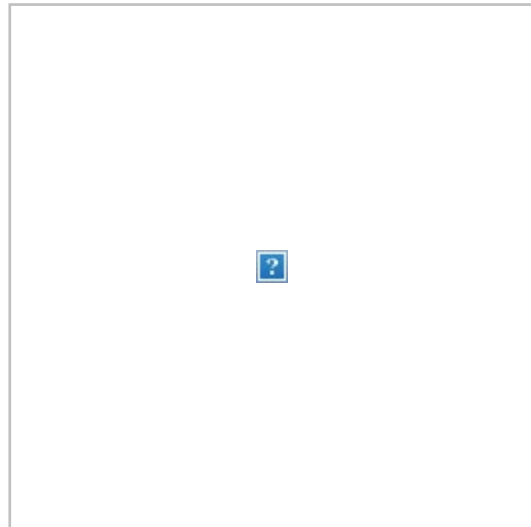


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[State makes revisions to MBTA communities guidelines](#)

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[**Municipal leaders urged to comment on CCC draft regulations**](#)

The MMA is encouraging municipal officials to weigh in on draft regulations approved by the Cannabis Control Commission on July 28 regarding host community agreements and social equity. ...

[**DOER requests feedback on Solar for All straw application proposal**](#)

The Department of Energy Resources, in partnership with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, is requesting feedback on a straw proposal for the state's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All program. ...

[**Municipal officials request permanent remote, hybrid meeting options**](#)



During a July 26 legislative hearing, the MMA and local officials from across the state called for the existing authorization for public body remote and hybrid meetings to be made permanent. ...



[MMA webinar highlights navigation of contracts, purchasing in COMMBUYS](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Operational Services Division reviewed how to access statewide contract information and use COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants. ...



[DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September](#)

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “What’s New in Municipal Law” seminar for local officials on Sept. 21 in Waltham and on Sept. 28 in Holyoke. ...



[IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)

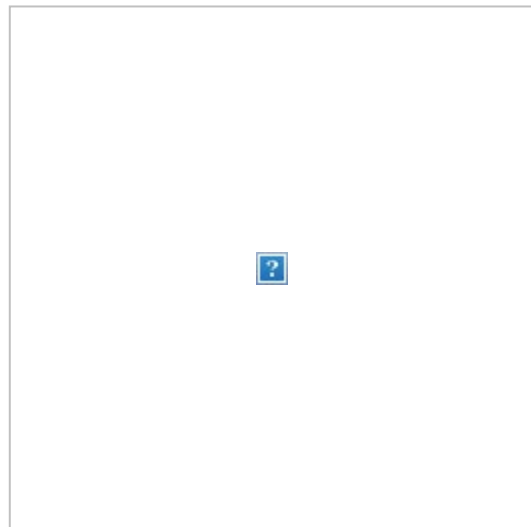
The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



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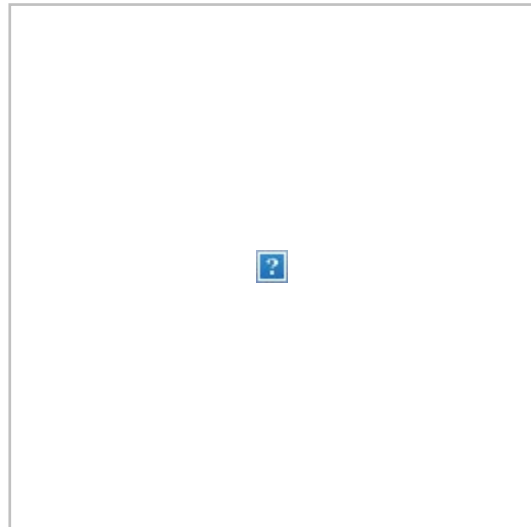
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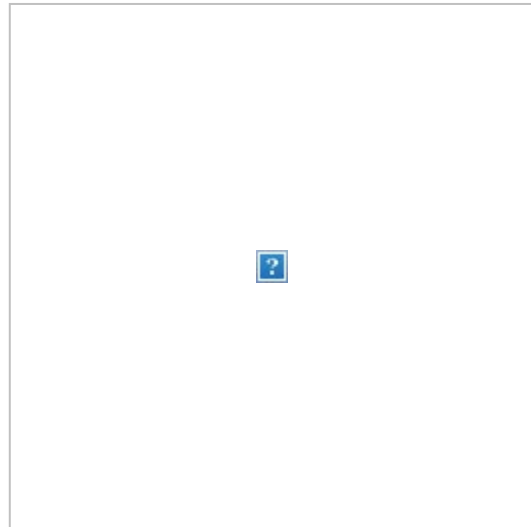
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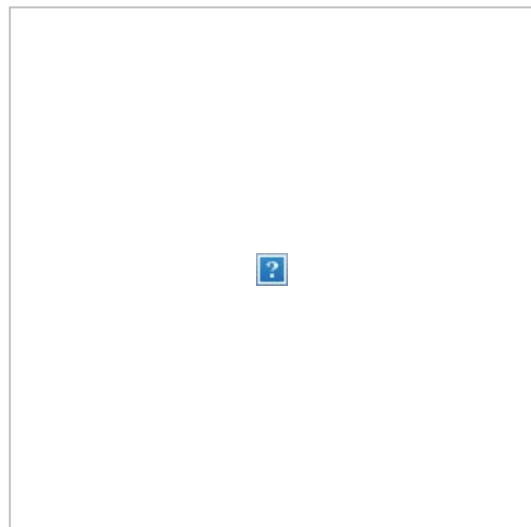
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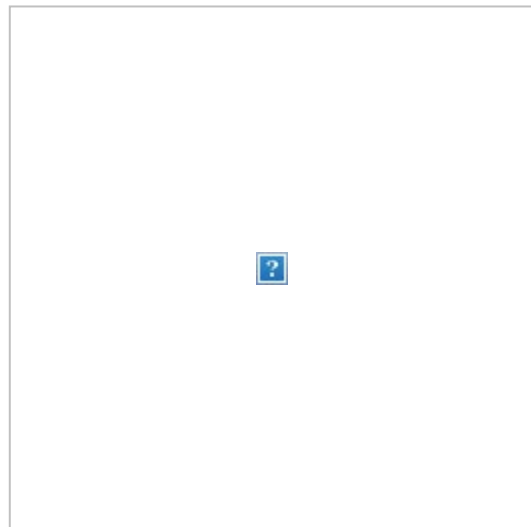
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 53 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for DPW Director, Grant Manager, Highway Operator, Treasurer/Collector, Conservation Agent, Director of Veterans Services and Finance Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

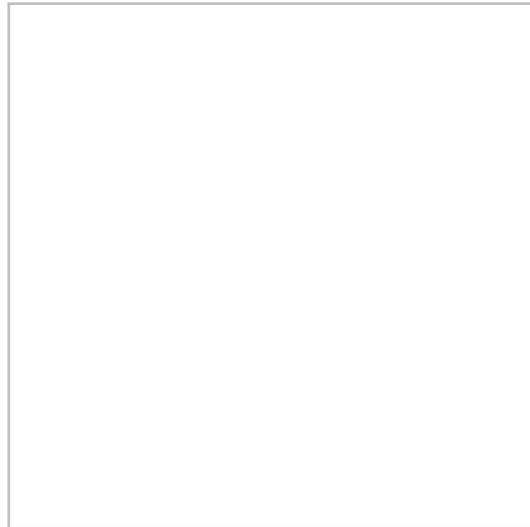
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[Governor signs Chapter 90 bill](#)

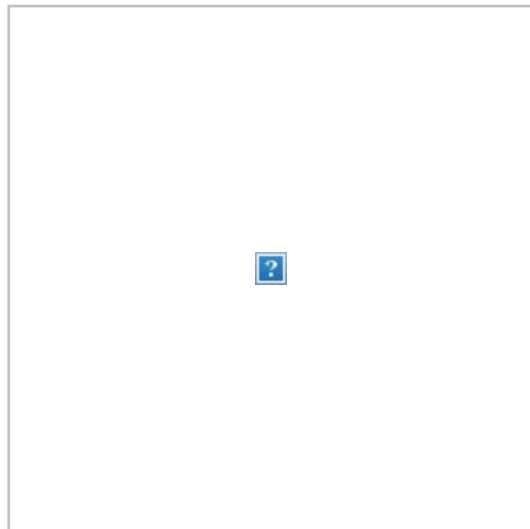
Alongside key stakeholders, Gov. Maura Healey signed the fiscal 2024 Chapter 90 bond bill today at an event in Lowell. The House-Senate compromise bill authorizes \$200 million for the road bridge program and \$175 million for seven

transportation-related grant programs. ...



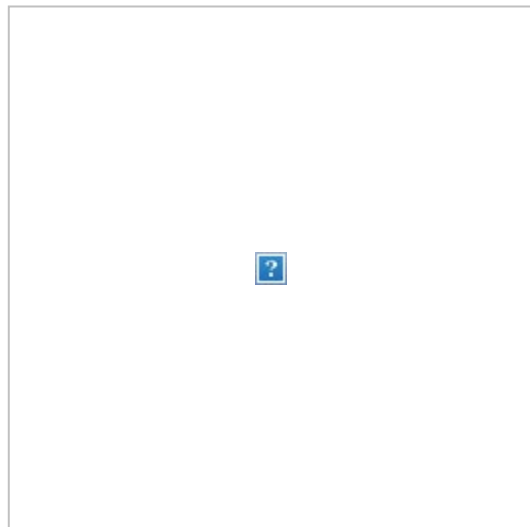
[Legislature enacts FY24 budget with key investments in municipal and school aid](#)

The House and Senate on July 31 passed a \$56.2 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024. ...



[Adam Chapdelaine appointed as MMA's new executive director](#)

The MMA Board of Directors today appointed Adam Chapdelaine as the association's next executive director to succeed the retiring Geoff Beckwith. ...



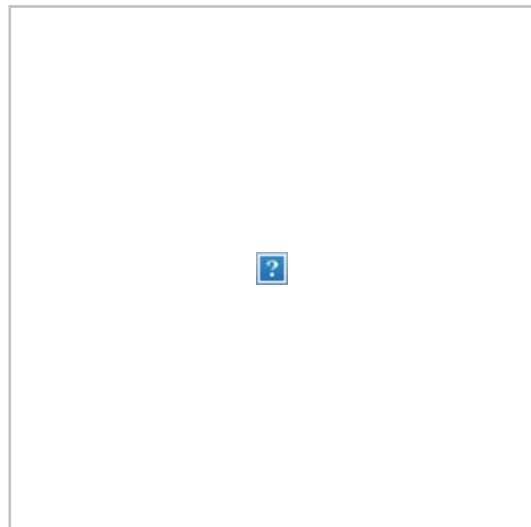
[Governor signs \\$200M FY23 supplemental budget bill, \\$20M for flood relief in western Mass.](#)

Soon after completing its work on the fiscal 2024 compromise state budget bill, the Legislature on Monday passed a fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill (H. 4034) providing \$20 million in mitigation funds for natural disasters, including the recent floods in western Massachusetts. Gov. Maura Healey signed the bill into law on Tuesday morning. ...



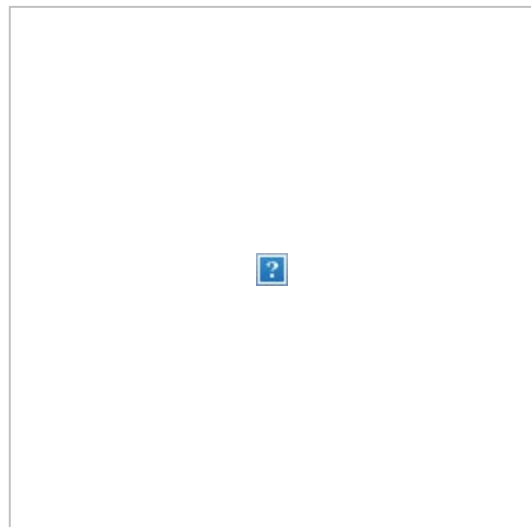
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[MMA webinar on Aug. 7 will discuss proposed CCC regulations](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Aug. 7 will review the Cannabis Control Commission's draft regulations on host community agreements and social equity. ...



[MMA members invited to MMLA](#)

[meeting on climate change](#)

Climate change and related issues will be the focus of the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association's annual half-day program on Aug. 10 at the Publick House in Sturbridge. ...



[MMA webinar to discuss statewide contracts and procurement](#)

On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[With override, Nantucket boosts affordable housing efforts](#)

Faced with an increasingly dire housing shortage, the town of Nantucket has invested more than \$67 million in housing efforts in recent years, approved an override for future projects, and partnered with developers to bring additional housing to the island. ...



[Amherst completes comprehensive solar assessment](#)

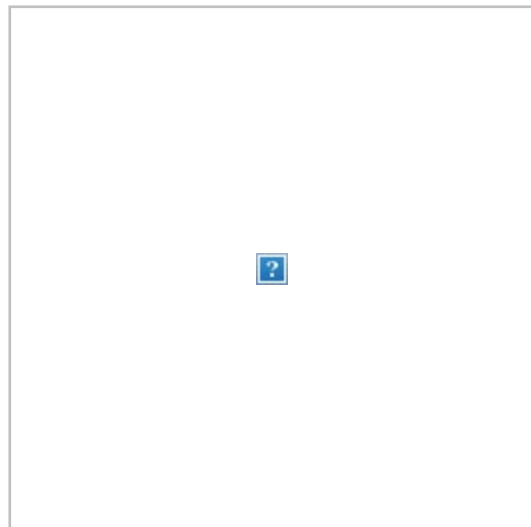
The town of Amherst recently

completed a townwide solar assessment as a part of an effort to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. As a result, the town now has a mapping tool that shows where solar is feasible for the town, as well as for businesses and residents who may be interested in solar installation in the future. ...



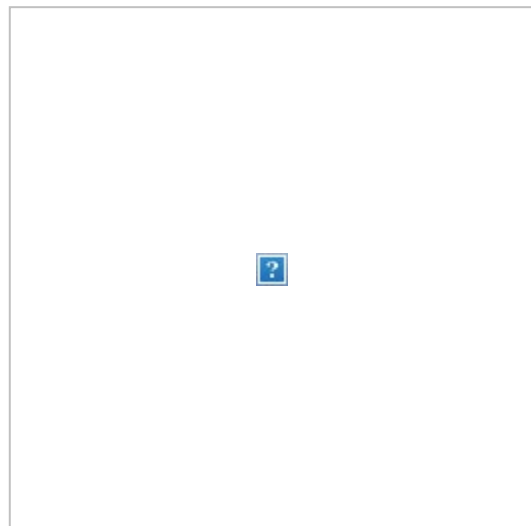
[Harvard report highlights Somerville's civic engagement](#)

A recent study on Somerville's civic engagement activities published by the Harvard Kennedy School offers insights on citizen interaction at a time when local governments seek new ways to engage residents and create a more civil environment for public discourse. ...



[MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest](#)

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New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges governor to support key municipal investments in FY24 state budget](#)

On Aug. 2, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA seeks help with annual database updates](#)

For those who have not yet responded, the MMA is asking local

leaders for help to ensure that the association has complete and accurate personnel information for every community. ...



MMA seeks input for Annual Meeting workshops

The MMA is seeking topic suggestions from members for the timely, informative and interactive workshops that are a key component of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show each January. ...



Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging all Massachusetts cities, towns and school districts “to take full advantage of newly available federal grants to clean up our school bus fleets.” ...



\$575M available for coastal resilience projects

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[FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants](#)

The Federal Highway Administration has opened the application period for a new discretionary grant program called PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation). Up to \$848 million is available. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the Draft Regulations on Host Community Agreements webinar](#) - Aug. 7

[Best Practices for Navigating Statewide Contracts and COMMBUYS Purchasing webinar](#) - Aug. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 14

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[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 12

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[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 64 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Budget Director, Conservation Agent, Network Manager, Public Works Engineer, Interim Town Administrator, Health Assistant, Safety Specialist and Fire Department Dispatcher. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Administration awards \\$31.5M in climate resiliency funding to communities](#)

At an event in Stockbridge today, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announced \$31.5

million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grants for climate resilience implementation and planning throughout Massachusetts.

...

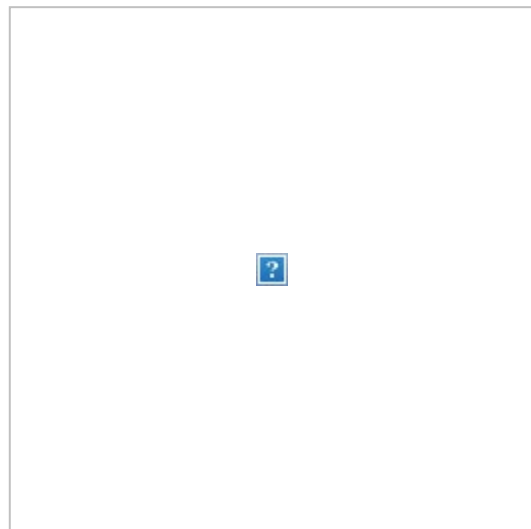
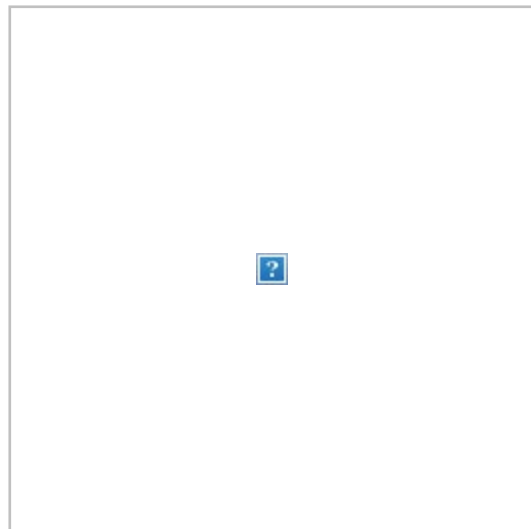
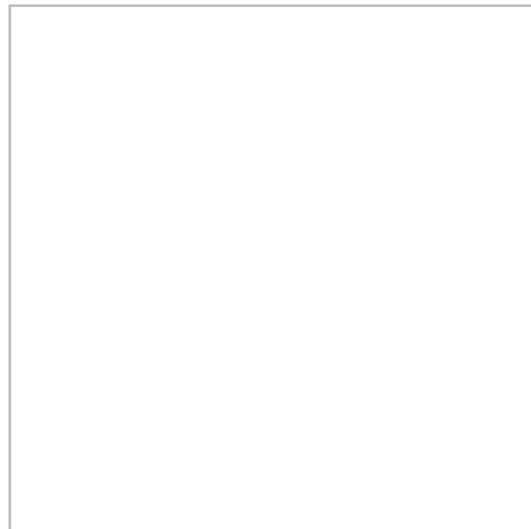
[Treasury issues new guidance on ARPA Flex provision](#)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has released detailed guidance that increases flexibility for the use of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...

[MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants. ...

[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



Massachusetts Broadband Institute seeks input on Internet for All plan

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute this month will begin a series of public listening sessions as it develops a five-year plan to deploy \$147 million in federal investments to support actions to bridge the digital divide. ...



Grants available to boost resilience in disadvantaged communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities. ...



Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future

Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[EV charger report forecasts significant needs for infrastructure](#)

A new report from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council provides a comprehensive view of the current electric vehicle charging landscape, as well as recommendations for policy actions to support a robust, equitable and accessible charging network across the Commonwealth. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



In Case You Missed It

[DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September](#)

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “What’s New in Municipal Law” seminar for local officials on Sept. 21 in Waltham and on Sept. 28 in Holyoke. ...



[IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)

The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



[Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland](#)

The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



[MassCyberCenter to hold annual](#)

[municipal summit Oct. 5](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



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The Weekly Review is taking a vacation next week. We will be back in your inbox on Aug. 25.

[Gov. Healey signs FY24 state budget](#)

Gov. Maura Healey today signed a \$56 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that increases unrestricted

local aid by 3.2% over fiscal 2023 and boosts Chapter 70 education aid by \$603 million. ...



Governor declares emergency, calls for support for rush of migrant families

Gov. Maura Healey this morning declared that a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability. ...



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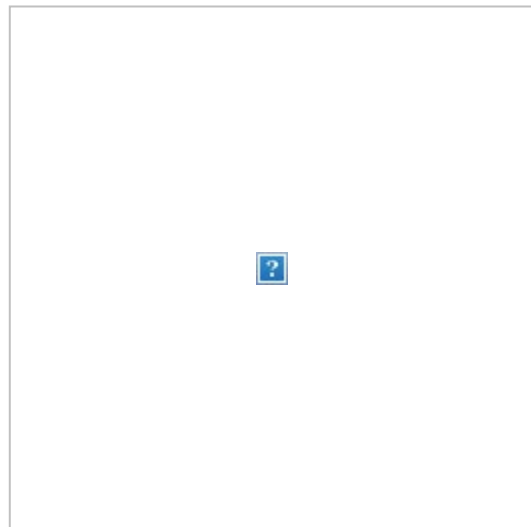
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[Navigating unemployment: fraud, complexity and safeguards](#)

The Massachusetts Department of

Unemployment Assistance recently issued an alert about another uptick in fraudulent claims, three years after many states were hit with an initial spike during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Public Service Committee to oppose bills that would add costly new unfunded mandates for employee benefits](#)

On Aug. 4, Testimony

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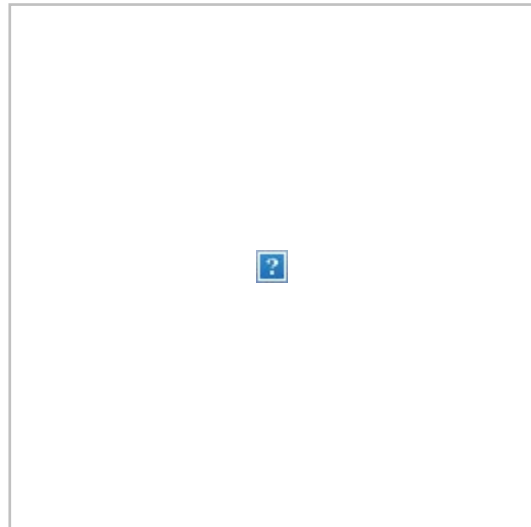
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[Incoming Director Chapdelaine prepares for MMA's future](#)

When Adam Chapdelaine becomes the MMA's new executive director on Sept. 9, he will bring his years of experience working in city and town halls, his firsthand knowledge of the

inner workings of the State House,
and an abiding belief in the essential
role of local government in our
quality of life. ...

[Beckwith reflects on 31 years leading the MMA](#)

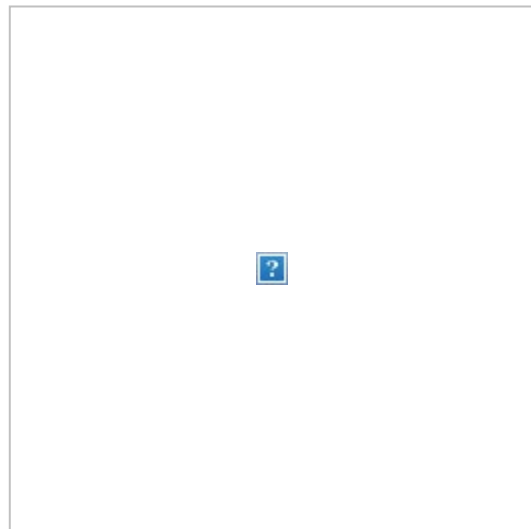
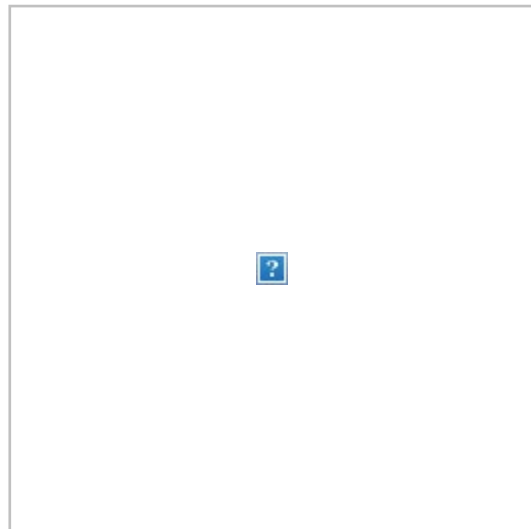
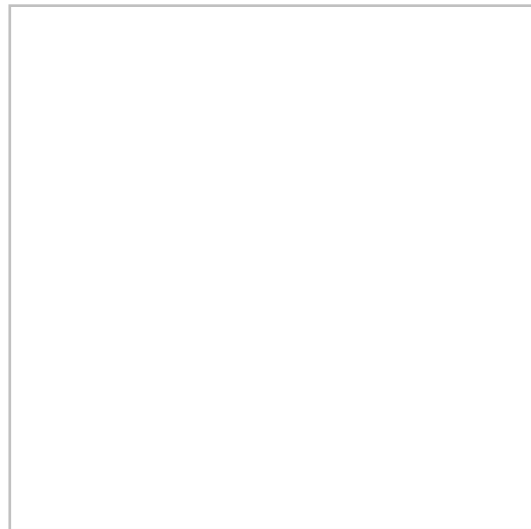
Geoff Beckwith welcomes a visitor
into his office of the past two years
and points out that, despite his
collection of plaques, photos and
memorabilia, nothing is hung up. ...

[Racial Equity Group selected to lead MMA's DEI work](#)

The MMA has contracted with the
Racial Equity Group to develop a
strategic plan to advance diversity,
equity and inclusion efforts in local
government. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the



MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...



[MMA publishes September issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the September 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government — including the change in leadership at the MMA — plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



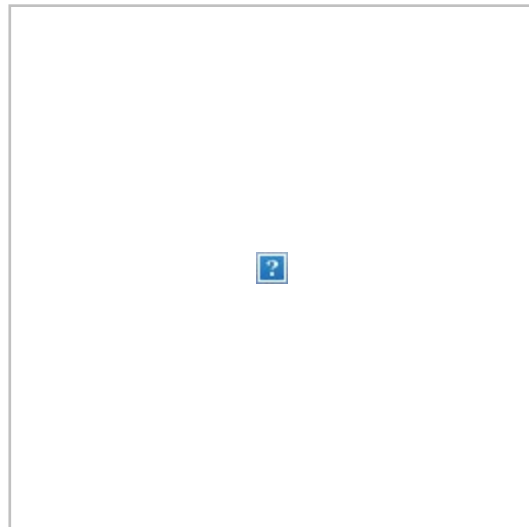
[Save the date for MMA Annual Meeting in 2024](#)

The MMA is hard at work on plans for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...



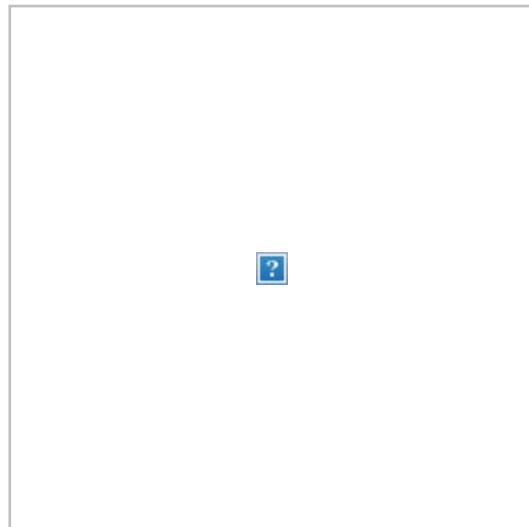
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[DPU seeks feedback on municipal aggregation investigation through Oct. 6](#)

The Department of Public Utilities opened an investigation on Aug. 15 into municipal aggregation, with a goal to create a streamlined process for Massachusetts municipalities to establish new programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA, MMLA offer to work with CCC to recraft draft regulations viewed as unconstitutional and an unfunded mandate](#)

On Sept. 7, Testimony

[MMA's best days are ahead of us](#)

On Sept. 5, Executive Director's Report

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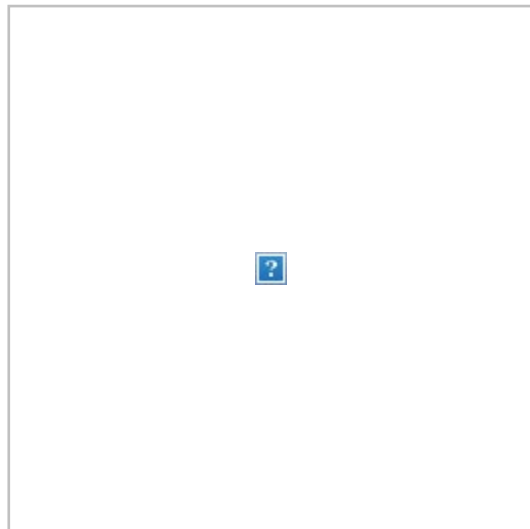
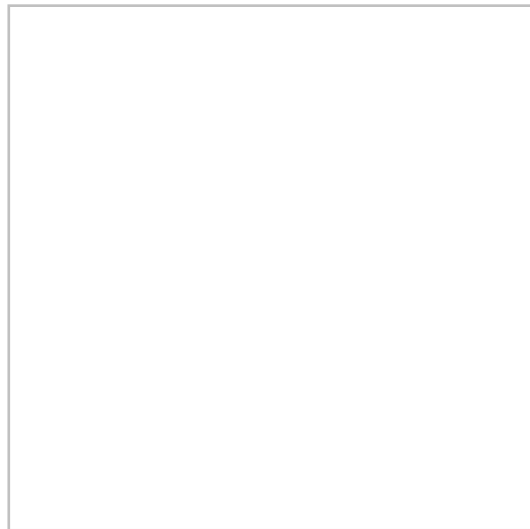
In Case You Missed It

[Grants available to boost resilience in disadvantaged communities](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities. ...

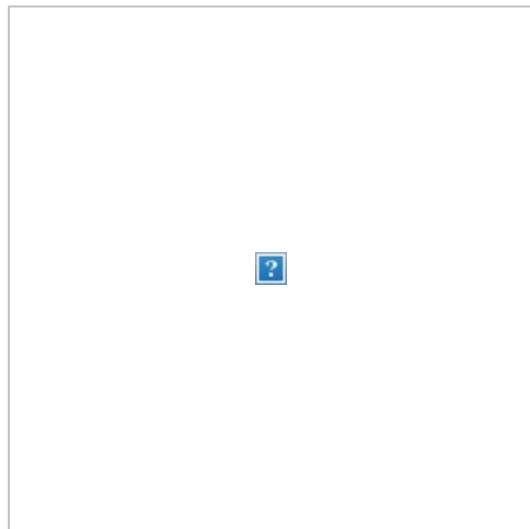
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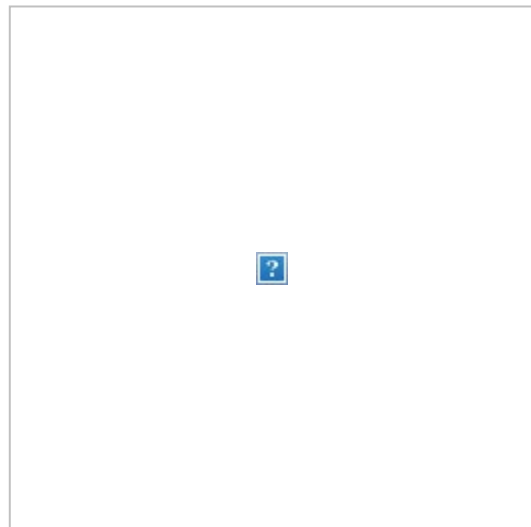
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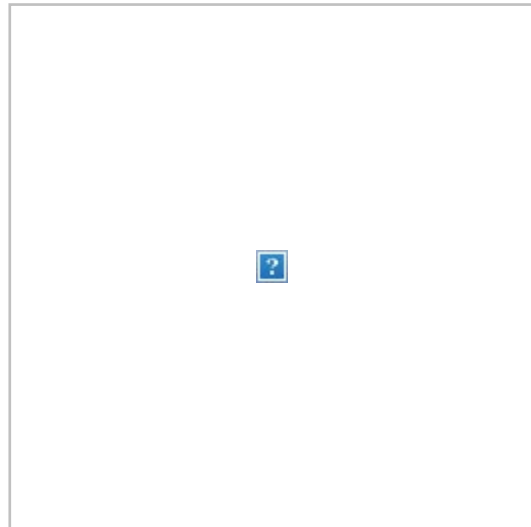


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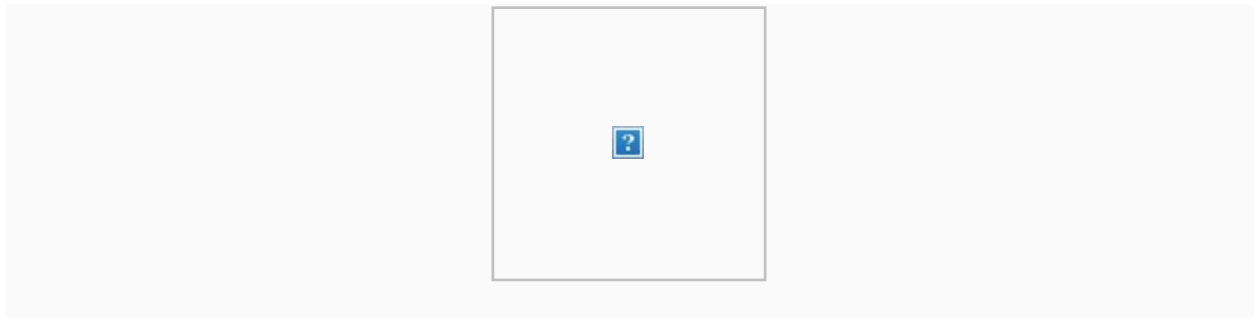
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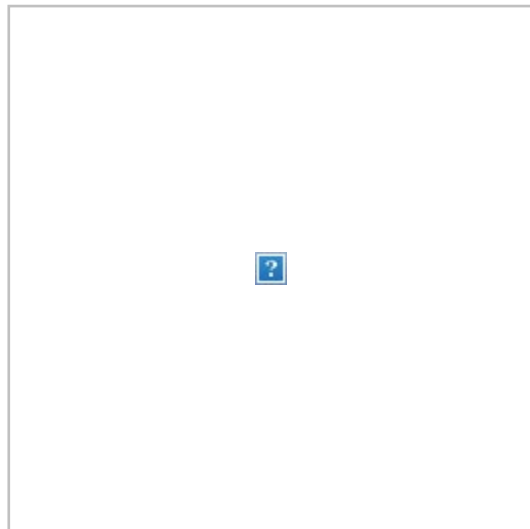
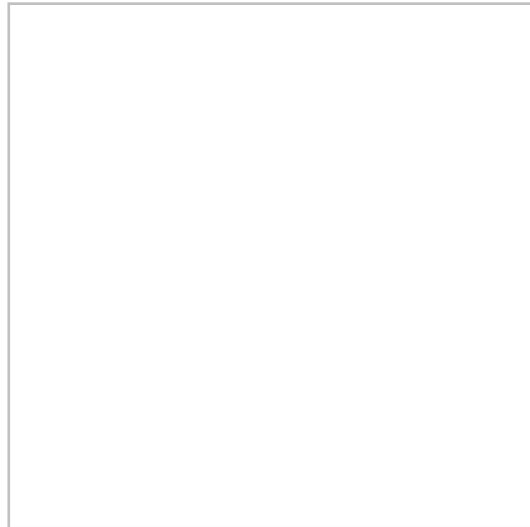
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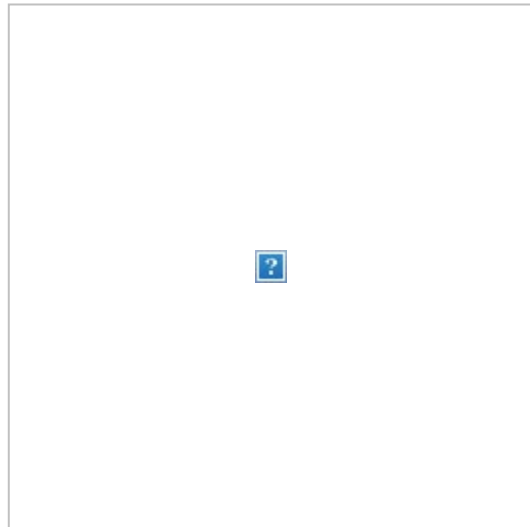
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NLC launches 4th series of federal grant-writing boot camps

The National League of Cities is

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The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



[Safe Routes to School grants available](#)

Safe Routes to School, a federally funded program that works to increase safe walking, biking and rolling by public school students, is accepting applications for its Signs and Lines and Infrastructure Project grant programs. ...

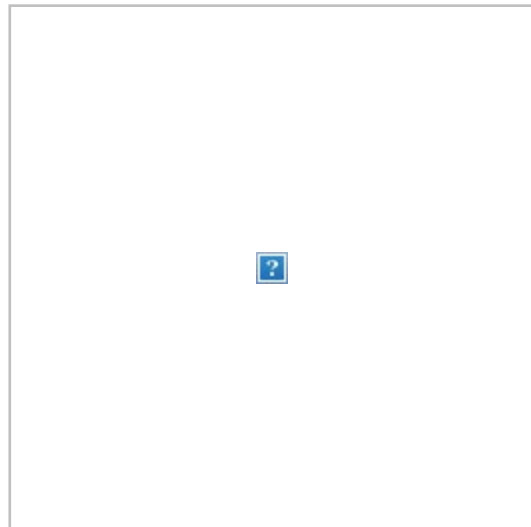


[30 watersheds impacted by new nitrogen pollution restrictions](#)

Updates to septic system and

watershed regulations, intended to combat nitrogen pollution in certain coastal areas, took effect on July 7.

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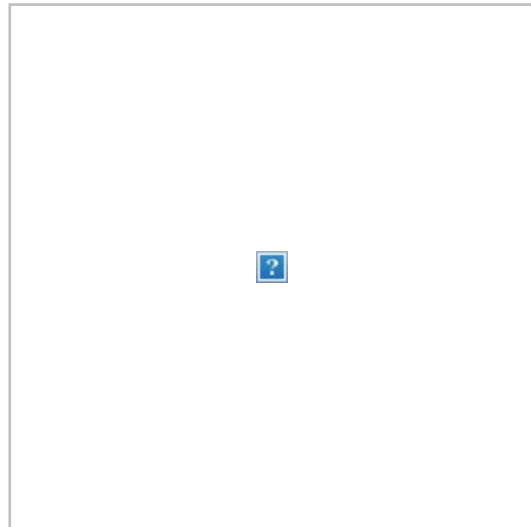
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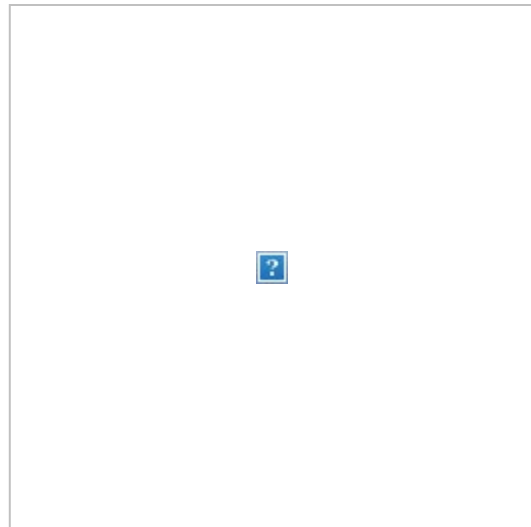
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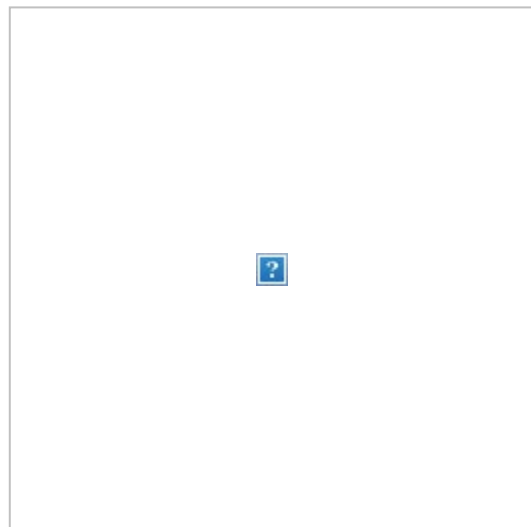
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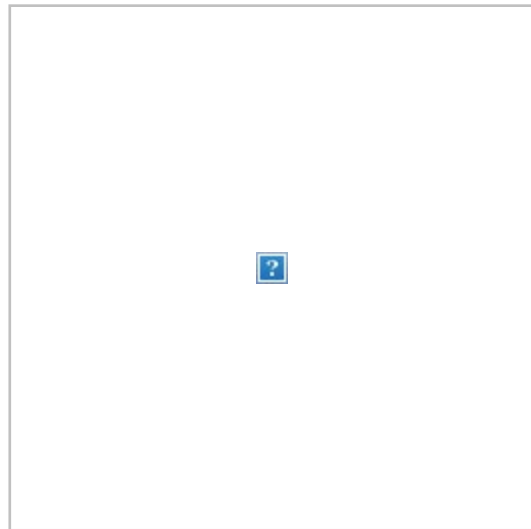
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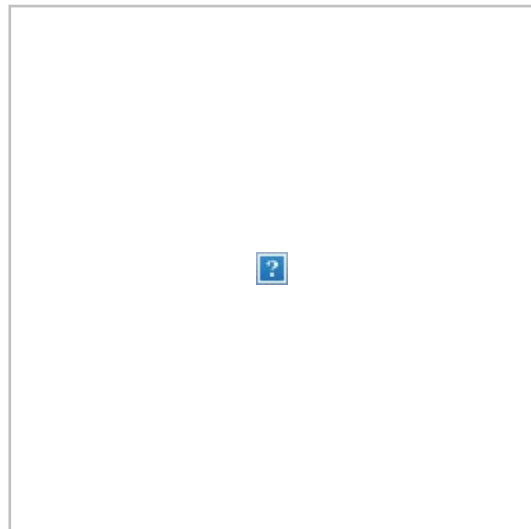
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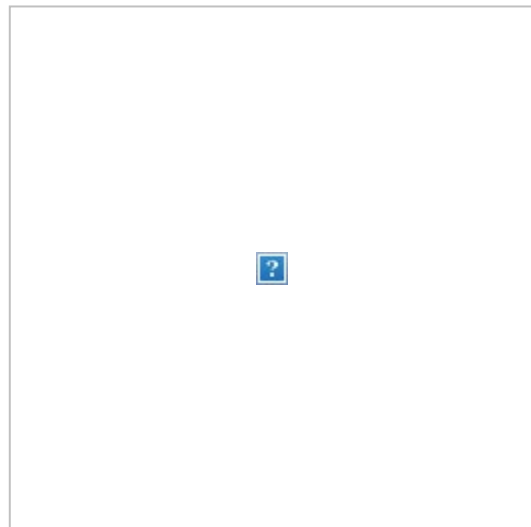
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[State makes revisions to MBTA communities guidelines](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities today released additional revisions to its compliance guidelines for multi-family zoning districts in MBTA communities. ...

[**Municipal leaders urged to comment on CCC draft regulations**](#)

The MMA is encouraging municipal officials to weigh in on draft regulations approved by the Cannabis Control Commission on July 28 regarding host community agreements and social equity. ...

[**DOER requests feedback on Solar for All straw application proposal**](#)

The Department of Energy Resources, in partnership with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, is requesting feedback on a straw proposal for the state's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All program. ...

[**Municipal officials request permanent remote, hybrid meeting options**](#)



During a July 26 legislative hearing, the MMA and local officials from across the state called for the existing authorization for public body remote and hybrid meetings to be made permanent. ...



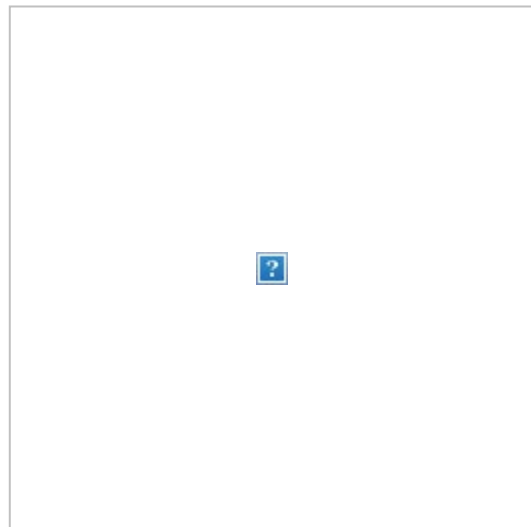
[MMA webinar highlights navigation of contracts, purchasing in COMMBUYS](#)

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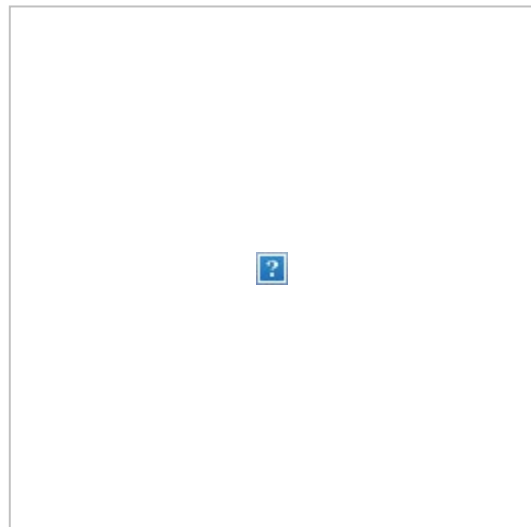
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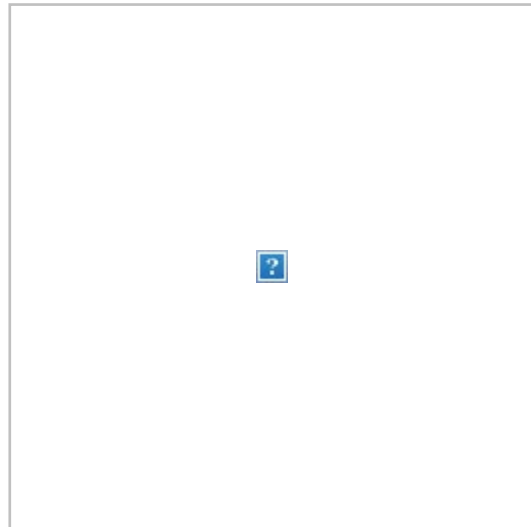
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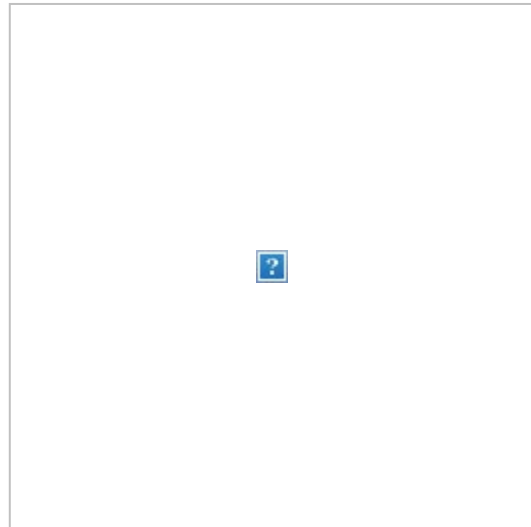
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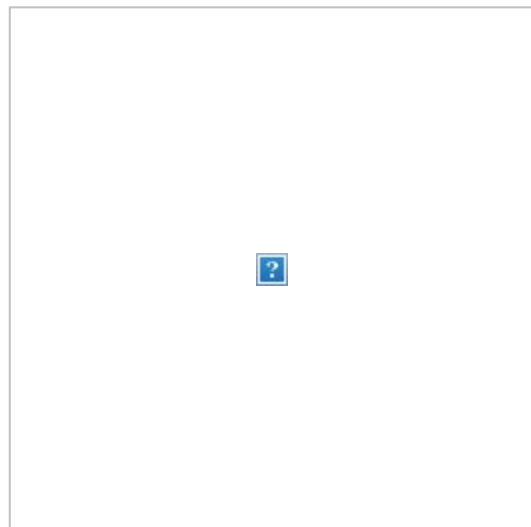
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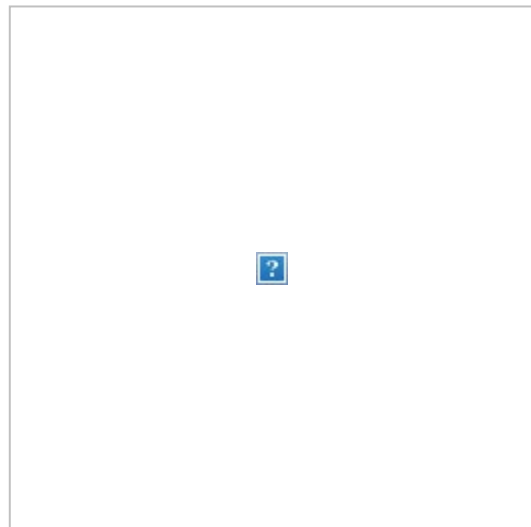
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[Gov. files closeout budget with funds for emergency shelter crisis](#)

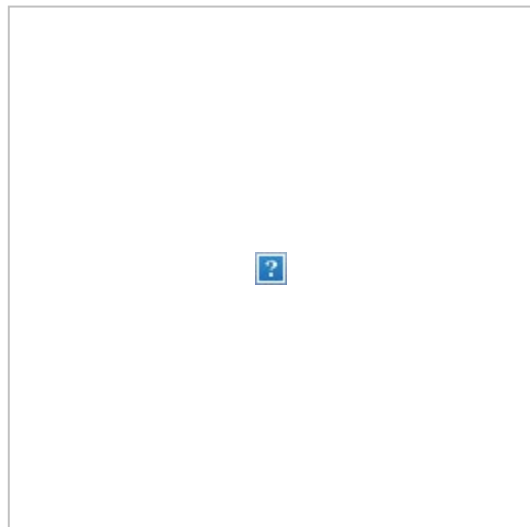
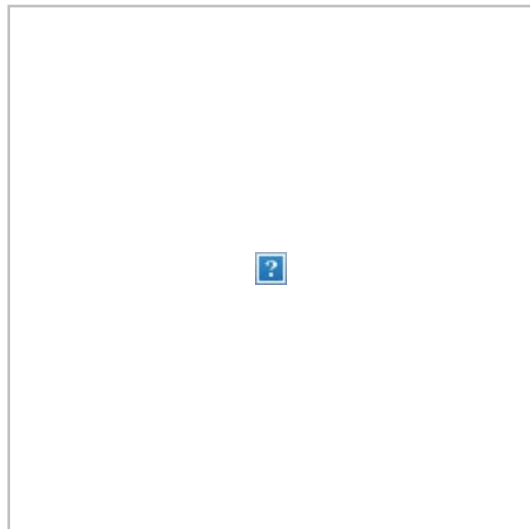
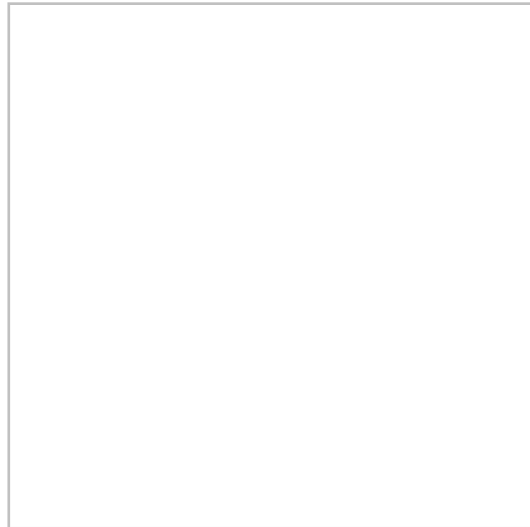
Looking to close the books on fiscal 2023, Gov. Maura Healey filed a final supplemental budget bill on Sept. 13 that would allocate additional funding for several key priorities. ...

[MMA, local leaders working with administration to address shelter crisis](#)

With a surge of emergency shelter needs that shows no signs of abating, and temporary placements in hotels and other settings in roughly 80 communities across the state, the MMA and the administration will begin conducting biweekly briefings with chief municipal officials later this month to provide the latest information and take questions. ...

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[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[Cambridge focuses on flood prevention, zoning as part of larger climate action](#)

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the city of Cambridge is taking a multi-pronged approach to resiliency, looking at the impacts of flooding, heat and emissions. ...



[Boston program encourages office-to-residential conversions downtown](#)

As big cities nationwide attempt to revitalize downtown office districts hollowed out by the pandemic and the rise of remote work, the city of Boston is seeking to incentivize the conversion of underused office buildings into residential units. ...



[Southern Berkshire County towns offer public ride-share service](#)

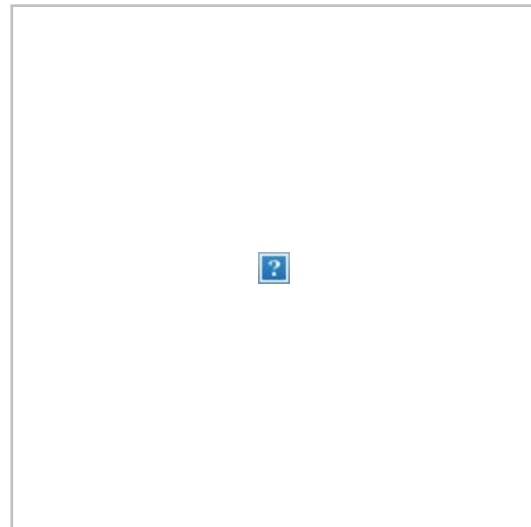
Seeking to bridge the gap for seniors, workers and others lacking transportation options, several Berkshire County towns have banded together to create a public on-demand ride service. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial

Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee to support bills to create municipal and public safety building authority](#)

On Sept. 20, Testimony

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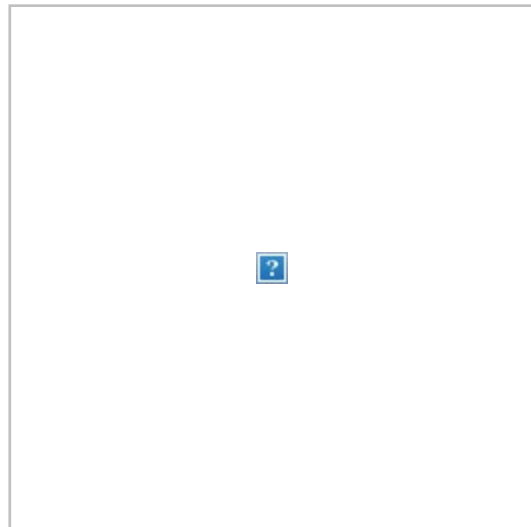
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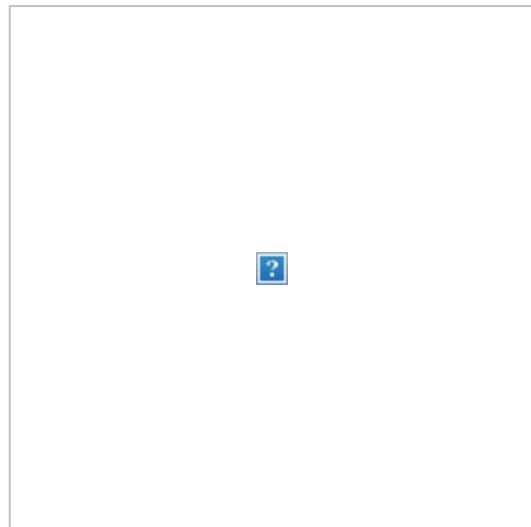
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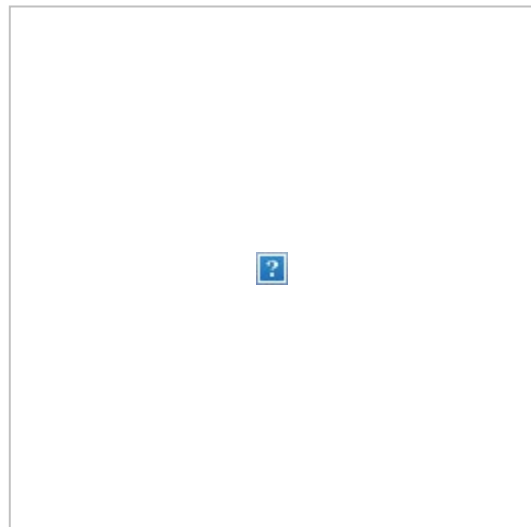
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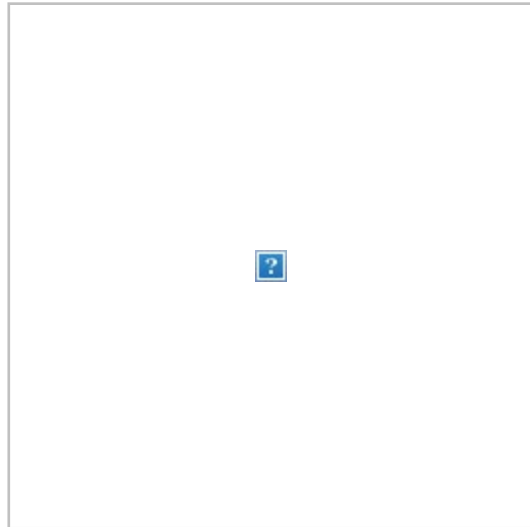
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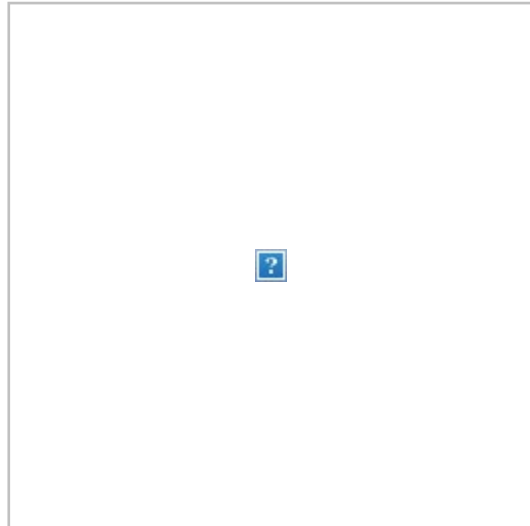
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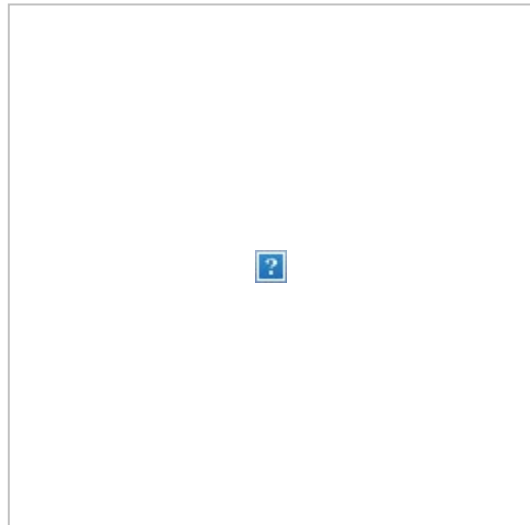
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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[Administration awards \\$31.5M in climate resiliency funding to communities](#)

At an event in Stockbridge today, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announced \$31.5

million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grants for climate resilience implementation and planning throughout Massachusetts.

...

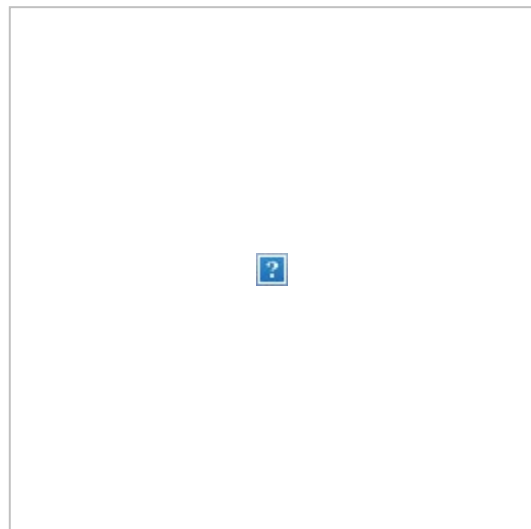
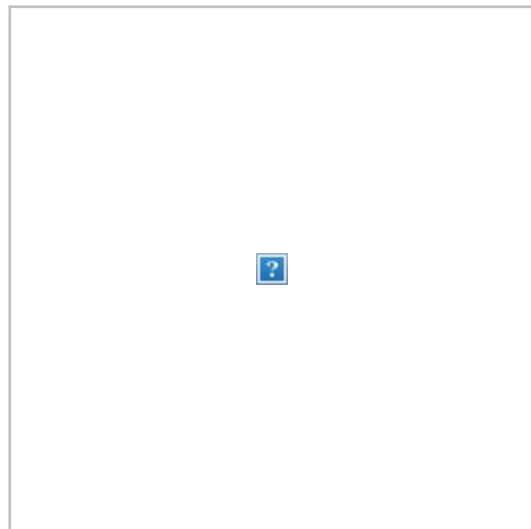
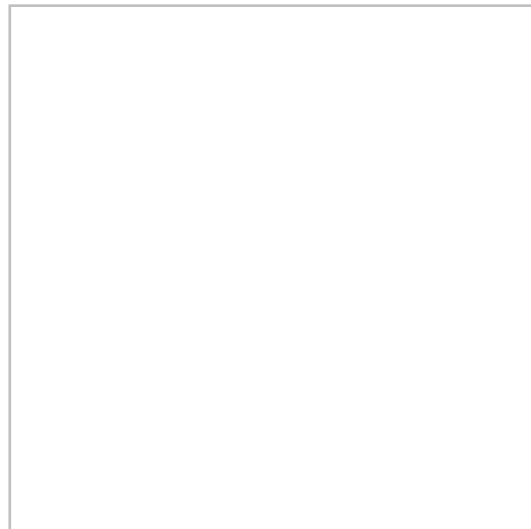
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[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



Massachusetts Broadband Institute seeks input on Internet for All plan

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute this month will begin a series of public listening sessions as it develops a five-year plan to deploy \$147 million in federal investments to support actions to bridge the digital divide. ...



Grants available to boost resilience in disadvantaged communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities. ...



Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future

Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[EV charger report forecasts significant needs for infrastructure](#)

A new report from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council provides a comprehensive view of the current electric vehicle charging landscape, as well as recommendations for policy actions to support a robust, equitable and accessible charging network across the Commonwealth. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



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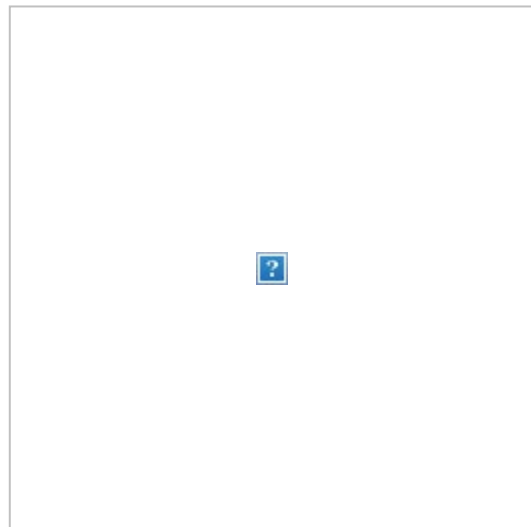
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[CCC approves extensive revisions to marijuana regulations](#)

On Sept. 22, the Cannabis Control Commission voted, 3-1, to approve extensive revisions to state regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana. ...

[House, Senate send tax relief bill to governor's desk](#)

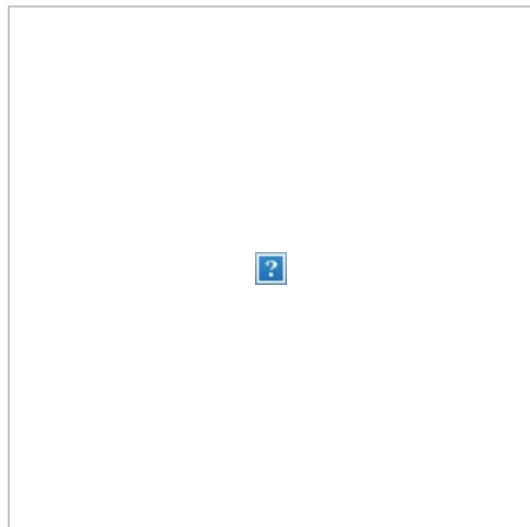
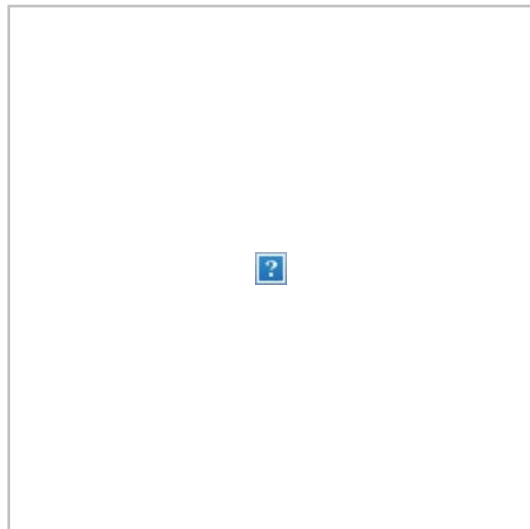
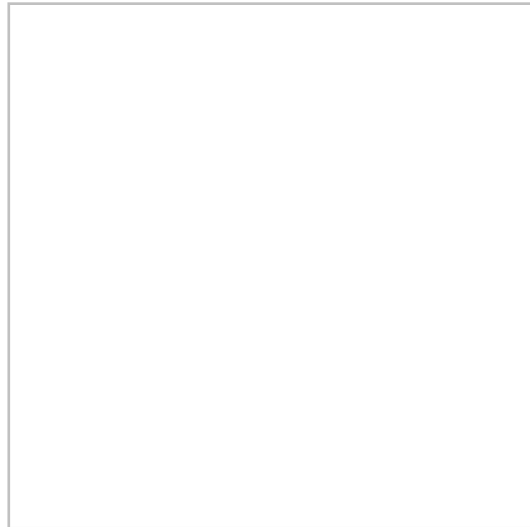
The House and Senate have passed a compromise tax relief bill that would provide \$561 million in tax breaks and credits this year, with the value growing to approximately \$1 billion once the law is fully implemented in 2027. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...

[What to know about \\$325M for municipal roads, bridges in FY24](#)

A bond terms bill signed by Gov.



Maura Healey on Sept. 12 concludes the legislative process for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2024 and will enable the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to process reimbursements for approved projects. ...



[MMA webinar shares tips for communicating with constituents](#)

An MMA webinar yesterday discussed how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to your target audience. ...



[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[MunEnergy to hold webinar on winter energy costs](#)

On Oct. 24 at noon, the MunEnergy

program will hold a one-hour webinar to provide timely information about winter energy costs and what winter weather will mean for energy markets. ...



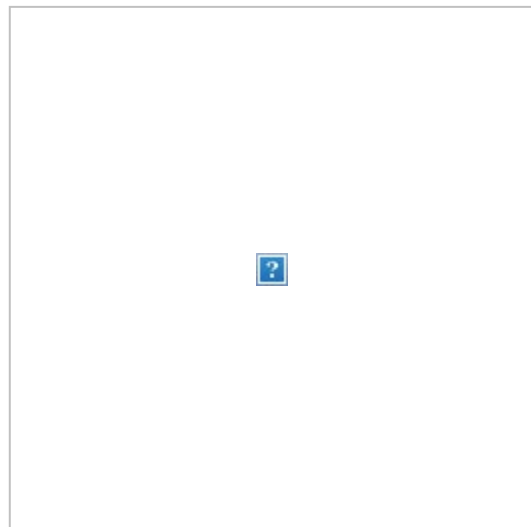
[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



[AG holds webinars to help government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA weighs in on several bills related to procurement before the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee](#)

On Sept. 22, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Communication Foundations webinar](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

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In Case You Missed It

[MSA seeks nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its

2024 Board of Directors. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



[MTF webinar will explore migration trends and their impact on Mass.](#)

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



[Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted](#)

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



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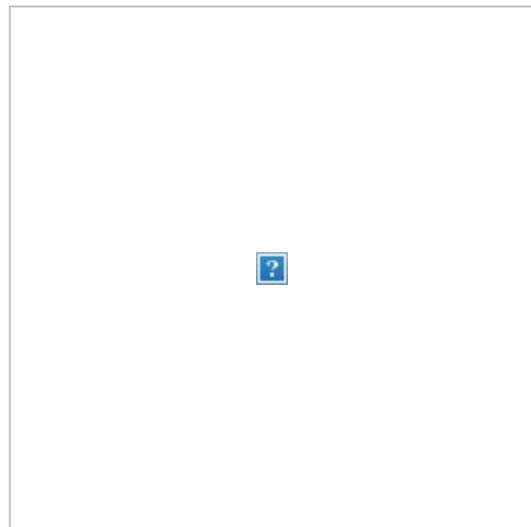
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[Incoming Director Chapdelaine prepares for MMA's future](#)

When Adam Chapdelaine becomes the MMA's new executive director on Sept. 9, he will bring his years of experience working in city and town halls, his firsthand knowledge of the

inner workings of the State House,
and an abiding belief in the essential
role of local government in our
quality of life. ...

[Beckwith reflects on 31 years leading the MMA](#)

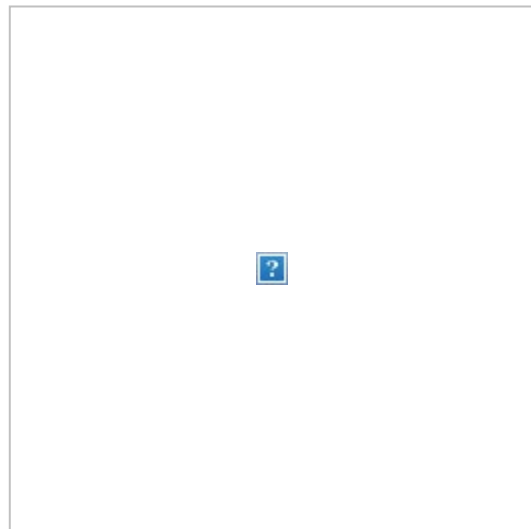
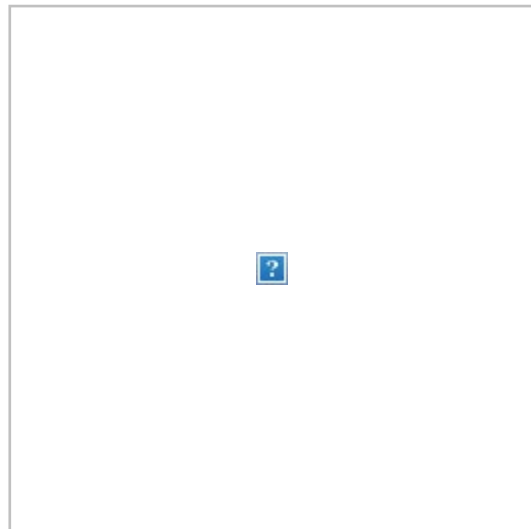
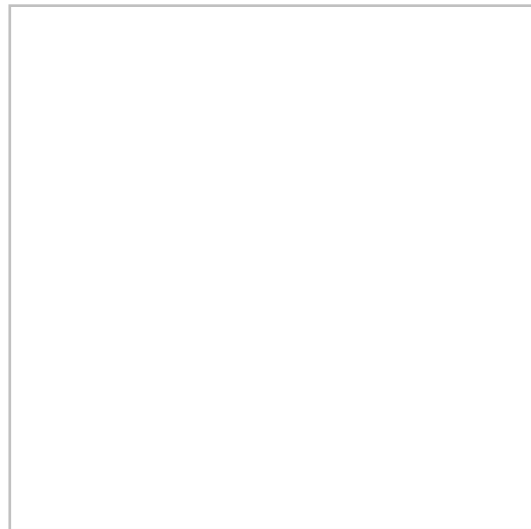
Geoff Beckwith welcomes a visitor
into his office of the past two years
and points out that, despite his
collection of plaques, photos and
memorabilia, nothing is hung up. ...

[Racial Equity Group selected to lead MMA's DEI work](#)

The MMA has contracted with the
Racial Equity Group to develop a
strategic plan to advance diversity,
equity and inclusion efforts in local
government. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the



MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...



[MMA publishes September issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the September 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government — including the change in leadership at the MMA — plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Save the date for MMA Annual Meeting in 2024](#)

The MMA is hard at work on plans for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...



[MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants. ...



[DPU seeks feedback on municipal aggregation investigation through Oct. 6](#)

The Department of Public Utilities opened an investigation on Aug. 15 into municipal aggregation, with a goal to create a streamlined process for Massachusetts municipalities to establish new programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA, MMLA offer to work with CCC to recraft draft regulations viewed as unconstitutional and an unfunded mandate](#)

On Sept. 7, Testimony

[MMA's best days are ahead of us](#)

On Sept. 5, Executive Director's Report

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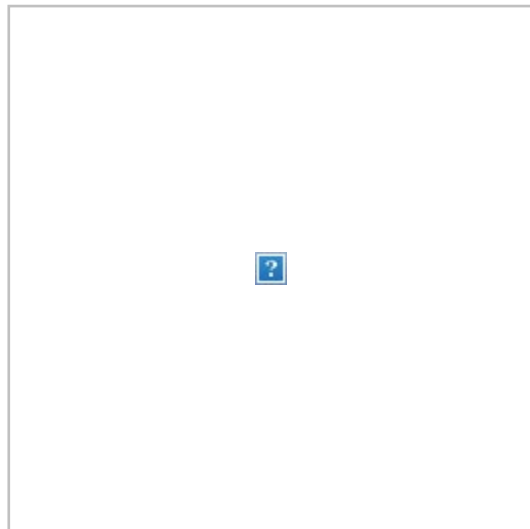
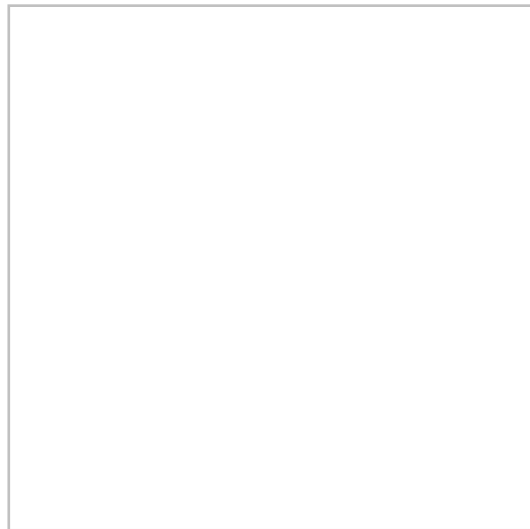
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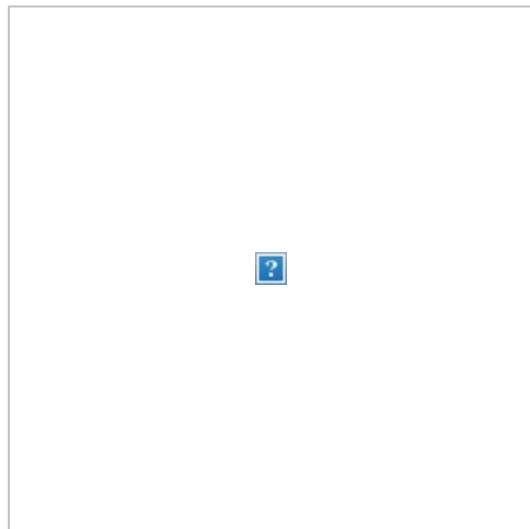
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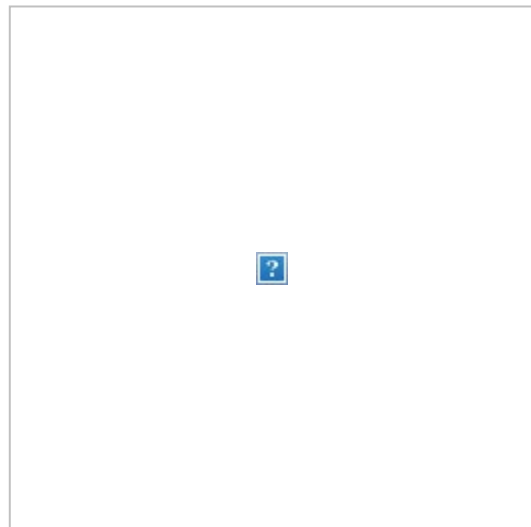
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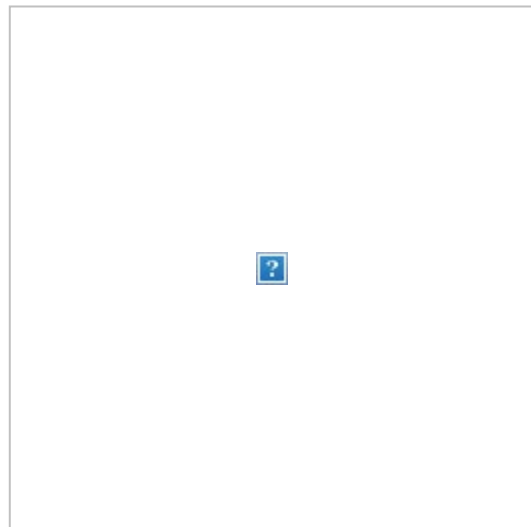
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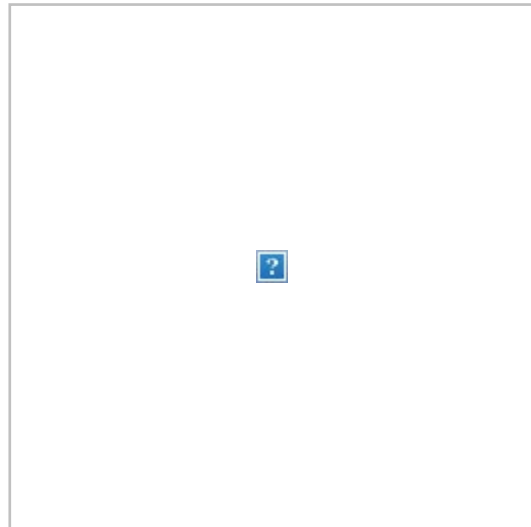


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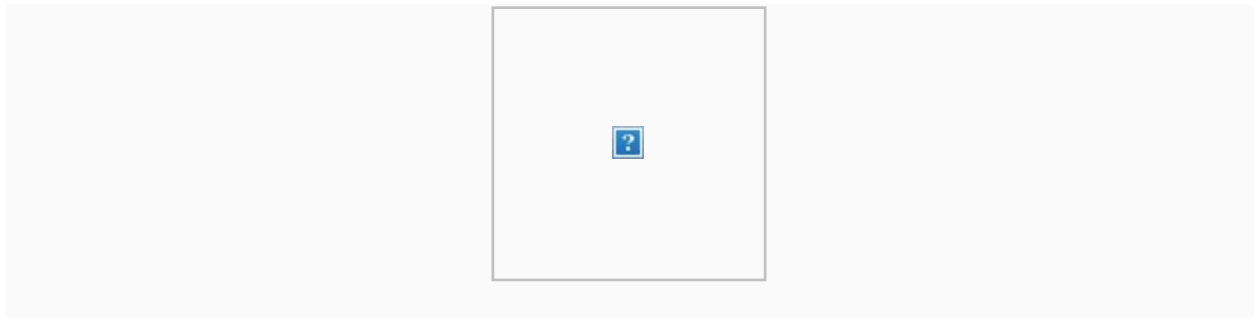


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[Administration announces \\$164M in Community One Stop for Growth grants](#)

At an event in Revere today, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced \$164 million for 338 grant awards through the Community

One Stop for Growth program to support local economic development projects in 161 communities across the state. ...

[Climate chief makes recommendations for addressing climate crisis](#)

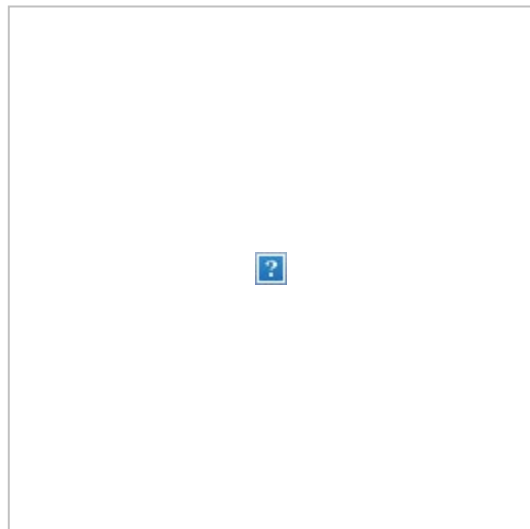
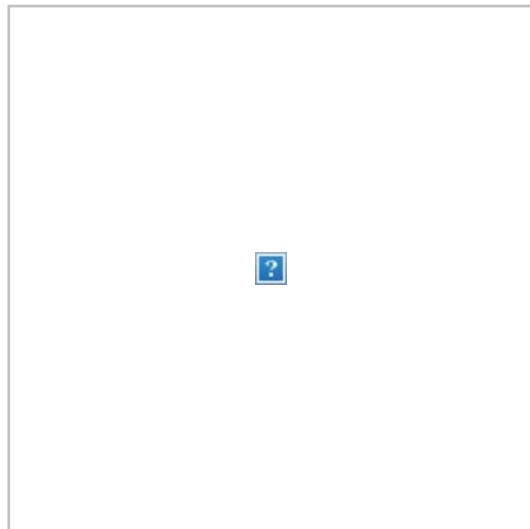
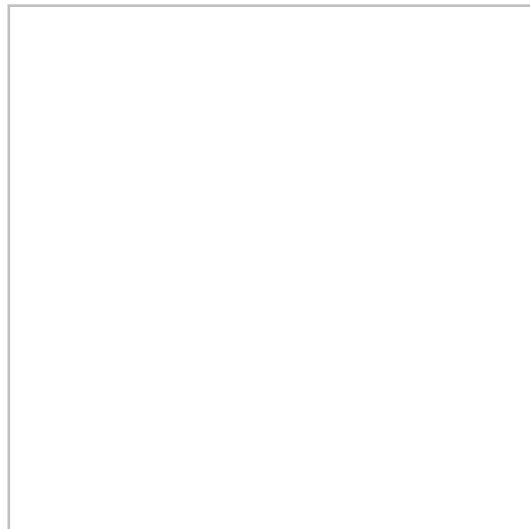
The state's climate chief, Melissa Hoffer, published a report today with recommendations to implement the Healey-Driscoll administration's whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis. ...

[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...

[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free,



75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[New podcast highlights Mass. as age- and dementia-friendly leader](#)

The administration on Oct. 10 announced the release of a podcast series on age- and dementia-friendly innovations across Massachusetts called “ReiMAging Aging.” ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate

Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



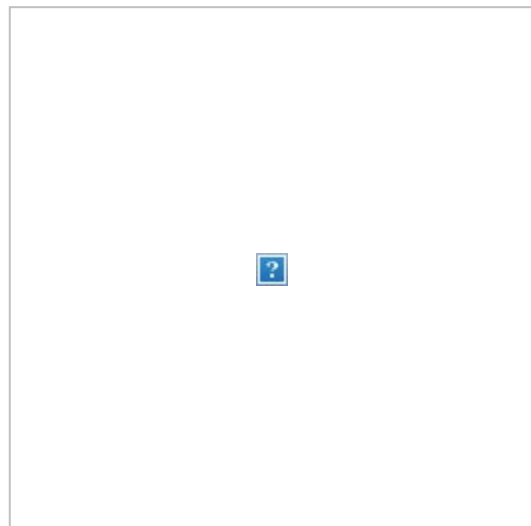
[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[State offers grants for AED equipment](#)

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...

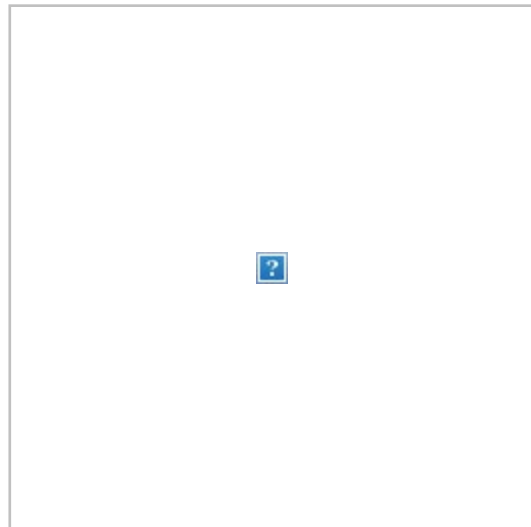


[Timely responses sought for Survey of Occupational Injuries](#)

and Illnesses

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is reminding selected municipal departments to continue their record-keeping efforts needed to complete the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, a federal/state program that collects information on and provides estimates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses.

...



New in Advocacy

[MMA urges State Administration Committee to support bills to enhance grant opportunities for rural communities and provide for alternative delivery of infrastructure projects](#)

On Oct. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Live Demonstration of COMMBUYS webinar](#) - Nov. 7

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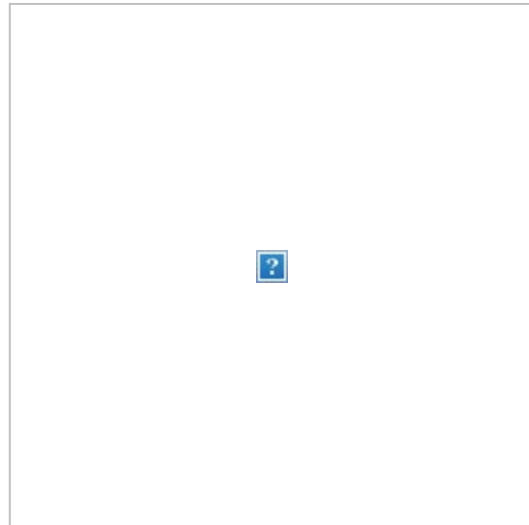
[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[View our entire event calendar](#)

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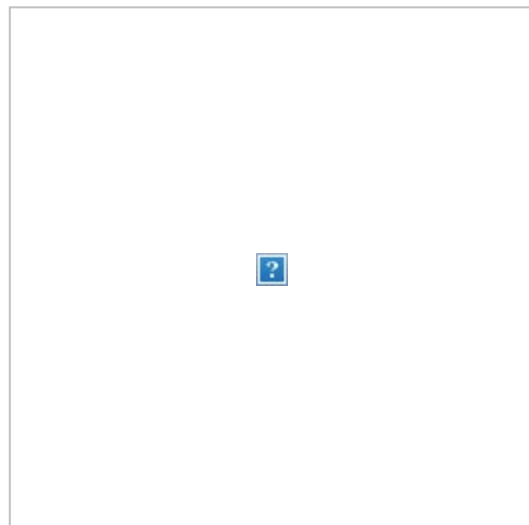
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[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Webinar will cover upcoming SCOTUS cases affecting local government](#)

The Local Government Legal Center will host a free webinar on Oct. 31 to discuss the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court term and cases relevant to local governments. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

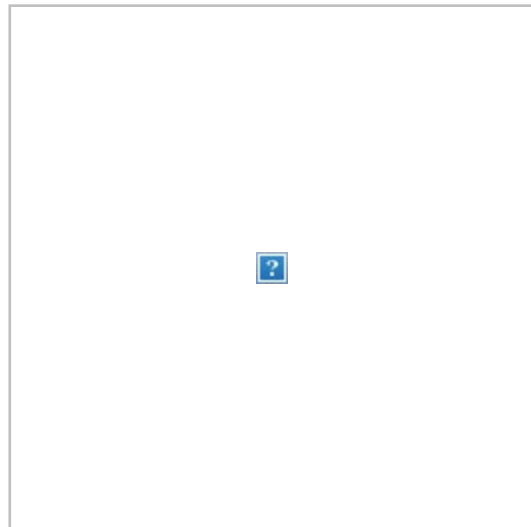
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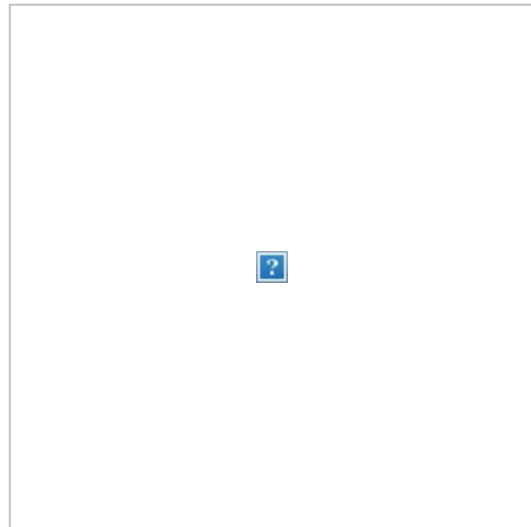
[government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

[Executive Assistant](#)

[Human Resources Manager](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 62 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Library Director, Local Building Inspector, Social Worker, Communications Specialist, Public Health Agent, Finance Director and Town Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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Date: Friday, November 3, 2023 9:15:56 AM

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MMA Website Weekly Review

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!](#)

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, Nov. 9.

[Administration gives emergency shelter update as system approaches limit](#)

With the emergency family shelter system quickly approaching its

capacity limit, the administration gave an update today on next steps.

...



[MMA publishes November issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the November 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including federal grant opportunities, the emergency shelter system, and climate change, plus details about the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show and other upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[MMA Annual Meeting planning continues](#)

Planning continues for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held in person on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...



[MMA's DEI work moving forward](#)

[on several tracks](#)

The MMA is continuing to move forward with its diversity, equity and inclusion work on a number of fronts.

...



[Final CCC marijuana regulations published](#)

The Secretary of the Commonwealth on Oct. 27 published the Cannabis Control Commission's final updated regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana, the final step in enacting the new regulations.

...



[MMA holds fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#)

On two Fridays in October, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a

virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



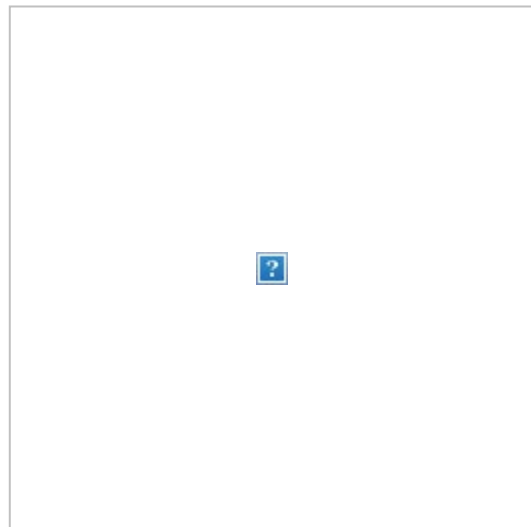
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[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[Changes proposed for CDBG one-year action plan for FY24](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is proposing changes to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program for federal fiscal 2024. ...



[Applications for sewage notification grant program due Nov. 10](#)

Regional and municipal wastewater utilities have until Nov. 10 to apply for a grant to help them meet notification requirements for wastewater discharges. ...



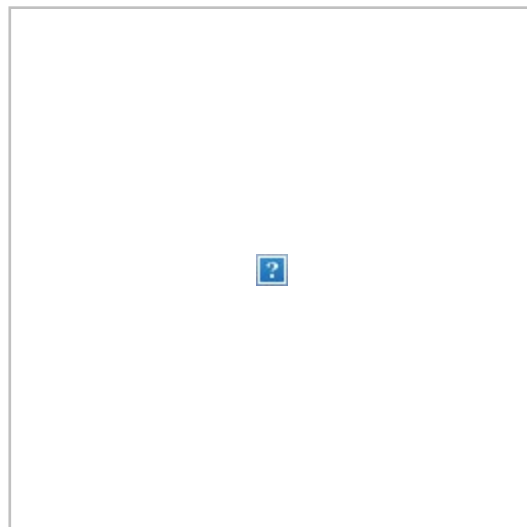
[Federal funding available for EV charging infrastructure](#)

Applications are due by Nov. 13 for up to \$100 million in federal funding available for the repair and replacement of non-operational electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[MassDEP awards \\$5.2M to support recycling, composting and waste reduction](#)

On Sept. 28, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced the award of \$5.2 million in grants to 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts for recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[On migrant shelter crisis, cities and towns need help in 3 key areas](#)

On Nov. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support bills to label wipe products with "Do Not Flush" to avoid costly wastewater problems](#)

On Oct. 25, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

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[Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

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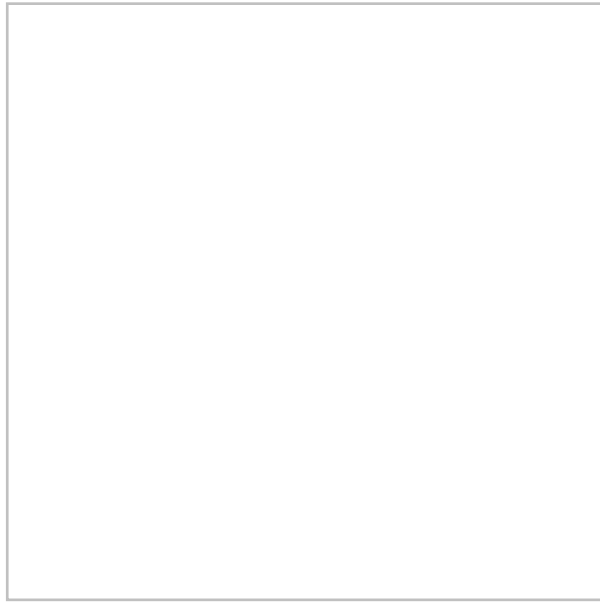
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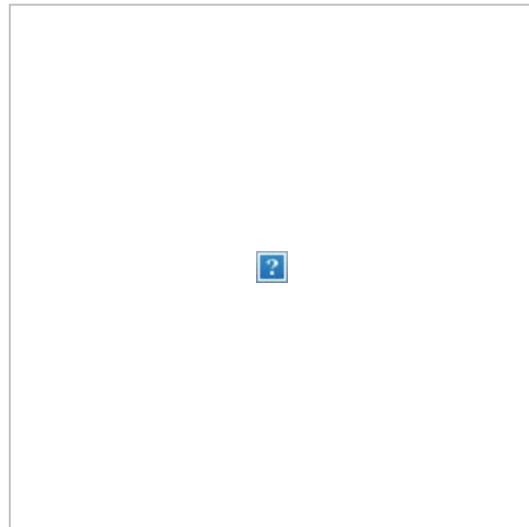
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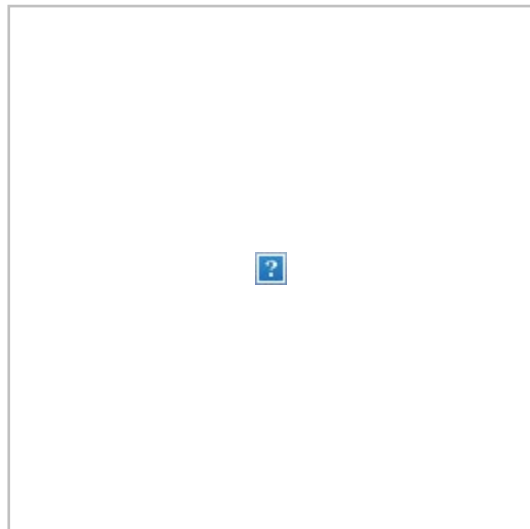
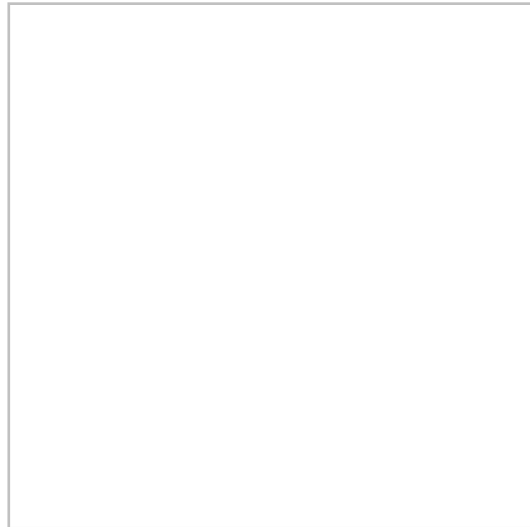


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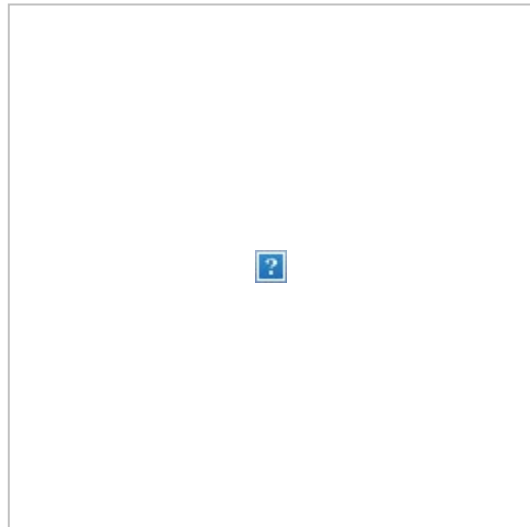
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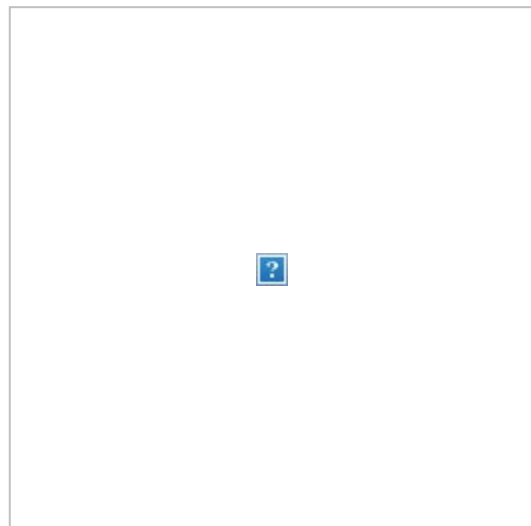
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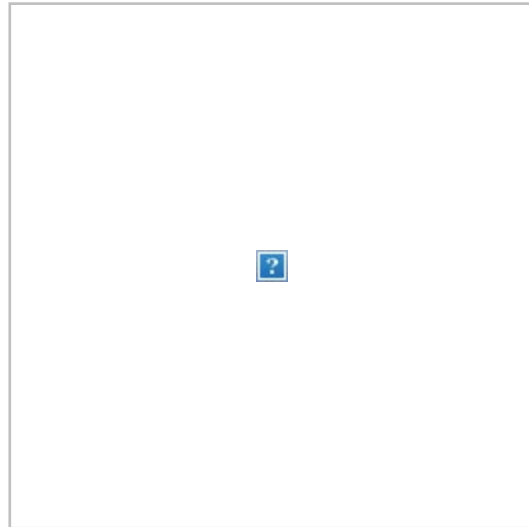
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 44 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Manager, Senior Planner, Finance Manager, Town Engineer, Town Administrator, Conservation Agent, Senior Climate Program Manager, and Planner and Land Use Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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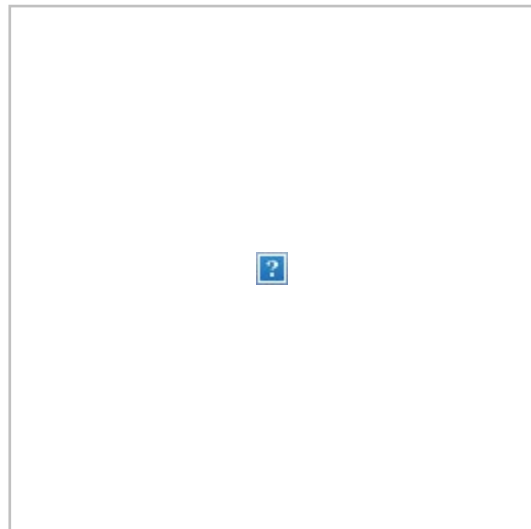
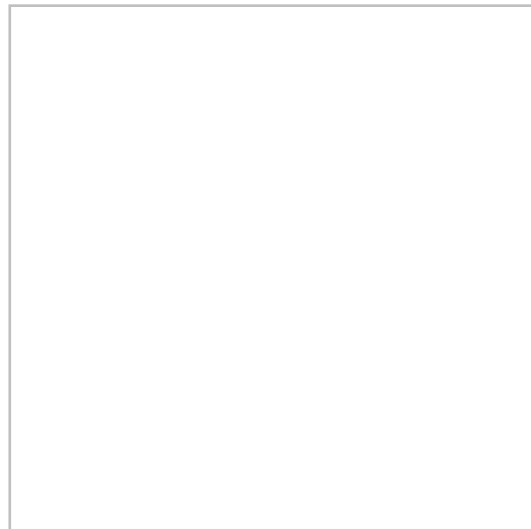
Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[Voters elect 33 mayors across Massachusetts](#)

Voters yesterday elected mayors in 33 cities across the state, including nine new mayors. ...

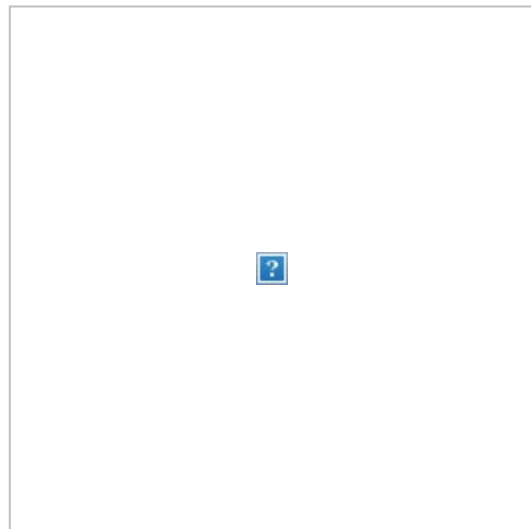
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[**Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program opens**](#)

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



[**MMA webinar to review state-level disaster response protocol**](#)

The MMA will host a free, one-hour

webinar on Nov. 13 with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency sharing municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[House, Senate adopt wage equity bill](#)

The House and Senate have both adopted their own versions of legislation aimed at closing gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



[‘Form of Government FAQ’ webinar is Nov. 29](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Management Association will host a “Form of Government FAQ” webinar for all MMA members on Nov. 29 from noon to 1 p.m. ...



[MMA webinar reviews key features of COMMBUYS](#)

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[Broadband Institute launches \\$145M Gap Networks Infrastructure Grant Program](#)

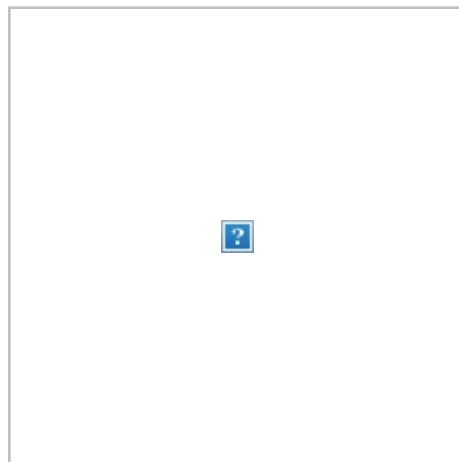
The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...



[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

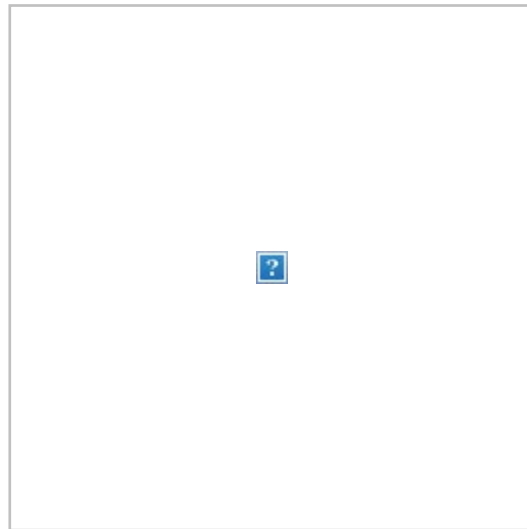
The Municipal Vulnerability

Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal 2025 Action Grant round. ...



[DOER launches Climate Leader program, awards green grants](#)

The Department of Energy Resources has announced a new program that builds on the Green Communities designation and grant program. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Municipalities and Regional Government Committee to support bill to expand the uses of water banking](#)

On Oct. 24, Testimony

[MMA urges Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to support bills to expedite removal of doubled up utility poles](#)

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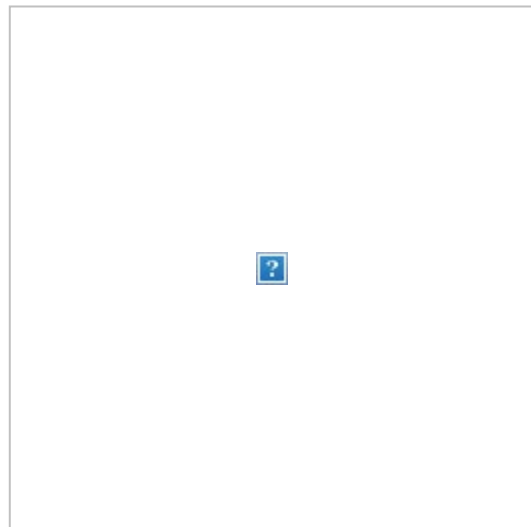
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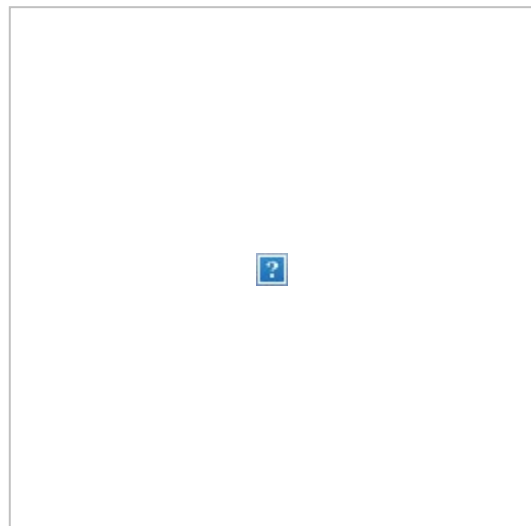
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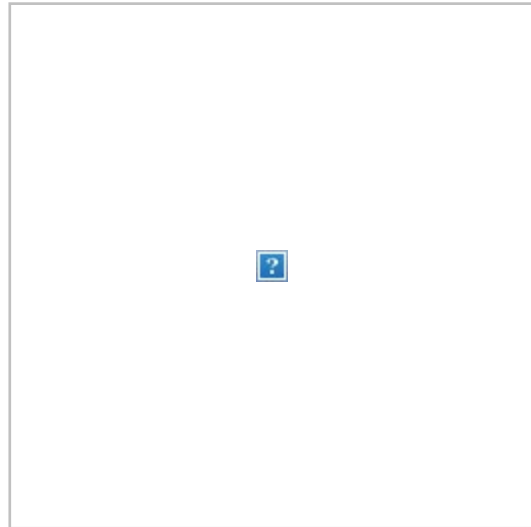
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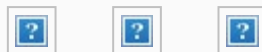
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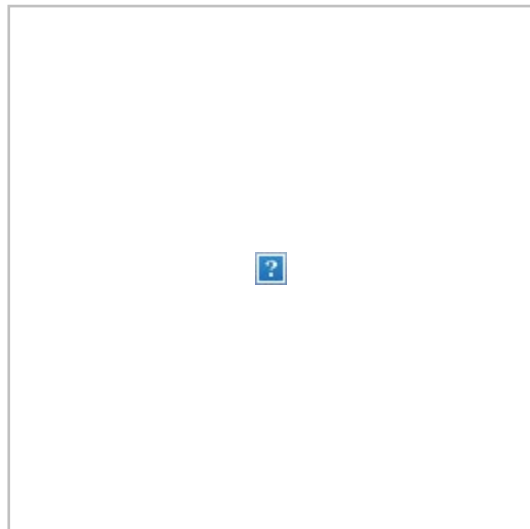
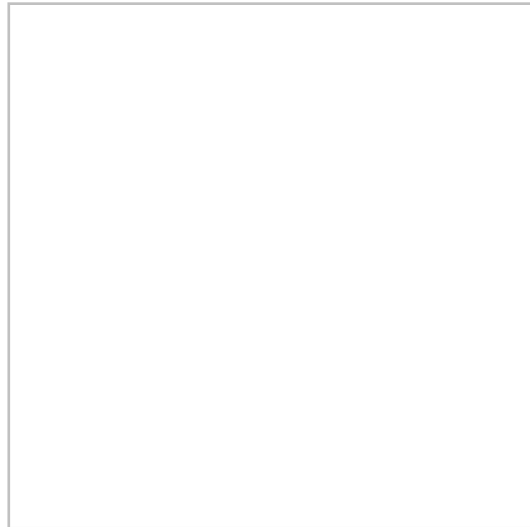
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[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

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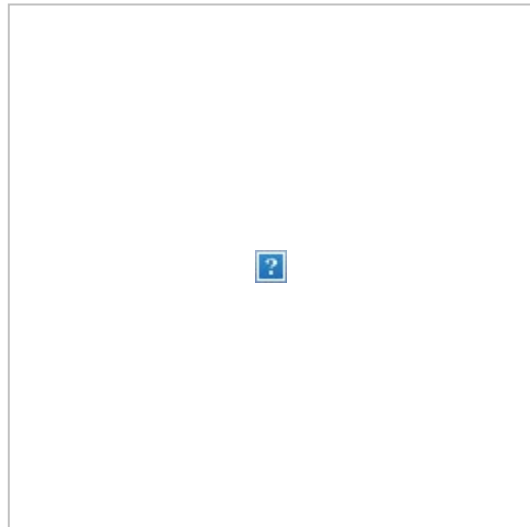
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[MSA seeks nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board

Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors. ...



MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 18 will provide an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities and best practices for writing, submitting and administering grants. ...



MMA webinar to explore communicating with constituents, fostering engagement

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 26 will discuss how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to the target audience. ...



NLC launches 4th series of federal grant-writing boot camps

The National League of Cities is

launching a fourth set of free grant-writing “boot camps” this fall to help local officials keep pace with federal grant opportunities. ...



[MTF webinar will explore migration trends and their impact on Mass.](#)

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



[Safe Routes to School grants available](#)

Safe Routes to School, a federally funded program that works to increase safe walking, biking and rolling by public school students, is accepting applications for its Signs and Lines and Infrastructure Project grant programs. ...

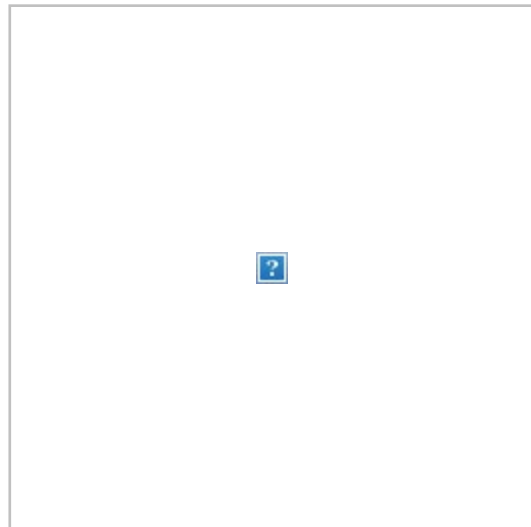


[30 watersheds impacted by new nitrogen pollution restrictions](#)

Updates to septic system and

watershed regulations, intended to combat nitrogen pollution in certain coastal areas, took effect on July 7.

...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Grants 101 webinar](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

[Effective Constituent Communication: The Key to Fostering Public Engagement webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted](#)

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



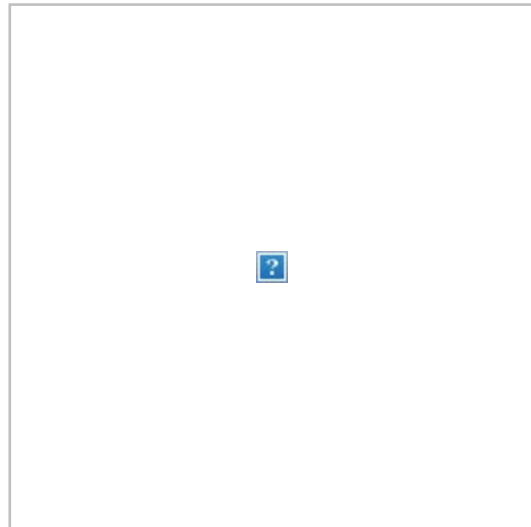
[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



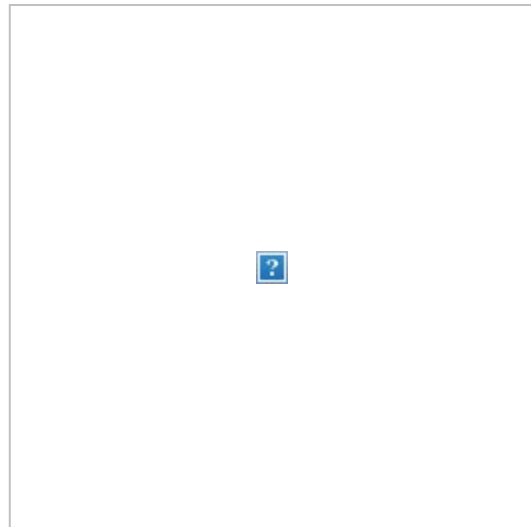
DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “What’s New in Municipal Law” seminar for local officials on Sept. 21 in Waltham and on Sept. 28 in Holyoke. ...



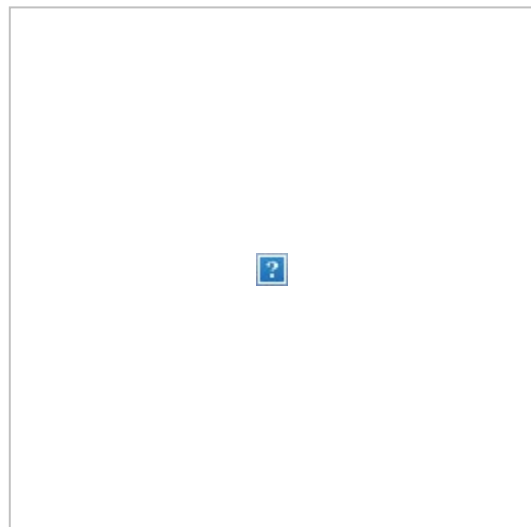
IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland

The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest

Has your community recently launched an innovative new project that has transformed the delivery of services or helped solve a common problem facing cities and towns? ...



Entries sought for municipal website contest

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA Annual Meeting in January 2024. ...



Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31

The MMA is accepting entries for its

Annual Town Report Contest. ...



State announces \$11.5 million grant program to electrify heavy-duty vehicles

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently announced a new competitive grant program as part of the Volkswagen Settlement and the state's climate trust: the Massachusetts VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation. ...



\$575M available for coastal resilience projects

Approximately \$575 million is available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced on July 5 that up to \$3.16 billion is available for planning and construction projects through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods discretionary grant program. ...



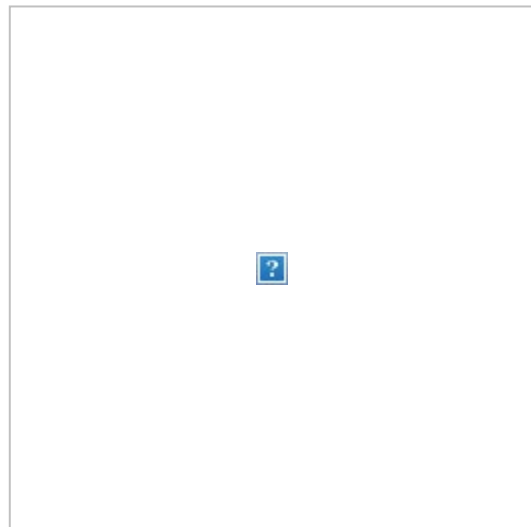
[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 48 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Chief Equity Officer, Assistant Planner, Conservation Officer, Town Counsel, Senior Computer Technician, Junior Accountant and Public Health Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](https://mma.org).

Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be back in your inbox on Dec. 1.

[Conference committee takes up
FY23 closeout supplemental
budget](#)

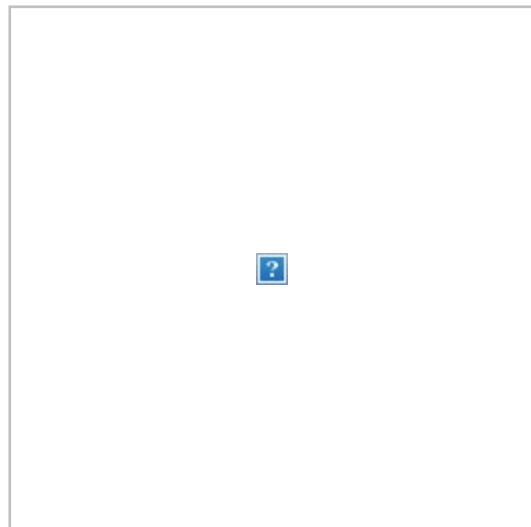
As the formal legislative session

came to a close for the calendar year yesterday, the House and Senate were unable to reach a consensus on a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget bill, and a six-member conference committee was named to resolve differences between the two branches. ...



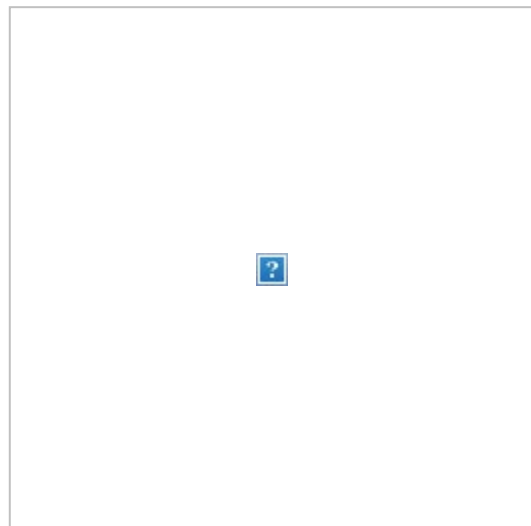
[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MEMA's role in municipal disaster response](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency shared municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar shares best practices and pitfalls of meeting](#)

[management](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed best practices for running an effective meeting from start to finish.

...



[MMHR seminar focuses on DEI, negotiations, accommodations, health plans](#)

Diversity, equity and inclusion, union contract negotiations, reasonable ADA accommodations, and health plan conversations were the main topics of the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Labor Relations Seminar on Oct. 27 in Devens. ...



[Augustus to address MSA Leadership Conference on Dec. 8](#)

Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Leadership Conference on Dec. 8 in Stow. ...



[MBI seeks feedback on Internet for All plan](#)

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts

Broadband Institute opened a month-long public comment period to gather feedback about the state's Internet for All Plan. ...



'Form of Government FAQ' webinar is Nov. 29

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association will host a "Form of Government FAQ" webinar for all MMA members on Nov. 29 from noon to 1 p.m. ...



MMA to host 2nd annual POST update

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...



Gov. appoints Monica Tibbits-Nutt as Transportation secretary

Gov. Maura Healey today

announced that she is appointing Monica Tibbits-Nutt as secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation effective today. ...



Worcester receives federal funds for lead remediation

Worcester has received a \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a lead hazard reduction program for qualified property owners. The city plans to use the grant to rehabilitate 165 units that house low-income families with children. ...



Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge consolidate building inspection services

Faced with a staffing crunch and a lack of qualified job applicants in the region, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge have created a regional building inspection department to serve the four towns. ...



Reading looks to address flooding, watershed concerns

In collaboration with regional

partners, the town of Reading has embarked on a project to reduce the effects of precipitation-based flooding from the Aberjona River, a Mystic River tributary, by constructing a stormwater wetland storage system, essentially a series of storage pools. ...



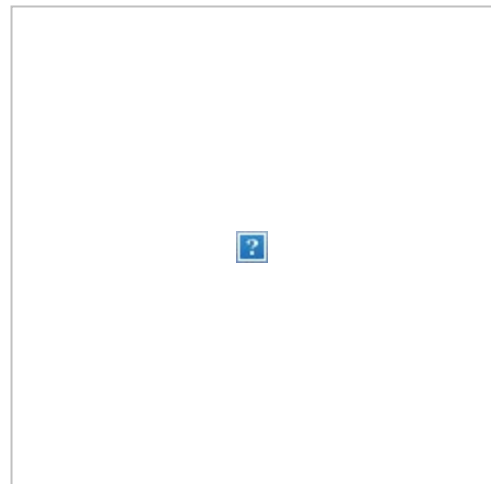
[Guidance released to help municipalities promote EV charging infrastructure](#)

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council and RMI have released a free guidance document designed to help municipalities as they develop and implement strategies to provide their communities with electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[Rural community leaders invited to apply for Reaching Rural Initiative Fellowships](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance will be selecting a new group of fellows to participate in a rural leadership program called Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions. ...



[Now is the time to prepare for winter maintenance emergencies](#)

With unpredictable weather patterns

and a volatile property insurance market, it's more crucial than ever to complete comprehensive maintenance protocols ahead of winter. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Education Committee to support bills targeting challenges facing rural school districts, MSBA rules, transportation for out-of-district vocational education, and special ed costs](#)

On Nov. 8, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

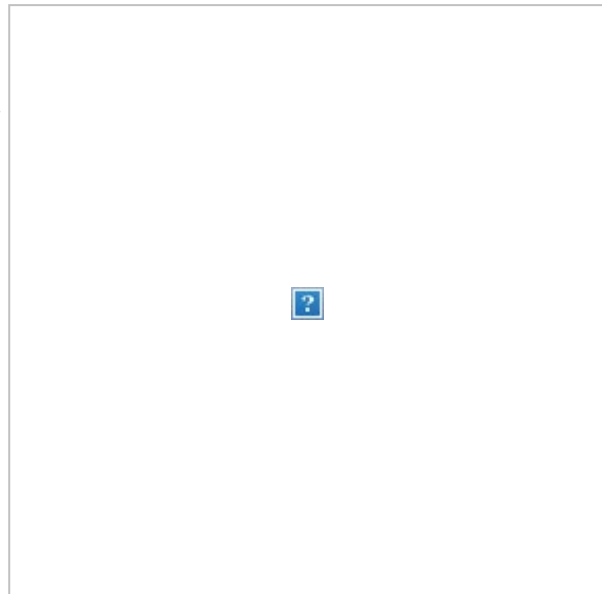
[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Legislative Session Review webinar](#) - Nov. 20

[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association newly elected training](#) - Nov. 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Dec. 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[Goal Setting webinar](#) - Jan. 9

[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

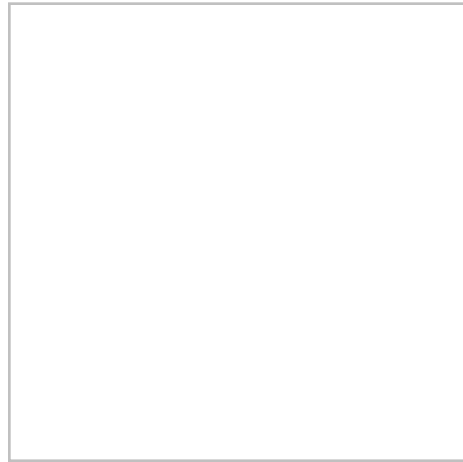
[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

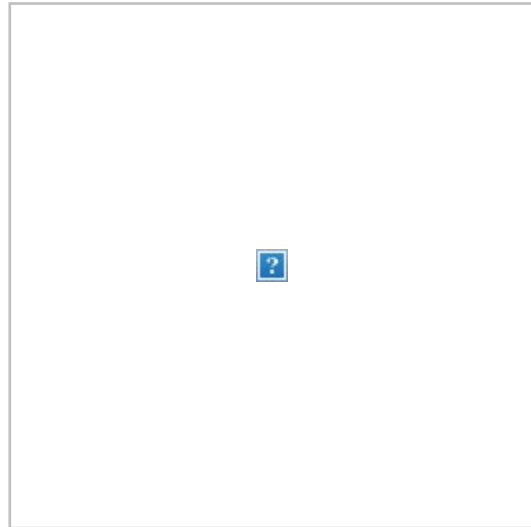
The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal

2025 Action Grant round. ...



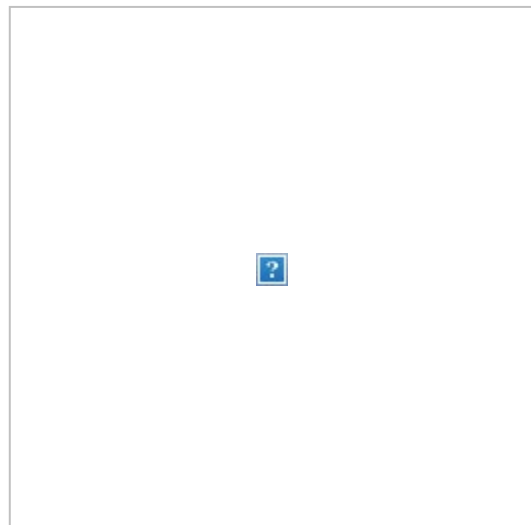
**Broadband Institute launches
\$145M Gap Networks
Infrastructure Grant Program**

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...



**Municipal Cybersecurity
Awareness Grant Program opens**

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



**State offers grants for AED
equipment**

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds

available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

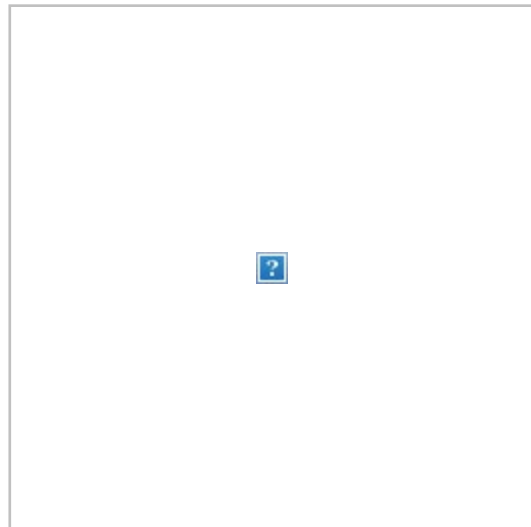
The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and](#)

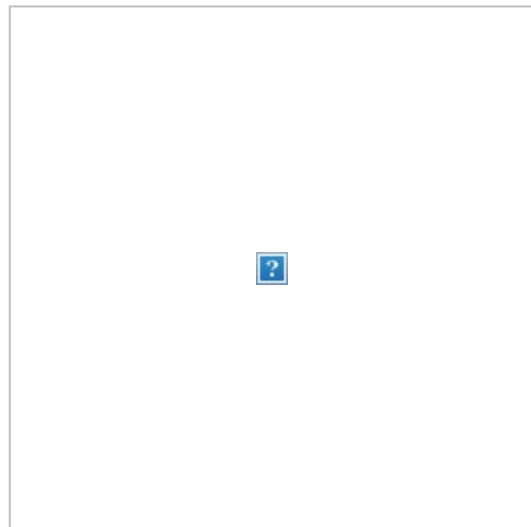
[heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 56 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Treasurer, DPW Project Manager, House Inspector, Assessor Data Manager, Downtown/Business Coordinator, City Solicitor, Social Service Specialist and Library Associate. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

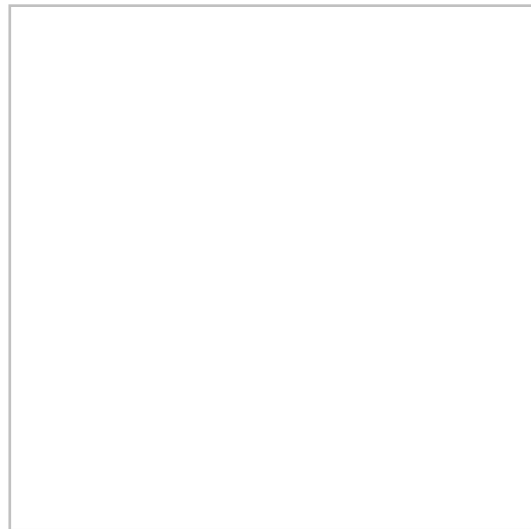
A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll to address MMA Annual Business Meeting](#)

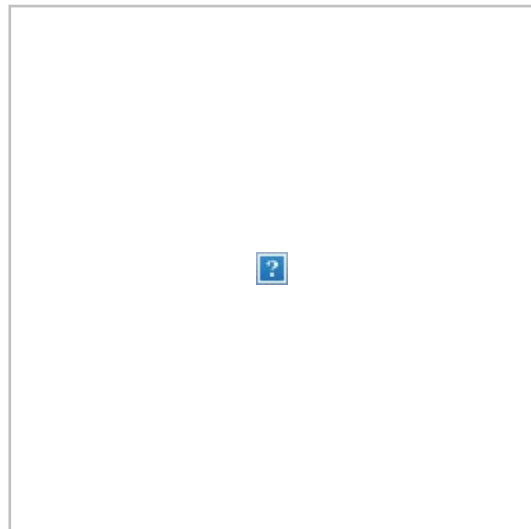
A year into her tenure as lieutenant governor — following 17 years as mayor of Salem — Kim Driscoll will address local leaders during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on

Saturday morning, Jan. 20, in
Boston. ...



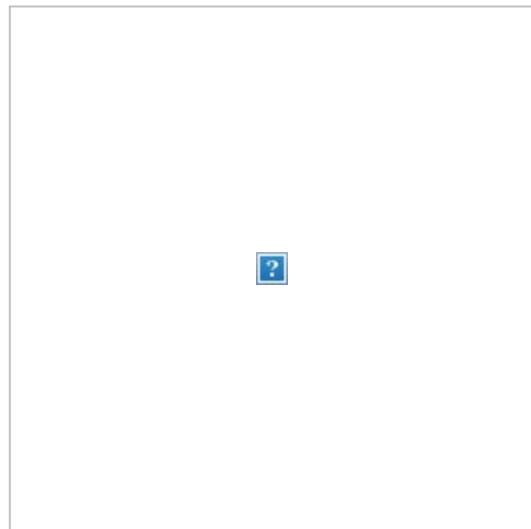
**State budget writers to hold
revenue hearing on Dec. 4**

The fiscal 2025 state budget process will begin in earnest on Dec. 4 with the annual hearing where the Department of Revenue and other fiscal experts and economists discuss the prospects for the economy and state revenue over the second half of the current fiscal year and in the fiscal year to come. ...



**FY23 closeout supplemental
budget moves a step closer**

A legislative conference committee named to iron out differences between House and Senate versions of a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget released a compromise bill on Nov. 30. ...



**MMA publishes December issue
of The Beacon**

The MMA today published the

December 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, ARPA funding and numerous grant opportunities, coastal resilience and climate change, and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[Annual Meeting to feature 21 timely workshops](#)

Timely and informative workshops are a central feature of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January, and this year attendees can learn how to protect municipal infrastructure from climate impacts, improve their advocacy for their community, boost their local diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and build thriving business districts, among other topics. ...

[Administration launches statewide coastal resilience strategy](#)

At an event held at a waterfront park in Beverly yesterday, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced a new effort to pursue a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the Massachusetts coastline. ...



Federal funds office provides support to municipalities

Looking to maximize federal funding for Massachusetts through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act, a new state office is reaching out to cities and towns with key details on grant opportunities and technical assistance to help them reel in federal dollars. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



More MMA Annual Meeting details finalized

In the past few days, the MMA has announced its roster of workshops and another key speaker, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...



ARPA deadline is one year away

Cities and towns have about a year

left — until Dec. 31, 2024 — to obligate their State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



[MMA webinar on Dec. 11 will discuss new CCC regulations](#)

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 11 with attorney Nicole Costanzo of KP Law will discuss the Cannabis Control Commission's [newly promulgated regulations](#) and their impact on host communities. ...



[MMA to host 2nd annual POST update](#)

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...

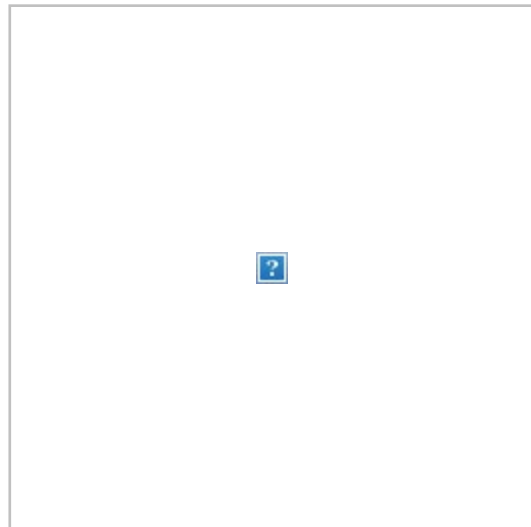


[Form of government webinar answers FAQs](#)

A Massachusetts Municipal

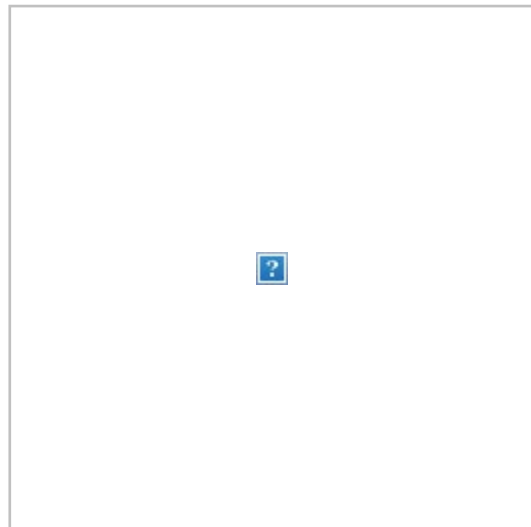
Management Association “Form of Government FAQ’s” webinar today addressed common questions that arise when a community is considering a change in governance.

...



[MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials](#)

As a busy formal legislative session recently came to a close, the MMA’s Legislative Division hosted a webinar for local officials yesterday to provide updates on key legislative and regulatory matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[December is a great time to think about the year ahead](#)

On Dec. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Revenue Committee to support bills to allow municipalities, at local option, to increase local revenue](#)

On Nov. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

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Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speaker: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the New Regulatory Requirements for Host Communities webinar](#) - Dec. 11

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[Goal Setting webinar](#) - Jan. 9

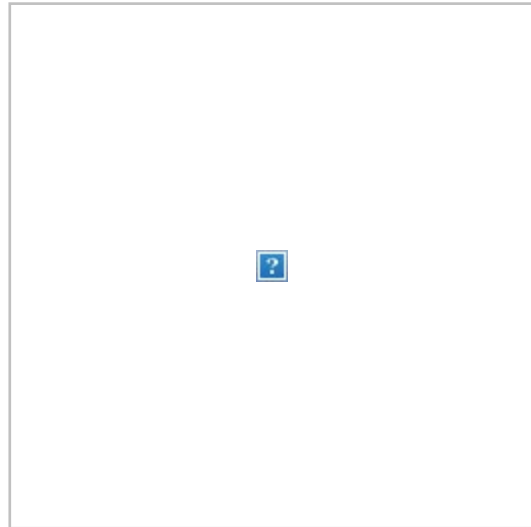
[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

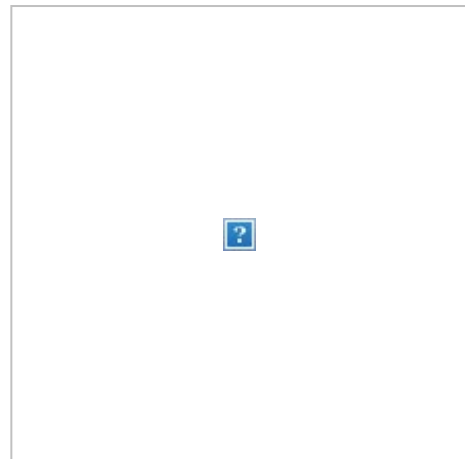
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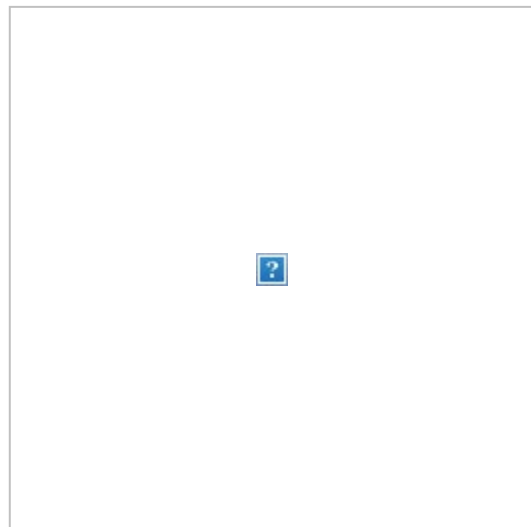
[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

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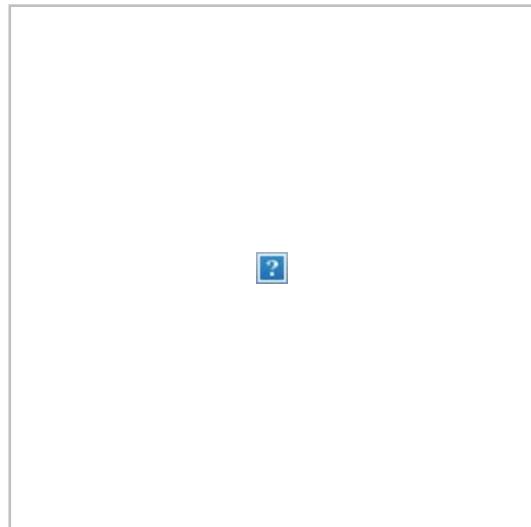


[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)

[Awareness Grant Program opens](#)

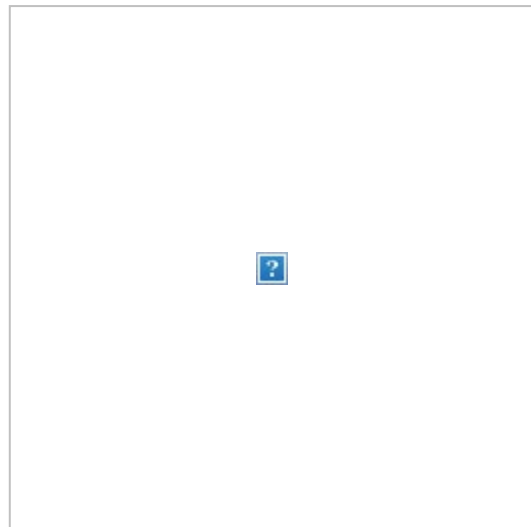
The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024.

...



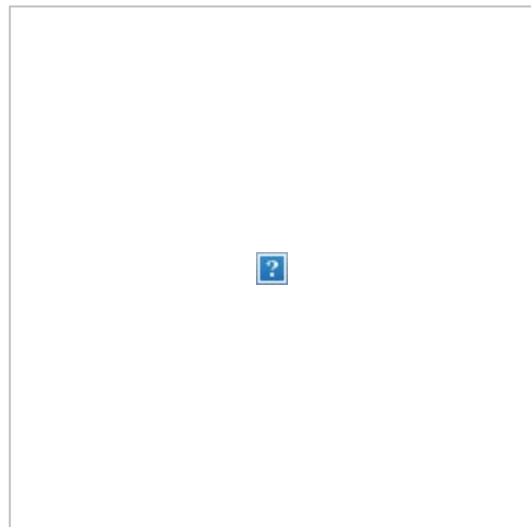
[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Accountant, Planner, City Clerk, Outreach Coordinator, Local Inspector, Electronic Technician, Office Assistant, Library Director and Regional Health Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Gov. files closeout budget with funds for emergency shelter crisis](#)

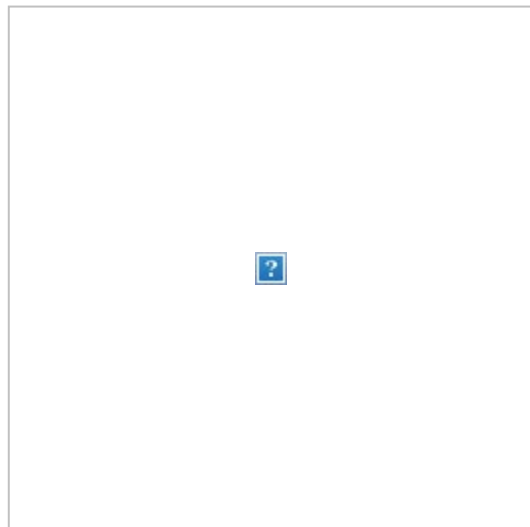
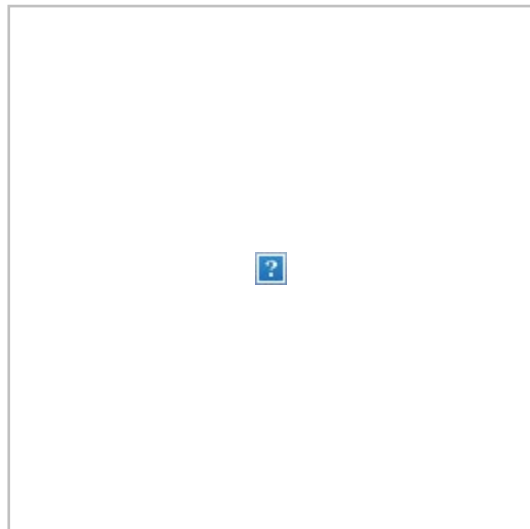
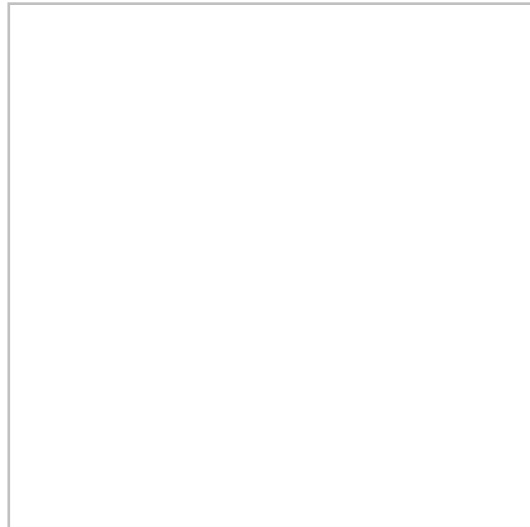
Looking to close the books on fiscal 2023, Gov. Maura Healey filed a final supplemental budget bill on Sept. 13 that would allocate additional funding for several key priorities. ...

[MMA, local leaders working with administration to address shelter crisis](#)

With a surge of emergency shelter needs that shows no signs of abating, and temporary placements in hotels and other settings in roughly 80 communities across the state, the MMA and the administration will begin conducting biweekly briefings with chief municipal officials later this month to provide the latest information and take questions. ...

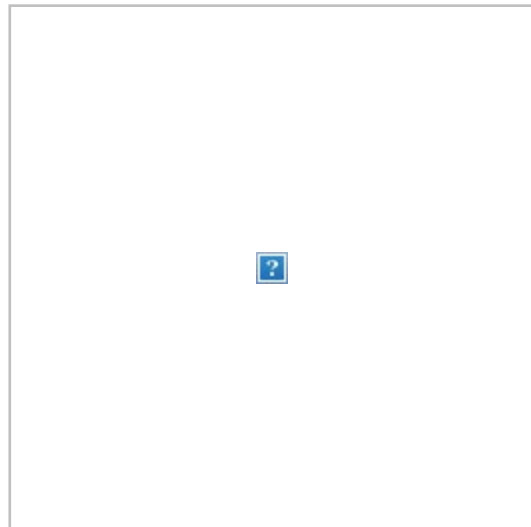
[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...



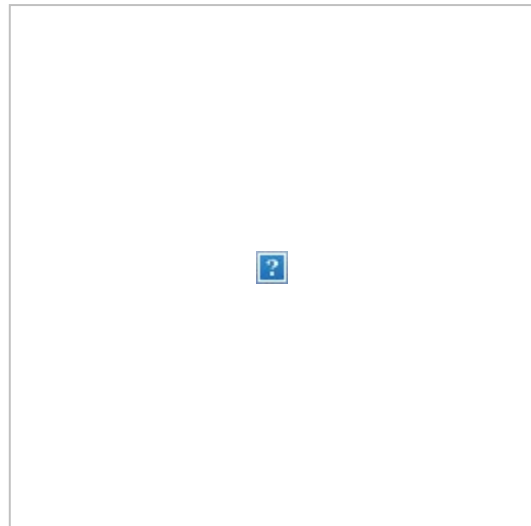
[MMA “Grants 101” webinar shares resources to assist municipalities](#)

A free MMA webinar yesterday offered an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities, as well as best practices for writing grant applications and administering grants. ...



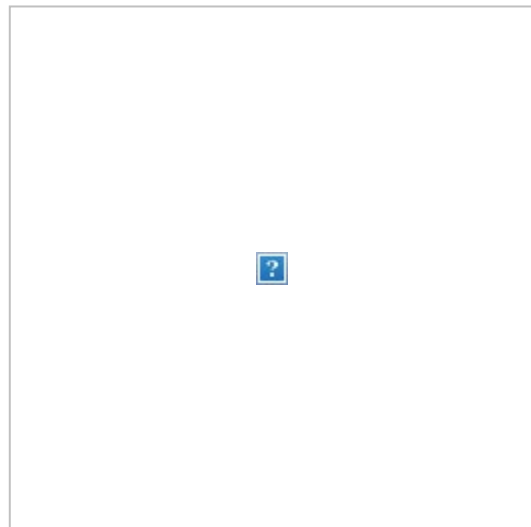
[MMA webinar to explore communicating with constituents, fostering engagement](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 26 will discuss how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to the target audience. ...



[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[Cambridge focuses on flood prevention, zoning as part of larger climate action](#)

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the city of Cambridge is taking a multi-pronged approach to resiliency, looking at the impacts of flooding, heat and emissions. ...



[Boston program encourages office-to-residential conversions downtown](#)

As big cities nationwide attempt to revitalize downtown office districts hollowed out by the pandemic and the rise of remote work, the city of Boston is seeking to incentivize the conversion of underused office buildings into residential units. ...



[Southern Berkshire County towns offer public ride-share service](#)

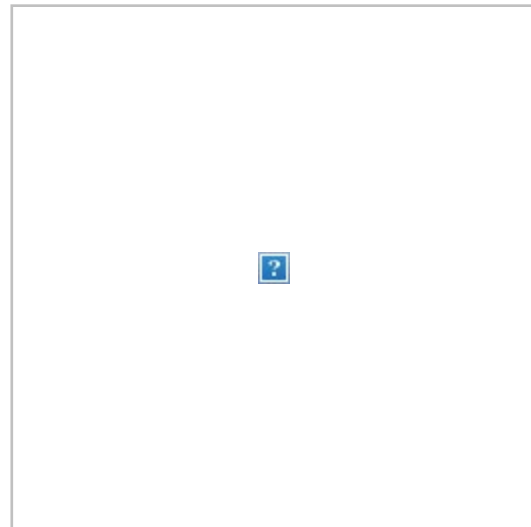
Seeking to bridge the gap for seniors, workers and others lacking transportation options, several Berkshire County towns have banded together to create a public on-demand ride service. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial

Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee to support bills to create municipal and public safety building authority](#)

On Sept. 20, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

[Effective Constituent Communication: The Key to Fostering Public Engagement webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 29

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Communication Foundations webinar](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MSA seeks nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[MTF webinar will explore](#)

[migration trends and their impact on Mass.](#)

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



[Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted](#)

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of

Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



DLS offering municipal law seminars in Holyoke, Waltham in September

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “What’s New in Municipal Law” seminar for local officials on Sept. 21 in Waltham and on Sept. 28 in Holyoke. ...



IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds

The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5

The MassCyberCenter will hold its

third annual Massachusetts
Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on
Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



**Annual Town Forest Conference
is Oct. 21 in Ashland**

The annual Massachusetts Town
Forest Conference, a platform for
fostering collaboration among a
range of professionals and
volunteers who contribute to the
management of community forests,
will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at
the Ashland Community Center. ...



**MMA seeks entries for Municipal
Innovation Award contest**

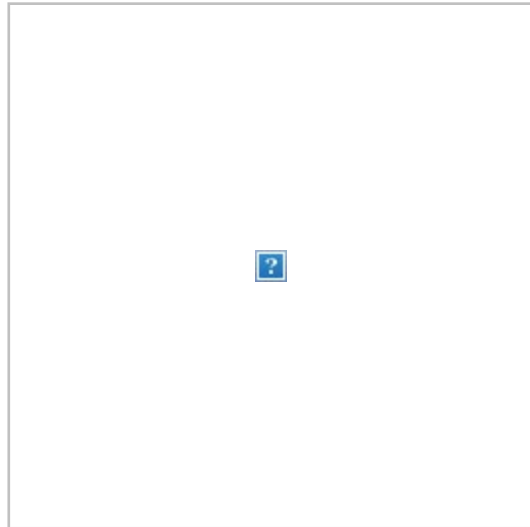
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**Entries sought for municipal
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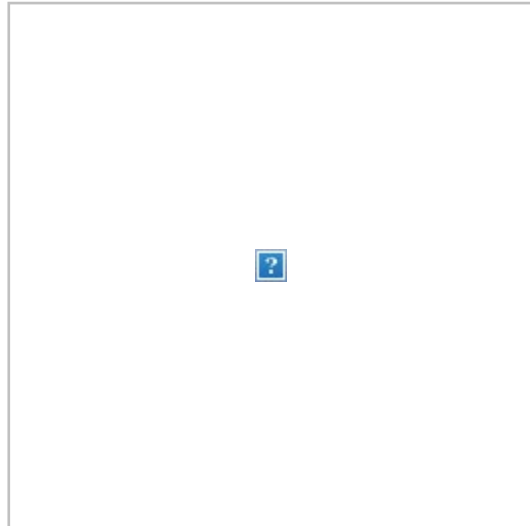
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for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA Annual Meeting in January 2024. ...



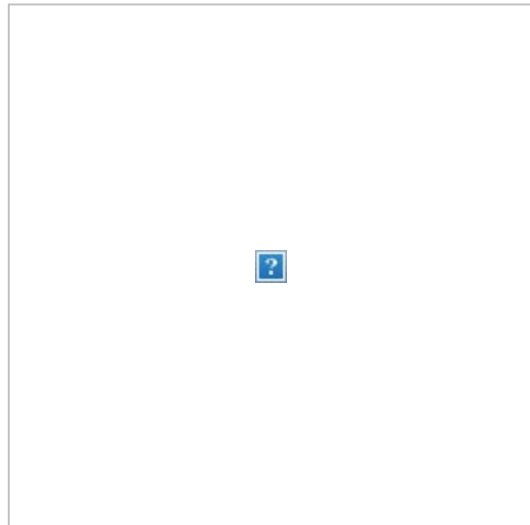
[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 50 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Facilities Project Manager, GIS Coordinator, Town Accountant, Assistant City Engineer, Town Planner, Cross Connection Coordinator and Finance Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[CCC approves extensive revisions to marijuana regulations](#)

On Sept. 22, the Cannabis Control Commission voted, 3-1, to approve extensive revisions to state regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana. ...

[House, Senate send tax relief bill to governor's desk](#)

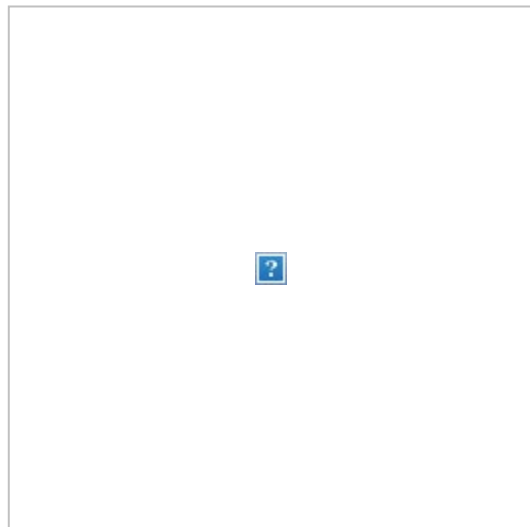
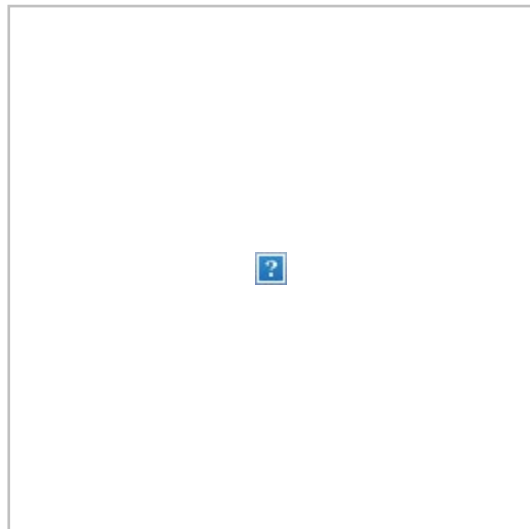
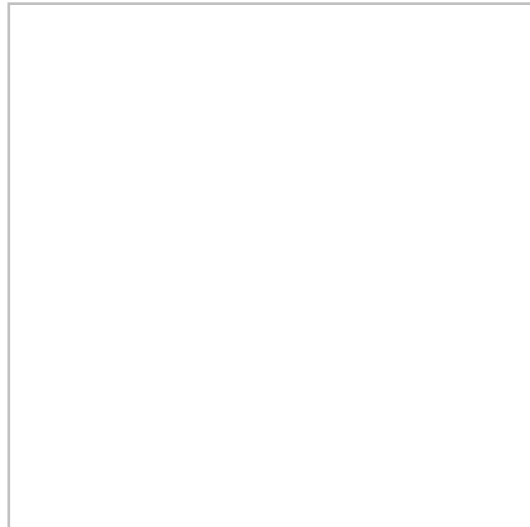
The House and Senate have passed a compromise tax relief bill that would provide \$561 million in tax breaks and credits this year, with the value growing to approximately \$1 billion once the law is fully implemented in 2027. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...

[What to know about \\$325M for municipal roads, bridges in FY24](#)

A bond terms bill signed by Gov.



Maura Healey on Sept. 12 concludes the legislative process for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2024 and will enable the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to process reimbursements for approved projects. ...



[MMA webinar shares tips for communicating with constituents](#)

An MMA webinar yesterday discussed how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to your target audience. ...



[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[MunEnergy to hold webinar on winter energy costs](#)

On Oct. 24 at noon, the MunEnergy

program will hold a one-hour webinar to provide timely information about winter energy costs and what winter weather will mean for energy markets. ...



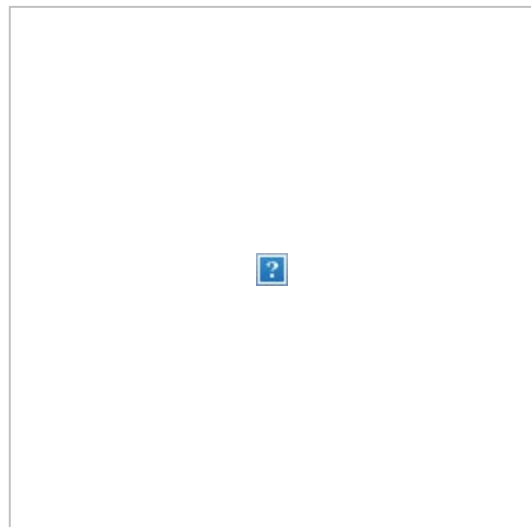
[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



[AG holds webinars to help government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA weighs in on several bills related to procurement before the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee](#)

On Sept. 22, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Communication Foundations webinar](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MSA seeks nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its

2024 Board of Directors. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



[MTF webinar will explore migration trends and their impact on Mass.](#)

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



[Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted](#)

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of

Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



[IG holding webinars on use of ARPA Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)

The Office of the Inspector General is hosting a webinar for local leaders on the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



[MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



[Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland](#)

The annual Massachusetts Town

Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



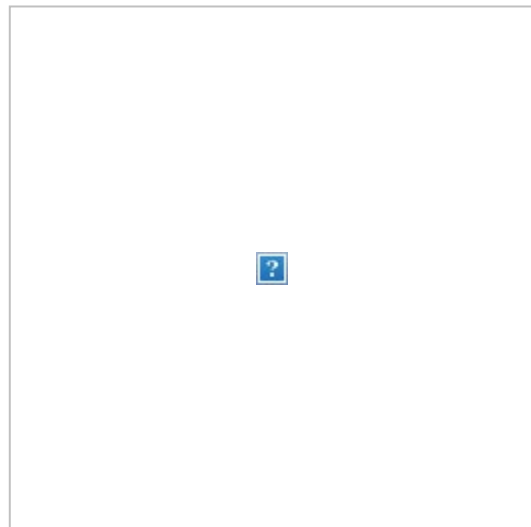
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Annual Town Report Contest. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 66 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Community Planner, Local Building Inspector, Assistant City Attorney, Operations Manager, Cybersecurity Specialist, Engineer and Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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!](#)

[Administration makes 9C budget cuts, but avoids cutting local aid](#)

After six months of state tax collections falling short of benchmarks, the Healey-Driscoll administration today announced \$375 million in mid-year budget cuts

under Section 9C for fiscal 2024. ...

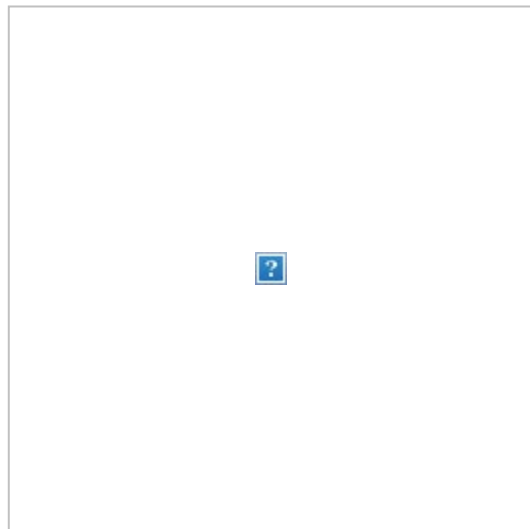
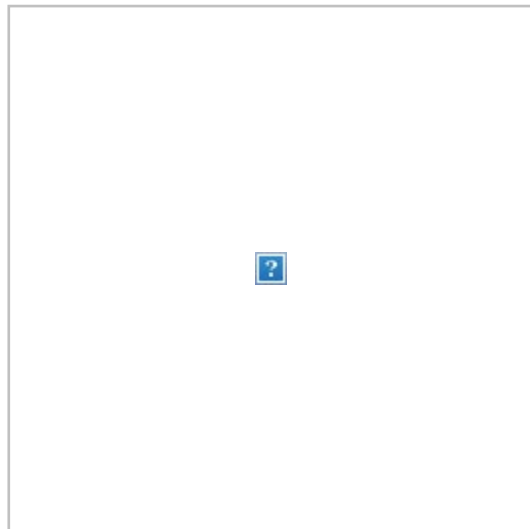
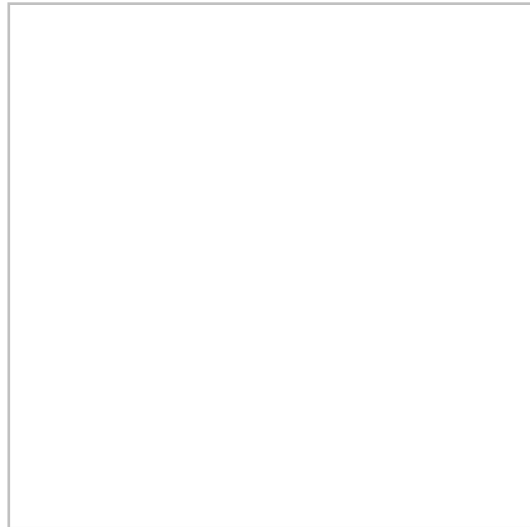
[Administration's \\$1.23B IT bond bill includes funds for local grant programs](#)

On Jan. 9, the Healey-Driscoll administration filed a \$1.23 billion, five-year bond bill intended to modernize IT systems across state agencies. ...

[Inspector General releases first in series of advisories for municipal officials](#)

The Office of the Inspector General today released its first OIG Advisory for municipal officials. ...

[MMA hosts webinar on conducting empathetic dialogue during conflict](#)



An MMA webinar today shared practical tips for fostering constructive dialogue and overcoming volatile feelings in challenging times. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on performance appraisals and ‘SMART’ goals](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed performance appraisals and offered practical tips for setting “SMART” goals to help local officials start the year off right. ...



[Utilities submit drafts of electric sector modernization plans](#)

The state’s investor-owned electric distribution companies — Eversource, National Grid and Unitil — have submitted drafts of their electric sector modernization plans. ...



[Video features Franklin officials discussing road salt reduction strategies](#)

Just in time for winter, two public works officials from Franklin are featured in a short video offering advice on treating roads in ways that promote safety while minimizing impacts on the environment. ...



[Application period opens for CDBG program](#)

The federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants opened on Dec. 8, and the application deadline is March 25. ...



[Federal RAISE grant application period opens](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced that \$1.5 billion in grant funding is available for 2024 through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, a competitive program that supports investments in road, rail, transit and port projects that have a significant local or regional impact. ...



Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Opening Session: [Gov. Maura Healey](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speakers: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#), [Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)

[Workshop schedule & descriptions](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

[Municipal Finance 101 webinar](#) - Feb. 6

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 8

[Women Leading Government conference](#) - March 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 8

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - March 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MassTrails accepting grant applications](#)

The application period for the MassTrails grant program is open through Feb. 1 via an online application system. ...



[MMA, Suffolk University launch Municipal Human Resources Seminar](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University are announcing an expansion of their professional development partnership with the launch of a new Municipal Human Resources Seminar that will begin in April. ...



[MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)

Local officials are invited to fill a limited number of positions available on the MMA's five policy committees

for 2024. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

Federal Funds Resource Area



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 39 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant DPW Director, Town Administrator, Assessor Data Manager, Town Accountant, Chief Civilian Dispatcher, Executive Assistant and Recreation Coordinator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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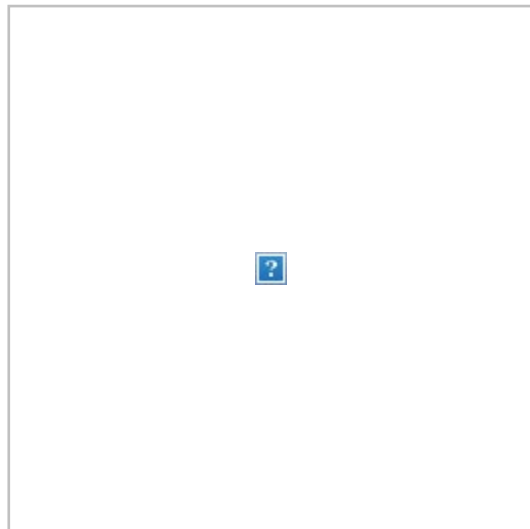
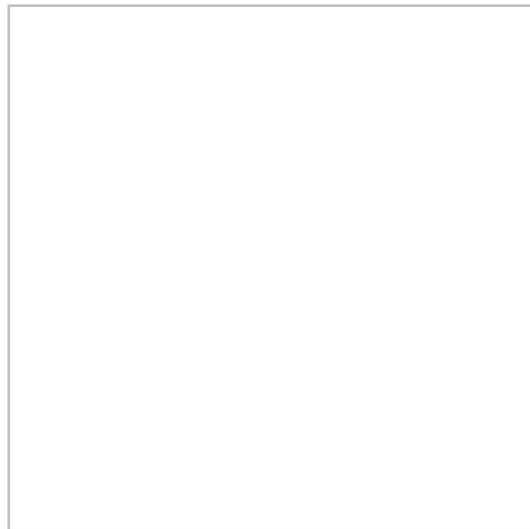
Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[MMA's 45th Annual Meeting & Trade Show starts today!](#)

The Hynes Convention Center in Boston will be buzzing today and tomorrow as more than 1,300 local leaders gather for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show. ...

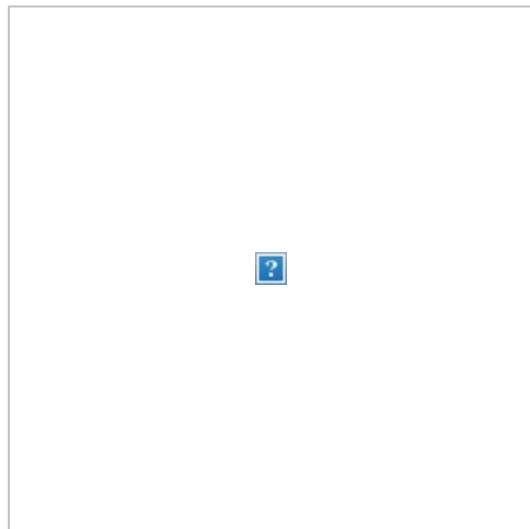
**[Budget writers announce
consensus revenue growth
forecast of 2% for FY25](#)**

The state's budget writers announced on Jan. 8 that state tax collections are expected to grow by 2% in fiscal 2025 over a recently reduced projection for fiscal 2024 revenue. ...



**[MMA to host VMLA webinar series
on emotional intelligence](#)**

Last fall, the MMA launched its Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar series to help promote professional development among municipal officials. The program's three-part pilot, exploring effective communication and feedback, was led by Cally Ritter, principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, and is still available for purchase. ...



[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)

[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



[Easthampton updates hate crimes policy](#)

With war raging abroad and hate crimes increasing nationally, Easthampton recently updated its Hate Crimes Policy to improve public safety, promote inclusivity, and provide greater clarity around its investigation processes and community outreach. ...



[Methuen takes collaborative approach to mental health, homelessness, addiction issues](#)

In an effort to address concerns about mental health, addiction and homelessness in the community, Methuen has convened a monthly mental health task force with representation from across municipal departments to collaborate on addressing the issues. ...



[Cambridge/Anmoughcawgen to add Indigenous language translations to some street signs](#)

As it seeks to acknowledge its Indigenous past and present, the city of Cambridge will soon install bilingual street signs translated in the Massachusetts language on several streets in the eastern part of town. ...



Climate change drives municipal planning challenges

With changing weather patterns creating a growing challenge for communities, multiple sessions during this year's MMA Annual Meeting will focus on the impacts of climate change, as well as what municipalities can do to maintain buildings and prevent costly damages. ...



Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

The 45th MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show kicks off today!

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

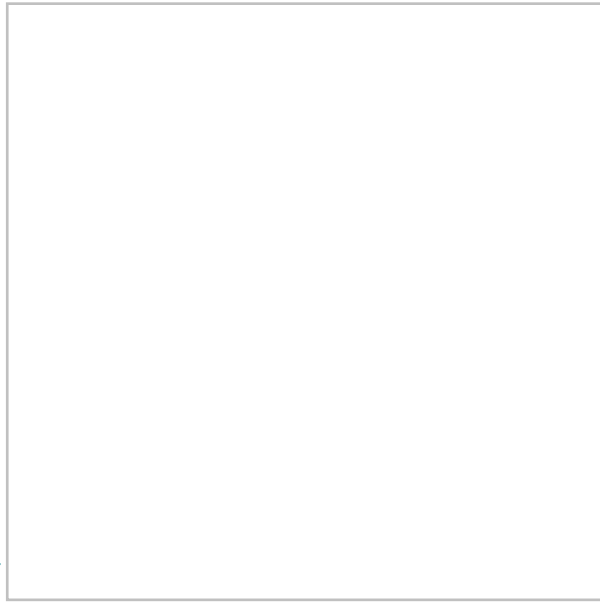
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Guest Speakers: [Lt. Gov. Kim](#)

[Driscoll, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)
[Workshop schedule & descriptions](#)



New In [Advocacy](#)

[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY25 state budget](#)
On Jan. 17, Testimony

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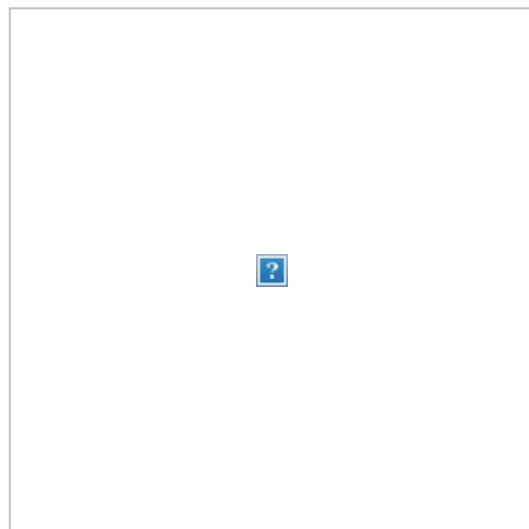
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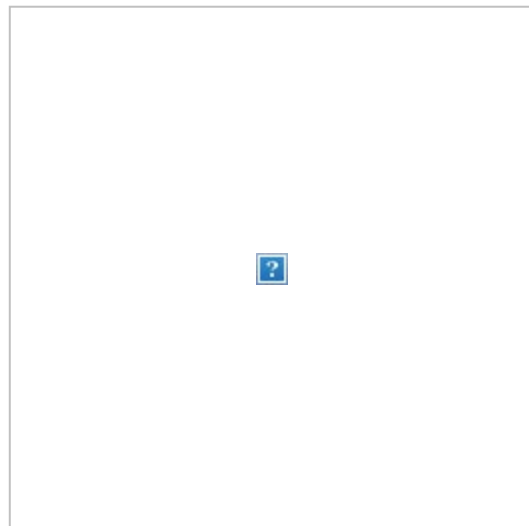
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[Federal RAISE grant application period opens](#)

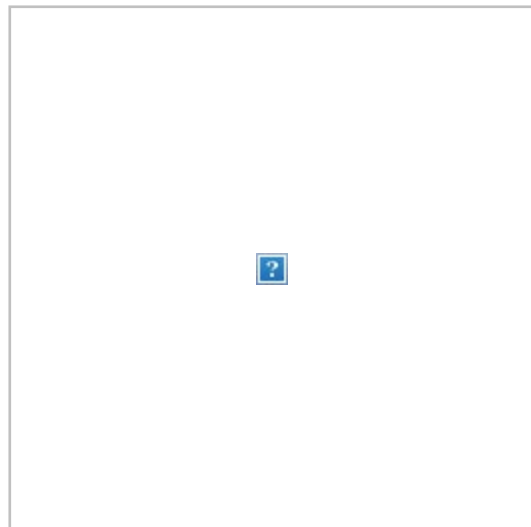
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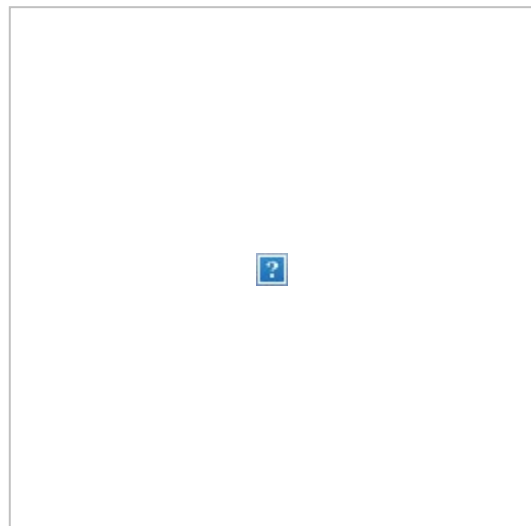
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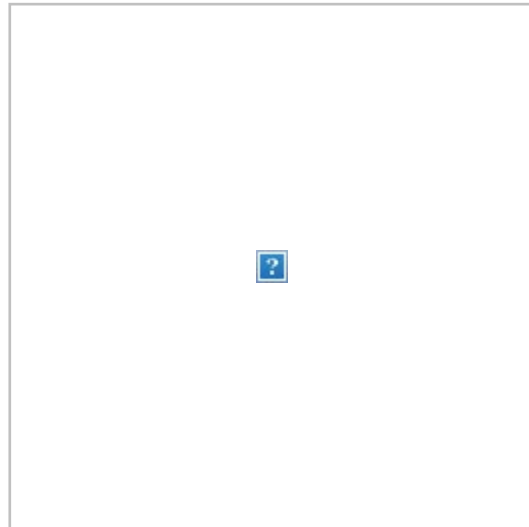
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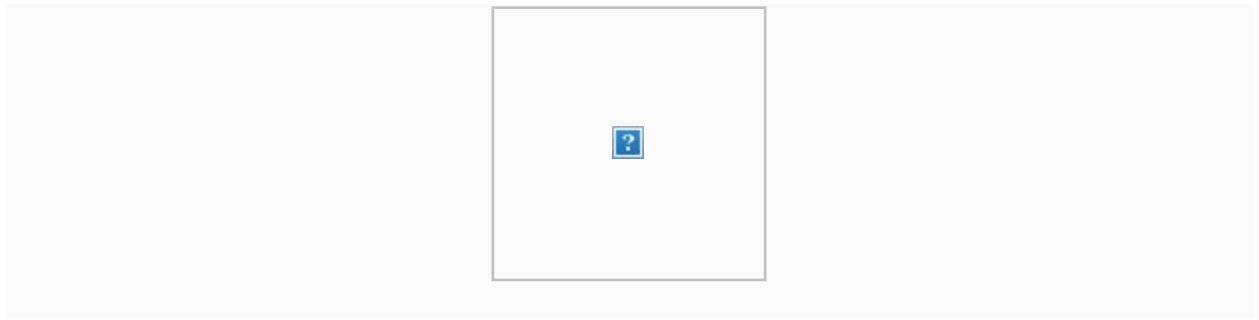


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[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

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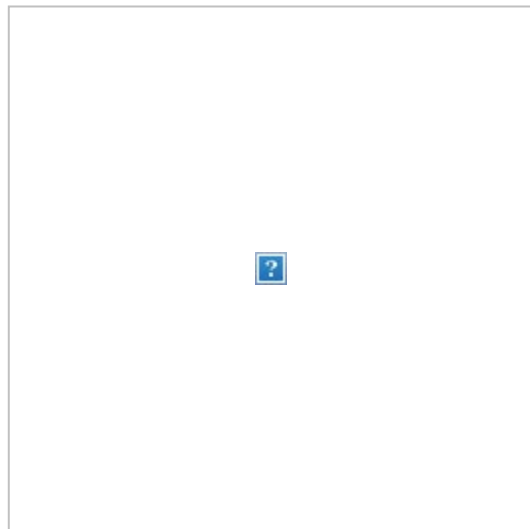
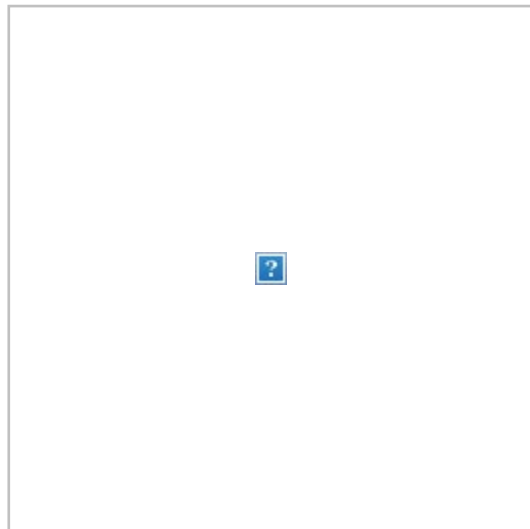
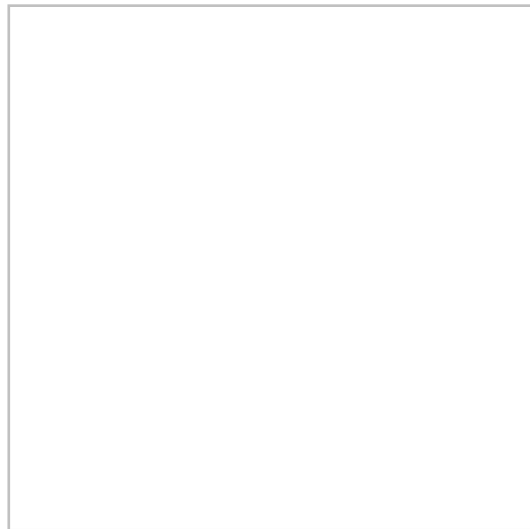
Applications due March 8 for \$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...

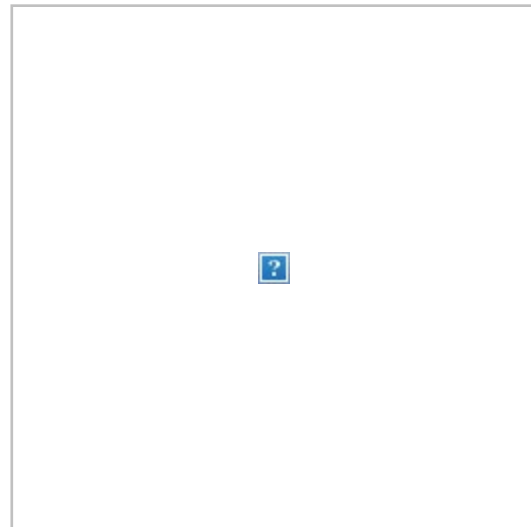
Administration announces \$50M for EV charging infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 7 announced an investment of \$50 million in initiatives to build out electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Massachusetts. ...

MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions

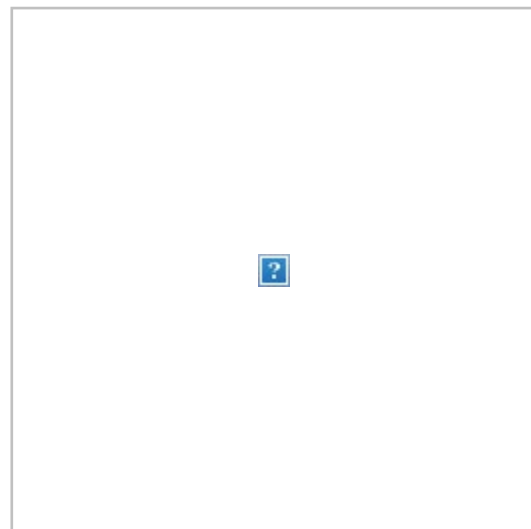


The MMA and Suffolk University will hold an information session about the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program on March 13 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. ...



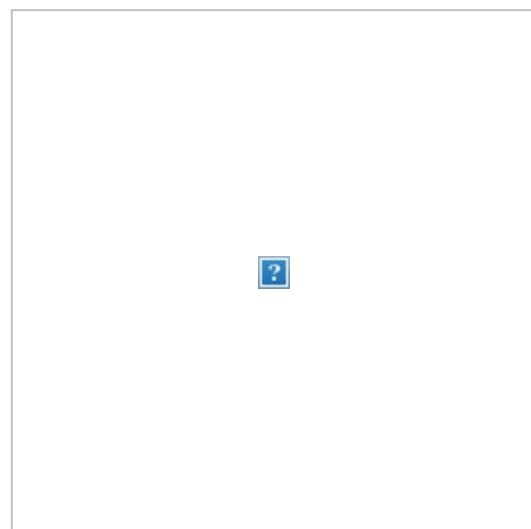
MunEnergy webinar on Feb. 29 will focus on spring weather impacts

The MMA's MunEnergy program will hold a free, one-hour webinar on Feb. 29 to provide timely information about spring energy costs and to discuss what spring weather and climate change will mean for energy markets, as well as the optimal time to purchase energy as we head into the spring. ...



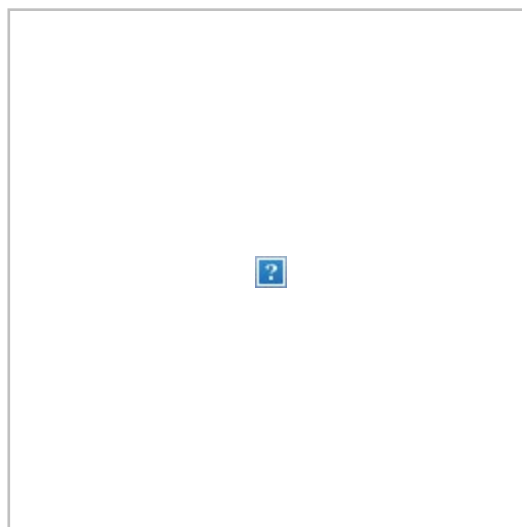
'Meet DLS' webinar set for March 11

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual "Meet DLS" webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



MIIA presents safety, risk management, wellness awards

During its Annual Business Meeting in Boston on Jan. 20, MIIA presented awards to outstanding member communities and municipal entities to recognize their commitment to safety, risk management, and employee wellness. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[MBTA Communities: Municipalities & Compliance webinar](#) - Feb. 26

[Tackling Tough Conversations with Emotional Intelligence webinar](#) - Feb. 27

[MunEnergy webinar](#) - Feb. 29

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – North Andover & Greenfield](#) - March 1

[Perfecting Your Procurement Process: Best Practices and Lessons Learned webinar](#) - March 5

[Women Leading Government conference](#) - March 7

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Holyoke & Rockland](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 8

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Wareham & Westborough](#) - March 15

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March 20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

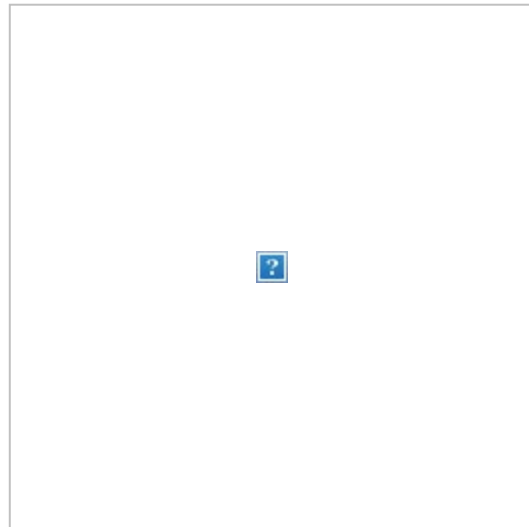
[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Municipal Law Unit hosts trainings on bylaw processes, MBTA Communities rules](#)

The Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit is holding three free, online training sessions this month on the zoning bylaw amendment process and bylaw filing. ...



[MMA to host VMLA webinar series on emotional intelligence](#)

Last fall, the MMA launched its Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar series to help promote professional development among municipal officials. The program's three-part pilot, exploring effective communication and feedback, was led by Cally Ritter,

principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, and is still available for purchase. ...

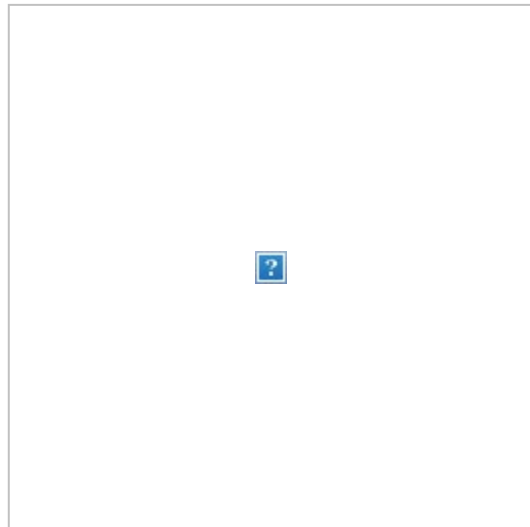
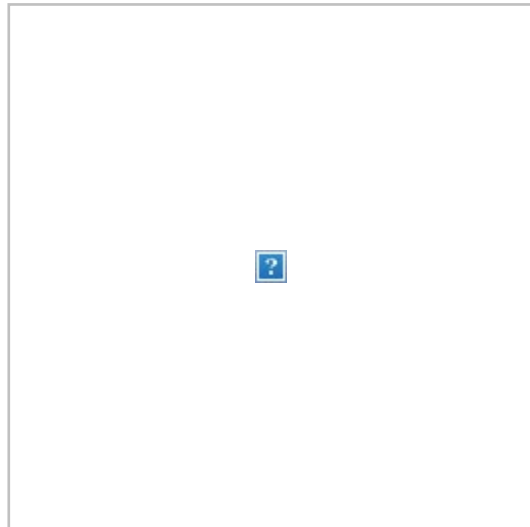
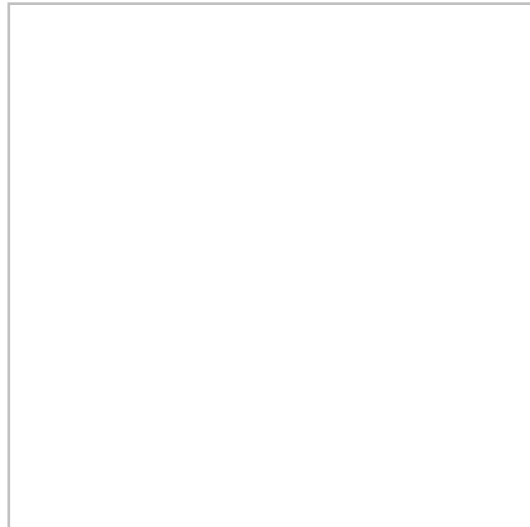
[Community One Stop for Growth opens for fiscal 2025](#)

Community One Stop for Growth, a portal where municipalities can apply for state community and economic development grant programs, has opened for fiscal 2025. ...

[MSA launches online Handbook for Massachusetts Select Board Members](#)

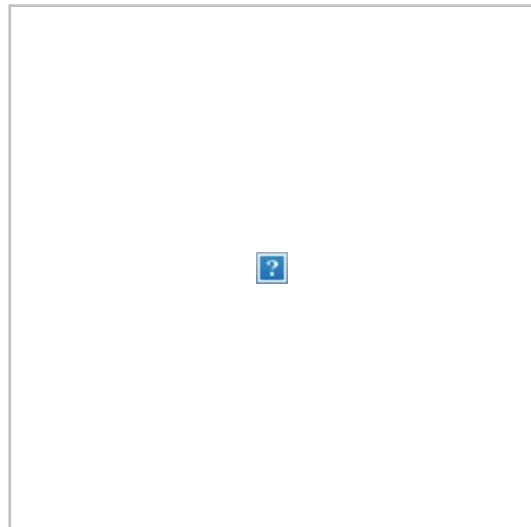
At the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston this morning, the Massachusetts Select Board Association launched a new online version of its comprehensive guide for Select Board members. ...

[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)



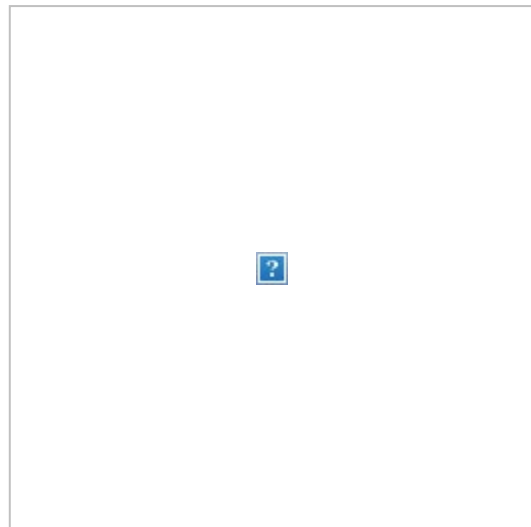
[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



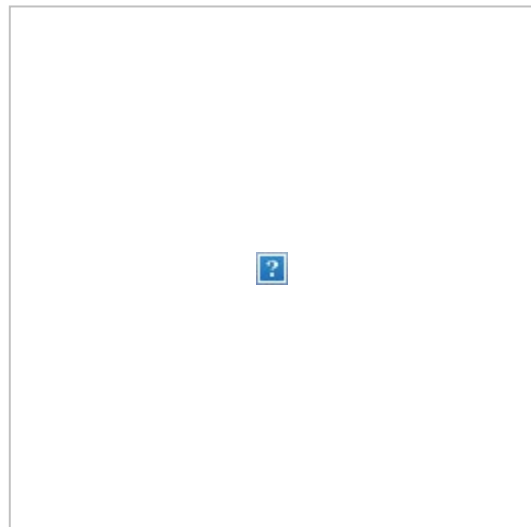
[Application period opens for CDBG program](#)

The federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants opened on Dec. 8, and the application deadline is March 25. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 46 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Principal Assessor, Human Resources Specialist, Town Clerk, Conservation Agent, GIS Technician, Recreation Coordinator and Assistant Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

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[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

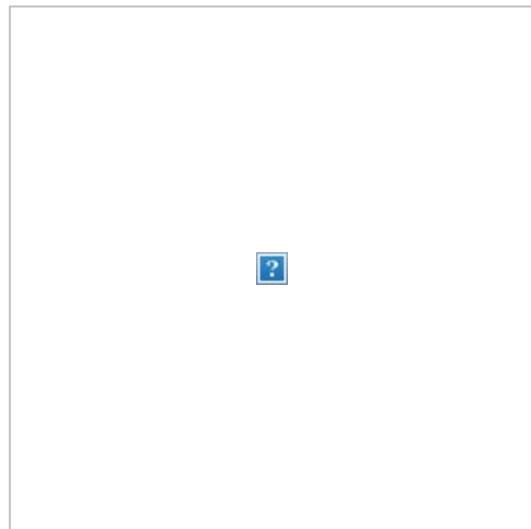
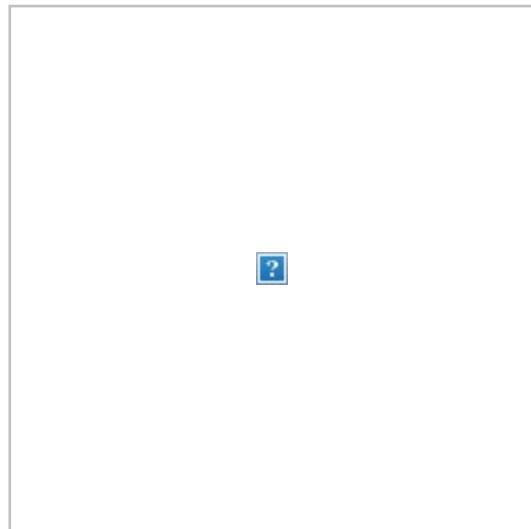
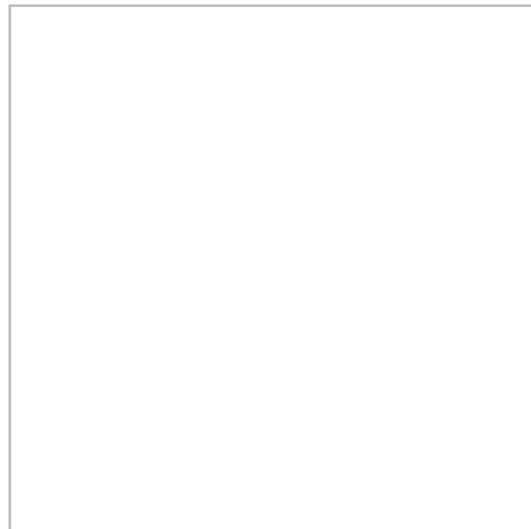
The Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting is seeking public input through March 15 on questions related to the siting of clean energy infrastructure. ...

[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...

[Executive order establishes AI Strategic Task Force](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed an

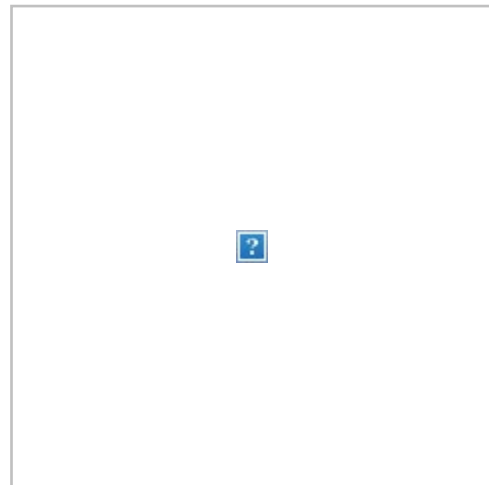


Executive Order on Feb. 14 establishing the Artificial Intelligence Strategic Task Force to study AI and Generative Artificial Intelligence technology and its impact on the state, private businesses, higher education institutions, and constituents. ...



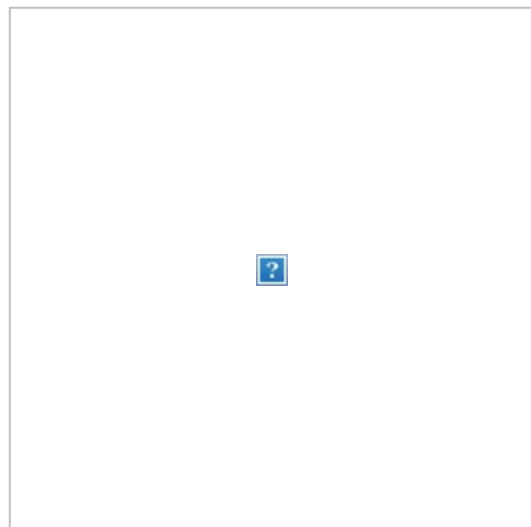
[NLC's Congressional City Conference is March 11-13](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[Public water systems to conduct service line inventories](#)

Under recent revisions to lead and copper rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, all community public water systems and non-transient, non-community public water systems in Massachusetts must develop and submit a service line inventory to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection by Oct. 16. ...



[State leaders urge EPA to restore lead water pipe replacement funding](#)

Top state officials submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Feb. 1 urging the agency to reconsider a new grant formula that has reduced lead service line replacement funding to Massachusetts by more than \$30 million. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[MBTA Communities: Municipalities & Compliance webinar](#) - Feb. 26

[Tackling Tough Conversations with Emotional Intelligence webinar](#) - Feb. 27

[MunEnergy webinar](#) - Feb. 29

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – North Andover & Greenfield](#) - March 1

[Perfecting Your Procurement Process: Best Practices and Lessons Learned webinar](#) - March 5

[Women Leading Government conference](#) - March 7

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Holyoke & Rockland](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 8

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Wareham & Westborough](#) - March 15

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March 20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

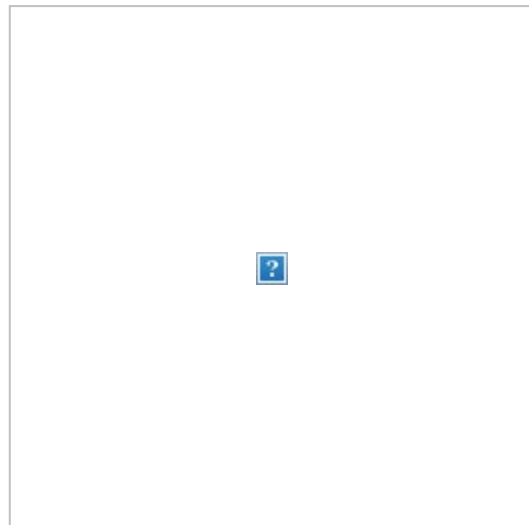
[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

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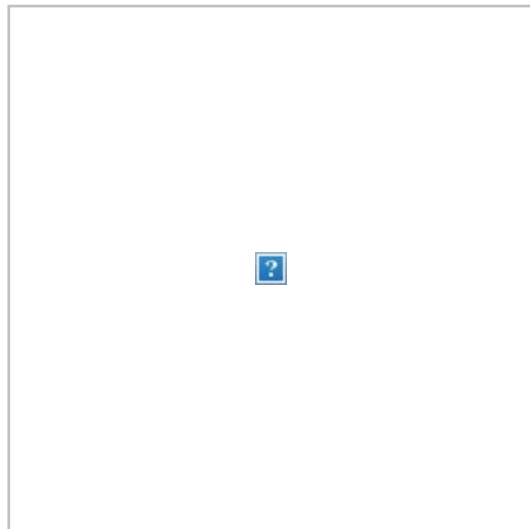
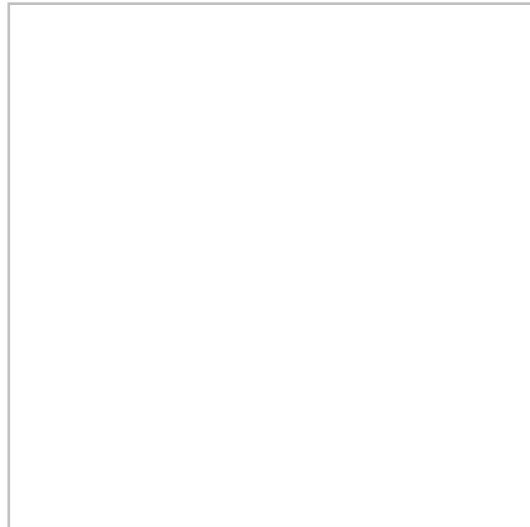


[Municipal Law Unit hosts trainings on bylaw processes, MBTA Communities rules](#)

The Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit is holding three free, online training sessions this month on the zoning bylaw amendment process and bylaw filing. ...

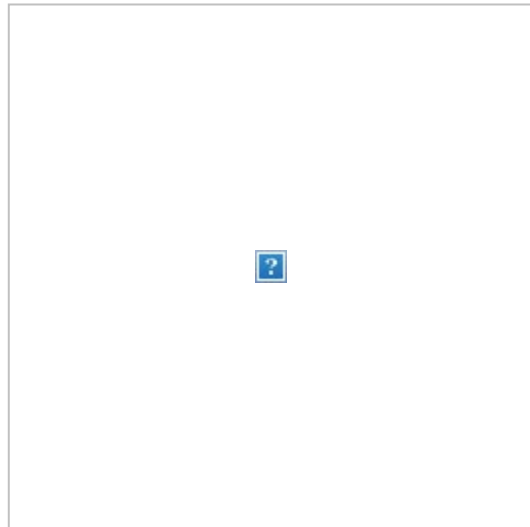
[**'Meet DLS' webinar set for March 11**](#)

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual "Meet DLS" webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



[**Applications due March 8 for \\$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding**](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...



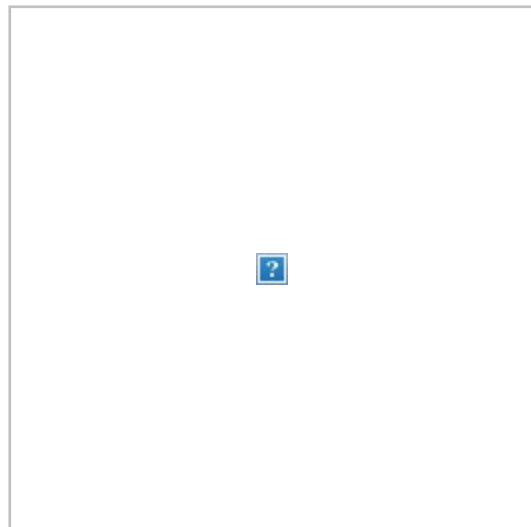
[**MunEnergy webinar on Feb. 29 will focus on spring weather impacts**](#)

The MMA's MunEnergy program will hold a free, one-hour webinar on Feb. 29 to provide timely information about spring energy costs and to discuss what spring weather and climate change will mean for energy markets, as well as the optimal time to purchase energy as we head into the spring. ...



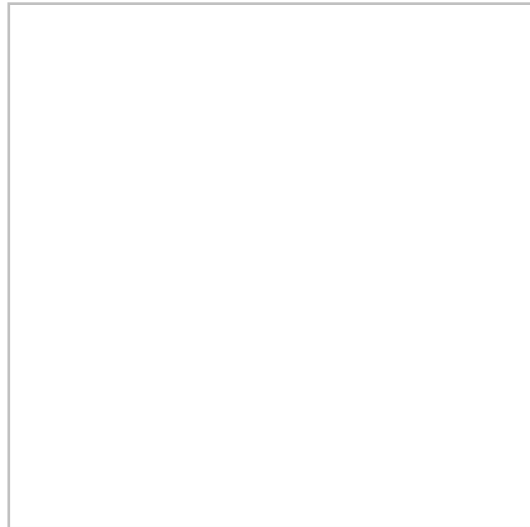
[MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University will hold an information session about the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program on March 13 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 40 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, DPW Business Manager, Senior Network Engineer, Shared Services Coordinator, Payroll Administrator, Animal Control Officer and Firefighter/EMT. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



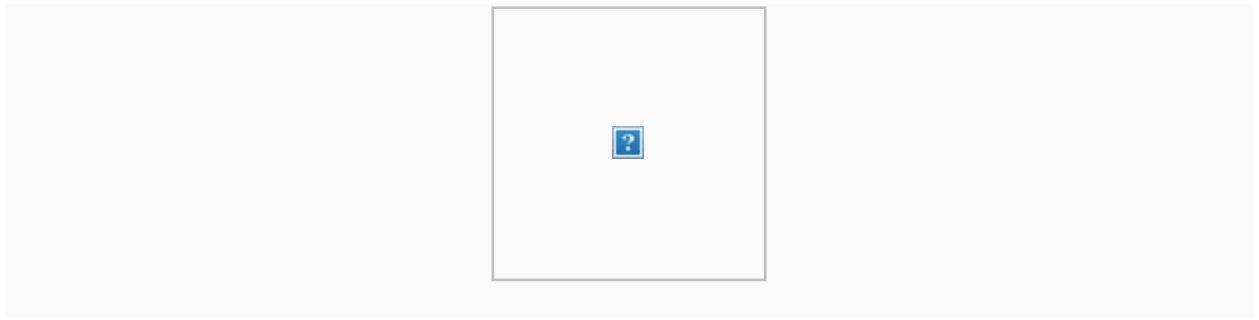
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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[CCC approves model host community agreement](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission today voted to approve a model host community agreement that it developed in accordance with a comprehensive cannabis law

enacted in 2022 that requires the CCC to draft rules around HCAs, as well as social equity. ...

[State to begin lodging tax reimbursements for shelters in cities, towns](#)

State officials have announced a new program to financially support municipalities that have lost local hotel excise tax revenue due to emergency assistance shelter placements in hotels and motels in their community. ...

[MMA to host 'Climate Action' webinar series](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a “climate action” webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...

[MMA Board approves policy committees for 2024](#)

At its Feb. 13 meeting, the MMA



Board of Directors approved the rosters for the MMA's five policy committees for 2024. ...



[MMA panel testifies at Chapter 90 hearing](#)

On Jan. 30, the MMA and several municipal officials testified before the Joint Committee on Transportation in support of Gov. Maura Healey's Chapter 90 bond bill. ...



[MMA joins 23 municipal leagues, NLC for congressional visit](#)

A delegation from the MMA joined 23 municipal organizations from other states and the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C., in late January to meet with members of Congress and push for federal help on issues such as infrastructure investment, cybersecurity, gun safety, PFAS regulations, and avoiding a federal government shutdown. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MBTA](#)

Communities law

An MMA webinar today outlined the process and schedule for municipal compliance with the MBTA Communities law. ...



MMA webinar to share best practices for procurement

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 5 exploring how to streamline the procurement process. ...



MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...



MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education

The MMA will host a free webinar on

March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



[ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12](#)

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



[MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



[MassDEP updates recycling market development plan](#)

In February, the Massachusetts

Department of Environmental
Protection released a revised
Recycling Market Development
Action Plan. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[Municipalities can't be left to recover from climate disasters alone](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

Upcoming MMA Events

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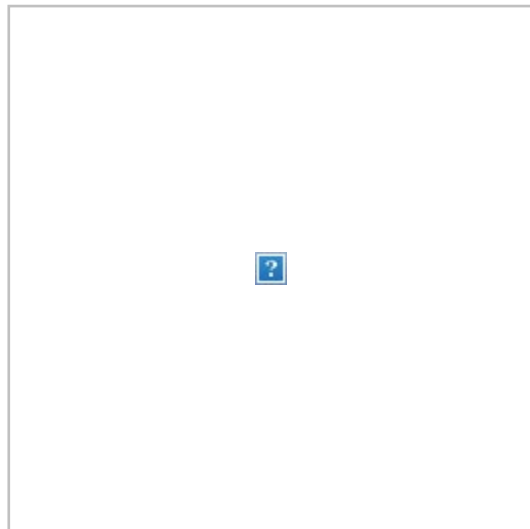
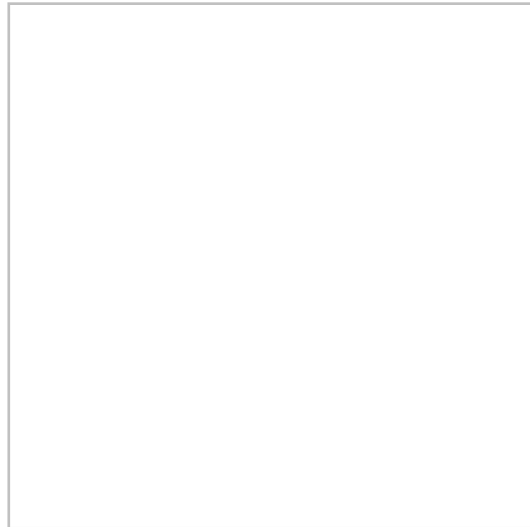


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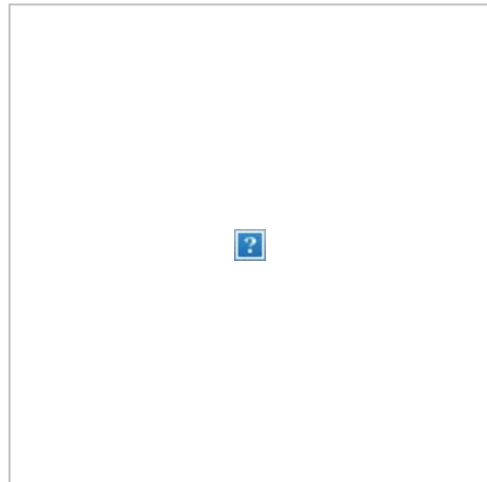
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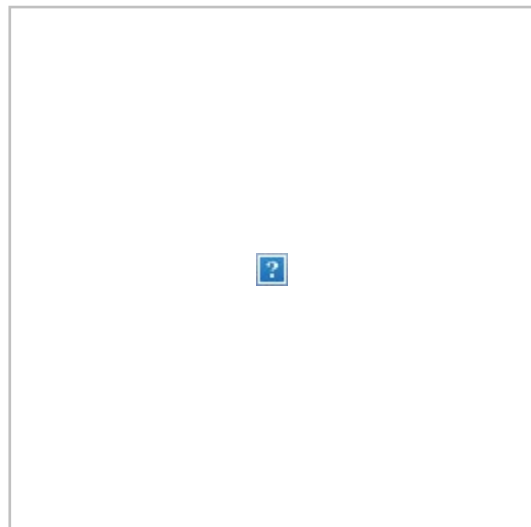
[Applications due March 8 for \\$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Administration announces \\$164M in Community One Stop for Growth grants](#)

At an event in Revere today, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced \$164 million for 338 grant awards through the Community

One Stop for Growth program to support local economic development projects in 161 communities across the state. ...

[Climate chief makes recommendations for addressing climate crisis](#)

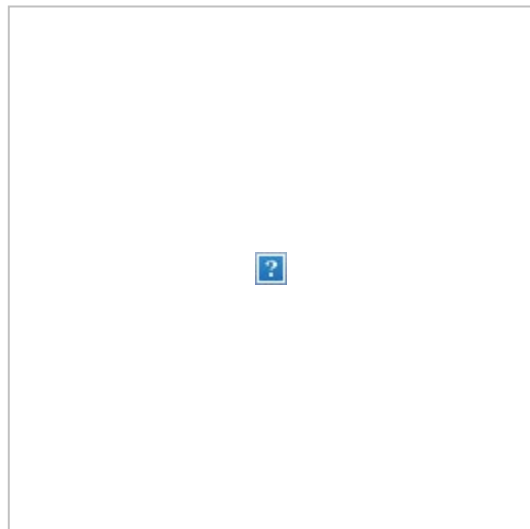
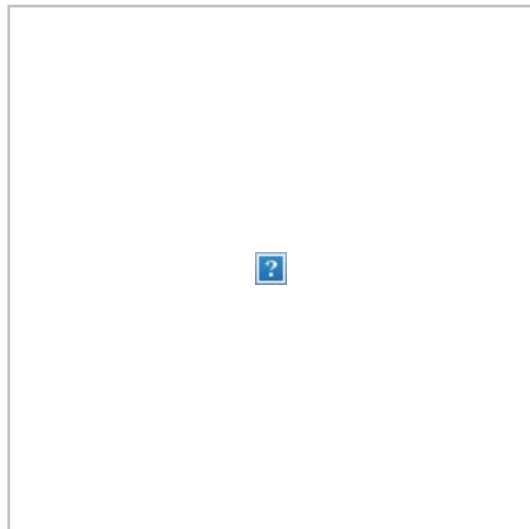
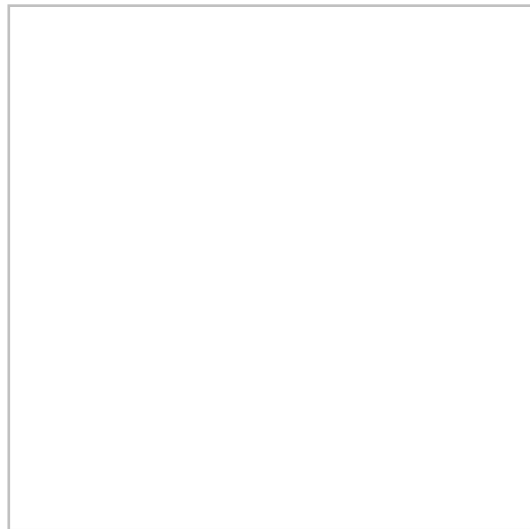
The state's climate chief, Melissa Hoffer, published a report today with recommendations to implement the Healey-Driscoll administration's whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis. ...

[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...

[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free,



75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[New podcast highlights Mass. as age- and dementia-friendly leader](#)

The administration on Oct. 10 announced the release of a podcast series on age- and dementia-friendly innovations across Massachusetts called “ReiMAging Aging.” ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate

Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



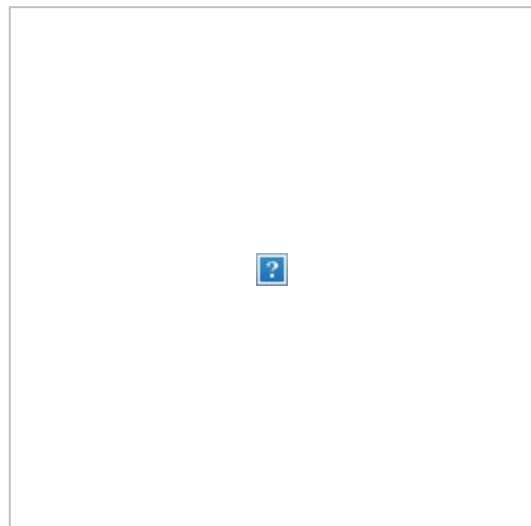
[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[State offers grants for AED equipment](#)

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...

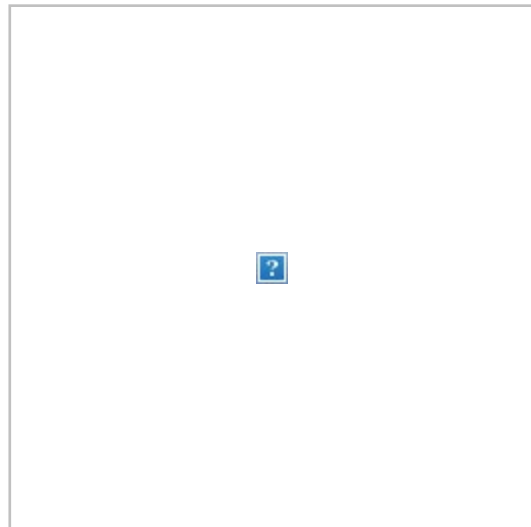


[Timely responses sought for Survey of Occupational Injuries](#)

[and Illnesses](#)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is reminding selected municipal departments to continue their record-keeping efforts needed to complete the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, a federal/state program that collects information on and provides estimates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges State Administration Committee to support bills to enhance grant opportunities for rural communities and provide for alternative delivery of infrastructure projects](#)

On Oct. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Live Demonstration of COMMBUYS webinar](#) - Nov. 7

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Embracing Critical Feedback webinar](#) - Nov. 8

[State-Level Disaster Response and The Recovery Process for Municipalities webinar](#) - Nov. 13

[Running an Effective Meeting: How to Set Yourself Up for Success webinar](#) - Nov. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-

[Legislative Session Review webinar](#) - Nov. 20

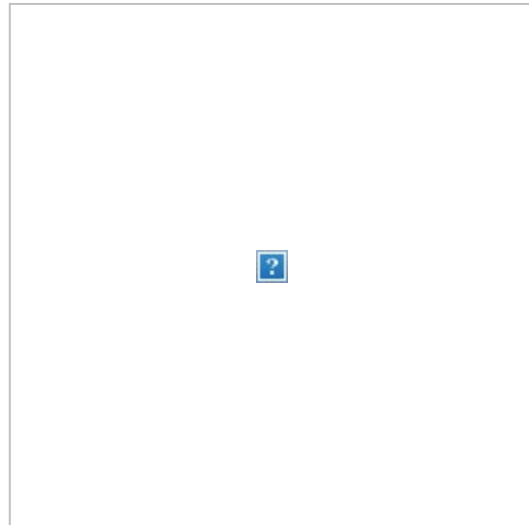
[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

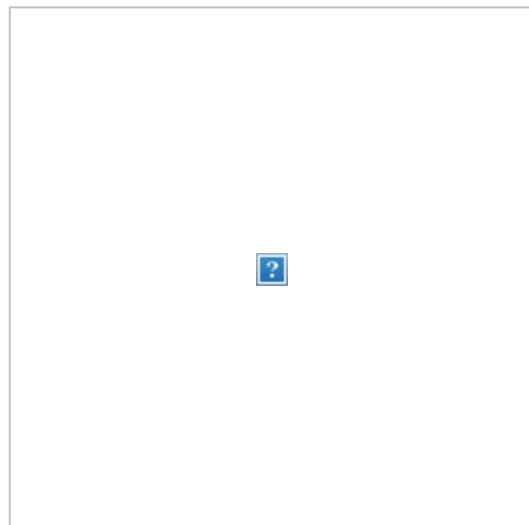
[MMA launches new On-Demand Webinar Library](#)

Today, the MMA launched an On-Demand Webinar Library to enhance members' virtual learning experience. ...



[WEMO seeks nominations for its 2024 Steering Committee](#)

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2024 steering committee. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Webinar will cover upcoming SCOTUS cases affecting local government](#)

The Local Government Legal Center will host a free webinar on Oct. 31 to discuss the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court term and cases relevant to local governments. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

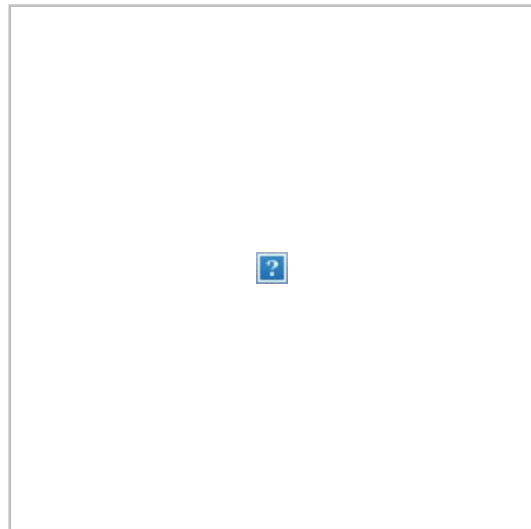
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



[AG holds webinars to help](#)

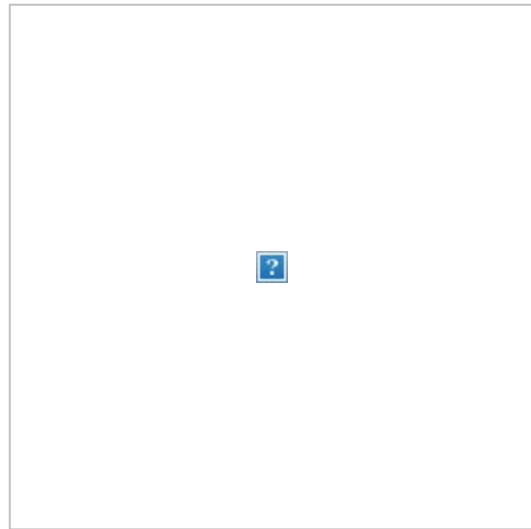
[government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

[Executive Assistant](#)

[Human Resources Manager](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 62 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Library Director, Local Building Inspector, Social Worker, Communications Specialist, Public Health Agent, Finance Director and Town Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

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[Healey appeals denial of major disaster declaration for September storms](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has formally appealed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's denial of her request for a major disaster

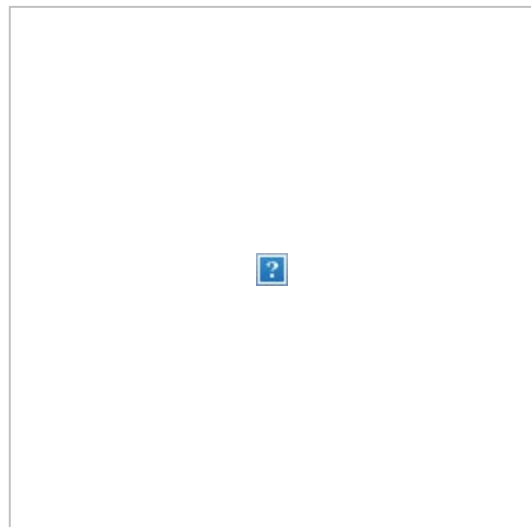
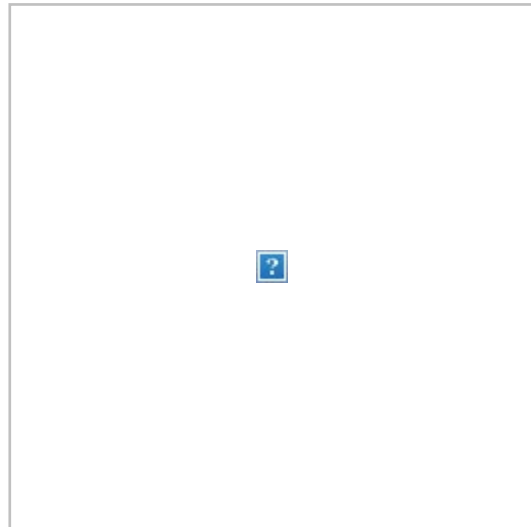
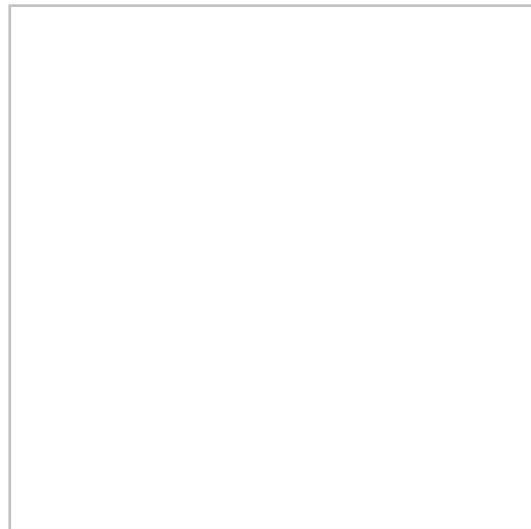
declaration to support the ongoing recovery of Massachusetts communities impacted by severe weather and flooding last September in Worcester, Hampden and Bristol counties. ...

[Administration announces \\$335M in federal funds for Mass Pike project](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state has won \$335.4 million in federal grant funding for a major “Reconnecting Communities” project around the Massachusetts Turnpike near the Charles River in Boston. ...

[MMA-MMLA webinar reviews best practices for MBTA zoning proposals](#)

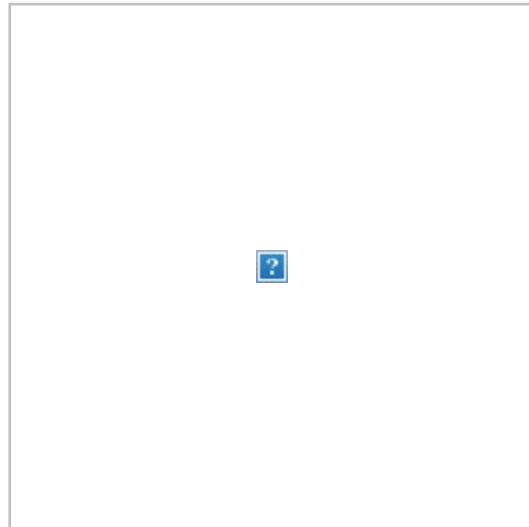
An MMA webinar with the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association reviewed what the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Attorney General’s Municipal Law Unit have learned from their preliminary review of proposed local zoning amendments relative to the



MBTA Communities Act. ...

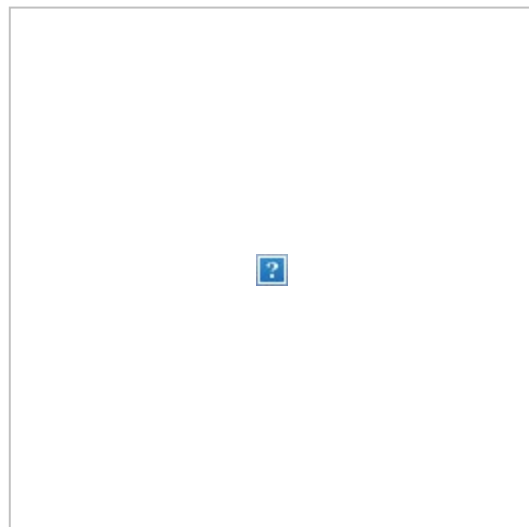
[Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference](#)

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



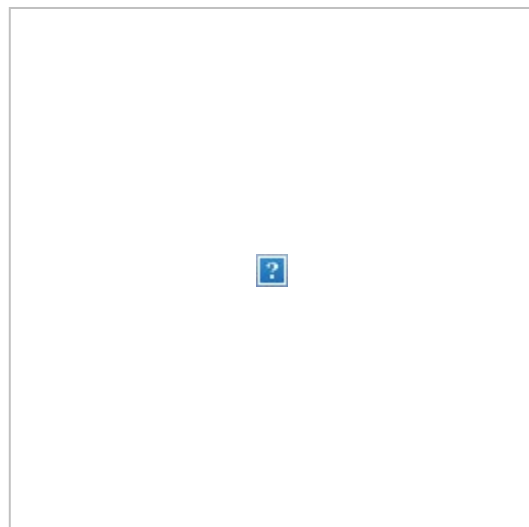
[Applications due March 25 for CDBG program](#)

The application deadline is March 25 for federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

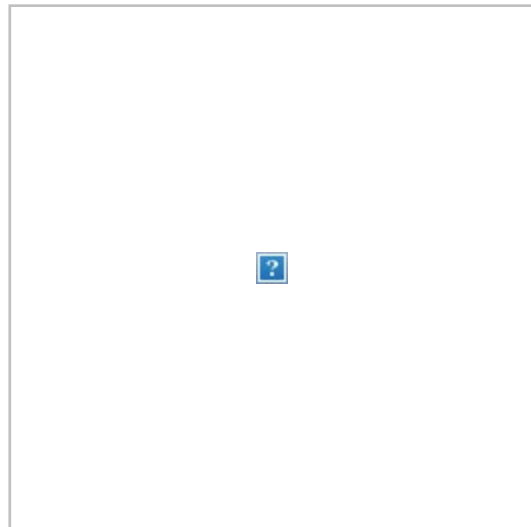
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[DPU to host 4 'Road Show'](#)

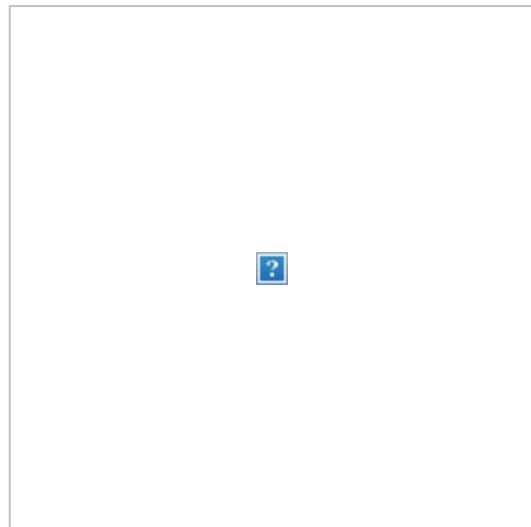
[meetings with public in 2024](#)

The Department of Public Utilities will be hosting four “Road Show” events during 2024, starting in Boston on March 27. ...



[\\$22M retrofit program will expand high-speed internet in affordable housing](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech on March 6 announced the launch of the Residential Internet Retrofit Program, a \$22 million statewide initiative to equip public and affordable housing units across the state with high-speed internet for current and future residents. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to support Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

On March 8, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March 20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

[Conflict Conversations \(Part 2\): Productive Dialogue in Volatile Times webinar](#) - April 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

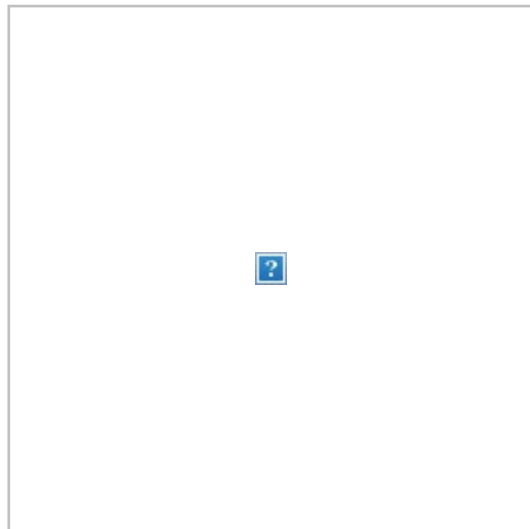
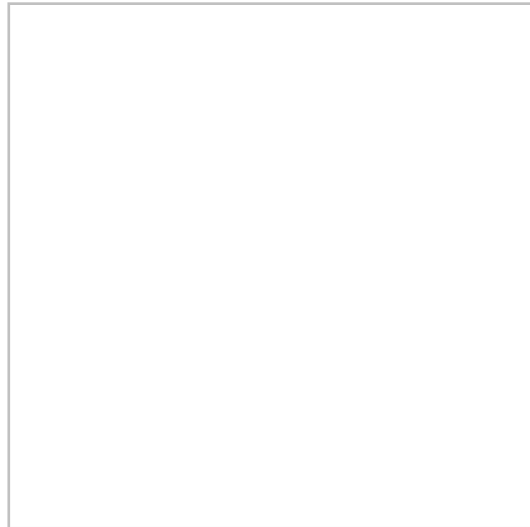
In Case You Missed It

[MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...

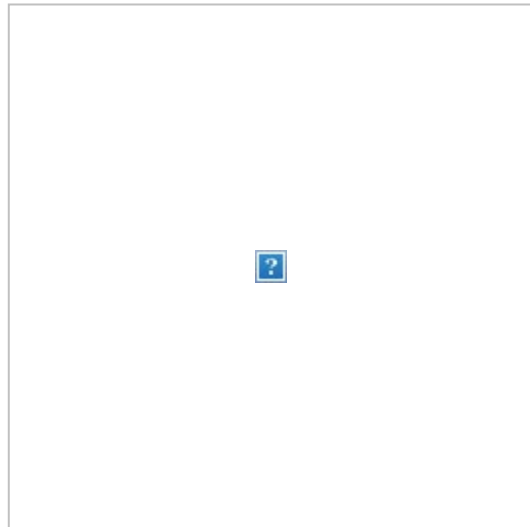
[**MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education**](#)

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



[**MMA to host 'Climate Action' webinar series**](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a "climate action" webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...



[**MMA to host second 'Conflict Conversations' webinar**](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 2 will

review, step-by-step, how to have productive conversations amidst tension and volatility. ...



[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Authority is accepting applications through April 25 for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. ...



[Local leaders invited to happiness symposium at Kennedy School](#)

Massachusetts municipal leaders can discover how to become “happiness teachers” during a free symposium being held June 19 through 21 by the Leadership and Happiness Laboratory at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Center for Public Leadership. ...



[Culvert replacement grant program opening soon for FY25](#)

The Division of Ecological

Restoration announced that it will soon be accepting applications for the fiscal 2025 Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program. ...



[ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12](#)

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



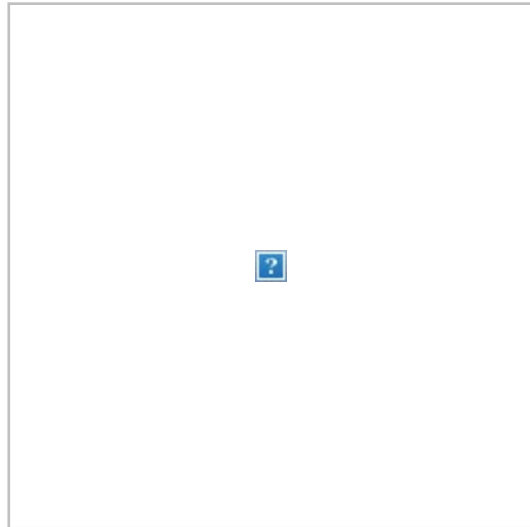
[MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



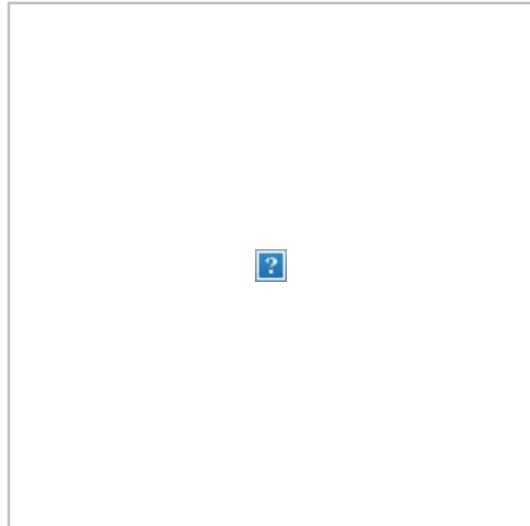
[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...



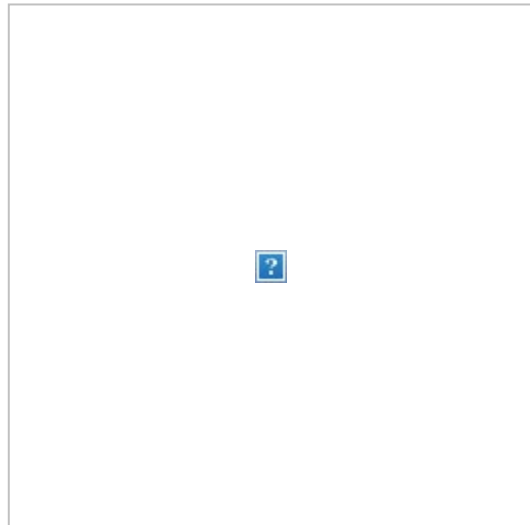
[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Budget and Fiscal Analyst, Town Planner, Police Officer, Administrative Assistant, Firefighter, Assistant City Clerk, Conservation Agent and Community and Development Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, Nov. 9.

[Administration gives emergency shelter update as system approaches limit](#)

With the emergency family shelter system quickly approaching its

capacity limit, the administration gave an update today on next steps.

...



[MMA publishes November issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the November 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including federal grant opportunities, the emergency shelter system, and climate change, plus details about the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show and other upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[MMA Annual Meeting planning continues](#)

Planning continues for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held in person on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...

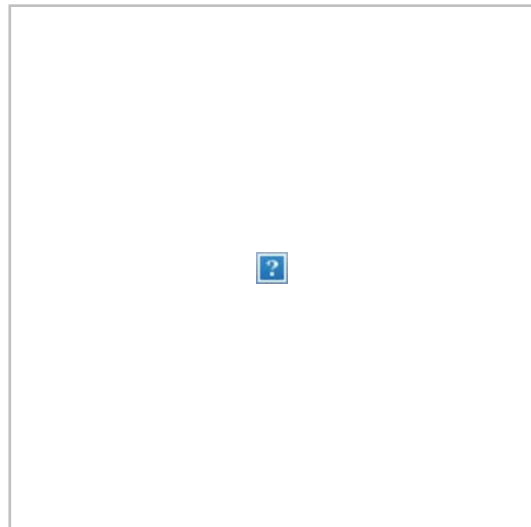


[MMA's DEI work moving forward](#)

[on several tracks](#)

The MMA is continuing to move forward with its diversity, equity and inclusion work on a number of fronts.

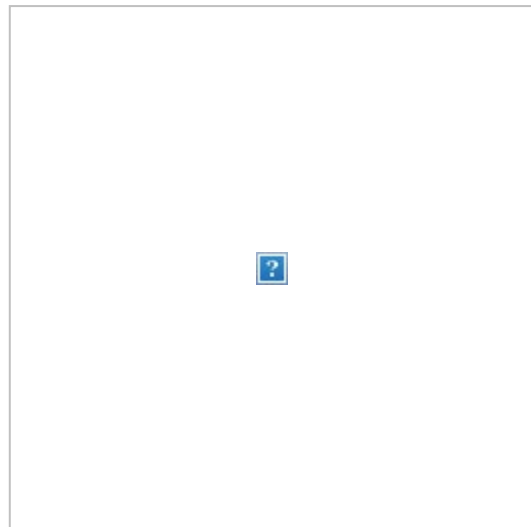
...



[Final CCC marijuana regulations published](#)

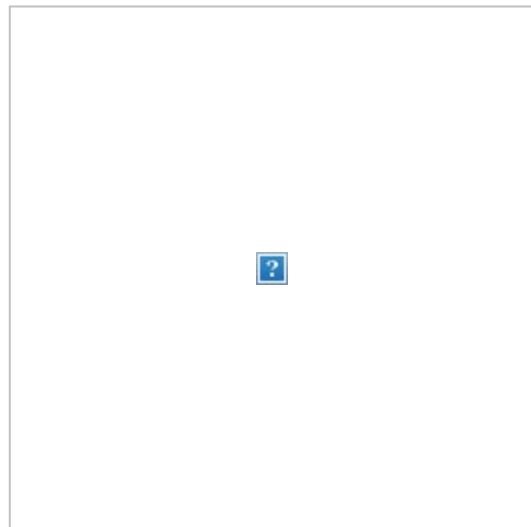
The Secretary of the Commonwealth on Oct. 27 published the Cannabis Control Commission's final updated regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana, the final step in enacting the new regulations.

...



[MMA holds fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#)

On two Fridays in October, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a

virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free, 75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[Changes proposed for CDBG one-year action plan for FY24](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is proposing changes to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program for federal fiscal 2024. ...



[Applications for sewage notification grant program due Nov. 10](#)

Regional and municipal wastewater utilities have until Nov. 10 to apply for a grant to help them meet notification requirements for wastewater discharges. ...



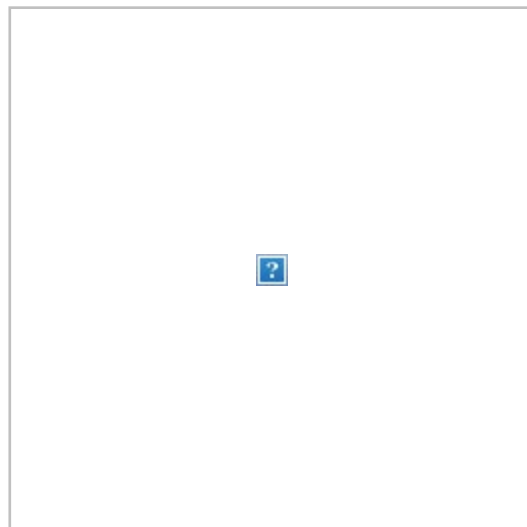
[Federal funding available for EV charging infrastructure](#)

Applications are due by Nov. 13 for up to \$100 million in federal funding available for the repair and replacement of non-operational electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[MassDEP awards \\$5.2M to support recycling, composting and waste reduction](#)

On Sept. 28, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced the award of \$5.2 million in grants to 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts for recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[On migrant shelter crisis, cities and towns need help in 3 key areas](#)

On Nov. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support bills to label wipe products with "Do Not Flush" to avoid costly wastewater problems](#)

On Oct. 25, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA](#)

[Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

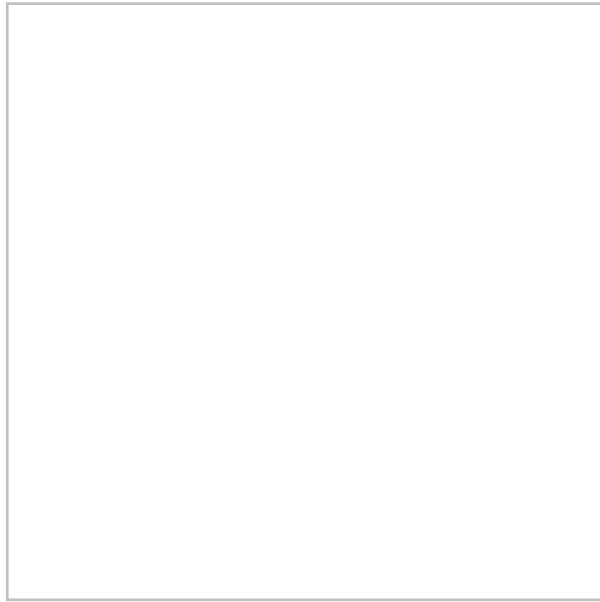
Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie](#)

[Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina](#)

[McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Live Demonstration of COMMBUYS webinar](#) - Nov. 7

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Embracing Critical Feedback webinar](#) - Nov. 8

[State-Level Disaster Response and The Recovery Process for Municipalities webinar](#) - Nov. 13

[Running an Effective Meeting: How to Set Yourself Up for Success webinar](#) - Nov. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 16-17

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[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

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[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

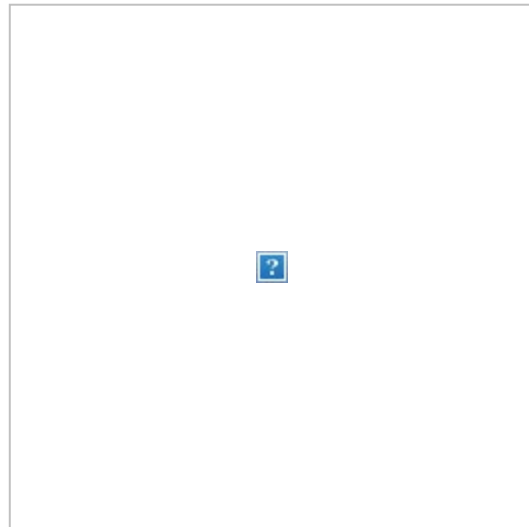
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MMA launches new On-Demand Webinar Library](#)

Today, the MMA launched an On-Demand Webinar Library to enhance members' virtual learning experience. ...

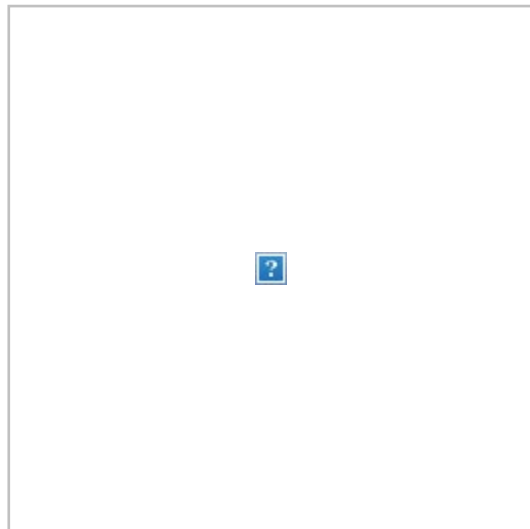
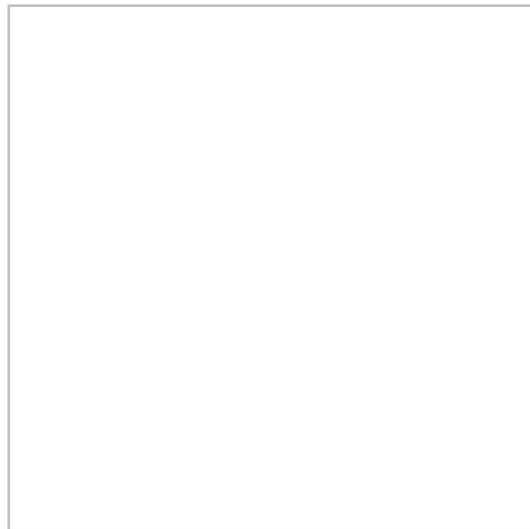


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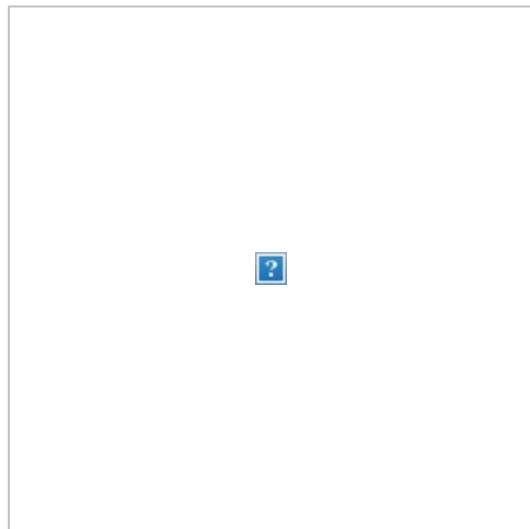
[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

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[State offers grants for AED equipment](#)

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate

Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



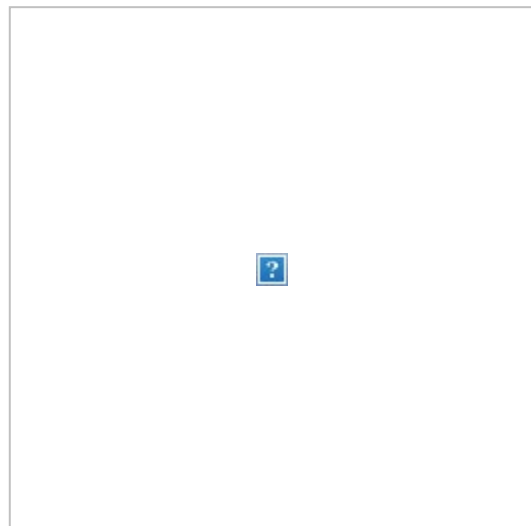
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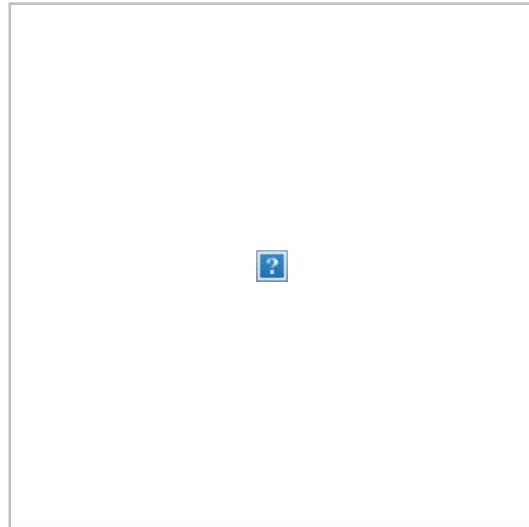
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The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 44 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Manager, Senior Planner, Finance Manager, Town Engineer, Town Administrator, Conservation Agent, Senior Climate Program Manager, and Planner and Land Use Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Voters elect 33 mayors across Massachusetts](#)

Voters yesterday elected mayors in 33 cities across the state, including nine new mayors. ...

[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

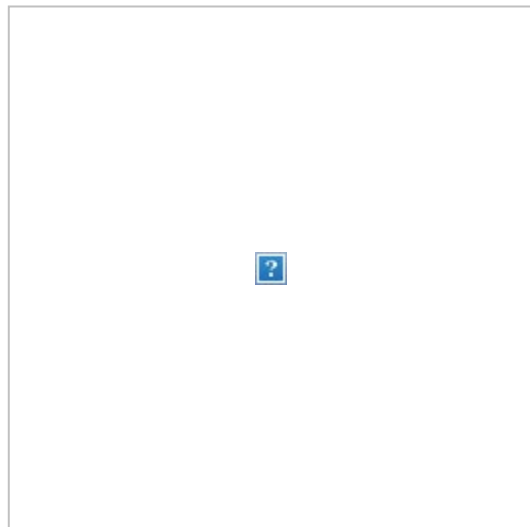
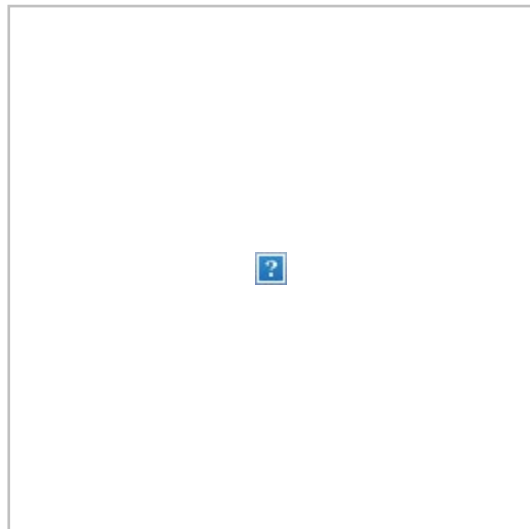
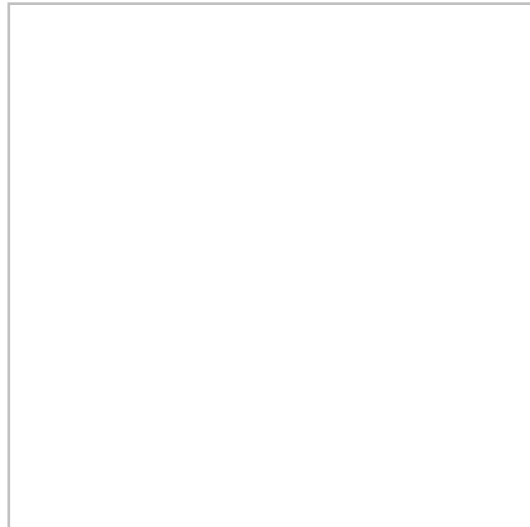
MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...

[Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program opens](#)

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...

[MMA webinar to review state-level disaster response protocol](#)

The MMA will host a free, one-hour



webinar on Nov. 13 with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency sharing municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[House, Senate adopt wage equity bill](#)

The House and Senate have both adopted their own versions of legislation aimed at closing gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



[‘Form of Government FAQ’ webinar is Nov. 29](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Management Association will host a “Form of Government FAQ” webinar for all MMA members on Nov. 29 from noon to 1 p.m. ...



[MMA webinar reviews key features of COMMBUYS](#)

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[Broadband Institute launches \\$145M Gap Networks Infrastructure Grant Program](#)

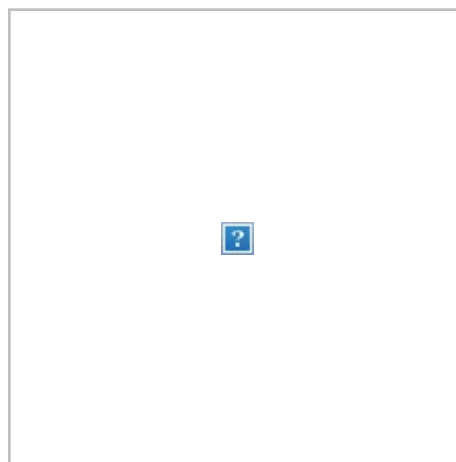
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[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

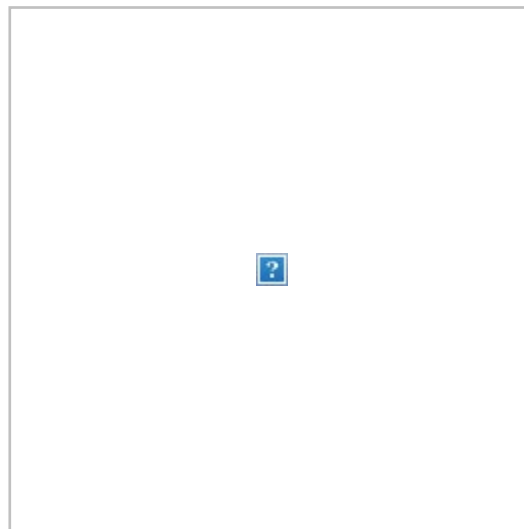
The Municipal Vulnerability

Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal 2025 Action Grant round. ...



[DOER launches Climate Leader program, awards green grants](#)

The Department of Energy Resources has announced a new program that builds on the Green Communities designation and grant program. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Municipalities and Regional Government Committee to support bill to expand the uses of water banking](#)

On Oct. 24, Testimony

[MMA urges Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to support bills to expedite removal of doubled up utility poles](#)

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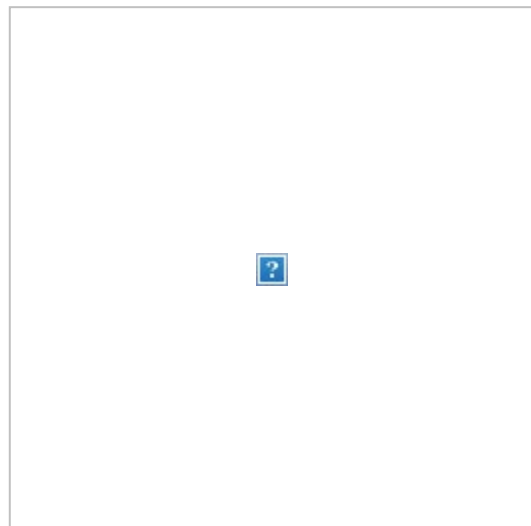
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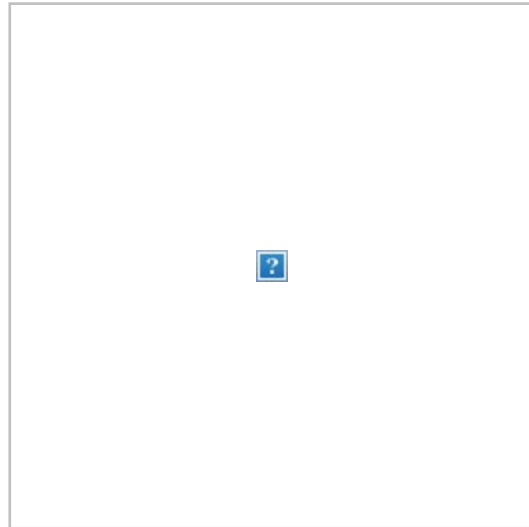
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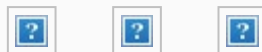
ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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To: [Shin-Yi Lao](#)
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Date: Friday, April 12, 2024 9:15:11 AM

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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[House budget committee files \\$57.9B state spending proposal for FY25](#)

The House Ways and Means
Committee released a \$57.9 billion
state spending plan for fiscal 2025
that includes several important

investments in schools and municipalities despite state revenue expectations that are more modest than in recent years. ...

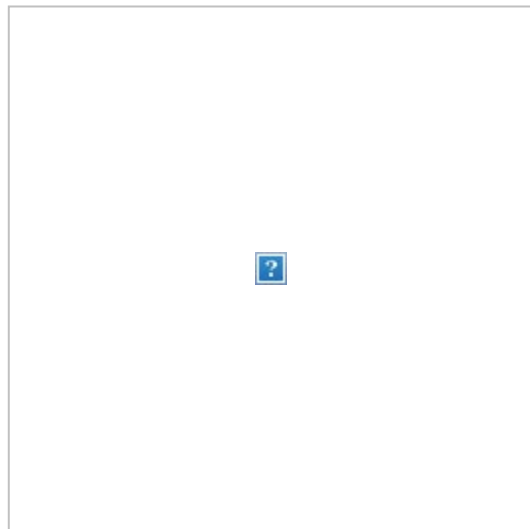
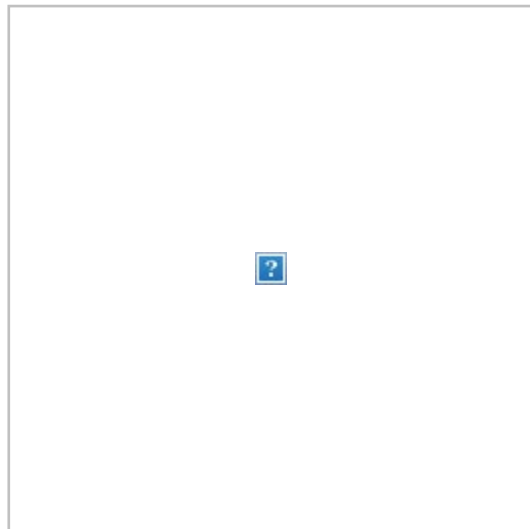
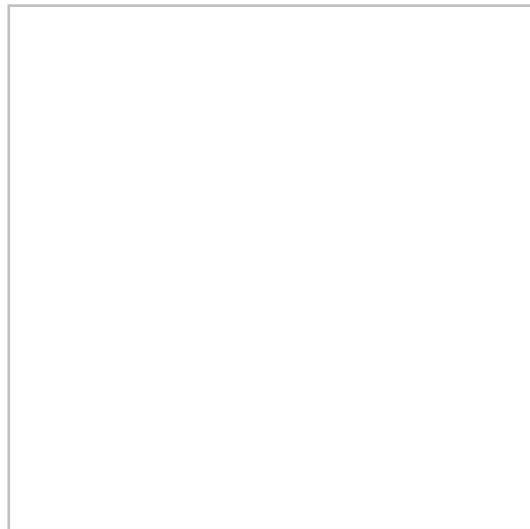
[Senate OK's transportation bond bill with Ch. 90 funds](#)

The Senate passed a transportation bond bill that includes \$200 million for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2025, as well as \$175 million for specified additional infrastructure programs. ...

[EPA sets national limits on PFAS contamination](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “forever chemicals.” ...

[EOHLC seeks comments on draft plan for CDBG and other federal programs](#)



The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is accepting comments on its draft one-year Action Plan for federal fiscal 2024 for a range of federal programs (CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA and HTF), and will hold a public hearing on April 18. ...

[Applications sought through April 12 for SAFER fire dept. grants](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications through April 12 for a new round of federal grant funding for fire departments. ...

[Equitable land development is focus of April 18 forum](#)

Municipal leaders, state officials and developers seeking best practices and strategies for creating an equitable development environment within their communities are invited to a Land Access Forum in Boston on April 18. ...

[Municipal hearings officer training is April 25](#)

A free, virtual training program for



municipal hearings officers will be held on April 25, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams. ...



MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program

Applications are due April 30 for the MMA-Suffolk University Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program. ...



DEI strategic plan for municipalities nears completion

The MMA's DEI Advisory Committee is working with Racial Equity Group CEO Bird Guess to complete its DEI strategic plan for municipalities. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 18

[Digital Equity Planning webinar](#) - April 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[Promoting Civil Discourse at Town Meeting webinar](#) - May 2

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium webinar](#) - May 3

[Municipal Law 101 webinar](#) - May 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources boot camp](#) - May 9

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Women's Equality Day webinar](#) - May 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association spring conference](#) - May 29-31

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Application period opens for Housing Choice Designation](#)

Applications are being accepted through April 26 for the 2024 Housing Choice Communities

Designation. ...



MMA's 'Climate Action' webinar series continues on April 18

The second session in the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, "From Planning to Practice," will be held on April 18. ...



Third 'Climate Action' webinar will discuss community engagement

The third session of the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, on April 30, will explore how to design effective community engagement efforts. ...



Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



USDOT seeks applications for Safe Streets and Roads for All

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the third year of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. ...



School districts eligible for federal credits under IRA, BIL for 'green' projects

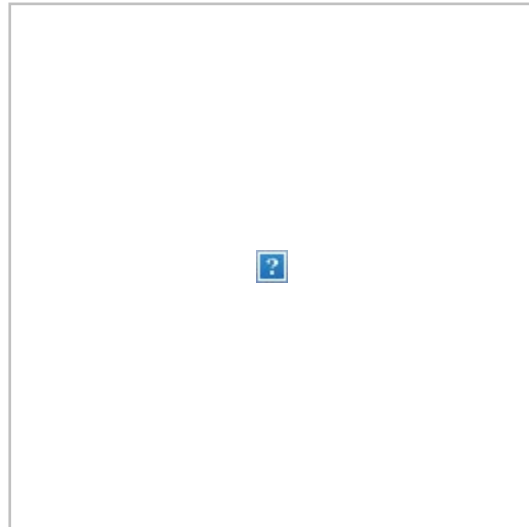
School districts that do not file federal taxes are eligible for some fully refundable credits this fiscal year under the Inflation Reduction Act, particularly for green infrastructure (e.g., installing heat pumps or buying electric vehicles). Schools may also be eligible to access other grants and credits through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). ...

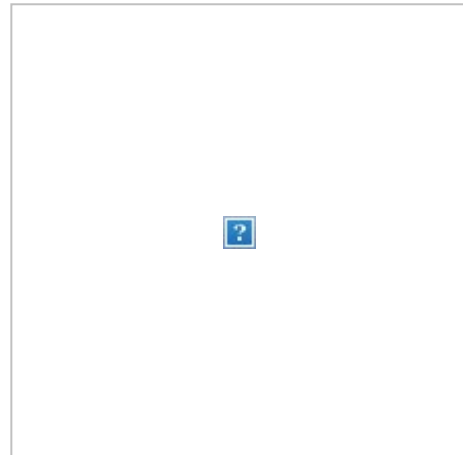
[Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit is May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on May 8 in Worcester. ...



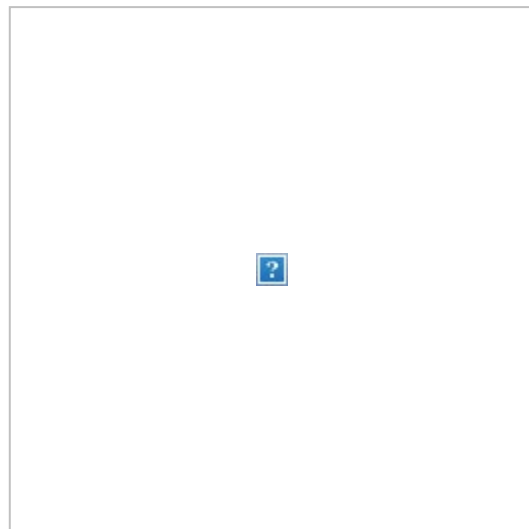
[MVP Action Grant applications due April 24](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting proposals through April 24 for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grants for fiscal 2025. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[FTA accepting applications for](#)

[bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Authority is accepting applications through April 25 for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. ...



[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Principal Assessor, Financial Analyst, Police Officer, Director of Planning, Assistant City Engineer, Collector and Assistant Accountant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be back in your inbox on Dec. 1.

[Conference committee takes up
FY23 closeout supplemental
budget](#)

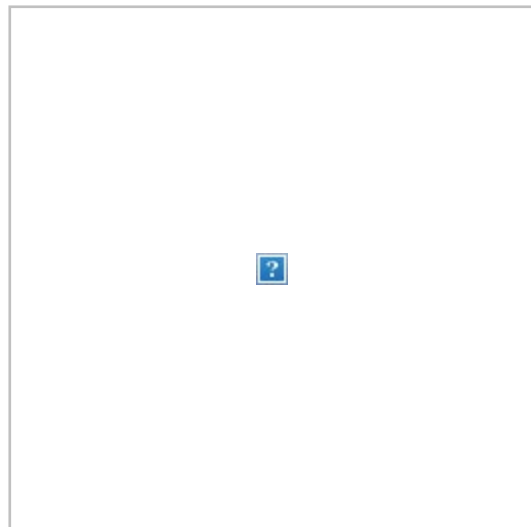
As the formal legislative session

came to a close for the calendar year yesterday, the House and Senate were unable to reach a consensus on a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget bill, and a six-member conference committee was named to resolve differences between the two branches. ...



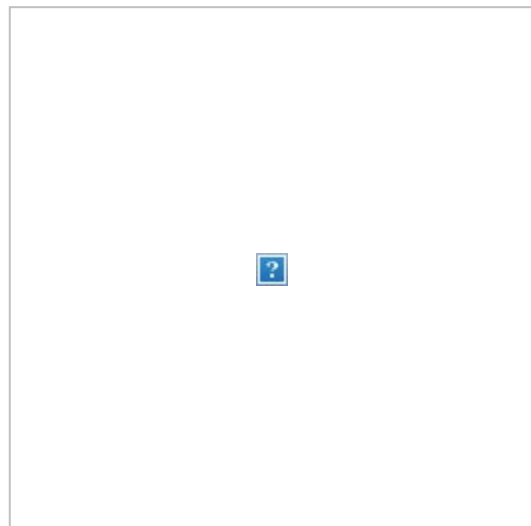
[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MEMA's role in municipal disaster response](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency shared municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar shares best practices and pitfalls of meeting](#)

[management](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed best practices for running an effective meeting from start to finish.

...



[MMHR seminar focuses on DEI, negotiations, accommodations, health plans](#)

Diversity, equity and inclusion, union contract negotiations, reasonable ADA accommodations, and health plan conversations were the main topics of the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Labor Relations Seminar on Oct. 27 in Devens. ...



[Augustus to address MSA Leadership Conference on Dec. 8](#)

Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Leadership Conference on Dec. 8 in Stow. ...



[MBI seeks feedback on Internet for All plan](#)

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts

Broadband Institute opened a month-long public comment period to gather feedback about the state's Internet for All Plan. ...



'Form of Government FAQ' webinar is Nov. 29

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association will host a "Form of Government FAQ" webinar for all MMA members on Nov. 29 from noon to 1 p.m. ...



MMA to host 2nd annual POST update

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...



Gov. appoints Monica Tibbits-Nutt as Transportation secretary

Gov. Maura Healey today

announced that she is appointing Monica Tibbits-Nutt as secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation effective today. ...



Worcester receives federal funds for lead remediation

Worcester has received a \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a lead hazard reduction program for qualified property owners. The city plans to use the grant to rehabilitate 165 units that house low-income families with children. ...



Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge consolidate building inspection services

Faced with a staffing crunch and a lack of qualified job applicants in the region, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge have created a regional building inspection department to serve the four towns. ...



Reading looks to address flooding, watershed concerns

In collaboration with regional

partners, the town of Reading has embarked on a project to reduce the effects of precipitation-based flooding from the Aberjona River, a Mystic River tributary, by constructing a stormwater wetland storage system, essentially a series of storage pools. ...



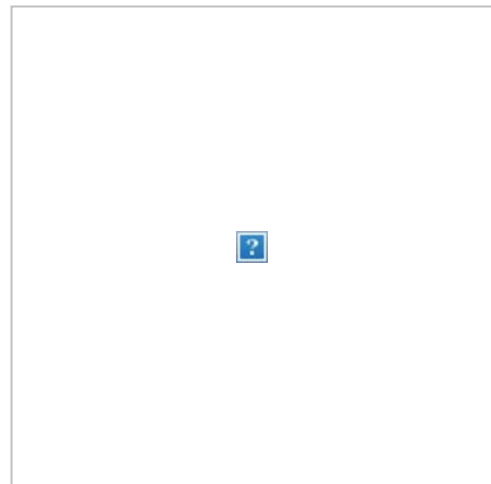
[Guidance released to help municipalities promote EV charging infrastructure](#)

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council and RMI have released a free guidance document designed to help municipalities as they develop and implement strategies to provide their communities with electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[Rural community leaders invited to apply for Reaching Rural Initiative Fellowships](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance will be selecting a new group of fellows to participate in a rural leadership program called Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions. ...



[Now is the time to prepare for winter maintenance emergencies](#)

With unpredictable weather patterns

and a volatile property insurance market, it's more crucial than ever to complete comprehensive maintenance protocols ahead of winter. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Education Committee to support bills targeting challenges facing rural school districts, MSBA rules, transportation for out-of-district vocational education, and special ed costs](#)

On Nov. 8, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

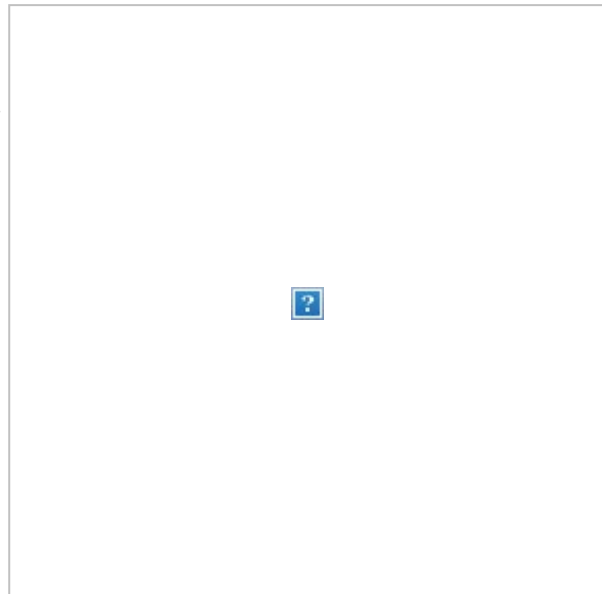
[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Legislative Session Review webinar](#) - Nov. 20

[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association newly elected training](#) - Nov. 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Dec. 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[Goal Setting webinar](#) - Jan. 9

[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

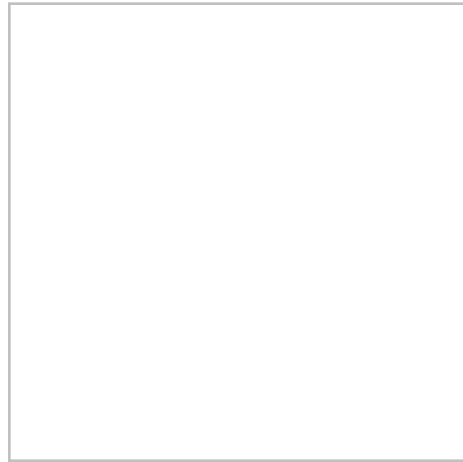
[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

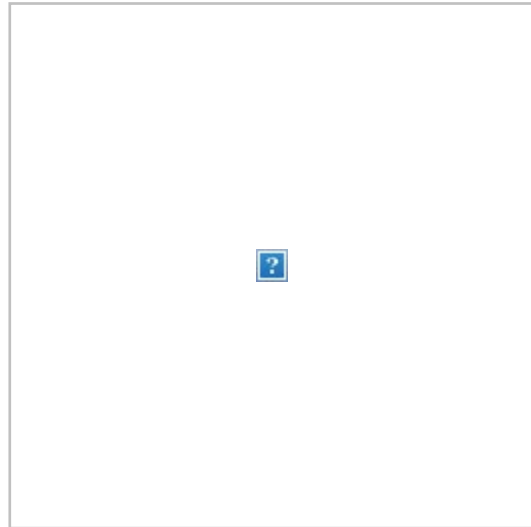
The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal

2025 Action Grant round. ...



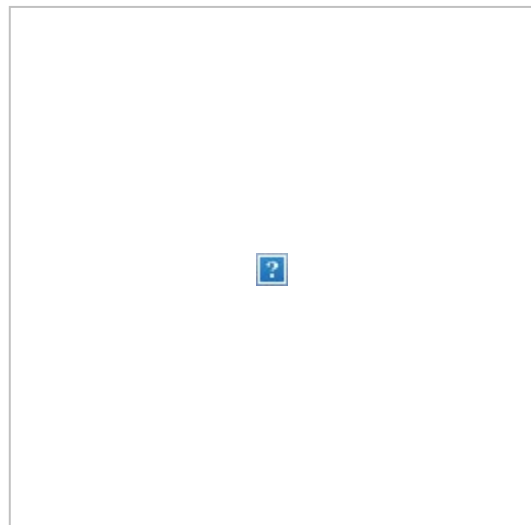
**Broadband Institute launches
\$145M Gap Networks
Infrastructure Grant Program**

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...



**Municipal Cybersecurity
Awareness Grant Program opens**

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



**State offers grants for AED
equipment**

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds

available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

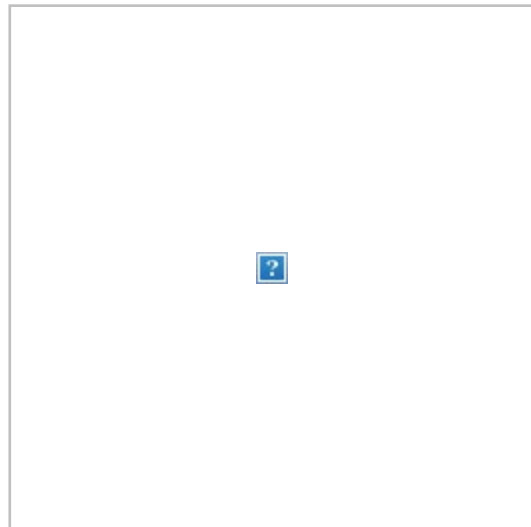
The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and](#)

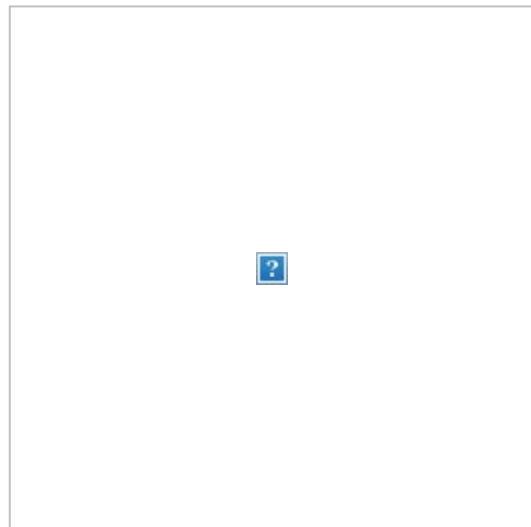
[heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 56 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Treasurer, DPW Project Manager, House Inspector, Assessor Data Manager, Downtown/Business Coordinator, City Solicitor, Social Service Specialist and Library Associate. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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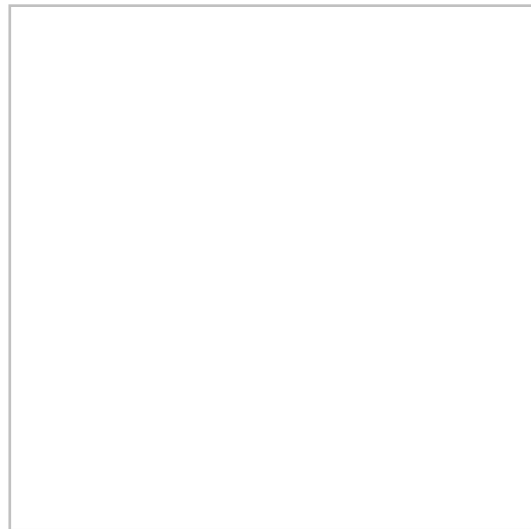
A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll to address MMA Annual Business Meeting](#)

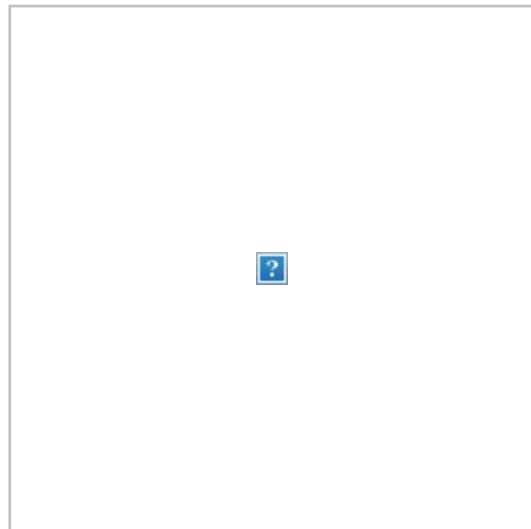
A year into her tenure as lieutenant governor — following 17 years as mayor of Salem — Kim Driscoll will address local leaders during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on

Saturday morning, Jan. 20, in
Boston. ...



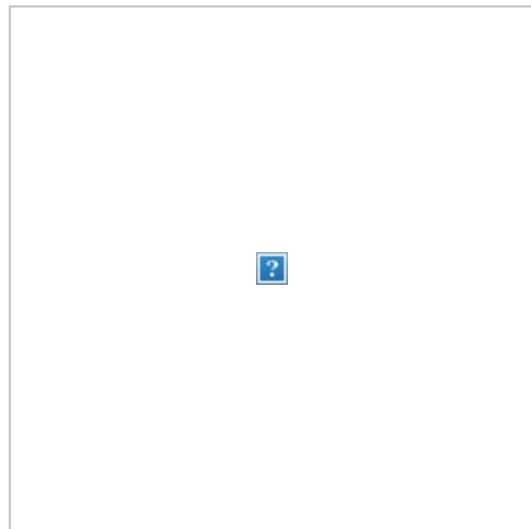
**State budget writers to hold
revenue hearing on Dec. 4**

The fiscal 2025 state budget process will begin in earnest on Dec. 4 with the annual hearing where the Department of Revenue and other fiscal experts and economists discuss the prospects for the economy and state revenue over the second half of the current fiscal year and in the fiscal year to come. ...



**FY23 closeout supplemental
budget moves a step closer**

A legislative conference committee named to iron out differences between House and Senate versions of a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget released a compromise bill on Nov. 30. ...



**MMA publishes December issue
of The Beacon**

The MMA today published the

December 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, ARPA funding and numerous grant opportunities, coastal resilience and climate change, and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[Annual Meeting to feature 21 timely workshops](#)

Timely and informative workshops are a central feature of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January, and this year attendees can learn how to protect municipal infrastructure from climate impacts, improve their advocacy for their community, boost their local diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and build thriving business districts, among other topics. ...

[Administration launches statewide coastal resilience strategy](#)

At an event held at a waterfront park in Beverly yesterday, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced a new effort to pursue a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the Massachusetts coastline. ...



Federal funds office provides support to municipalities

Looking to maximize federal funding for Massachusetts through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act, a new state office is reaching out to cities and towns with key details on grant opportunities and technical assistance to help them reel in federal dollars. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



More MMA Annual Meeting details finalized

In the past few days, the MMA has announced its roster of workshops and another key speaker, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...



ARPA deadline is one year away

Cities and towns have about a year

left — until Dec. 31, 2024 — to obligate their State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



MMA webinar on Dec. 11 will discuss new CCC regulations

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 11 with attorney Nicole Costanzo of KP Law will discuss the Cannabis Control Commission's [newly promulgated regulations](#) and their impact on host communities. ...



MMA to host 2nd annual POST update

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...

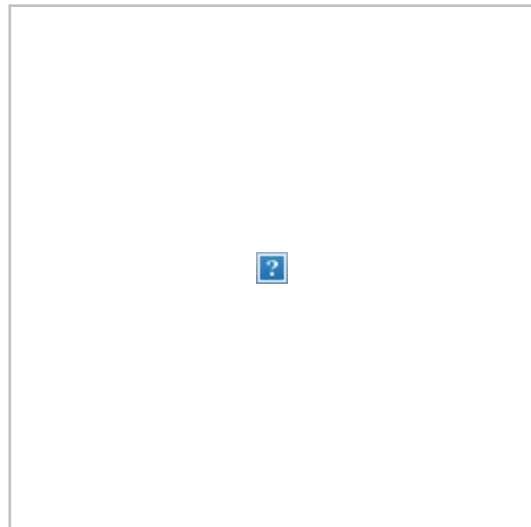


Form of government webinar answers FAQs

A Massachusetts Municipal

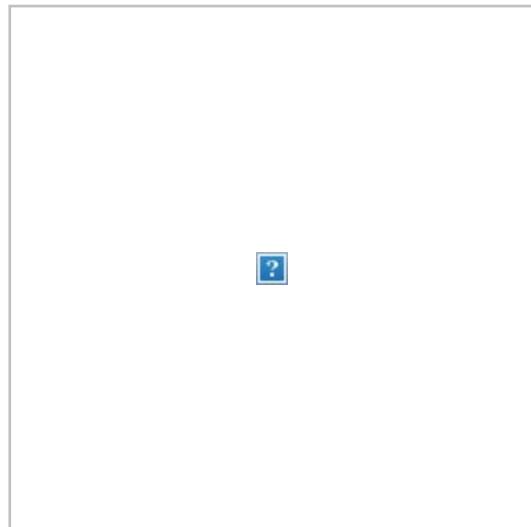
Management Association “Form of Government FAQ’s” webinar today addressed common questions that arise when a community is considering a change in governance.

...



[MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials](#)

As a busy formal legislative session recently came to a close, the MMA’s Legislative Division hosted a webinar for local officials yesterday to provide updates on key legislative and regulatory matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[December is a great time to think about the year ahead](#)

On Dec. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Revenue Committee to support bills to allow municipalities, at local option, to increase local revenue](#)

On Nov. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

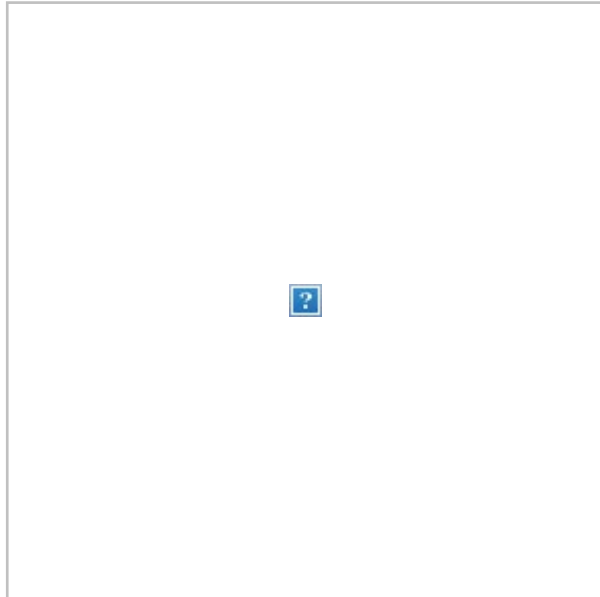
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WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speaker: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

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[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the New Regulatory Requirements for Host Communities webinar](#) - Dec. 11

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[Goal Setting webinar](#) - Jan. 9

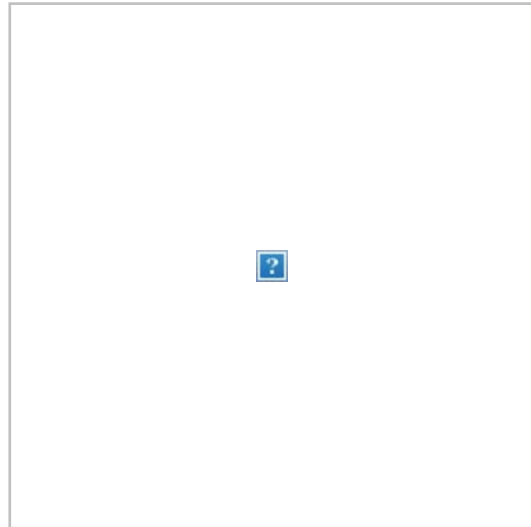
[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

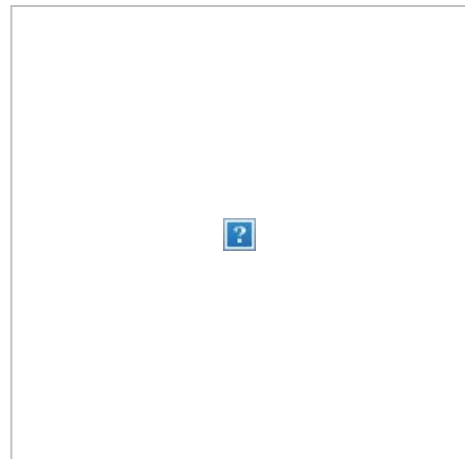
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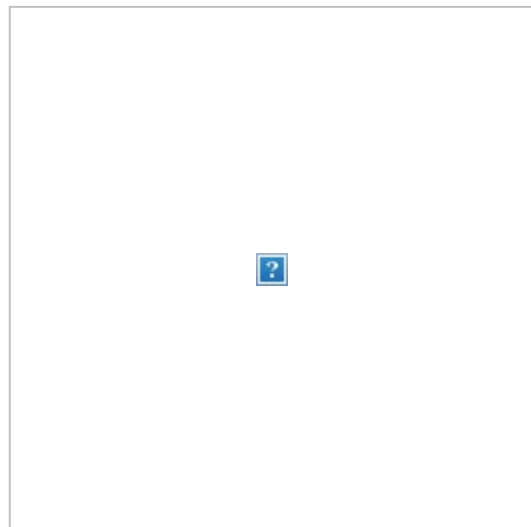
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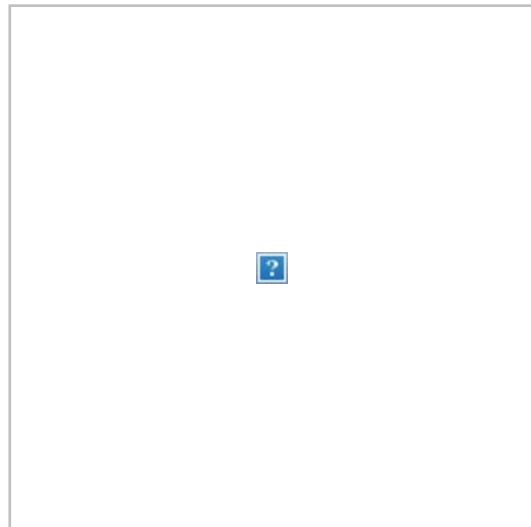


[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)

[Awareness Grant Program opens](#)

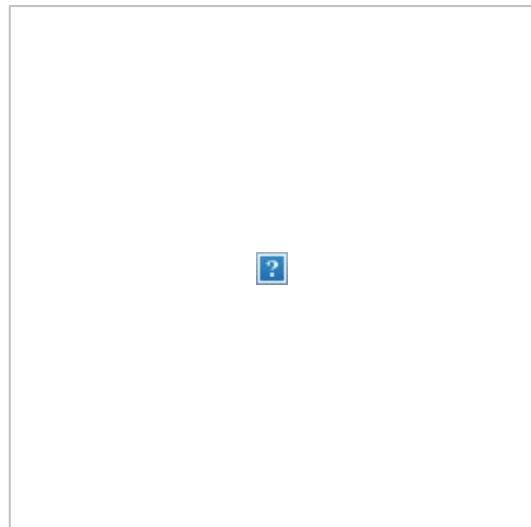
The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024.

...



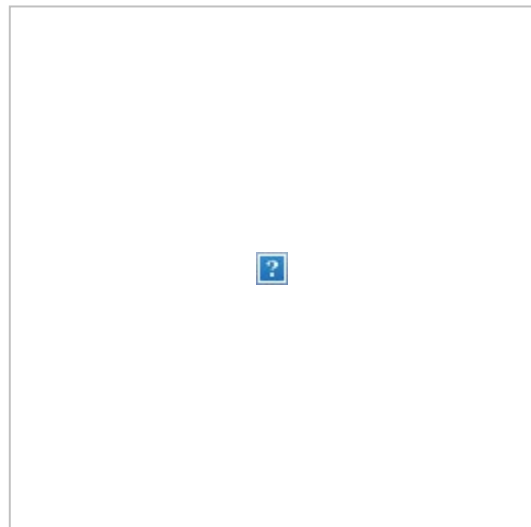
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Accountant, Planner, City Clerk, Outreach Coordinator, Local Inspector, Electronic Technician, Office Assistant, Library Director and Regional Health Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Administration makes 9C budget cuts, but avoids cutting local aid](#)

After six months of state tax collections falling short of benchmarks, the Healey-Driscoll administration today announced \$375 million in mid-year budget cuts

under Section 9C for fiscal 2024. ...

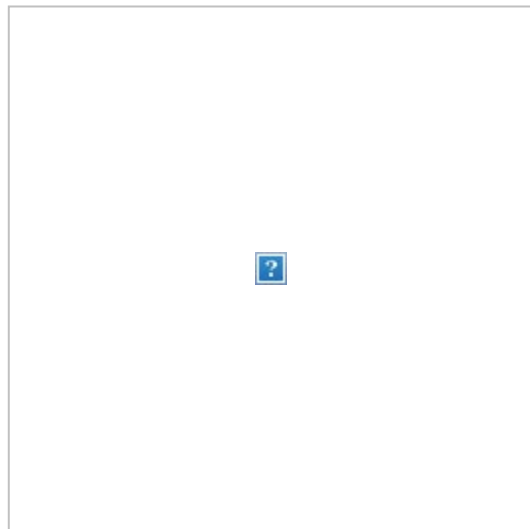
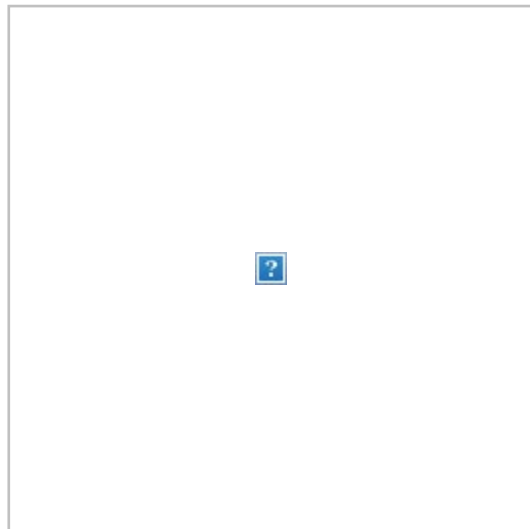
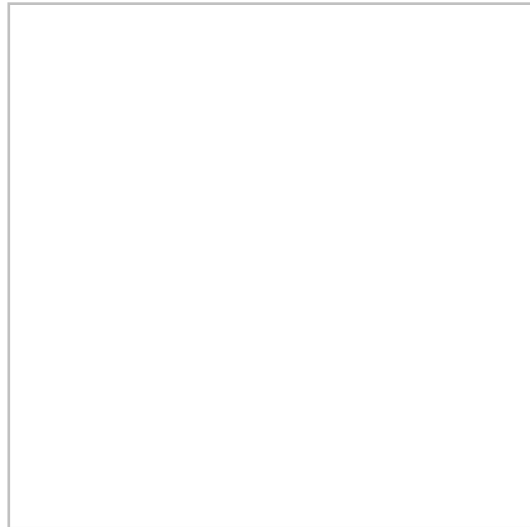
[Administration's \\$1.23B IT bond bill includes funds for local grant programs](#)

On Jan. 9, the Healey-Driscoll administration filed a \$1.23 billion, five-year bond bill intended to modernize IT systems across state agencies. ...

[Inspector General releases first in series of advisories for municipal officials](#)

The Office of the Inspector General today released its first OIG Advisory for municipal officials. ...

[MMA hosts webinar on conducting empathetic dialogue during conflict](#)



An MMA webinar today shared practical tips for fostering constructive dialogue and overcoming volatile feelings in challenging times. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on performance appraisals and ‘SMART’ goals](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed performance appraisals and offered practical tips for setting “SMART” goals to help local officials start the year off right. ...



[Utilities submit drafts of electric sector modernization plans](#)

The state’s investor-owned electric distribution companies — Eversource, National Grid and Unitil — have submitted drafts of their electric sector modernization plans. ...



[Video features Franklin officials discussing road salt reduction strategies](#)

Just in time for winter, two public works officials from Franklin are featured in a short video offering advice on treating roads in ways that promote safety while minimizing impacts on the environment. ...



[Application period opens for CDBG program](#)

The federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants opened on Dec. 8, and the application deadline is March 25. ...



[Federal RAISE grant application period opens](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced that \$1.5 billion in grant funding is available for 2024 through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, a competitive program that supports investments in road, rail, transit and port projects that have a significant local or regional impact. ...



Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

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Opening Session: [Gov. Maura Healey](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

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Guest Speakers: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#), [Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)

[Workshop schedule & descriptions](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

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[MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)

Local officials are invited to fill a limited number of positions available on the MMA's five policy committees

for 2024. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

Federal Funds Resource Area



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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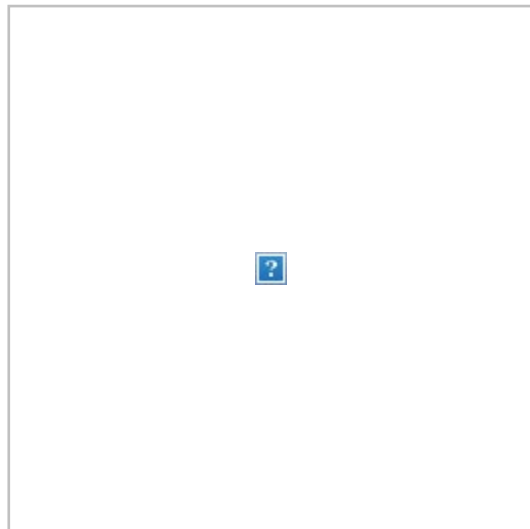
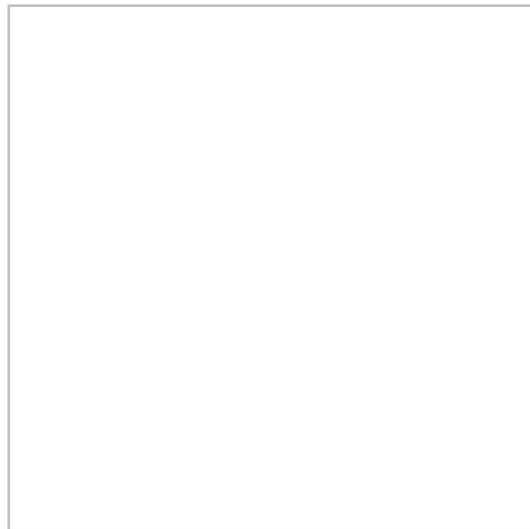
Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[MMA's 45th Annual Meeting & Trade Show starts today!](#)

The Hynes Convention Center in Boston will be buzzing today and tomorrow as more than 1,300 local leaders gather for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show. ...

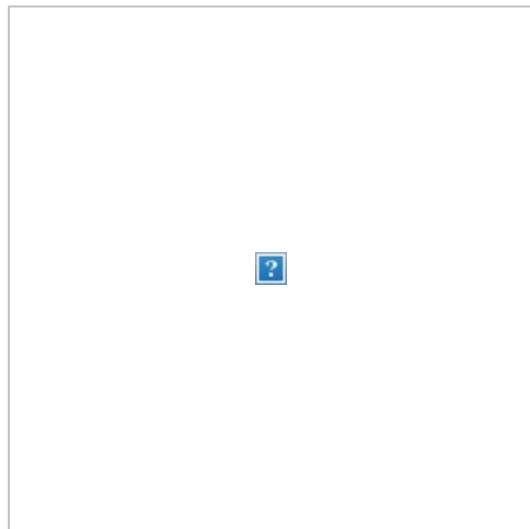
**[Budget writers announce
consensus revenue growth
forecast of 2% for FY25](#)**

The state's budget writers announced on Jan. 8 that state tax collections are expected to grow by 2% in fiscal 2025 over a recently reduced projection for fiscal 2024 revenue. ...



**[MMA to host VMLA webinar series
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On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



[Easthampton updates hate crimes policy](#)

With war raging abroad and hate crimes increasing nationally, Easthampton recently updated its Hate Crimes Policy to improve public safety, promote inclusivity, and provide greater clarity around its investigation processes and community outreach. ...



[Methuen takes collaborative approach to mental health, homelessness, addiction issues](#)

In an effort to address concerns about mental health, addiction and homelessness in the community, Methuen has convened a monthly mental health task force with representation from across municipal departments to collaborate on addressing the issues. ...



[Cambridge/Anmoughcawgen to add Indigenous language translations to some street signs](#)

As it seeks to acknowledge its Indigenous past and present, the city of Cambridge will soon install bilingual street signs translated in the Massachusetts language on several streets in the eastern part of town. ...



Climate change drives municipal planning challenges

With changing weather patterns creating a growing challenge for communities, multiple sessions during this year's MMA Annual Meeting will focus on the impacts of climate change, as well as what municipalities can do to maintain buildings and prevent costly damages. ...



Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

The 45th MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show kicks off today!

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Opening Session: [Gov. Maura Healey](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

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[Driscoll, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)
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New In [Advocacy](#)

[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY25 state budget](#)
On Jan. 17, Testimony

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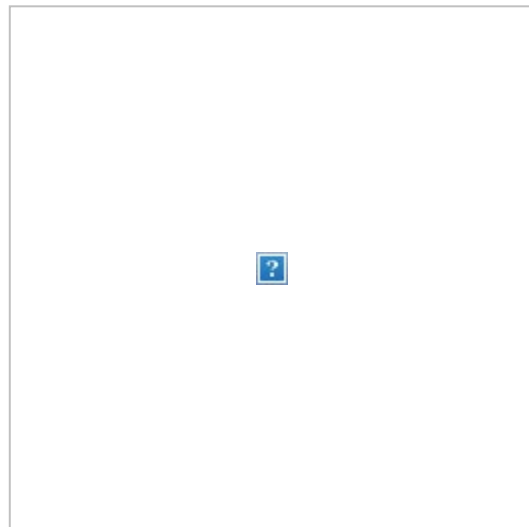
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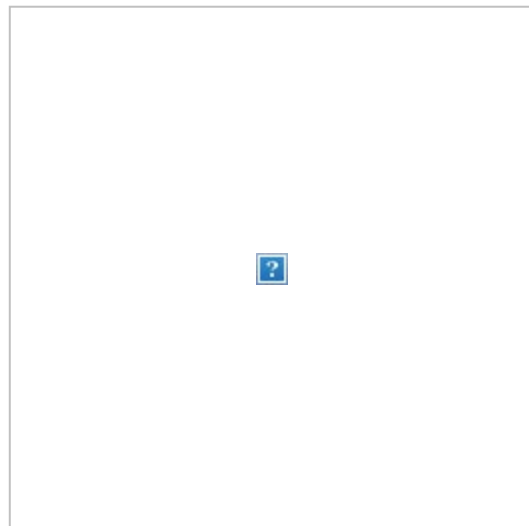
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[Federal RAISE grant application period opens](#)

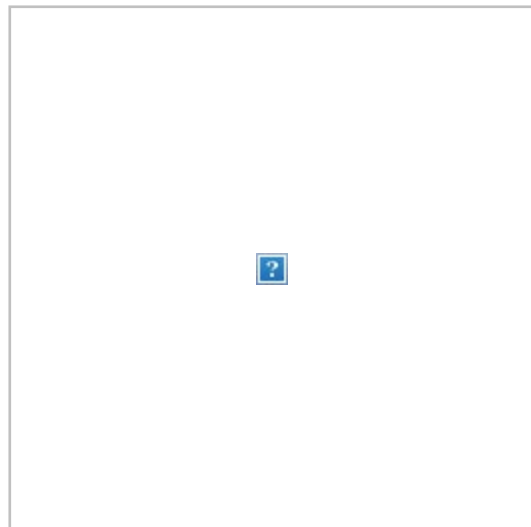
The U.S. Department of

Transportation has announced that \$1.5 billion in grant funding is available for 2024 through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, a competitive program that supports investments in road, rail, transit and port projects that have a significant local or regional impact. ...



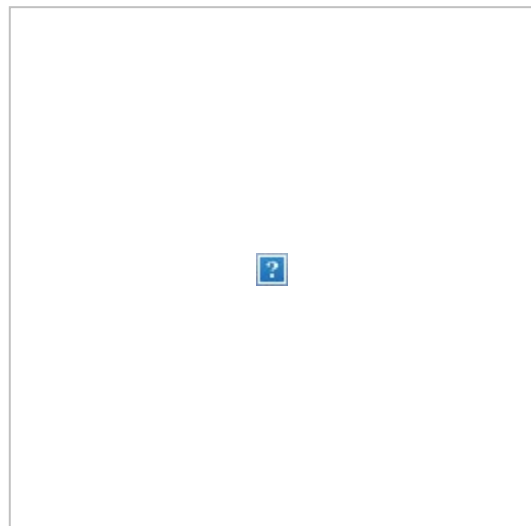
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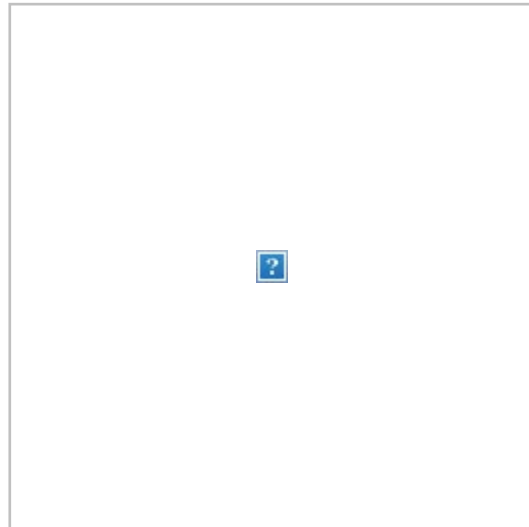
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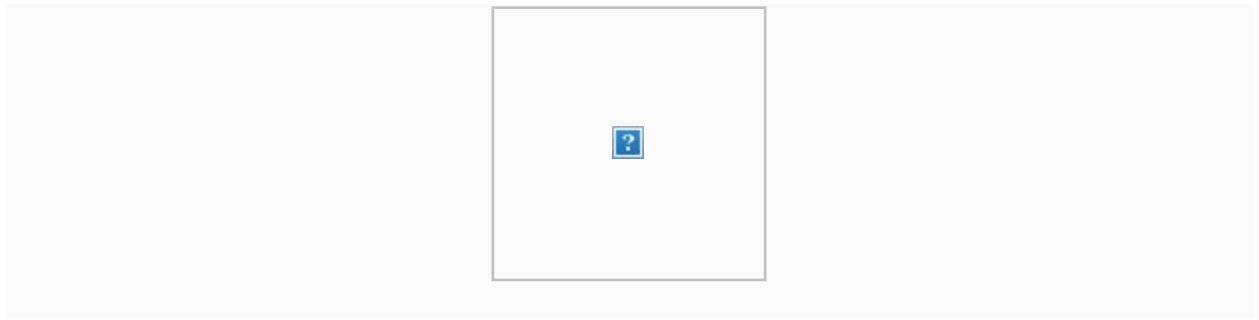


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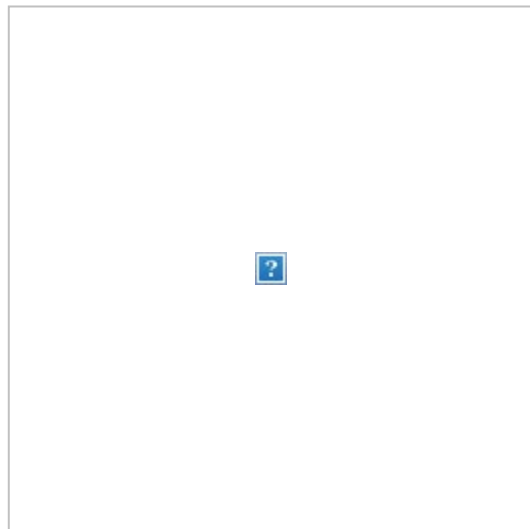
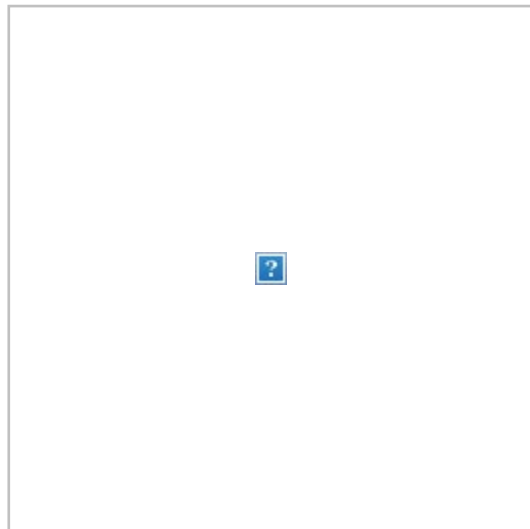
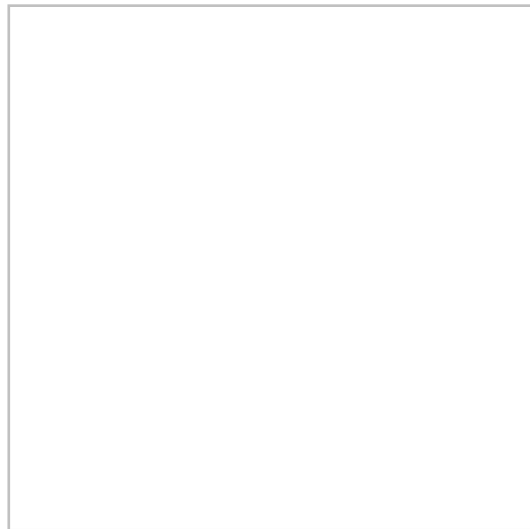
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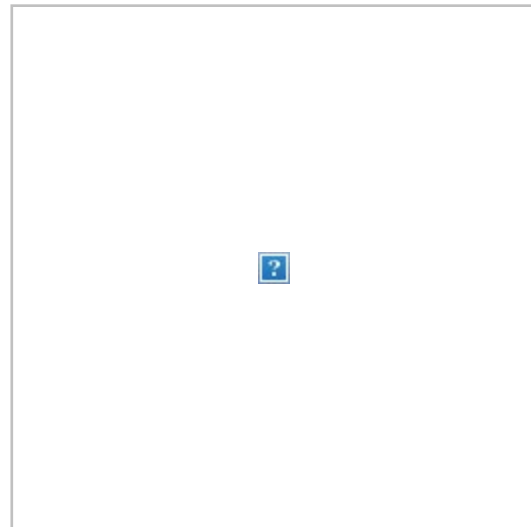
Administration announces \$50M for EV charging infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 7 announced an investment of \$50 million in initiatives to build out electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Massachusetts. ...

MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions

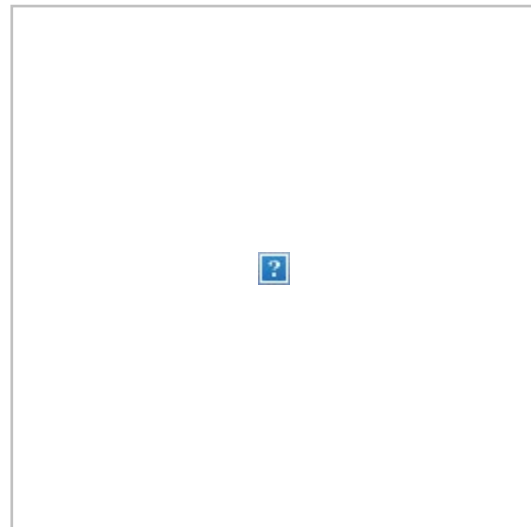


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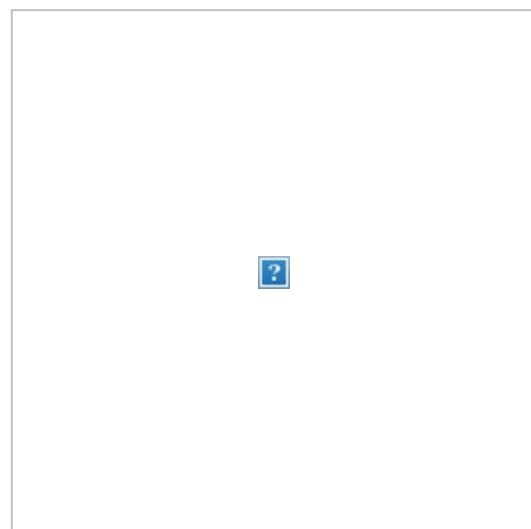
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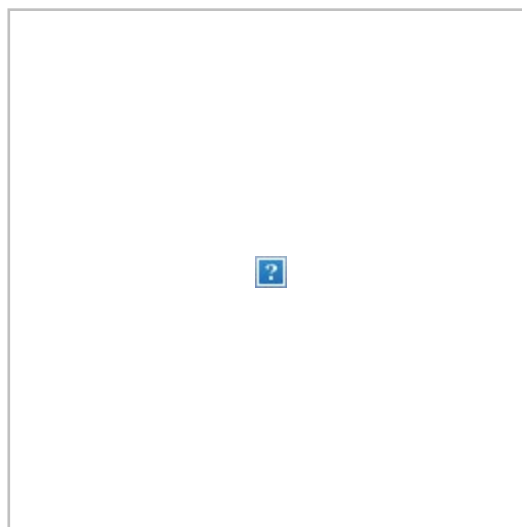
‘Meet DLS’ webinar set for March 11

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “Meet DLS” webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



MIIA presents safety, risk management, wellness awards

During its Annual Business Meeting in Boston on Jan. 20, MIIA presented awards to outstanding member communities and municipal entities to recognize their commitment to safety, risk management, and employee wellness. ...



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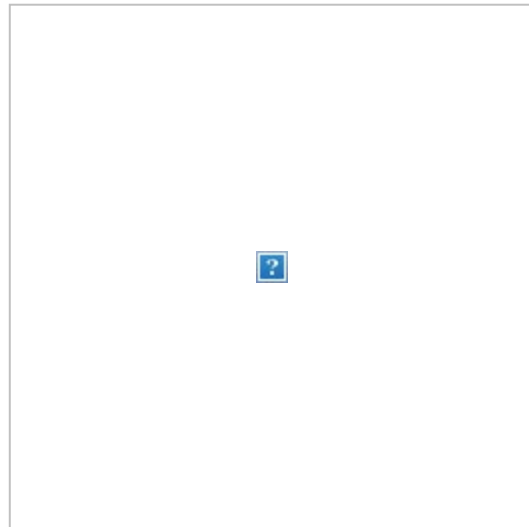
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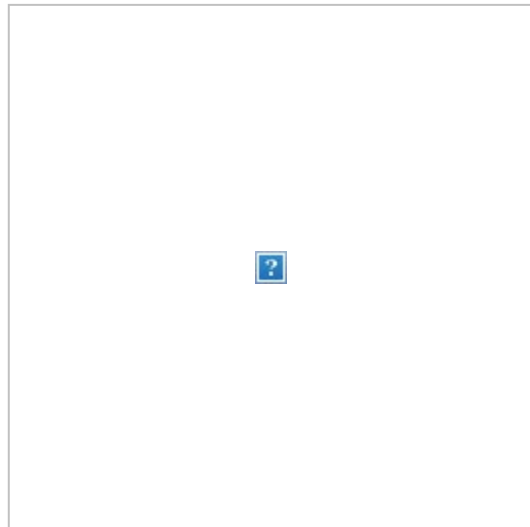
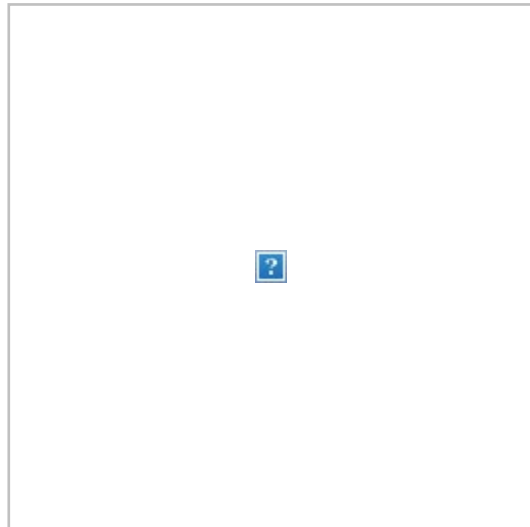
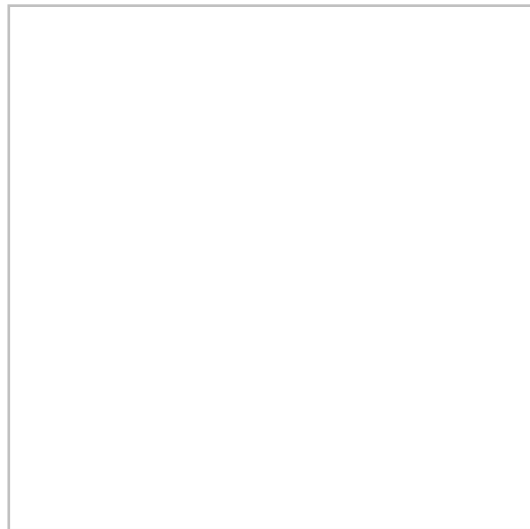
[Community One Stop for Growth opens for fiscal 2025](#)

Community One Stop for Growth, a portal where municipalities can apply for state community and economic development grant programs, has opened for fiscal 2025. ...

[MSA launches online Handbook for Massachusetts Select Board Members](#)

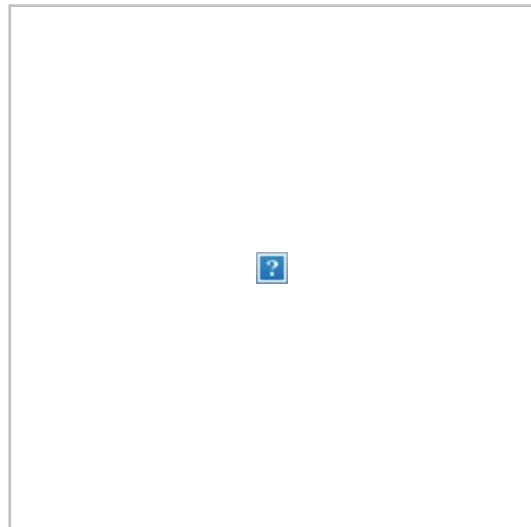
At the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston this morning, the Massachusetts Select Board Association launched a new online version of its comprehensive guide for Select Board members. ...

[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)



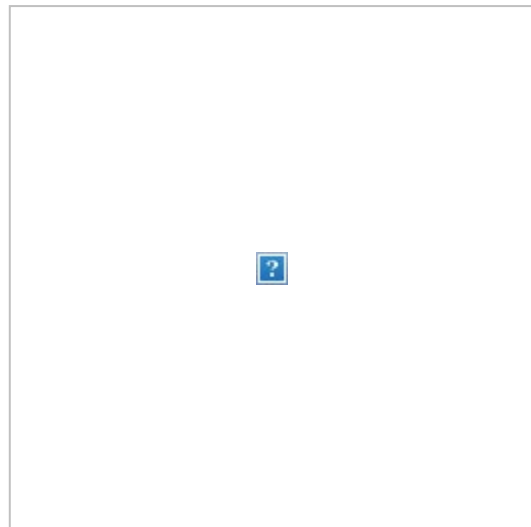
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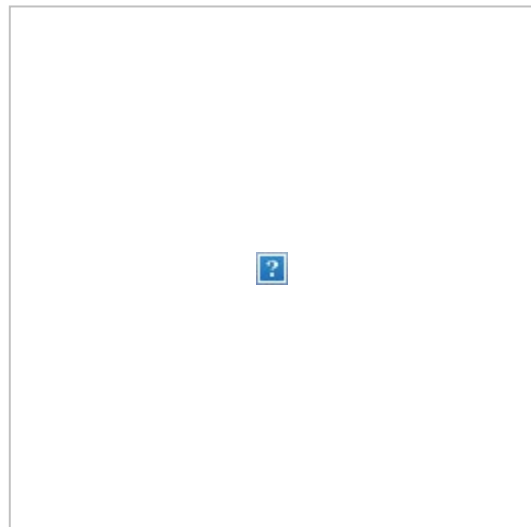
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[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several

regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...

[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

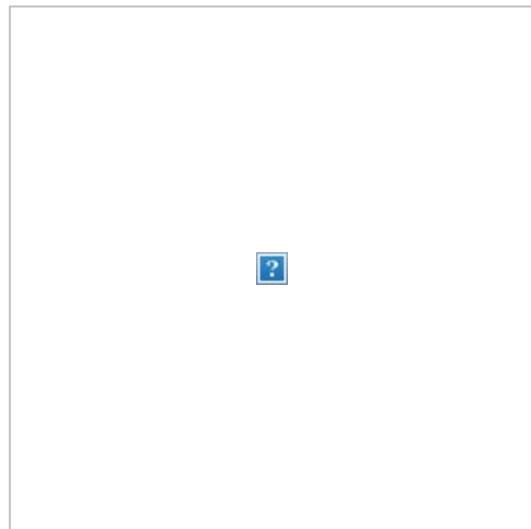
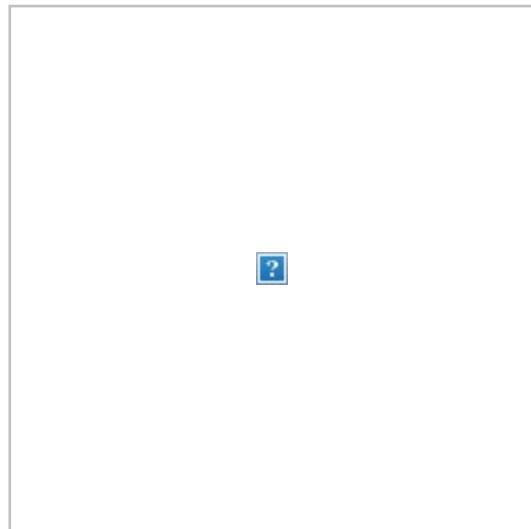
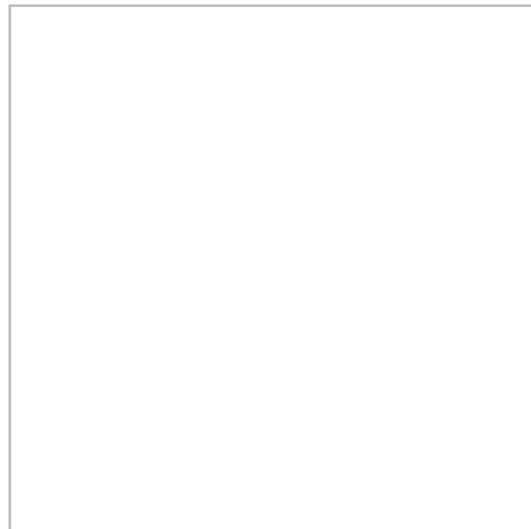
The Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting is seeking public input through March 15 on questions related to the siting of clean energy infrastructure. ...

[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...

[Executive order establishes AI Strategic Task Force](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed an

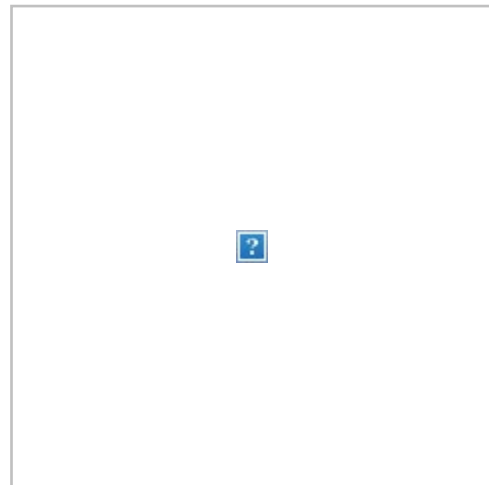


Executive Order on Feb. 14 establishing the Artificial Intelligence Strategic Task Force to study AI and Generative Artificial Intelligence technology and its impact on the state, private businesses, higher education institutions, and constituents. ...



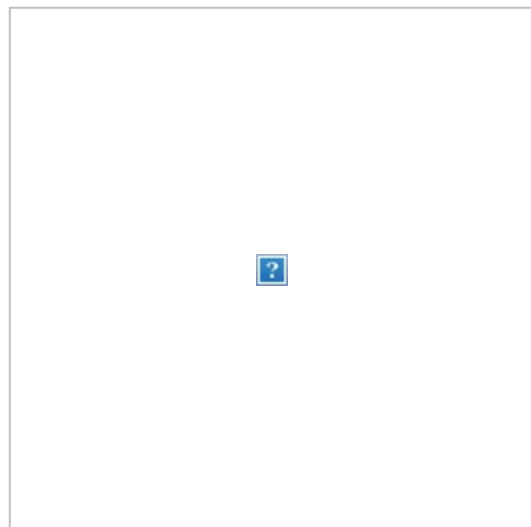
[NLC's Congressional City Conference is March 11-13](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[Public water systems to conduct service line inventories](#)

Under recent revisions to lead and copper rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, all community public water systems and non-transient, non-community public water systems in Massachusetts must develop and submit a service line inventory to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection by Oct. 16. ...



[State leaders urge EPA to restore lead water pipe replacement funding](#)

Top state officials submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Feb. 1 urging the agency to reconsider a new grant formula that has reduced lead service line replacement funding to Massachusetts by more than \$30 million. ...



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[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

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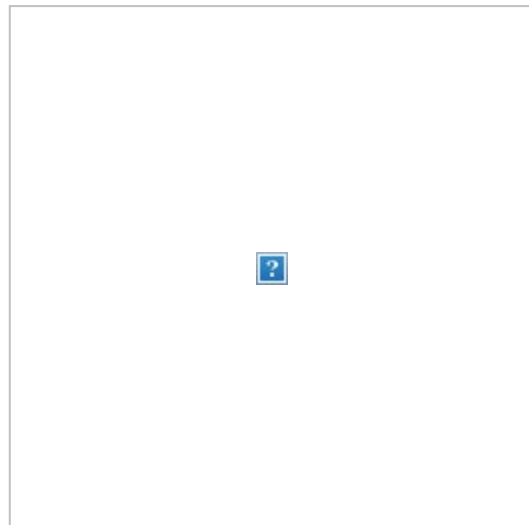
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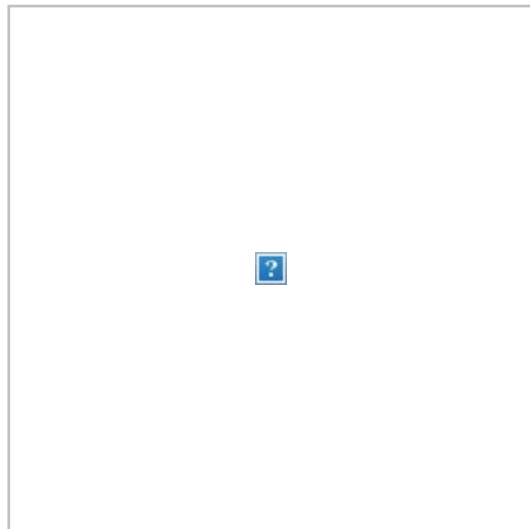
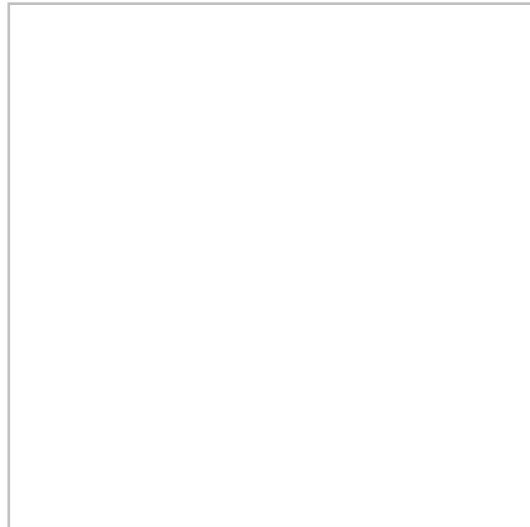


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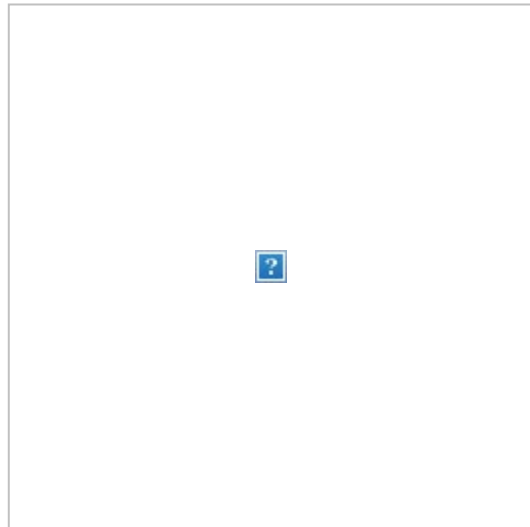
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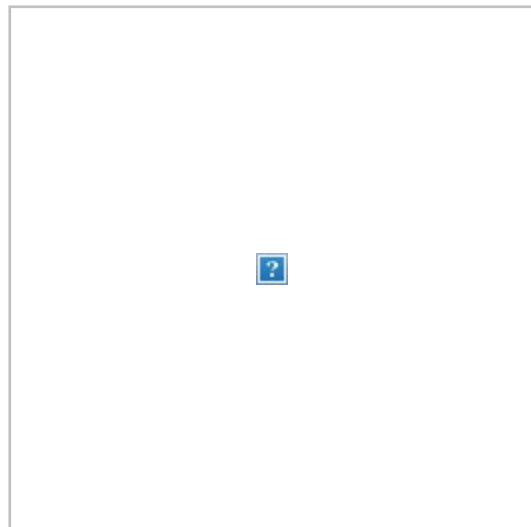
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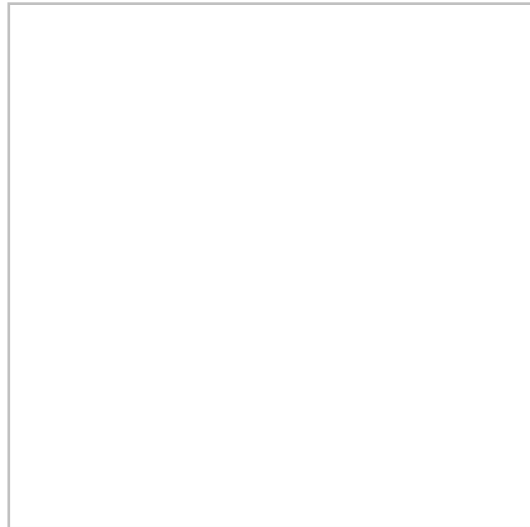
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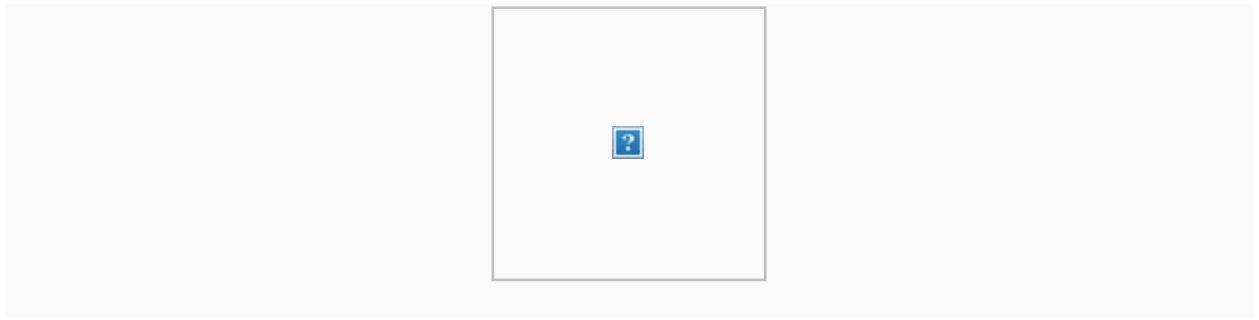


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It's a long weekend.

In local happenings: The 2024 Paris Paralympics kicked off this week with at least [6 athletes](#) sporting Massachusetts roots.

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[Gov. signs law addressing PFAS in firefighter turnout gear](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a bill that addresses exposure to so-called

“forever chemicals,” also known as PFAS, in personal protective equipment worn by firefighters. ...



[Language in psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control](#)

The five statewide ballot initiatives certified for the November election include one that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, with language that would preempt local control. ...



[Gov. signs veterans services bill](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a broad bill known as the HERO Act that aims to modernize and increase veterans benefits with a mix of policy changes and tax incentives. ...



[Emergency Assistance shelter policies updated](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

has implemented new policies for the overburdened Emergency Assistance shelter system that are aimed at limiting shelter stays while prioritizing the needs of Massachusetts residents over migrants for long-term placements. ...



Budget included concerning tax title changes

The fiscal 2025 state budget signed by Gov. Maura Healey on July 29 included changes to the tax title foreclosure process that were intended to bring the state into compliance with a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the issue. ...



Applications sought for Cyber Resilient grant program

The MassCyberCenter at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is accepting applications for the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program from municipalities across the state to boost their cybersecurity infrastructure. ...



MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 12-13 in Falmouth

Massachusetts Municipal Human

Resources will hold its annual Fall Conference on Sept. 12 and 13 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth. ...



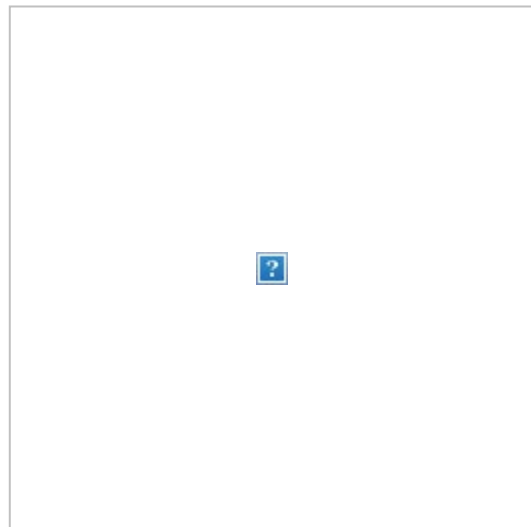
[MMA webinar to review essentials of capital planning](#)

A free MMA webinar on Sept. 24 will highlight best practices for maintaining and building a community's capital assets. ...



[MMA webinar to cover use of opioid settlement funds](#)

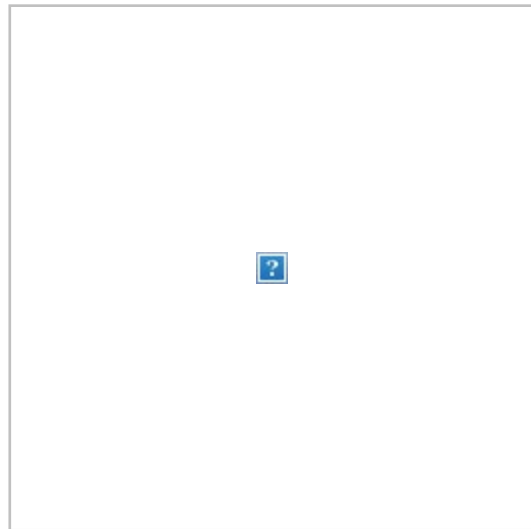
A free MMA webinar on Sept. 26 will review issues and strategies related to the use of opioid settlement funds. ...



[WEMO to hold annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27](#)

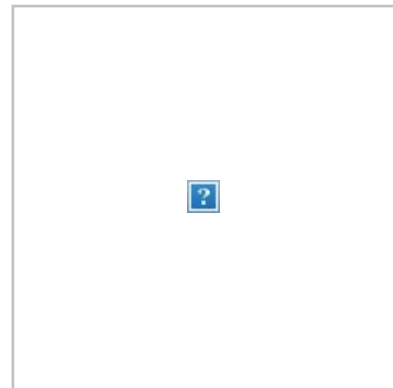
With the theme "Growing Trust in

Local Government,” Women Elected Municipal Officials will hold its sixth annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27 in Devens. ...



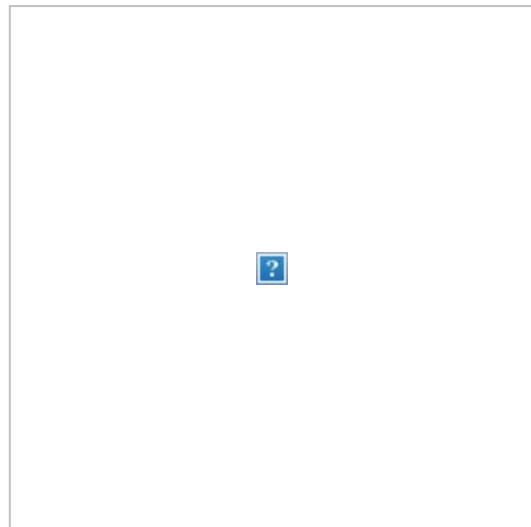
MMHR seeking nominations for the 2024 Skop Award

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources is accepting nominations for its annual Emil S. Skop Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the field of municipal human resources management. ...



MCOA seeks annual award submissions

The Massachusetts Councils on Aging is accepting nominations through Sept. 6 for its annual awards, which honor individuals, groups, and programs that have significantly impacted the lives of older adults. ...



COPS Office to provide technical assistance to Boston Police Department

The U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services announced on Aug. 8 that it will engage with the Boston Police Department to provide a review and assessment of operations within the Boston Police Department's Human Resources section. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 12-13

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 19

[Capital planning webinar](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Opioid settlement funds webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 27

[First Amendment audits webinar](#) - Oct. 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Oct. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Oct. 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



[Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA's annual conference in January 2025. ...



[Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 7 in Norwood](#)

Municipal fleet managers can learn about sustainable transportation

options at the 21st annual AltWheels Fleet Day event on Oct. 7 in Norwood. ...



MMA seeks input on local roadway needs with Ch. 90 survey

The MMA will be sending its biennial Chapter 90 funding survey this summer to chief municipal officials and public works and highway department officials in all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. ...



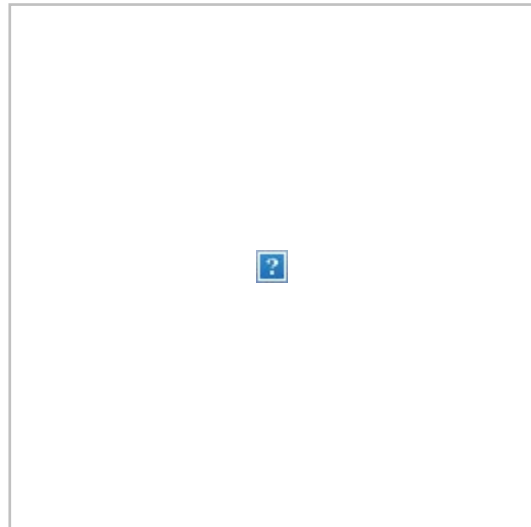
MMA announces new name, location, dates for conference

Big changes are in store for the MMA's conference in January, as the event moves to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and expands into a third afternoon. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Local photos sought

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or the important work of your local government? Whether it's municipal buildings or natural resources, construction projects or downtown streets, the MMA would appreciate a copy of your photos for possible use in future editions of The Beacon or on the MMA website. Photos must be free of copyright restrictions. Municipal officials and staff may email photos (.jpeg format and high resolution if possible) to **photos@mma.org** as an attachment.

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Risk Management Program Coordinator](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Planning Director, Recreation Services Coordinator, Senior Traffic Engineer,

Conservation Agent, Fiscal Manager, Solutions Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

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](#)!

[CCC approves model host community agreement](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission today voted to approve a model host community agreement that it developed in accordance with a comprehensive cannabis law

enacted in 2022 that requires the CCC to draft rules around HCAs, as well as social equity. ...

[State to begin lodging tax reimbursements for shelters in cities, towns](#)

State officials have announced a new program to financially support municipalities that have lost local hotel excise tax revenue due to emergency assistance shelter placements in hotels and motels in their community. ...

[MMA to host ‘Climate Action’ webinar series](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a “climate action” webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...

[MMA Board approves policy committees for 2024](#)

At its Feb. 13 meeting, the MMA



Board of Directors approved the rosters for the MMA's five policy committees for 2024. ...



[MMA panel testifies at Chapter 90 hearing](#)

On Jan. 30, the MMA and several municipal officials testified before the Joint Committee on Transportation in support of Gov. Maura Healey's Chapter 90 bond bill. ...



[MMA joins 23 municipal leagues, NLC for congressional visit](#)

A delegation from the MMA joined 23 municipal organizations from other states and the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C., in late January to meet with members of Congress and push for federal help on issues such as infrastructure investment, cybersecurity, gun safety, PFAS regulations, and avoiding a federal government shutdown. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MBTA](#)

Communities law

An MMA webinar today outlined the process and schedule for municipal compliance with the MBTA Communities law. ...



MMA webinar to share best practices for procurement

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 5 exploring how to streamline the procurement process. ...



MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...



MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education

The MMA will host a free webinar on

March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



MassDEP updates recycling market development plan

In February, the Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Protection released a revised Recycling Market Development Action Plan. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[Municipalities can't be left to recover from climate disasters alone](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

Upcoming MMA Events

[Perfecting Your Procurement Process: Best Practices and Lessons Learned webinar](#) - March 5

[Women Leading Government conference](#) - March 7

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Holyoke & Rockland](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 8

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Wareham & Westborough](#) - March 15

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March

20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March

21

[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

Registration is now open for the MMA's spring series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on March 1, 8 and 15. ...

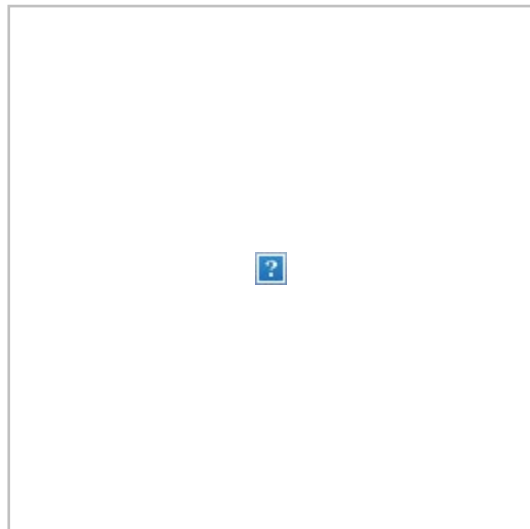
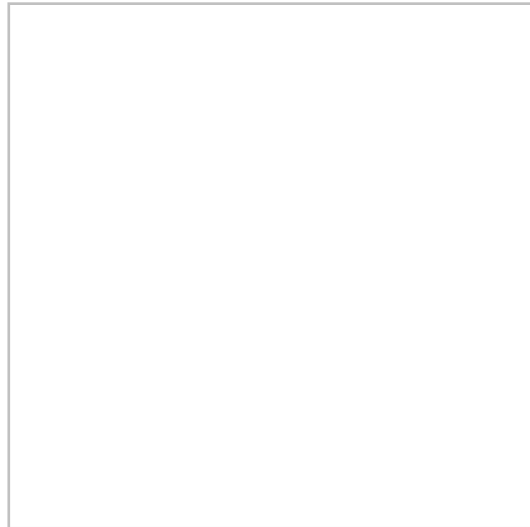


[MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University will hold an information session about the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program on March 13 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. ...

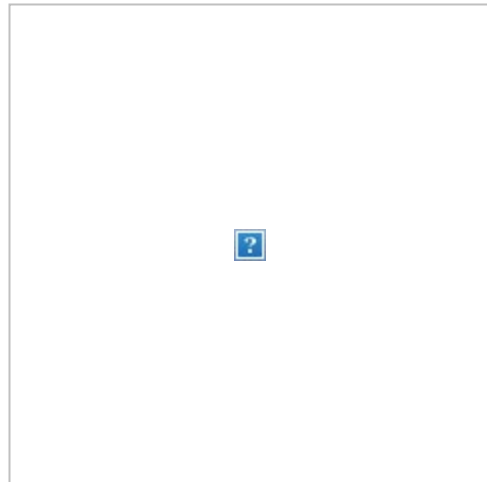
[**'Meet DLS' webinar set for March 11**](#)

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual "Meet DLS" webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



[**NLC's Congressional City Conference is March 11-13**](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[**Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity**](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband

Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...



[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

The Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting is seeking public input through March 15 on questions related to the siting of clean energy infrastructure. ...



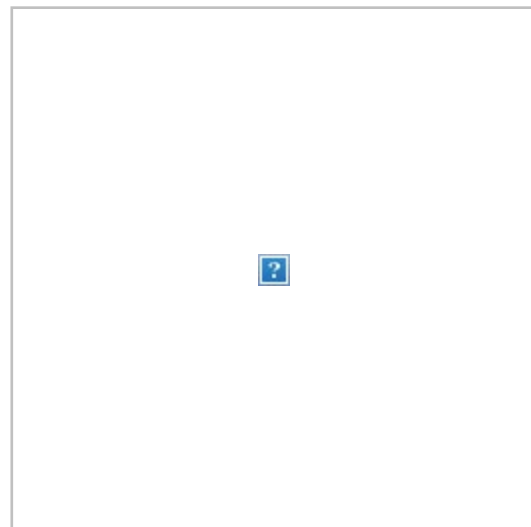
[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



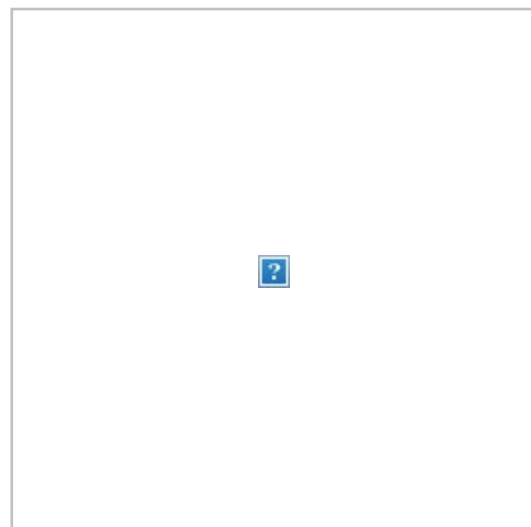
[Applications due March 8 for \\$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 53 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Conservation Agent, Town Accountant, Resilience Manager, Treatment Operator, DPW Principal Clerk, Regional Inspector, Senior Planner and Land Use Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! POLCO asked practitioners & thought leaders to reflect on the [biggest challenges facing local governments today](#) and identified 8 key areas.

In local happenings: Worcester residents interested in working on their physical fitness now have a new [fitness court at University Park](#).

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](#)!

[Community One Stop awards](#)
[\\$161M for economic development projects](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

announced that \$161 million in grant funding is going to 313 projects to support economic development in 171 communities across the state. ...



EPA sets lead pipe removal deadline, awards new funding

President Joe Biden has announced a 10-year deadline for public water systems across the country to replace lead service lines, a requirement aimed at ensuring safe drinking water for all Americans. ...



Psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control

The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth has published a summary of a statewide ballot initiative that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, without an avenue for individual cities and towns to opt out. ...



MMA webinar outlines strategies for 'First Amendment audits'

An MMA webinar addressed the

challenge of so-called “First Amendment audits” and strategies for dealing with them. The webinar was led by attorneys Lauren Goldberg and Janelle Austin from KP Law. ...



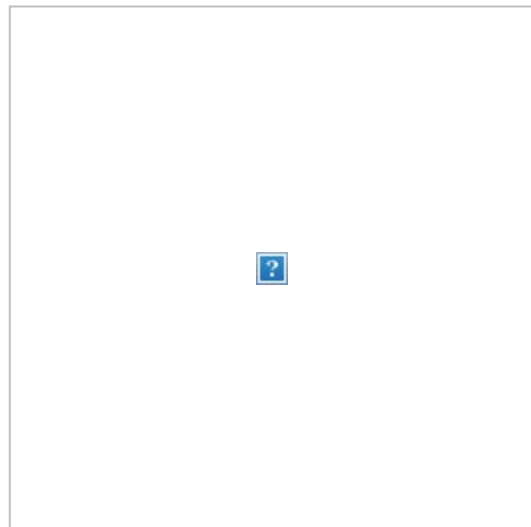
MMA offers range of conflict management webinars

At a time when effective conflict management has become increasingly important, the MMA offers a number of webinars that are available on www.mma.org and MMA On-Demand. ...



Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens

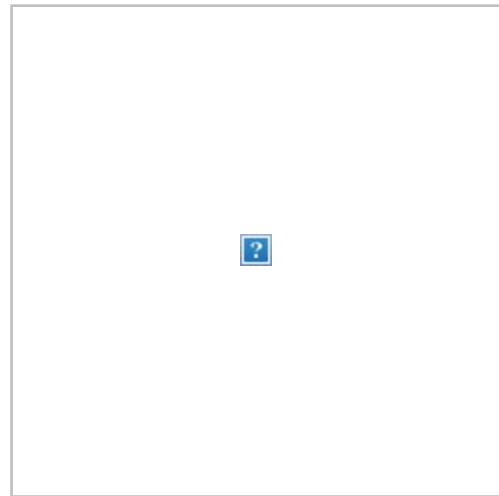
The Green Communities Division will hold the first Green Communities Summit on Nov. 22 to discuss innovative energy solutions and share best practices. ...



National League of Cities to mark 100 years at City Summit in Nov.

The National League of Cities will

continue its celebration of its 100th anniversary during its annual City Summit on Nov. 13-16 in Tampa, Florida. ...



[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

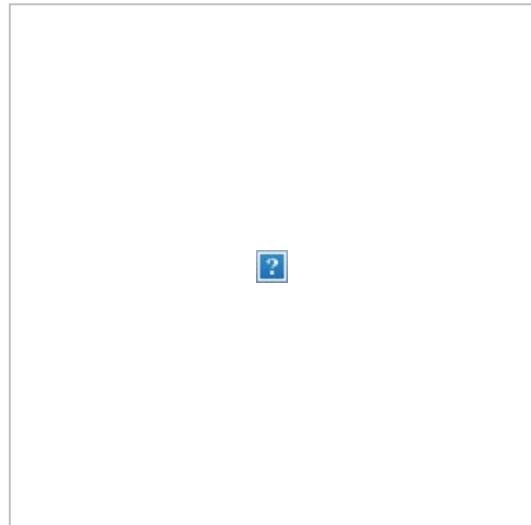
[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).



Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 30

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 7

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 2

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

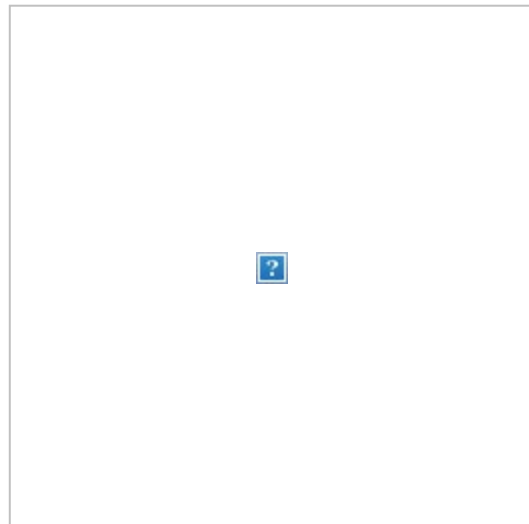
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

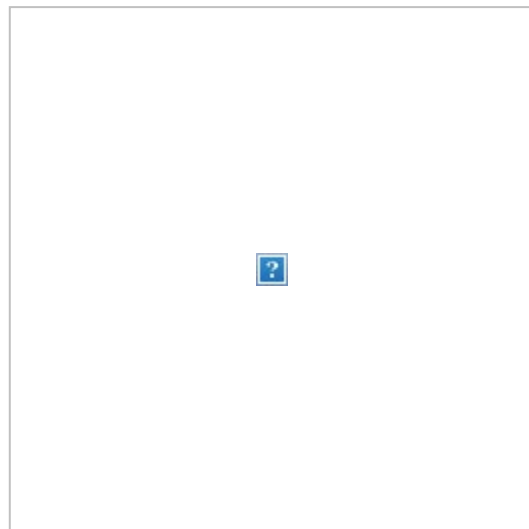
[WEMO seeks nominations for its 2025 Steering Committee](#)

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2025 steering committee. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Just City Mayoral Fellowship](#)

[seeks 2025 fellows](#)

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is accepting expressions of interest through Nov. 15 from mayors who want to participate in the fifth year of the institute's Just City Mayoral Fellowship program in spring 2025.

...



[MVP Expressions of Interest due Nov. 1](#)

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Nov. 1 for its fiscal 2026 Action Grant round. ...



[ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Nov. 2](#)

Local finance committee members are invited to the Association of Town Finance Committees' Annual Meeting on Nov. 2 at the Sharon Community Center. ...



[FCC seeks applicants for Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program](#)

The Federal Communications

Commission is accepting applications for the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)

Local photos sought

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[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

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 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 42 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Associate Town Counsel, Building Commissioner, Part-time Benefits Coordinator, Procurement & Project Administrator and Traffic Engineer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Healey appeals denial of major disaster declaration for September storms](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has formally appealed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's denial of her request for a major disaster

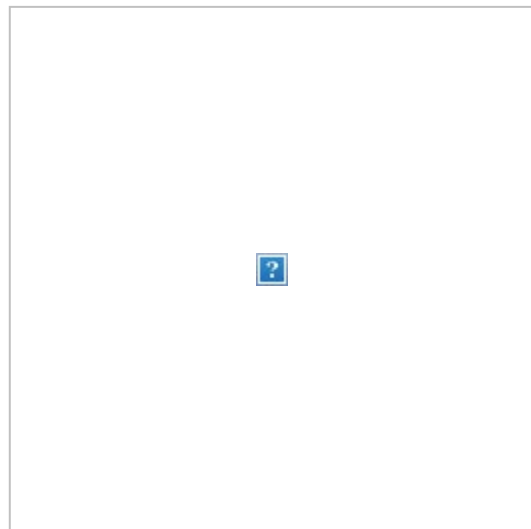
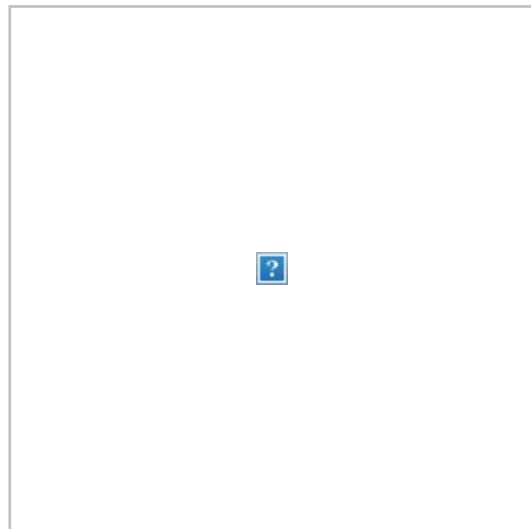
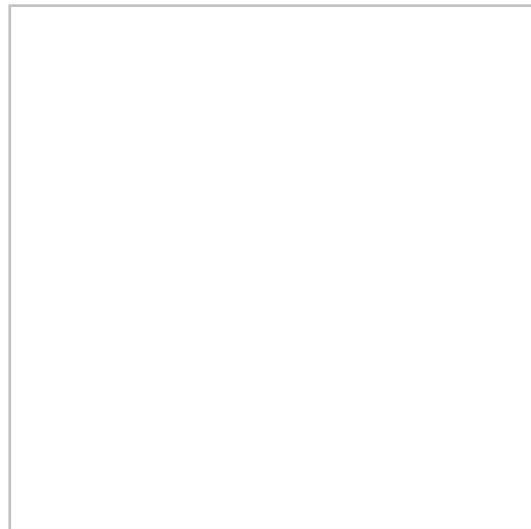
declaration to support the ongoing recovery of Massachusetts communities impacted by severe weather and flooding last September in Worcester, Hampden and Bristol counties. ...

[Administration announces \\$335M in federal funds for Mass Pike project](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state has won \$335.4 million in federal grant funding for a major “Reconnecting Communities” project around the Massachusetts Turnpike near the Charles River in Boston. ...

[MMA-MMLA webinar reviews best practices for MBTA zoning proposals](#)

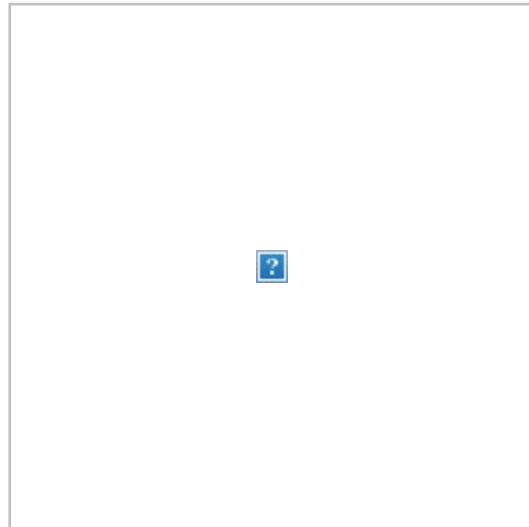
An MMA webinar with the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association reviewed what the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Attorney General’s Municipal Law Unit have learned from their preliminary review of proposed local zoning amendments relative to the



MBTA Communities Act. ...

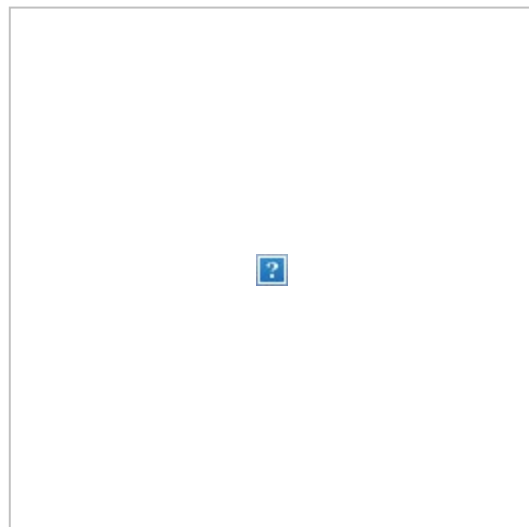
[Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference](#)

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



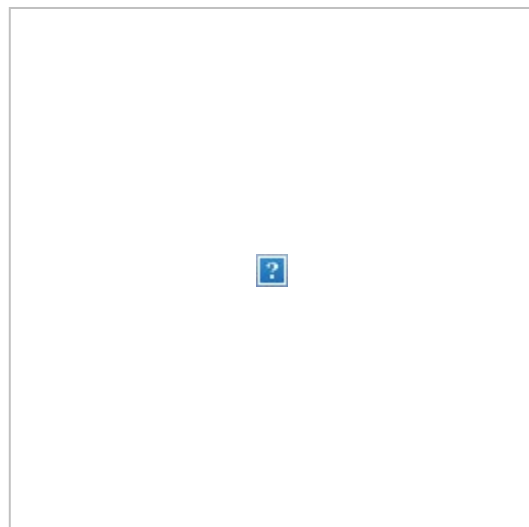
[Applications due March 25 for CDBG program](#)

The application deadline is March 25 for federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

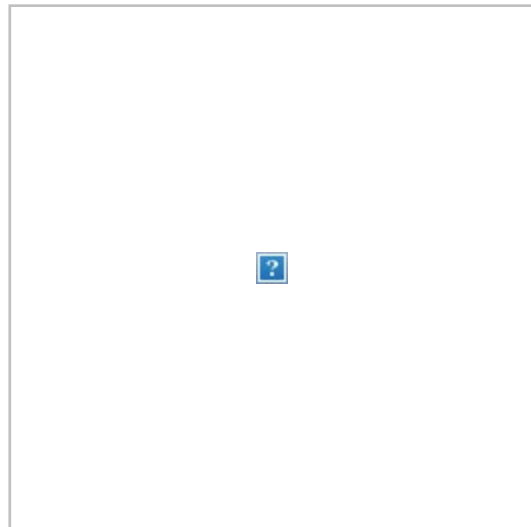
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[DPU to host 4 'Road Show'](#)

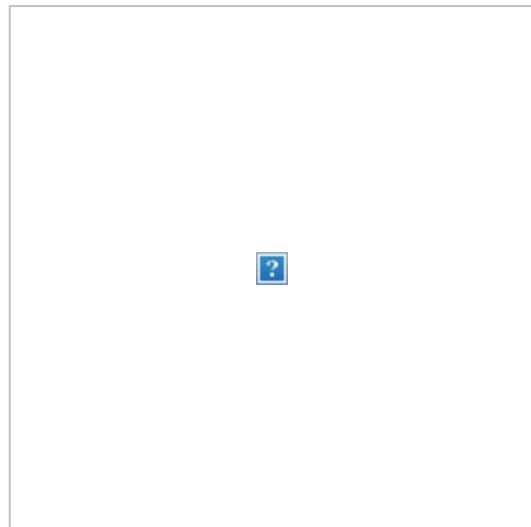
[meetings with public in 2024](#)

The Department of Public Utilities will be hosting four “Road Show” events during 2024, starting in Boston on March 27. ...



[\\$22M retrofit program will expand high-speed internet in affordable housing](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech on March 6 announced the launch of the Residential Internet Retrofit Program, a \$22 million statewide initiative to equip public and affordable housing units across the state with high-speed internet for current and future residents. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to support Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

On March 8, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March 20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

[Conflict Conversations \(Part 2\): Productive Dialogue in Volatile Times webinar](#) - April 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

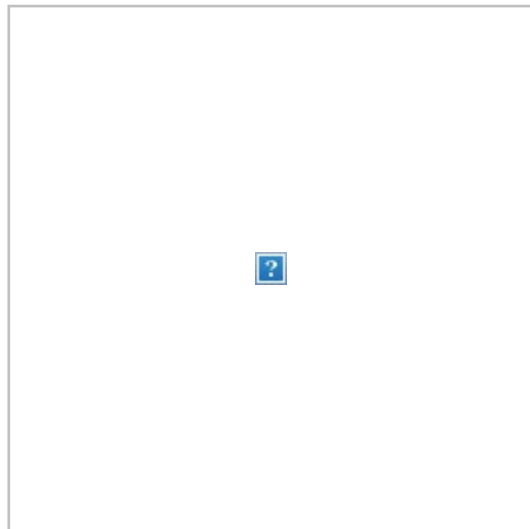
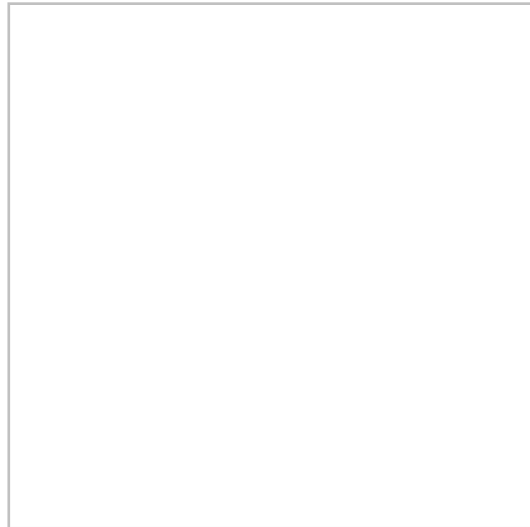
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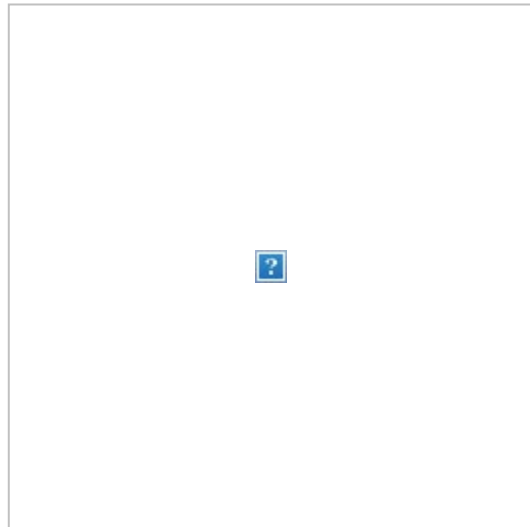
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[**MMA to host 'Climate Action' webinar series**](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a "climate action" webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...



[**MMA to host second 'Conflict Conversations' webinar**](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 2 will

review, step-by-step, how to have productive conversations amidst tension and volatility. ...



[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Authority is accepting applications through April 25 for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. ...



[Local leaders invited to happiness symposium at Kennedy School](#)

Massachusetts municipal leaders can discover how to become “happiness teachers” during a free symposium being held June 19 through 21 by the Leadership and Happiness Laboratory at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Center for Public Leadership. ...



[Culvert replacement grant program opening soon for FY25](#)

The Division of Ecological

Restoration announced that it will soon be accepting applications for the fiscal 2025 Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program. ...



[ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12](#)

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



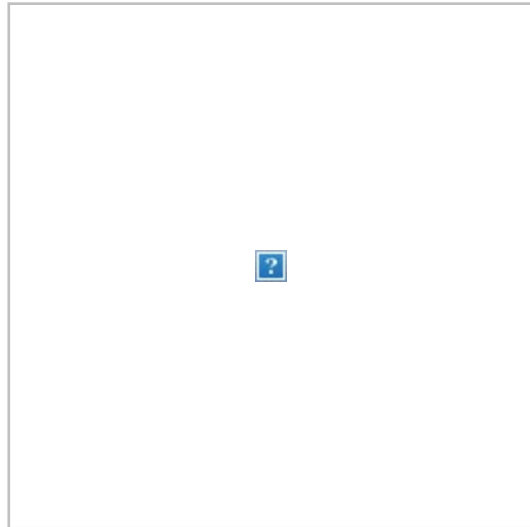
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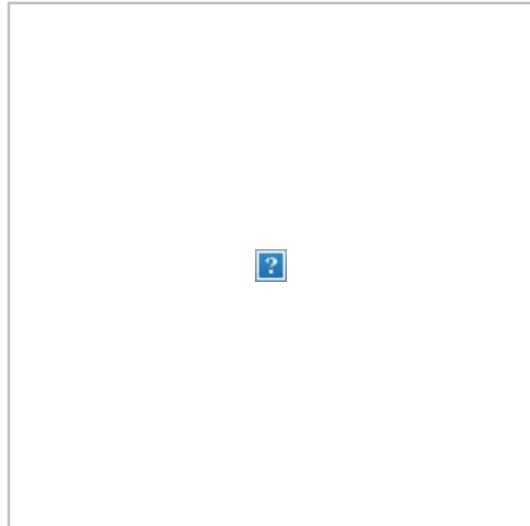
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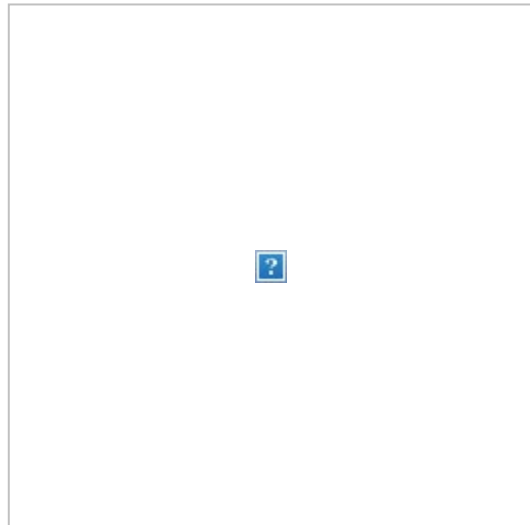
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Budget and Fiscal Analyst, Town Planner, Police Officer, Administrative Assistant, Firefighter, Assistant City Clerk, Conservation Agent and Community and Development Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

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](#)!

[House budget committee files \\$57.9B state spending proposal for FY25](#)

The House Ways and Means
Committee released a \$57.9 billion
state spending plan for fiscal 2025
that includes several important

investments in schools and municipalities despite state revenue expectations that are more modest than in recent years. ...

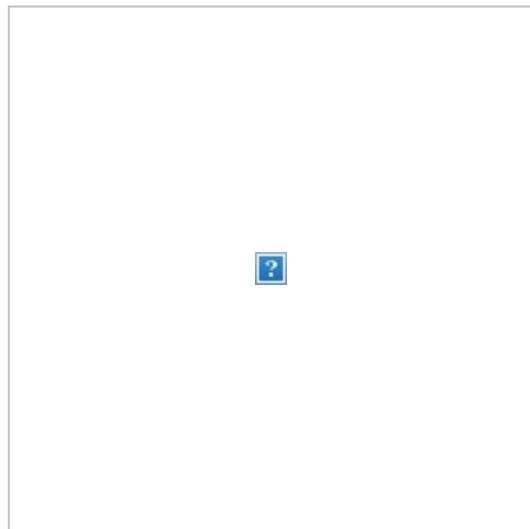
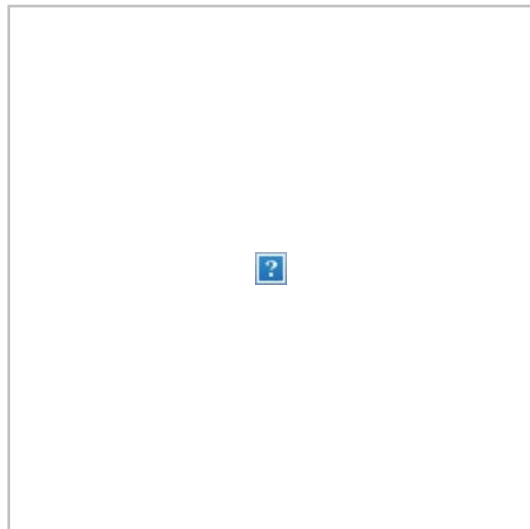
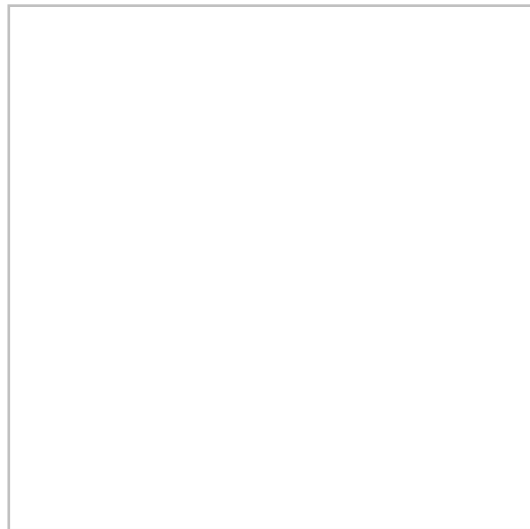
[Senate OK's transportation bond bill with Ch. 90 funds](#)

The Senate passed a transportation bond bill that includes \$200 million for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2025, as well as \$175 million for specified additional infrastructure programs. ...

[EPA sets national limits on PFAS contamination](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “forever chemicals.” ...

[EOHLC seeks comments on draft plan for CDBG and other federal programs](#)



The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is accepting comments on its draft one-year Action Plan for federal fiscal 2024 for a range of federal programs (CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA and HTF), and will hold a public hearing on April 18. ...

[Applications sought through April 12 for SAFER fire dept. grants](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications through April 12 for a new round of federal grant funding for fire departments. ...

[Equitable land development is focus of April 18 forum](#)

Municipal leaders, state officials and developers seeking best practices and strategies for creating an equitable development environment within their communities are invited to a Land Access Forum in Boston on April 18. ...

[Municipal hearings officer training is April 25](#)

A free, virtual training program for



municipal hearings officers will be held on April 25, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams. ...



MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program

Applications are due April 30 for the MMA-Suffolk University Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program. ...



DEI strategic plan for municipalities nears completion

The MMA's DEI Advisory Committee is working with Racial Equity Group CEO Bird Guess to complete its DEI strategic plan for municipalities. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 18

[Digital Equity Planning webinar](#) - April 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[Promoting Civil Discourse at Town Meeting webinar](#) - May 2

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium webinar](#) - May 3

[Municipal Law 101 webinar](#) - May 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources boot camp](#) - May 9

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Women's Equality Day webinar](#) - May 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association spring conference](#) - May 29-31

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Application period opens for Housing Choice Designation](#)

Applications are being accepted through April 26 for the 2024 Housing Choice Communities

Designation. ...



MMA's 'Climate Action' webinar series continues on April 18

The second session in the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, "From Planning to Practice," will be held on April 18. ...



Third 'Climate Action' webinar will discuss community engagement

The third session of the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, on April 30, will explore how to design effective community engagement efforts. ...



Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



[USDOT seeks applications for Safe Streets and Roads for All](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the third year of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. ...



[School districts eligible for federal credits under IRA, BIL for 'green' projects](#)

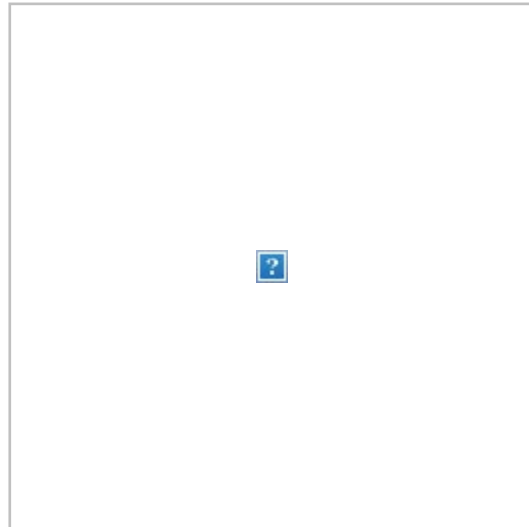
School districts that do not file federal taxes are eligible for some fully refundable credits this fiscal year under the Inflation Reduction Act, particularly for green infrastructure (e.g., installing heat pumps or buying electric vehicles). Schools may also be eligible to access other grants and credits through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). ...

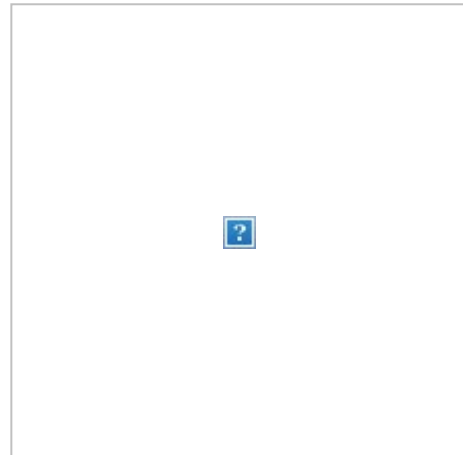
[Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit is May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on May 8 in Worcester. ...



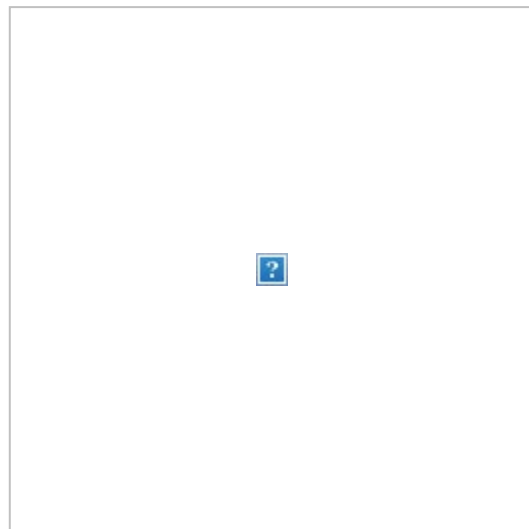
[MVP Action Grant applications due April 24](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting proposals through April 24 for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grants for fiscal 2025. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[FTA accepting applications for](#)

[bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Authority is accepting applications through April 25 for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. ...



[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Principal Assessor, Financial Analyst, Police Officer, Director of Planning, Assistant City Engineer, Collector and Assistant Accountant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It's a long weekend.

In local happenings: The 2024 Paris Paralympics kicked off this week with at least [6 athletes](#) sporting Massachusetts roots.

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](#)!

[Gov. signs law addressing PFAS in firefighter turnout gear](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a bill that addresses exposure to so-called

“forever chemicals,” also known as PFAS, in personal protective equipment worn by firefighters. ...



Language in psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control

The five statewide ballot initiatives certified for the November election include one that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, with language that would preempt local control. ...



Gov. signs veterans services bill

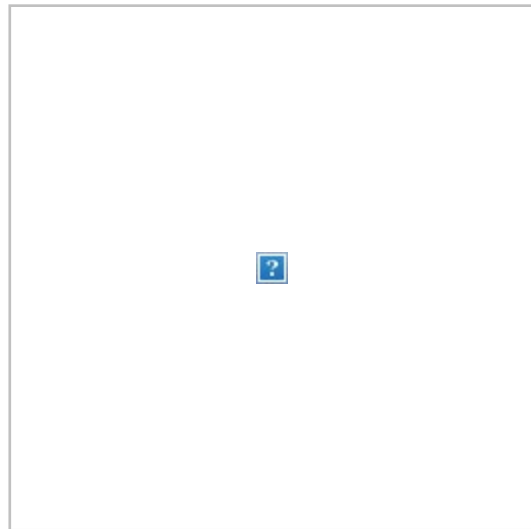
Gov. Maura Healey signed a broad bill known as the HERO Act that aims to modernize and increase veterans benefits with a mix of policy changes and tax incentives. ...



Emergency Assistance shelter policies updated

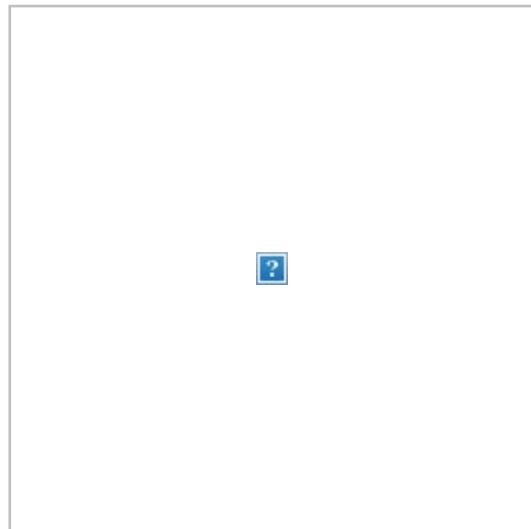
The Healey-Driscoll administration

has implemented new policies for the overburdened Emergency Assistance shelter system that are aimed at limiting shelter stays while prioritizing the needs of Massachusetts residents over migrants for long-term placements. ...



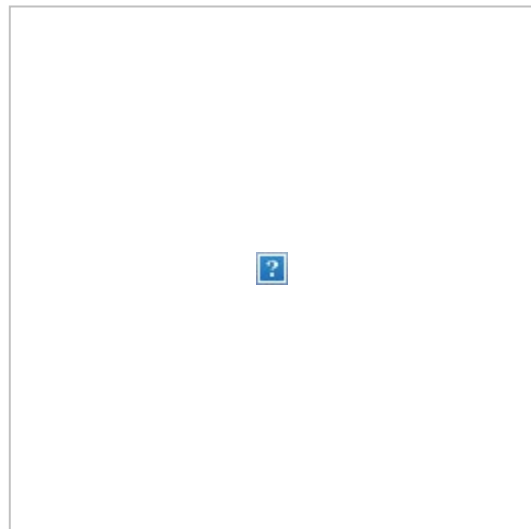
Budget included concerning tax title changes

The fiscal 2025 state budget signed by Gov. Maura Healey on July 29 included changes to the tax title foreclosure process that were intended to bring the state into compliance with a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the issue. ...



Applications sought for Cyber Resilient grant program

The MassCyberCenter at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is accepting applications for the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program from municipalities across the state to boost their cybersecurity infrastructure. ...



MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 12-13 in Falmouth

Massachusetts Municipal Human

Resources will hold its annual Fall Conference on Sept. 12 and 13 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth. ...



[MMA webinar to review essentials of capital planning](#)

A free MMA webinar on Sept. 24 will highlight best practices for maintaining and building a community's capital assets. ...



[MMA webinar to cover use of opioid settlement funds](#)

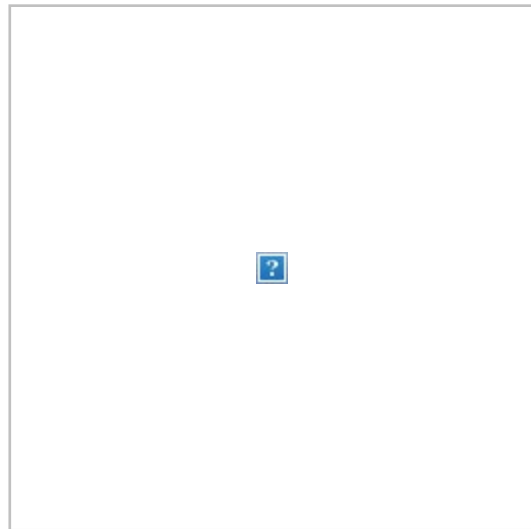
A free MMA webinar on Sept. 26 will review issues and strategies related to the use of opioid settlement funds. ...



[WEMO to hold annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27](#)

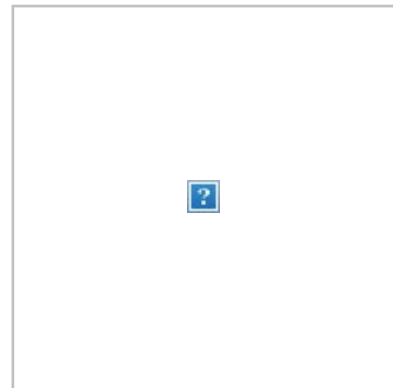
With the theme "Growing Trust in

Local Government,” Women Elected Municipal Officials will hold its sixth annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27 in Devens. ...



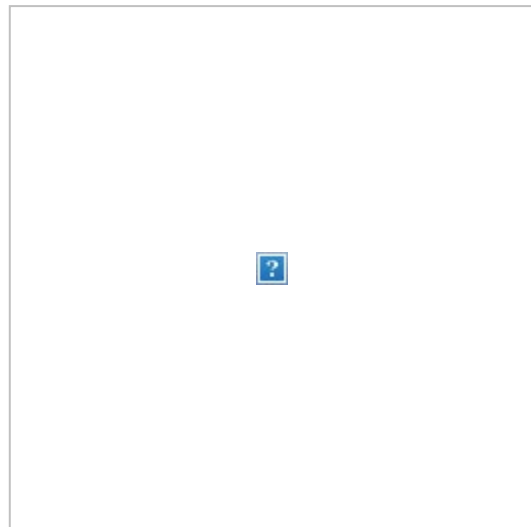
[MMHR seeking nominations for the 2024 Skop Award](#)

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources is accepting nominations for its annual Emil S. Skop Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the field of municipal human resources management. ...



[MCOA seeks annual award submissions](#)

The Massachusetts Councils on Aging is accepting nominations through Sept. 6 for its annual awards, which honor individuals, groups, and programs that have significantly impacted the lives of older adults. ...



[COPS Office to provide technical assistance to Boston Police Department](#)

The U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services announced on Aug. 8 that it will engage with the Boston Police Department to provide a review and assessment of operations within the Boston Police Department's Human Resources section. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 12-13

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 19

[Capital planning webinar](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Opioid settlement funds webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 27

[First Amendment audits webinar](#) - Oct. 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Oct. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Oct. 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



[Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA's annual conference in January 2025. ...



[Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 7 in Norwood](#)

Municipal fleet managers can learn about sustainable transportation

options at the 21st annual AltWheels Fleet Day event on Oct. 7 in Norwood. ...



MMA seeks input on local roadway needs with Ch. 90 survey

The MMA will be sending its biennial Chapter 90 funding survey this summer to chief municipal officials and public works and highway department officials in all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. ...



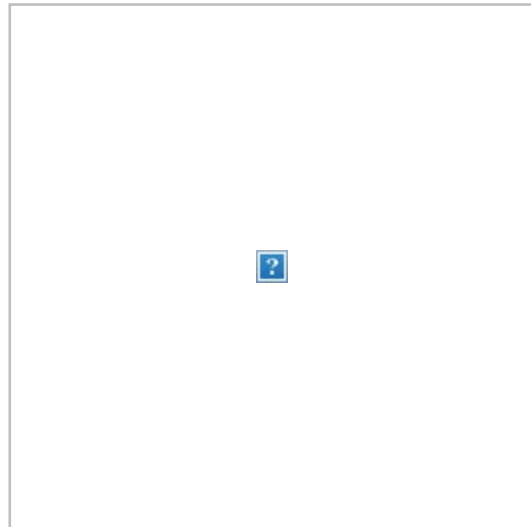
MMA announces new name, location, dates for conference

Big changes are in store for the MMA's conference in January, as the event moves to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and expands into a third afternoon. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Local photos sought

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or the important work of your local government? Whether it's municipal buildings or natural resources, construction projects or downtown streets, the MMA would appreciate a copy of your photos for possible use in future editions of The Beacon or on the MMA website. Photos must be free of copyright restrictions. Municipal officials and staff may email photos (.jpeg format and high resolution if possible) to **photos@mma.org** as an attachment.

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Risk Management Program Coordinator](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Planning Director, Recreation Services Coordinator, Senior Traffic Engineer,

Conservation Agent, Fiscal Manager, Solutions Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! POLCO asked practitioners & thought leaders to reflect on the [biggest challenges facing local governments today](#) and identified 8 key areas.

In local happenings: Worcester residents interested in working on their physical fitness now have a new [fitness court at University Park](#).

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](#)!

[Community One Stop awards](#)
[\\$161M for economic development projects](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

announced that \$161 million in grant funding is going to 313 projects to support economic development in 171 communities across the state. ...



[EPA sets lead pipe removal deadline, awards new funding](#)

President Joe Biden has announced a 10-year deadline for public water systems across the country to replace lead service lines, a requirement aimed at ensuring safe drinking water for all Americans. ...



[Psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control](#)

The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth has published a summary of a statewide ballot initiative that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, without an avenue for individual cities and towns to opt out. ...



[MMA webinar outlines strategies for 'First Amendment audits'](#)

An MMA webinar addressed the

challenge of so-called “First Amendment audits” and strategies for dealing with them. The webinar was led by attorneys Lauren Goldberg and Janelle Austin from KP Law. ...



MMA offers range of conflict management webinars

At a time when effective conflict management has become increasingly important, the MMA offers a number of webinars that are available on www.mma.org and MMA On-Demand. ...



Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens

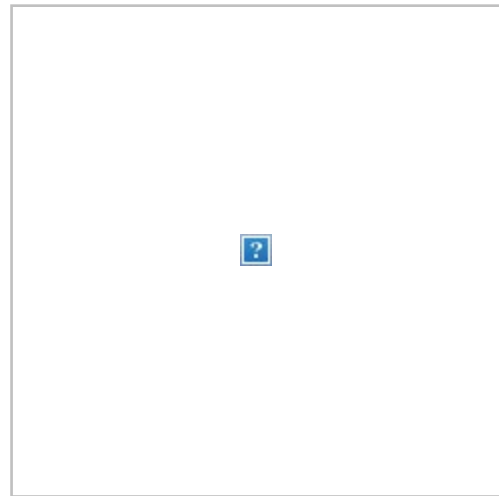
The Green Communities Division will hold the first Green Communities Summit on Nov. 22 to discuss innovative energy solutions and share best practices. ...



National League of Cities to mark 100 years at City Summit in Nov.

The National League of Cities will

continue its celebration of its 100th anniversary during its annual City Summit on Nov. 13-16 in Tampa, Florida. ...



[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

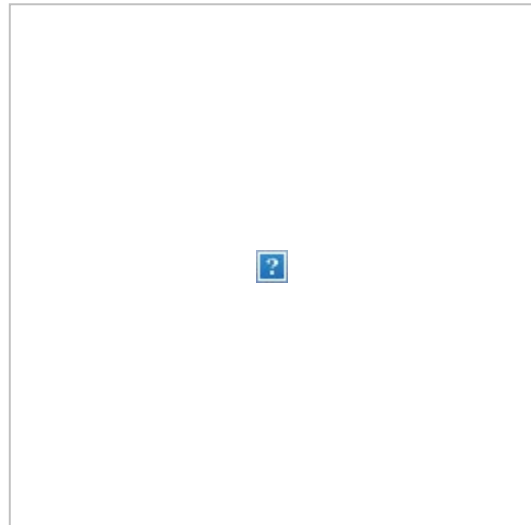
[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).



Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 30

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 7

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 2

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

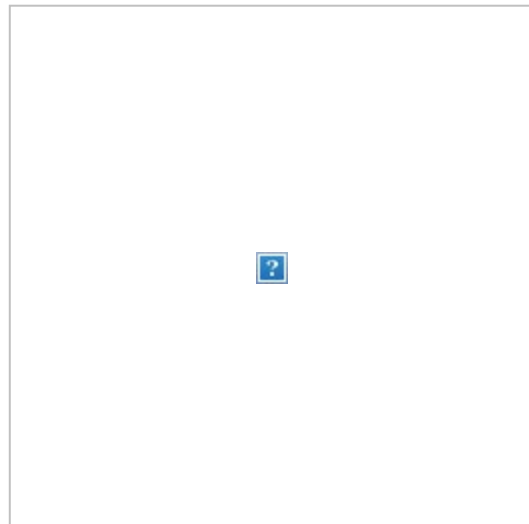
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

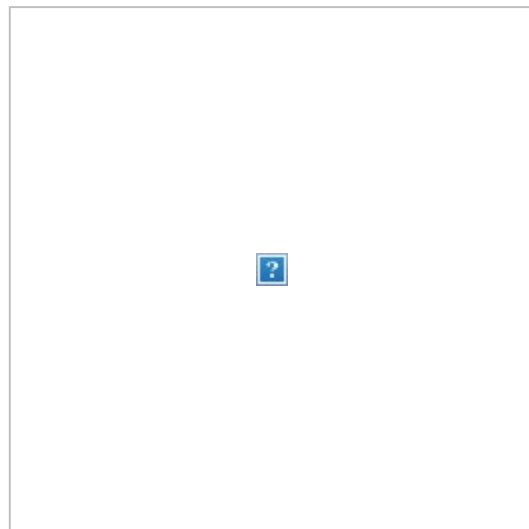
[WEMO seeks nominations for its 2025 Steering Committee](#)

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2025 steering committee. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Just City Mayoral Fellowship](#)

[seeks 2025 fellows](#)

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is accepting expressions of interest through Nov. 15 from mayors who want to participate in the fifth year of the institute's Just City Mayoral Fellowship program in spring 2025.

...



[MVP Expressions of Interest due Nov. 1](#)

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Nov. 1 for its fiscal 2026 Action Grant round. ...



[ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Nov. 2](#)

Local finance committee members are invited to the Association of Town Finance Committees' Annual Meeting on Nov. 2 at the Sharon Community Center. ...



[FCC seeks applicants for Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program](#)

The Federal Communications

Commission is accepting applications for the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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Local photos sought

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[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

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 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 42 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Associate Town Counsel, Building Commissioner, Part-time Benefits Coordinator, Procurement & Project Administrator and Traffic Engineer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Visitors to Saint Mary's Cemetery in Milford have likely noticed the [Milford Round Tower](#). Built in 1986, the 73 foot tall tower might be the only of its kind found outside of Ireland.

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](#)!

[Legislature OK's economic
development bill with local
funding](#)

The House and Senate approved a

\$4 billion economic development bill that includes funding for a range of grants and programs that benefit cities and towns. ...



MassDEP amends rules for Low Emission Vehicle Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection filed emergency regulation amendments on Nov. 4 affecting the Low Emission Vehicle Program (310 CMR 7.40). ...



\$5.8M in Public Safety Staffing grants awarded

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on Oct. 31 announced nearly \$5.8 million in fiscal 2025 Municipal Public Safety Staffing grant awards. ...



DLS reminds communities to report ballot question results

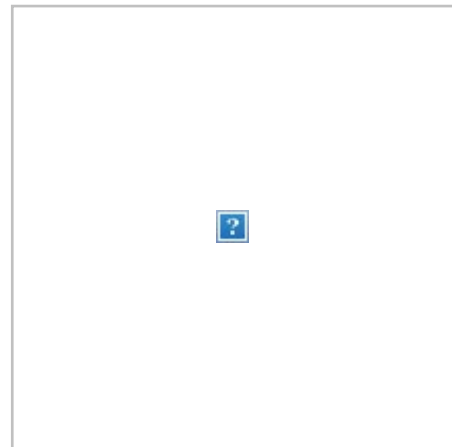
The Division of Local Services is

reminding communities that they must report the outcomes of certain ballot measures using the division's online Gateway. ...



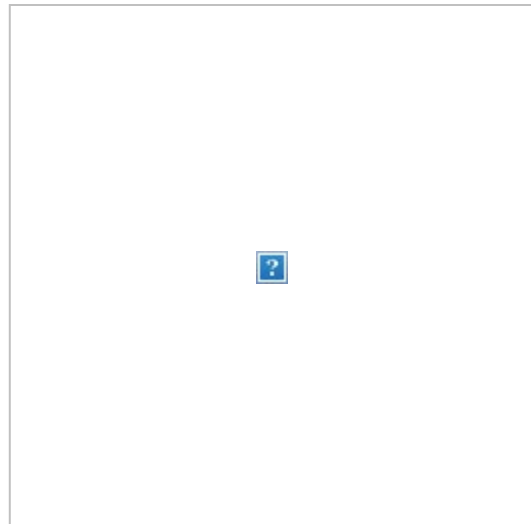
New guidelines in Devens seek to reduce 'embodied carbon'

Devens, a former military base that's now a regional enterprise zone, has spent the past two decades redeveloping with sustainability as an objective. ...



New Bedford and region have new roadmap to address homelessness

In late September, New Bedford Mayor John Mitchell released a report about a city-commissioned study that analyzed New Bedford's response to homelessness. ...



Boston tests 'green' roofs on MBTA bus shelters

Boston has added "green" roofs to 30 bus shelters along a popular

route, shielding bus riders from increasingly hot weather, and better equipping neighborhoods to manage stormwater runoff and flooding risks.

...



Reducing risk, ensuring smooth transitions when decommissioning buildings

When planning for a new municipal building, the disposition of the existing building — whether through sale, demolition or re-commissioning — should be part of the plan. ...



MunEnergy can help with managing winter energy needs

As cities and towns prepare for winter and a high-demand heating season, the MMA's MunEnergy program can help municipal leaders manage these costs. ...



[Great Barrington just got more than \\$6 million in grants. Here's where the money is going.](#)

[Stockbridge and West Stockbridge have agreed to share a fire chief as a possible first step to a larger agreement.](#)

[51 years later, overdue book is finally returned to Worcester Public Library.](#)

What We're Reading

[Strategies for spreading AI throughout local government](#) - Bloomberg Cities
(6 minute read)

"Take Boston, which is currently developing a customized chatbot—trained on the city's hundreds of pages of procurement procedures and rules—to accelerate purchases. To Chief Information Officer Santiago Garces, this work is primarily geared at producing greater efficiency for civil servants by reducing the time they spend seeking approval for purchases."

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to
[Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Holiday Decorations in Your Community: Overview and Legal Considerations](#) - Nov. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Situational Supervision](#) - Dec. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

- [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
- [Mass Save introduces municipal energy manager grant](#)
- [‘Climate tech’ event on Nov. 19 to focus on municipal continuity during emergencies](#)
- [Treasury offers resources as ARPA obligation deadline nears](#)
- [Foundation offers grants to help apply for opioid settlement funds](#)
- [Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of Koran's Farm!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 30 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Procurement Director, Assistant Town Clerk, Part-time Local Inspector, Town Coordinator, Senior Clerk and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Longfellow's Wayside Inn, located in Sudbury, is the [oldest restaurant in the state and the oldest inn in the country](#). It opened for business in 1716.

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](#)!

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the holidays. We will be back in your inbox on Jan. 3.

[Countdown to ARPA obligation](#)

deadline

With the Dec. 31 deadline quickly approaching for obligating American Rescue Plan Act funds, municipal officials are leveraging U.S. Department of the Treasury resources to help them avoid any potential clawing back of federal funds. ...



Webinar covers select board role in community arts, culture

A Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with the Mass Cultural Council discussed how select boards can support arts and culture initiatives and advance economic development. ...



MIIA workshops to cover legal, cyber, wellness topics

MIIA will present several training sessions during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, to be held Jan. 23 through 25 in Boston. ...

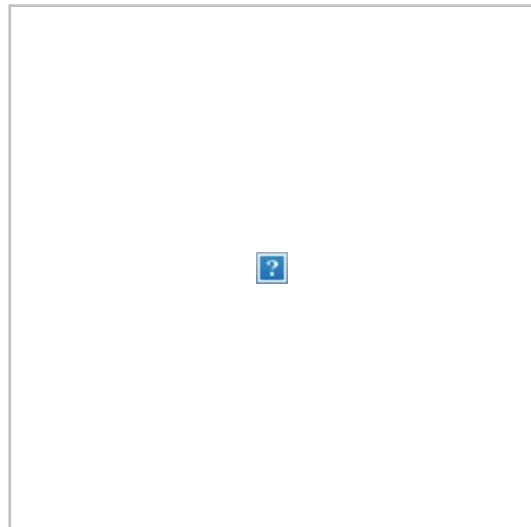


Staying ahead of emerging cyberthreats

As cyberthreats become more

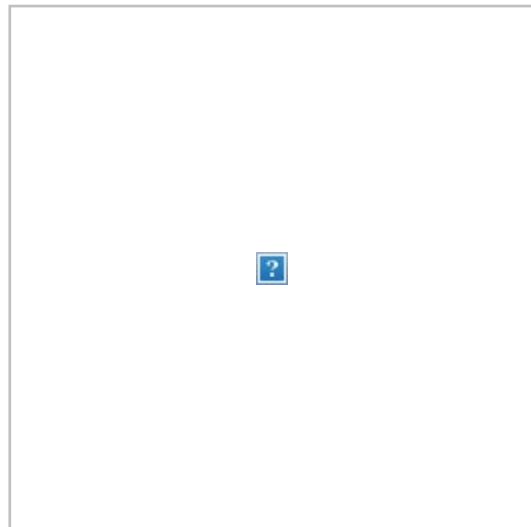
sophisticated, local governments and public entities face increased risk, especially from ransomware attacks.

...



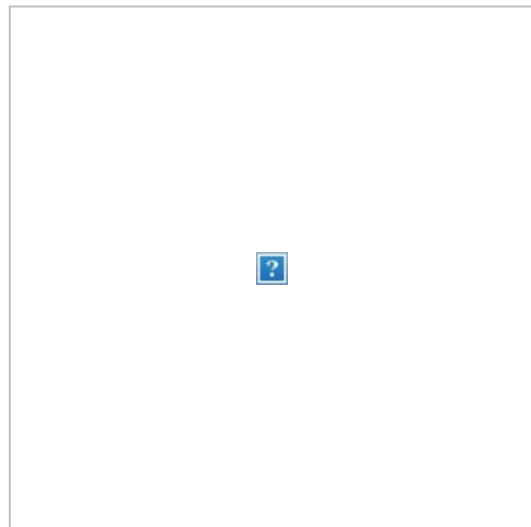
Pittsfield restores pond, enhances park accessibility

A quarter century in the making, a pond restoration project has brought new life to a somewhat neglected section of a Pittsfield park, completing a mission that was both professional and personal for city officials. ...



Worcester conducts Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

In a shift toward a more proactive approach for management of city-owned land, the Worcester Conservation Commission conducted a forest health assessment of more than 850 acres earlier this year. ...



Bourne to scan municipal property for tribal history

The town of Bourne is planning to

deploy ground-penetrating radar on a historic municipal property to search for tribal graves and artifacts, and attempt to forge a deeper connection with its Indigenous past.

...

[Retrofitting outdoor lighting can save energy and cut light pollution](#)

Municipalities must eventually replace components of critical building systems in schools, libraries and other public facilities.



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges legislators to support corrective legislation that would help retain CDL drivers](#)

On Dec. 16, In Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[A \\$180K state grant for a group of South Berkshire towns aims to prevent ambulance deserts](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Somerville City Council votes to ditch required parking rules for new developments](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[New dashboard will offer deep dive into city finances, including salaries](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Computer servers, radio equipment among items approved for ARPA funding in Mattapoisett](#) - Sippican Week

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Special Guests: [Gov. Maura Healey](#) & [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)

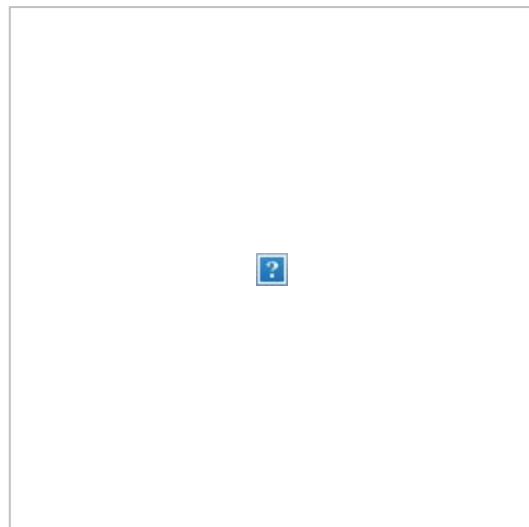
Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to [Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



What We're Reading

[Beyond the noise: How to engage residents effectively](#) - an 8 minute listen from Bloomberg Cities.

"According to a recent Bloomberg Philanthropies survey, 60 percent of mayors believe polarization in their cities is "more extreme than ever." Forty-four percent say they lack sufficient feedback loops with residents, and—with local news outlets vanishing across the world—53 percent report a struggle to wade through the maze of an increasingly fragmented media landscape that's rife with misinformation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation funding webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - Feb. 27

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)

- [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of
Soldier's Monument and The First Church of Monson!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Agent, Chief of Police, Town Planner, Town Solicitor, Treasurer/Collector, Assistant Assessor and Conservation Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).

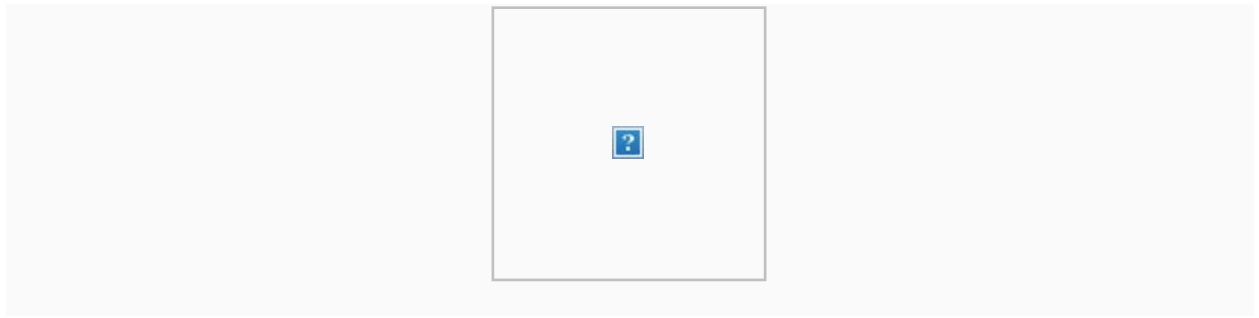


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Just 14 days until Connect 351!

In local happenings: The Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks [announced the winners](#) of the “Name a Snowplow” contest, held with students at Worcester Public Schools and voted on by the public. Four trucks will be named Scoop Dogg, Sleetwood Mac, William Scrapespeare and Snow More Mr Ice Guy.

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](#)!

[SJC issues ruling in MBTA](#)

[Communities case](#)

The Supreme Judicial Court has

upheld a state law intended to promote new housing in MBTA Communities and the power of the attorney general to enforce it, but threw out guidelines specifying the terms of compliance. ...



[Connect 351 is just 2 weeks away](#)

More than 1,100 local leaders have already registered for Connect 351, the MMA's annual conference, which will be held Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. ...



[U.S. Sens. Warren, Markey to speak at Connect 351](#)

Massachusetts' two U.S. senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, will address local leaders from across the state during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, on Saturday, Jan. 25. ...



[MMA publishes January issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA published the January

2025 issue of The Beacon, covering the latest news affecting local government and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars, including Connect 351. ...



[New legislative session brings opportunities for cities and towns](#)

Jan. 1 kicked off a new legislative session, and state revenues will be a focal point for the first half of the year, with a cautious outlook guiding the development of the fiscal 2026 state budget. ...



[MMA to host webinar on transportation grants on Jan. 13](#)

The MMA will host a webinar on Jan. 13 covering transportation-related grants available to communities across Massachusetts. ...



[Legislature OK's bill to allow video for school bus safety enforcement](#)

In the final hours of the session on Dec. 31, the Legislature passed a bill giving communities the option to use video monitoring systems for school bus traffic violations. ...



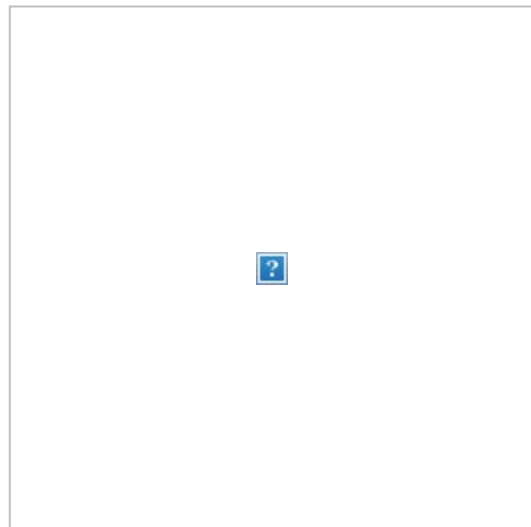
[EOEEA accepting comments on Article 97 open space regulations](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting comments through Jan. 22 on draft regulations relating to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. ...



[Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program. ...



[DOER opens program to promote on-street EV charging](#)

The Department of Energy

Resources is accepting applications for the On-Street EV Charging Program, which provides grants and technical assistance. ...



[\\$25M in Rural Roadway Funding available to communities](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has apportioned and released \$25 million for the Rural Roadway Funding Program to cities and towns. ...



[NLC publishes book recognizing 100th anniversary](#)

The National League of Cities celebrated its 100th anniversary throughout 2024, recognizing a century of municipal advocacy, education, and innovation at the national level. ...



[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On Jan. 3, In Testimony

[As challenges abound, let's use kindness as a tool](#)

On Jan. 3, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Methuen finds short-term use for Searles Estate](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Nantucket's African Meeting House Celebrates Its Bicentennial](#) - Nantucket Current

[A lot of 'little snowstorms' are still eating up Berkshire snow removal budgets](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[It's red, plastic, and snaps together: Provincetown's new flood barrier](#) - GBH

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[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

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WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

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[Thursday afternoon!](#)



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-

What We're Reading

[Confronting the Local Government Trust Dilemma, Part 2](#) - second in a three-part series discussing community-based strategic planning as an approach to building trust, from International City/County Management Association.

"I would like to share the basic recipe for a community-based approach. There are five basic steps to the creation of a community-based strategic plan: set the stage, listen, identify priorities, compose the plan, and return and report."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation Grants: MassDOT and MassTrails Funding Opportunities webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action: Prioritizing and Funding Decarbonization Measures webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

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[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar on Jan. 16 will discuss fire mutual aid](#)
 - [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)
 - [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to John Ouellette, MMA Director of Communications for sharing this photo of ZooLights at Stone Zoo in Stoneham!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

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- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)

- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Administrator, Data Collector, Treasury Analyst, Assistant Town Clerk, Stormwater Manager and Human Resources Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: A [guide to living in New Bedford](#) was featured in the New York Times Real Estate section last week. Highlights include the city's rich maritime history, new South Coast Rail service and the diverse food scene.

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](#)!

[MMA continues push on Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

The MMA and local leaders are continuing their advocacy for the

governor's proposed Municipal Empowerment Act, a multifaceted package to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government. ...



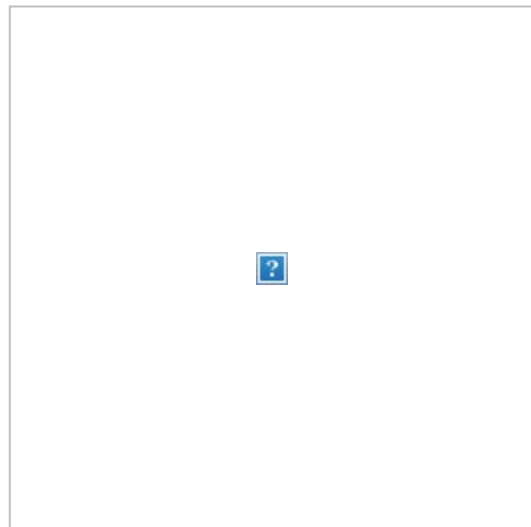
[Rule-making process continues for MBTA Communities Act](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is working to finalize new regulations relative to the MBTA Communities Act. ...



[Governor's bill would make historic investment in Ch. 90](#)

At the heart of the transportation bond bill Gov. Maura Healey filed on Jan. 24 is a historic investment in municipal roads and bridges — \$300 million per year for the Chapter 90 program for a period of five years. ...



[MassDOT finalizes truck safety device regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of

Transportation has finalized updated regulations pertaining to truck safety devices. ...



[Special housing production commission releases report](#)

A special commission today shared a report with the governor that offers more than 50 recommendations to increase the supply of housing across Massachusetts. ...



[MSA hosts workshop with Moderators Association](#)

The Mass. Select Board Association held a virtual workshop with the Mass. Moderators Association on Feb. 25 to discuss select board roles and responsibilities relative to town meetings. ...



[Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

The Mass. Housing Partnership will host a three-part, virtual affordable housing training series in March for local boards and commissions. ...



[BEAD application deadline extended to March 10](#)

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment funding program has extended its Round 1 application deadline to March 10. ...



[Environmental Justice Grant available to municipalities](#)

Municipalities are invited to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grantmaking program. ...



[Planner Training Collaborative to hold annual conference on March 15](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its 30th Annual Conference on Saturday, March 15 in Worcester. ...



[Travel and tourism conference is March 18-19 in Springfield](#)

The 2025 Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, where tourism and hospitality professionals learn about the latest industry trends, will be held on March 18 and 19 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.



[5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Remote, hybrid meetings are local government success story](#)

On Feb. 28, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Secretary Augustus, MMA and Municipal Lawyers Association identify municipal concerns with MBTA Communities draft regulations](#)

On Feb. 21, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Seven years in the making: North Truro housing development groundbreaking date set](#) - Cape Cod Times

[After Steward hospital closure, ambulances rush patients out of town](#) - Boston Globe

[Somerville and Chelsea are asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration's "illegal campaign of bullying and intimidation"](#) - Boston.com

[Natick voters must decide on \\$7M override at town election](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Hudson Town Election to have override question: What money will pay for, plus tax impact](#) - MetroWest Daily News

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Amherst Town Councillor Elisha Walker



What We're Reading

[Resident Engagement: Taking transparency to the next level in cities](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Whether it's erecting glass-walled municipal buildings or launching open-data platforms, cities have long strived to be transparent as a way to engender trust in government. Yet, as confidence in public institutions continues to be challenged, local leaders also realize that the old ways of "being open" aren't enough—and that they have to do more.

A growing number of cities are responding by pushing the boundaries of transparency. Syracuse, N.Y., is reimagining service-delivery communications. Portland, Ore., is raising the bar for open procurement. And Boston is making the mayor's one-on-one meetings accessible in public spaces. These efforts underscore a key lesson: innovation is essential to advancing transparency and deepening public trust."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Dalton & Marlborough\)](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Amesbury & Fall River\)](#) - March 14

[Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Laws webinar](#) - March 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Professional Development Conference](#) - March 20

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Conference](#) - March 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - March 25

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Reading\)](#) - March 27

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Hadley\)](#) - March 27

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [**Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications**](#)
 - [**NLC seeks data on municipal infrastructure needs**](#)
 - [**Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program**](#)
 - [**MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings March 7, 14**](#)
 - [**U.S. Rep. Clark to keynote WEMO Conference in March**](#)
 - [**MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025**](#)
 - [**Administration announces opening of Community One Stop for Growth**](#)
 - [**Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7**](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The bronze sculpture called "Reach for Knowledge," by Nancy Schön, welcomes patrons at the entrance of the Wellesley Free Library on a sunny day this week.

Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

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Job Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

- [MMA Senior Executive and Director of Membership](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA & MIIA Executive Assistant](#)

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We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Technical Records Specialist, Library Branch Manager, Systems Engineer, Town Administrator, Town Planner, Treasurer/Collector, DPW Laborer and Accounting Assistant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA has joined Bluesky! Follow us there: [@mma.org](#).

In local happenings: Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick [reflected on her tenure](#) in The Needham Observer. Fitzpatrick, who is planning to retire in early July, cofounded Massachusetts Women Leading Government, a formal committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

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](#)!

[Supplemental road funding now available; Chapter 90 hearing set](#)

MassDOT announced that \$45

million in supplemental funding for road and bridge repair and construction is now available to communities. ...



President signs order calling for dismantling of Education Department

State and local officials, and the state's congressional delegation, are raising concerns about the potential implications of an executive order signed by the president. ...



Program awards \$500,000 for drought resiliency, water efficiency projects

The new grant program supports projects that promote climate resiliency by reducing indoor and outdoor water use, as well as improving water loss control programs. ...



Cyber resilience grant program opens

Massachusetts municipalities can

now apply for the
MassCyberCenter's Cyber Resilient
Massachusetts Grant program,
which provides funding for managed
detection and response services. ...



Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30

The first reports are due on June 30
under a new energy reporting
requirement for buildings larger than
20,000 square feet. ...



Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group

The Mass. Hydrography Framework
Committee is seeking municipal
leaders to participate in its work to
create “next generation hydrographic
spatial data.” ...



MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence

The MMA will host an introductory

webinar on artificial intelligence for municipalities on April 17. ...



MMA to host ‘Demystifying DEI’ webinar on May 6

The MMA will host a webinar, “Demystifying DEI,” on May 6 to provide clarity on the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion. ...



Administration announces ‘Energy Affordability Agenda’

At an event in Lowell on March 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced an “Energy Affordability Agenda” to identify and advance actions to lower energy bills for Massachusetts residents. ...



UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects

The Municipal Fellows program

supports municipalities with clean energy transition projects in conjunction with the state's Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition Initiative. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Are local government and school board meetings getting too long? Some in Fall River say limits needed](#) - Herald News

[Strapped for school funding, Valley schools eye lagging state aid](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

['Live, work, play': Is form-based code the recipe for Eastham's strategic plan](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Mayor Petty: Worcester schools threatened by 'heartbreaking' Trump bid to kill Education Department](#) - Telegram and Gazette

[New Bedford drafts new plan for dealing with disasters](#) - New Bedford Light

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Holyoke City Councillor Israel Rivera



What We're Reading

[Flipping the script on youth engagement](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Young people can be transformative partners to local government. Not only do they possess a font of fresh ideas, but also—because of all the years they have ahead of them—they are the group likely to benefit the most when those ideas are put into action. Yet youth are sometimes among the most challenging communities for leaders to include meaningfully in public problem solving, whether that's because they don't think their values are aligned with those of city hall, they don't trust that they'll be heard, or they're simply focused on other pursuits."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA and Constellation MunEnergy Spring Zoom webinar](#) - April 2

[Bridging the Knowledge Gap: Key Insights for Overseeing Local Assessing Operations webinar](#) - April 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference - May 3](#)

[Demystifying DEI webinar - May 6](#)

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MunEnergy program offers spring energy webinar on April 2](#)
- [MMA webinar to cover assessing on April 3](#)
- [MVP Program Action Grant applications due April 4](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)
- [Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
 - [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)
 - [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Riverwalk in Amesbury is a multi-use path along the Powwow River that connects downtown Amesbury to Carriagetown Marketplace. Photo by John Ouellette, MMA Communications Director.

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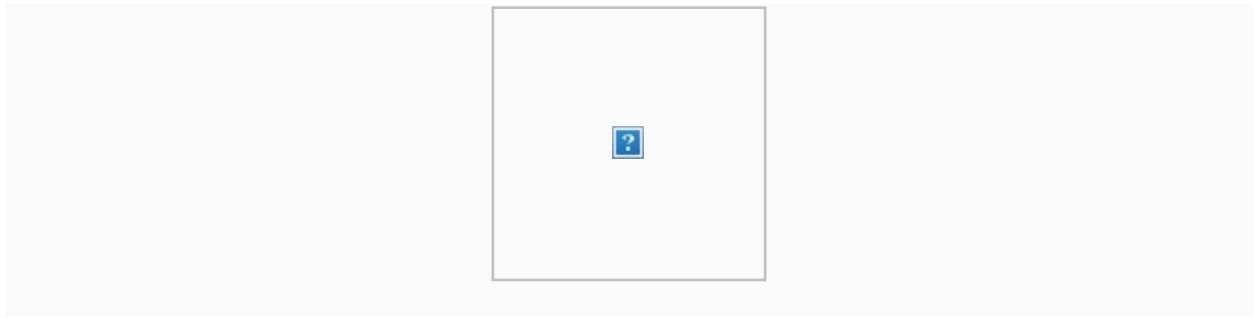


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It is Opening Day - Go Sox!

In local happenings: Deerfield is [piloting a child care program](#) during Annual Town Meeting on April 28. The program is a collaborative effort to make attendance at the meeting more accessible to parents.

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](#)!

[MMA outlines budget pressures at local aid hearing](#)

An MMA panel called for an increase of at least 3% for discretionary

municipal aid and an increase in Chapter 70 minimum new aid to address rising school costs. ...



MMA publishes April issue of The Beacon

The April Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



Tax-exempt municipal bonds a focus of federal advocacy

In Washington, D.C., an MMA delegation focused advocacy efforts on the continuation of the tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. ...



Gov. signs extension of remote and hybrid meeting allowances

Gov. Healey signed a bill to extend

authorizations for local boards and committees to hold public meetings remotely or in a hybrid format through June of 2027. ...



Trump administration targets \$106M in K-12 grant funding for Mass.

State and local officials are condemning federal moves to terminate \$106 million in education grant funding for Massachusetts. ...



Stakeholder sessions set on clean energy siting, permitting

Four stakeholder sessions will be held this spring regarding siting and permitting reforms prompted by a recent clean energy law. ...



Trump administration delays lead pipe replacement funds

State officials are strongly objecting

to a Trump administration decision to delay \$50 million in federal funding for the replacement of lead service lines in Massachusetts. ...



EOHLC issues model zoning for ADUs

The administration has published a model zoning and guidance document for municipalities to help them with the regulation of accessory dwelling units. ...



NLC covers federal issues during partnership meeting

The National League of Cities gave an update to the Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership. ...



U.S. Rep. Clark urges WEMO members to make voices heard

Municipal officials should be the

storytellers who explain the impacts of federal cutbacks that impact local services, U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark told women leaders on March 21 in Wrentham. ...



Women leaders discuss self-advocacy, AI, constructive criticism tips

Women Leading Government discussed timely topics during its fifth annual conference on March 6 in Wrentham. ...



Immigration and employment law

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources' annual spring program webinar on March 13 covered recent updates in immigration and employment law. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[It's budget time on Beacon Hill, and the MMA is working for you](#)

On April 1, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Joint Committee on Ways and Means, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On March 24, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Chatham installs alternative nesting platform for ospreys to prevent fires, outages and electrocutions](#) - Cape Cod Chronicle

[Reading's first mosque opens its doors and receives a warm welcome from the town](#) - GBH

[How Holyoke is fighting blight](#) - MassLive Media

[Nantucket launches "Digital Archive Project" to move land use documents online](#) - Nantucket Current

[Winchendon Schools chosen for cybersecurity pilot](#) - Athol Daily News

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Monson Finance Director/Town Accountant Jamie Farnum



What We're Reading

[A Comprehensive Guide for Local Leaders on Managing PFAS Waste](#) - National League of Cities

"The interventions to combat PFAS range from disposal and destruction to advanced filtration techniques. The brief explores various disposal and destruction options for managing PFAS-containing waste from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and landfills, including underground injection, thermal treatment (pyrolysis) and land application, while also highlighting emerging technologies. While these methods offer benefits such as low life cycle costs and a small footprint, they also present challenges, including environmental impacts related to disposal, increased complexity and higher maintenance requirements."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
- [Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group](#)
- [UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Memorial Hall in Milford was built in 1884 as a Civil War tribute and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. It is now home to the Milford Historical Commission, whose museum is open to visitors on Thursdays. Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 32 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, Health Director, Office Manager, Police Chief, Outreach Coordinator, Civil Engineer and Assistant Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Welcome to May.

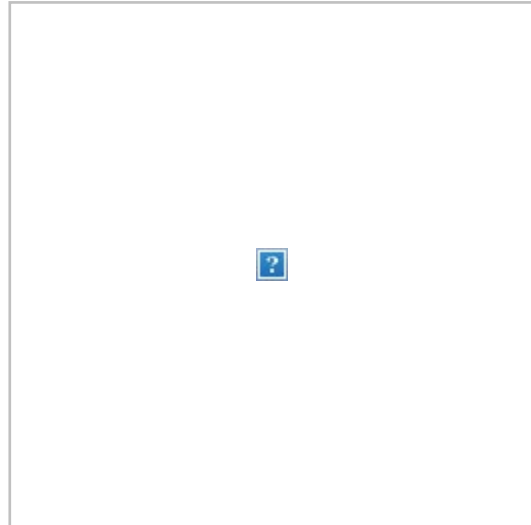
In local happenings: Spring often brings wildlife stories, and this year is no exception. A woodpecker in Rockport has made [national headlines for damaging vehicle windows](#), likely due to mating season behaviors.

In less destructive news, firefighters in [Longmeadow rescued two baby bald eagles](#) from a fallen nest. The protected birds will be rehabilitated until they can be released back into the wild.

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](#)!

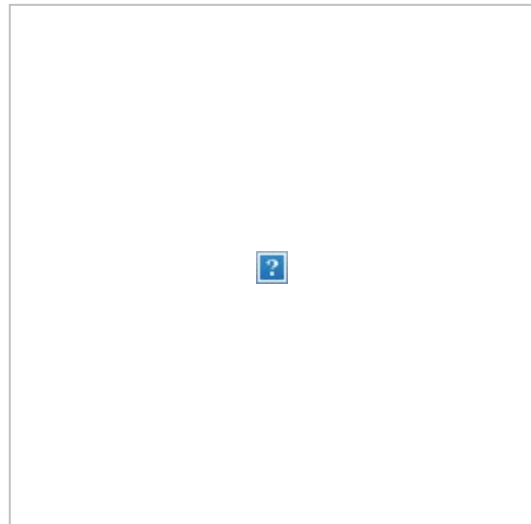
House OK's state budget for FY26

The House approved its state budget bill for fiscal 2026 with several important investments in schools and municipalities despite modest state revenue expectations. ...



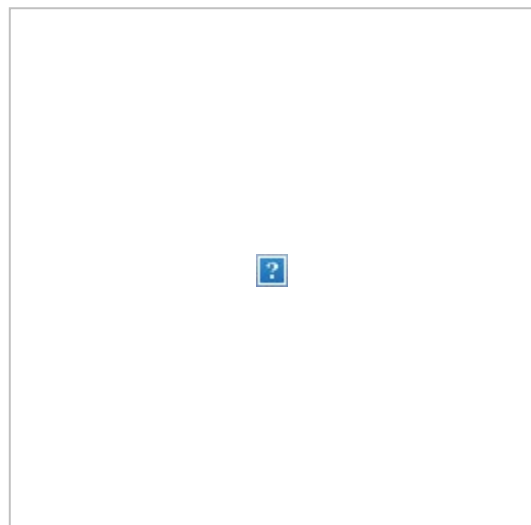
Senate releases surplus surtax supplemental budget

A Senate committee proposed a supplemental budget bill that leverages surplus surtax funds to designate \$613 million for education investments and \$670 million for transportation. ...



Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit in Worcester on May 8. ...



Extended Producer Responsibility Commission begins its work

A new Extended Producer Responsibility Commission, established by a clean energy law enacted last November, held its inaugural meeting on April 14 in Boston. ...



[MMA webinar discusses Office of the Veteran Advocate](#)

An MMA webinar on April 30 introduced the resources available to municipalities and veterans through the Office of the Veteran Advocate. ...



[MMHR, MMMA discuss 'psychological first aid' at joint meeting](#)

Psychological first aid was the focus of a joint meeting of Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources and the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association. ...



[MMHR to hold annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Human Resources association will hold its annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8 in Boylston. ...



Federal funds office to hold listening session May 7 in Springfield

Municipal and nonprofit leaders are invited to an information and listening session being held by the state's Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office on May 7 in Springfield. ...



Report: Cities, towns embrace 'green' recovery strategies

A UMass Amherst survey examines the post-pandemic recovery of Massachusetts cities and towns, highlighting progress and persistent challenges in rebuilding while advancing sustainability. ...



Program offers electrification advice for fleets

The Mass Fleet Advisor program is

offering free technical assistance to operators of medium- and heavy-duty truck fleets that want to explore electrification but don't qualify for utility fleet advisory services. ...



[Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)

The Automotive Career Development Center is offering training to help operators of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets better understand high-voltage systems and technician safety. ...



[MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)

The MassDEP's Electric Vehicle Incentive Program will fund level 1 and 2 charging station projects for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets, in addition to light-duty fleets. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Artificial intelligence is ready for us; are we ready for it?](#)

On May 1, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Milton votes 'yes' on \\$9.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override request](#) - Boston Globe

[Teen voting petition falls short for second year at Deerfield Town Meeting](#) - Greenfield Recorder

[Sandwich buys 88 acres of undeveloped land for future wastewater infrastructure needs](#) - Cape Cod Times

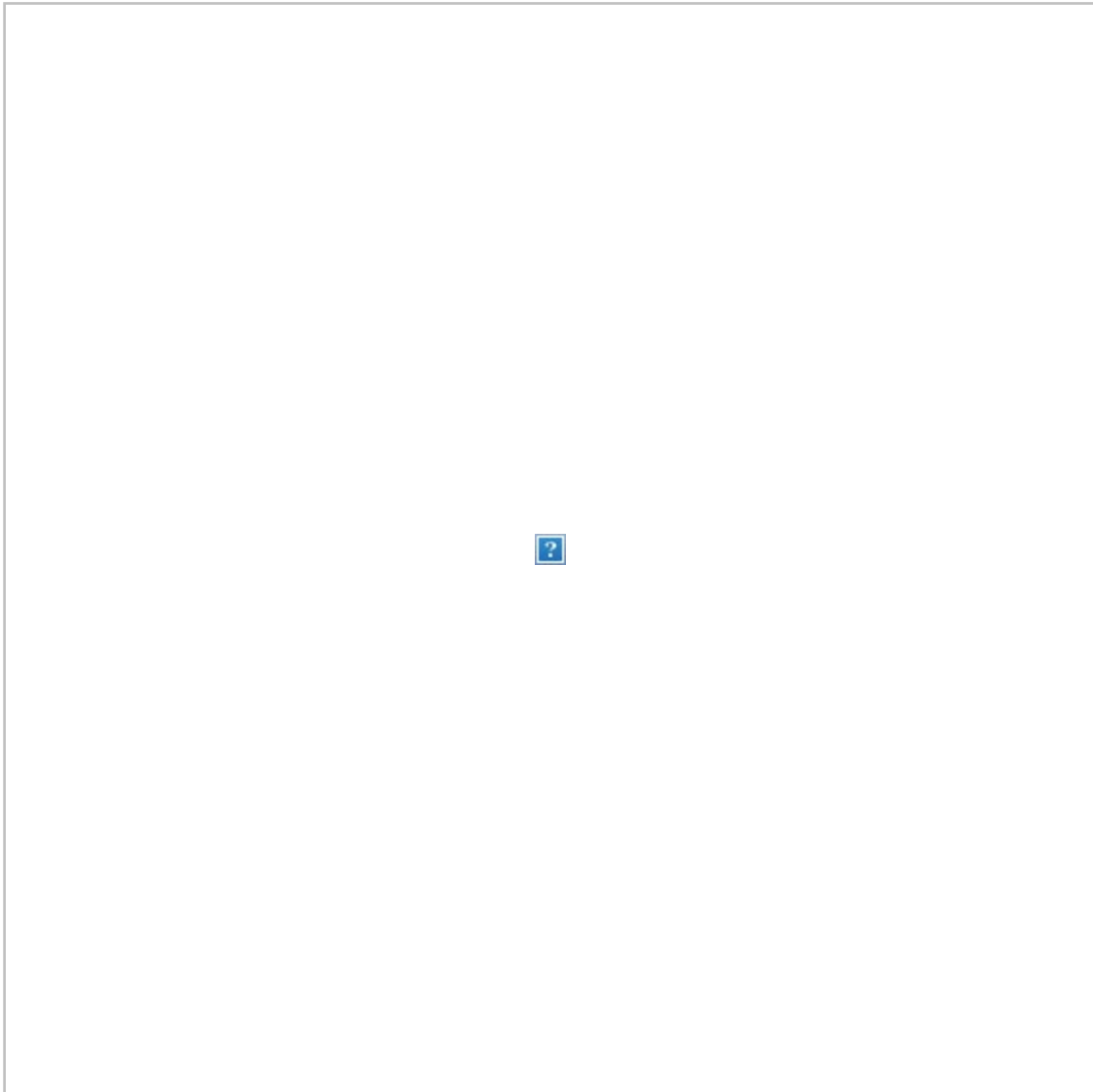
[Foxborough eyes second water treatment plant equipped to remove 'forever chemicals'](#) - The Sun Chronicle

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Bridgewater Town Councillor Mark Linde



What We're Reading

[Sharing data helps cities take anticipation to the next level](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Cities with robust data operations often aim to use that capacity to both

manage performance and anticipate emerging challenges. It's a pursuit that New York City helped pioneer as far back as 2010, when it began more systematically using predictive analytics to better spot nascent trends and fine-tune resource allocation accordingly. However, scaling these efforts citywide has often been challenging due to barriers in data sharing across any given city's agencies.

Now, as more cities enhance their data capabilities, many are also prioritizing breaking down these silos—building on the vision set by New York and other major cities over a decade ago: to share and integrate data to anticipate and prevent problems before they escalate. Whether that means protecting people from potential housing displacement or micro-targeting personalized support for youth who appear likely to miss school, here's how two cities—Charlotte, N.C. and Recife, Brazil—are using stronger internal collaboration to power data-driven anticipation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Mass. Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#)

- May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp](#) - May 8

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Spring Conference](#) - May 28-30

[Introduction to Developing Municipal Financial Policies webinar](#) - June 3

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 5

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - June 12

[Mass. Select Board Association Newly Elected Training](#) - June 13

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - June 26

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
 - [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
 - [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
 - [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
 - [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
 - [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
 - [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Jill Hai, a select board member in Lexington, for sharing this photo from the town's Massachusetts 250th anniversary celebrations. Dawn battles were reenacted at Lexington Green and Concord's North Bridge.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at **MMA & MIIA**

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 57 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Permitting and Engineering Manager, Health Inspector, Senior Clerk, Town Accountant, Building Commissioner, Administrative Coordinator and Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Porchfest season [kicks off this weekend](#) in Somerville.

In local happenings: Weston Town Manager Leon Gaumond Jr. has been recognized by the nonprofit Engaging Local Government Leaders as a [Top Influencer in Local Government](#), for his “openness and proactive attitude toward exploring innovative methods of engaging with the community.” Congrats, Leon!

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](#)!

[Senate budget committee's proposal would boost key local accounts](#)

The Senate Way and Means Committee has released a proposed state spending plan for fiscal 2026 with important investments in schools and municipalities. ...



Senate OK's supplemental budget bill

The Senate approved a supplemental budget bill that would primarily allocate surplus surtax funds from fiscal 2024. ...



250th battle commemorations were years in the making

When reenactors fired their muskets on Patriots' Day weekend to mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, they were participating in public events that were years in the making. ...



Community One Stop accepting applications May 5-June 4

Fiscal 2026 funding applications

through the state's Community One Stop for Growth portal must be filed between May 5 and June 4. ...



Culvert replacement grant funding available

The Division of Ecological Restoration is accepting applications for the Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program to assist with local culvert removal and replacement efforts. ...



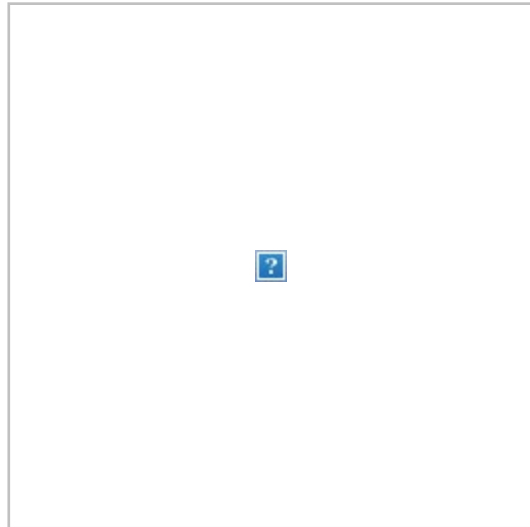
FEMA cancels \$90M in BRIC aid for Mass.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has cancelled the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program for fiscal 2024. ...



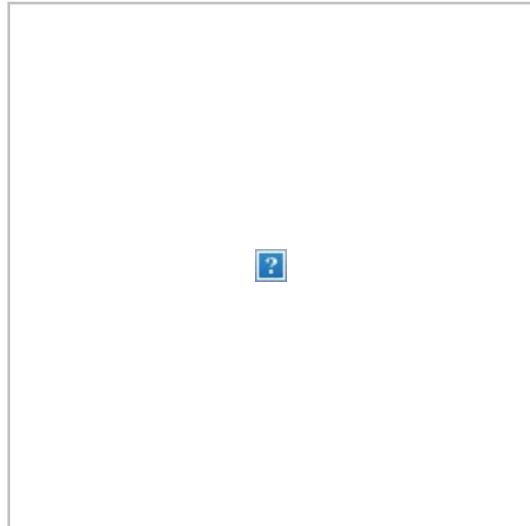
MSA to hold free training for newly elected select board members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a free training for newly elected select board members on Friday, June 13, in Devens. ...



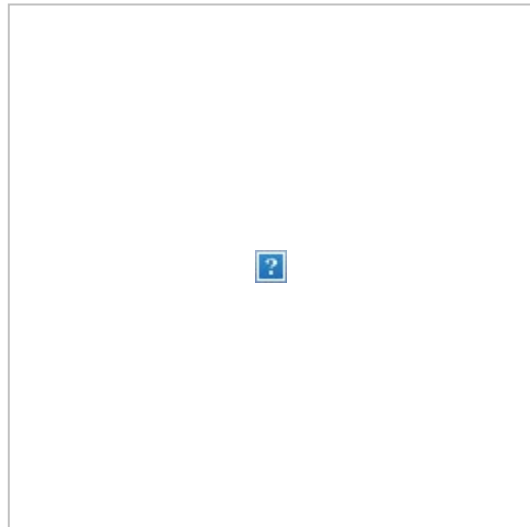
[MMA publishes May issue of The Beacon](#)

The May issue of The Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, as well as grant opportunities and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Somerville installs outdoor kiosk for used needles](#)

In a city park, Somerville has installed an outdoor collection kiosk for needles and other “sharps” — a resource believed to be the first of its kind in the country. ...



[Whitlock Scholarship applications sought](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Management Association is accepting applications for its Gerry Whitlock Scholarship for students enrolled in a masters in public administration program. ...



Clean Water Trust issues nearly \$40 million in loans, grants

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees on April 2 approved \$39.7 million in new low-interest loans and grants. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[Amherst councilors float idea of new 'Four Towns' task force to develop long-term school funding strategy](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[A new project is helping Chelsea residents better understand their air quality](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[The challenges of climate change: Weather events wreak havoc in Merrimack Valley, North Shore](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Cambridge's Community Assistance Response and Engagement \(CARE\) Team releases first impact report](#) - Wicked Local

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Middleton Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Jackie Bresnahan

What We're Reading

[Revolutionizing Crisis Intervention](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The need for mobile crisis response teams in the United States has become increasingly apparent. High-profile incidents across the United States underscore the inadequacy of traditional law enforcement responses to behavioral health crises. Such crises often involve disruptions in mental or emotional stability requiring immediate intervention to prevent severe health deterioration. In the United States, the numbers are staggering:

1. One in five adults experiences a mental illness during their lifetime.
2. Over 12 million people have serious thoughts of suicide annually.
3. Nearly a quarter of those shot by police from 2015 to 2020 had a mental health condition.
4. Two million individuals with serious mental illnesses are incarcerated annually.

These figures highlight the urgent need for community-based mobile crisis response teams that address behavioral health emergencies without relying solely on police intervention. Behavioral health incidents are complex scenarios that require a multi-disciplinary approach in order to achieve a measure of resolution."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Spring Conference](#) - May 28-30

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[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - June 26

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

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- [Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)
- [MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)
- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
- [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
- [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Samantha Giffen, communications manager in Amherst, for sharing this photo from the town's Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative on April 18. The photo shows two lanterns, provided by Rep. Mindy Domb, shining in a window at Amherst Town Hall.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Local Inspector, Town Engineer, Utility Director, Outreach Coordinator, Chief of Police, Assistant Town Planner and Conservation Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: This weekend, the [Framingham History Center is hosting](#) “Stitching Revolution in Massachusetts: Quilting, Lectures and Dancing,” highlighting the role of Massachusetts in the American Revolution.

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, July 3.

[Healey signs surplus surtax bill](#)

[with investments for cities, towns](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has signed a \$1.3 billion supplemental budget bill to allocate surplus Fair Share surtax revenue for investments in education and transportation. ...



[Gov. Healey files \\$2.9B, 5-year environmental bond bill](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration joined partners, advocates and municipal officials in Braintree to announce the filing of a \$2.9 billion, five-year environmental bond bill, called the Mass Ready Act. ...



[Lawsuit challenges federal halt of grant funding to states](#)

A coalition of 22 state attorneys general has filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's use of a provision in federal regulations to stop billions in federal grant funding. ...



[MMHR discusses Medicare, elects FY26 officers and board members](#)

At its Annual Meeting in Danvers,

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources focused on strategies for helping employees navigate the Medicare system. ...



Federal judge blocks immigration enforcement conditions on transportation funding

A U.S. District Court has issued an injunction preventing the federal government from making immigration enforcement a condition for receipt of transportation funding. ...



MMA webinar discusses mental health in the workplace for staff

An MMA webinar discussed understanding and supporting mental health in the workplace. ...



MMA to host webinar on private roads

An MMA webinar on July 15 will

provide an overview of private roads, with examples of local practices and insights from an experienced attorney. ...



[NLC awards grant to Chelsea for economic mobility program](#)

The National League of Cities has awarded a \$20,000 grant to the city of Chelsea as part of its 2025 Advancing Economic Mobility Rapid Grant program. ...



[AGs issue guidance affirming legality of environmental justice initiatives](#)

A coalition of 13 state attorneys general, including Andrea Joy Campbell of Massachusetts, has issued guidance affirming the “necessity and legality” of environmental justice initiatives. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Utilities Committee to support legislation protecting municipal authority in public rights of way and expediting double pole removal](#)

On June 18, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Burlington Select Board demands inspection of ICE facility amid reports of poor conditions](#) - Lowell Sun

[Eastham approves \\$170 million wastewater, sewer plans](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Nantucket has a PFAS problem in the drinking water. It's Environmental Contamination Administrator Andrew Shapero's job to solve it](#) - Boston Globe

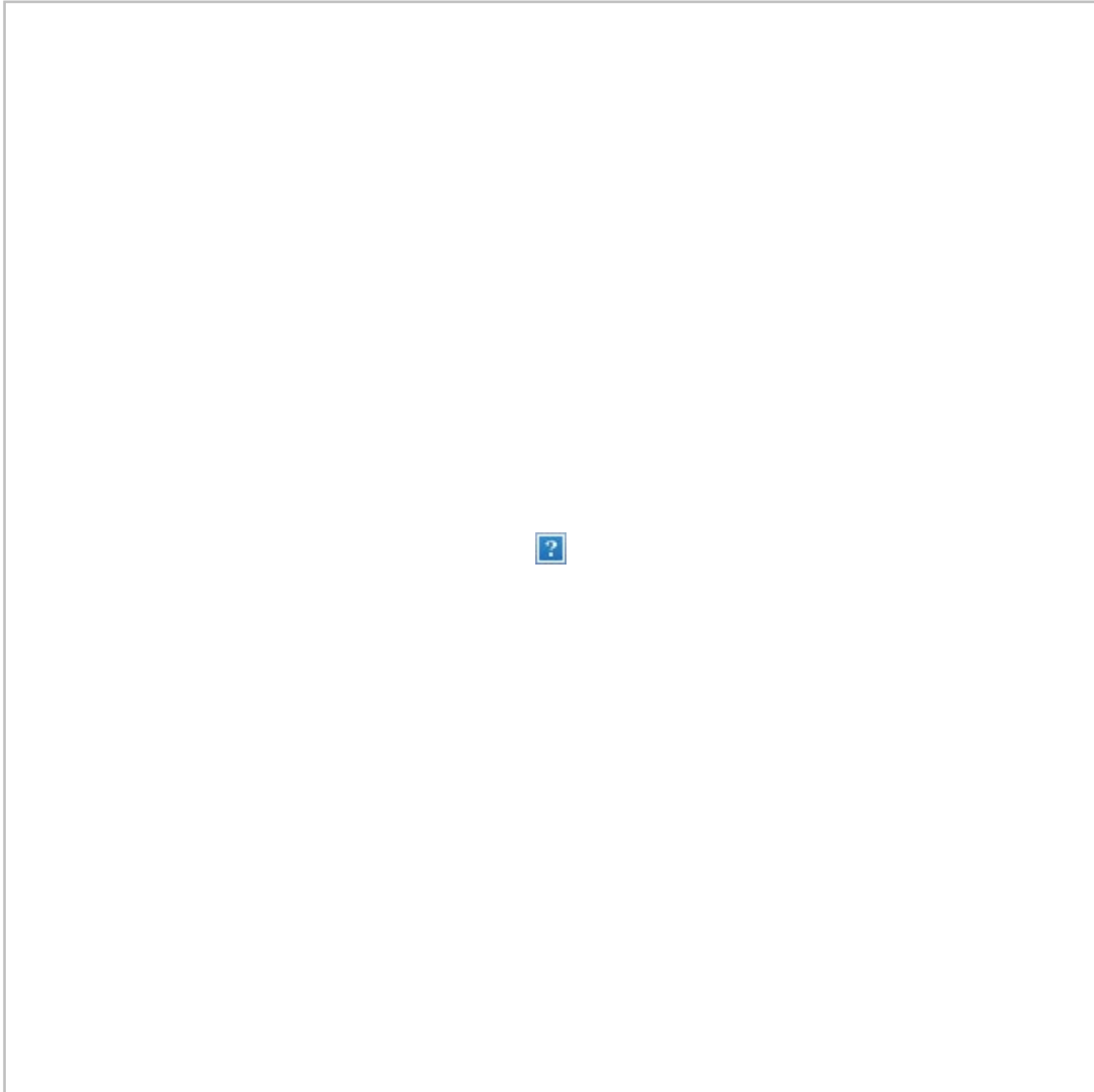
[Orange takes ownership of old cereal factory lot](#) - Greenfield Recorder

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Barnstable Government Access Station Manager Sarah Beal-Fletcher



What We're Reading

[What City Leaders Need to Know About the Senate's Budget Reconciliation Bill](#) - National League of Cities

"The Senate's version of the "One Big, Beautiful Bill" has arrived, with major

implications for local governments. While it mirrors several provisions in the House-passed bill (H.R. 1), it also includes key differences, particularly around Medicaid. The path to passage in the Senate is not straightforward, with negotiations still ongoing on Medicaid, clean energy tax credits and public lands. As the House and Senate move toward negotiations on a final package, local leaders should understand how the Senate's proposal could shape city budgets, services and infrastructure planning."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
- [State sets office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [Electric grid council to hold in-person event on July 17](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxEd on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)

- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Sean Dugan, assistant town administrator in Easton, for sharing this photo from the town's Flag Day ceremony. Dozens of volunteers unfurled several flags spanning the football field at Oliver Ames High School during the event, which was hosted by Easton's Tricentennial Committee as part of a yearlong celebration of the town's 300th anniversary.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for

possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects Manager, DPW Foreman, Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Comptroller, Conservation Agent and Town Planner. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



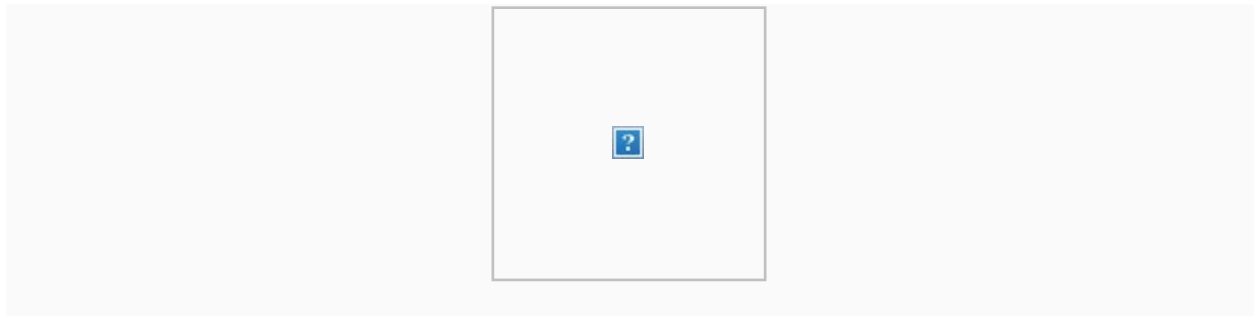
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Communities across the state will be observing the Fourth of July with public events tomorrow and this weekend. We'd love to highlight your parades and gatherings in the Weekly Review! Send your photos to photos@mma.org.

In local happenings: In a [ceremony last month](#), the Danvers Rail Trail was dedicated in memory of former longtime Town Manager Wayne Marquis. Marquis, who died in 2022, served as town manager from 1979 to 2014.

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

[Legislature sends FY26 state budget to governor](#)

The Legislature has enacted a \$61 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2026, an increase of \$3.3 billion over fiscal 2025. ...



[MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)

The MMA this week unveiled new features for its popular Municipal Career Opportunities service and a new, streamlined classified ad rate structure. ...



[Mass. mayors and officials issue statement on ICE actions in communities](#)

Leaders from 13 cities and one town issued a joint statement calling on the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate the activity of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ...

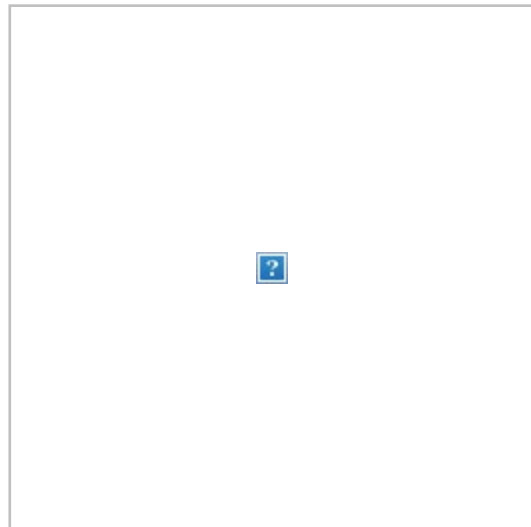


[MA250 grant program expands to support Revolutionary storytelling](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

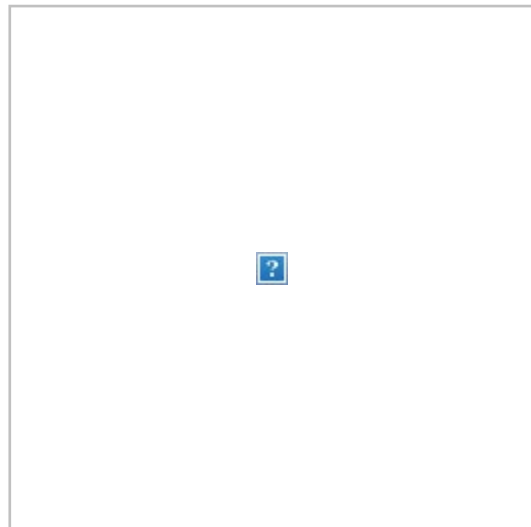
and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism announced a second round of funding through the Massachusetts 250 Grant Program.

...



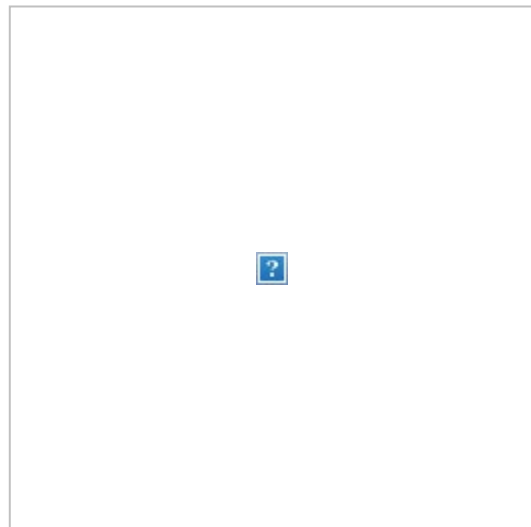
[MSA hosts annual training for newly elected select board members](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association held its annual free training for newly elected members in Devens. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[MMA urges Veterans Committee to support bills to streamline veterans benefits](#)

On June 30, Testimony

[MMA urges Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support bottle bill expansion](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[In testimony to Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, MMA expresses strong support for series of bills that would increase municipal efficiency and effectiveness](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA offers feedback and concerns on a number of water-related bills before Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#)

On June 27, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Local communities taking varied approach to spending opioid settlement money](#)

- The Sun Chronicle

[Many of the more than 58,000 laid-off federal workers are looking to move to Boston](#) - Boston Globe

[Bullet hole by bullet hole, an Arlington house shows the struggle for America's independence](#) - WBUR

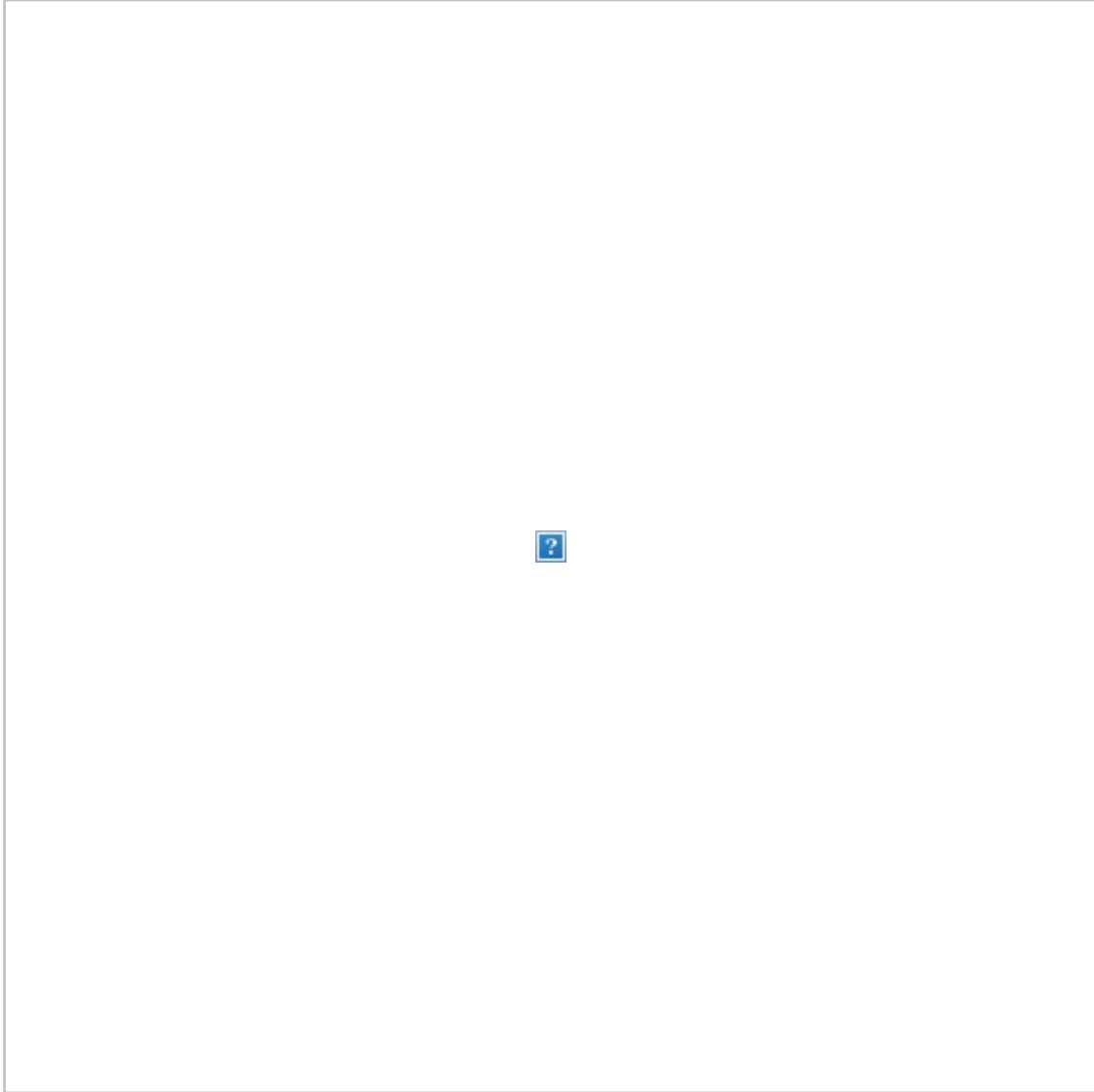
[Peabody Mayor Bettencourt shares 4 new anti-bullying initiatives for Peabody schools](#) - Salem News

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Norfolk Select Board Member Anita Mecklenburg



What We're Reading

[5 summer reads for urban innovators](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"If there are two plot lines that resonate with every local leader, they are that making government work well is a nonstop challenge and that the best ideas often come from the outside. This collection of books reflects both realities by

spotlighting stories and strategies that demonstrate how to make cities more effective and how to better connect them to what residents need. From an Alabama mayor's moving story about reimagining government in his hometown to lessons on improving public services from the United Kingdom, these works offer something to any city innovator looking to raise their game."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar on private roads](#)
- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
- [State sets office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [Electric grid council to hold in-person event on July 17](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxEd on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Stacy Kilb, sustainability engagement coordinator in Salem, for sharing this photo from Volt & Vibe: An Eco-Rider Showcase, an e-bike and personal electric vehicle expo hosted by the city at Salem State University on June 29.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 38 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Health Agent, Facilities Superintendent, Office Manager, Assistant City Clerk, HVAC Technician and Town Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The town of [Stow will temporarily rename itself “Dunkin”](#) for the day on July 24 to celebrate the opening of a new location. The town has been without a Dunkin' since 2022.

In local happenings: The [38th annual Lowell Folk Festival](#) kicks off on July 25. The free festival celebrates traditional music and arts, and features numerous food vendors, dance spaces and family-friendly areas.

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](#)!

[Connect 351 planning underway at MMA](#)

The MMA staff is hard at work planning the MMA's annual conference, which will return to Boston's Seaport District, at the newly renamed Menino Convention and Exhibition Center, on Jan. 22 through 24. ...



[MMA publishes Summer issue of The Beacon](#)

The Summer Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, grant opportunities, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Gov. Healey's FY26 supplemental budget seeks expanded 9C authority](#)

As Gov. Healey signed the fiscal 2026 state budget into law on July 4, and vetoed \$130 million in spending, she also filed a fiscal 2026 supplemental budget bill. ...



[State holds office hours to discuss ADUs](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is holding office hours to support municipal planners and building officials in understanding the state's new accessory dwelling unit law and regulations. ...



[Leaving Needham, Fitzpatrick says now's 'best time ever' to serve](#)

State and local officials celebrated longtime Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick's retirement after 35 years with the town. ...



['Andover At Work' exhibit focuses on municipal staff](#)

Photographer David Whitney's "Andover at Work" exhibit is the culmination of a year-long volunteer project highlighting the daily work of municipal employees in Andover. ...



[MMA webinar discusses private roadway issues](#)

An MMA webinar on July 15 gave an

overview of private roadways and related issues, providing information municipal officials need to navigate community conversations. ...



DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources is studying the potential for load management tools like demand flexibility, energy efficiency, and virtual power plants. ...



Green School Works program offers technical assistance

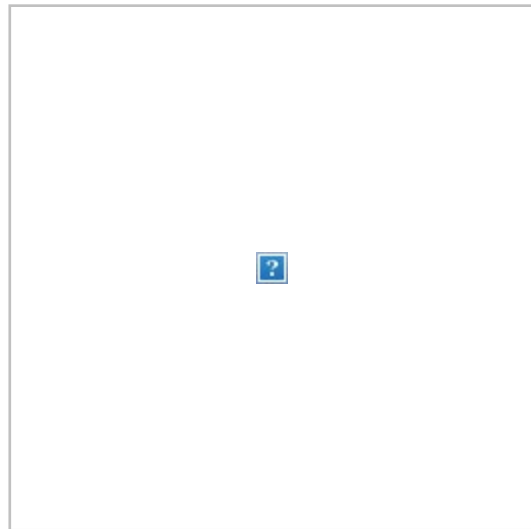
The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting requests for technical assistance through the Green School Works program to decarbonize the state's public schools. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[In face of federal pressures, protecting local funding is critical](#)

On July 16, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges legislators to reject proposal to expand emergency budget-cutting authority under Section 9C](#)

On July 14, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Republic Services sees mounting frustration from towns, officials amid worker strike](#) - Boston Globe

[Pittsfield expands list of city-run public restrooms, including the only 24/7 option](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Marlborough Police have something to offer kids in crisis situations. Here's how it works](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Western Mass. communities brace for weather, climate effects with hazard plans](#) - MassLive Media

[Andover Bookstore is the oldest in the country. What to expect when you visit](#) - Wicked Local

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Methuen City Councillor Neily Soto



What We're Reading

[Chelsea named 2025 All-America city for sustainability projects](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

"Sustainability was this year's theme for the All-America city awards, given annually by the National Civic League. But environmental awareness is nothing new for Chelsea, one of 10 US communities recognized by the organization on June 29 for their "transformative, community-driven efforts to strengthen environmental sustainability and their civic infrastructure."

"Chelsea has been doing this work before this work was catchy," said City Manager Fidel Maltez, who traveled to Denver last month for the awards ceremony.

Many communities have come to value sustainable practices like recycling or increasing green space. But Chelsea's commitment to sustainability was born from years of environmental injustice. The densely populated city of 40,000 residents just north of Boston has long had to contend with a litany of environmental hazards – and the public health problems they bring."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
 - [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
 - [MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)
 - [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
 - [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
 - [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Christopher Holt, human resources administrative assistant in Lakeville, for sharing this photo of the old Lakeville Town Hall, built in 1856.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator](#)

[Instructor](#)

- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Conservation Planner, Director of Elder Affairs, Assessor's Clerk, Senior Town Planner, Town Accountant, Communications Officer and Assistant Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: The city of Lynn has [officially opened Harbor Park](#), a new 30-acre public space along the waterfront that offers walking paths, recreation areas and an outdoor amphitheater.

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](#)!

[House passes transportation bond bill with \\$300M for Ch. 90](#)

The House has passed a transportation bond bill that would

authorize \$300 million for the Chapter 90 road and bridge program for the upcoming year. ...



MassDOT's LEAP program seeks to jump-start local infrastructure

A program launched by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation seeks to help municipal officials jump-start infrastructure projects, particularly in rural and underserved areas. ...



MMA to host Aug. 20 webinar on crisis communications

An MMA webinar on Aug. 20 will focus on crisis communications and the importance of consistent messaging when cities and towns face unexpected challenges. ...



MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24

The MMA and its partners at

Constellation will hold a free presentation and conversation via Zoom on Sept. 24 to cover two energy topics. ...



MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30

The MMA will hold a half-day municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept 30 in Wrentham. ...



MMLA to hold program on code enforcement on Aug. 7

Effective and efficient code enforcement will be the focus of a Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association half-day program on Aug. 7 in Sturbridge. ...



Malloy joins managers' Senior Advisor Program

Retired manager James Malloy is

available as a senior advisor to other managers and administrators through a partnership between the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and the International City/County Management Association. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Lenox 'tourist tax' brings in \\$4.5 million for the town as summer season revs up](#)
- Berkshire Eagle

[Hadley weighs removal of three dams](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Western Mass. cities seeking public input on how to spend opioid settlement money](#) - GBH

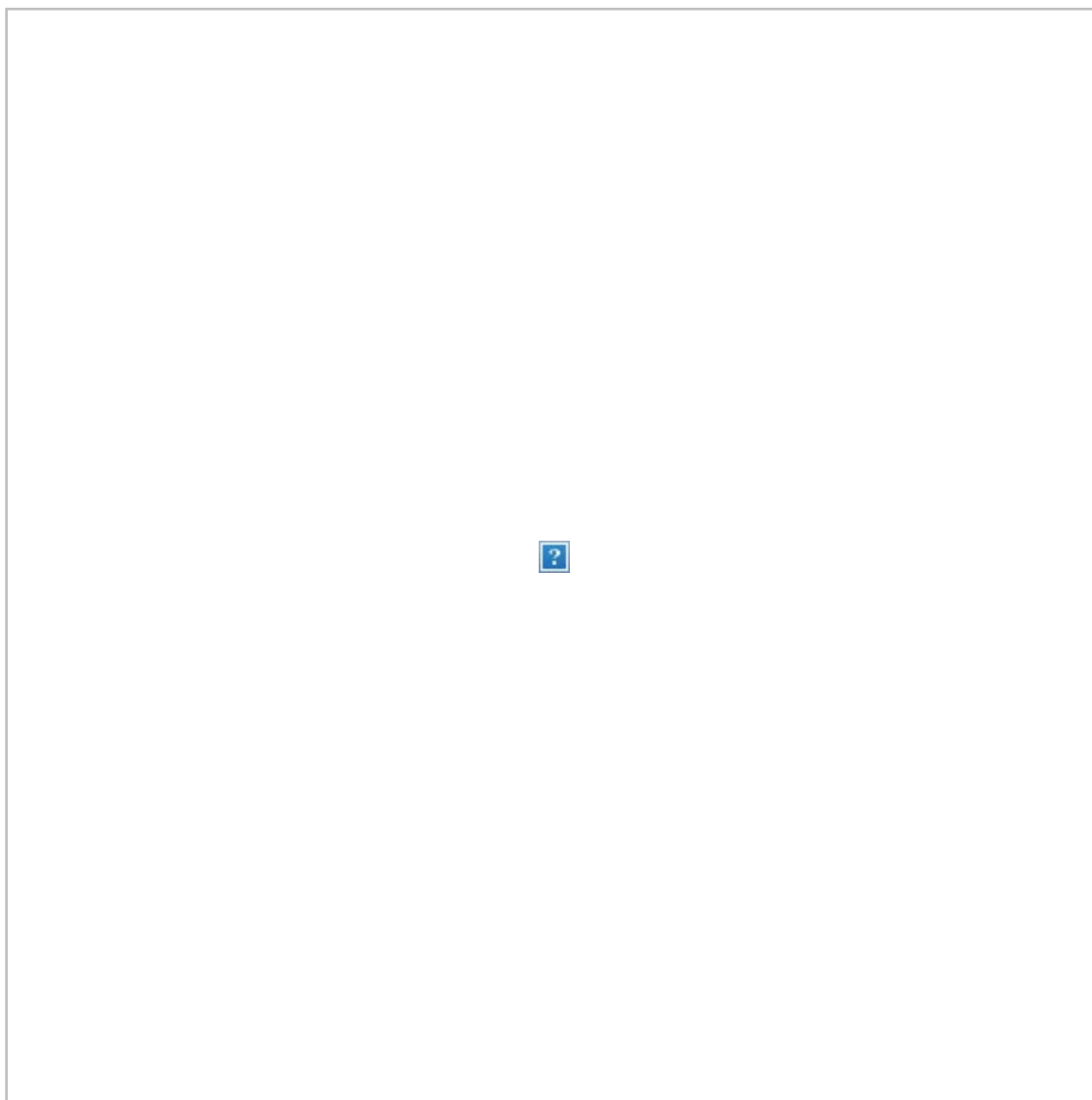
[City shaper: Kolofos honored for 65 years of service to Lawrence](#) - Eagle Tribune

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#WhyIServe

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Fitchburg City Councillor Sally Cragin



What We're Reading

[Food \(Insecurity\) for Thought: In Fresno, California, brownfield redevelopment and local partnerships have generated significant community and climate benefits](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The U.S. food supply is a study in inefficiency, inequity, and contradictions. Americans waste an estimated 30–40% of the country's food, and although much of it is safe and edible, that food ends up in landfills as 22–24% of municipal solid waste. There it becomes a potent source of methane, a greenhouse gas with four times the warming potential of carbon dioxide. At the same time, one in seven Americans, or 47 million people, including 14 million children, experienced food insecurity in 2023. This marked a 6% increase from 2022, and the highest level recorded since 2014.

Located in California's Central Valley, which produces 25% of the nation's food supply, Fresno County is the third hungriest county in the United States. In Fresno, nonprofits like Fresno Metropolitan Ministry (Metro) help feed hungry people by running just-in-time rescue operations that glean surplus food from institutions and retail outlets. It's an effective strategy, but not a simple one. As Metro's Executive Director Emogene Nelson describes, "Rescuing food involves more than just picking it up. It requires storage, transportation, timing, and trust. If one link in the chain breaks, the entire system is disrupted. Behind every pound of food saved is a mountain of invisible labor."

To streamline and expand their food rescue operations, Metro teamed up with St. Rest Baptist Church (SRBC) to redevelop a vacant and environmentally contaminated former meatpacking warehouse into the St. Rest + Food to Share Hub. The Hub, which opened in May 2024, started with a brownfield—land that is frequently vacant, underutilized, or abandoned, and may be contaminated. Metro and SRBC worked with the city of Fresno to leverage multiple federal funding sources that addressed environmental contamination and cleared the way for redevelopment. Their story exemplifies the power of partnerships to build social resilience and contribute to a sense of place, especially in resource-scarce settings."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Foundations of Crisis Communications webinar](#) - Aug. 20

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

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Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

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- [DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction](#)
- [Green School Works program offers technical assistance](#)
- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
- [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Ralph Waldo Emerson House in Concord is open for guided tours for the season. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources,

downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

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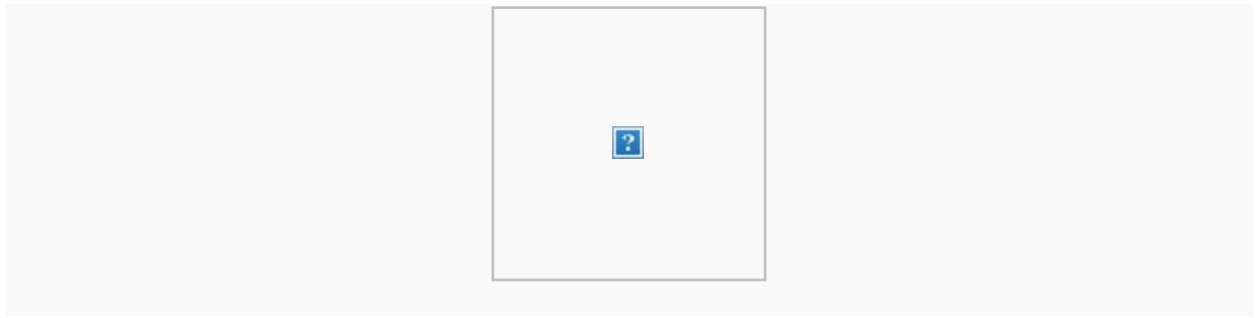
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA will host the first of four [fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#) on Sept. 26 in Lee.

In local happenings: The Big E kicks off in West Springfield tomorrow, featuring [17 days of food, rides, music and fun](#)! The fair welcomed more than 1.6 million people last year and is celebrating its 109th year.

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](#)!

[Two grant programs launched to support local efforts on federal funding](#)

The administration has launched grant programs to advance local infrastructure and economic development projects and bring more federal dollars into the state. ...



[Gov. Healey unveils plan to cut environmental rules to fast-track housing](#)

The plan would cut environmental regulations in order to expedite housing production in Massachusetts and reduce costs. ...



[MMA offers municipal guide to inclusive holidays, recognition days](#)

Cities and towns can determine additional days that they include as holidays, during which no business is conducted. ...



[MMA survey seeks feedback on Connect 351 experience and needs](#)

We're asking members to respond to a brief survey by Sept. 18 to help us make the Connect 351 experience more meaningful and enjoyable. ...



[Stormwater MS4 grant program applications due Oct. 3](#)

Applications are available for the Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on Workplace Equity Act](#)

The MMA hosted a webinar about the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, enacted in 2024. ...



[MMA to hold Health Care Costs Forum on Sept. 30](#)

The MMA will hold a half-day

municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept. 30 in Wrentham. ...



State awards \$10.9 million for dams and coastal infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration has announced nearly \$11 million in grant funding to support the repair or removal of aging dams, levees and coastal infrastructure. ...



MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston

Climate Beacon, New England's

premier climate solutions conference, will be held on Oct. 22-24 in Boston. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In Advocacy

[MMA joins Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association in providing comments to CCC on municipal implications of draft social consumption regulations](#)

On Sept. 8, Testimony

Planning for Connect 351 in



January is underway! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video!](#)



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Cassandra Madison](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[How can Hopedale attract a buyer for Town Hall? What's being discussed](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Meet Somerville's 'rat czar.' He leads the battle against rodents](#) - Boston Globe

[Holyoke seeks public input on how to spend \\$1M opioid settlement funds](#) - New England Public Media

[Five tornadoes confirmed in the Worcester area and Stow, National Weather Service says](#) - Boston Globe

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#WhyIServe

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Northeastern University students Jonathan Oubenslimane, left, and Vamini Jain

What We're Reading

[3 AI roadblocks—and how to overcome them](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Evidence of uneven AI adoption in the private sector grows by the day, with executives worried about falling behind more tech-savvy competitors. But the stakes are different, and considerably higher, in government. For local leaders, AI isn't about winning a race. It's about unlocking new problem-solving capacity to deliver better services and meet pressing resident needs.

Even so, city governments face real barriers to further adoption, including persistent concerns about accuracy and privacy, procurement hurdles, and too

little space for civil-servant experimentation. The good news? Innovative leaders are already showing how to overcome these obstacles. And, in doing so, they're reaping insights of use to others aiming to do the same."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Support from the Red Cross webinar](#) - Sept. 16

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[From Resources to Relationships: Why Councils on Aging Matter webinar](#) - Sept. 25

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Lee](#) - Sept. 26

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Athol & Middleborough](#) - Oct. 3

[Massachusetts Select Board Association fall conference](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Boot Camp](#) - Oct. 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Chelmsford](#) - Oct. 17

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 18-19 in Springfield](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar with Mass. Councils on Aging Sept. 25](#)
 - [Public Works Expo is Sept. 17 and 18 in Marlborough](#)
 - [Green Building Council to hold Local Government Leadership Summit](#)
 - [MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 17](#)
 - [MARPA and DLS Conference is Oct. 7](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar with Red Cross Sept. 16](#)
 - [Town Forest Conference is Oct. 4](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars](#)
 - [Mass. Digital Government Summit to be held on Sept. 18](#)
 - [MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24](#)
 - [MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





The Morse-Kelley Pollinator Habitat Garden in Somerville is a pollinator-friendly pocket park created with Community Preservation Act funds. Other pollinator-friendly spaces are located throughout the city as part of broader pollinator initiatives. Photo by Meredith Gabriliska, MMA Digital Communications Manager.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Treasurer/Collector, Public Safety Dispatchers, Outreach Coordinator, Paramedic, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Municipal Hearing Officer and Grants Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

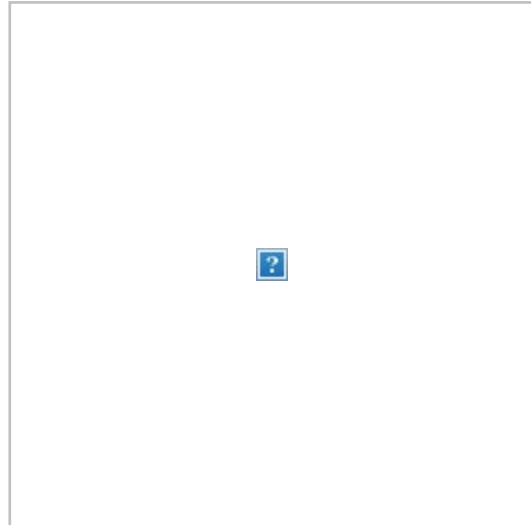
In local happenings: Cambridge and Boston are expecting close to 400,000 spectators over the course of the weekend for the [Head of the Charles Regatta](#). The three-day rowing event features local music and food vendors and family-friendly activities, in addition to cheering on the athletes from nearly 30 countries competing in 74 events.

Send us photos from your community's seasonal celebrations to be featured in a future edition of the Weekly Review!

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](#)!

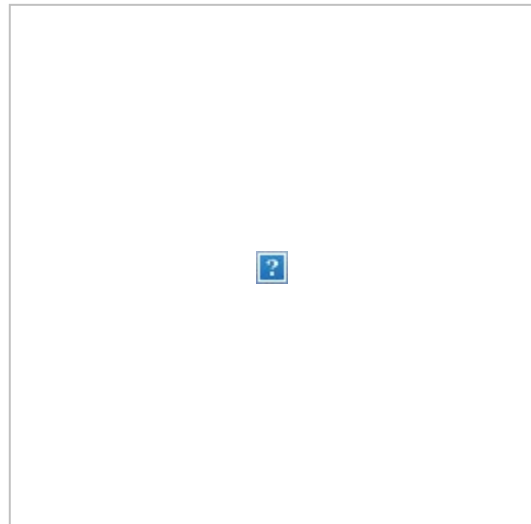
**[Input sought on draft model
bylaws for solar, battery systems](#)**

The Department of Energy Resources is developing model bylaws for photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems to serve as a resource to municipalities. ...



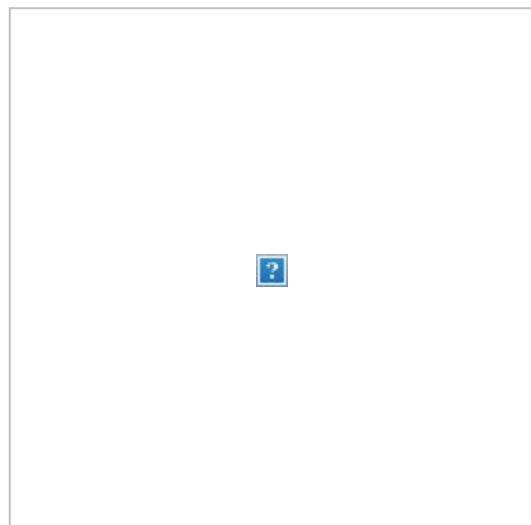
**[Grants opened for drought
resiliency, water efficiency
projects](#)**

The state has opened the second round of a grant program for projects that support climate resiliency through reduced water usage and improved water loss control. ...



**[MSBA to hold roundtable on ballot
questions Nov. 20](#)**

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is hosting a roundtable discussion via Zoom on Nov. 20 on the topic of local ballot question rules. ...



**[MMA webinar addresses
cybersecurity for municipalities](#)**

The MMA hosted a webinar on Oct. 15 on the minimum cybersecurity goals for municipalities. ...



[MMA-Suffolk kick off certificate programs](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University kicked off two Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs in September, in Barnstable and Winchester. ...



[Pittsfield to begin ecological restoration project in park](#)

A new phase in the cleanup and restoration of the Housatonic River is set to begin this fall, with ecological restoration in Kirvin Park, an active recreation area in the city of Pittsfield. ...



[Grant supports military base redevelopment in Weymouth](#)

State and local officials hope that a

\$32.4 million grant that Weymouth received this summer will help remove longstanding obstacles to the redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. ...



[What to know about seasonal affective disorder](#)

For some people, the significant loss of daylight that comes with the fall season can worsen their mood, sap energy, and impair concentration due to what's known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. ...



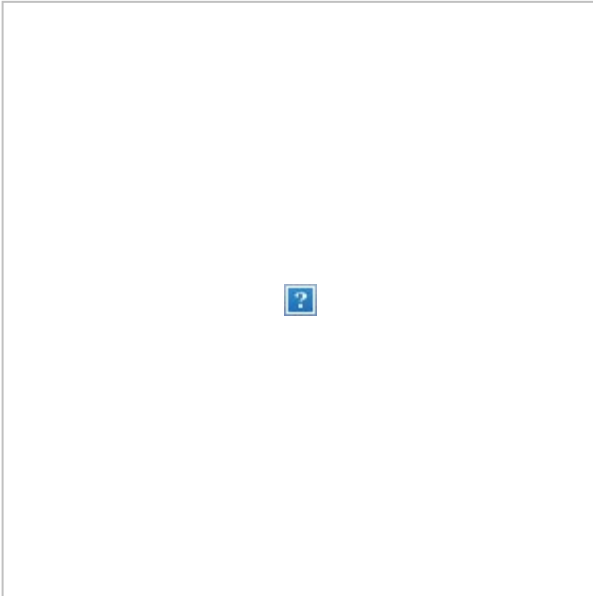
[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...

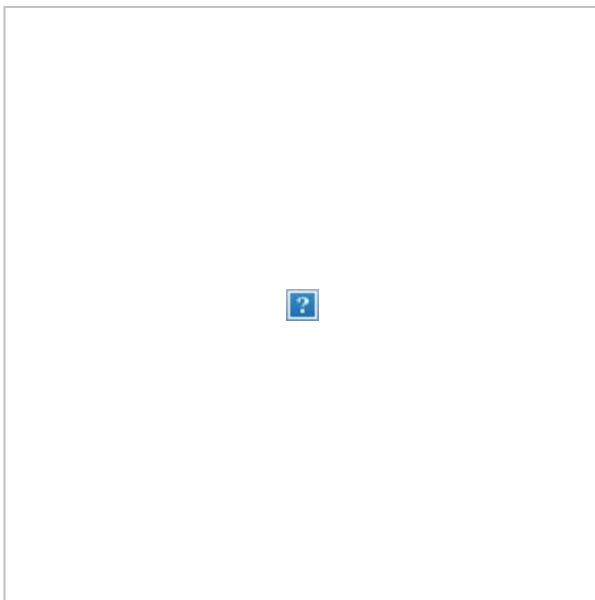


[A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures](#)

Published Oct. 9, The MMA and The Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University



[Register now](#) for Connect 351 in January! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video](#)!



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

['60 Minutes' reports on Chinese hacking of a Massachusetts town's utility network](#) - Boston Dot Com

[Hadley officials to discuss looming layoffs; fire Department facing cuts after failed override](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Methuen housing plan highlights growing senior population](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Taller, and made of timber, a new way to build affordable housing could soon rise in Cambridge](#) - Boston Globe

[Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo 'On the Record' about Halloween tourism, local challenges](#) - WCVB

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

What We're Reading

[Applying a new lens on city storytelling](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Anybody passing through the concourse level of Philadelphia's Municipal Services Building to secure a business license or pay a water bill has probably noticed them: photographs of office windows looking out at skyscrapers, parking lots, thoroughfares. Each of them presents a different perspective of the city from within a civil servant's workplace, and they are interspersed with quotes from city employees describing what it means to them to deliver for residents every day.

Capturing people's attention is one of the first steps in successful storytelling. And, in today's fast-paced and fragmented media space, newsletters, press releases, and Facebook posts are rarely enough for city leaders looking to

connect with residents. That's what makes this effort in Philadelphia stand out. The work of Emilio Martínez Poppe, himself a city employee in New York City, the project powerfully conveys the determination and value of the people who patrol the streets, maintain the parks, and respond to resident complaints. And, in doing so, it offers a model for how cities can be more ambitious, more experimental and, ultimately, more effective in their outreach.

By thinking outside the box, Philadelphia—whose Mayor Cherelle Parker is a participant in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative—is offering lessons to local leaders everywhere as they seek to build trust, improve morale, and show that their city is ready to deliver."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[Navigating Student Debt with Savi webinar](#) - Oct. 22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Fall Mentorship Session](#) - Oct. 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 23

[Unlock MassDOT Funding for your Municipality webinar](#) - Nov. 6

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - Nov. 13

[Planning and Partnering for Impact: Best Practices for Municipal Opioid Settlement Funds webinar](#) - Nov. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 20-21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

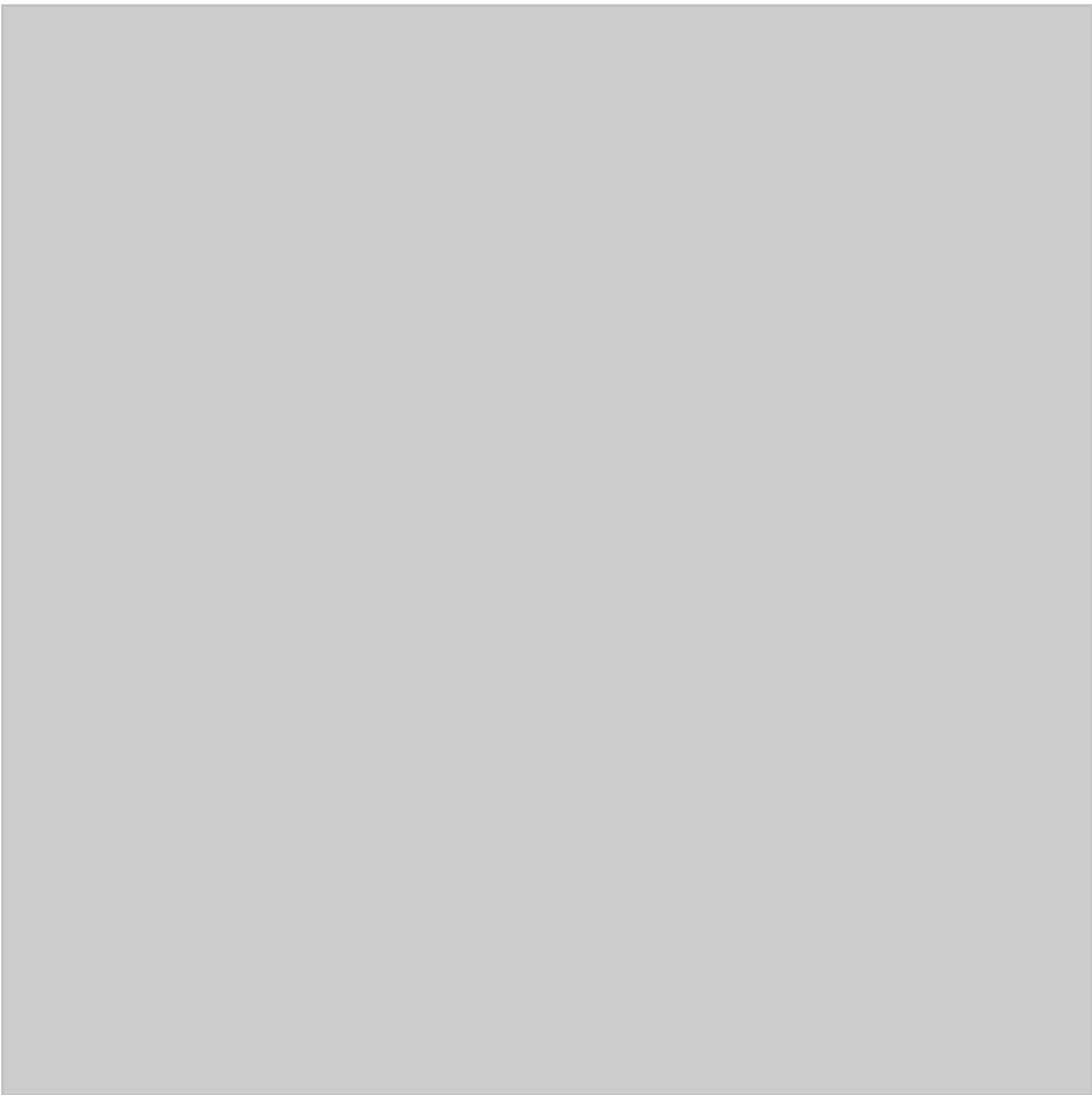
In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar to cover student loan debt strategies for public employees](#)
 - [MMLA to hold conference in Northampton on Oct. 23-24](#)
 - [State to host public hearings to review K-12 school finance formula](#)
 - [ASPA virtual meeting will explore government careers](#)
 - [ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Oct. 18](#)
 - [Survey seeks to assess how cities, towns engage with technology](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars Oct. 21 and 23](#)
 - [Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Runners took part in the Cape Code Marathon Weekend this past weekend in Falmouth. Races included a half-marathon on Oct. 11 (left) and a marathon on Oct. 12 (right). The course hugs the town's coastline, providing views of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Sound. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

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- [MIIA Medicare Specialist](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Accountant, Wastewater Superintendent, Community Programs Director, Assistant Animal Control Officer, Civil Engineer and City Clerk. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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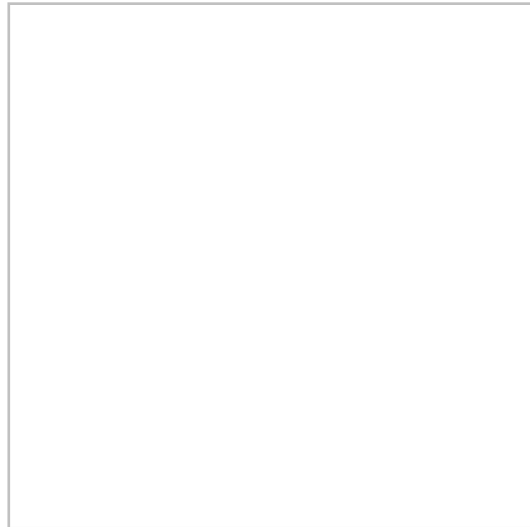
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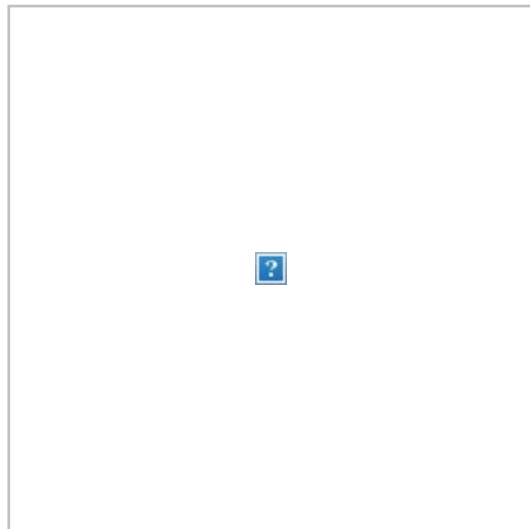
[Gov. Healey files FY24 state budget proposal](#)

Today Gov. Maura Healey filed her \$55.5 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2024, which includes funding for local accounts that she announced last week. ...



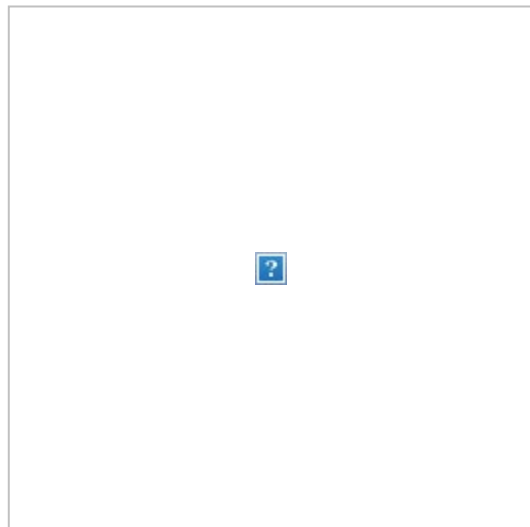
[MMA publishes March issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the March 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[House OK's budget bill with pandemic extensions](#)

Today the House passed a redrafted version of a \$282 million supplemental 2023 budget bill filed by Gov. Maura Healey in January that includes a majority of her "immediate needs" bond bill, as well as extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining. ...



[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

Registration is now open for the

MMA's spring series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on March 17 and March 24. ...



Housing task force files report

A special task force established to help determine the structure of a new housing secretariat and inform the process of filling the position has filed its report with Gov. Maura Healey. ...



Community One Stop for Growth accepting Expressions Of Interest

Community One Stop for Growth is accepting Expressions of Interest through March 17 from potential applicants prior to submitting a full application. ...



'Nero's Law' training deadline extended by a year

The Office of Emergency Medical

Services in the Department of Public Health has extended the compliance deadline for emergency medical service providers to be trained in police dog treatment and transport.

...



MMA to host social media best practices webinar on March 7

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 7 about how to use social media as a tool to communicate and engage with communities while complying with the unique requirements imposed on municipal officials. ...



Local Technical Assistance Program to host grant writing webinar on March 9

The Local Technical Assistance Program will host a free grant writing webinar on March 9 covering the basics of completing a grant or funding application and a method for approaching and completing applications. ...



MMA to host 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series

On March 15, the MMA will launch

“Reframing Recruitment,” a free monthly webinar series for appointed and elected municipal officials that will showcase timely hiring strategies that can set your community up for success. ...



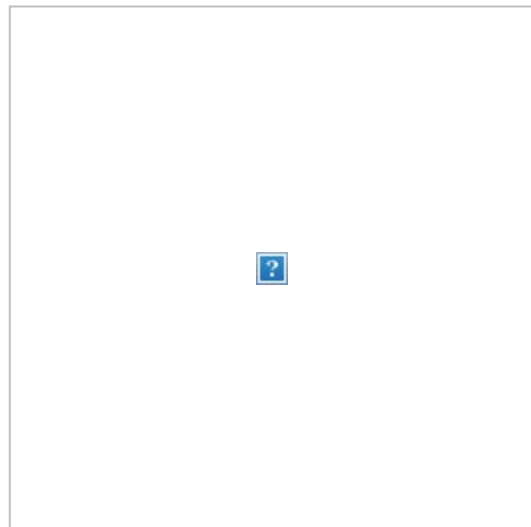
[MMA to host webinar on dealing with conflict March 28](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 28 will highlight strategies for effective conflict management. ...



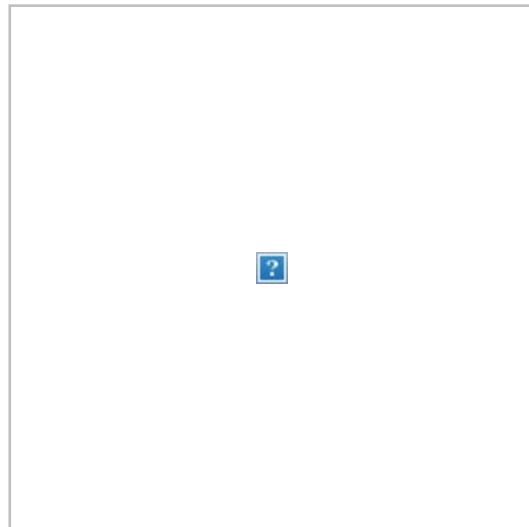
[TransitMatters publishes toolkit to promote 'Mobility Hubs'](#)

TransitMatters has published a new toolkit to help municipalities, nonprofits and other community leaders bring Mobility Hubs into their neighborhoods. ...



[Citizen Planner Training Collaborative annual conference is March 18](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its annual conference on March 18 in Worcester. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Budget-setting season kicks off on Beacon Hill](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

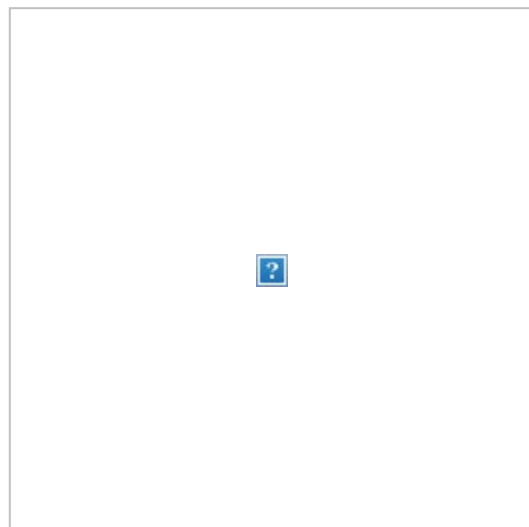
[MMA urges legislators to extend remote meeting authority](#)

On Feb. 24, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

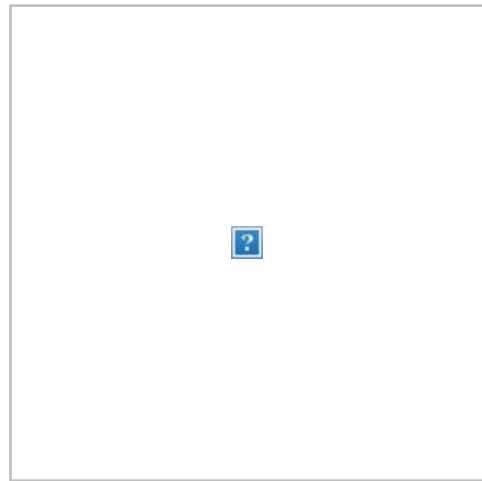
[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Administration is accepting project proposals and grant applications through April 13 for the Low or No Emission (Low-No) and Buses and Bus Facilities grant programs. ...



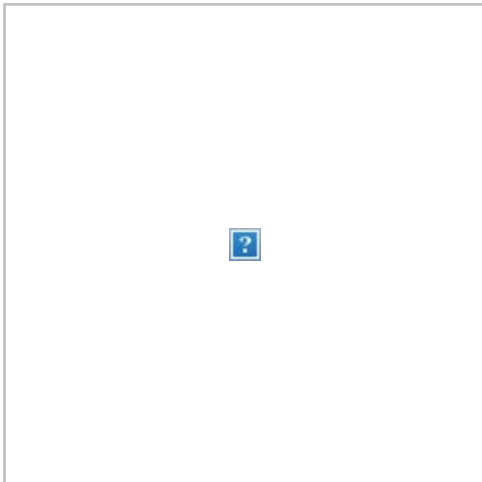
[MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show is March 23](#)

The MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show will be held on March 23 in Marlborough. ...



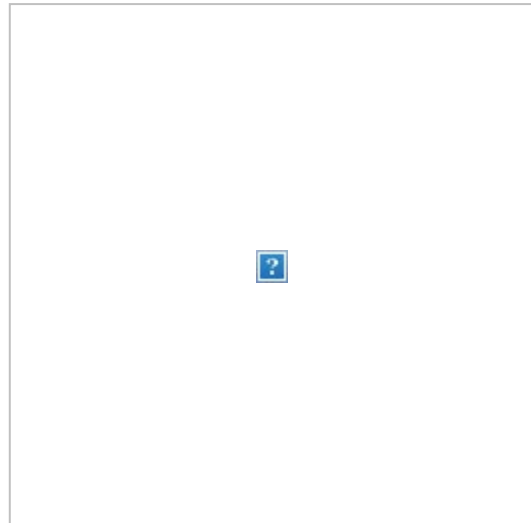
[NLC holding Congressional City Conference March 26-28](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 26-28, in Washington, DC. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

MassHousing has opened the application period for the Planning for Housing Production Grant Program, which provides cities and towns with the technical capacity needed to implement local planning and transform priority development sites into new affordable homes. ...



[Municipalities must respond by April 18 for additional opioid settlement funds](#)

In late 2022, the Attorney General's Office announced proposed opioid

settlements with Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, Walmart and CVS, which will bring additional funds for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery across Massachusetts. ...



[MMA launches Mass Municipal Data Hub](#)

Just hours before its Annual Meeting began on Jan. 20, the MMA launched a new, online members service: the Mass Municipal Data Hub. ...



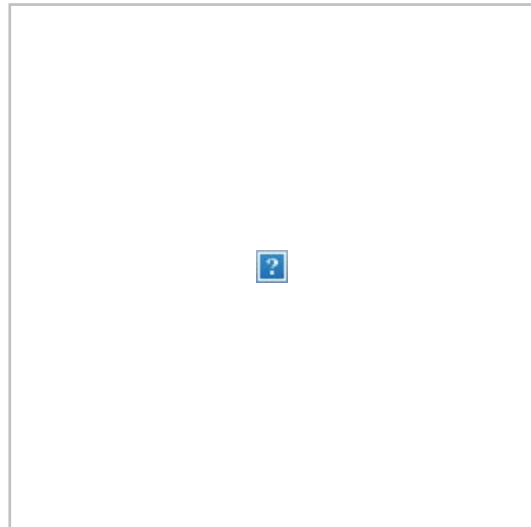
[CDBG application deadline coming soon](#)

The Department of Housing and Community Development is accepting applications for a round of Community Development Block Grants, with a deadline of March 3. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[Social Media Best Practices Webinar](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Association webinar](#) - March 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Setting the Table – Vacancies and Advertising](#) - March 15

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Fairhaven and Tyngsborough\)](#) - March 17

[Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - March 23

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Adams and Westfield\)](#) - March 24

[Coping with Conflict Webinar](#) - March 28

[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

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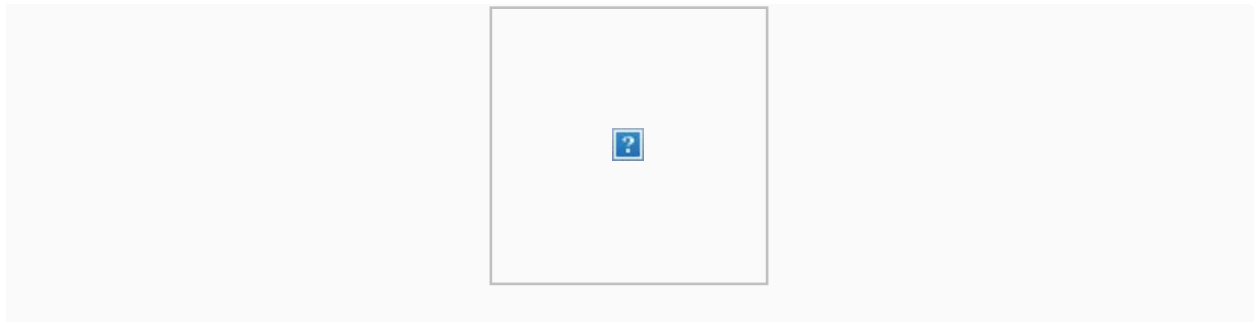
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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Gov. signs supplemental budget with pandemic-era extensions, key investments](#)

Gov. Maura Healey this afternoon signed a fiscal 2023 spending package that includes more than \$740 million in bonding

authorizations, \$389 million in supplemental spending, and a number of policy provisions, including extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining.

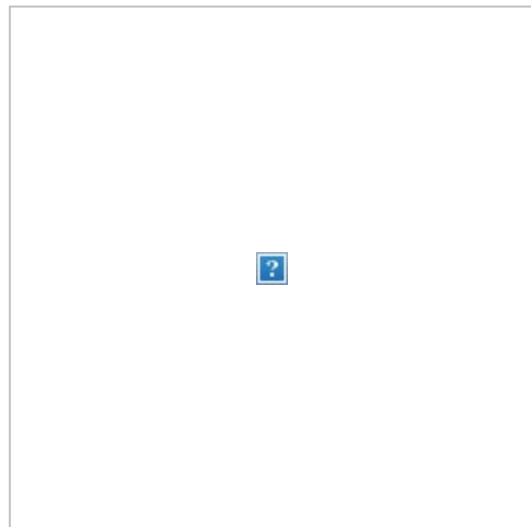
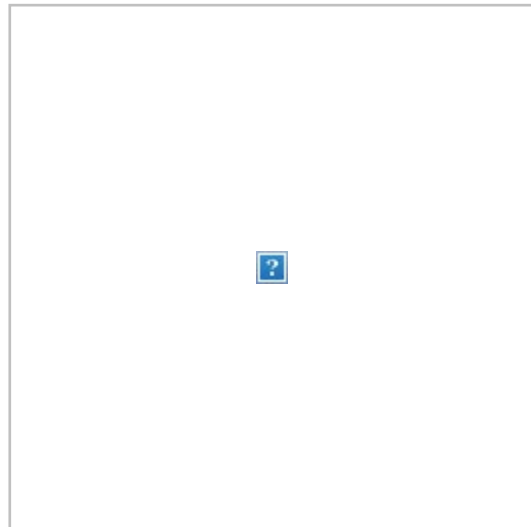
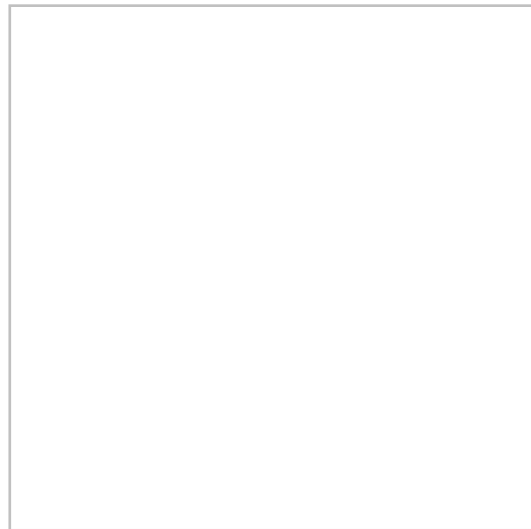
...

Senate passes Ch. 90 bill with small variations from House version

The Senate today passed a Chapter 90 bond bill that would level-fund the local road and bridge program at \$200 million for fiscal 2024, while also providing a total of \$150 million for six transportation-related programs. ...

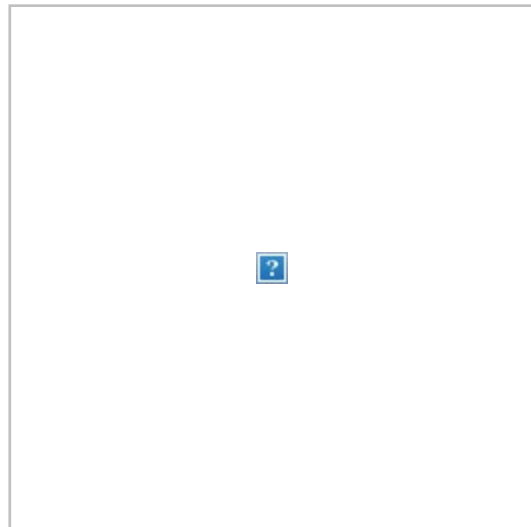
MMA holds spring Legislative Breakfast Meetings

On two Fridays in March, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for a series of four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



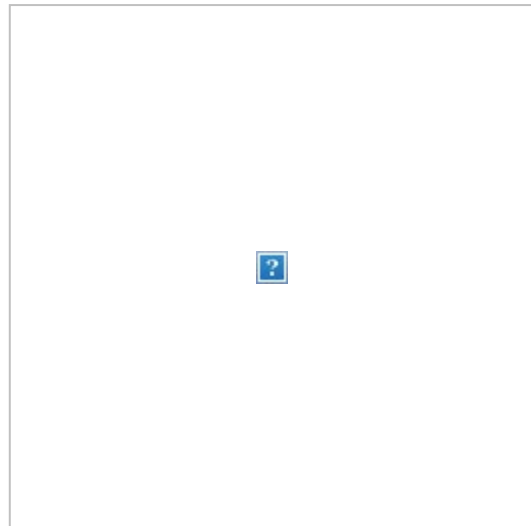
[**MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials**](#)

Amid a busy start for the 2023-24 legislative session and the new Healey-Driscoll administration, the MMA's Legislative team hosted a briefing webinar for local officials today to provide updates on key legislative matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



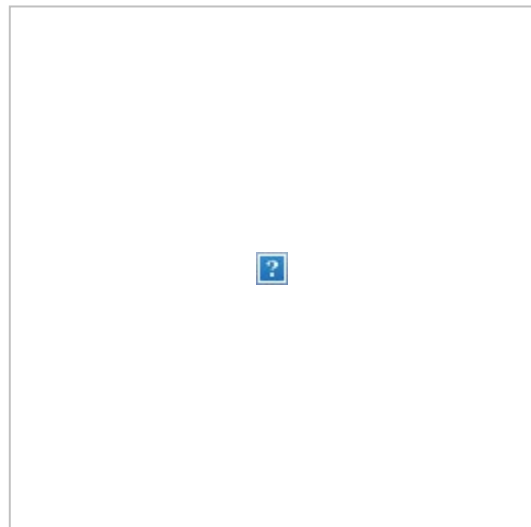
[**EPA seeks to regulate 6 PFAS in drinking water nationwide**](#)

On March 14, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a new regulatory proposal to set enforceable limits on six PFAS, known as “forever chemicals,” in drinking water across the nation. ...



[**Administration announces end of COVID public health emergency**](#)

Three years after it began, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state's COVID-19 public health emergency will end on May 11, to align with the end of the federal public health emergency. ...



[**MMA webinar shares effective internal conflict resolution strategies**](#)

An MMA webinar today covered how to skillfully manage internal conflict, neutralize its negative effects, and maintain a positive and healthy work culture. ...



2nd session of ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar series is April 19

“The Interview Process,” the second session in the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” webinar series, will be held on April 19. ...



MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state’s public records and open meeting laws. ...



Communities form new coalition to facilitate broadband efforts

More than 25 cities and towns have

formed a coalition to facilitate networking among communities with broadband ambitions. ...



[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



New in [Resources](#)

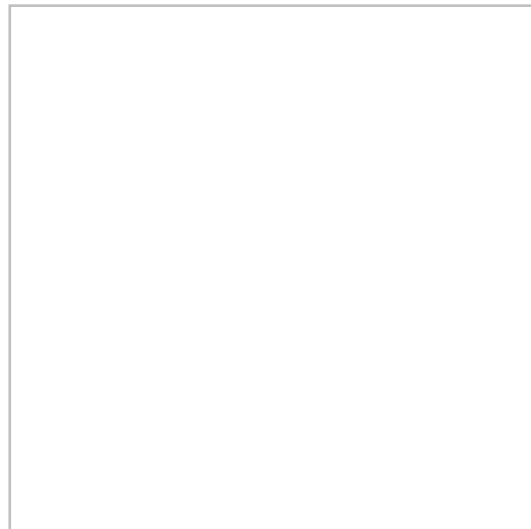
[Seven Strategies to Minimize Negative Impacts of Outdoor Light at Night](#)

In Case You Missed It

[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

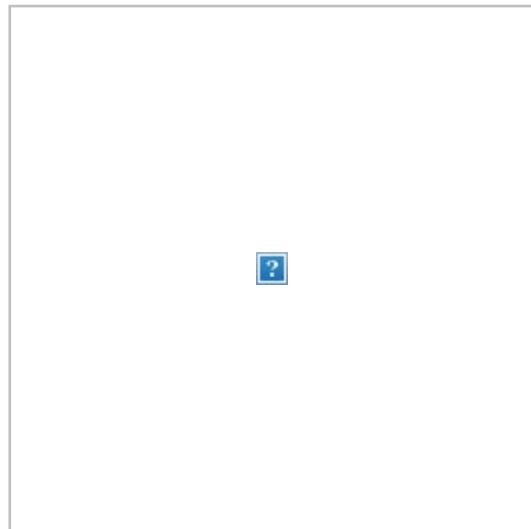
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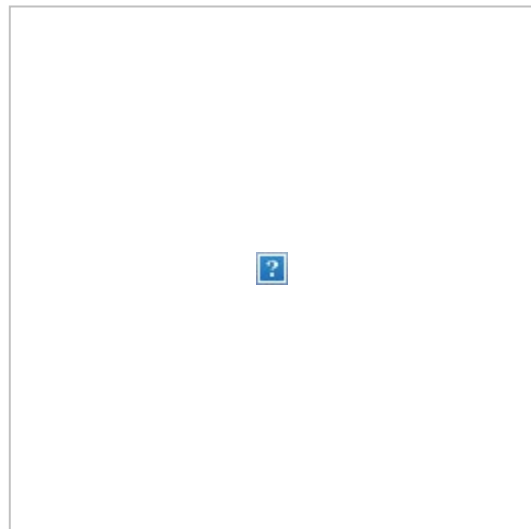
[Electric and alternative vehicle charging infrastructure grant opens](#)

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI program), a new competitive grant program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration, is accepting applications through May 30. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

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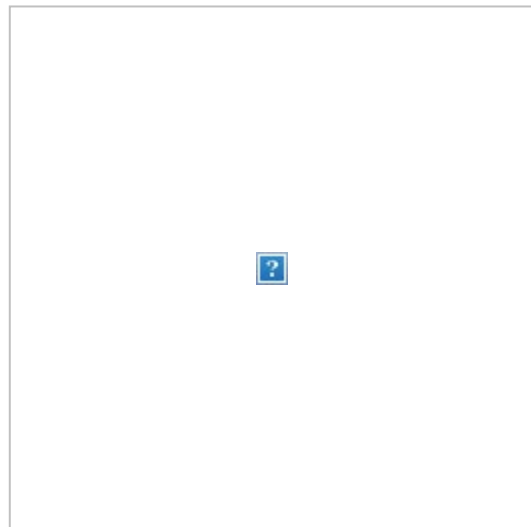
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[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[MMA Policy Briefing Webinar: The Future of Cannabis & Municipalities](#) - April 6

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: The Interview Process](#) - April 19

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Webinar](#) - April 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association statewide meeting](#) - April 27

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium](#) - April 28

[Association of Town Finance Committees Spring Conference](#) - April 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources HR101 bootcamp](#) - May 11

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: What Happens After the Offer](#) - May 17

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Director, Town Clerk, Youth Development Coordinator, Network

Engineer, Fire Chief, ARPA Grants Manager, Land Use Planner and Facilities Coordinator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[MMA hosts webinar on regulatory developments related to cannabis](#)

The MMA held a virtual briefing today to discuss regulatory developments at the Cannabis Control Commission and how regulations being developed for

three areas — host community agreements, municipal equity, and social consumption — will impact municipalities. ...

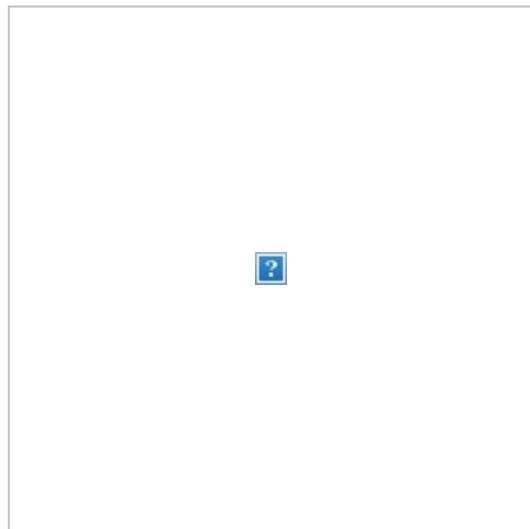
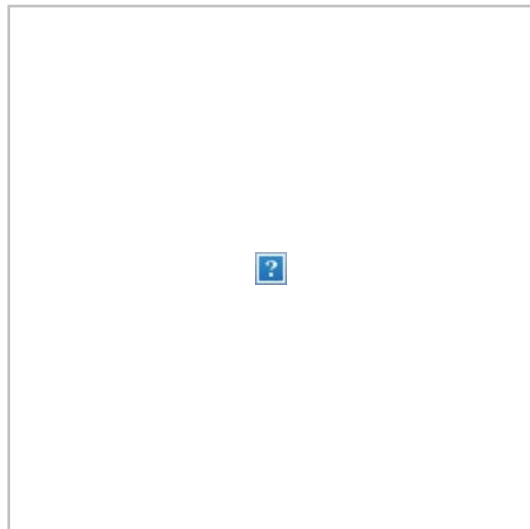
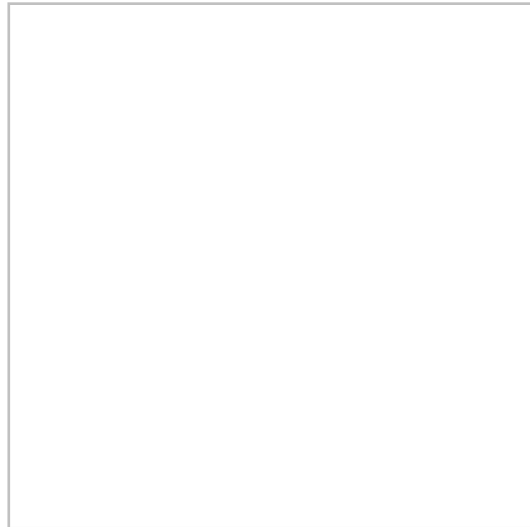
[**MMA publishes April issue of The Beacon**](#)

The MMA today published the April 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

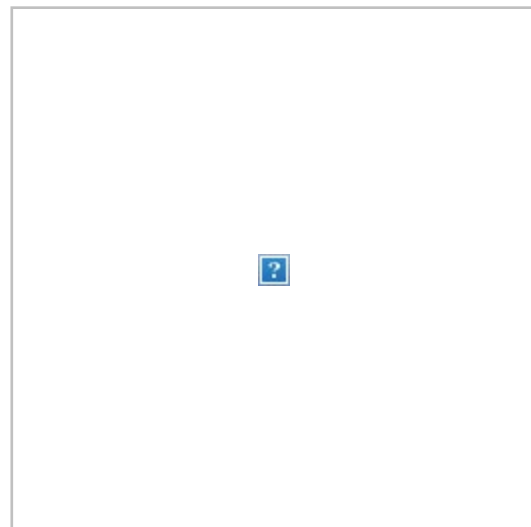
[**Officials discuss unique challenges facing western and rural Mass.**](#)

Municipal officials from across the western part of the state gathered on April 1 in Holyoke to hear from state officials and legislators about priorities and opportunities for collaboration. ...

[**MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program**](#)

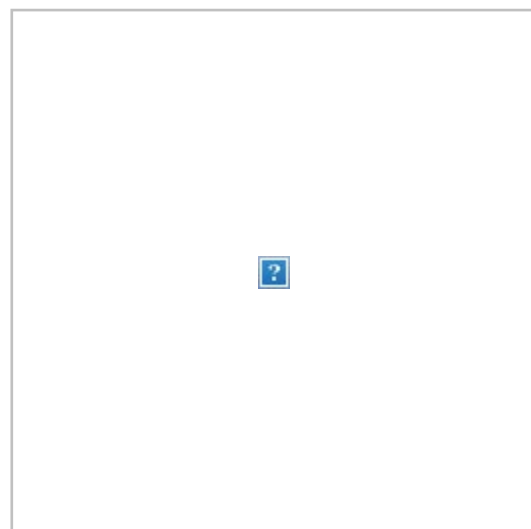


The application deadline is April 30 for the MMA and Suffolk University's Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs scheduled for this fall. ...



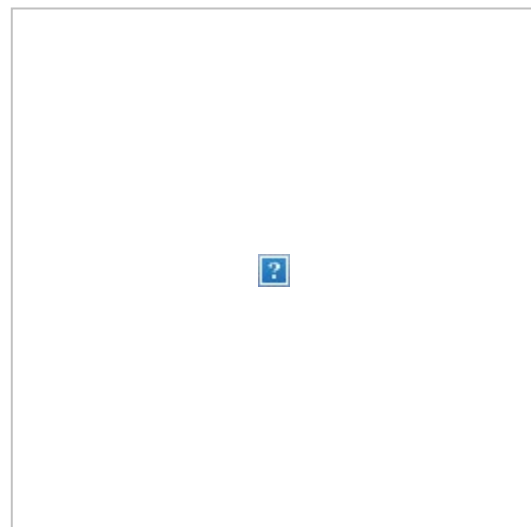
2nd session of 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series is April 19

"The Interview Process," the second session in the MMA's monthly "Reframing Recruitment" webinar series, will be held on April 19. ...



MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



Franklin County, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket team up to improve road safety

Relying on their shared rural character instead of geographic proximity, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and the communities of Franklin County are sharing a federal grant to improve road safety. ...



[Northampton creates new climate department](#)

Hoping to inject climate awareness into all of City Hall's operations, Northampton is assembling a new department that focuses on climate change and sustainability. ...



[Police turn to co-response protocol for mental health crises](#)

Local police departments are increasingly implementing "co-response" protocols for calls involving mental health crises, where a licensed social worker serves on department staff and responds to calls alongside police officers. ...



[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[DEI builds stronger, healthier communities](#)

On March 31, Executive Director's Report

[MMA joins firefighters, fire chiefs and ambulance association in asking legislators to help address staffing crisis impacting emergency medical service providers](#)

On March 31, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

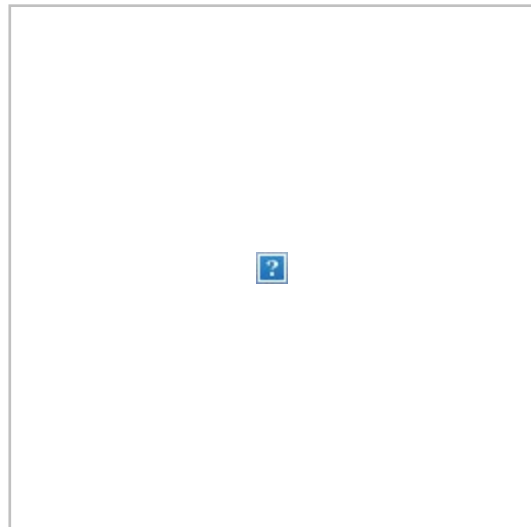
[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

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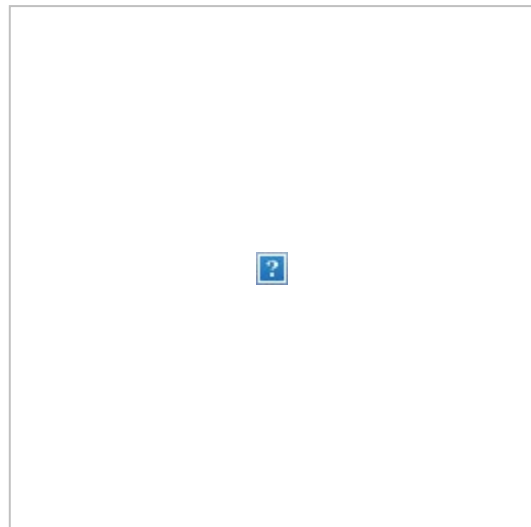
[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Administration is accepting project proposals and grant applications through April 13 for the Low or No Emission (Low-No) and Buses and Bus Facilities grant programs. ...



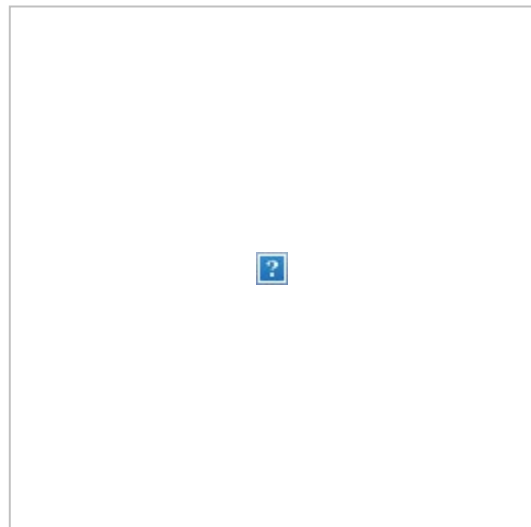
[Electric and alternative vehicle charging infrastructure grant opens](#)

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI program), a new competitive grant program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration, is accepting applications through May 30. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

MassHousing has opened the application period for the Planning for Housing Production Grant Program, which provides cities and towns with the technical capacity needed to implement local planning and transform priority development sites into new affordable homes. ...



[Municipalities must respond by April 18 for additional opioid settlement funds](#)

In late 2022, the Attorney General's Office announced proposed opioid settlements with Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, Walmart and CVS, which will bring additional funds for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery across Massachusetts. ...



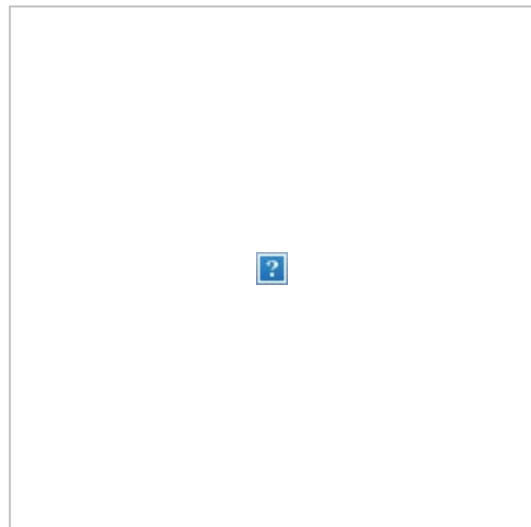
[MMA launches Mass Municipal Data Hub](#)

Just hours before its Annual Meeting began on Jan. 20, the MMA launched a new, online members service: the Mass Municipal Data Hub. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: The Interview Process](#) - April 19

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Webinar](#) - April 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association statewide meeting](#) - April 27

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium](#) - April 28

[Association of Town Finance Committees Spring Conference](#) - April 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources HR101 bootcamp](#) - May 11

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: What Happens After the Offer](#) - May 17

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 44 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Town Planner, Application Specialist, Project Manager, Building Commissioner, Heavy Equipment Operator, Staff Accountant and Principal Assessor. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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!](#)

[House approves \\$56.2B state budget for FY24](#)

On Wednesday evening, the House of Representatives approved a \$56.2 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2024 that would increase Unrestricted General Government

Aid by 1.6% over the current year and significantly increase Chapter 70 school aid, in part by doubling minimum new aid to \$60 per pupil. ...

[MMA advertises executive director position, outlines schedule](#)

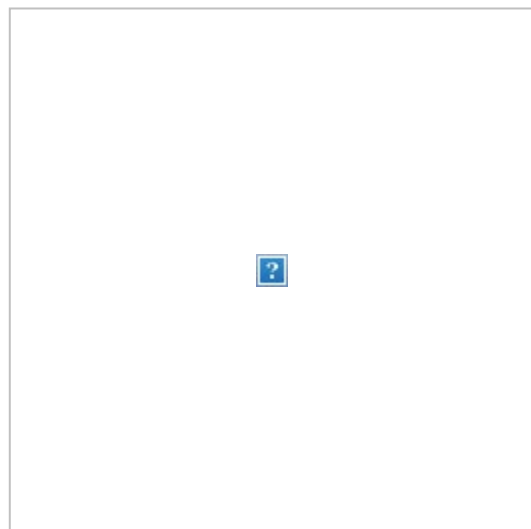
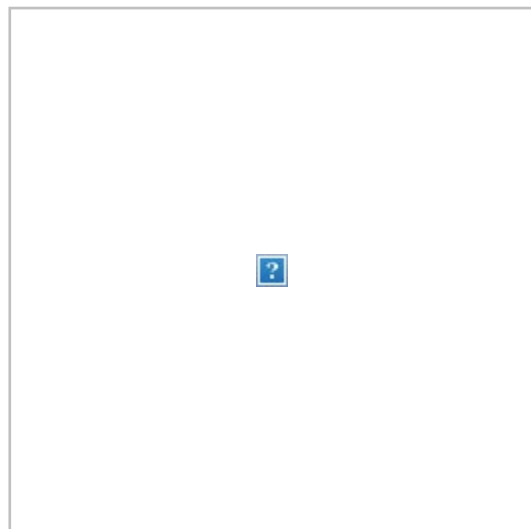
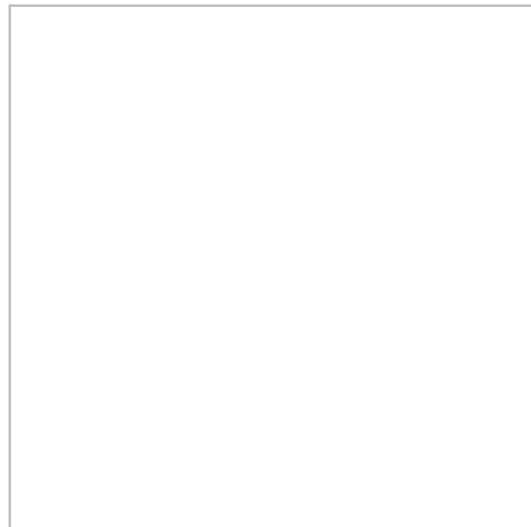
On April 21, the MMA published the job advertisement, along with a brochure, for the next executive director of the association. ...

[Gov. Healey announces next phase of climate resilience grant program](#)

Gov. Maura Healey and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper have announced a relaunch of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program's planning component, which they're calling MVP 2.0. ...

[Administration can move forward with new housing secretariat](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration



can now move forward with its plans to divide the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development into two separate offices, creating a new Office of Housing and Livable Communities and renaming the current office to the Office on Economic Development. ...

Chapter 90 bills await reconciliation

With the Legislature focused on the state budget process, the Chapter 90 bond bills passed by both the House and Senate in March have yet to be reconciled. ...

Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...

Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications

Back for its second year of awards,



the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. ...



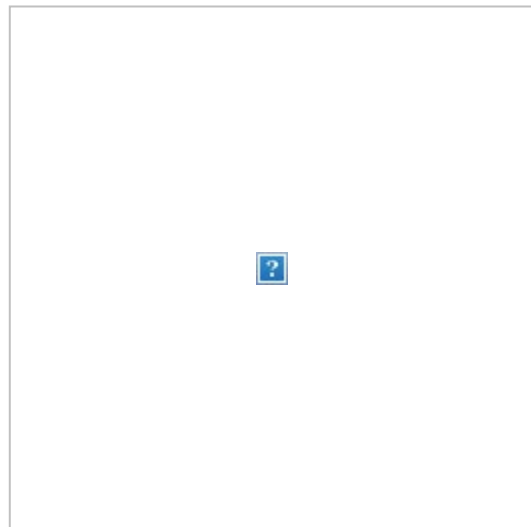
[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



[MMA webinar covers public records and open meeting laws](#)

The MMA today hosted a webinar to highlight the importance of government transparency and review developments related to the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



[Third 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar is May 17](#)

"What Happens After the Offer," the

third session in the MMA's monthly "Reframing Recruitment" webinar series, will be held on May 17 at noon. ...



[MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Boylston on May 11](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources association will offer its annual HR101 boot camp as a full-day, in-person event on May 11 in Boylston. ...



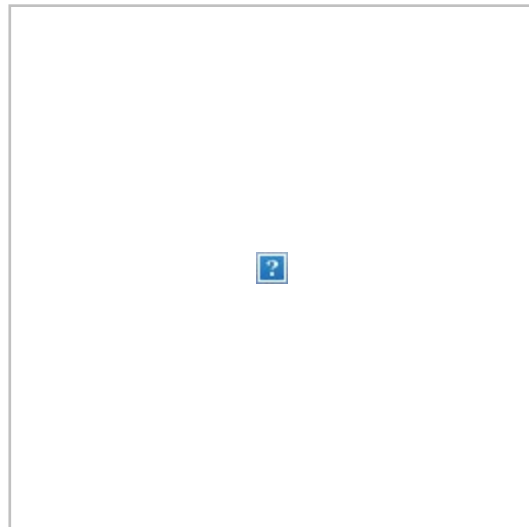
[May 23 webinar to offer practical guidelines for affordable housing](#)

A free MMA webinar on May 23 will discuss the "why" behind affordable housing and highlight the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...



[Former Beverly school to be reused as affordable housing for seniors and artists](#)

The city of Beverly held a ceremonial groundbreaking with state and local officials on March 6 at the site of a new housing project that will have 85 units for low-income seniors along with six live/work studio spaces for artists. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

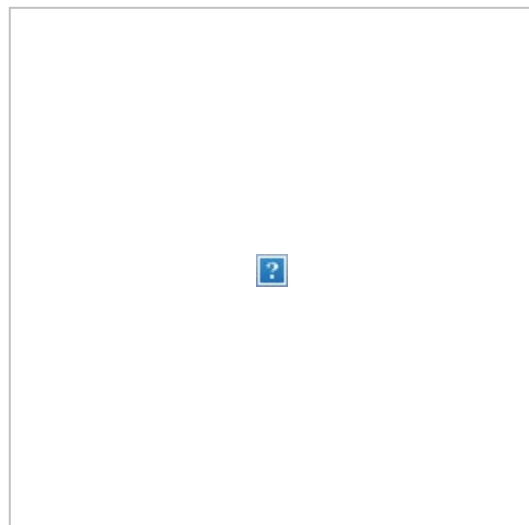
[MMA opposes costly bills that would move municipal employees into different retirement groups, increasing pension and health liabilities](#)

On April 21, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program](#)

The application deadline is April 30 for the MMA and Suffolk University's Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs scheduled for this fall. ...



[MunEnergy to hold webinar on summer energy costs](#)

The MunEnergy program will hold a one-hour webinar on May 10

beginning at 11:30 a.m. to provide timely information about summer energy costs and sustainability opportunities for cities and towns. ...



[FY24 MVP Action Grant applications due May 4](#)

Applications are due by 2 p.m. on May 4 for fiscal 2024 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants, which offer financial assistance to communities seeking to address climate change impacts such as extreme weather and heat, sea level rise, flooding of inland and coastal areas, and other impacts. ...



[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources HR101 bootcamp](#) - May 11

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[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

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[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA

[MMA Executive Director & CEO](#)

[Member Program Coordinator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 61 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Energy Advocate, Health Inspector, Town Accountant, Assistant Town Clerk, Finance Director, Executive Assistant, Deputy Commissioner and City Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Senate passes \\$55.9B state budget for FY24](#)

The Senate last night approved a \$55.9 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that would increase discretionary local aid by 3.2% and provide \$60 per student in minimum

new Chapter 70 aid. ...

Sen. Anne Gobi named as director of rural affairs

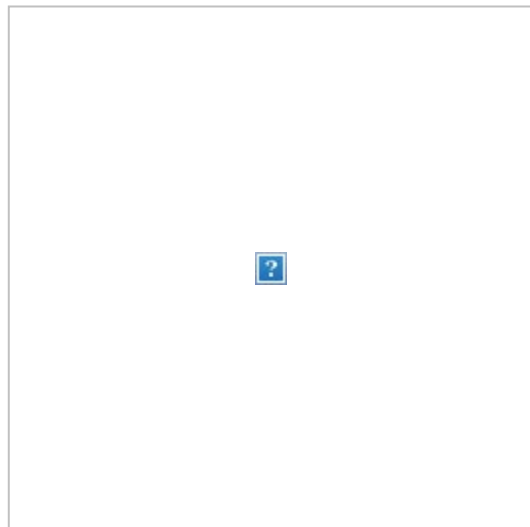
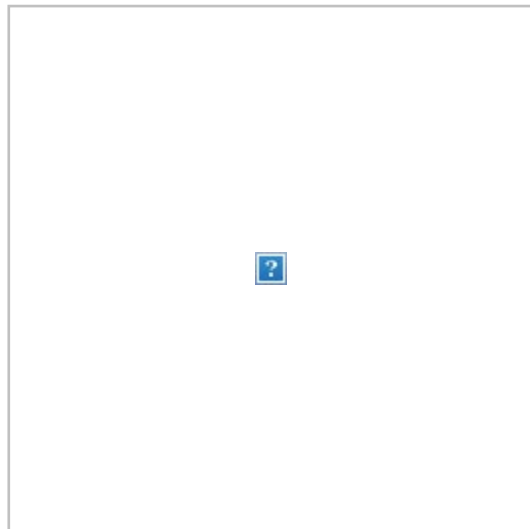
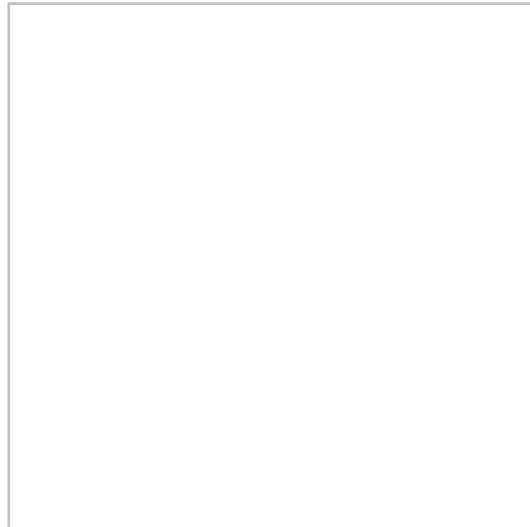
Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced today that Sen. Anne Gobi will join the administration as the new director of rural affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development. ...

MMA webinar offers practical guidance for affordable housing

The MMA today hosted a webinar that explored the “why” behind affordable housing and emphasized the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...

Management Association, DLS discuss role of assessors

The local assessing function was the



topic of a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association webinar on May 18 led by Chris Wilcock, chief of the Bureau of Local Assessment at the Division of Local Services. ...



MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



Final ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar is June 14

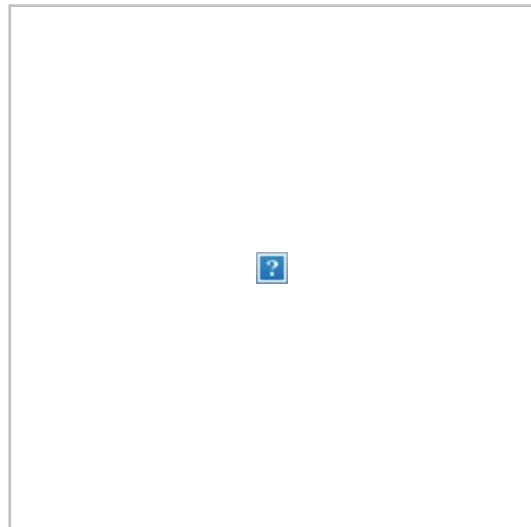
“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



Moderators Association to hold workshop for new moderators June 7

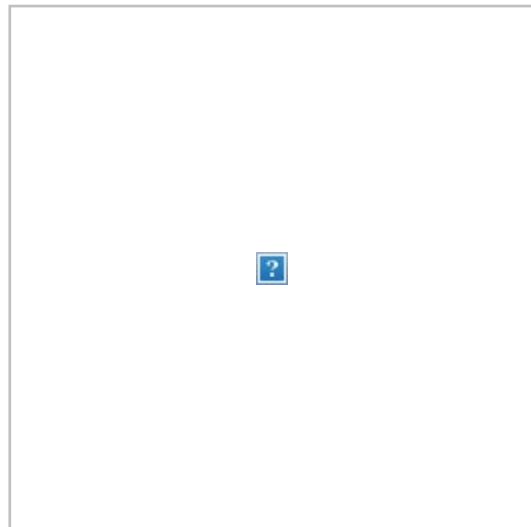
The Massachusetts Moderators Association will hold a free workshop for newly elected moderators on June 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom.

...



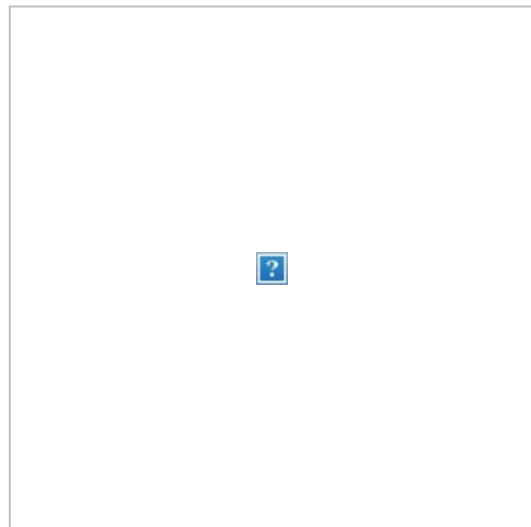
[MBLC to hold webinar on library operations and statutory requirements](#)

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will host a webinar for municipal leaders on June 15 to provide an overview of library operations, procedures and statutory requirements. ...



[Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



In Case You Missed It

[Administration makes additional grants available for housing production](#)

At the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting with local officials from across the state this afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the availability of additional funding for municipalities to support community planning and engagement efforts geared toward increasing the production of housing.

...

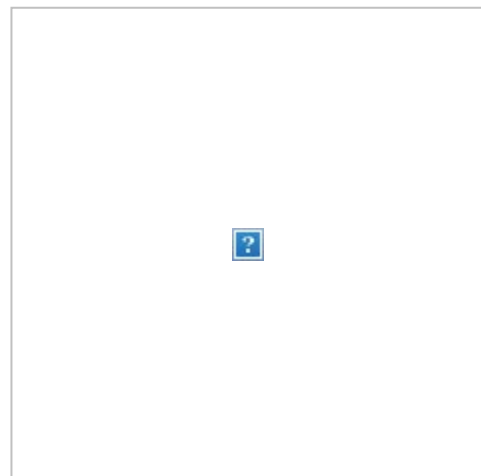
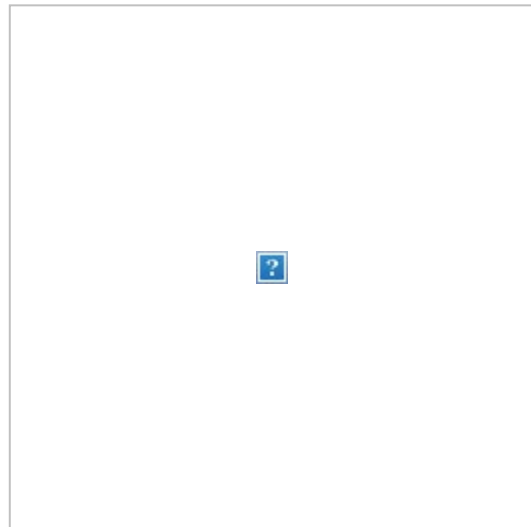
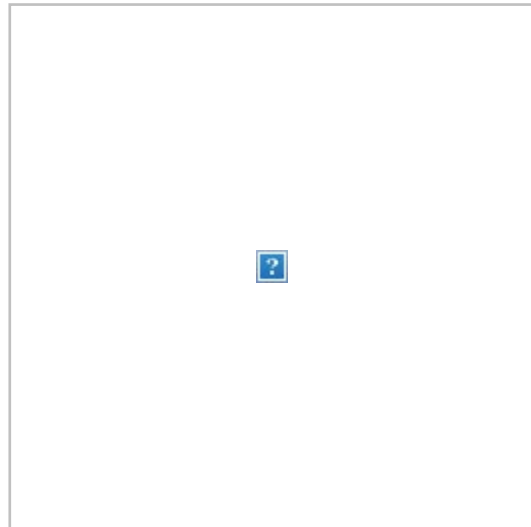
[MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7 in Boston](#)

The MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show will be held on June 7 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...

[Performance Recognition Program nomination process opens](#)

The Human Resources Division has opened the nomination process for the Commonwealth's Performance Recognition Program, which has been publicly acknowledging the outstanding performance of public employees for 38 years. ...

[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)



**[Awareness Grant Program
accepting applications](#)**

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...



**[Infrastructure workforce
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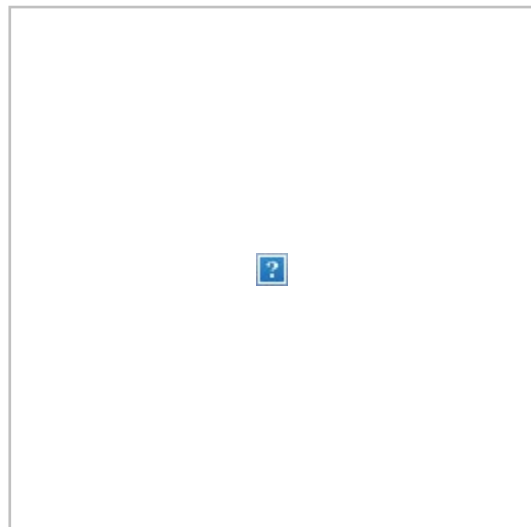
**[Electric and alternative vehicle
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: The Legal and Operational Perspective webinar](#) - June 5

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: De-Escalation Strategies for Uncivilized Discourse webinar](#) - June 12

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

[Wellness Representative](#)

[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 54 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Administrator, Town Engineer, Veterans Services Officer, Deputy Fire Chief, Community Development Accountant, HR Generalist and Director of Public Works. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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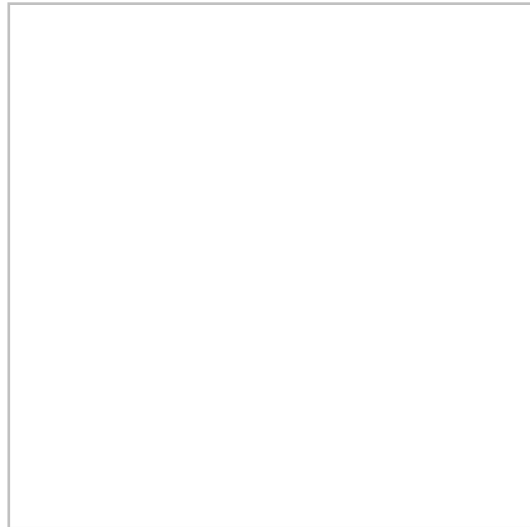
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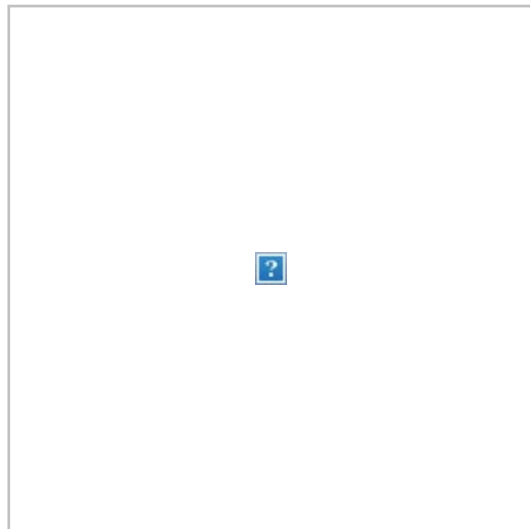
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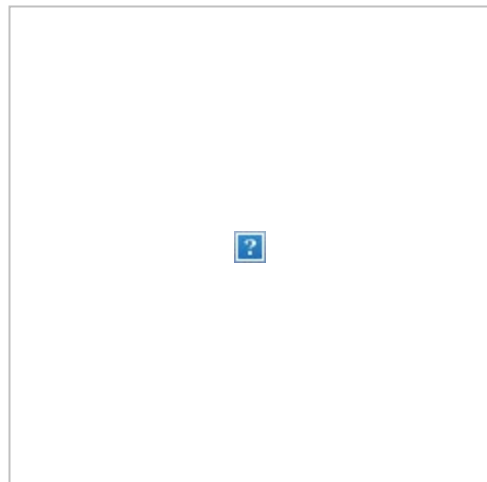
MMA testifies in support of wage equity push

The MMA testified on May 9 in support of a group of bills intended to close gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



NLC report: SLFRF funds not affected by debt ceiling agreement

As the U.S. Congress and the president work to lift the federal debt ceiling, the National League of Cities is reporting that State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act are not at risk of rescission by the federal government. ...



Training for newly elected select board members is June 9

On June 9, the Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a

free training session for newly elected select board members to help them have a successful start in their new role. ...



MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



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“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



Sustainable materials recovery program grant applications due June 14

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has opened the application period for a new round of Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants. ...



Broadband and Digital Equity Summit is June 13

A Broadband and Digital Equity Summit on June 13 at Union Station in Worcester will bring together state, local and federal government officials, as well as representatives from industry, community organizations and others, to discuss the once-in-a-generation federal investment coming to the Commonwealth to close the digital divide and provide internet for all. ...



Federal, state clean school bus programs accepting applications

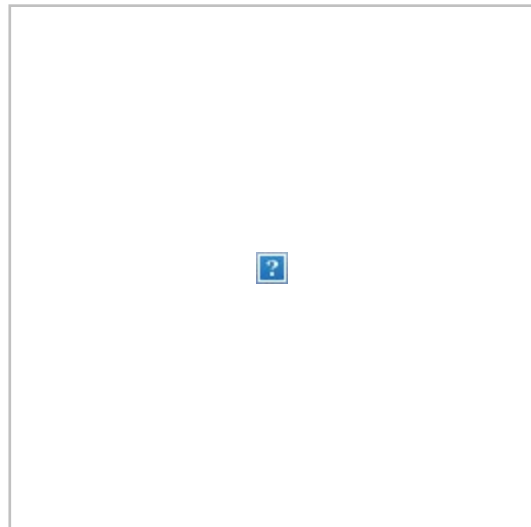
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications for the second year of Clean School Bus program grants, while the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting interest forms for the Accelerating Clean Transportation School Bus Advisory Services Program. ...



EPA grants available for habitat

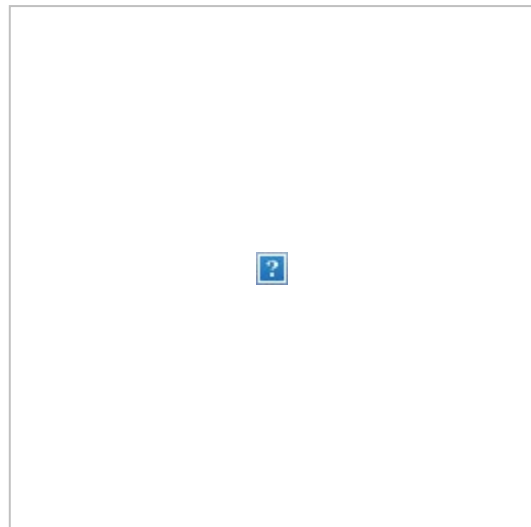
[restoration, ecosystem protection](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 is accepting applications for grants to fund climate resilient infrastructure that promotes nature-based solutions, habitat restoration, and restoration of ecosystems degraded by poor stormwater and development practices. ...



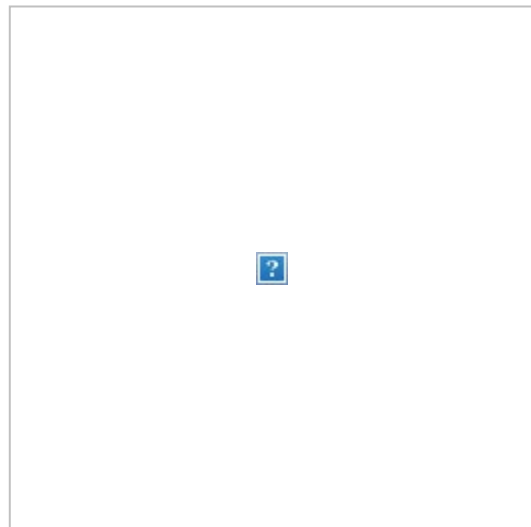
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[Unchecked, AI will disrupt government and communities](#)

On June 1, Executive Director's Report

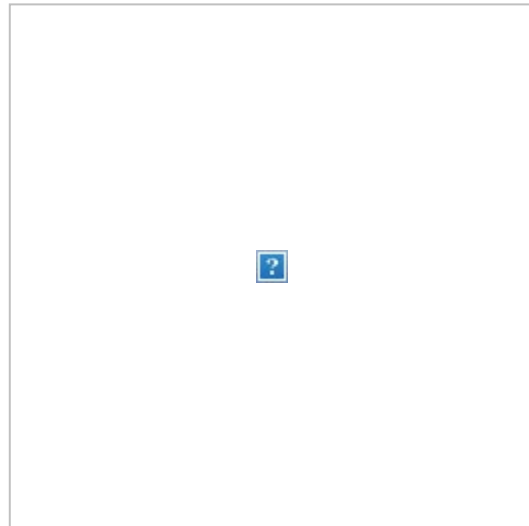
[In letter to EPA, MMA raises concerns about costs and timelines for PFAS remediation](#)

On May 30, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

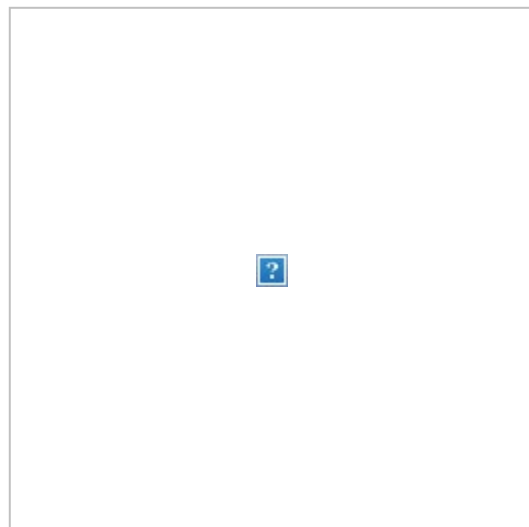
[Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



[Administration makes additional grants available for housing production](#)

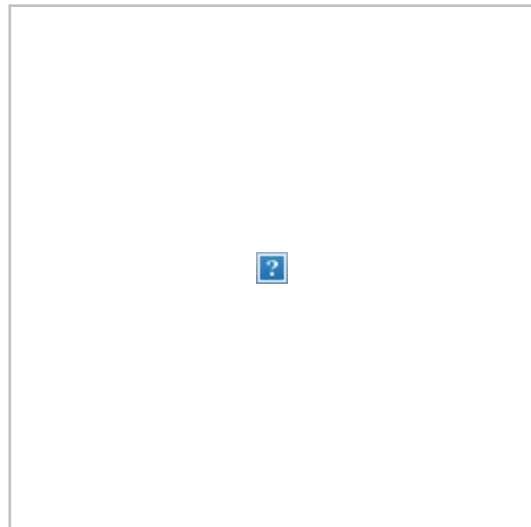
At the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting with local officials from across the state this afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the availability of additional funding for municipalities to support community planning and engagement efforts geared toward increasing the production of housing. ...



[MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7](#)

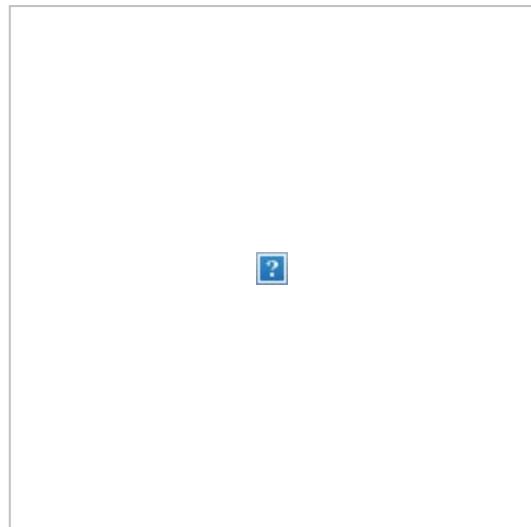
[in Boston](#)

The MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show will be held on June 7 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...



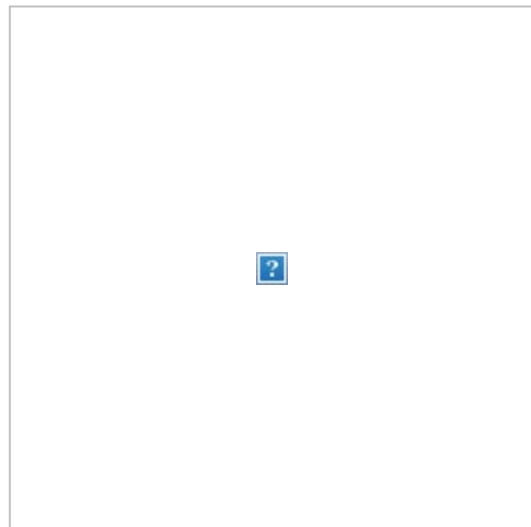
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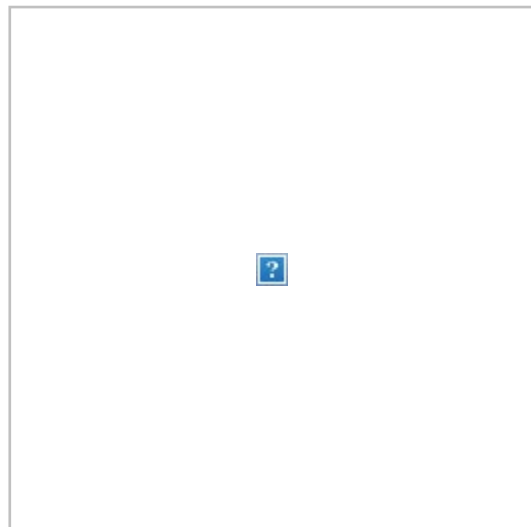
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: The Legal and Operational Perspective webinar](#) - June 5

[Massachusetts Select Board Association newly elected training](#) - June 9

[Regulating Comments at Public Meetings: De-Escalation Strategies for Uncivilized Discourse webinar](#) - June 12

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment](#) - June 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

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[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

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We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Business Manager, Town Clerk, Chief Financial Officer, Administrative Coordinator, Community Health Manager, Deputy Town Manager and Operations Service Technician. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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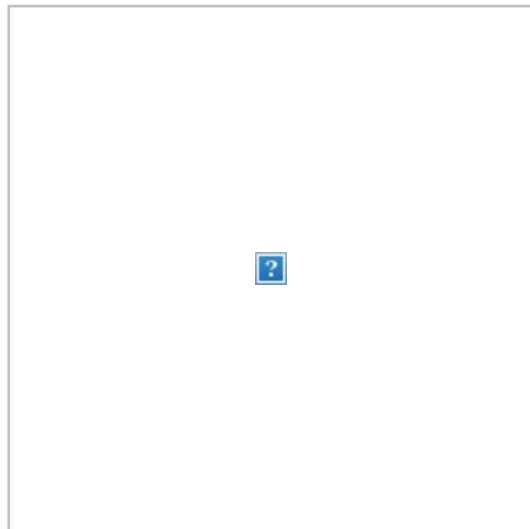
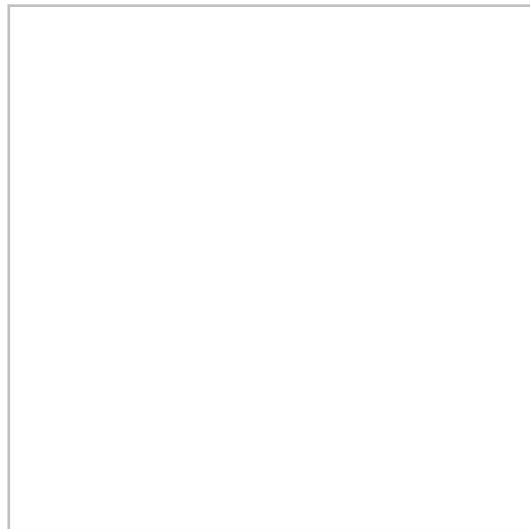
Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[Conference committee meets on Chapter 90 bill](#)

A conference committee named to resolve differences between House and Senate Chapter 90 bond bills held its first meeting on June 13. ...

**Gov. announces nation's first
'green bank' dedicated to
affordable housing**

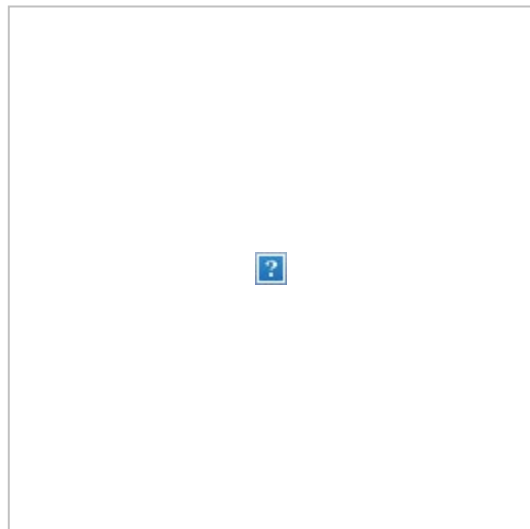
Gov. Maura Healey today announced the launch of the first "green bank" in the country dedicated to affordable housing. ...



**MassDOT mounts education
campaign about Sumner Tunnel
closure this summer**

At the June 13 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission, Transportation Secretary and CEO Gina Fiandaca discussed plans to close the Sumner Tunnel this summer and asked local officials to help get the word out about the closure as well as mitigation plans.

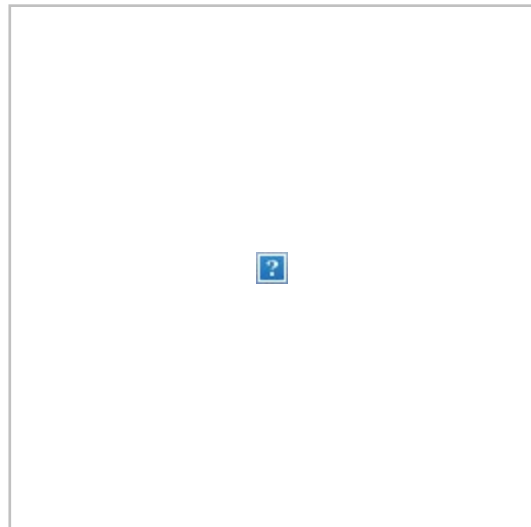
...



**Final 'Reframing Recruitment'
webinar covers key takeaways**

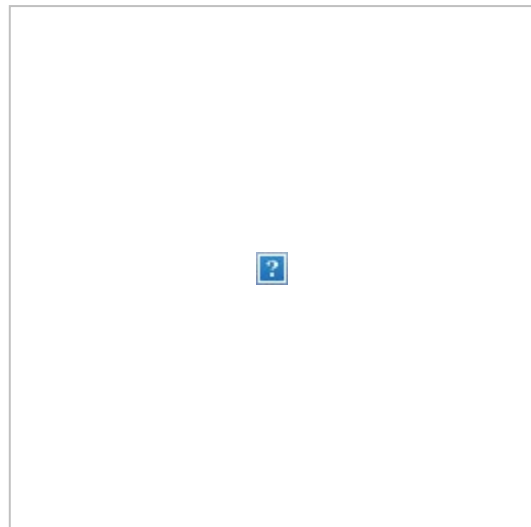
[from series](#)

An MMA “Reframing Recruitment” webinar today featured speakers from previous webinars and workshops in the series, covering topics including innovative hiring strategies, vacancies and advertising, interviewing, and onboarding. ...



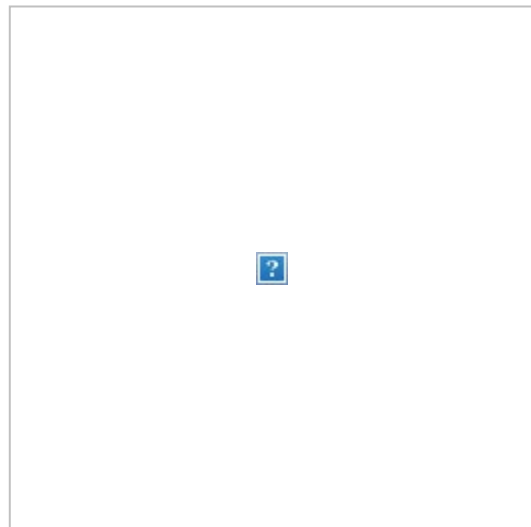
[MMA webinar shares strategies for de-escalating public anger](#)

An MMA webinar today discussed how to maintain composure and use constructive language when confronted with uncivilized discourse at public meetings. ...



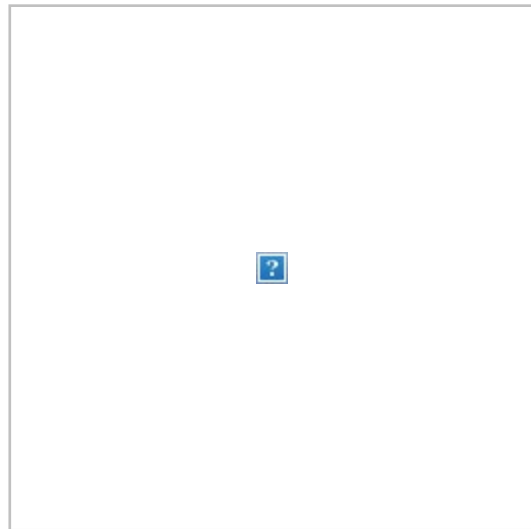
[Lexington OK's MBTA communities zoning well ahead of schedule](#)

Following an April Town Meeting vote approving 12 new overlay districts accounting for 227 acres of multifamily zoning, Lexington is on track to complete its MBTA communities zoning submission to the state a year and a half ahead of schedule. ...



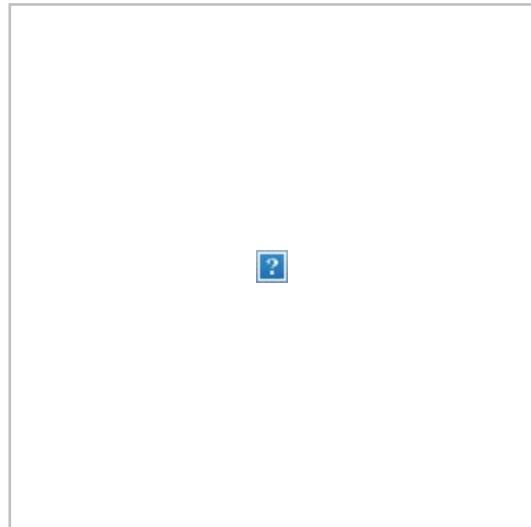
[Easthampton launches EV conversion plan and employee benefit](#)

To help the city meet a 2040 net-zero emissions goal set by a Climate Action Plan, and to provide pathways for residents to do the same, Easthampton is partnering with MoveEV, an electric vehicle consultant based in Somerville, to help the city transition the entire municipal fleet and provide a benefit to municipal employees. ...



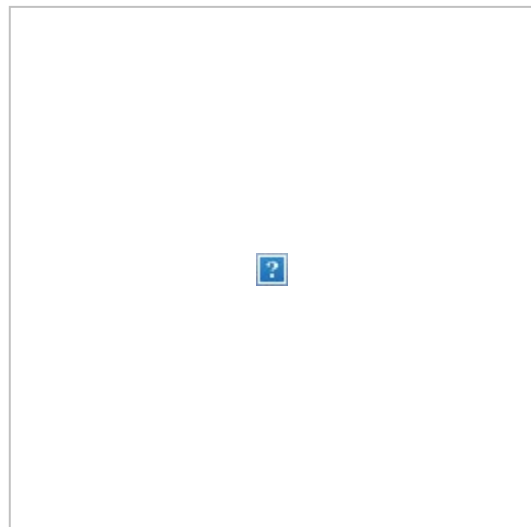
[West Tisbury invests funds, planning into tree population](#)

In the face of climate change, West Tisbury has established a tree committee, invested in new tree plantings, and developed plans to protect and expand its tree canopy. ...



[Many factors could drive up health care costs](#)

The combination of COVID-19 pandemic relief expiring, along with health care staff shortages, inflation and other general population health challenges, could continue to drive up health care costs over the next several years. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support product stewardship legislation](#)

On June 14, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants](#)

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[Federal, state clean school bus programs accepting applications](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications for the second year of Clean School Bus program grants, while the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting interest forms for the Accelerating Clean Transportation School Bus Advisory Services Program. ...

[EPA grants available for habitat restoration, ecosystem protection](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 is accepting applications for grants to fund climate resilient infrastructure that promotes nature-based solutions, habitat restoration, and restoration of ecosystems degraded by poor stormwater and development practices. ...

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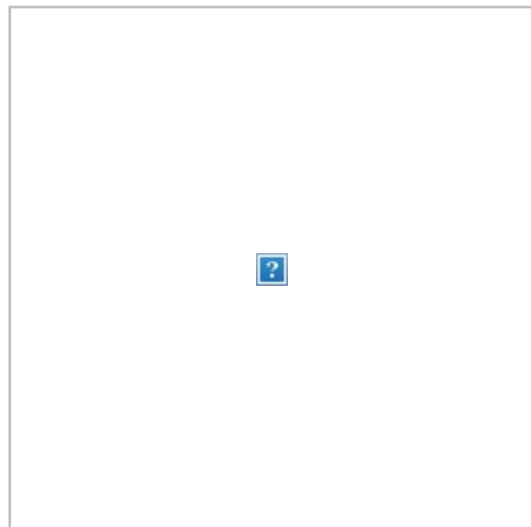
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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We've added 31 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Manager, City Engineer, Conservation Director, Local Building Inspector, Legal Administrative Assistant, Water Environmental Engineer, Senior Housing Planner and Payroll Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



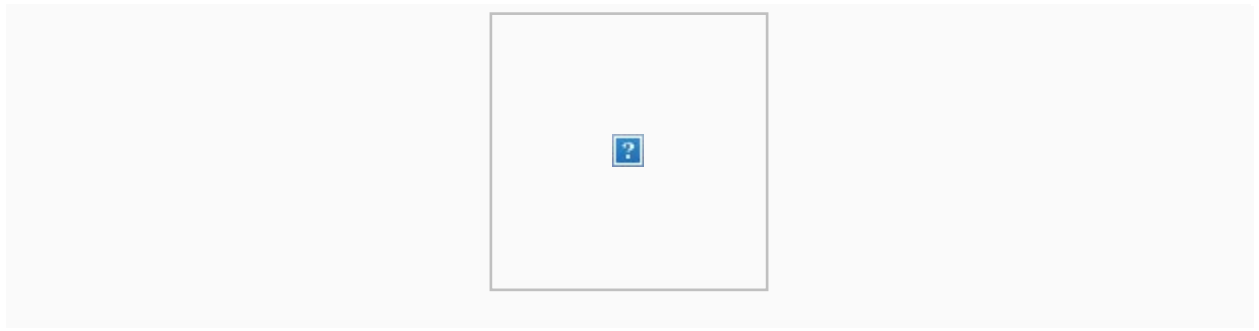
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[Gov. Healey announces capital plan, affordable housing program](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced today a new five-year, \$14 billion capital investment plan that includes more than \$1.5 billion in housing-related spending and a

new program to incentivize the creation of more affordable housing.

...

Administration announces \$11.6M in grants for 68 trail projects

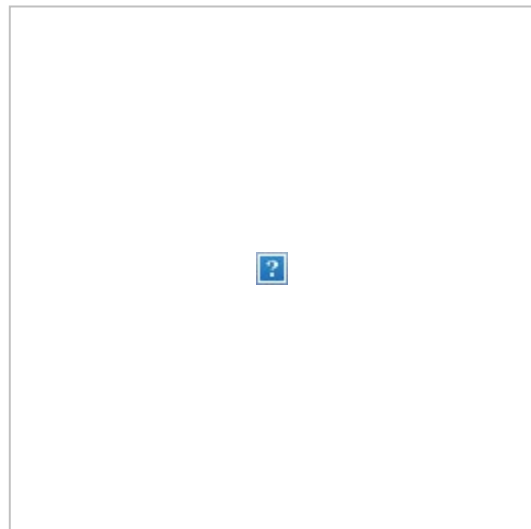
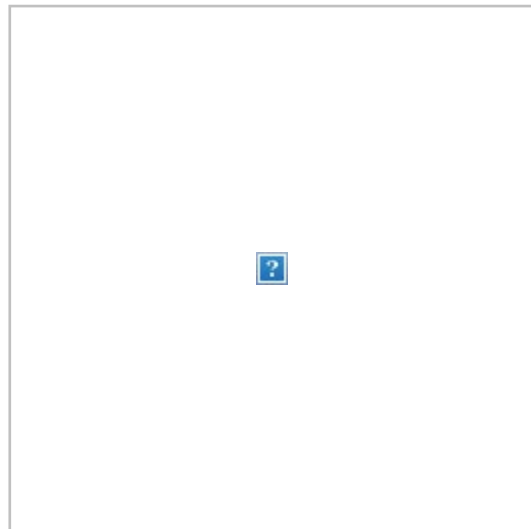
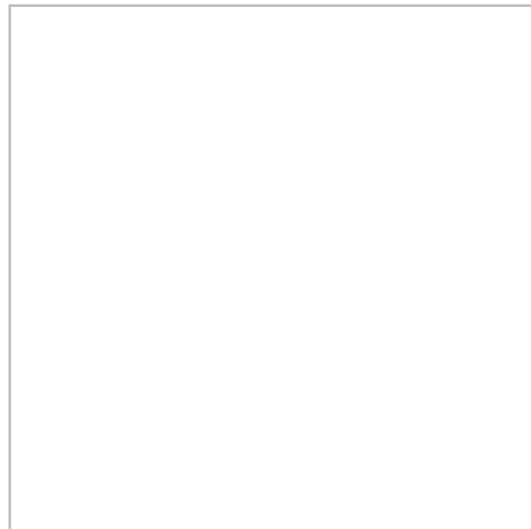
On June 15 in Billerica, Healey-Driscoll administration officials announced \$11.6 million in funding through the MassTrails Grant Program to support 68 trail improvement projects across the state. ...

DLS publishes issue dedicated to new local officials

The June 15 edition of the Division of Local Services' e-newsletter, City & Town, is dedicated to newly elected or appointed local officials, with municipal finance resources, information and policy guidance for those who might be new to local government. ...

STAM hosts state officials, elects officers at its Annual Meeting

Small Town Administrators of



Massachusetts held its Annual Meeting on June 15 in Boylston to hear from state officials on a variety of topics and to elect a new leadership team. ...



[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

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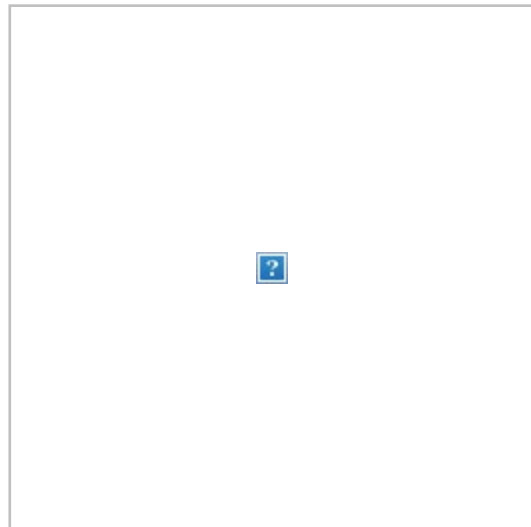


[Conference explores how cities, towns can boost their resilience](#)

The 2023 Resilient Cities Summit,

held June 6 through 8 in Falmouth, brought together municipal officials, advocates and nationally recognized experts in urban development, design, finance and infrastructure to discuss how cities and towns can better prepare for climate risks and work toward a more resilient future.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

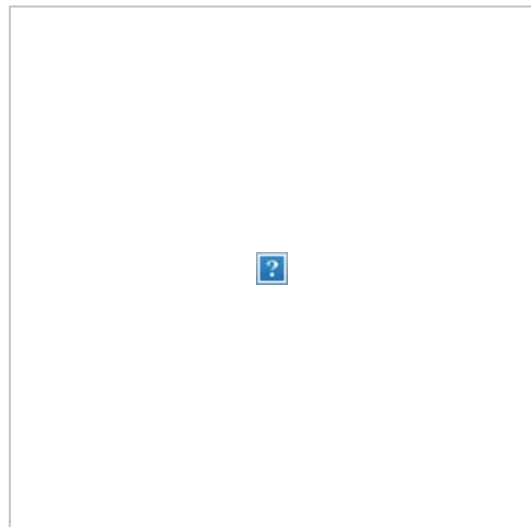
[MMA urges Education Committee to support bill to promote transparency and accountability in charter school finance](#)

On June 16, Testimony

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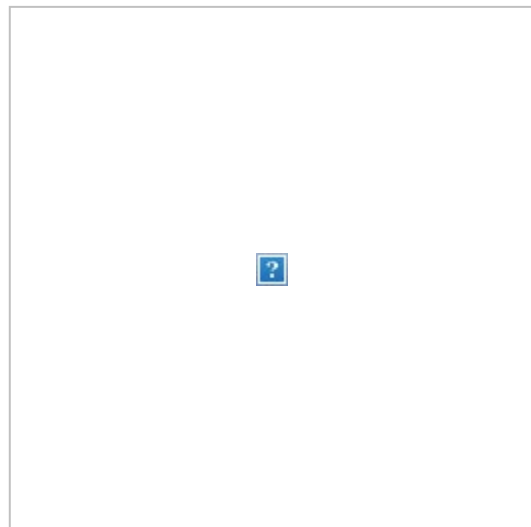
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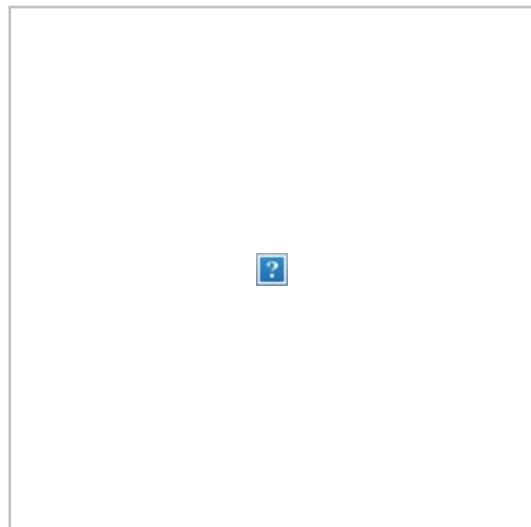
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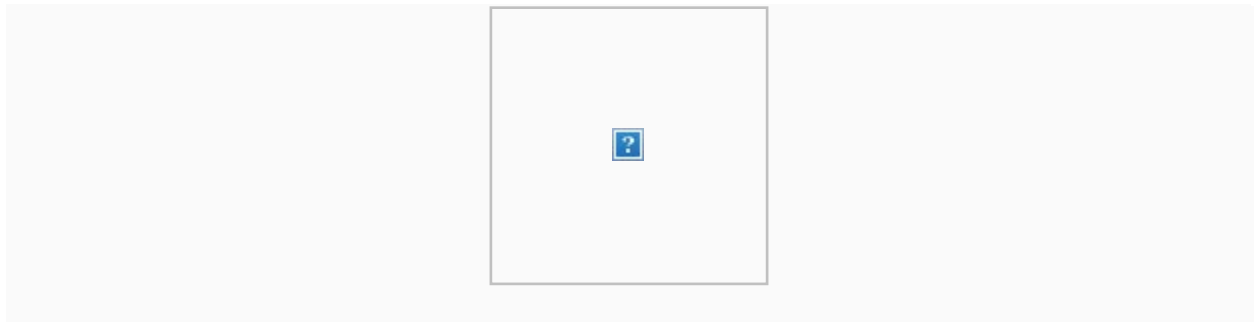
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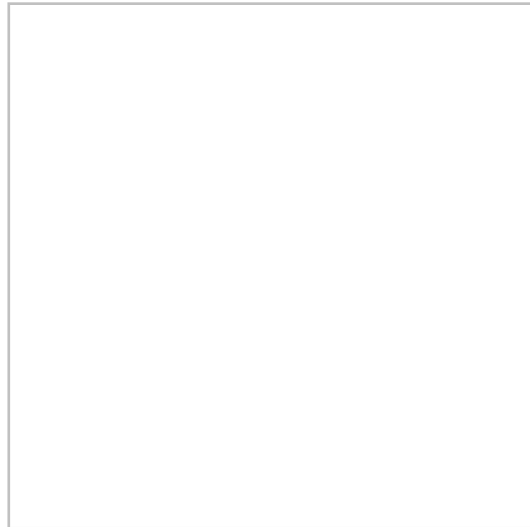
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Note: The Weekly Review will be taking next week off for the holiday and will return to inboxes on July 14.

[Massachusetts to receive \\$147M in new federal broadband funding](#)

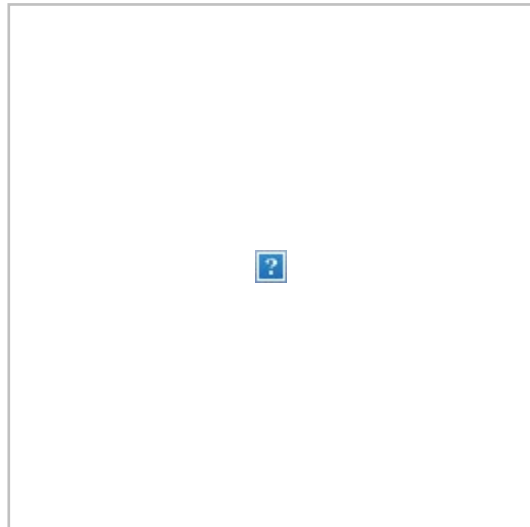
During an event at the White House yesterday, President Joe Biden, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, and federal

telecommunication leaders announced that Massachusetts will receive \$147 million from the national Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program, funding that will help the state further close the digital divide. ...



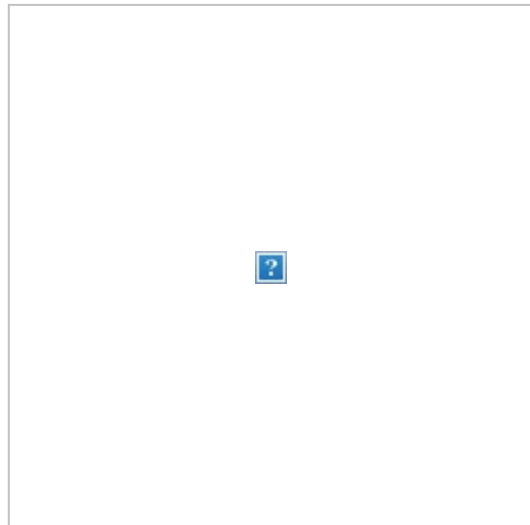
[MMHR elects officers and directors for FY24](#)

During its Annual Business Meeting on June 15 in Burlington, Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources elected Southborough Assistant Town Administrator Vanessa Hale as the association's chair for fiscal 2024. ...



[MMA seeks help with annual database updates](#)

For those who have not yet responded, the MMA is asking local leaders for help to ensure that the association has complete and accurate personnel information for every community. ...

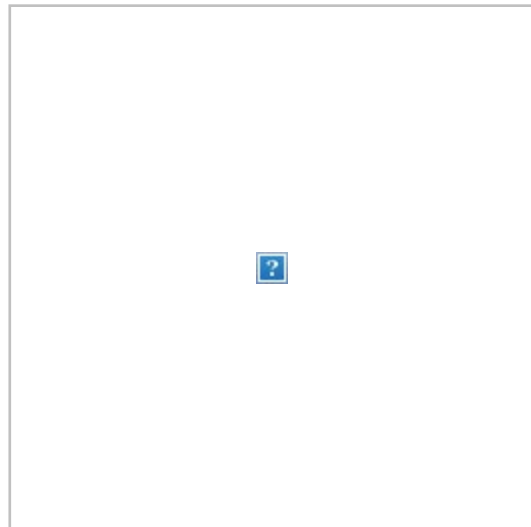


[MMA to host open forum on public](#)

[records and open meeting laws](#)

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New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support an update and expansion of the state's bottle bill](#)

On June 28, Testimony

[MMA urges Judiciary Committee to support bills that would allow legal notices in online-only newspapers](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA asks Election Laws Committee to reject bill that would require creation of federal, state legislative districts before municipalities set local precincts](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA expresses concerns to Public Health Committee about legislation concerning PFAS](#)

On June 23, Testimony

[In order to promote solar, MMA asks Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support bills to eliminate monthly minimum reliability contributions](#)

On June 23, Testimony

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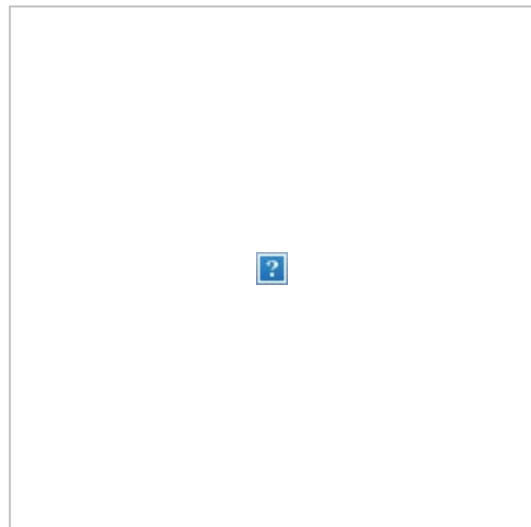
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[CCC publishes draft regulations: regulatory process to begin soon](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission yesterday published preliminary draft regulations regarding adult-use and medical cannabis that would upend existing host community contracts. ...

[House passes supplemental budget with conditional special education funding](#)

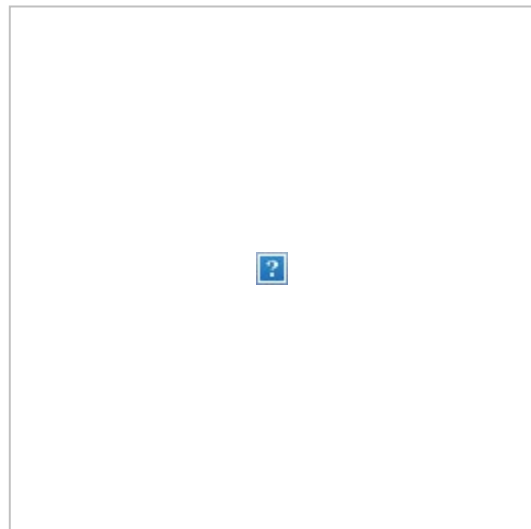
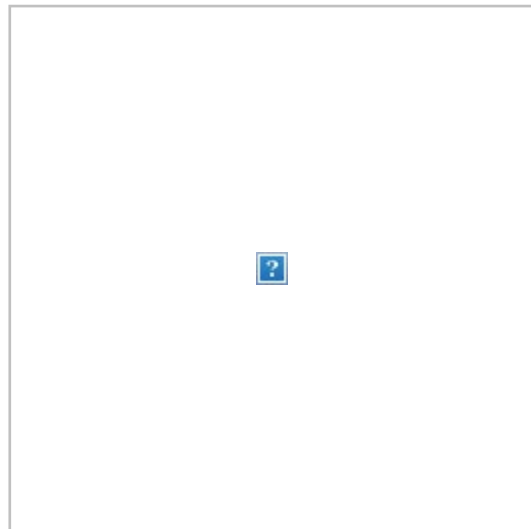
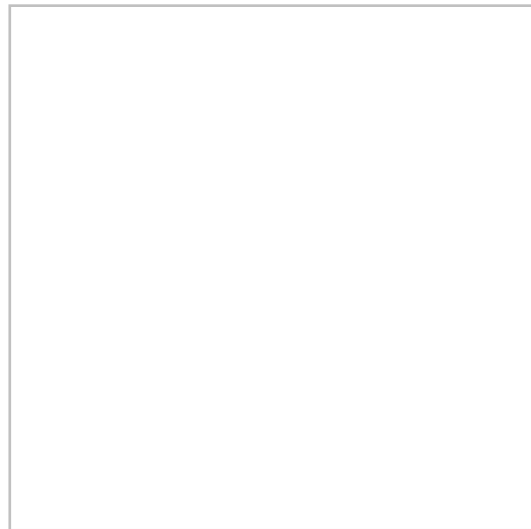
The House yesterday passed a \$693 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill that includes conditional funding to address extraordinary special education cost increases, as well as an expansion of the Housing Development Incentive Program. ...

[MMA-Suffolk certificate program graduates 2022-23 class](#)

On June 27, the MMA and Suffolk University graduated the 19th and 20th classes of the Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program. ...

[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging



all Massachusetts cities, towns and school districts “to take full advantage of newly available federal grants to clean up our school bus fleets.” ...



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[\\$575M available for coastal resilience projects](#)

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[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



[IRS proposes regulations for 'direct pay' option under IRA](#)

The Internal Revenue Service has

released proposed regulations and frequently asked questions regarding the “direct pay,” or “elective pay,” provision of the Inflation Reduction Act. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Education Committee to support bills to study special education funding and increase reimbursement rates](#)

On July 12, Testimony

[MMA urges Labor and Workforce Development Committee to support unemployment insurance reform bill](#)

On July 11, Testimony

[MMA urges Public Service Committee to oppose costly bills that would increase the unfunded liability for public employee pensions](#)

On July 6, Testimony

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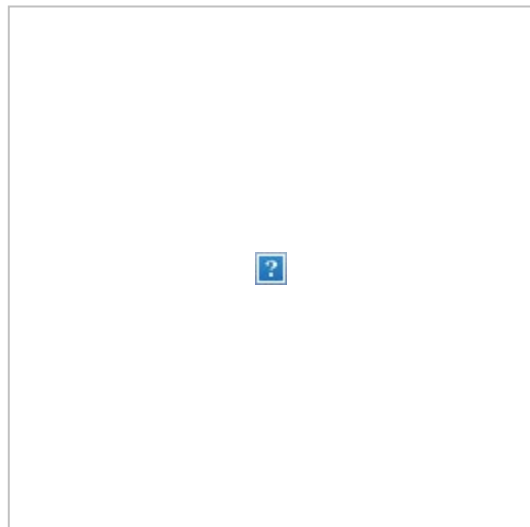
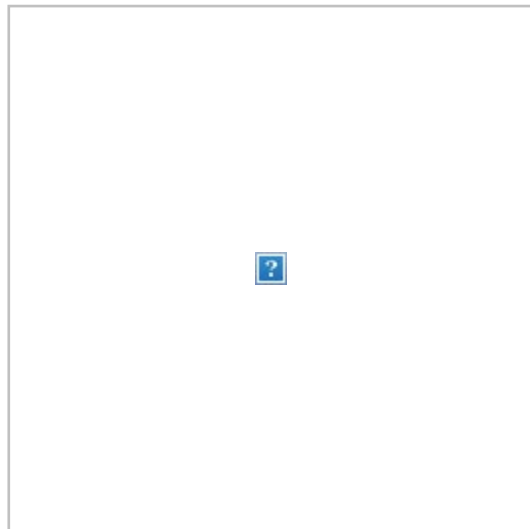
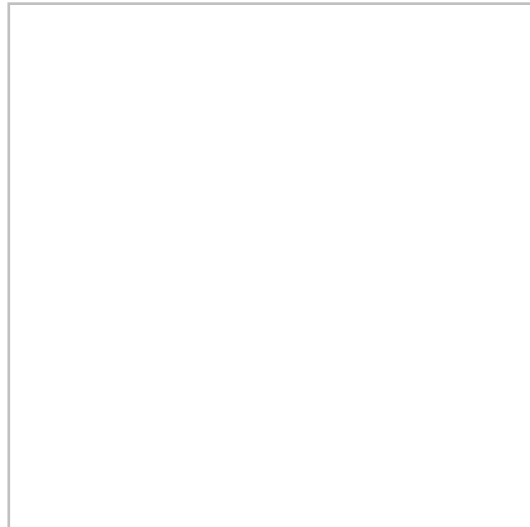
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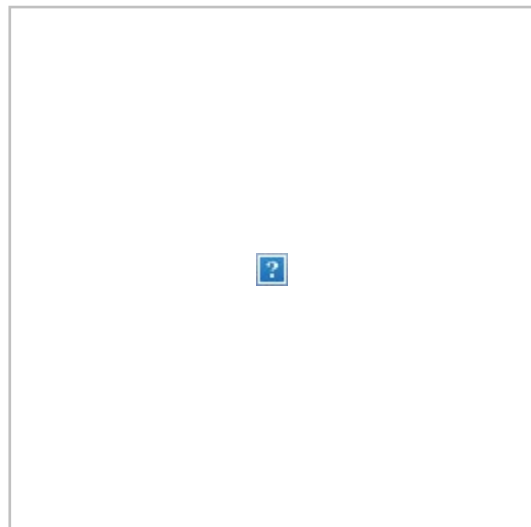


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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - July 20

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[View our entire event calendar](#)

[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

[Wellness Representative](#)

[Retiree and Medicare Specialist](#)

[Risk Management Information Coordinator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

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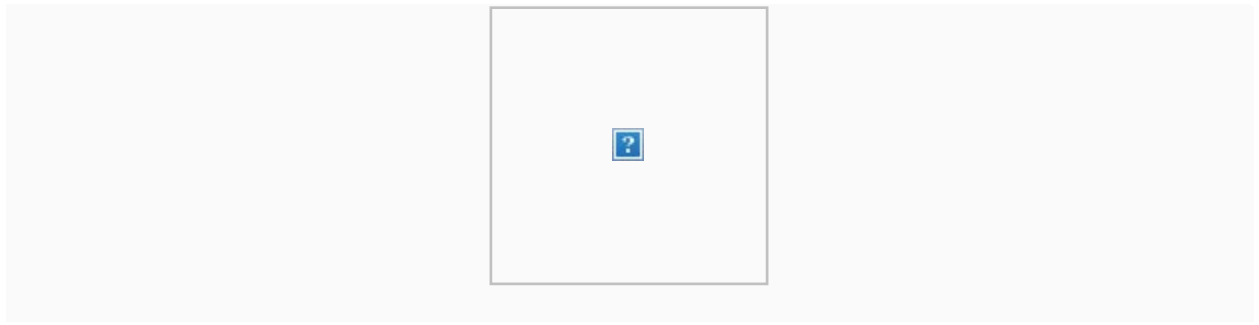
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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[FY24 state budget remains in conference committee](#)

As the state operates on an interim budget for July, a House-Senate conference committee is continuing its work toward a compromise fiscal 2024 state spending plan. ...

[MassDOT accepting requests while Ch. 90 bill remains in committee](#)

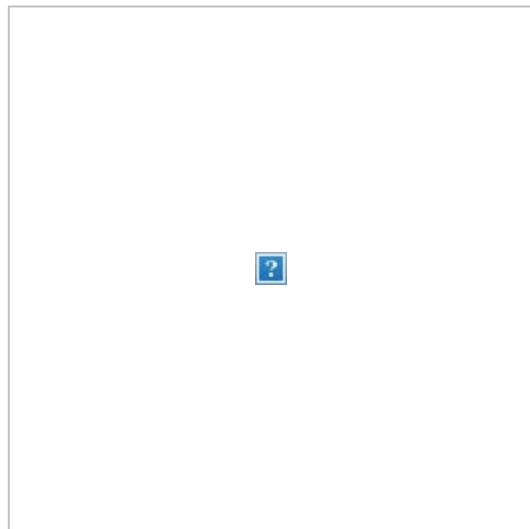
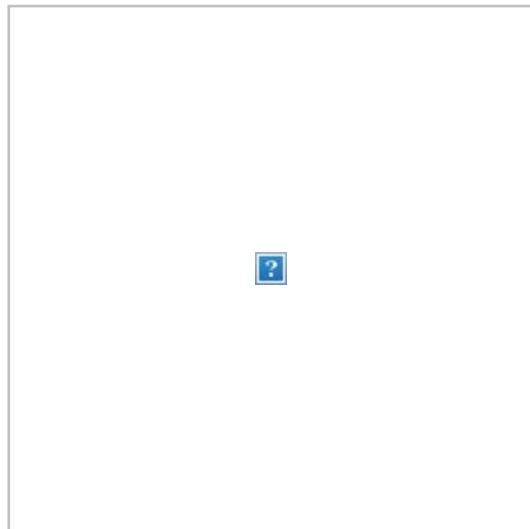
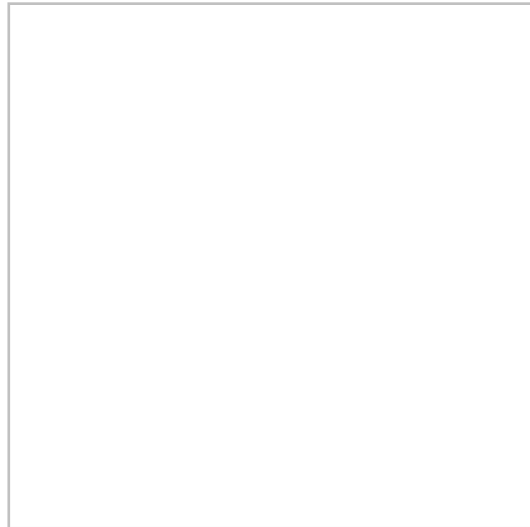
While the fiscal 2024 Chapter 90 bond bill remains in a conference committee, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation today said it will begin to accept, review and approve project requests from municipalities in advance of the legislation's final passage. ...

[MMA publishes Summer issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the Summer 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including a fiscal 2024 state budget update, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[Swift to WLG: Lead with confidence and empathy](#)

As a former acting governor and



business leader, Jane Swift has plenty of career tips to offer women: Use your power to improve people's lives, lead with confidence, take credit for your wins, and support your female colleagues. ...



[MMA forum answers questions on public records, open meeting laws](#)

An interactive MMA webinar yesterday offered an extended opportunity to discuss the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



[MMA webinar to discuss statewide contracts and procurement](#)

On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[IG announces pilot program to offer free procurement training to cities, towns](#)

On June 22, Inspector General Jeffery Shapiro announced a pilot program, called One Free Designee, offering core public procurement training at no cost to every municipality in Massachusetts. ...



MSA holds training for new members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association held a free training for newly elected select board members on June 9 in Devens, covering key state laws, budgeting, funding sources, insights from current members, and collaborative decision making. ...



Efforts to battle PFAS contamination continue

As cities and towns grapple with the management of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in drinking water across the Commonwealth, discussions continue on state and federal efforts. ...



Legislature considers extended producer responsibility and bottle bills

The Legislature is considering several bills this session that would hold producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products and packaging, a concept that could help local governments manage their increasing recycling and solid waste costs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Local government is teamwork](#)

On July 18, Executive Director's Report

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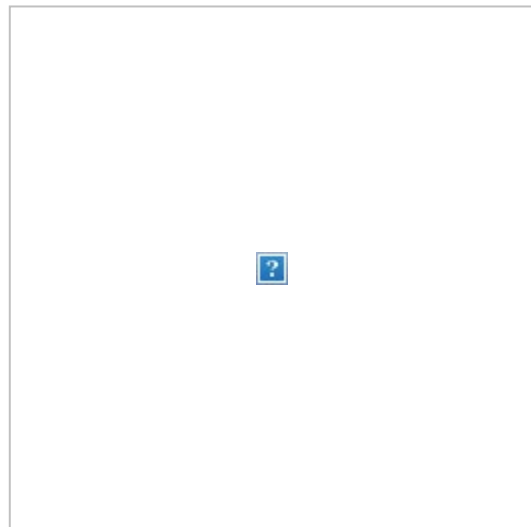
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We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Accountant, Engineer, Project Manager, Public Health Nurse, Assistant City Solicitor, Social Worker, Recreation Coordinator, Principal Clerk and Civilian Dispatchers. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[House, Senate approve FY24 Ch. 90 bill](#)

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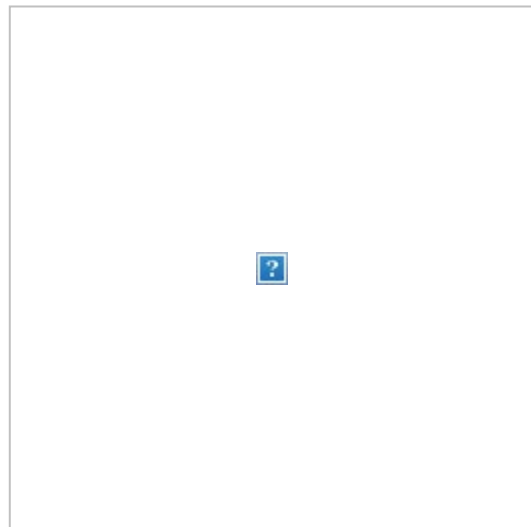
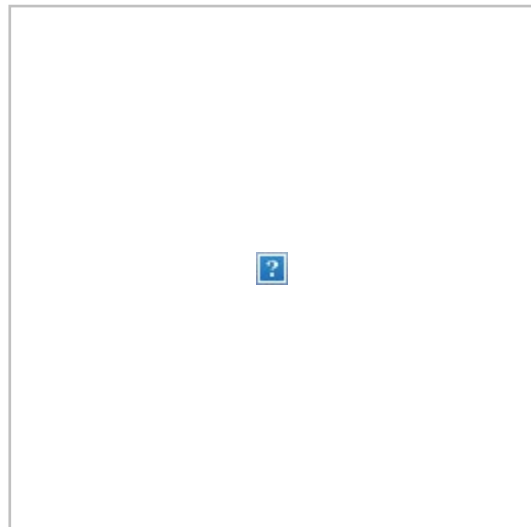
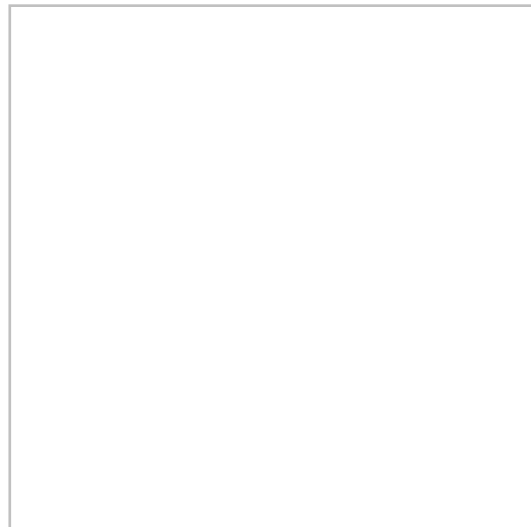
[Senate OK's \\$513M supplemental budget with \\$75M for special education](#)

The Senate today passed a \$513 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill that includes conditional funding to address extraordinary special education cost increases, as well as \$20 million in disaster relief related to recent flooding in western Massachusetts. ...

[MassCyberCenter releases 'Minimum Baseline of IT' guide](#)

Recent cyberattacks on cities and towns across the country have shed light on the importance of strengthening cybersecurity resiliency at the municipal level. ...

[MMA webinar on Aug. 7 will discuss proposed CCC regulations](#)



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[DPH issues reminders to reduce risks of mosquito-borne illnesses](#)

With mosquito season upon us, the

Department of Public Health is reminding residents and municipal officials that mosquitoes can spread illness-causing viruses such as West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis.

...



Member Spotlight

[Pooler to retire as Arlington town manager](#)

After serving for a quarter century in municipal government, Arlington Town Manager Sandy Pooler will be retiring on July 28. ...



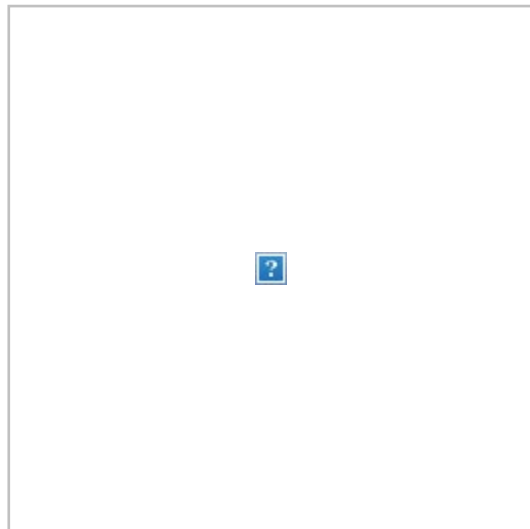
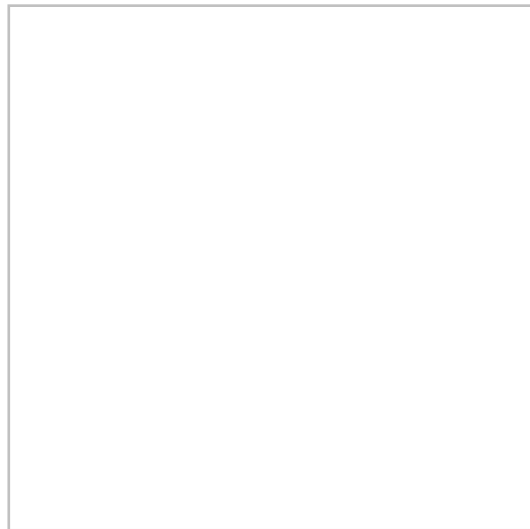
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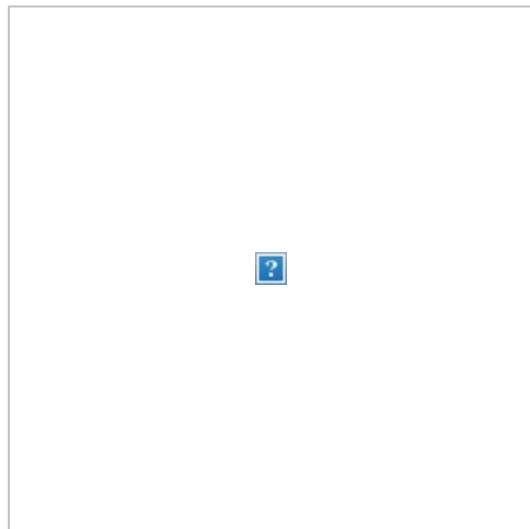
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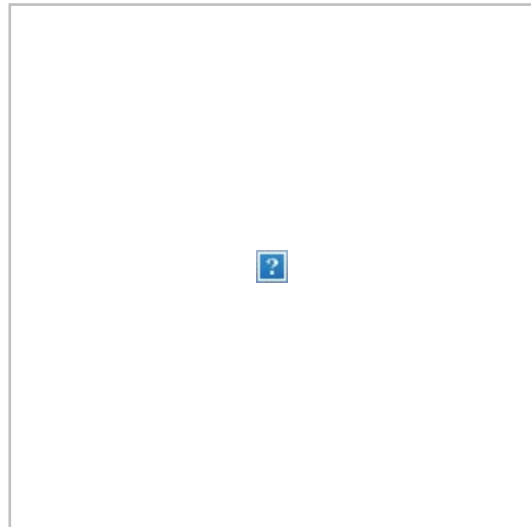


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Federal Funds Resource Area



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MMA Website Weekly Review

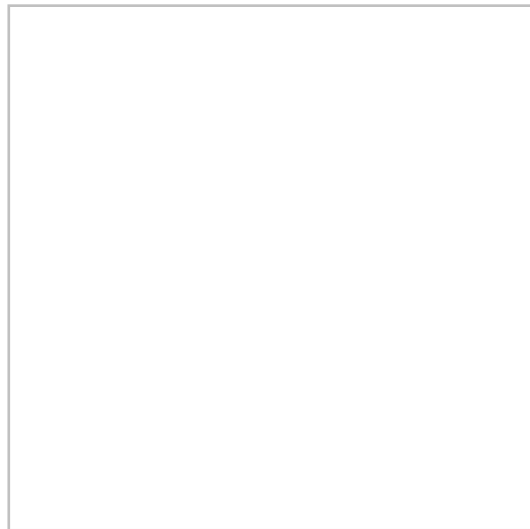
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[Governor signs Chapter 90 bill](#)

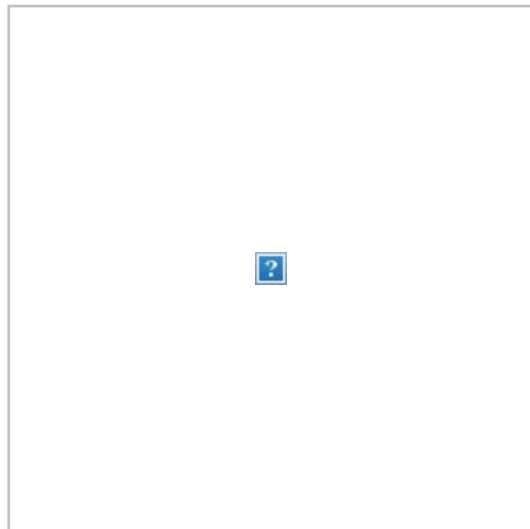
Alongside key stakeholders, Gov. Maura Healey signed the fiscal 2024 Chapter 90 bond bill today at an event in Lowell. The House-Senate compromise bill authorizes \$200 million for the road bridge program and \$175 million for seven

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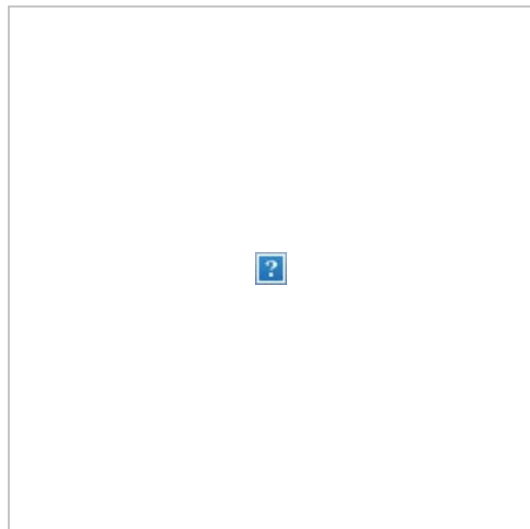
[Legislature enacts FY24 budget with key investments in municipal and school aid](#)

The House and Senate on July 31 passed a \$56.2 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024. ...



[Adam Chapdelaine appointed as MMA's new executive director](#)

The MMA Board of Directors today appointed Adam Chapdelaine as the association's next executive director to succeed the retiring Geoff Beckwith. ...



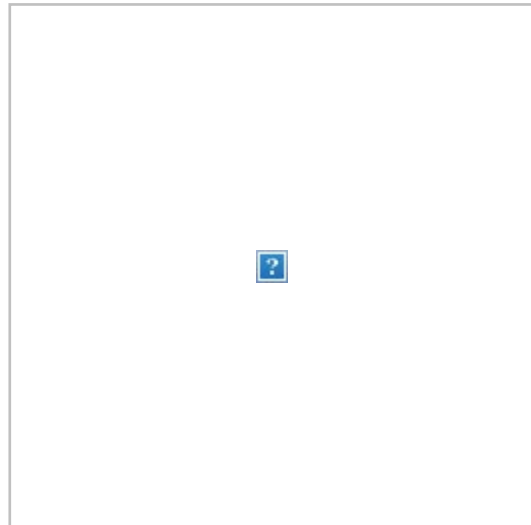
[Governor signs \\$200M FY23 supplemental budget bill, \\$20M for flood relief in western Mass.](#)

Soon after completing its work on the fiscal 2024 compromise state budget bill, the Legislature on Monday passed a fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill (H. 4034) providing \$20 million in mitigation funds for natural disasters, including the recent floods in western Massachusetts. Gov. Maura Healey signed the bill into law on Tuesday morning. ...



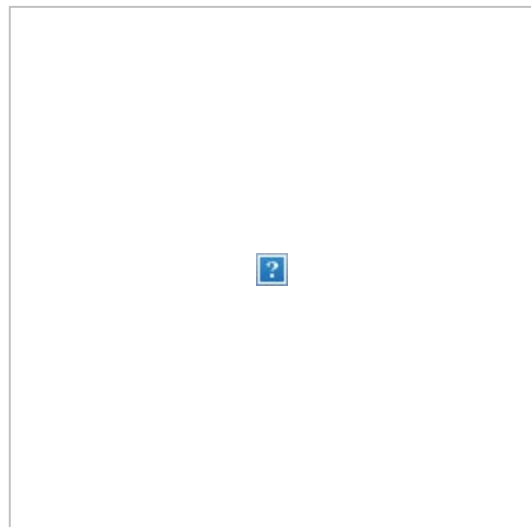
[State announces \\$11.5 million grant program to electrify heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently announced a new competitive grant program as part of the Volkswagen Settlement and the state's climate trust: the Massachusetts VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation. ...



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[With override, Nantucket boosts affordable housing efforts](#)

Faced with an increasingly dire housing shortage, the town of Nantucket has invested more than \$67 million in housing efforts in recent years, approved an override for future projects, and partnered with developers to bring additional housing to the island. ...



[Amherst completes comprehensive solar assessment](#)

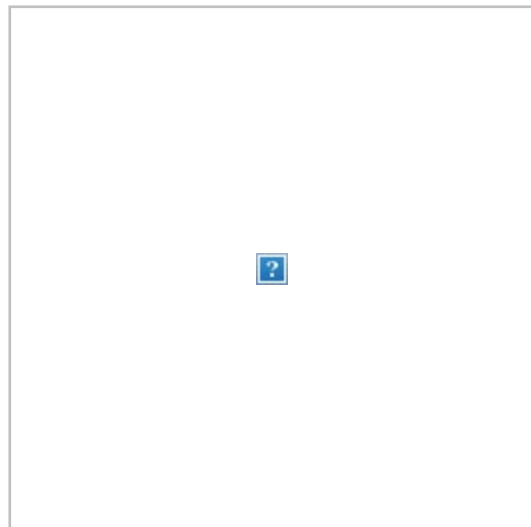
The town of Amherst recently

completed a townwide solar assessment as a part of an effort to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. As a result, the town now has a mapping tool that shows where solar is feasible for the town, as well as for businesses and residents who may be interested in solar installation in the future. ...



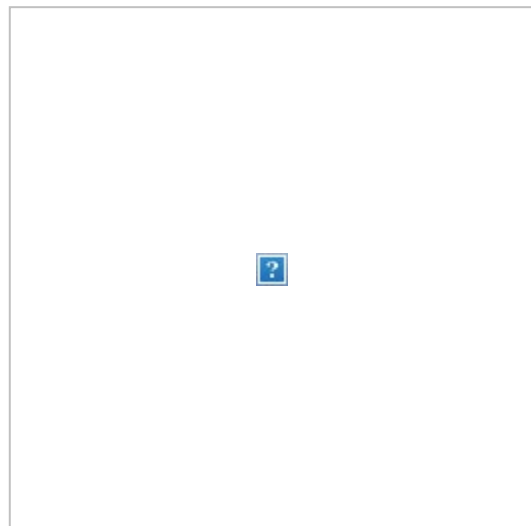
[Harvard report highlights Somerville's civic engagement](#)

A recent study on Somerville's civic engagement activities published by the Harvard Kennedy School offers insights on citizen interaction at a time when local governments seek new ways to engage residents and create a more civil environment for public discourse. ...



[MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest](#)

Has your community recently launched an innovative new project that has transformed the delivery of services or helped solve a common problem facing cities and towns? ...



[Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA Annual Meeting in January 2024. ...



[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges governor to support key municipal investments in FY24 state budget](#)

On Aug. 2, Testimony

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MMA Website Weekly Review

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The Weekly Review is taking a vacation next week. We will be back in your inbox on Aug. 25.

[Gov. Healey signs FY24 state budget](#)

Gov. Maura Healey today signed a \$56 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that increases unrestricted

local aid by 3.2% over fiscal 2023 and boosts Chapter 70 education aid by \$603 million. ...



Governor declares emergency, calls for support for rush of migrant families

Gov. Maura Healey this morning declared that a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability. ...



MMA webinar reviews draft CCC regulations on host community agreements

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[MassCyberCenter to hold annual municipal summit Oct. 5](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its third annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on Oct. 5 in Worcester. ...



[Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland](#)

The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



[Navigating unemployment: fraud, complexity and safeguards](#)

The Massachusetts Department of

Unemployment Assistance recently issued an alert about another uptick in fraudulent claims, three years after many states were hit with an initial spike during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

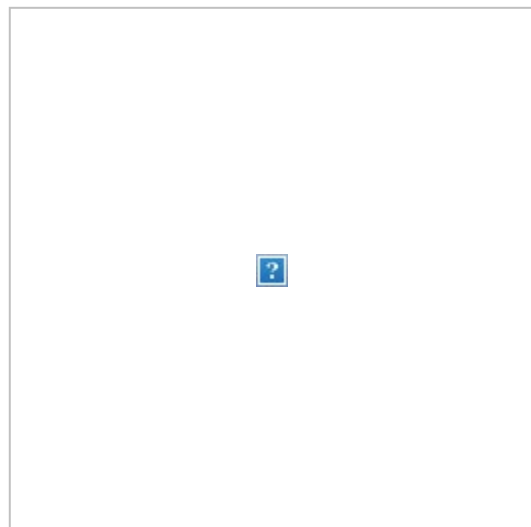
[MMA asks Public Service Committee to oppose bills that would add costly new unfunded mandates for employee benefits](#)

On Aug. 4, Testimony

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[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging

all Massachusetts cities, towns and school districts “to take full advantage of newly available federal grants to clean up our school bus fleets.” ...



FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants

The Federal Highway Administration has opened the application period for a new discretionary grant program called PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation). Up to \$848 million is available. ...



\$575M available for coastal resilience projects

Approximately \$575 million is available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



USDOT accepting applications for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for three discretionary grant programs that involve surface transportation projects designed to strengthen supply chains, spur economic development, and improve safety. ...

[USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants](#)

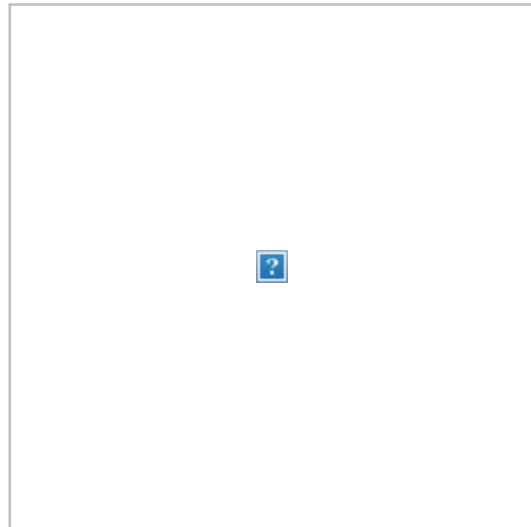
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Federal Funds Resource Area



Upcoming MMA Events

[Best Practices for Navigating Statewide Contracts and COMMBUYS Purchasing webinar](#) - Aug. 15

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[State makes revisions to MBTA communities guidelines](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities today released additional revisions to its compliance guidelines for multi-family zoning districts in MBTA communities. ...

[**Municipal leaders urged to comment on CCC draft regulations**](#)

The MMA is encouraging municipal officials to weigh in on draft regulations approved by the Cannabis Control Commission on July 28 regarding host community agreements and social equity. ...

[**DOER requests feedback on Solar for All straw application proposal**](#)

The Department of Energy Resources, in partnership with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, is requesting feedback on a straw proposal for the state's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All program. ...

[**Municipal officials request permanent remote, hybrid meeting options**](#)



During a July 26 legislative hearing, the MMA and local officials from across the state called for the existing authorization for public body remote and hybrid meetings to be made permanent. ...



[MMA webinar highlights navigation of contracts, purchasing in COMMBUYS](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Operational Services Division reviewed how to access statewide contract information and use COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding](#)

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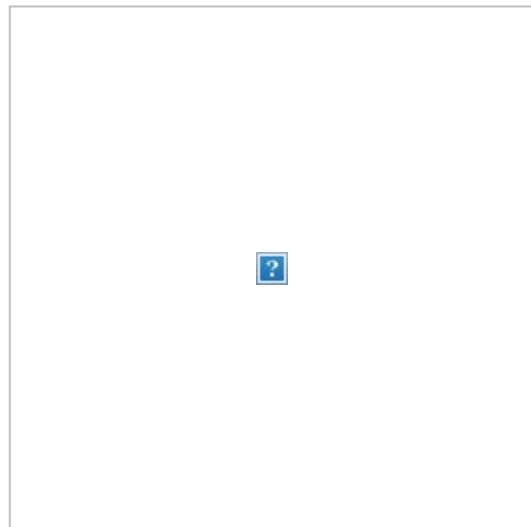
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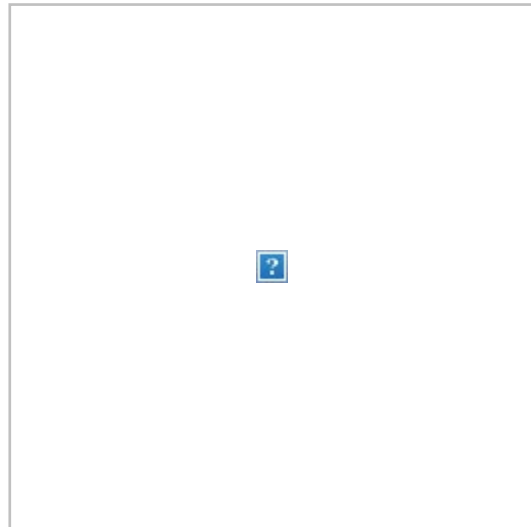
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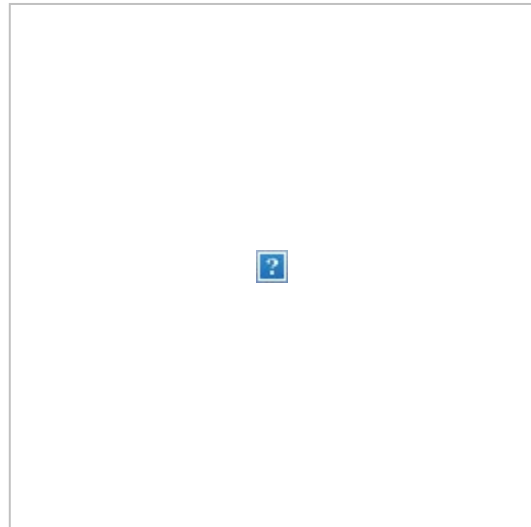
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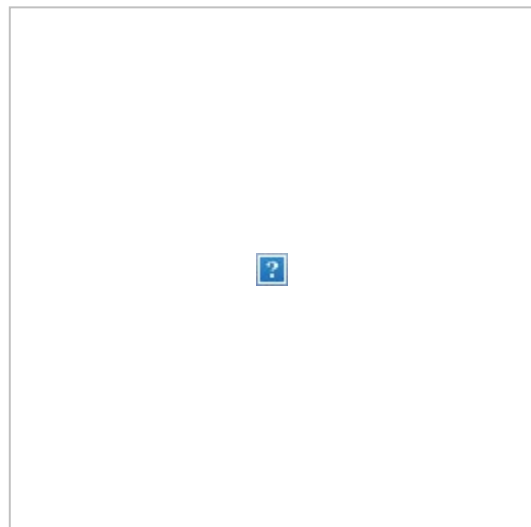
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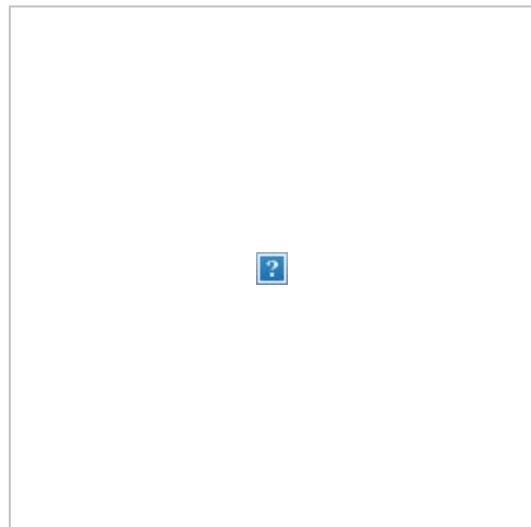
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We've added 53 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for DPW Director, Grant Manager, Highway Operator, Treasurer/Collector, Conservation Agent, Director of Veterans Services and Finance Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[Administration awards \\$31.5M in climate resiliency funding to communities](#)

At an event in Stockbridge today, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announced \$31.5

million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grants for climate resilience implementation and planning throughout Massachusetts.

...

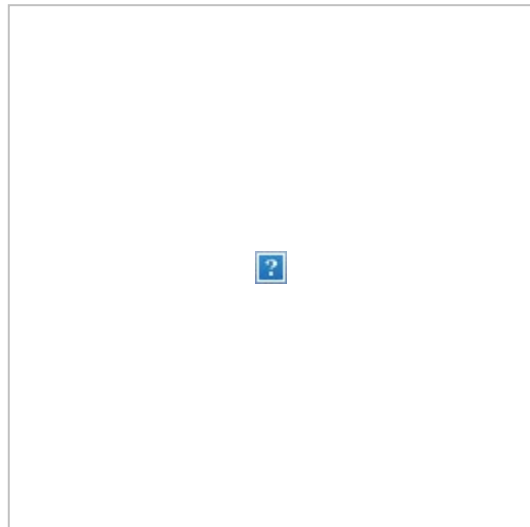
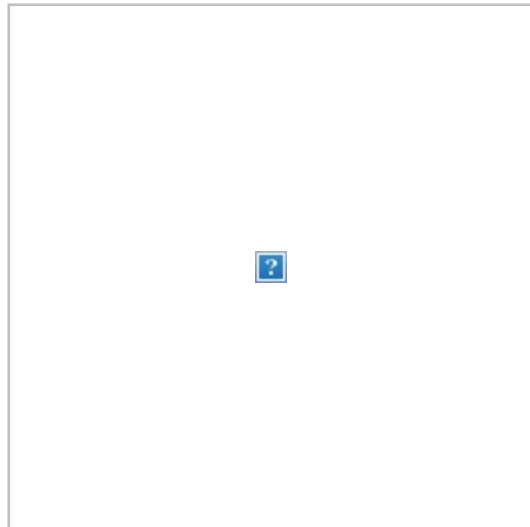
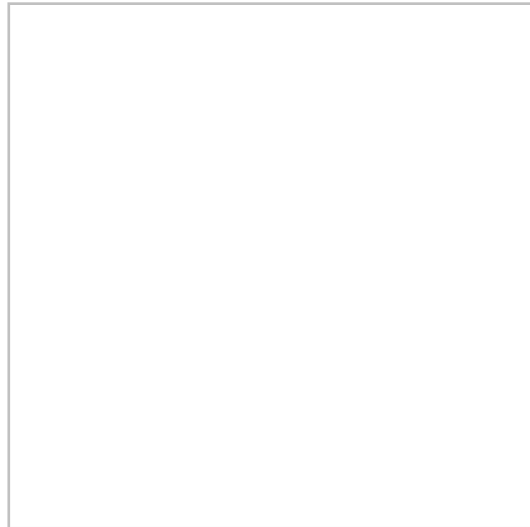
[Treasury issues new guidance on ARPA Flex provision](#)

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has released detailed guidance that increases flexibility for the use of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...

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[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



Massachusetts Broadband Institute seeks input on Internet for All plan

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute this month will begin a series of public listening sessions as it develops a five-year plan to deploy \$147 million in federal investments to support actions to bridge the digital divide. ...



Grants available to boost resilience in disadvantaged communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities. ...



Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future

Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[EV charger report forecasts significant needs for infrastructure](#)

A new report from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council provides a comprehensive view of the current electric vehicle charging landscape, as well as recommendations for policy actions to support a robust, equitable and accessible charging network across the Commonwealth. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



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[Incoming Director Chapdelaine prepares for MMA's future](#)

When Adam Chapdelaine becomes the MMA's new executive director on Sept. 9, he will bring his years of experience working in city and town halls, his firsthand knowledge of the

inner workings of the State House,
and an abiding belief in the essential
role of local government in our
quality of life. ...

[Beckwith reflects on 31 years leading the MMA](#)

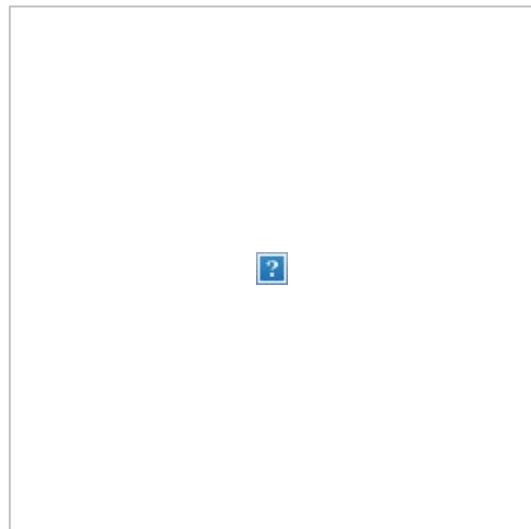
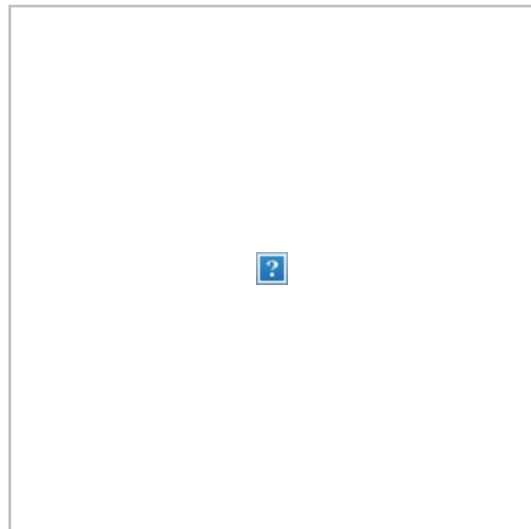
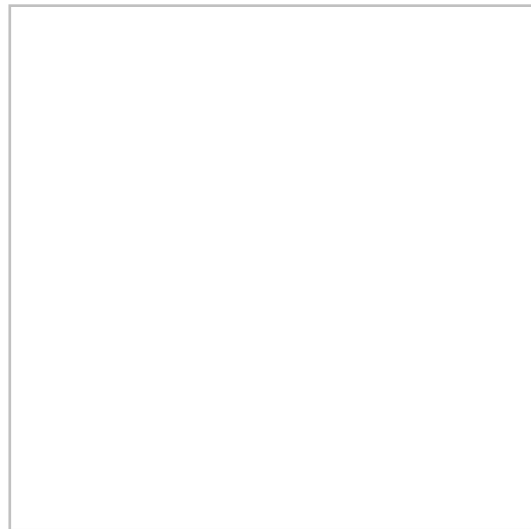
Geoff Beckwith welcomes a visitor
into his office of the past two years
and points out that, despite his
collection of plaques, photos and
memorabilia, nothing is hung up. ...

[Racial Equity Group selected to lead MMA's DEI work](#)

The MMA has contracted with the
Racial Equity Group to develop a
strategic plan to advance diversity,
equity and inclusion efforts in local
government. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the



MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...



[MMA publishes September issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the September 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government — including the change in leadership at the MMA — plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Save the date for MMA Annual Meeting in 2024](#)

The MMA is hard at work on plans for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...



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[DPU seeks feedback on municipal aggregation investigation through Oct. 6](#)

The Department of Public Utilities opened an investigation on Aug. 15 into municipal aggregation, with a goal to create a streamlined process for Massachusetts municipalities to establish new programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA, MMLA offer to work with CCC to recraft draft regulations viewed as unconstitutional and an unfunded mandate](#)

On Sept. 7, Testimony

[MMA's best days are ahead of us](#)

On Sept. 5, Executive Director's Report

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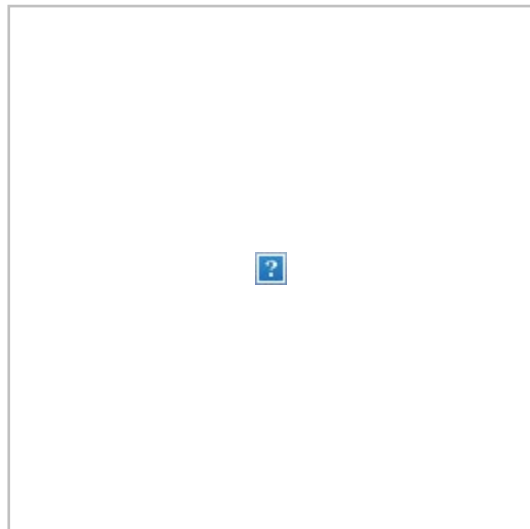
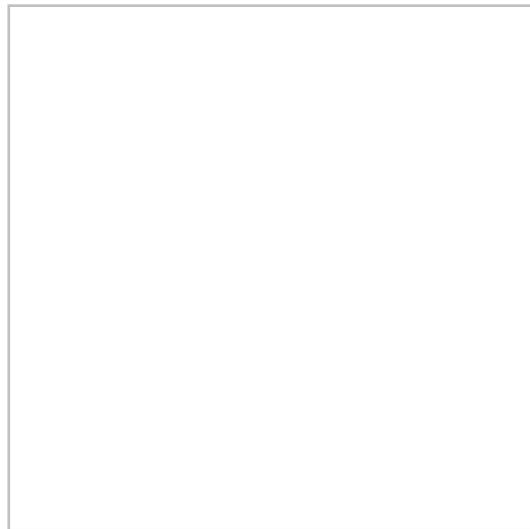
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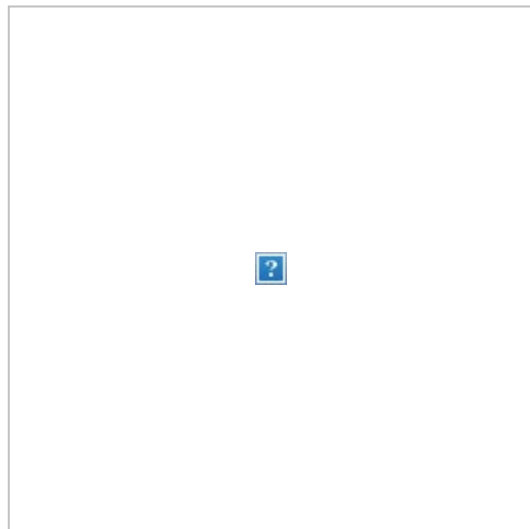
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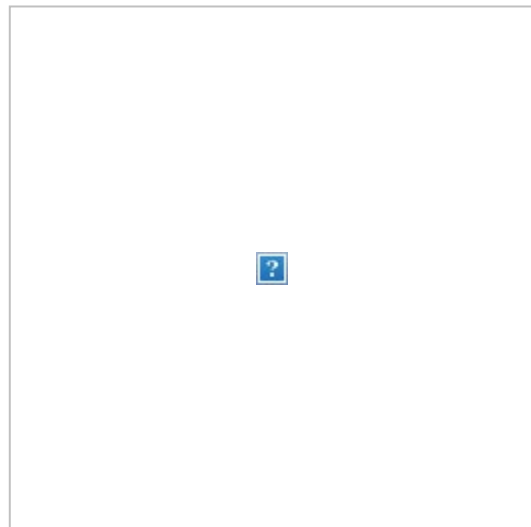
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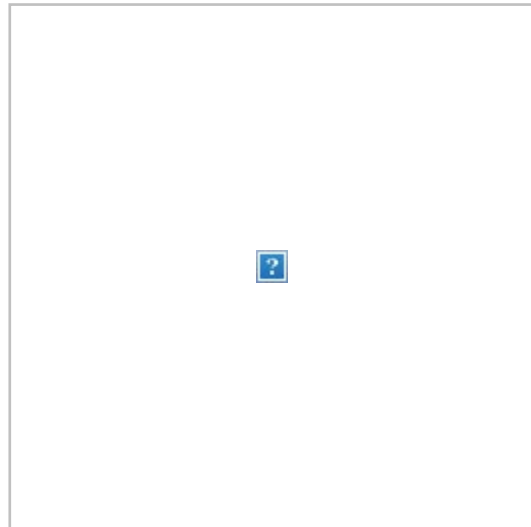


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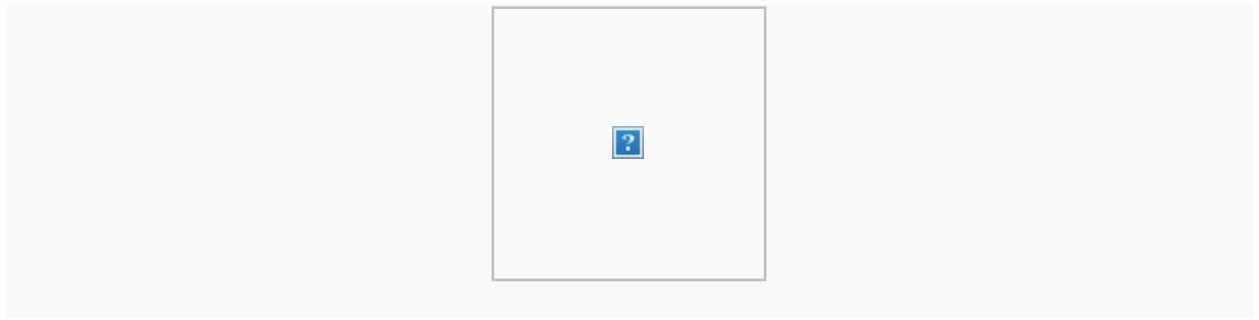
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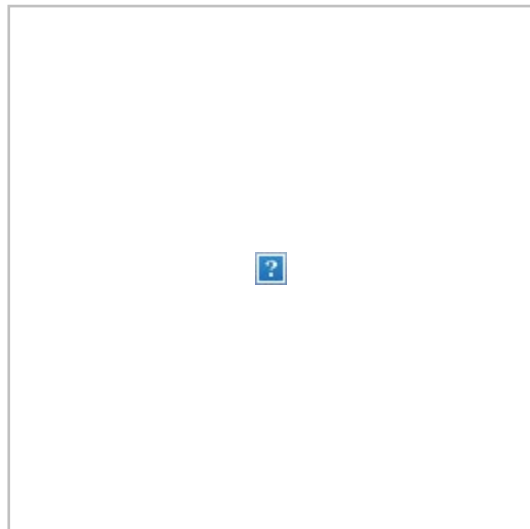
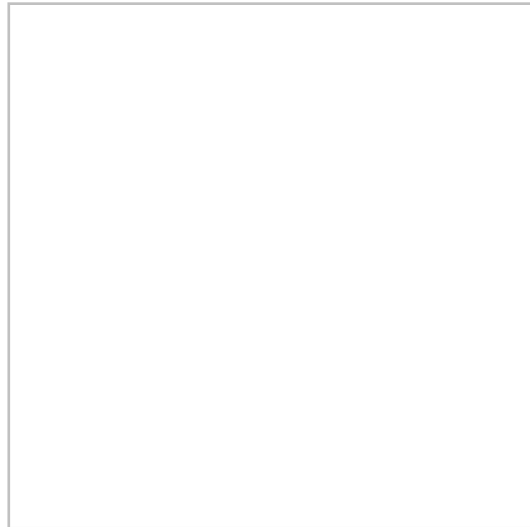
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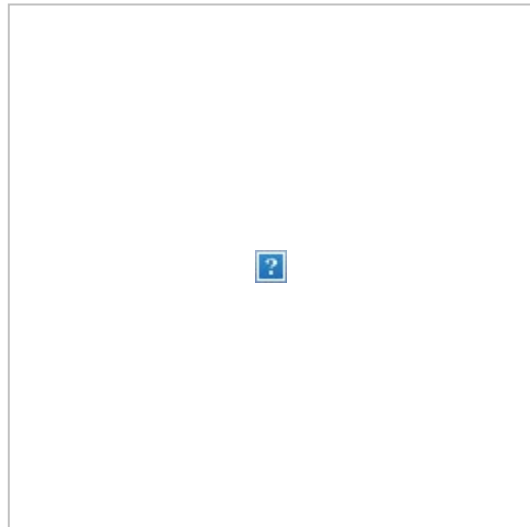
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[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[MSA seeks nominations for its 2024 Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board

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MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding

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MMA webinar to explore communicating with constituents, fostering engagement

A free webinar for MMA members on Sept. 26 will discuss how to effectively communicate with constituents and customize outreach according to the target audience. ...



NLC launches 4th series of federal grant-writing boot camps

The National League of Cities is

launching a fourth set of free grant-writing “boot camps” this fall to help local officials keep pace with federal grant opportunities. ...



[MTF webinar will explore migration trends and their impact on Mass.](#)

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation will host a free webinar on Oct. 19 to explore national migration trends and assess their impact on Massachusetts. ...



[Safe Routes to School grants available](#)

Safe Routes to School, a federally funded program that works to increase safe walking, biking and rolling by public school students, is accepting applications for its Signs and Lines and Infrastructure Project grant programs. ...

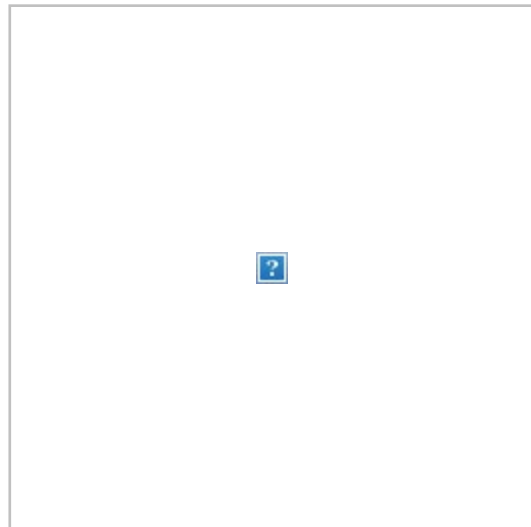


[30 watersheds impacted by new nitrogen pollution restrictions](#)

Updates to septic system and

watershed regulations, intended to combat nitrogen pollution in certain coastal areas, took effect on July 7.

...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Grants 101 webinar](#) - Sept. 18

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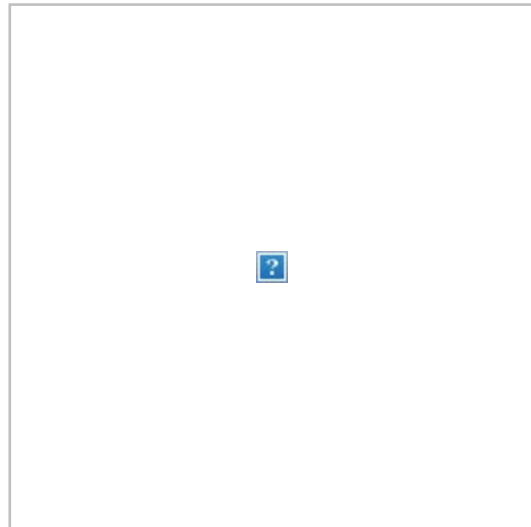
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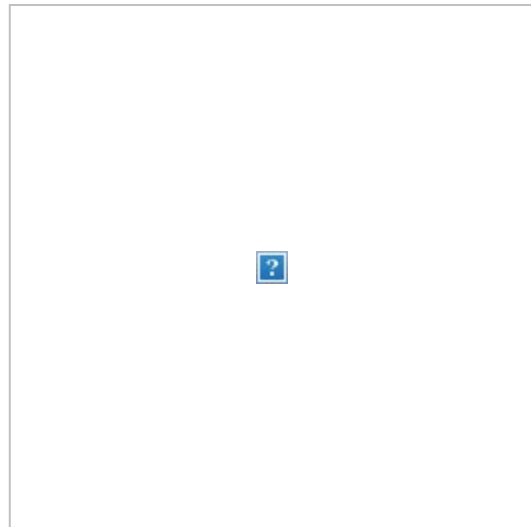
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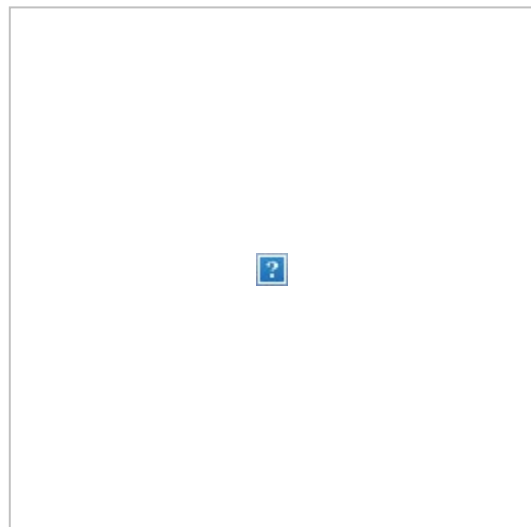
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Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31

The MMA is accepting entries for its

Annual Town Report Contest. ...



State announces \$11.5 million grant program to electrify heavy-duty vehicles

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently announced a new competitive grant program as part of the Volkswagen Settlement and the state's climate trust: the Massachusetts VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation. ...



\$575M available for coastal resilience projects

Approximately \$575 million is available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced on July 5 that up to \$3.16 billion is available for planning and construction projects through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods discretionary grant program. ...



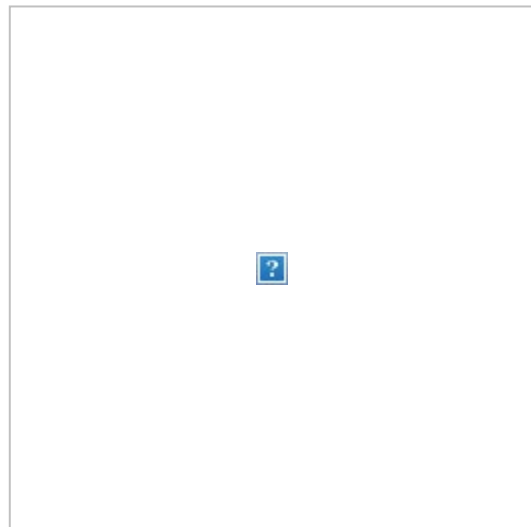
[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 48 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Chief Equity Officer, Assistant Planner, Conservation Officer, Town Counsel, Senior Computer Technician, Junior Accountant and Public Health Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Gov. files closeout budget with funds for emergency shelter crisis](#)

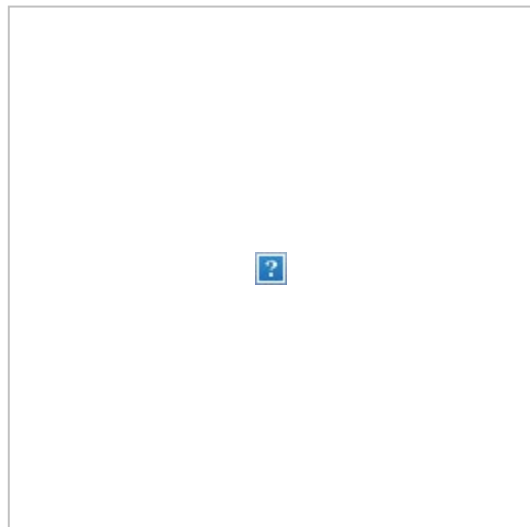
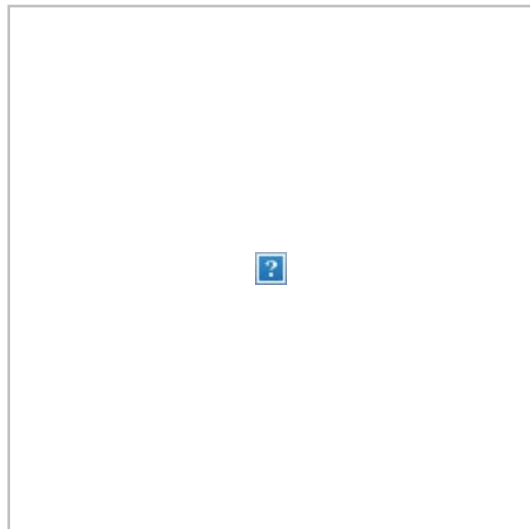
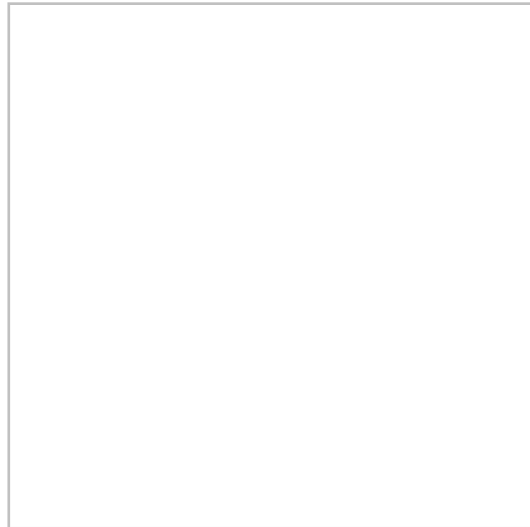
Looking to close the books on fiscal 2023, Gov. Maura Healey filed a final supplemental budget bill on Sept. 13 that would allocate additional funding for several key priorities. ...

[MMA, local leaders working with administration to address shelter crisis](#)

With a surge of emergency shelter needs that shows no signs of abating, and temporary placements in hotels and other settings in roughly 80 communities across the state, the MMA and the administration will begin conducting biweekly briefings with chief municipal officials later this month to provide the latest information and take questions. ...

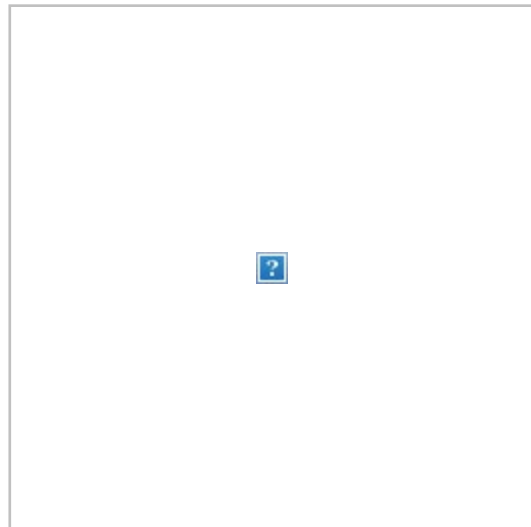
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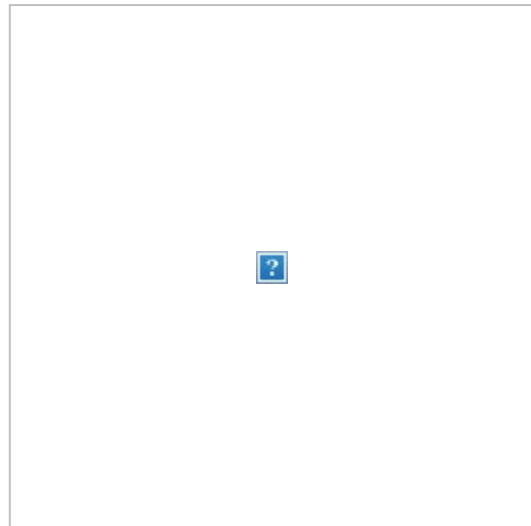
[MMA “Grants 101” webinar shares resources to assist municipalities](#)

A free MMA webinar yesterday offered an overview of federal and state grants available to municipalities, as well as best practices for writing grant applications and administering grants. ...



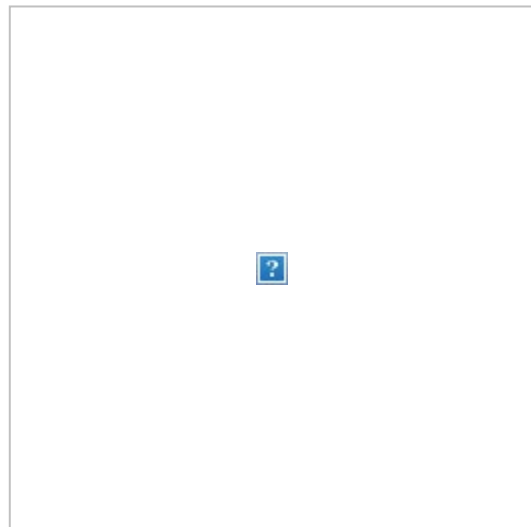
[MMA webinar to explore communicating with constituents, fostering engagement](#)

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[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[Cambridge focuses on flood prevention, zoning as part of larger climate action](#)

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the city of Cambridge is taking a multi-pronged approach to resiliency, looking at the impacts of flooding, heat and emissions. ...



[Boston program encourages office-to-residential conversions downtown](#)

As big cities nationwide attempt to revitalize downtown office districts hollowed out by the pandemic and the rise of remote work, the city of Boston is seeking to incentivize the conversion of underused office buildings into residential units. ...



[Southern Berkshire County towns offer public ride-share service](#)

Seeking to bridge the gap for seniors, workers and others lacking transportation options, several Berkshire County towns have banded together to create a public on-demand ride service. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial

Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee to support bills to create municipal and public safety building authority](#)

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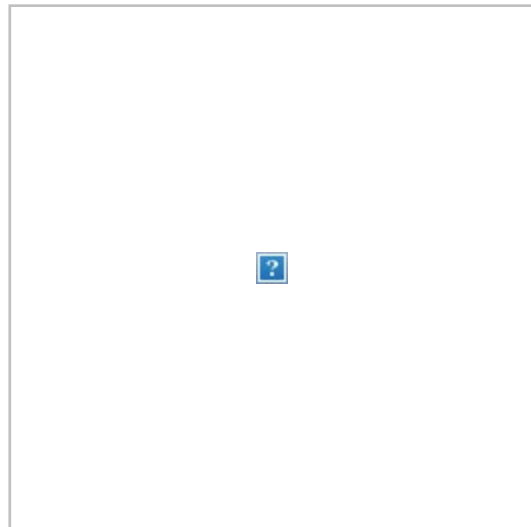
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[MTF webinar will explore](#)

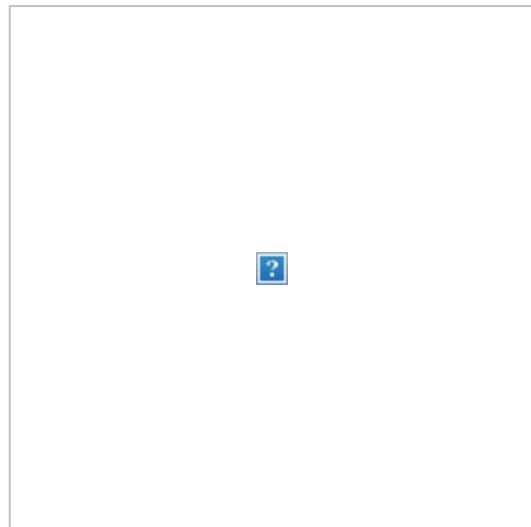
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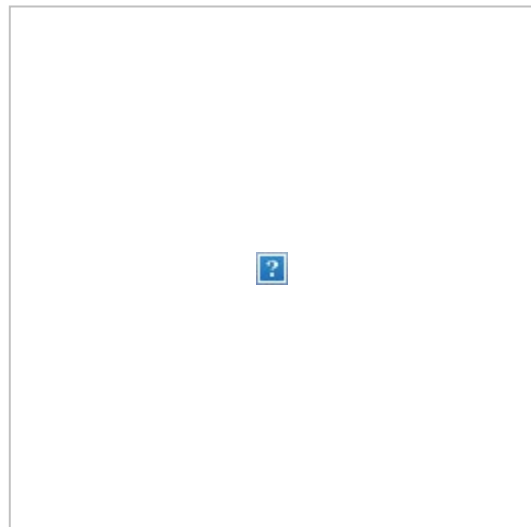
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The annual Massachusetts Town
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**MMA seeks entries for Municipal
Innovation Award contest**

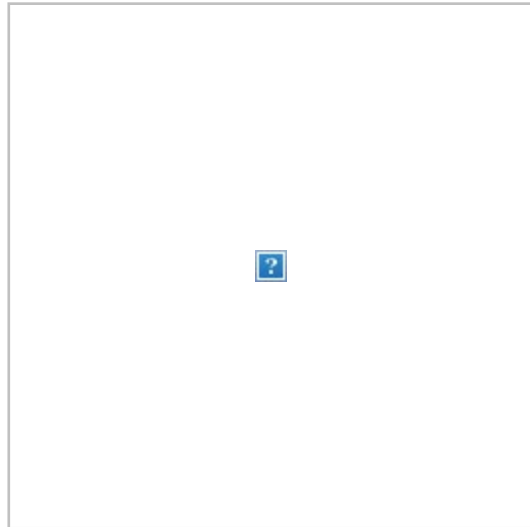
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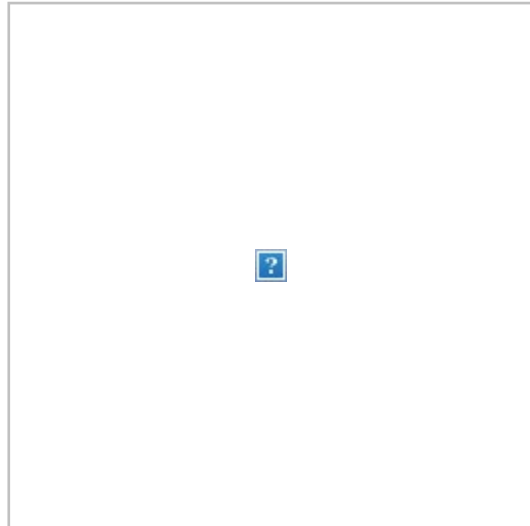
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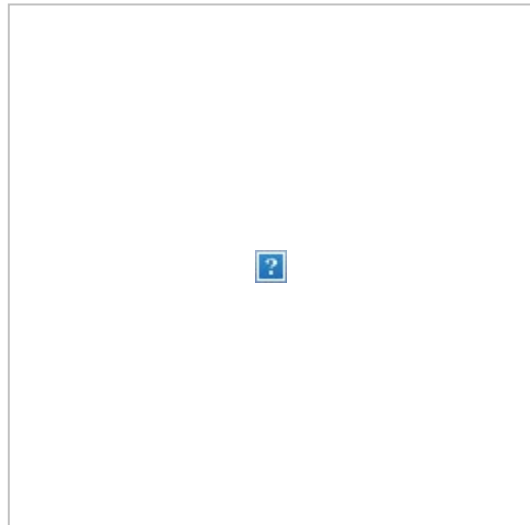
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We've added 50 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Facilities Project Manager, GIS Coordinator, Town Accountant, Assistant City Engineer, Town Planner, Cross Connection Coordinator and Finance Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[CCC approves extensive revisions to marijuana regulations](#)

On Sept. 22, the Cannabis Control Commission voted, 3-1, to approve extensive revisions to state regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana. ...

[House, Senate send tax relief bill to governor's desk](#)

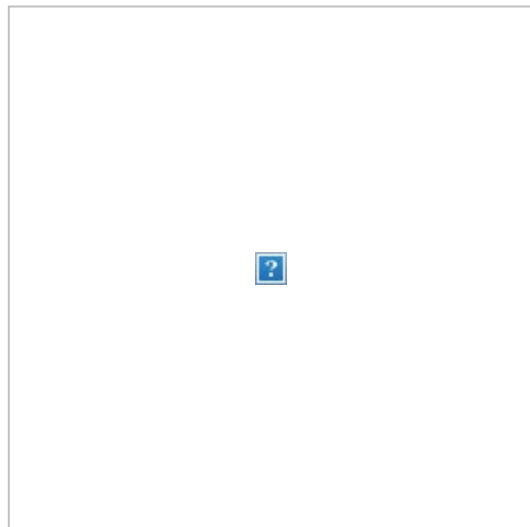
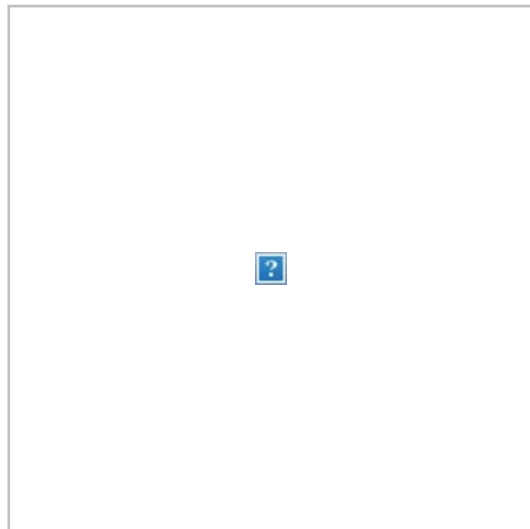
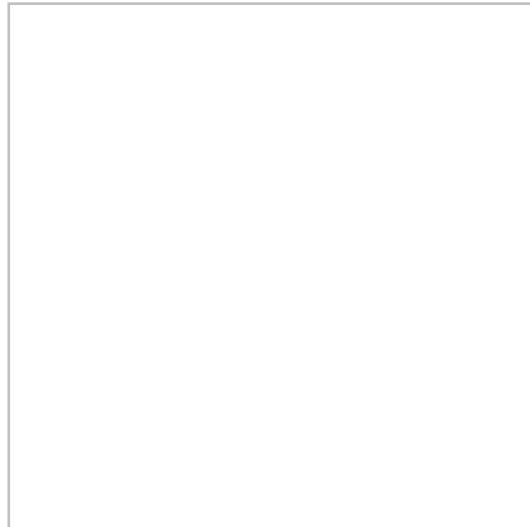
The House and Senate have passed a compromise tax relief bill that would provide \$561 million in tax breaks and credits this year, with the value growing to approximately \$1 billion once the law is fully implemented in 2027. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

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[What to know about \\$325M for municipal roads, bridges in FY24](#)

A bond terms bill signed by Gov.



Maura Healey on Sept. 12 concludes the legislative process for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2024 and will enable the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to process reimbursements for approved projects. ...



[MMA webinar shares tips for communicating with constituents](#)

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[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

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[MunEnergy to hold webinar on winter energy costs](#)

On Oct. 24 at noon, the MunEnergy

program will hold a one-hour webinar to provide timely information about winter energy costs and what winter weather will mean for energy markets. ...



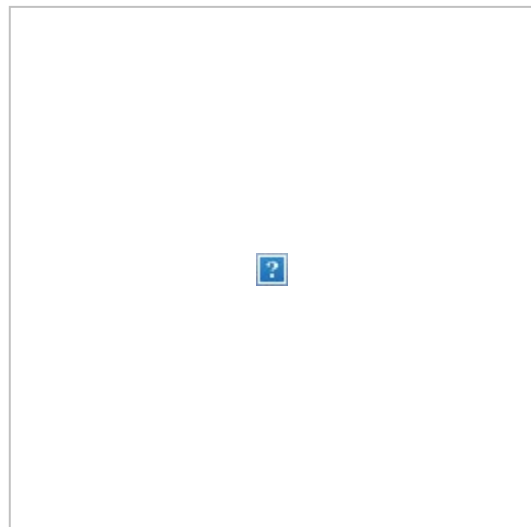
[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



[AG holds webinars to help government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA weighs in on several bills related to procurement before the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee](#)

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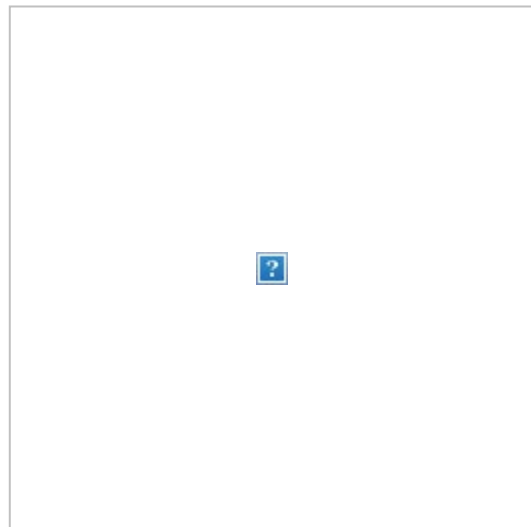
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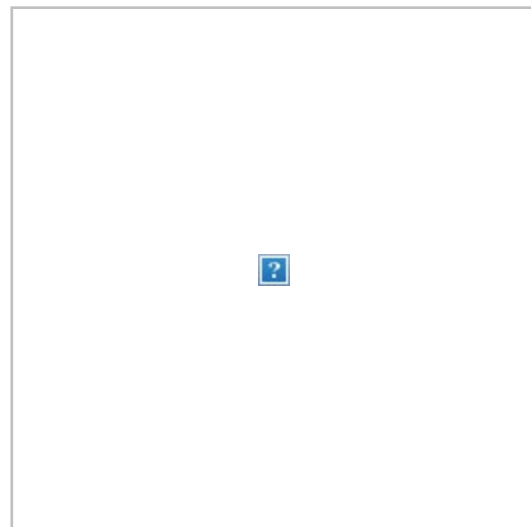
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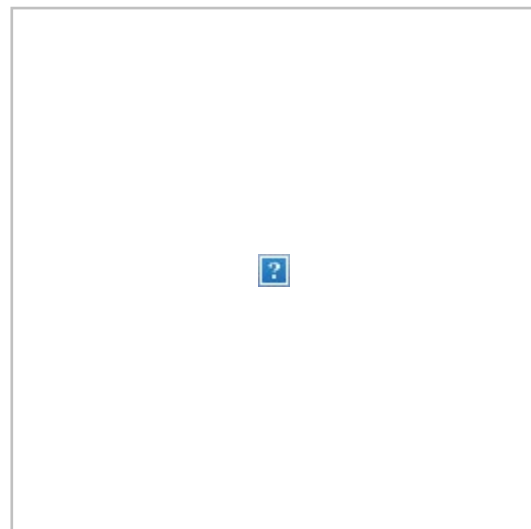
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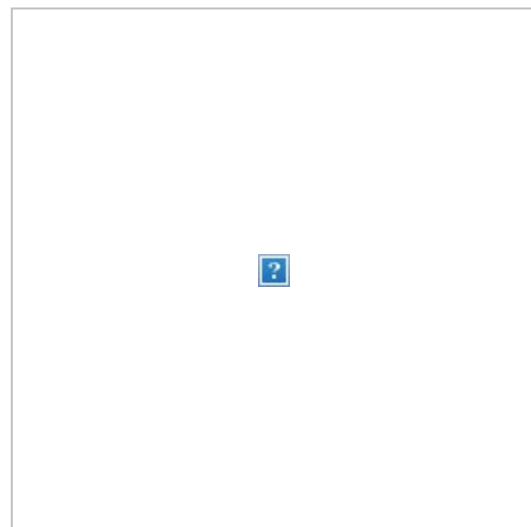
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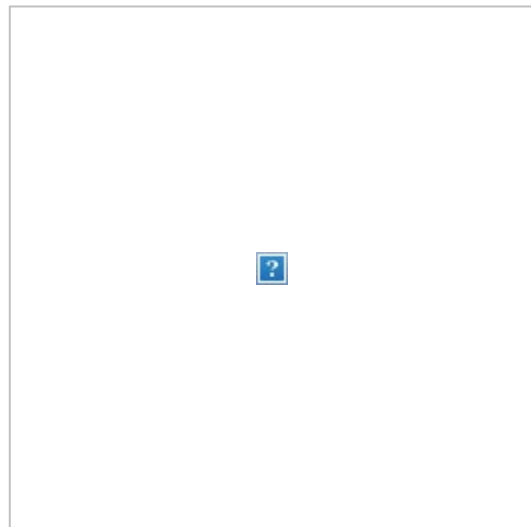
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[Administration announces \\$164M in Community One Stop for Growth grants](#)

At an event in Revere today, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced \$164 million for 338 grant awards through the Community

One Stop for Growth program to support local economic development projects in 161 communities across the state. ...

[Climate chief makes recommendations for addressing climate crisis](#)

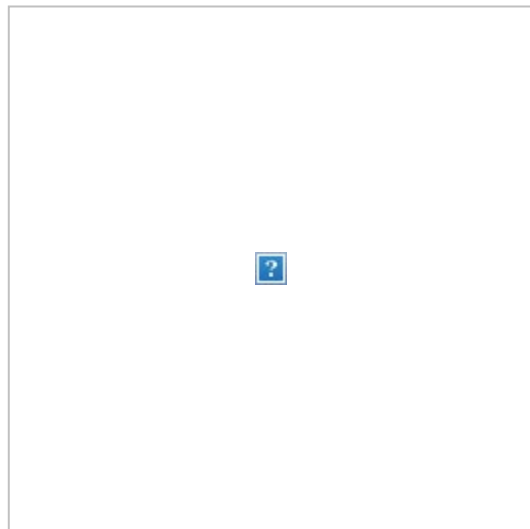
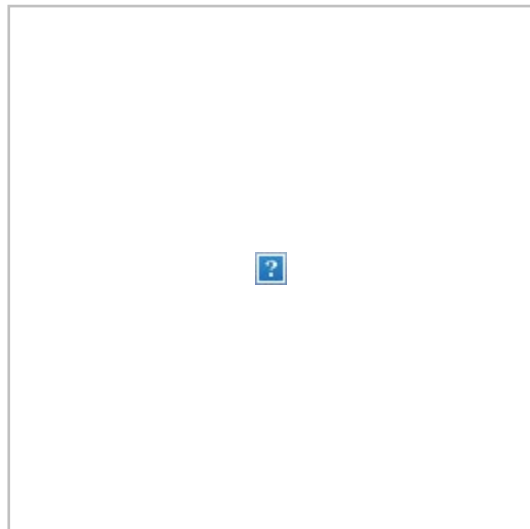
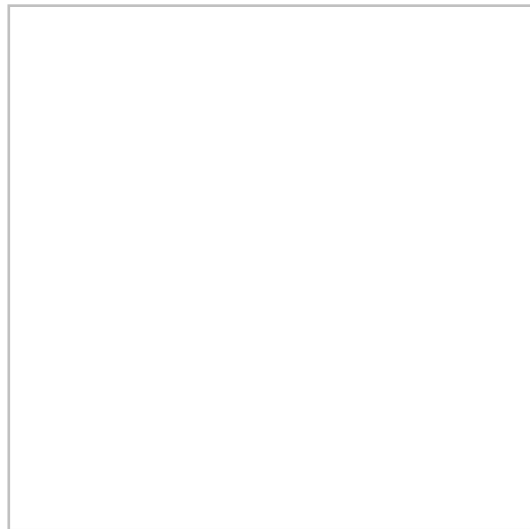
The state's climate chief, Melissa Hoffer, published a report today with recommendations to implement the Healey-Driscoll administration's whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis. ...

[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...

[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free,



75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[New podcast highlights Mass. as age- and dementia-friendly leader](#)

The administration on Oct. 10 announced the release of a podcast series on age- and dementia-friendly innovations across Massachusetts called “ReiMAging Aging.” ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate

Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



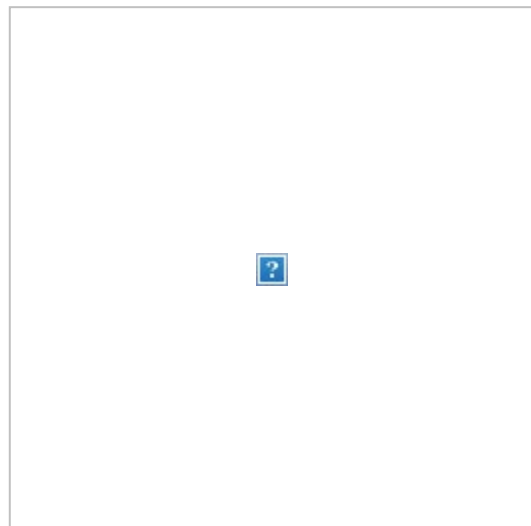
[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[State offers grants for AED equipment](#)

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...

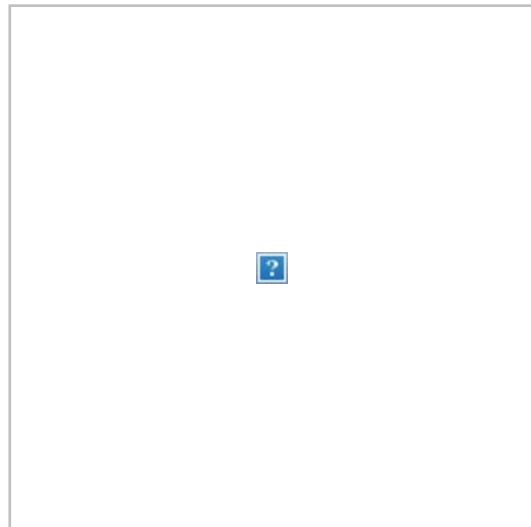


[Timely responses sought for Survey of Occupational Injuries](#)

[and Illnesses](#)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is reminding selected municipal departments to continue their record-keeping efforts needed to complete the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, a federal/state program that collects information on and provides estimates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges State Administration Committee to support bills to enhance grant opportunities for rural communities and provide for alternative delivery of infrastructure projects](#)

On Oct. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

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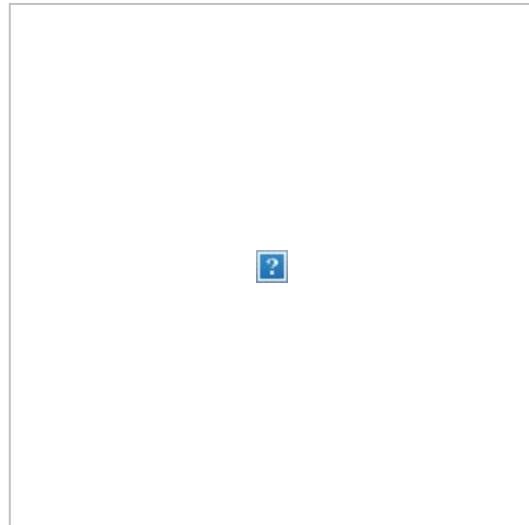
[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[View our entire event calendar](#)

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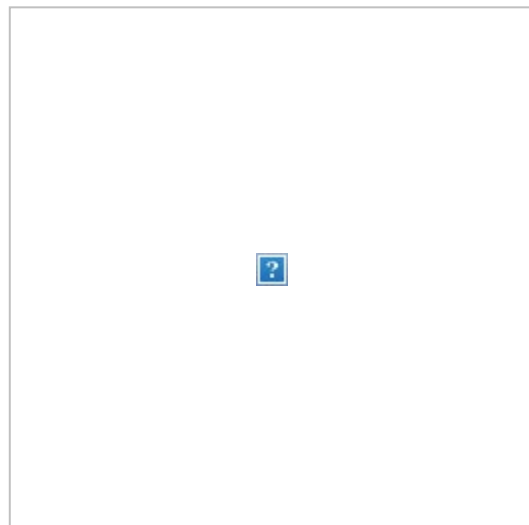
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[Webinar will cover upcoming SCOTUS cases affecting local government](#)

The Local Government Legal Center will host a free webinar on Oct. 31 to discuss the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court term and cases relevant to local governments. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

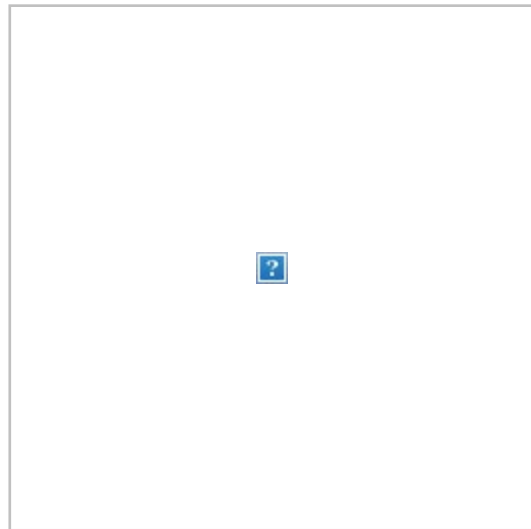
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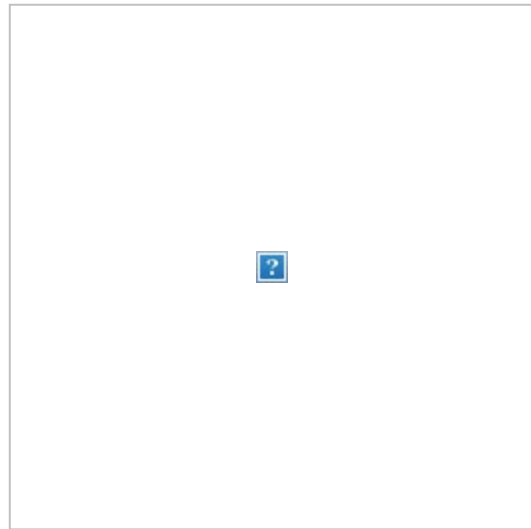
[government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

[Executive Assistant](#)

[Human Resources Manager](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 62 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Library Director, Local Building Inspector, Social Worker, Communications Specialist, Public Health Agent, Finance Director and Town Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, Nov. 9.

[Administration gives emergency shelter update as system approaches limit](#)

With the emergency family shelter system quickly approaching its

capacity limit, the administration gave an update today on next steps.

...



[MMA publishes November issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the November 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including federal grant opportunities, the emergency shelter system, and climate change, plus details about the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show and other upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[MMA Annual Meeting planning continues](#)

Planning continues for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held in person on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...

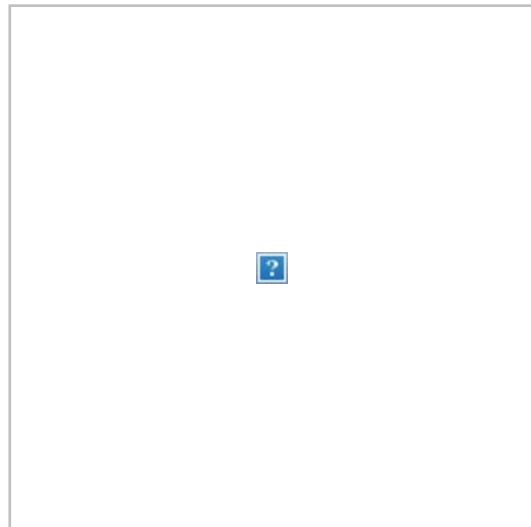


[MMA's DEI work moving forward](#)

[on several tracks](#)

The MMA is continuing to move forward with its diversity, equity and inclusion work on a number of fronts.

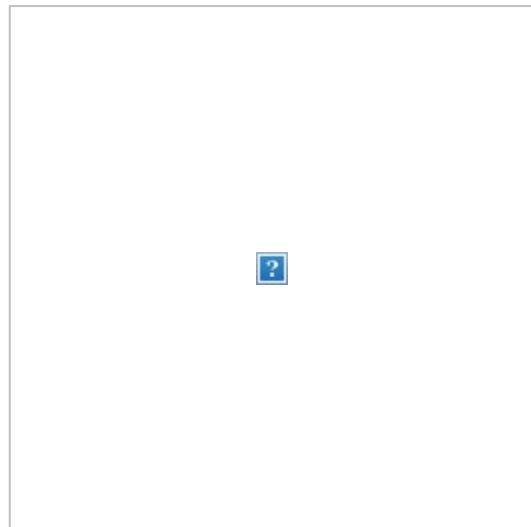
...



[Final CCC marijuana regulations published](#)

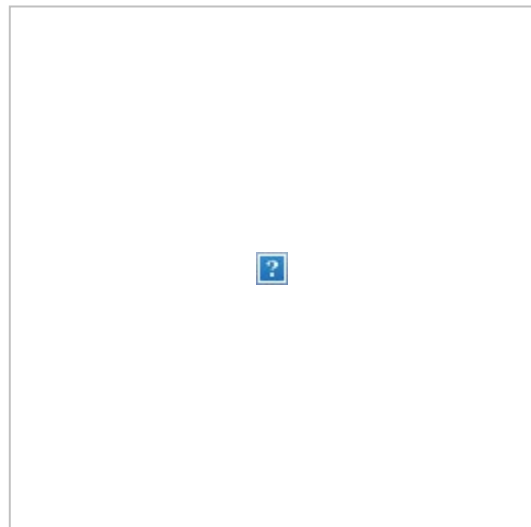
The Secretary of the Commonwealth on Oct. 27 published the Cannabis Control Commission's final updated regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana, the final step in enacting the new regulations.

...



[MMA holds fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#)

On two Fridays in October, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a

virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

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[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[Changes proposed for CDBG one-year action plan for FY24](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is proposing changes to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program for federal fiscal 2024. ...



[Applications for sewage notification grant program due Nov. 10](#)

Regional and municipal wastewater utilities have until Nov. 10 to apply for a grant to help them meet notification requirements for wastewater discharges. ...



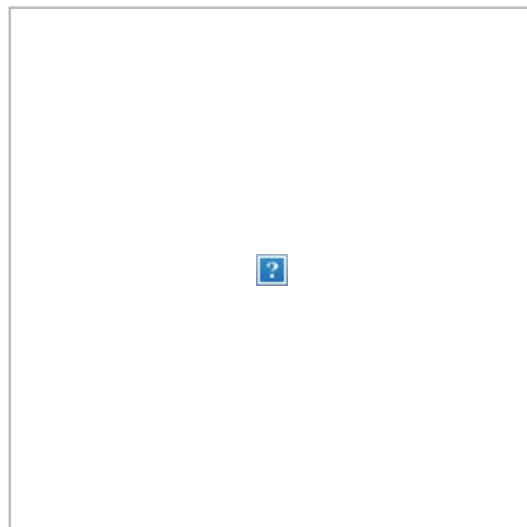
[Federal funding available for EV charging infrastructure](#)

Applications are due by Nov. 13 for up to \$100 million in federal funding available for the repair and replacement of non-operational electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[MassDEP awards \\$5.2M to support recycling, composting and waste reduction](#)

On Sept. 28, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced the award of \$5.2 million in grants to 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts for recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[On migrant shelter crisis, cities and towns need help in 3 key areas](#)

On Nov. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support bills to label wipe products with “Do Not Flush” to avoid costly wastewater problems](#)

On Oct. 25, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA](#)

[Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

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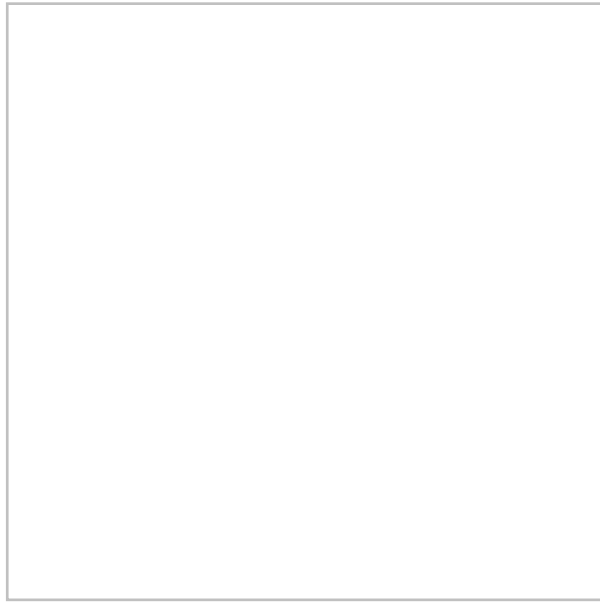
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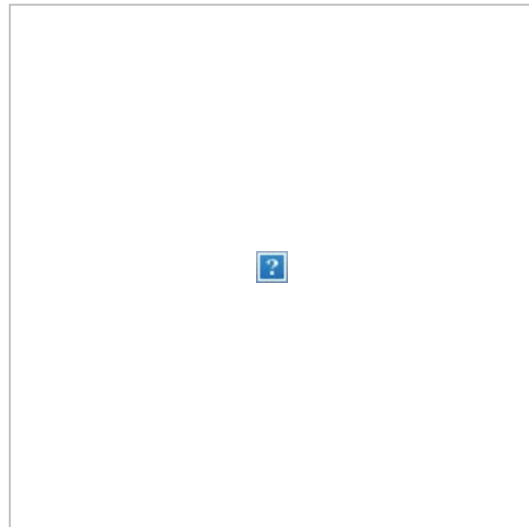
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

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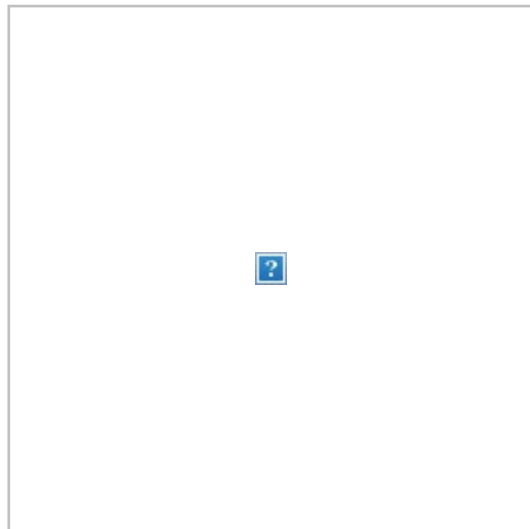
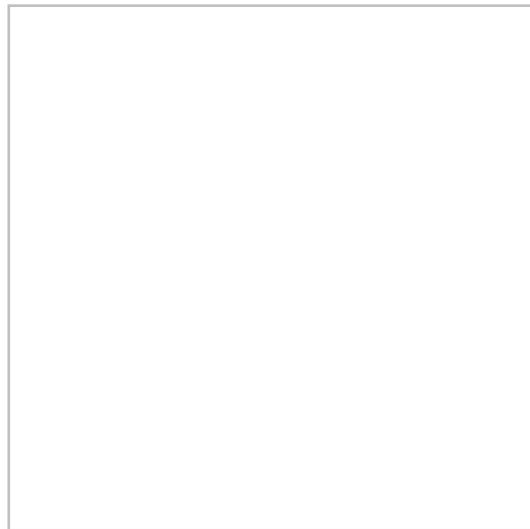


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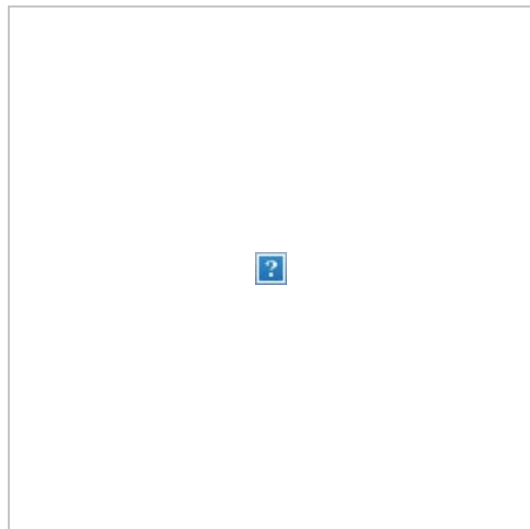
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Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



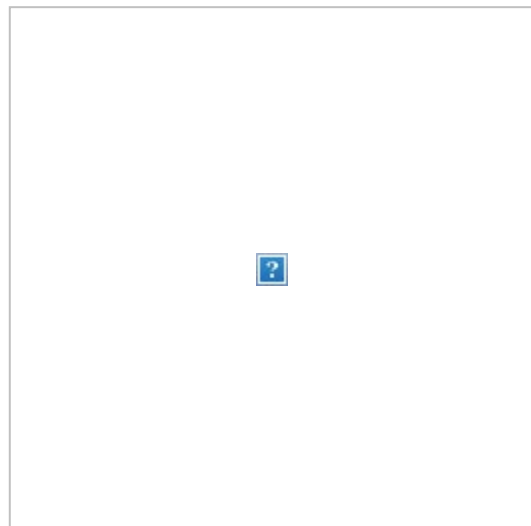
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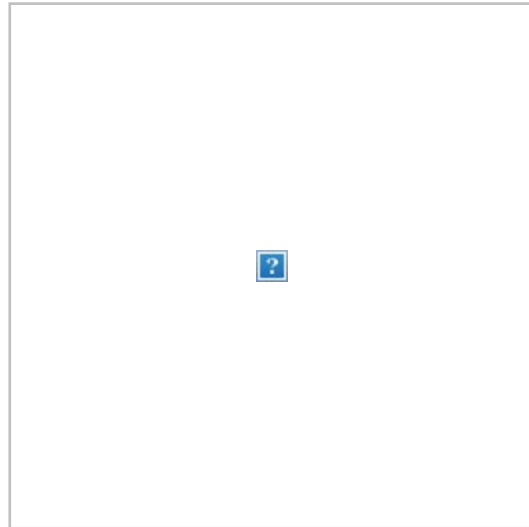
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 44 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Manager, Senior Planner, Finance Manager, Town Engineer, Town Administrator, Conservation Agent, Senior Climate Program Manager, and Planner and Land Use Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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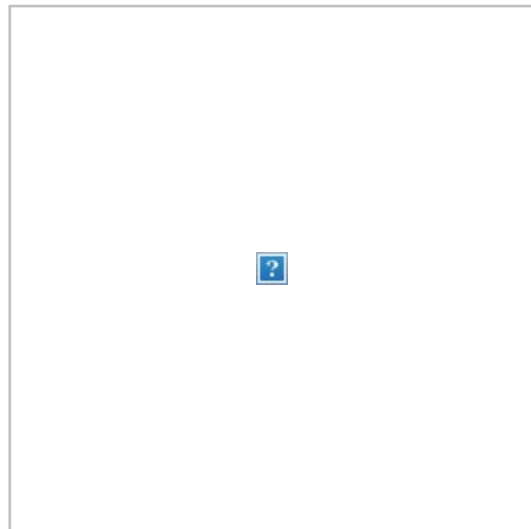
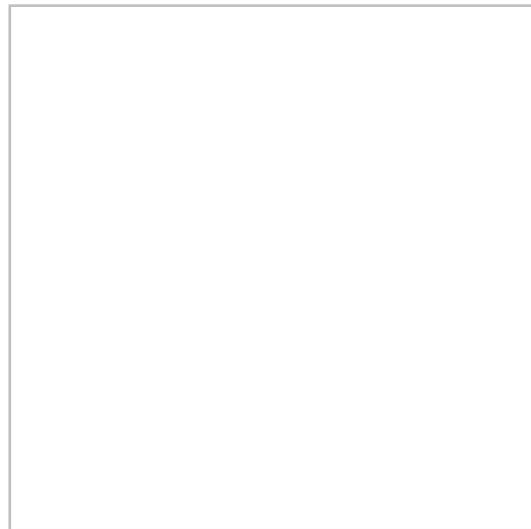
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[Voters elect 33 mayors across Massachusetts](#)

Voters yesterday elected mayors in 33 cities across the state, including nine new mayors. ...

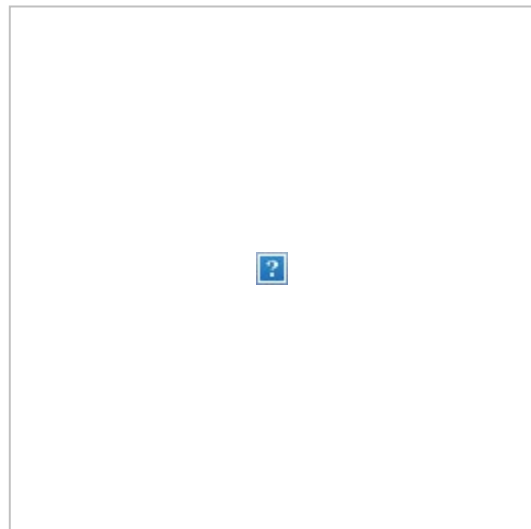
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MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[**Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program opens**](#)

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



[**MMA webinar to review state-level disaster response protocol**](#)

The MMA will host a free, one-hour

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[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

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[House, Senate adopt wage equity bill](#)

The House and Senate have both adopted their own versions of legislation aimed at closing gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



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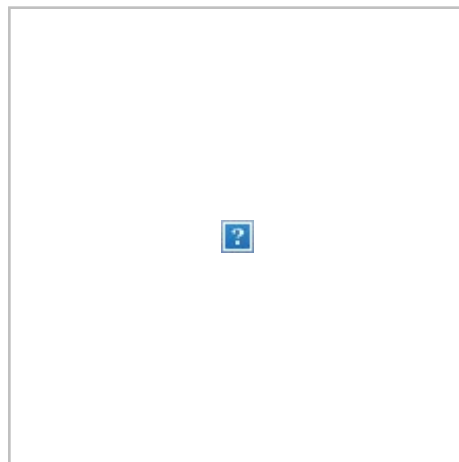
The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...



[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

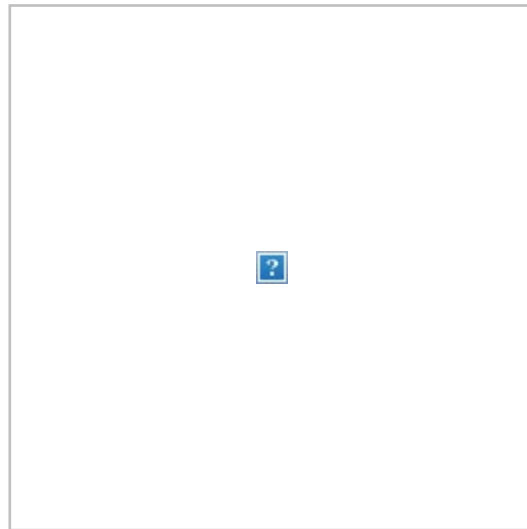
The Municipal Vulnerability

Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal 2025 Action Grant round. ...



[DOER launches Climate Leader program, awards green grants](#)

The Department of Energy Resources has announced a new program that builds on the Green Communities designation and grant program. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Municipalities and Regional Government Committee to support bill to expand the uses of water banking](#)

On Oct. 24, Testimony

[MMA urges Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to support bills to expedite removal of doubled up utility poles](#)

On Oct. 20, Testimony

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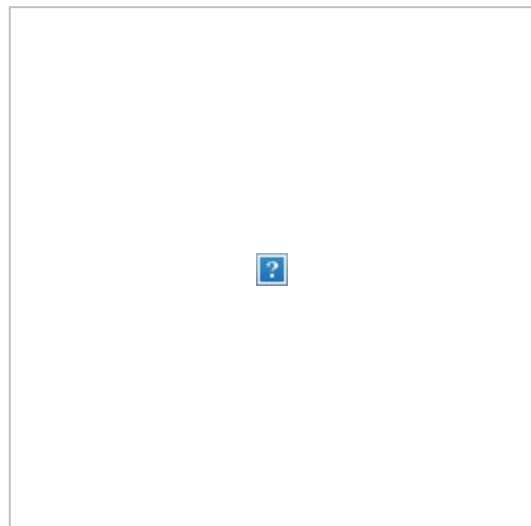
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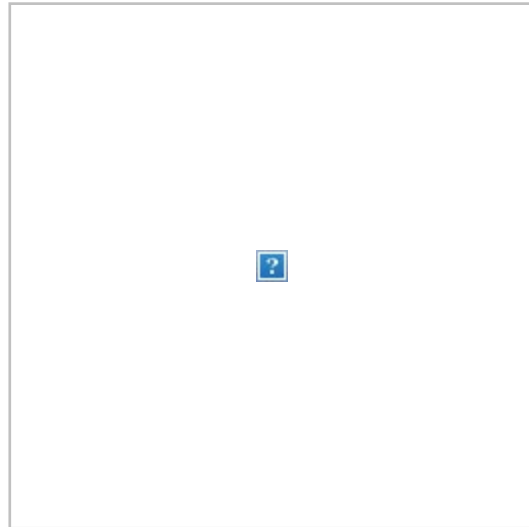
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[Conference committee takes up
FY23 closeout supplemental
budget](#)

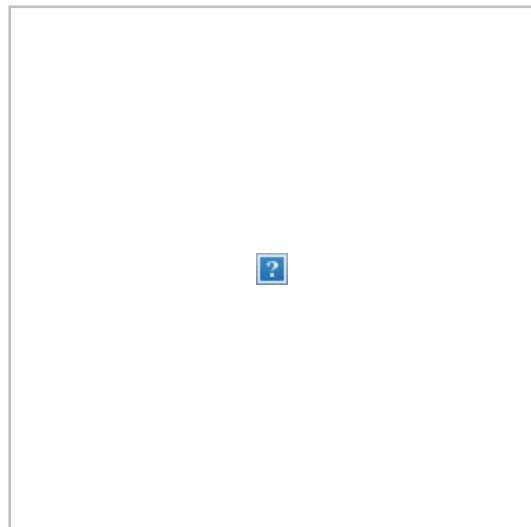
As the formal legislative session

came to a close for the calendar year yesterday, the House and Senate were unable to reach a consensus on a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget bill, and a six-member conference committee was named to resolve differences between the two branches. ...



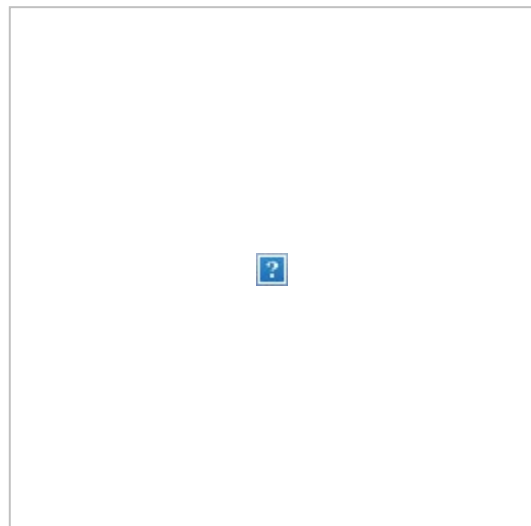
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An MMA webinar today with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency shared municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar shares best practices and pitfalls of meeting](#)

[management](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed best practices for running an effective meeting from start to finish.

...



[MMHR seminar focuses on DEI, negotiations, accommodations, health plans](#)

Diversity, equity and inclusion, union contract negotiations, reasonable ADA accommodations, and health plan conversations were the main topics of the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Labor Relations Seminar on Oct. 27 in Devens. ...



[Augustus to address MSA Leadership Conference on Dec. 8](#)

Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Leadership Conference on Dec. 8 in Stow. ...



[MBI seeks feedback on Internet for All plan](#)

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts

Broadband Institute opened a month-long public comment period to gather feedback about the state's Internet for All Plan. ...



'Form of Government FAQ' webinar is Nov. 29

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association will host a "Form of Government FAQ" webinar for all MMA members on Nov. 29 from noon to 1 p.m. ...



MMA to host 2nd annual POST update

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...



Gov. appoints Monica Tibbits-Nutt as Transportation secretary

Gov. Maura Healey today

announced that she is appointing Monica Tibbits-Nutt as secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation effective today. ...



Worcester receives federal funds for lead remediation

Worcester has received a \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a lead hazard reduction program for qualified property owners. The city plans to use the grant to rehabilitate 165 units that house low-income families with children. ...



Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge consolidate building inspection services

Faced with a staffing crunch and a lack of qualified job applicants in the region, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge have created a regional building inspection department to serve the four towns. ...



Reading looks to address flooding, watershed concerns

In collaboration with regional

partners, the town of Reading has embarked on a project to reduce the effects of precipitation-based flooding from the Aberjona River, a Mystic River tributary, by constructing a stormwater wetland storage system, essentially a series of storage pools. ...



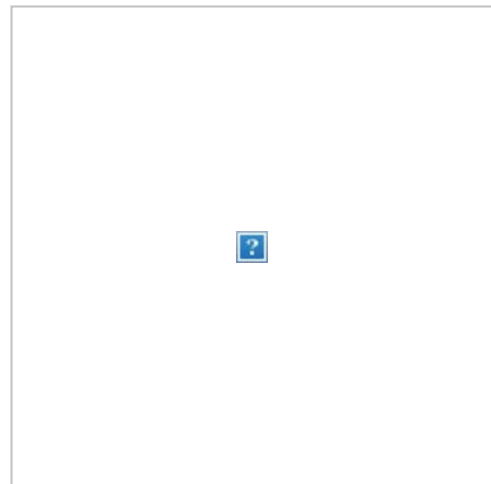
[Guidance released to help municipalities promote EV charging infrastructure](#)

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council and RMI have released a free guidance document designed to help municipalities as they develop and implement strategies to provide their communities with electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[Rural community leaders invited to apply for Reaching Rural Initiative Fellowships](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance will be selecting a new group of fellows to participate in a rural leadership program called Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions. ...



[Now is the time to prepare for winter maintenance emergencies](#)

With unpredictable weather patterns

and a volatile property insurance market, it's more crucial than ever to complete comprehensive maintenance protocols ahead of winter. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Education Committee to support bills targeting challenges facing rural school districts, MSBA rules, transportation for out-of-district vocational education, and special ed costs](#)

On Nov. 8, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

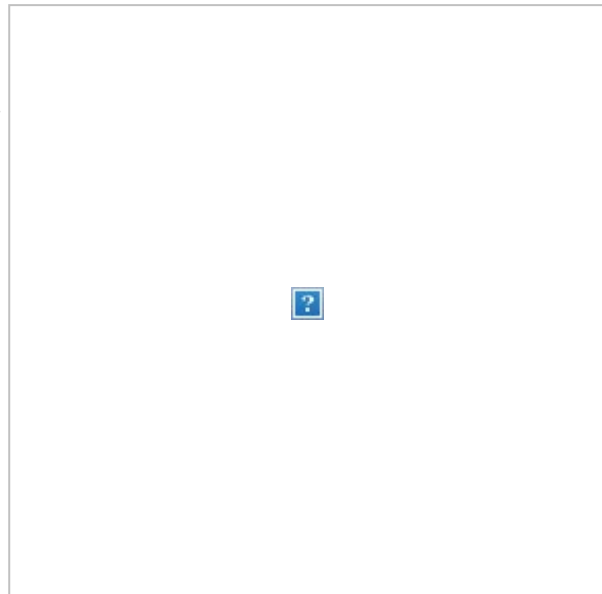
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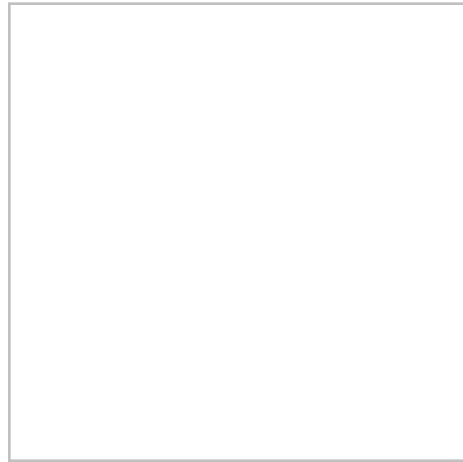
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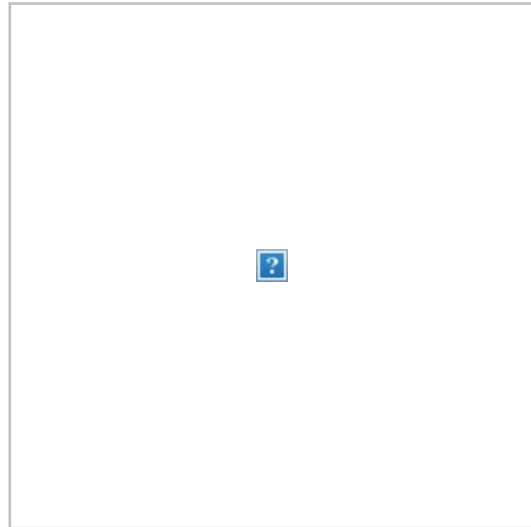
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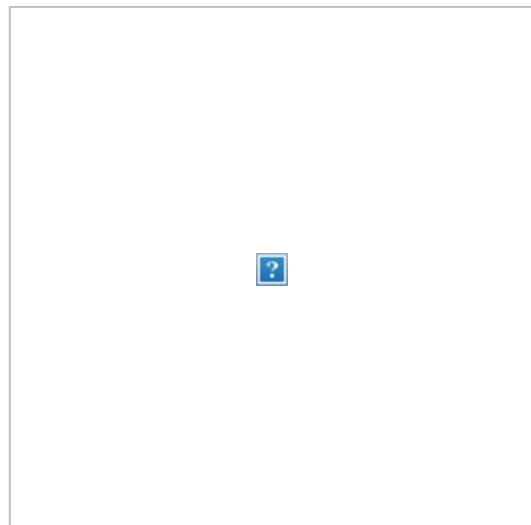
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The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...



**Municipal Cybersecurity
Awareness Grant Program opens**

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



**State offers grants for AED
equipment**

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds

available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

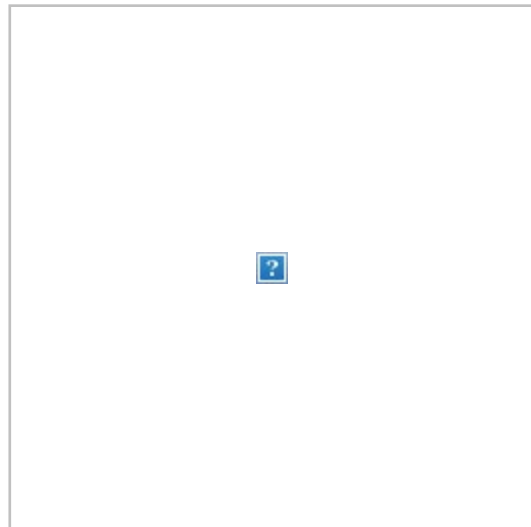
The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and](#)

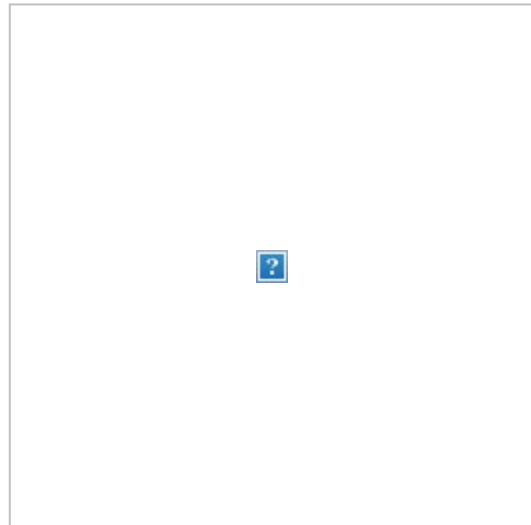
[heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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We've added 56 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Treasurer, DPW Project Manager, House Inspector, Assessor Data Manager, Downtown/Business Coordinator, City Solicitor, Social Service Specialist and Library Associate. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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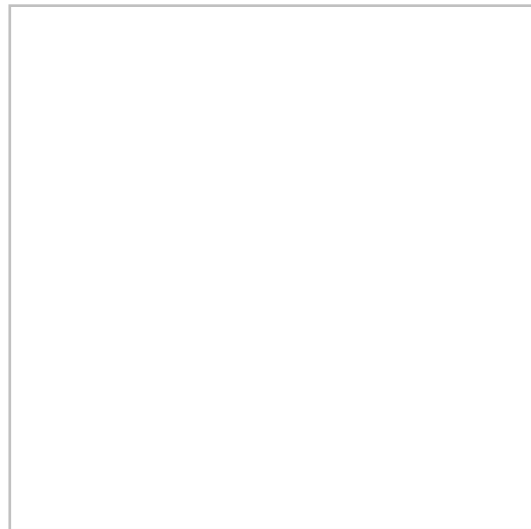
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[Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll to address MMA Annual Business Meeting](#)

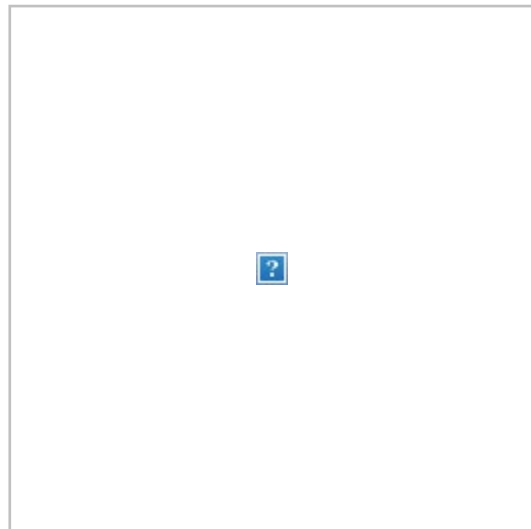
A year into her tenure as lieutenant governor — following 17 years as mayor of Salem — Kim Driscoll will address local leaders during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on

Saturday morning, Jan. 20, in
Boston. ...



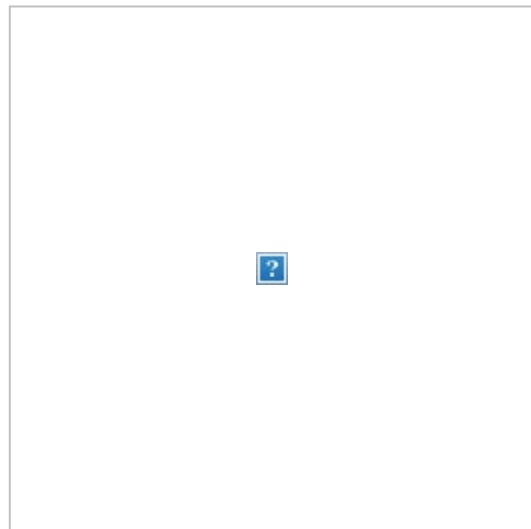
**State budget writers to hold
revenue hearing on Dec. 4**

The fiscal 2025 state budget process will begin in earnest on Dec. 4 with the annual hearing where the Department of Revenue and other fiscal experts and economists discuss the prospects for the economy and state revenue over the second half of the current fiscal year and in the fiscal year to come. ...



**FY23 closeout supplemental
budget moves a step closer**

A legislative conference committee named to iron out differences between House and Senate versions of a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget released a compromise bill on Nov. 30. ...



**MMA publishes December issue
of The Beacon**

The MMA today published the

December 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, ARPA funding and numerous grant opportunities, coastal resilience and climate change, and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[Annual Meeting to feature 21 timely workshops](#)

Timely and informative workshops are a central feature of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January, and this year attendees can learn how to protect municipal infrastructure from climate impacts, improve their advocacy for their community, boost their local diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and build thriving business districts, among other topics. ...

[Administration launches statewide coastal resilience strategy](#)

At an event held at a waterfront park in Beverly yesterday, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced a new effort to pursue a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the Massachusetts coastline. ...



Federal funds office provides support to municipalities

Looking to maximize federal funding for Massachusetts through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act, a new state office is reaching out to cities and towns with key details on grant opportunities and technical assistance to help them reel in federal dollars. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



More MMA Annual Meeting details finalized

In the past few days, the MMA has announced its roster of workshops and another key speaker, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...



ARPA deadline is one year away

Cities and towns have about a year

left — until Dec. 31, 2024 — to obligate their State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



MMA webinar on Dec. 11 will discuss new CCC regulations

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 11 with attorney Nicole Costanzo of KP Law will discuss the Cannabis Control Commission's [newly promulgated regulations](#) and their impact on host communities. ...



MMA to host 2nd annual POST update

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...

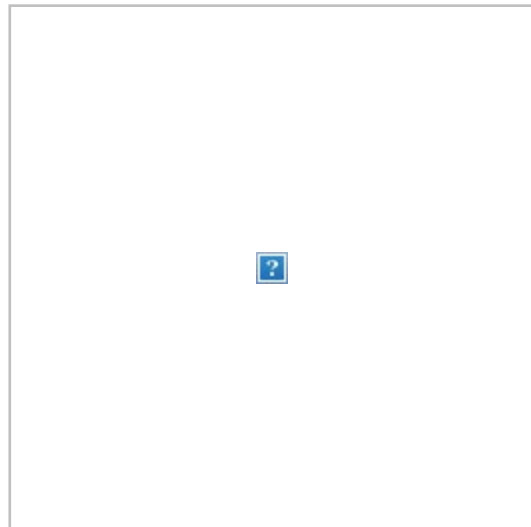


Form of government webinar answers FAQs

A Massachusetts Municipal

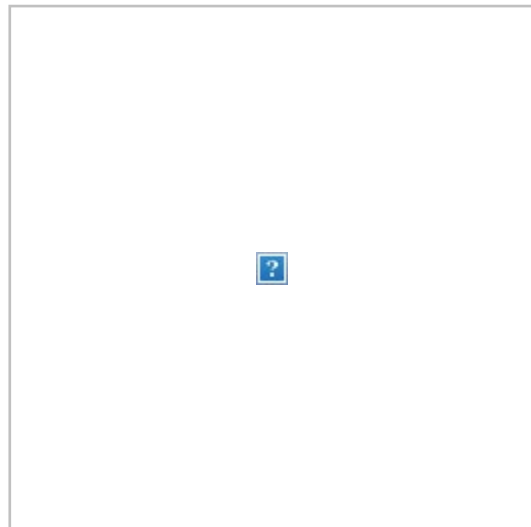
Management Association “Form of Government FAQ’s” webinar today addressed common questions that arise when a community is considering a change in governance.

...



[MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials](#)

As a busy formal legislative session recently came to a close, the MMA’s Legislative Division hosted a webinar for local officials yesterday to provide updates on key legislative and regulatory matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[December is a great time to think about the year ahead](#)

On Dec. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Revenue Committee to support bills to allow municipalities, at local option, to increase local revenue](#)

On Nov. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

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Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speaker: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the New Regulatory Requirements for Host Communities webinar](#) - Dec. 11

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[Goal Setting webinar](#) - Jan. 9

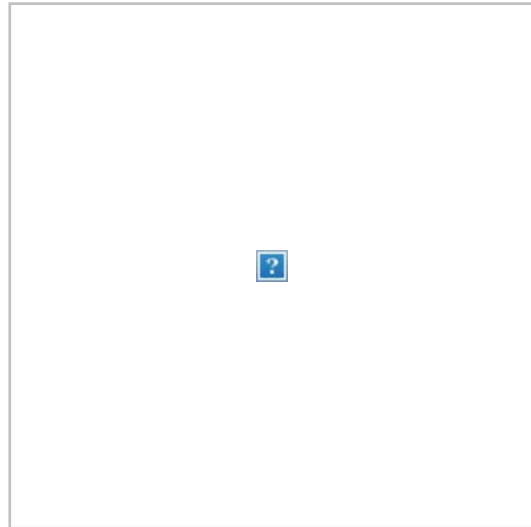
[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

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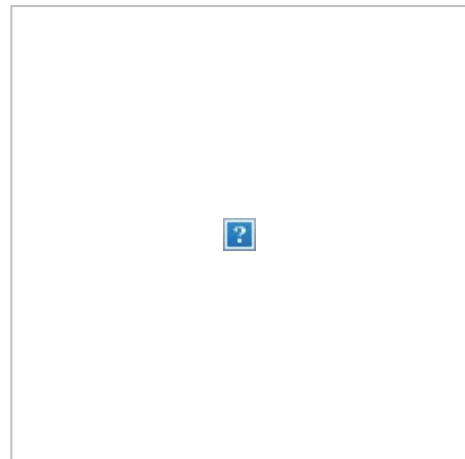
[MBI seeks feedback on Internet for All plan](#)

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute opened a month-long public comment period to gather feedback about the state's Internet for All Plan. ...



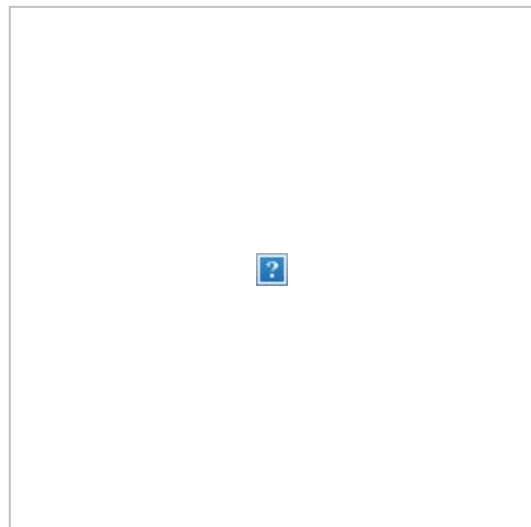
[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal 2025 Action Grant round. ...



[Broadband Institute launches \\$145M Gap Networks Infrastructure Grant Program](#)

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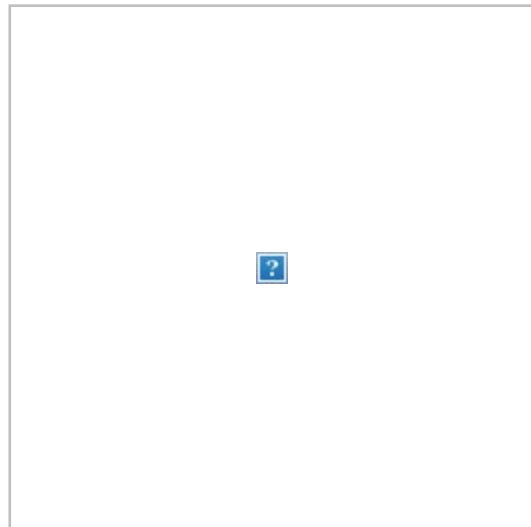


[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)

[Awareness Grant Program opens](#)

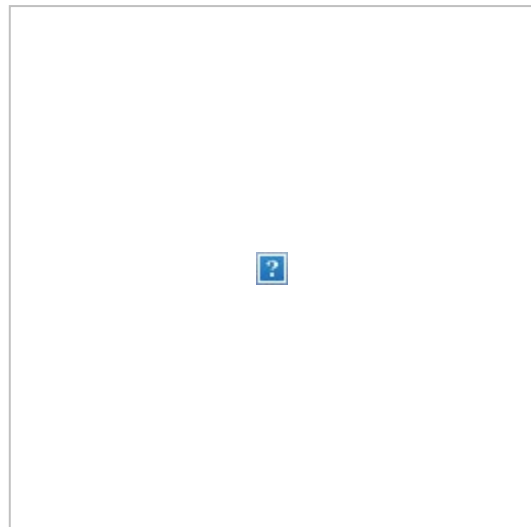
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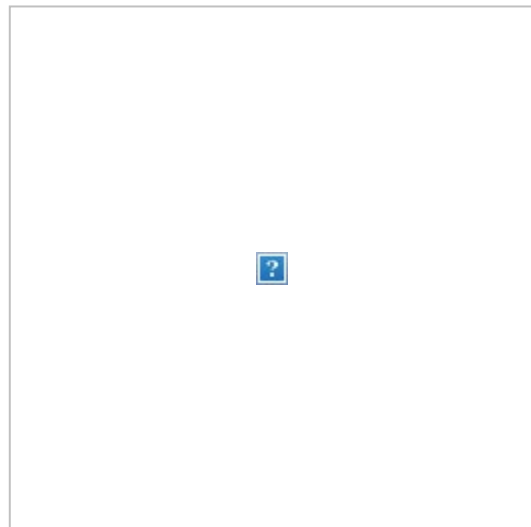
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Accountant, Planner, City Clerk, Outreach Coordinator, Local Inspector, Electronic Technician, Office Assistant, Library Director and Regional Health Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[Administration makes 9C budget cuts, but avoids cutting local aid](#)

After six months of state tax collections falling short of benchmarks, the Healey-Driscoll administration today announced \$375 million in mid-year budget cuts

under Section 9C for fiscal 2024. ...

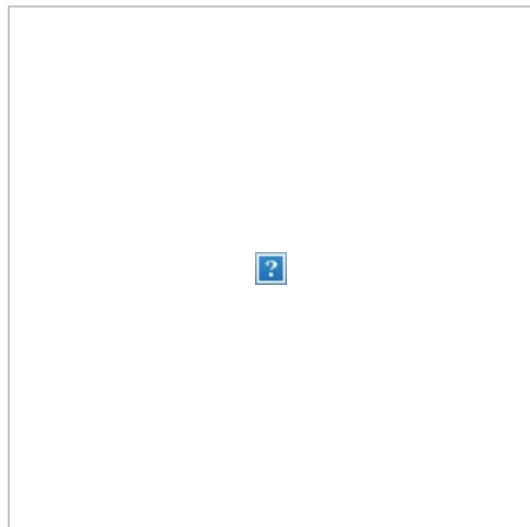
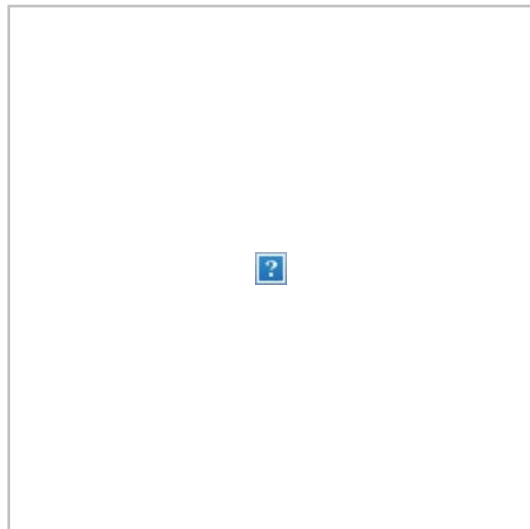
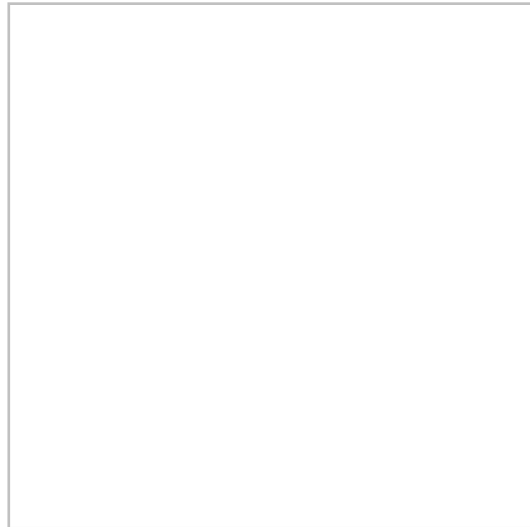
[Administration's \\$1.23B IT bond bill includes funds for local grant programs](#)

On Jan. 9, the Healey-Driscoll administration filed a \$1.23 billion, five-year bond bill intended to modernize IT systems across state agencies. ...

[Inspector General releases first in series of advisories for municipal officials](#)

The Office of the Inspector General today released its first OIG Advisory for municipal officials. ...

[MMA hosts webinar on conducting empathetic dialogue during conflict](#)



An MMA webinar today shared practical tips for fostering constructive dialogue and overcoming volatile feelings in challenging times. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on performance appraisals and ‘SMART’ goals](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed performance appraisals and offered practical tips for setting “SMART” goals to help local officials start the year off right. ...



[Utilities submit drafts of electric sector modernization plans](#)

The state’s investor-owned electric distribution companies — Eversource, National Grid and Unitil — have submitted drafts of their electric sector modernization plans. ...



[Video features Franklin officials discussing road salt reduction strategies](#)

Just in time for winter, two public works officials from Franklin are featured in a short video offering advice on treating roads in ways that promote safety while minimizing impacts on the environment. ...



[Application period opens for CDBG program](#)

The federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants opened on Dec. 8, and the application deadline is March 25. ...



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[Workshop schedule & descriptions](#)



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[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

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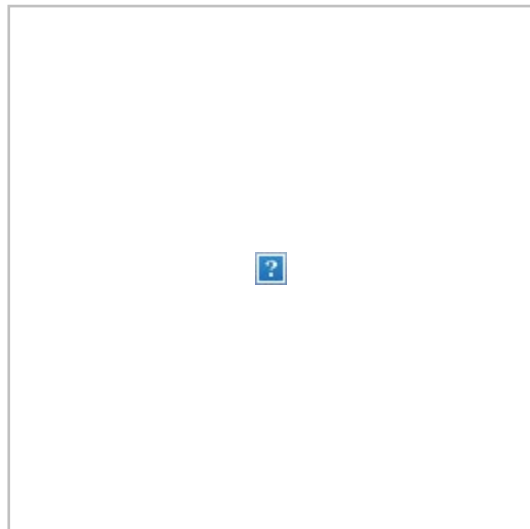
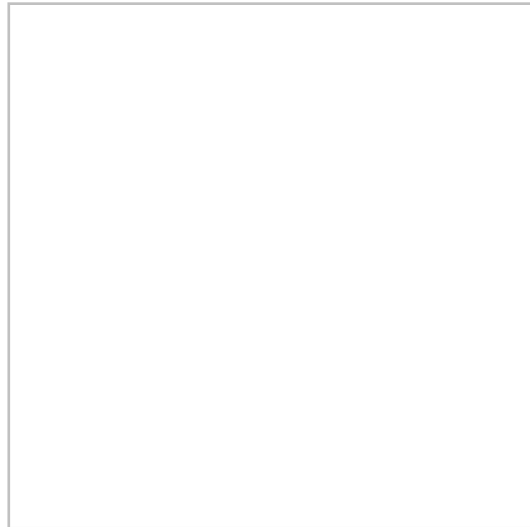
Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[MMA's 45th Annual Meeting & Trade Show starts today!](#)

The Hynes Convention Center in Boston will be buzzing today and tomorrow as more than 1,300 local leaders gather for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show. ...

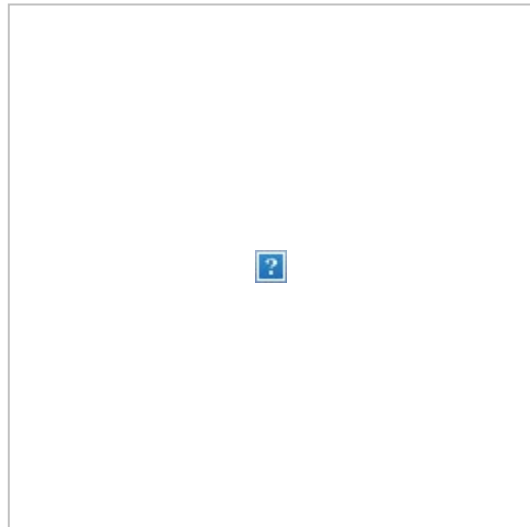
**[Budget writers announce
consensus revenue growth
forecast of 2% for FY25](#)**

The state's budget writers announced on Jan. 8 that state tax collections are expected to grow by 2% in fiscal 2025 over a recently reduced projection for fiscal 2024 revenue. ...



**[MMA to host VMLA webinar series
on emotional intelligence](#)**

Last fall, the MMA launched its Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar series to help promote professional development among municipal officials. The program's three-part pilot, exploring effective communication and feedback, was led by Cally Ritter, principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, and is still available for purchase. ...



[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)

[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



[Easthampton updates hate crimes policy](#)

With war raging abroad and hate crimes increasing nationally, Easthampton recently updated its Hate Crimes Policy to improve public safety, promote inclusivity, and provide greater clarity around its investigation processes and community outreach. ...



[Methuen takes collaborative approach to mental health, homelessness, addiction issues](#)

In an effort to address concerns about mental health, addiction and homelessness in the community, Methuen has convened a monthly mental health task force with representation from across municipal departments to collaborate on addressing the issues. ...



[Cambridge/Anmoughcawgen to add Indigenous language translations to some street signs](#)

As it seeks to acknowledge its Indigenous past and present, the city of Cambridge will soon install bilingual street signs translated in the Massachusetts language on several streets in the eastern part of town. ...



Climate change drives municipal planning challenges

With changing weather patterns creating a growing challenge for communities, multiple sessions during this year's MMA Annual Meeting will focus on the impacts of climate change, as well as what municipalities can do to maintain buildings and prevent costly damages. ...



Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

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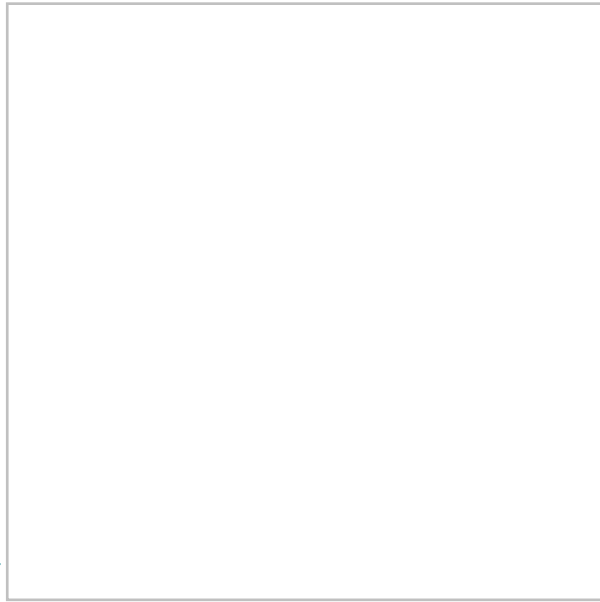
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[Driscoll, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)
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New In [Advocacy](#)

[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY25 state budget](#)
On Jan. 17, Testimony

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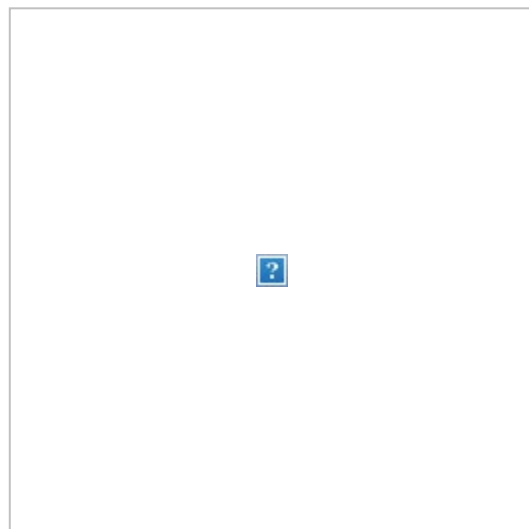
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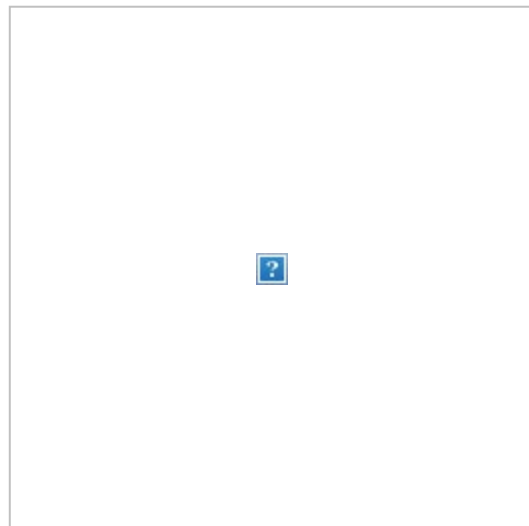
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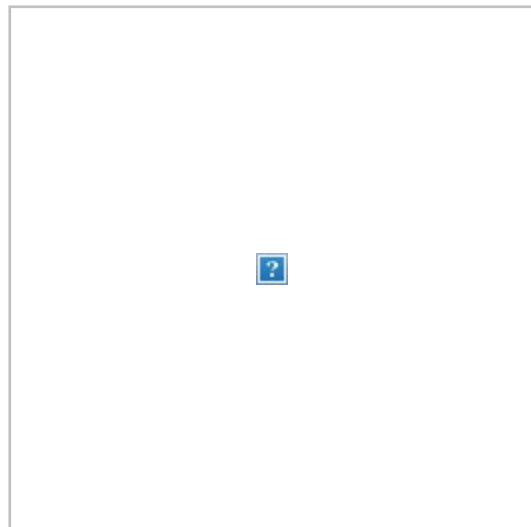
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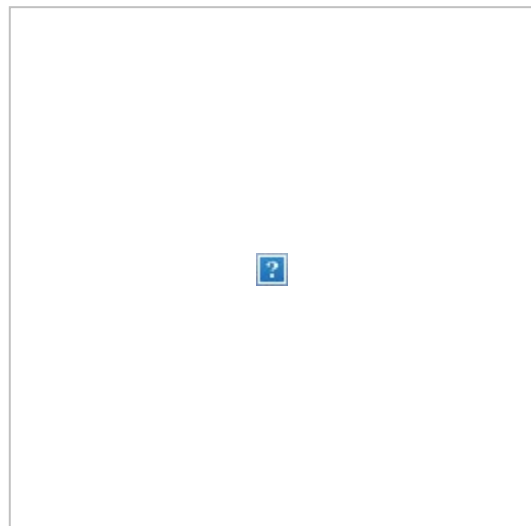
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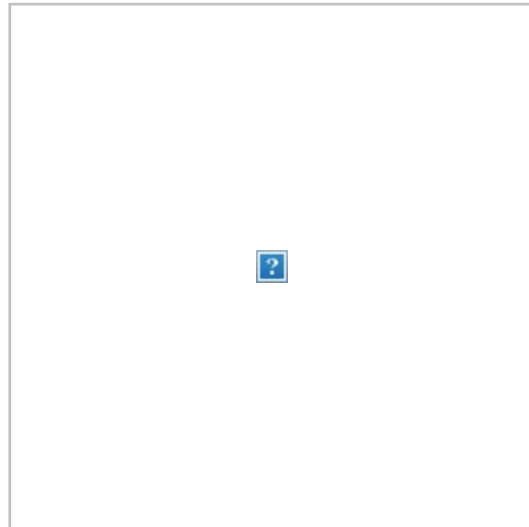
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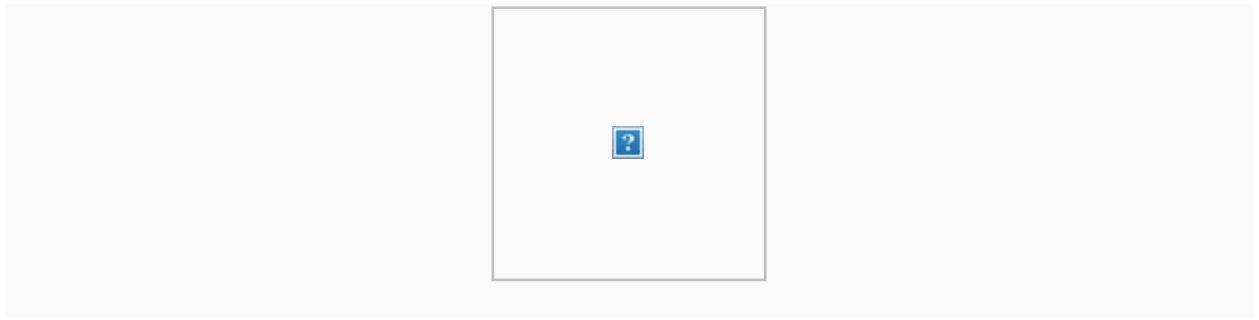


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[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

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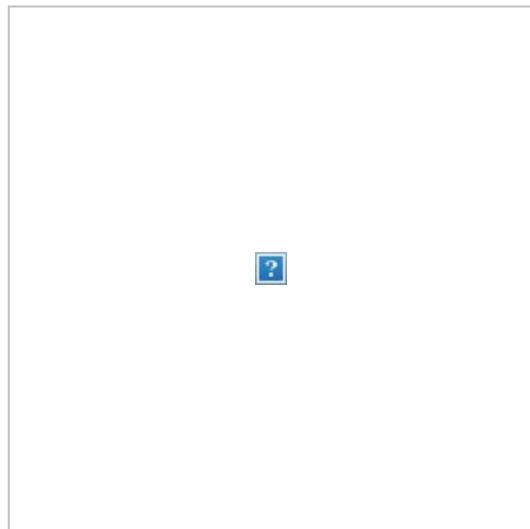
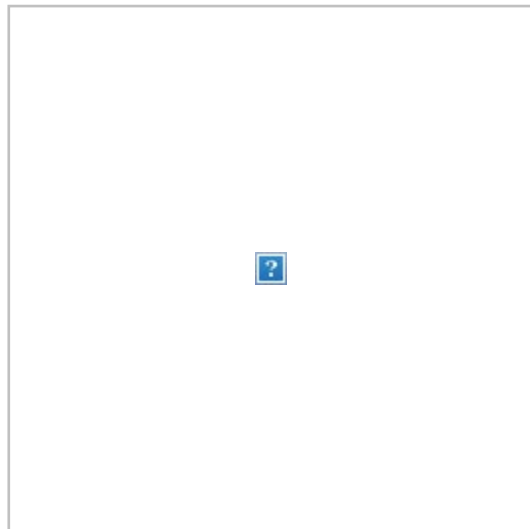
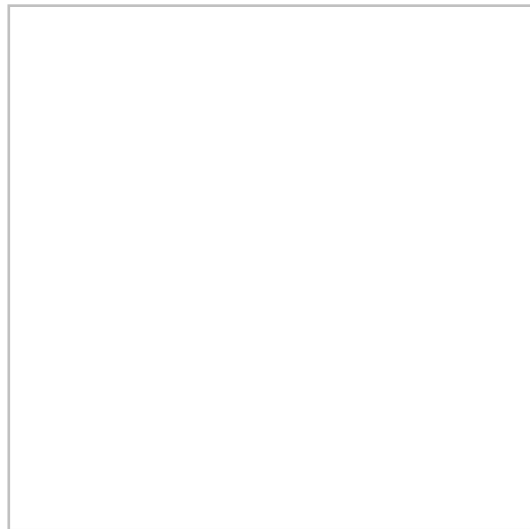
Applications due March 8 for \$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...

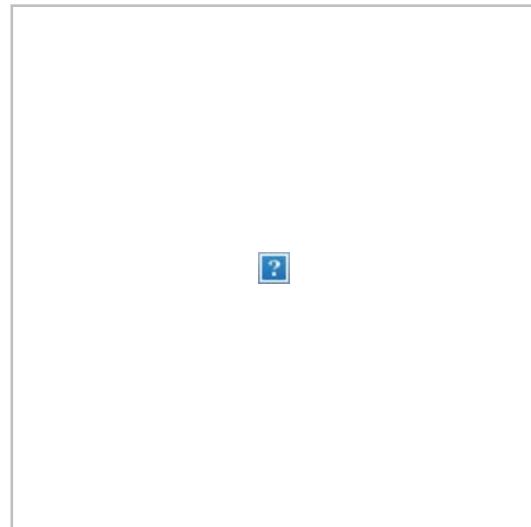
Administration announces \$50M for EV charging infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 7 announced an investment of \$50 million in initiatives to build out electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Massachusetts. ...

MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions

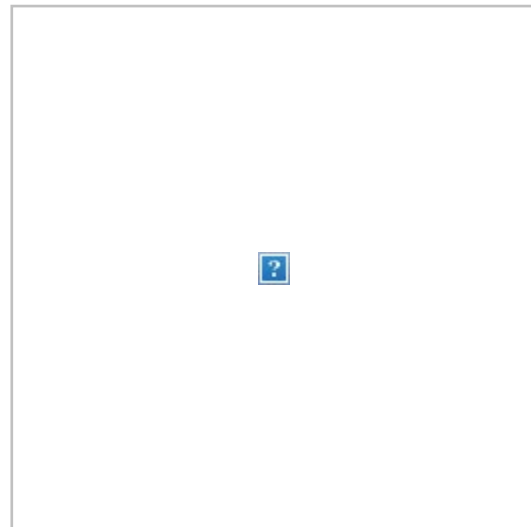


The MMA and Suffolk University will hold an information session about the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program on March 13 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. ...



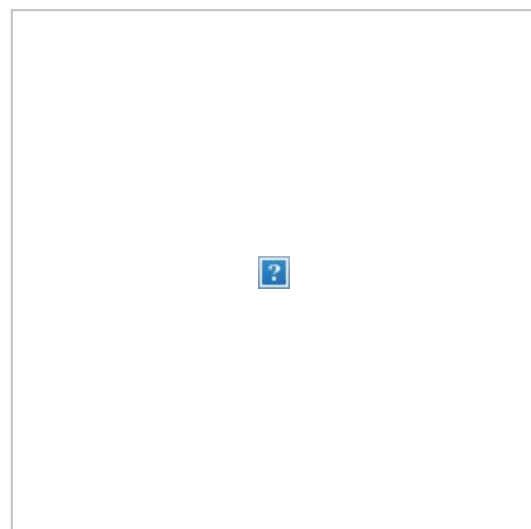
MunEnergy webinar on Feb. 29 will focus on spring weather impacts

The MMA’s MunEnergy program will hold a free, one-hour webinar on Feb. 29 to provide timely information about spring energy costs and to discuss what spring weather and climate change will mean for energy markets, as well as the optimal time to purchase energy as we head into the spring. ...



‘Meet DLS’ webinar set for March 11

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “Meet DLS” webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



MIIA presents safety, risk management, wellness awards

During its Annual Business Meeting in Boston on Jan. 20, MIIA presented awards to outstanding member communities and municipal entities to recognize their commitment to safety, risk management, and employee wellness. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[MBTA Communities: Municipalities & Compliance webinar](#) - Feb. 26

[Tackling Tough Conversations with Emotional Intelligence webinar](#) - Feb. 27

[MunEnergy webinar](#) - Feb. 29

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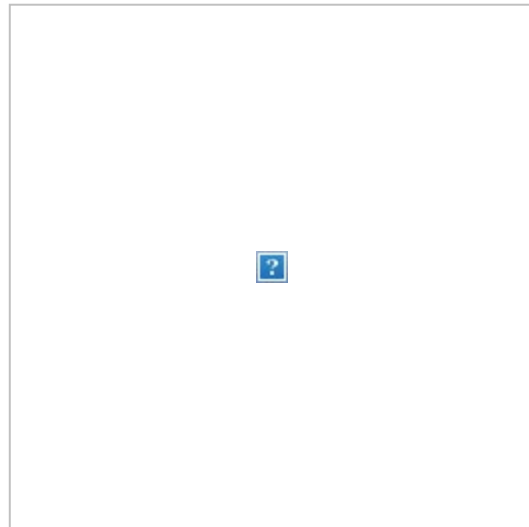
[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

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[Municipal Law Unit hosts trainings on bylaw processes, MBTA Communities rules](#)

The Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit is holding three free, online training sessions this month on the zoning bylaw amendment process and bylaw filing. ...



[MMA to host VMLA webinar series on emotional intelligence](#)

Last fall, the MMA launched its Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar series to help promote professional development among municipal officials. The program's three-part pilot, exploring effective communication and feedback, was led by Cally Ritter,

principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, and is still available for purchase. ...

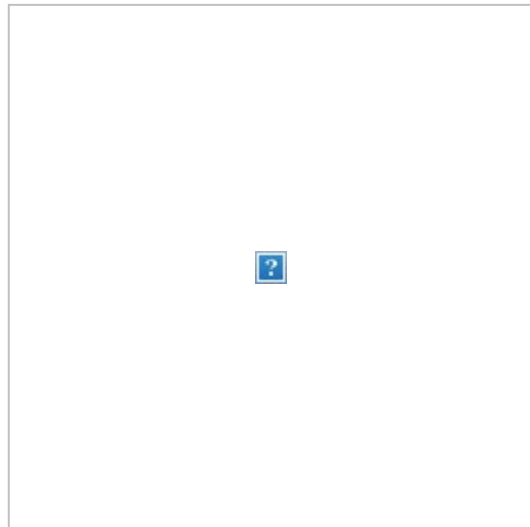
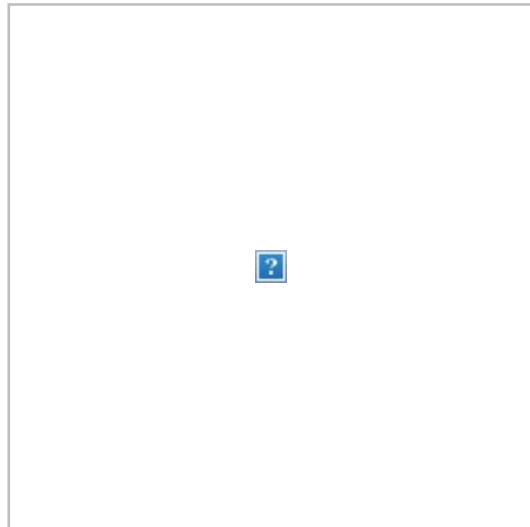
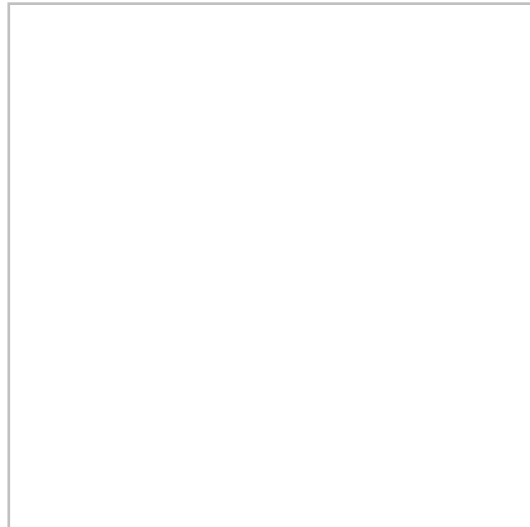
[Community One Stop for Growth opens for fiscal 2025](#)

Community One Stop for Growth, a portal where municipalities can apply for state community and economic development grant programs, has opened for fiscal 2025. ...

[MSA launches online Handbook for Massachusetts Select Board Members](#)

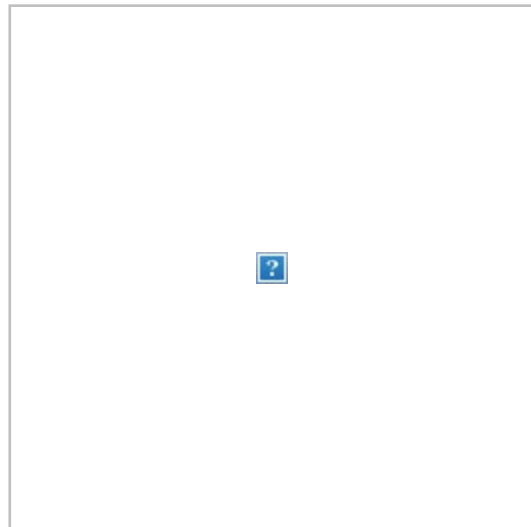
At the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston this morning, the Massachusetts Select Board Association launched a new online version of its comprehensive guide for Select Board members. ...

[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)



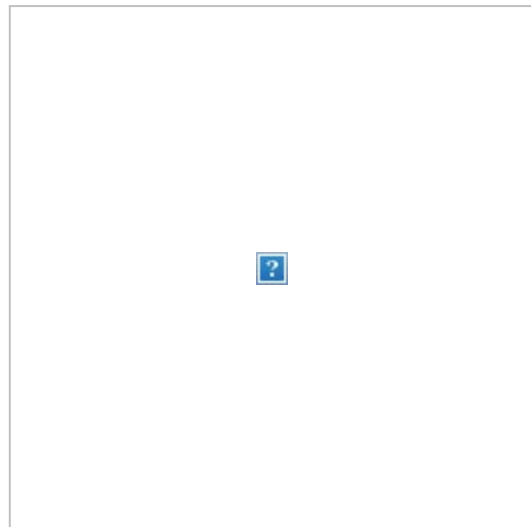
[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



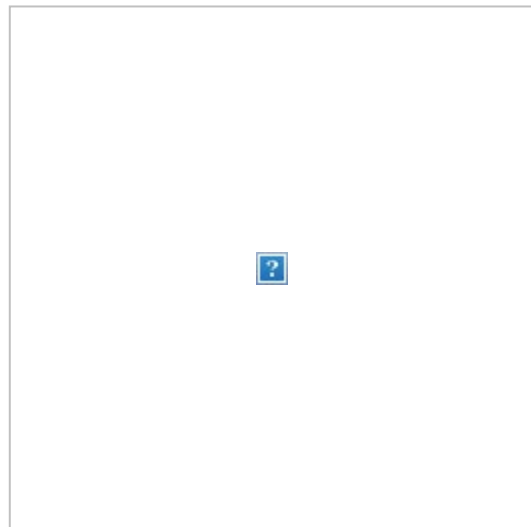
[Application period opens for CDBG program](#)

The federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants opened on Dec. 8, and the application deadline is March 25. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 46 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Principal Assessor, Human Resources Specialist, Town Clerk, Conservation Agent, GIS Technician, Recreation Coordinator and Assistant Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

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[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several

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[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

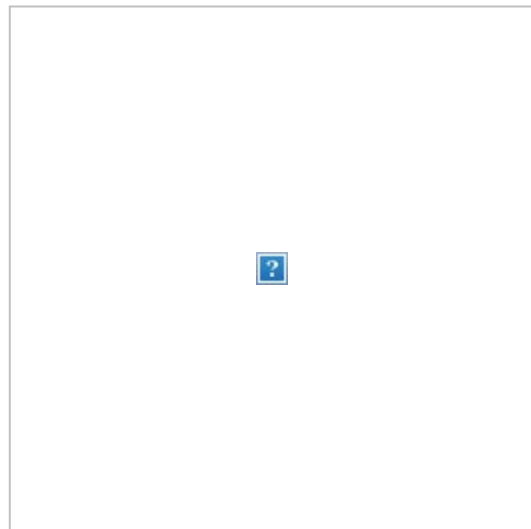
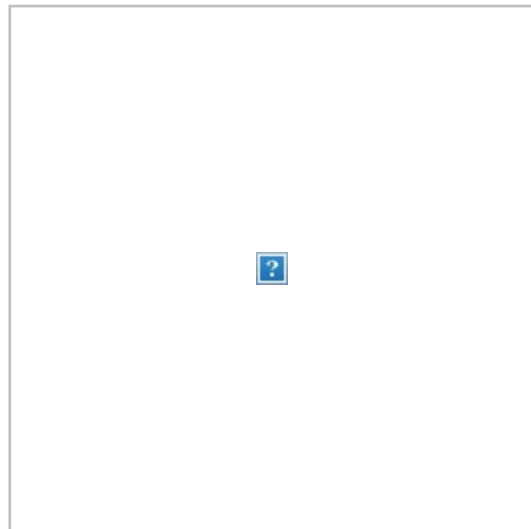
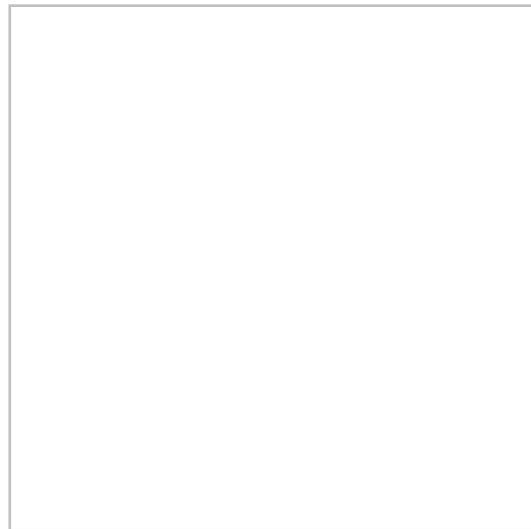
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[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...

[Executive order establishes AI Strategic Task Force](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed an

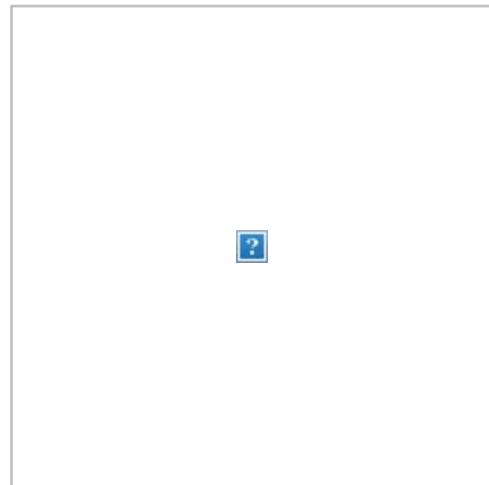


Executive Order on Feb. 14 establishing the Artificial Intelligence Strategic Task Force to study AI and Generative Artificial Intelligence technology and its impact on the state, private businesses, higher education institutions, and constituents. ...



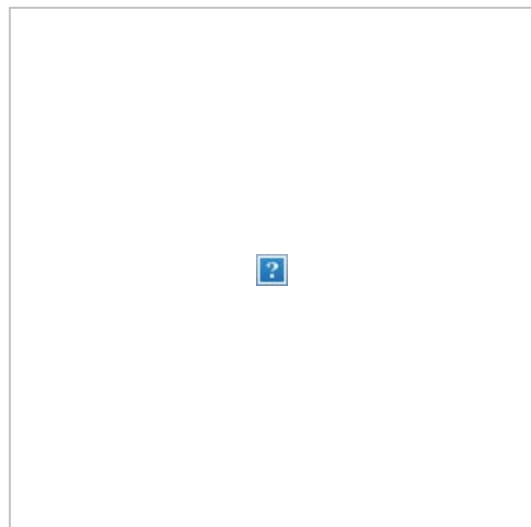
[NLC's Congressional City Conference is March 11-13](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[Public water systems to conduct service line inventories](#)

Under recent revisions to lead and copper rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, all community public water systems and non-transient, non-community public water systems in Massachusetts must develop and submit a service line inventory to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection by Oct. 16. ...



[State leaders urge EPA to restore lead water pipe replacement funding](#)

Top state officials submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Feb. 1 urging the agency to reconsider a new grant formula that has reduced lead service line replacement funding to Massachusetts by more than \$30 million. ...



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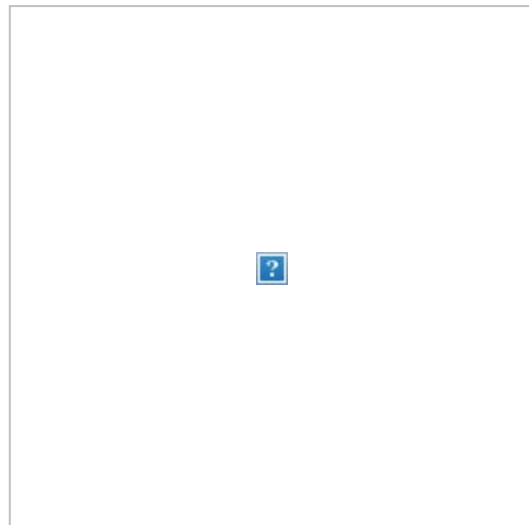
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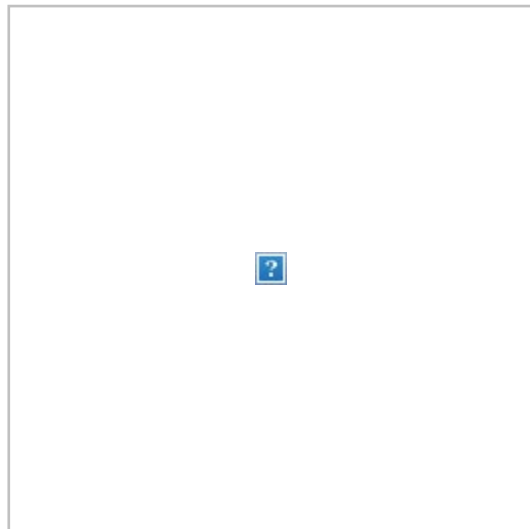
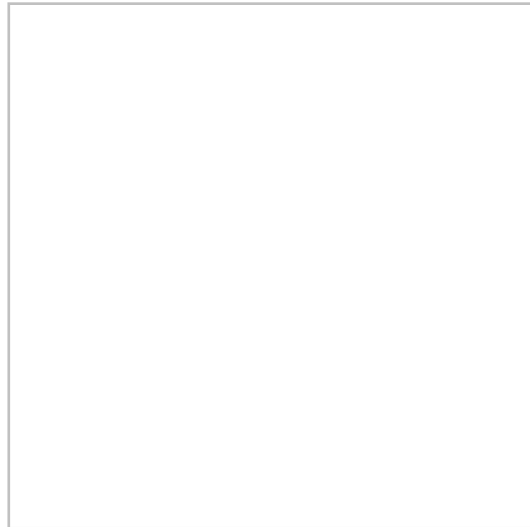


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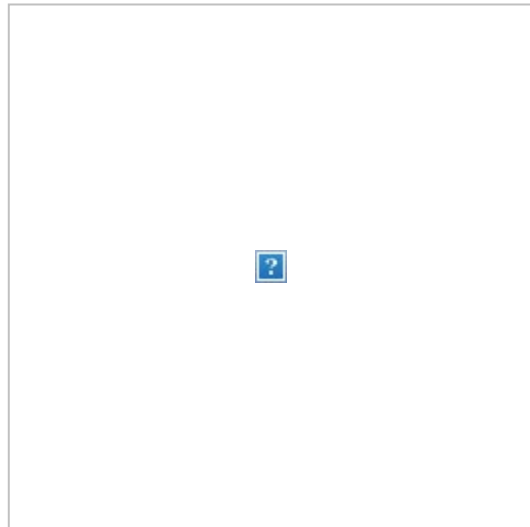
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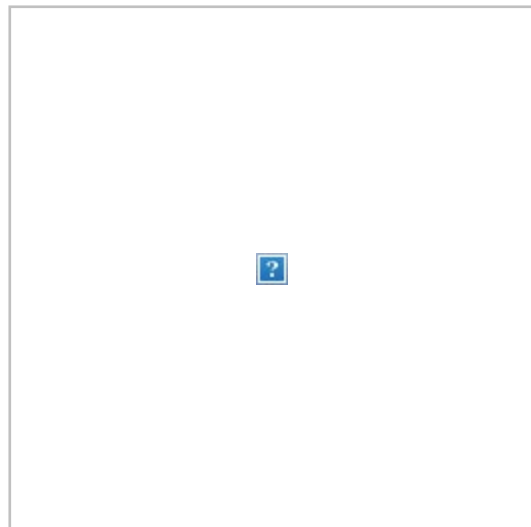
[**MunEnergy webinar on Feb. 29 will focus on spring weather impacts**](#)

The MMA's MunEnergy program will hold a free, one-hour webinar on Feb. 29 to provide timely information about spring energy costs and to discuss what spring weather and climate change will mean for energy markets, as well as the optimal time to purchase energy as we head into the spring. ...



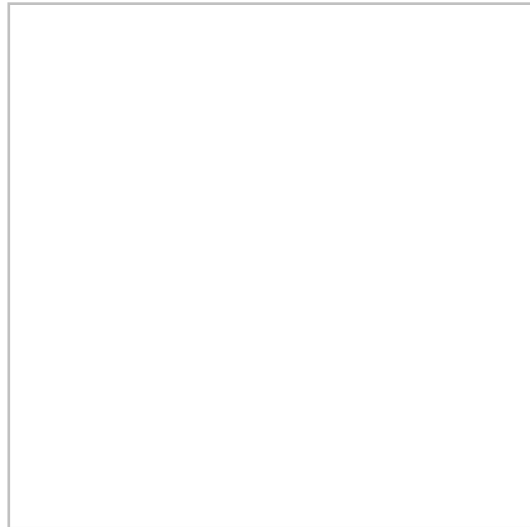
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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We've added 40 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, DPW Business Manager, Senior Network Engineer, Shared Services Coordinator, Payroll Administrator, Animal Control Officer and Firefighter/EMT. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



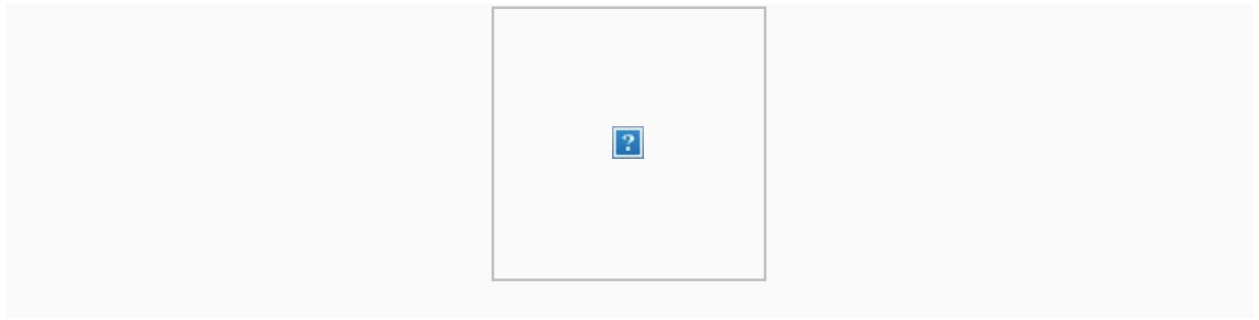
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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[CCC approves model host community agreement](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission today voted to approve a model host community agreement that it developed in accordance with a comprehensive cannabis law

enacted in 2022 that requires the CCC to draft rules around HCAs, as well as social equity. ...

[State to begin lodging tax reimbursements for shelters in cities, towns](#)

State officials have announced a new program to financially support municipalities that have lost local hotel excise tax revenue due to emergency assistance shelter placements in hotels and motels in their community. ...

[MMA to host ‘Climate Action’ webinar series](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a “climate action” webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...

[MMA Board approves policy committees for 2024](#)

At its Feb. 13 meeting, the MMA



Board of Directors approved the rosters for the MMA's five policy committees for 2024. ...



[MMA panel testifies at Chapter 90 hearing](#)

On Jan. 30, the MMA and several municipal officials testified before the Joint Committee on Transportation in support of Gov. Maura Healey's Chapter 90 bond bill. ...



[MMA joins 23 municipal leagues, NLC for congressional visit](#)

A delegation from the MMA joined 23 municipal organizations from other states and the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C., in late January to meet with members of Congress and push for federal help on issues such as infrastructure investment, cybersecurity, gun safety, PFAS regulations, and avoiding a federal government shutdown. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MBTA](#)

[Communities law](#)

An MMA webinar today outlined the process and schedule for municipal compliance with the MBTA Communities law. ...



[MMA webinar to share best practices for procurement](#)

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 5 exploring how to streamline the procurement process. ...



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The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



MassDEP updates recycling market development plan

In February, the Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Protection released a revised Recycling Market Development Action Plan. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[Municipalities can't be left to recover from climate disasters alone](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

Upcoming MMA Events

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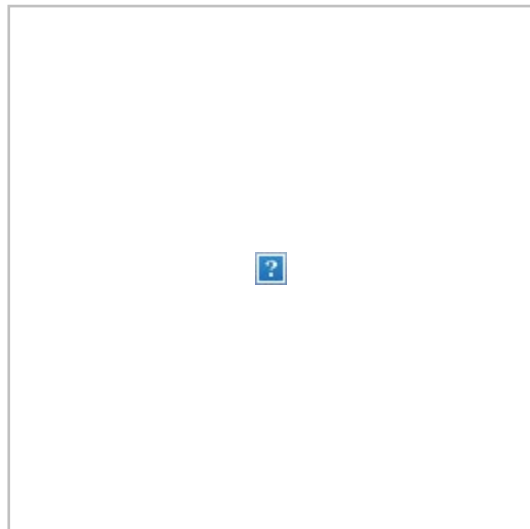
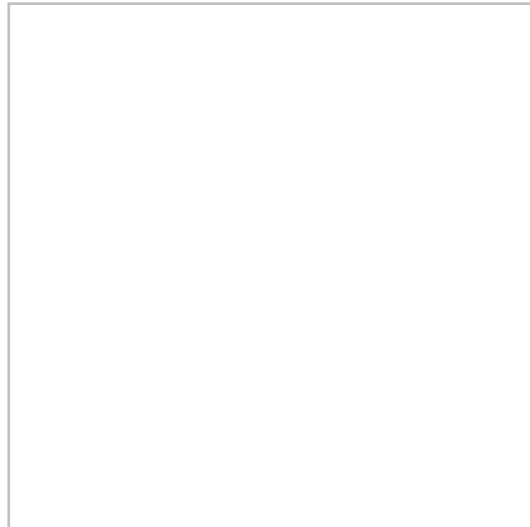


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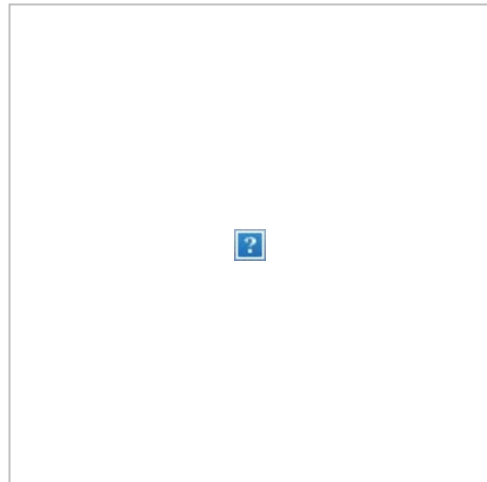
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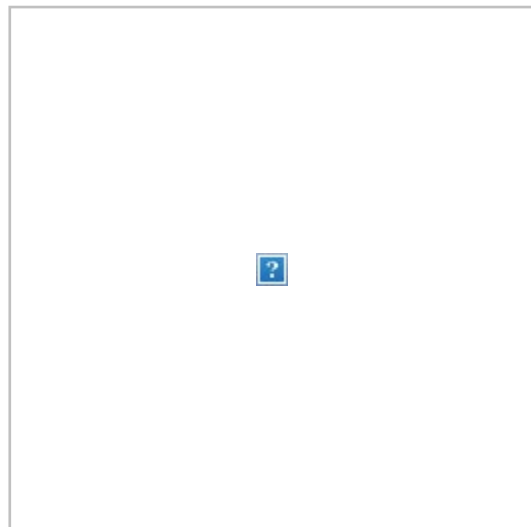
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[Healey appeals denial of major disaster declaration for September storms](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has formally appealed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's denial of her request for a major disaster

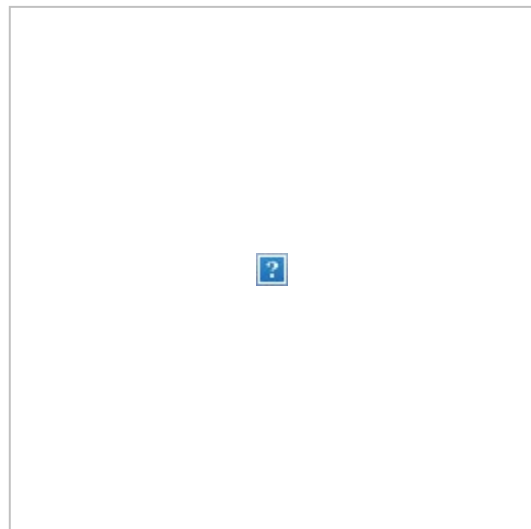
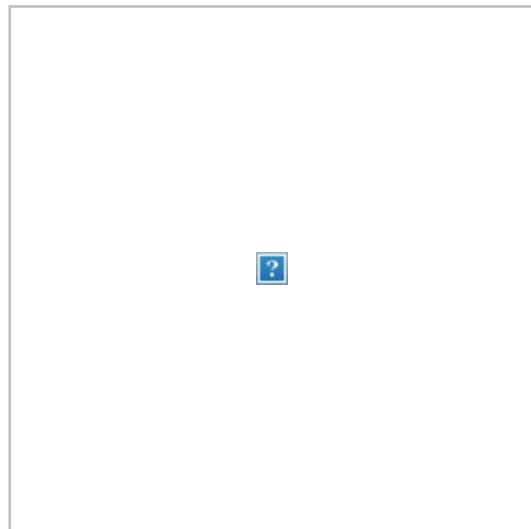
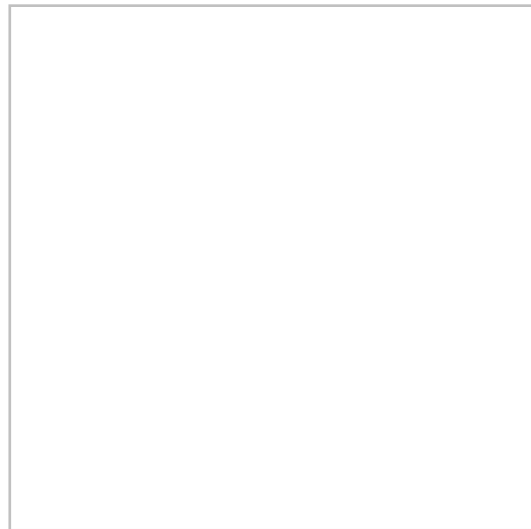
declaration to support the ongoing recovery of Massachusetts communities impacted by severe weather and flooding last September in Worcester, Hampden and Bristol counties. ...

[Administration announces \\$335M in federal funds for Mass Pike project](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state has won \$335.4 million in federal grant funding for a major “Reconnecting Communities” project around the Massachusetts Turnpike near the Charles River in Boston. ...

[MMA-MMLA webinar reviews best practices for MBTA zoning proposals](#)

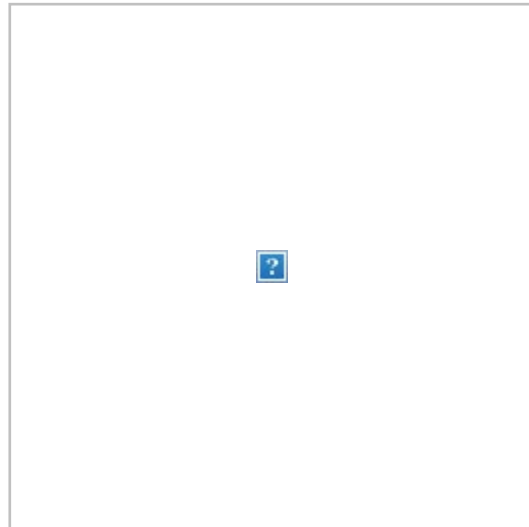
An MMA webinar with the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association reviewed what the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Attorney General’s Municipal Law Unit have learned from their preliminary review of proposed local zoning amendments relative to the



MBTA Communities Act. ...

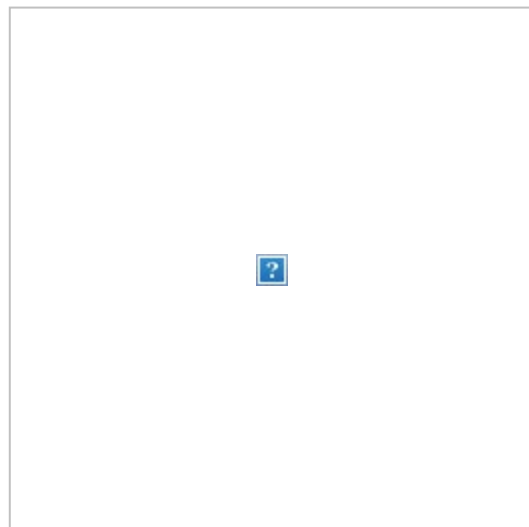
[Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference](#)

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



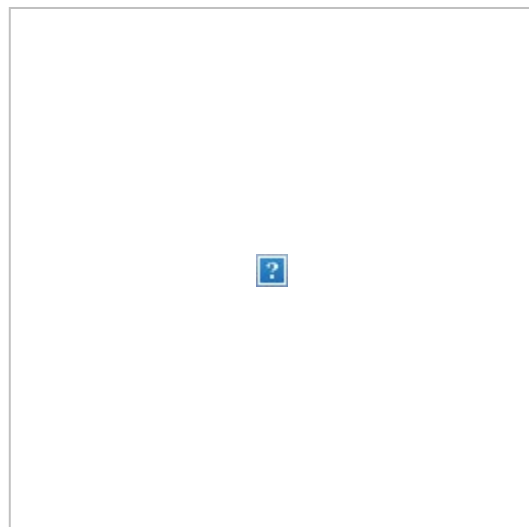
[Applications due March 25 for CDBG program](#)

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[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

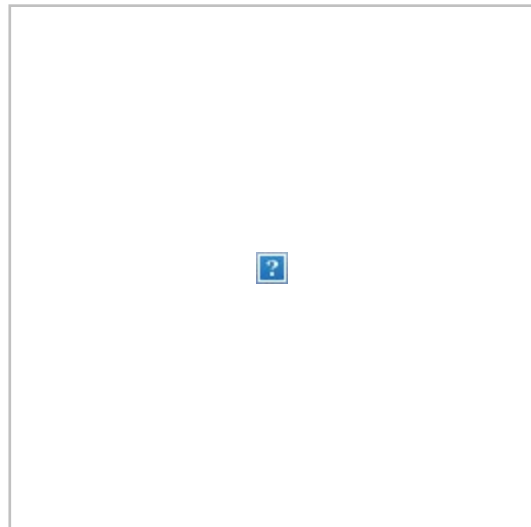
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[DPU to host 4 'Road Show'](#)

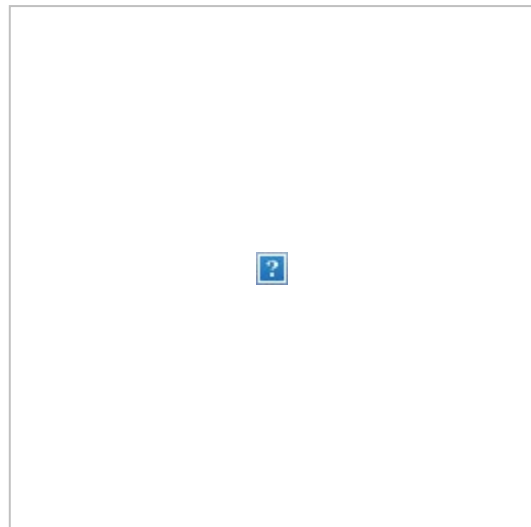
[meetings with public in 2024](#)

The Department of Public Utilities will be hosting four “Road Show” events during 2024, starting in Boston on March 27. ...



[\\$22M retrofit program will expand high-speed internet in affordable housing](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech on March 6 announced the launch of the Residential Internet Retrofit Program, a \$22 million statewide initiative to equip public and affordable housing units across the state with high-speed internet for current and future residents. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to support Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

On March 8, Testimony

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[Conflict Conversations \(Part 2\): Productive Dialogue in Volatile Times webinar](#) - April 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

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[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

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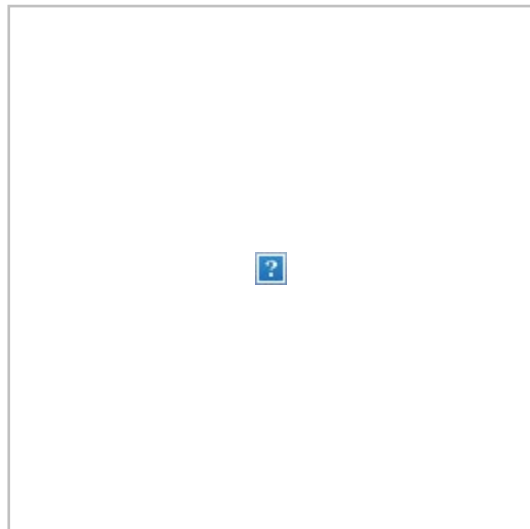
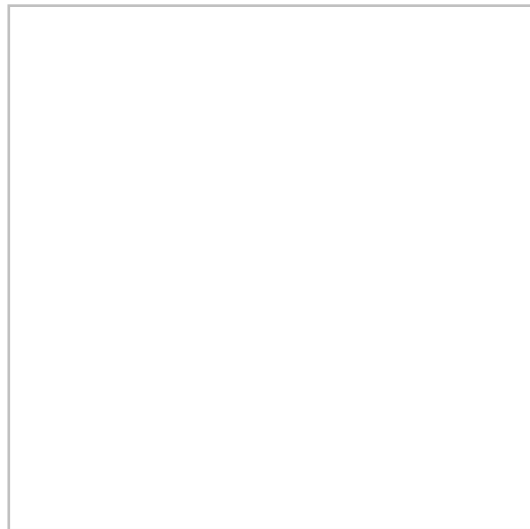
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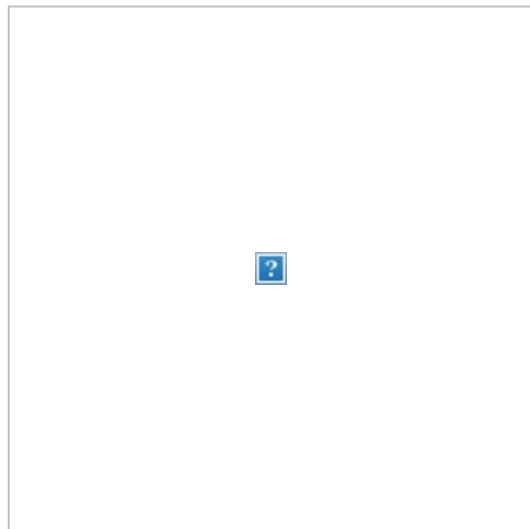
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[**MMA to host second 'Conflict Conversations' webinar**](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 2 will

review, step-by-step, how to have productive conversations amidst tension and volatility. ...



[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Authority is accepting applications through April 25 for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. ...



[Local leaders invited to happiness symposium at Kennedy School](#)

Massachusetts municipal leaders can discover how to become “happiness teachers” during a free symposium being held June 19 through 21 by the Leadership and Happiness Laboratory at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Center for Public Leadership. ...



[Culvert replacement grant program opening soon for FY25](#)

The Division of Ecological

Restoration announced that it will soon be accepting applications for the fiscal 2025 Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program. ...



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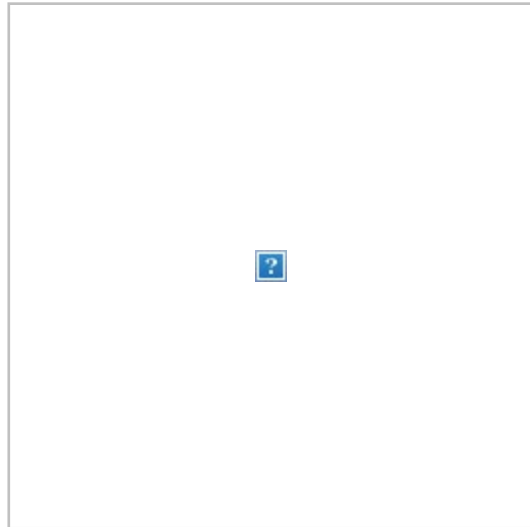
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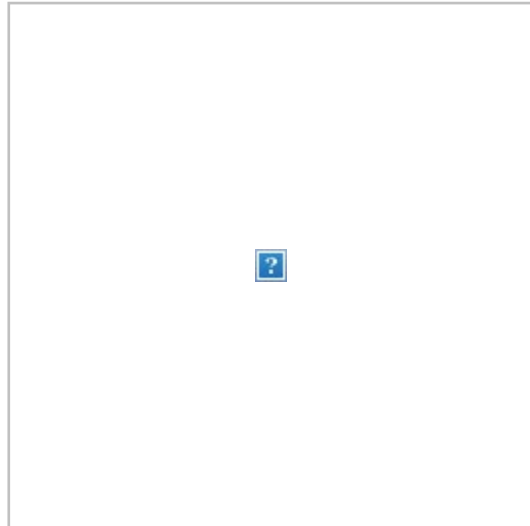
[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...



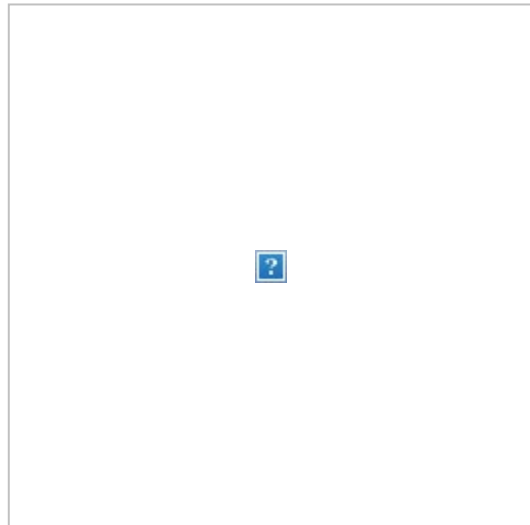
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Administration makes 9C budget cuts, but avoids cutting local aid](#)

After six months of state tax collections falling short of benchmarks, the Healey-Driscoll administration today announced \$375 million in mid-year budget cuts

under Section 9C for fiscal 2024. ...

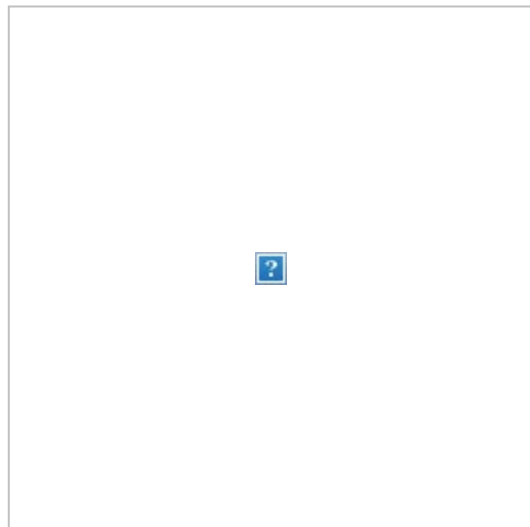
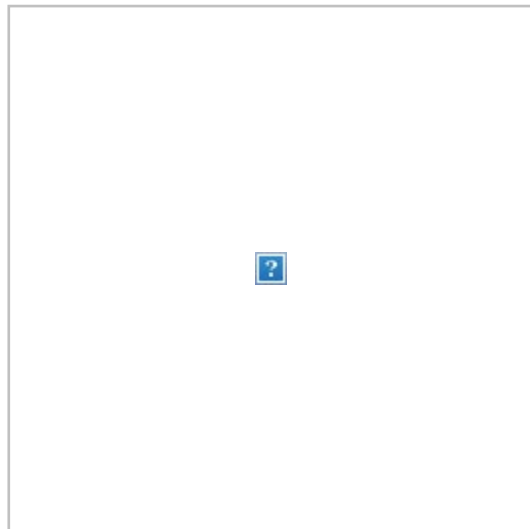
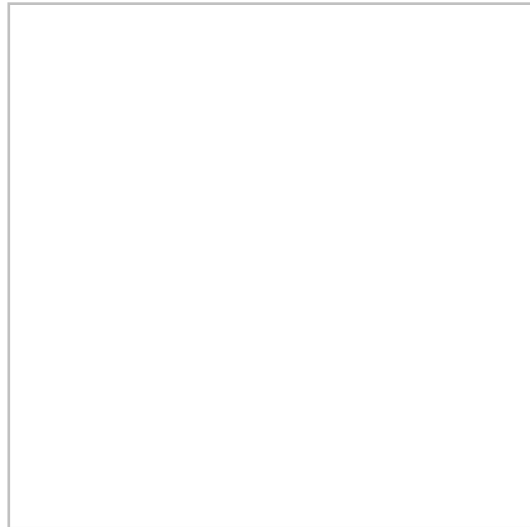
[Administration's \\$1.23B IT bond bill includes funds for local grant programs](#)

On Jan. 9, the Healey-Driscoll administration filed a \$1.23 billion, five-year bond bill intended to modernize IT systems across state agencies. ...

[Inspector General releases first in series of advisories for municipal officials](#)

The Office of the Inspector General today released its first OIG Advisory for municipal officials. ...

[MMA hosts webinar on conducting empathetic dialogue during conflict](#)



An MMA webinar today shared practical tips for fostering constructive dialogue and overcoming volatile feelings in challenging times. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on performance appraisals and ‘SMART’ goals](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed performance appraisals and offered practical tips for setting “SMART” goals to help local officials start the year off right. ...



[Utilities submit drafts of electric sector modernization plans](#)

The state’s investor-owned electric distribution companies — Eversource, National Grid and Unitil — have submitted drafts of their electric sector modernization plans. ...



[Video features Franklin officials discussing road salt reduction strategies](#)

Just in time for winter, two public works officials from Franklin are featured in a short video offering advice on treating roads in ways that promote safety while minimizing impacts on the environment. ...



[Application period opens for CDBG program](#)

The federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants opened on Dec. 8, and the application deadline is March 25. ...



[Federal RAISE grant application period opens](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced that \$1.5 billion in grant funding is available for 2024 through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity, a competitive program that supports investments in road, rail, transit and port projects that have a significant local or regional impact. ...



Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Opening Session: [Gov. Maura Healey](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speakers: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#), [Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)

[Workshop schedule & descriptions](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

[Municipal Finance 101 webinar](#) - Feb. 6

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 8

[Women Leading Government conference](#) - March 7

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 8

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - March 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[MassTrails accepting grant applications](#)

The application period for the MassTrails grant program is open through Feb. 1 via an online application system. ...



[MMA, Suffolk University launch Municipal Human Resources Seminar](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University are announcing an expansion of their professional development partnership with the launch of a new Municipal Human Resources Seminar that will begin in April. ...



[MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)

Local officials are invited to fill a limited number of positions available on the MMA's five policy committees

for 2024. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

Federal Funds Resource Area



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 39 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant DPW Director, Town Administrator, Assessor Data Manager, Town Accountant, Chief Civilian Dispatcher, Executive Assistant and Recreation Coordinator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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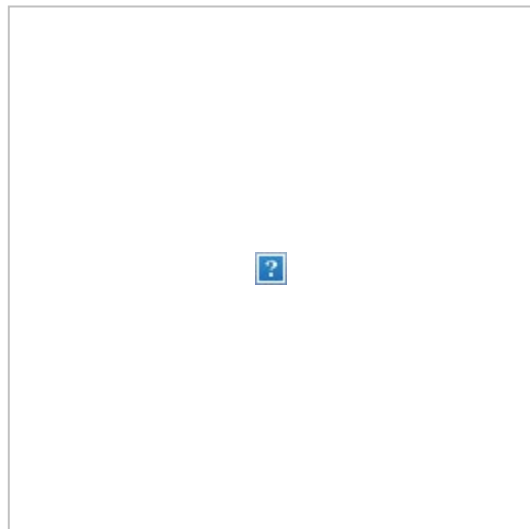
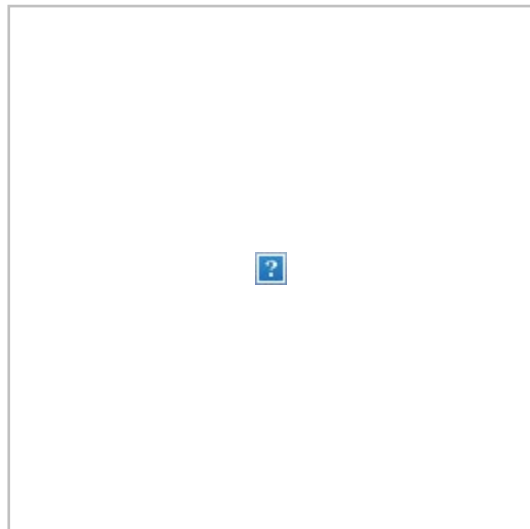
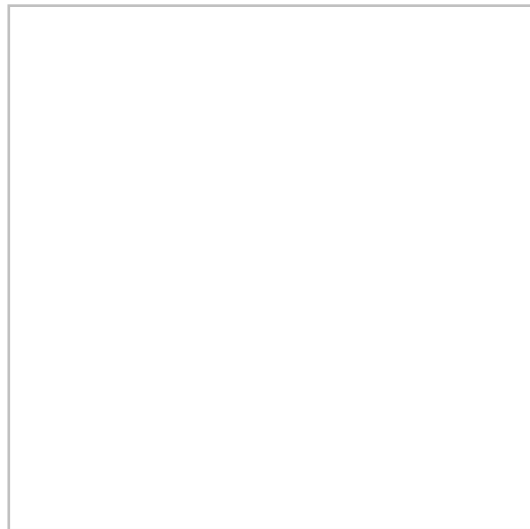
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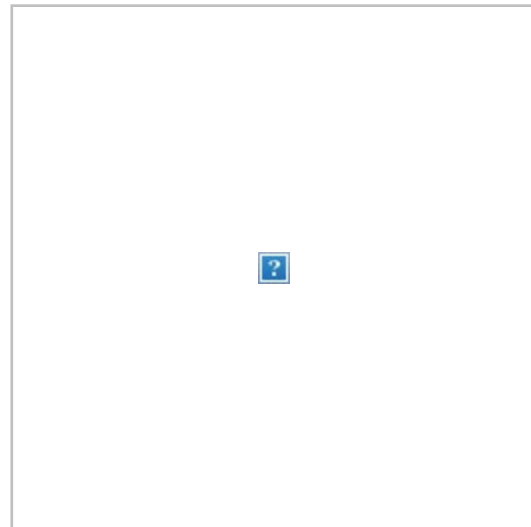
[Administration announces \\$50M for EV charging infrastructure](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 7 announced an investment of \$50 million in initiatives to build out electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Massachusetts. ...

[MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions](#)

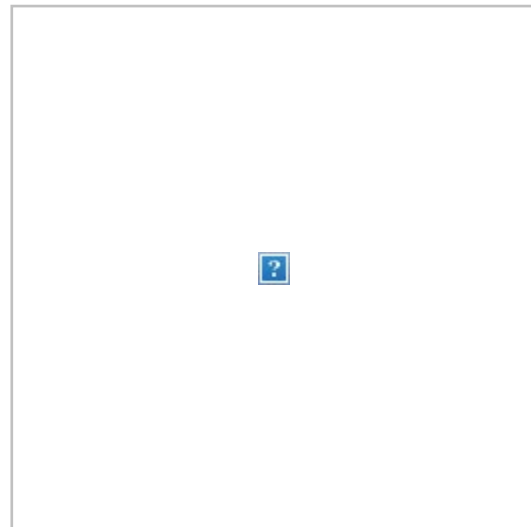


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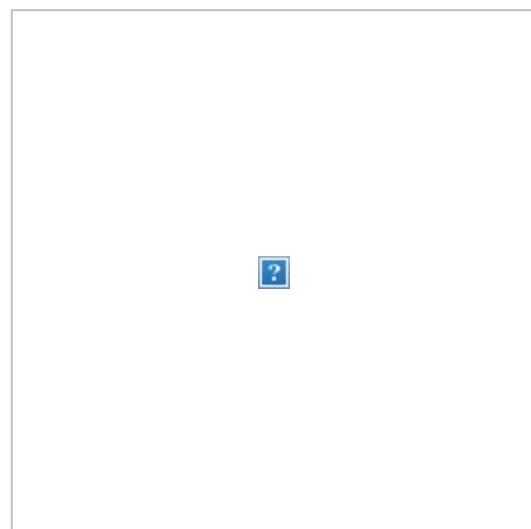
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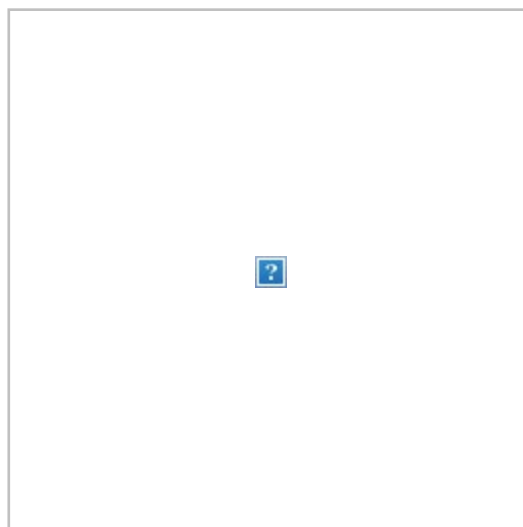
‘Meet DLS’ webinar set for March 11

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual “Meet DLS” webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



MIIA presents safety, risk management, wellness awards

During its Annual Business Meeting in Boston on Jan. 20, MIIA presented awards to outstanding member communities and municipal entities to recognize their commitment to safety, risk management, and employee wellness. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[MBTA Communities: Municipalities & Compliance webinar](#) - Feb. 26

[Tackling Tough Conversations with Emotional Intelligence webinar](#) - Feb. 27

[MunEnergy webinar](#) - Feb. 29

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – North Andover & Greenfield](#) - March 1

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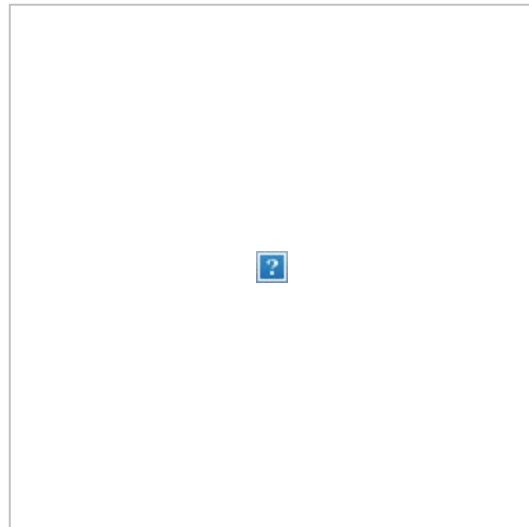
[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

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[Municipal Law Unit hosts trainings on bylaw processes, MBTA Communities rules](#)

The Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit is holding three free, online training sessions this month on the zoning bylaw amendment process and bylaw filing. ...



[MMA to host VMLA webinar series on emotional intelligence](#)

Last fall, the MMA launched its Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar series to help promote professional development among municipal officials. The program's three-part pilot, exploring effective communication and feedback, was led by Cally Ritter,

principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, and is still available for purchase. ...

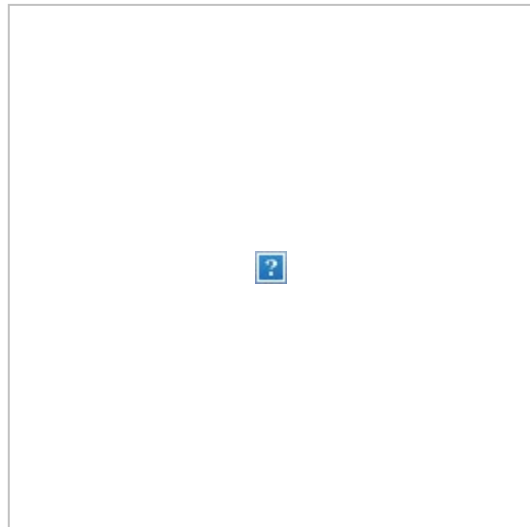
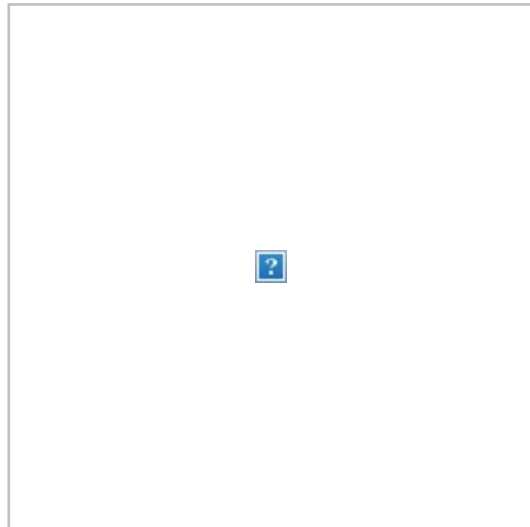
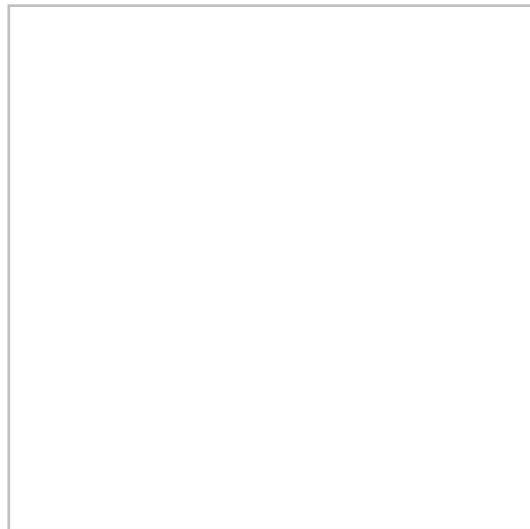
[Community One Stop for Growth opens for fiscal 2025](#)

Community One Stop for Growth, a portal where municipalities can apply for state community and economic development grant programs, has opened for fiscal 2025. ...

[MSA launches online Handbook for Massachusetts Select Board Members](#)

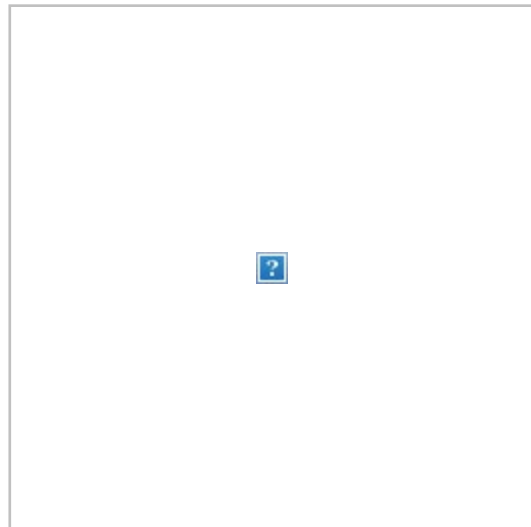
At the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston this morning, the Massachusetts Select Board Association launched a new online version of its comprehensive guide for Select Board members. ...

[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)



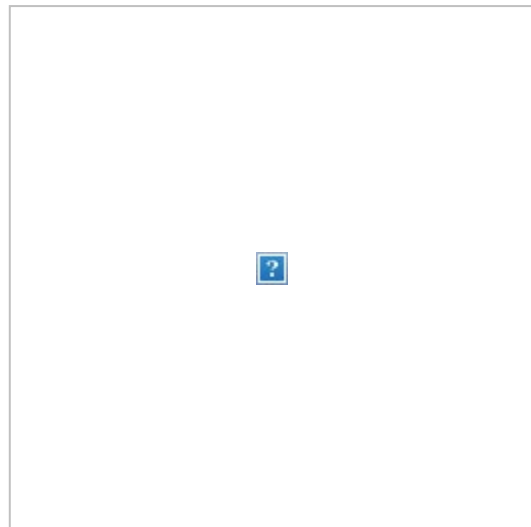
[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



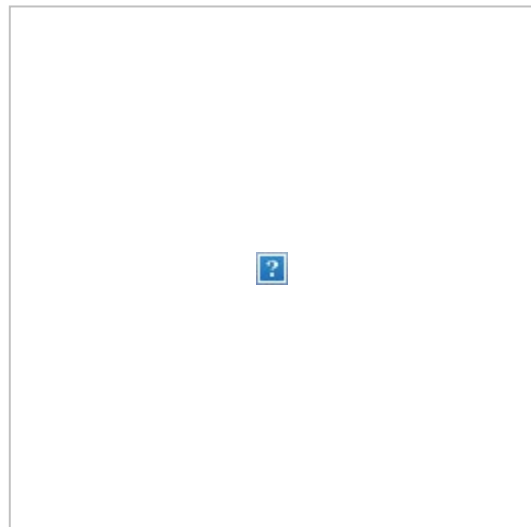
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[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

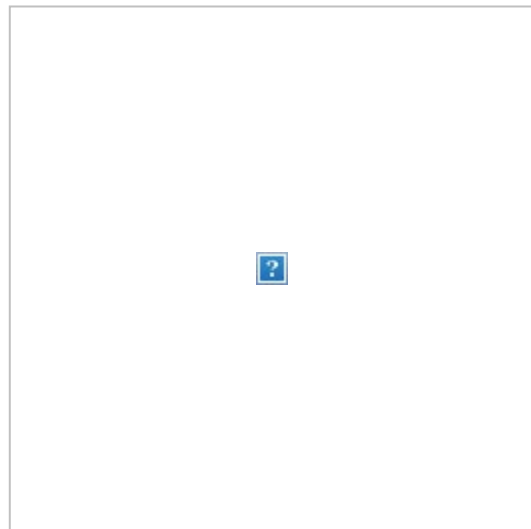
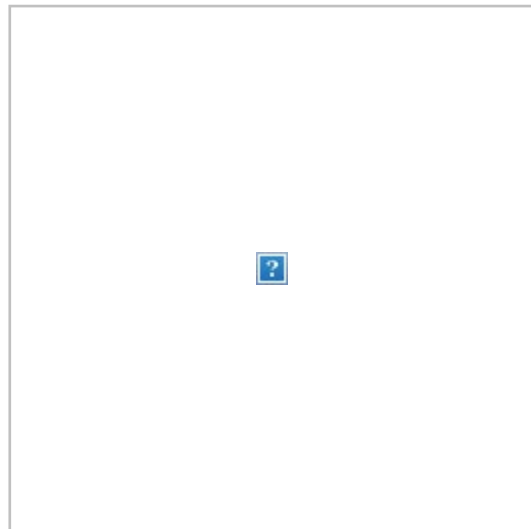
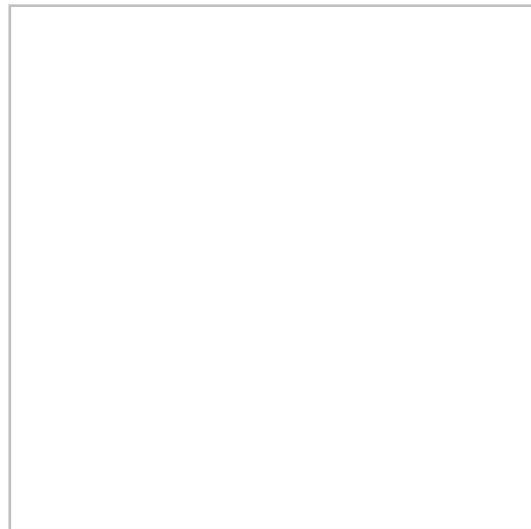
The Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting is seeking public input through March 15 on questions related to the siting of clean energy infrastructure. ...

[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

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[Executive order establishes AI Strategic Task Force](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed an

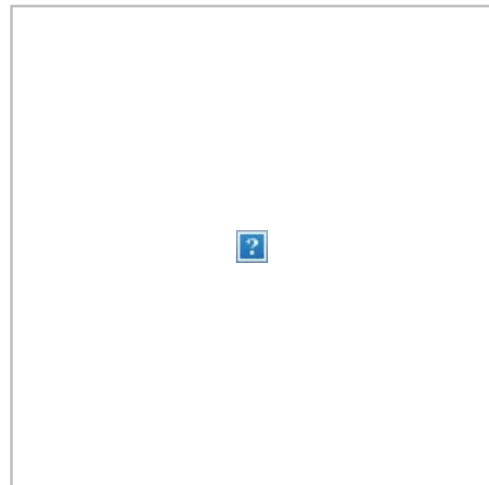


Executive Order on Feb. 14 establishing the Artificial Intelligence Strategic Task Force to study AI and Generative Artificial Intelligence technology and its impact on the state, private businesses, higher education institutions, and constituents. ...



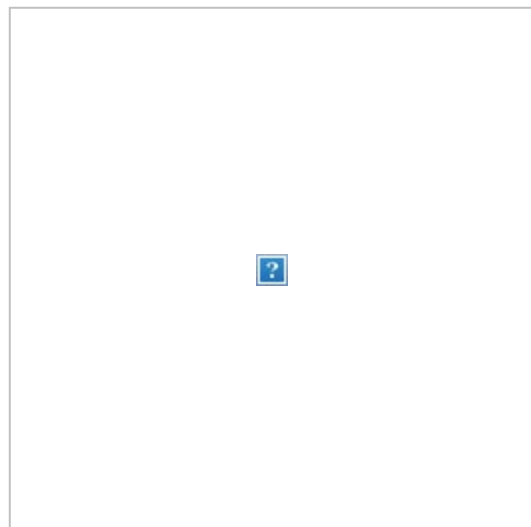
[NLC's Congressional City Conference is March 11-13](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[Public water systems to conduct service line inventories](#)

Under recent revisions to lead and copper rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, all community public water systems and non-transient, non-community public water systems in Massachusetts must develop and submit a service line inventory to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection by Oct. 16. ...



[State leaders urge EPA to restore lead water pipe replacement funding](#)

Top state officials submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Feb. 1 urging the agency to reconsider a new grant formula that has reduced lead service line replacement funding to Massachusetts by more than \$30 million. ...



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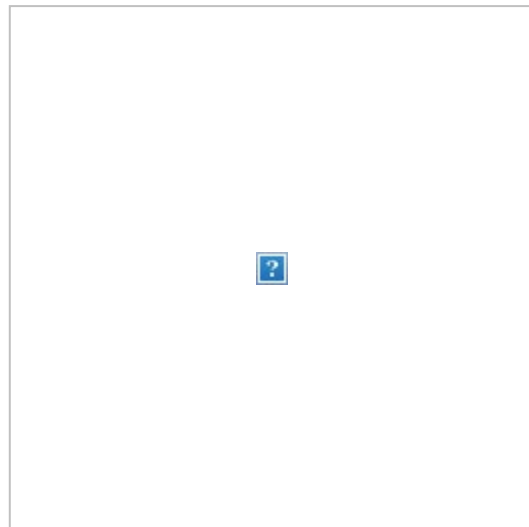
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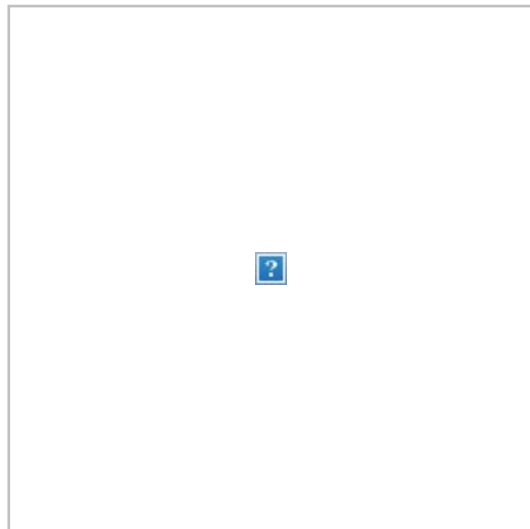
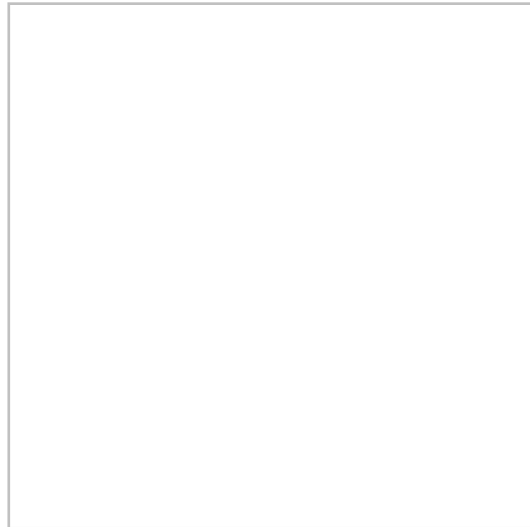


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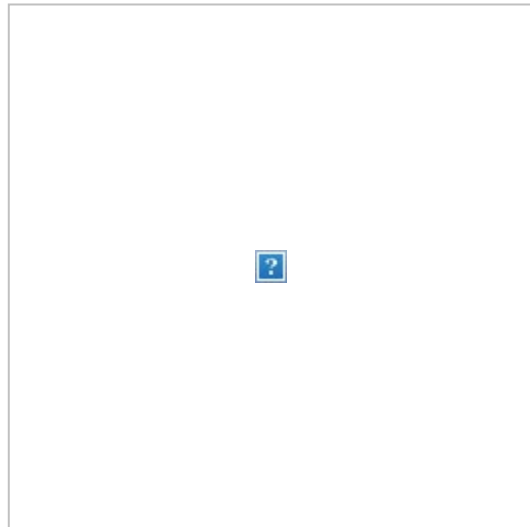
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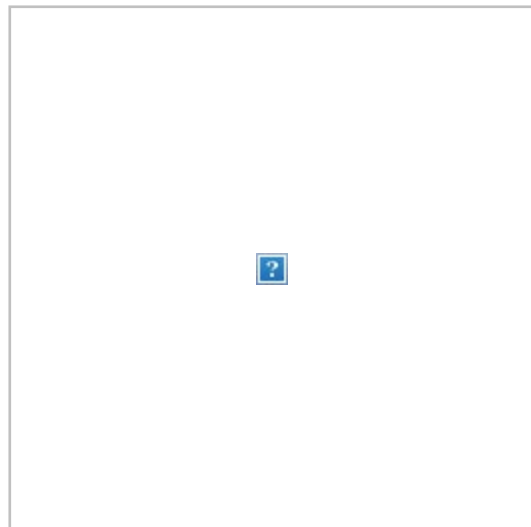
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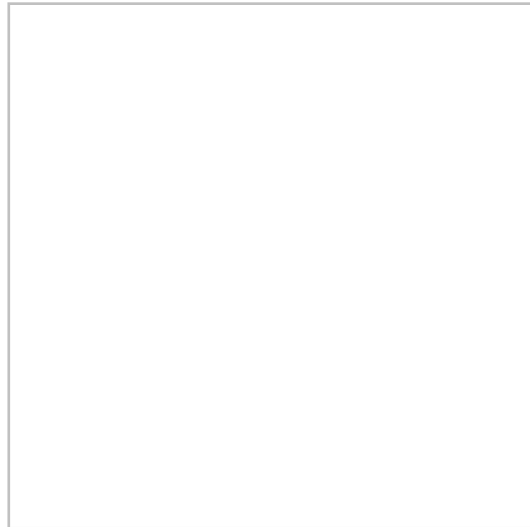
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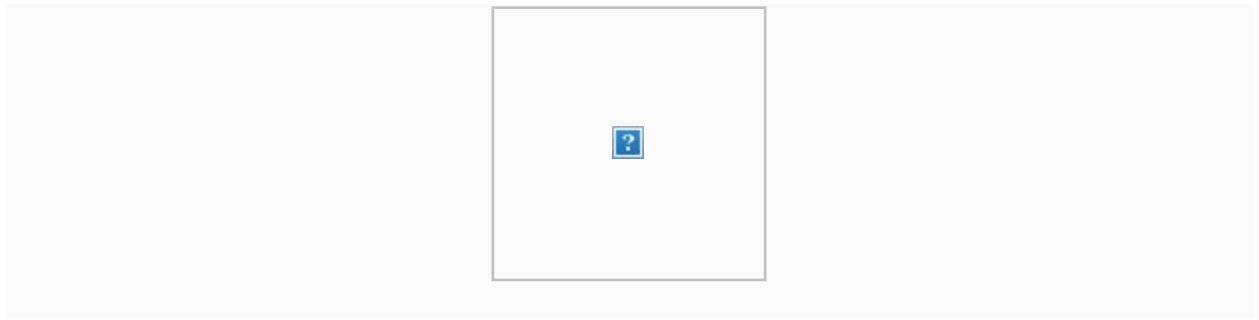
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[CCC approves model host community agreement](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission today voted to approve a model host community agreement that it developed in accordance with a comprehensive cannabis law

enacted in 2022 that requires the CCC to draft rules around HCAs, as well as social equity. ...

[State to begin lodging tax reimbursements for shelters in cities, towns](#)

State officials have announced a new program to financially support municipalities that have lost local hotel excise tax revenue due to emergency assistance shelter placements in hotels and motels in their community. ...

[MMA to host ‘Climate Action’ webinar series](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a “climate action” webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...

[MMA Board approves policy committees for 2024](#)

At its Feb. 13 meeting, the MMA



Board of Directors approved the rosters for the MMA's five policy committees for 2024. ...



[MMA panel testifies at Chapter 90 hearing](#)

On Jan. 30, the MMA and several municipal officials testified before the Joint Committee on Transportation in support of Gov. Maura Healey's Chapter 90 bond bill. ...



[MMA joins 23 municipal leagues, NLC for congressional visit](#)

A delegation from the MMA joined 23 municipal organizations from other states and the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C., in late January to meet with members of Congress and push for federal help on issues such as infrastructure investment, cybersecurity, gun safety, PFAS regulations, and avoiding a federal government shutdown. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MBTA](#)

Communities law

An MMA webinar today outlined the process and schedule for municipal compliance with the MBTA Communities law. ...



MMA webinar to share best practices for procurement

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 5 exploring how to streamline the procurement process. ...



MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...



MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education

The MMA will host a free webinar on

March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



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MassDEP updates recycling market development plan

In February, the Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Protection released a revised Recycling Market Development Action Plan. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[Municipalities can't be left to recover from climate disasters alone](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

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In Case You Missed It

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

Registration is now open for the MMA's spring series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on March 1, 8 and 15. ...

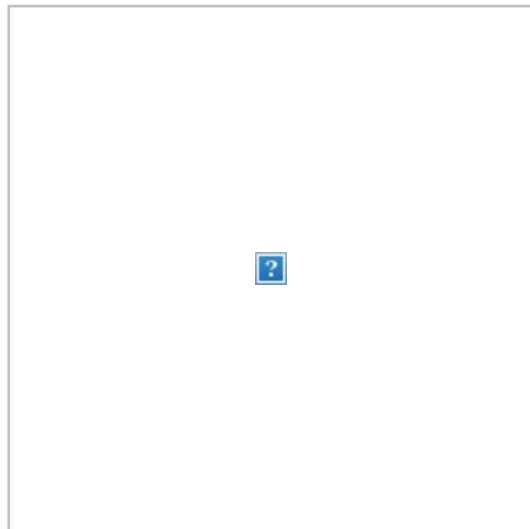
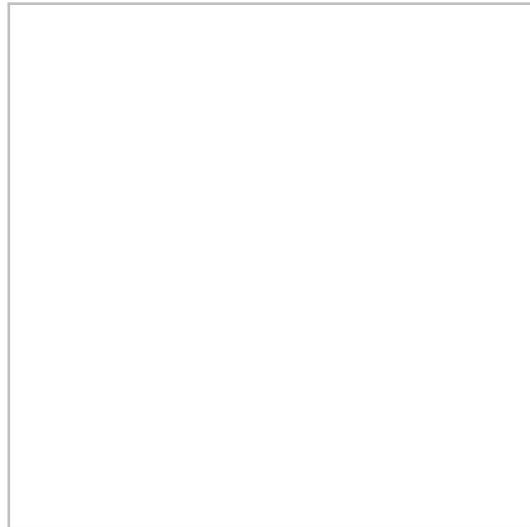


[MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University will hold an information session about the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program on March 13 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. ...

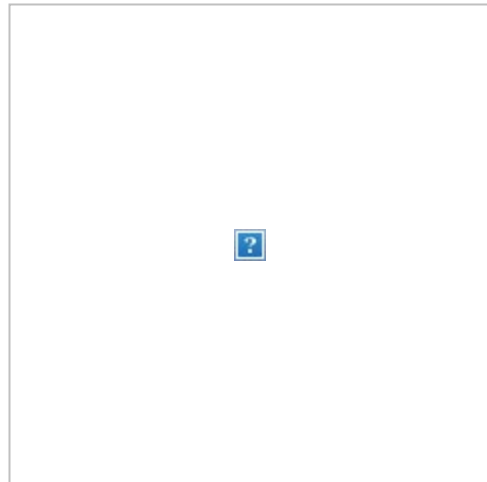
[**'Meet DLS' webinar set for March 11**](#)

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual "Meet DLS" webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



[**NLC's Congressional City Conference is March 11-13**](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[**Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity**](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband

Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...



[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

The Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting is seeking public input through March 15 on questions related to the siting of clean energy infrastructure. ...



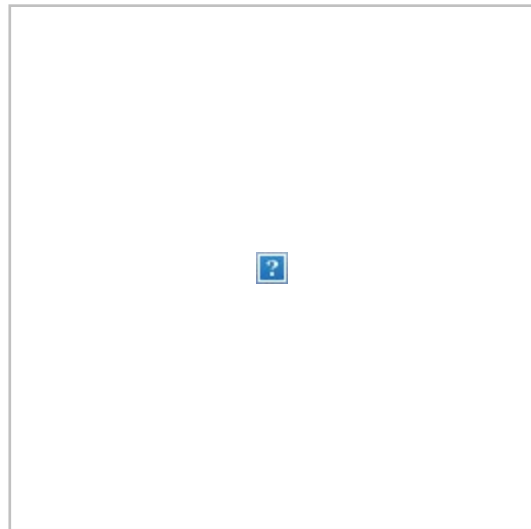
[MassDEP extends comment period on multiple waterways regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several regulatory updates that affect public and private waterways and permitting requirements for dredging projects. ...



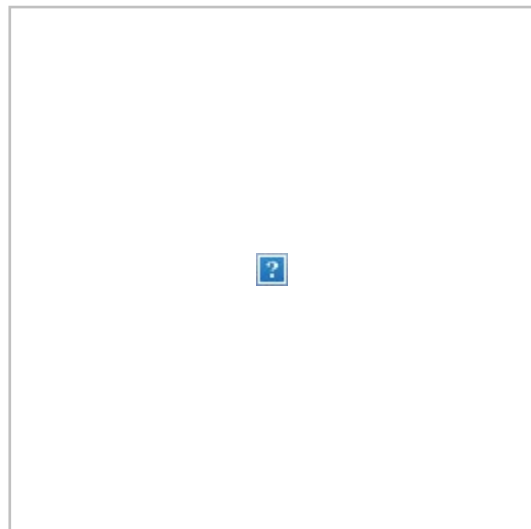
[Applications due March 8 for \\$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 53 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Conservation Agent, Town Accountant, Resilience Manager, Treatment Operator, DPW Principal Clerk, Regional Inspector, Senior Planner and Land Use Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Healey appeals denial of major disaster declaration for September storms](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has formally appealed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's denial of her request for a major disaster

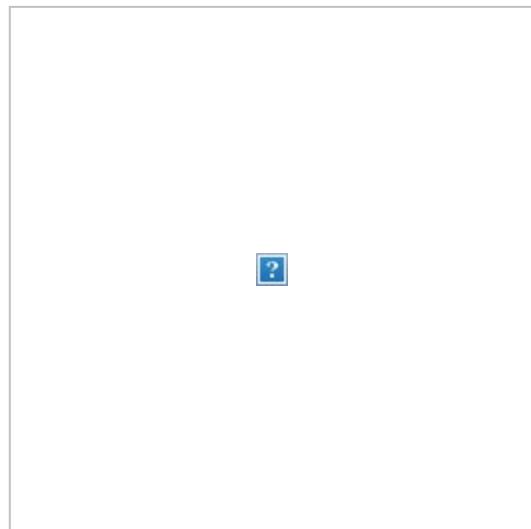
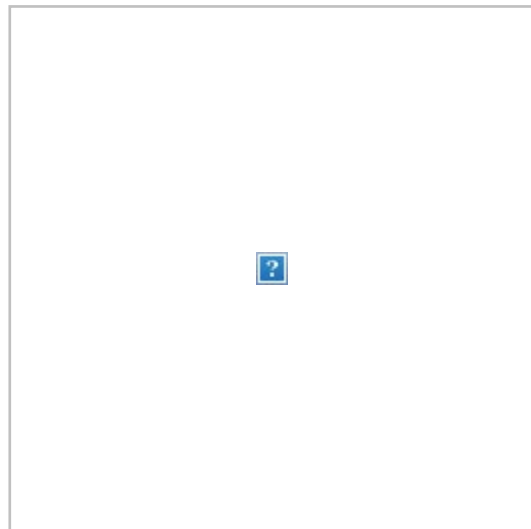
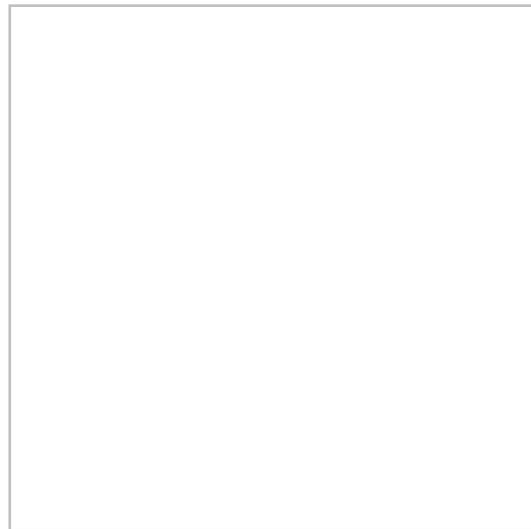
declaration to support the ongoing recovery of Massachusetts communities impacted by severe weather and flooding last September in Worcester, Hampden and Bristol counties. ...

[Administration announces \\$335M in federal funds for Mass Pike project](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state has won \$335.4 million in federal grant funding for a major “Reconnecting Communities” project around the Massachusetts Turnpike near the Charles River in Boston. ...

[MMA-MMLA webinar reviews best practices for MBTA zoning proposals](#)

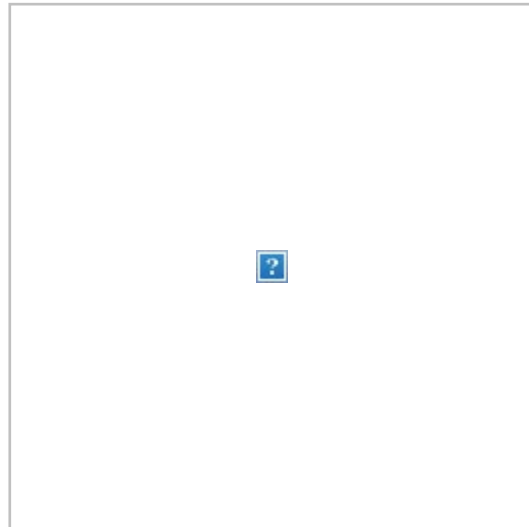
An MMA webinar with the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association reviewed what the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Attorney General’s Municipal Law Unit have learned from their preliminary review of proposed local zoning amendments relative to the



MBTA Communities Act. ...

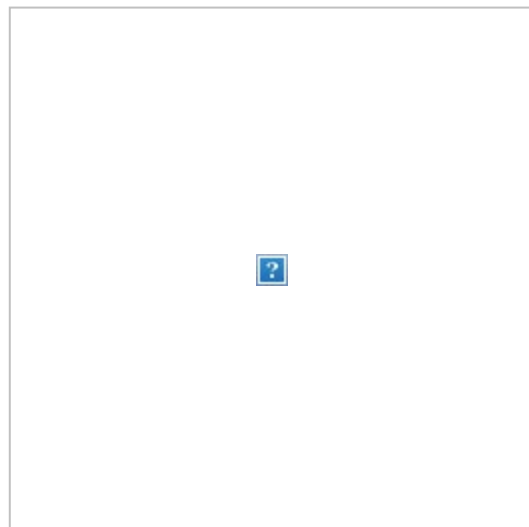
[Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference](#)

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



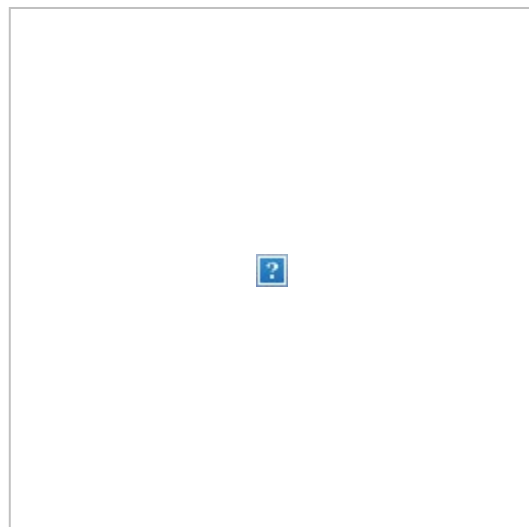
[Applications due March 25 for CDBG program](#)

The application deadline is March 25 for federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

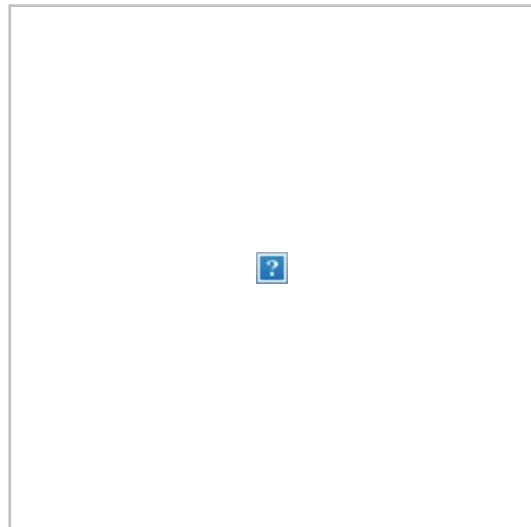
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[DPU to host 4 'Road Show'](#)

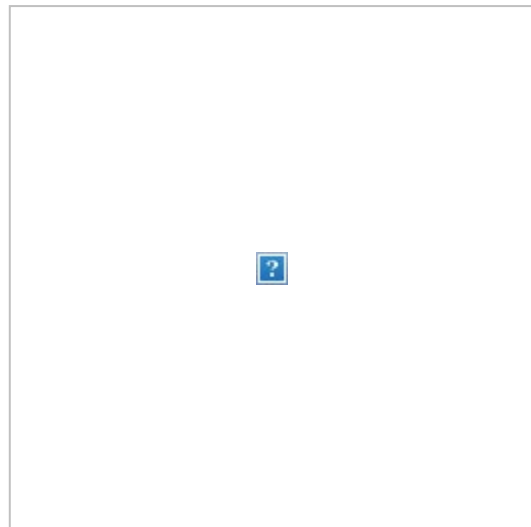
[meetings with public in 2024](#)

The Department of Public Utilities will be hosting four “Road Show” events during 2024, starting in Boston on March 27. ...



[\\$22M retrofit program will expand high-speed internet in affordable housing](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech on March 6 announced the launch of the Residential Internet Retrofit Program, a \$22 million statewide initiative to equip public and affordable housing units across the state with high-speed internet for current and future residents. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to support Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

On March 8, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March 20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

[Conflict Conversations \(Part 2\): Productive Dialogue in Volatile Times webinar](#) - April 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

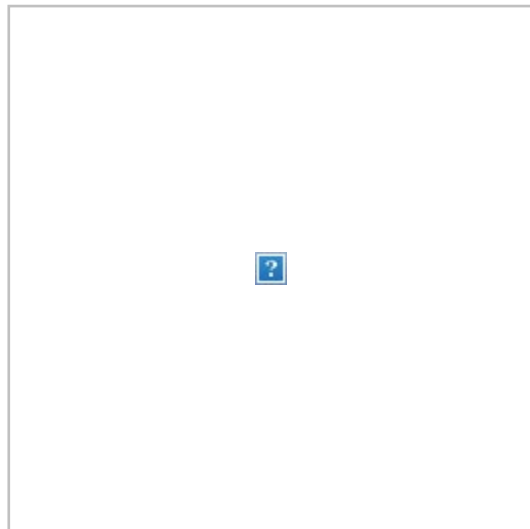
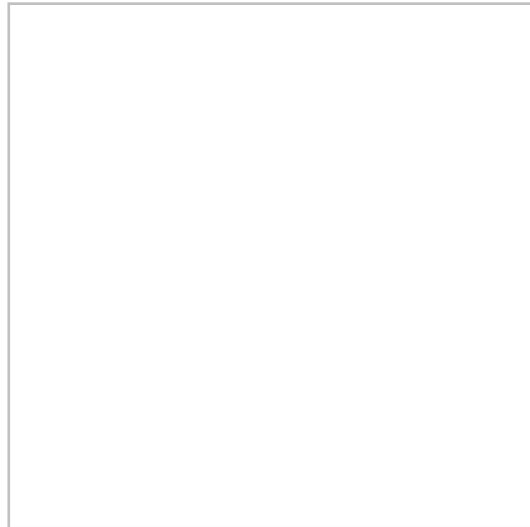
In Case You Missed It

[MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...

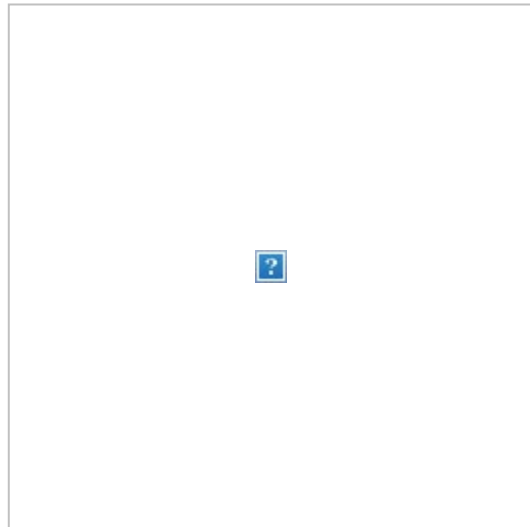
[**MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education**](#)

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



[**MMA to host 'Climate Action' webinar series**](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a "climate action" webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...



[**MMA to host second 'Conflict Conversations' webinar**](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 2 will

review, step-by-step, how to have productive conversations amidst tension and volatility. ...



[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Authority is accepting applications through April 25 for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. ...



[Local leaders invited to happiness symposium at Kennedy School](#)

Massachusetts municipal leaders can discover how to become “happiness teachers” during a free symposium being held June 19 through 21 by the Leadership and Happiness Laboratory at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Center for Public Leadership. ...



[Culvert replacement grant program opening soon for FY25](#)

The Division of Ecological

Restoration announced that it will soon be accepting applications for the fiscal 2025 Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program. ...



[ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12](#)

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



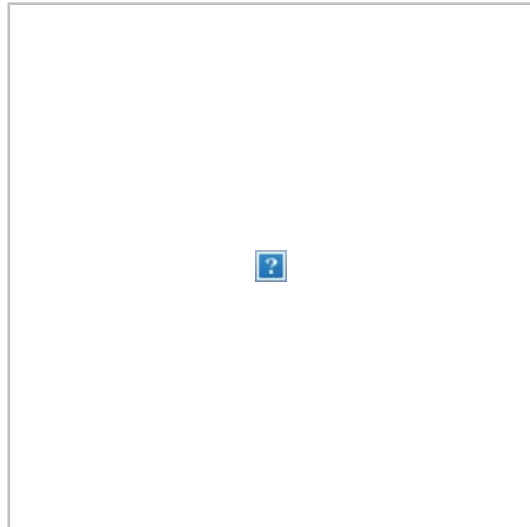
[MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



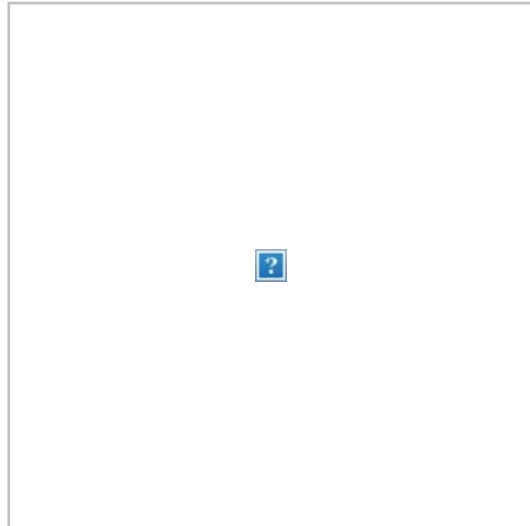
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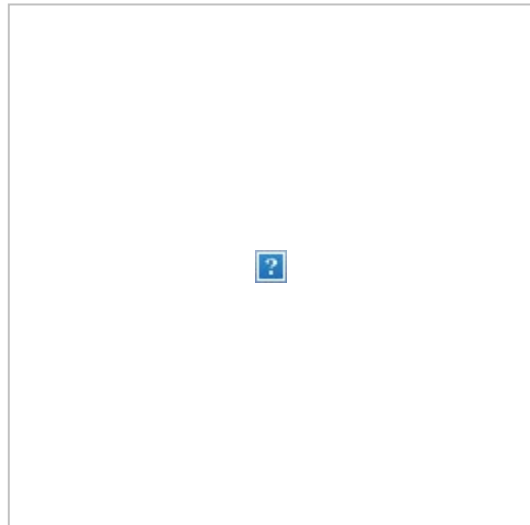
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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[House budget committee files \\$57.9B state spending proposal for FY25](#)

The House Ways and Means
Committee released a \$57.9 billion
state spending plan for fiscal 2025
that includes several important

investments in schools and municipalities despite state revenue expectations that are more modest than in recent years. ...

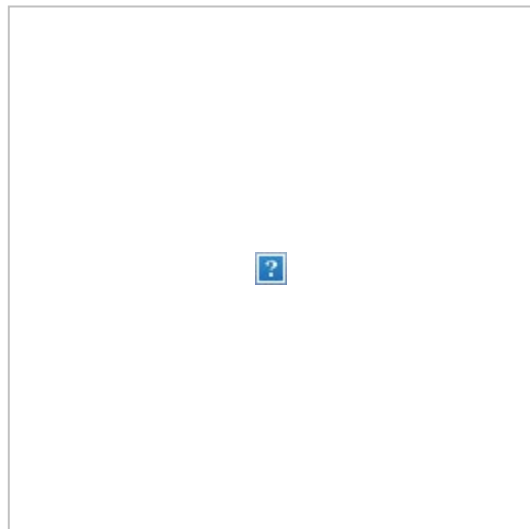
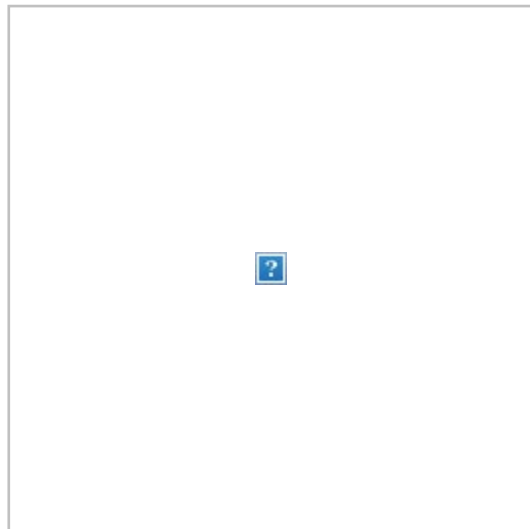
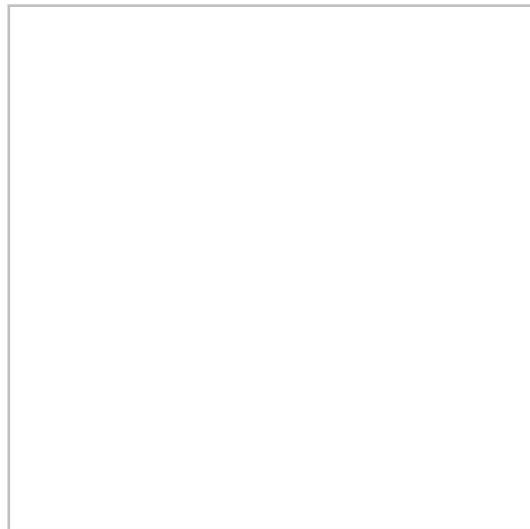
[Senate OK's transportation bond bill with Ch. 90 funds](#)

The Senate passed a transportation bond bill that includes \$200 million for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2025, as well as \$175 million for specified additional infrastructure programs. ...

[EPA sets national limits on PFAS contamination](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “forever chemicals.” ...

[EOHLC seeks comments on draft plan for CDBG and other federal programs](#)



The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is accepting comments on its draft one-year Action Plan for federal fiscal 2024 for a range of federal programs (CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA and HTF), and will hold a public hearing on April 18. ...

[Applications sought through April 12 for SAFER fire dept. grants](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications through April 12 for a new round of federal grant funding for fire departments. ...

[Equitable land development is focus of April 18 forum](#)

Municipal leaders, state officials and developers seeking best practices and strategies for creating an equitable development environment within their communities are invited to a Land Access Forum in Boston on April 18. ...

[Municipal hearings officer training is April 25](#)

A free, virtual training program for



municipal hearings officers will be held on April 25, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams. ...



MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program

Applications are due April 30 for the MMA-Suffolk University Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program. ...



DEI strategic plan for municipalities nears completion

The MMA's DEI Advisory Committee is working with Racial Equity Group CEO Bird Guess to complete its DEI strategic plan for municipalities. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 18

[Digital Equity Planning webinar](#) - April 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[Promoting Civil Discourse at Town Meeting webinar](#) - May 2

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium webinar](#) - May 3

[Municipal Law 101 webinar](#) - May 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources boot camp](#) - May 9

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Women's Equality Day webinar](#) - May 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association spring conference](#) - May 29-31

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Application period opens for Housing Choice Designation](#)

Applications are being accepted through April 26 for the 2024 Housing Choice Communities

Designation. ...



MMA's 'Climate Action' webinar series continues on April 18

The second session in the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, "From Planning to Practice," will be held on April 18. ...



Third 'Climate Action' webinar will discuss community engagement

The third session of the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, on April 30, will explore how to design effective community engagement efforts. ...



Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



USDOT seeks applications for Safe Streets and Roads for All

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the third year of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. ...



School districts eligible for federal credits under IRA, BIL for 'green' projects

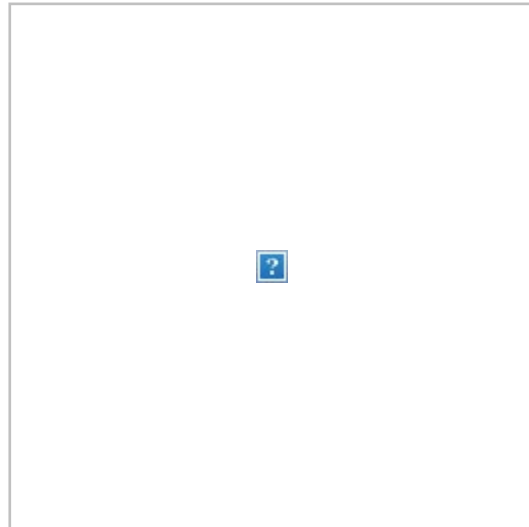
School districts that do not file federal taxes are eligible for some fully refundable credits this fiscal year under the Inflation Reduction Act, particularly for green infrastructure (e.g., installing heat pumps or buying electric vehicles). Schools may also be eligible to access other grants and credits through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). ...

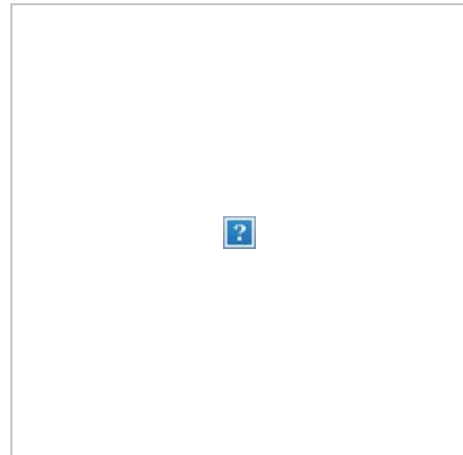
[Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit is May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on May 8 in Worcester. ...



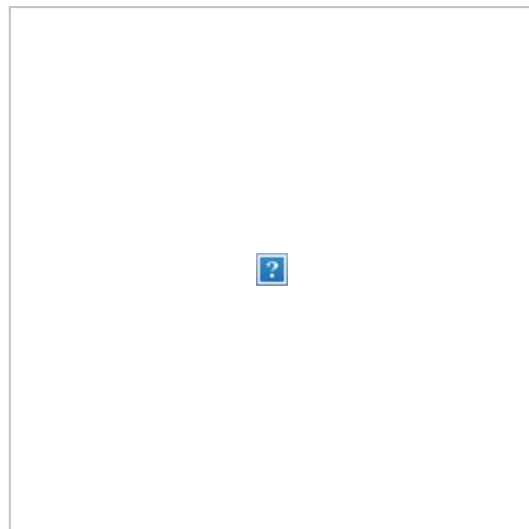
[MVP Action Grant applications due April 24](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting proposals through April 24 for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grants for fiscal 2025. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[FTA accepting applications for](#)

[bus and bus facility grants](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Principal Assessor, Financial Analyst, Police Officer, Director of Planning, Assistant City Engineer, Collector and Assistant Accountant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

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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](#)!

[Gov. signs law addressing PFAS in firefighter turnout gear](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a bill that addresses exposure to so-called

“forever chemicals,” also known as PFAS, in personal protective equipment worn by firefighters. ...



[Language in psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control](#)

The five statewide ballot initiatives certified for the November election include one that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, with language that would preempt local control. ...



[Gov. signs veterans services bill](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a broad bill known as the HERO Act that aims to modernize and increase veterans benefits with a mix of policy changes and tax incentives. ...



[Emergency Assistance shelter policies updated](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

has implemented new policies for the overburdened Emergency Assistance shelter system that are aimed at limiting shelter stays while prioritizing the needs of Massachusetts residents over migrants for long-term placements. ...



Budget included concerning tax title changes

The fiscal 2025 state budget signed by Gov. Maura Healey on July 29 included changes to the tax title foreclosure process that were intended to bring the state into compliance with a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the issue. ...



Applications sought for Cyber Resilient grant program

The MassCyberCenter at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is accepting applications for the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program from municipalities across the state to boost their cybersecurity infrastructure. ...



MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 12-13 in Falmouth

Massachusetts Municipal Human

Resources will hold its annual Fall Conference on Sept. 12 and 13 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth. ...



[MMA webinar to review essentials of capital planning](#)

A free MMA webinar on Sept. 24 will highlight best practices for maintaining and building a community's capital assets. ...



[MMA webinar to cover use of opioid settlement funds](#)

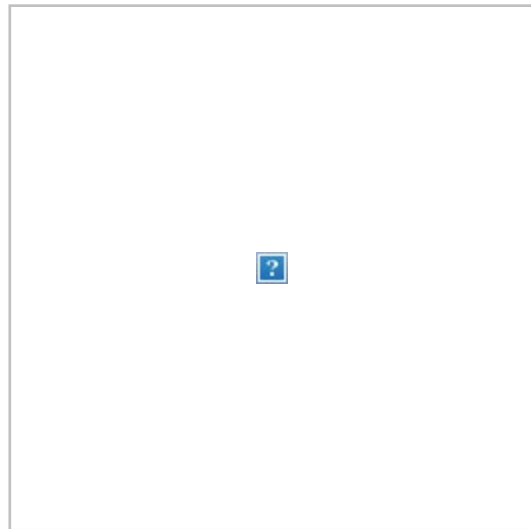
A free MMA webinar on Sept. 26 will review issues and strategies related to the use of opioid settlement funds. ...



[WEMO to hold annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27](#)

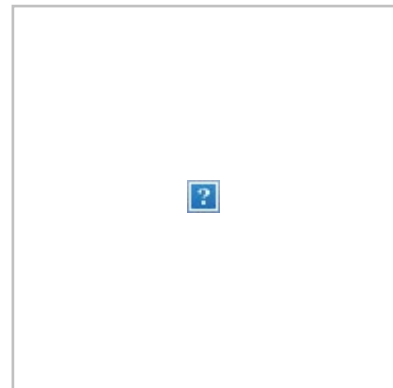
With the theme "Growing Trust in

Local Government,” Women Elected Municipal Officials will hold its sixth annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27 in Devens. ...



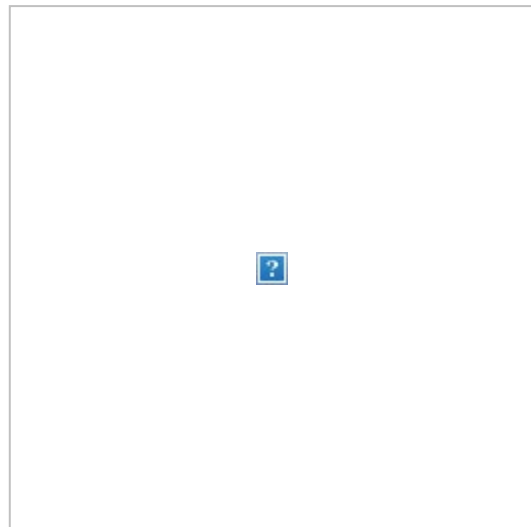
[MMHR seeking nominations for the 2024 Skop Award](#)

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources is accepting nominations for its annual Emil S. Skop Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the field of municipal human resources management. ...



[MCOA seeks annual award submissions](#)

The Massachusetts Councils on Aging is accepting nominations through Sept. 6 for its annual awards, which honor individuals, groups, and programs that have significantly impacted the lives of older adults. ...



[COPS Office to provide technical assistance to Boston Police Department](#)

The U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services announced on Aug. 8 that it will engage with the Boston Police Department to provide a review and assessment of operations within the Boston Police Department's Human Resources section. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 12-13

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 19

[Capital planning webinar](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Opioid settlement funds webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 27

[First Amendment audits webinar](#) - Oct. 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Oct. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Oct. 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



[Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA's annual conference in January 2025. ...



[Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 7 in Norwood](#)

Municipal fleet managers can learn about sustainable transportation

options at the 21st annual AltWheels Fleet Day event on Oct. 7 in Norwood. ...



MMA seeks input on local roadway needs with Ch. 90 survey

The MMA will be sending its biennial Chapter 90 funding survey this summer to chief municipal officials and public works and highway department officials in all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. ...



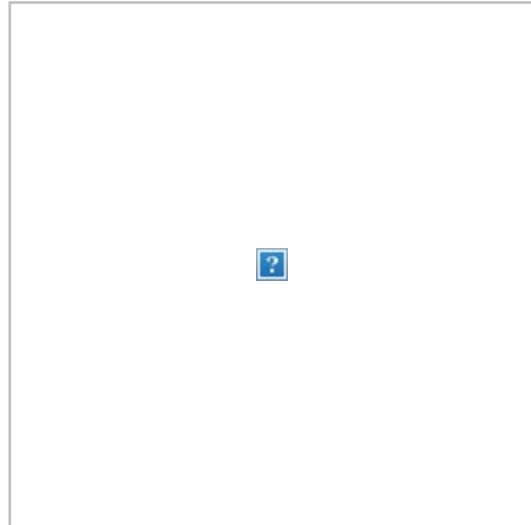
MMA announces new name, location, dates for conference

Big changes are in store for the MMA's conference in January, as the event moves to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and expands into a third afternoon. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Local photos sought

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or the important work of your local government? Whether it's municipal buildings or natural resources, construction projects or downtown streets, the MMA would appreciate a copy of your photos for possible use in future editions of The Beacon or on the MMA website. Photos must be free of copyright restrictions. Municipal officials and staff may email photos (.jpeg format and high resolution if possible) to **photos@mma.org** as an attachment.

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Risk Management Program Coordinator](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Planning Director, Recreation Services Coordinator, Senior Traffic Engineer,

Conservation Agent, Fiscal Manager, Solutions Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[Gov. signs law addressing PFAS in firefighter turnout gear](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a bill that addresses exposure to so-called

“forever chemicals,” also known as PFAS, in personal protective equipment worn by firefighters. ...



[Language in psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control](#)

The five statewide ballot initiatives certified for the November election include one that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, with language that would preempt local control. ...



[Gov. signs veterans services bill](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a broad bill known as the HERO Act that aims to modernize and increase veterans benefits with a mix of policy changes and tax incentives. ...



[Emergency Assistance shelter policies updated](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

has implemented new policies for the overburdened Emergency Assistance shelter system that are aimed at limiting shelter stays while prioritizing the needs of Massachusetts residents over migrants for long-term placements. ...



Budget included concerning tax title changes

The fiscal 2025 state budget signed by Gov. Maura Healey on July 29 included changes to the tax title foreclosure process that were intended to bring the state into compliance with a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the issue. ...



Applications sought for Cyber Resilient grant program

The MassCyberCenter at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is accepting applications for the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program from municipalities across the state to boost their cybersecurity infrastructure. ...



MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 12-13 in Falmouth

Massachusetts Municipal Human

Resources will hold its annual Fall Conference on Sept. 12 and 13 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth. ...



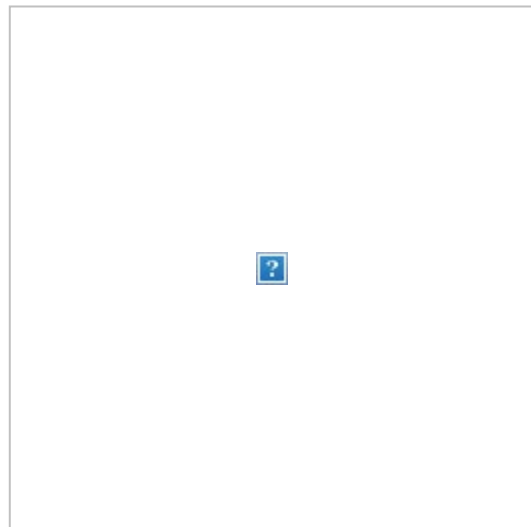
[MMA webinar to review essentials of capital planning](#)

A free MMA webinar on Sept. 24 will highlight best practices for maintaining and building a community's capital assets. ...



[MMA webinar to cover use of opioid settlement funds](#)

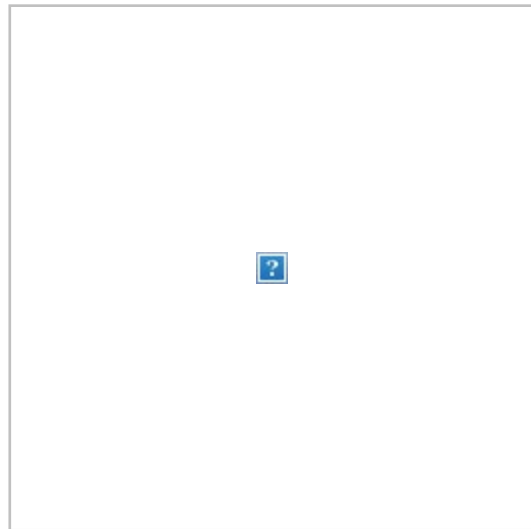
A free MMA webinar on Sept. 26 will review issues and strategies related to the use of opioid settlement funds. ...



[WEMO to hold annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27](#)

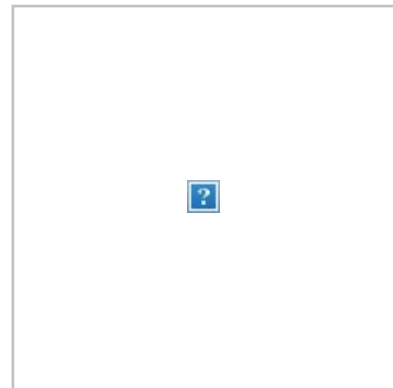
With the theme "Growing Trust in

Local Government,” Women Elected Municipal Officials will hold its sixth annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27 in Devens. ...



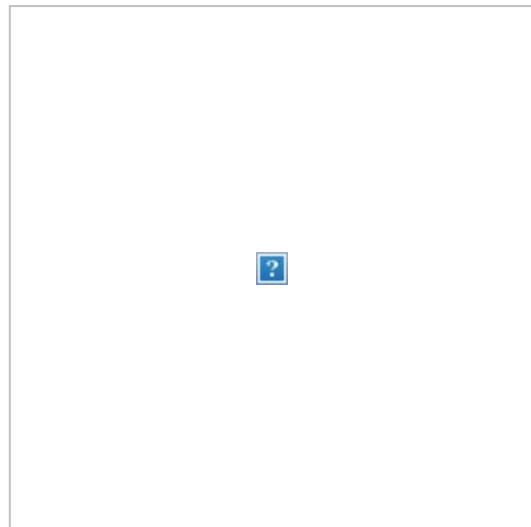
[MMHR seeking nominations for the 2024 Skop Award](#)

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources is accepting nominations for its annual Emil S. Skop Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the field of municipal human resources management. ...



[MCOA seeks annual award submissions](#)

The Massachusetts Councils on Aging is accepting nominations through Sept. 6 for its annual awards, which honor individuals, groups, and programs that have significantly impacted the lives of older adults. ...



[COPS Office to provide technical assistance to Boston Police Department](#)

The U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services announced on Aug. 8 that it will engage with the Boston Police Department to provide a review and assessment of operations within the Boston Police Department's Human Resources section. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 12-13

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 19

[Capital planning webinar](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Opioid settlement funds webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 27

[First Amendment audits webinar](#) - Oct. 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Oct. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Oct. 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



[Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA's annual conference in January 2025. ...



[Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 7 in Norwood](#)

Municipal fleet managers can learn about sustainable transportation

options at the 21st annual AltWheels Fleet Day event on Oct. 7 in Norwood. ...



MMA seeks input on local roadway needs with Ch. 90 survey

The MMA will be sending its biennial Chapter 90 funding survey this summer to chief municipal officials and public works and highway department officials in all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. ...



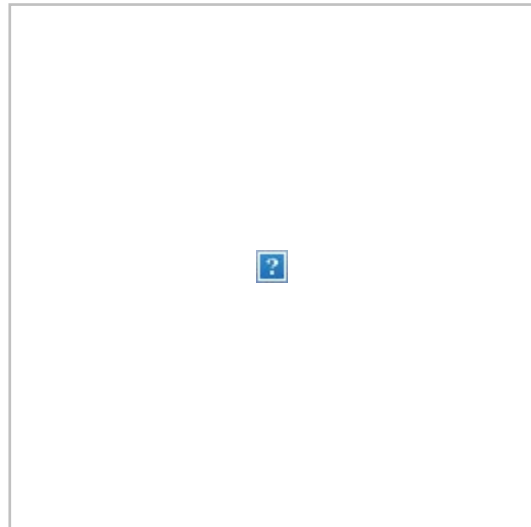
MMA announces new name, location, dates for conference

Big changes are in store for the MMA's conference in January, as the event moves to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and expands into a third afternoon. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Local photos sought

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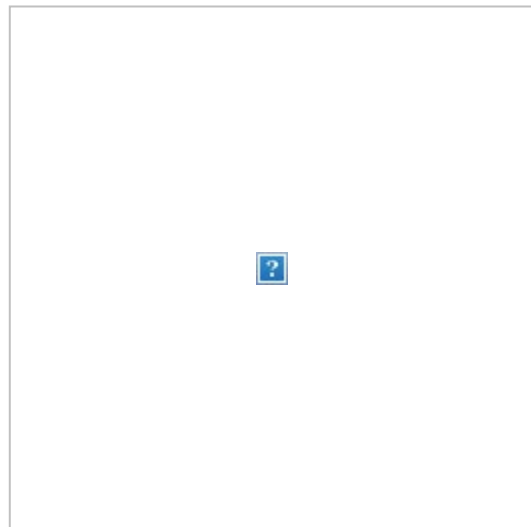
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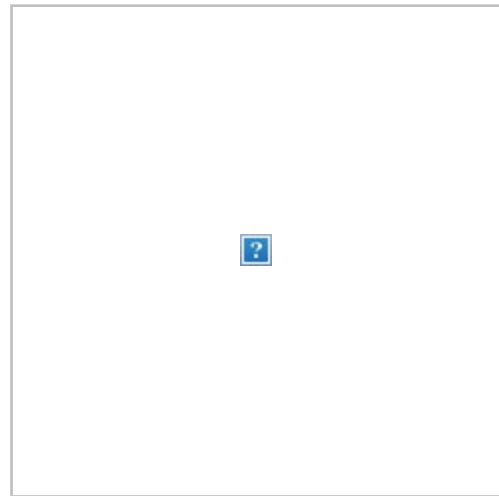
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[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

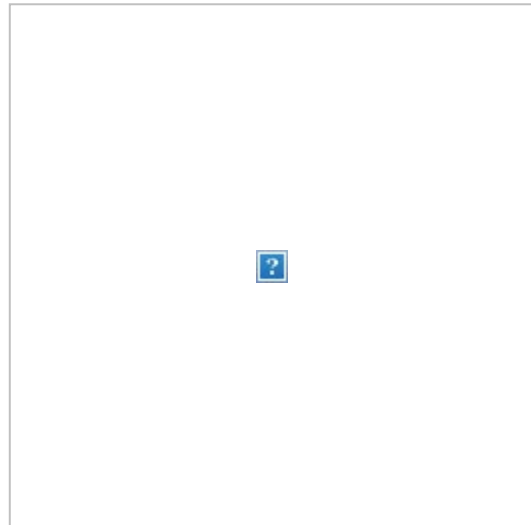
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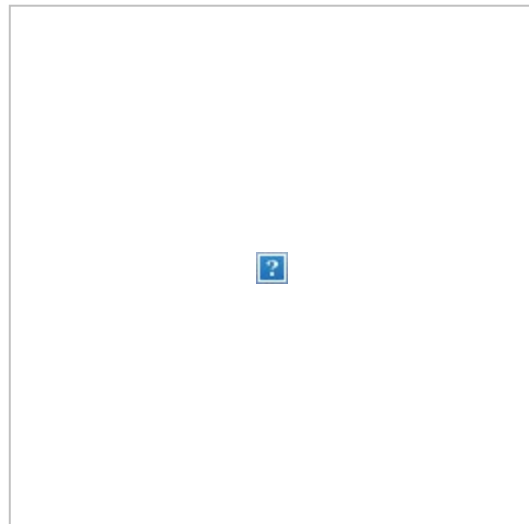
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

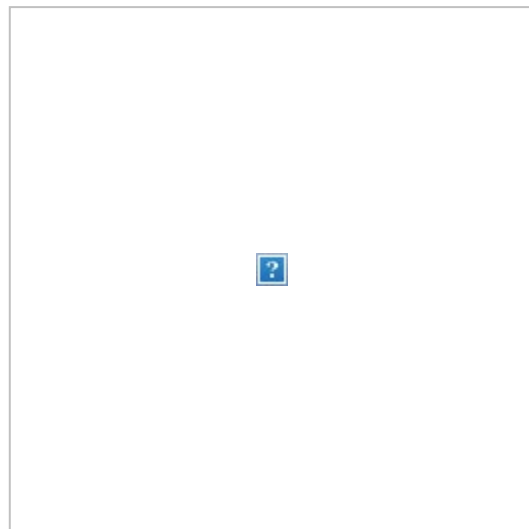
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Visitors to Saint Mary's Cemetery in Milford have likely noticed the [Milford Round Tower](#). Built in 1986, the 73 foot tall tower might be the only of its kind found outside of Ireland.

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[Legislature OK's economic
development bill with local
funding](#)

The House and Senate approved a

\$4 billion economic development bill that includes funding for a range of grants and programs that benefit cities and towns. ...



MassDEP amends rules for Low Emission Vehicle Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection filed emergency regulation amendments on Nov. 4 affecting the Low Emission Vehicle Program (310 CMR 7.40). ...



\$5.8M in Public Safety Staffing grants awarded

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on Oct. 31 announced nearly \$5.8 million in fiscal 2025 Municipal Public Safety Staffing grant awards. ...



DLS reminds communities to report ballot question results

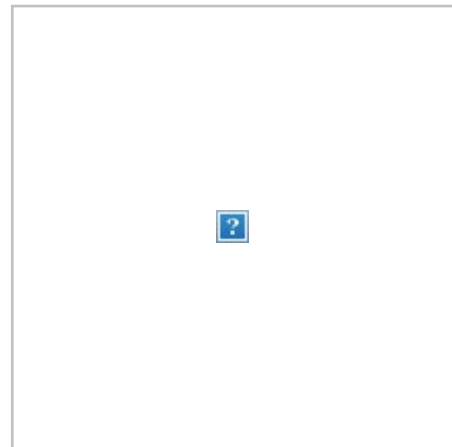
The Division of Local Services is

reminding communities that they must report the outcomes of certain ballot measures using the division's online Gateway. ...



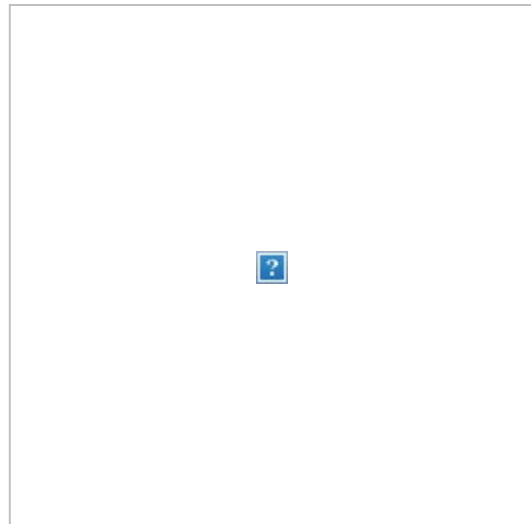
New guidelines in Devens seek to reduce 'embodied carbon'

Devens, a former military base that's now a regional enterprise zone, has spent the past two decades redeveloping with sustainability as an objective. ...



New Bedford and region have new roadmap to address homelessness

In late September, New Bedford Mayor John Mitchell released a report about a city-commissioned study that analyzed New Bedford's response to homelessness. ...

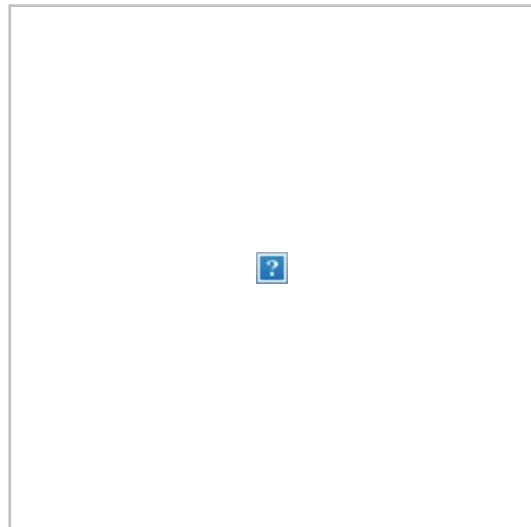


Boston tests 'green' roofs on MBTA bus shelters

Boston has added "green" roofs to 30 bus shelters along a popular

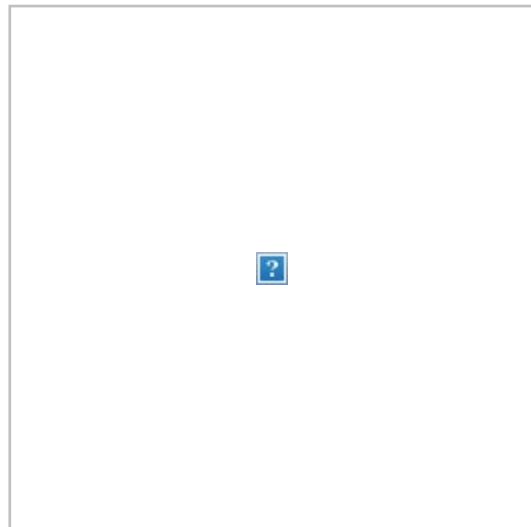
route, shielding bus riders from increasingly hot weather, and better equipping neighborhoods to manage stormwater runoff and flooding risks.

...



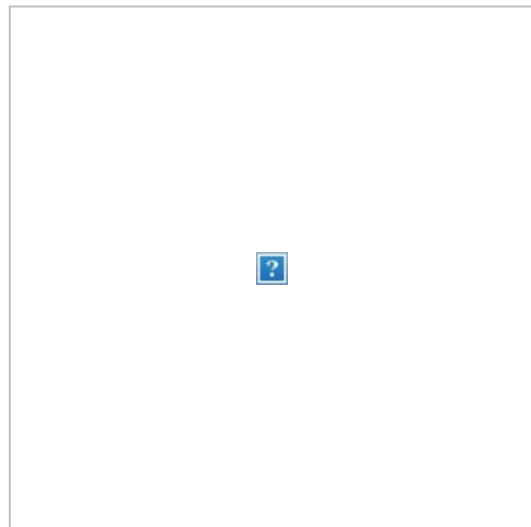
Reducing risk, ensuring smooth transitions when decommissioning buildings

When planning for a new municipal building, the disposition of the existing building — whether through sale, demolition or re-commissioning — should be part of the plan. ...



MunEnergy can help with managing winter energy needs

As cities and towns prepare for winter and a high-demand heating season, the MMA's MunEnergy program can help municipal leaders manage these costs. ...



[Great Barrington just got more than \\$6 million in grants. Here's where the money is going.](#)

[Stockbridge and West Stockbridge have agreed to share a fire chief as a possible first step to a larger agreement.](#)

[51 years later, overdue book is finally returned to Worcester Public Library.](#)

What We're Reading

[Strategies for spreading AI throughout local government](#) - Bloomberg Cities
(6 minute read)

"Take Boston, which is currently developing a customized chatbot—trained on the city's hundreds of pages of procurement procedures and rules—to accelerate purchases. To Chief Information Officer Santiago Garces, this work is primarily geared at producing greater efficiency for civil servants by reducing the time they spend seeking approval for purchases."

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to
[Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Holiday Decorations in Your Community: Overview and Legal Considerations](#) - Nov. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Situational Supervision](#) - Dec. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

- [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
- [Mass Save introduces municipal energy manager grant](#)
- [‘Climate tech’ event on Nov. 19 to focus on municipal continuity during emergencies](#)
- [Treasury offers resources as ARPA obligation deadline nears](#)
- [Foundation offers grants to help apply for opioid settlement funds](#)
- [Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of Koran's Farm!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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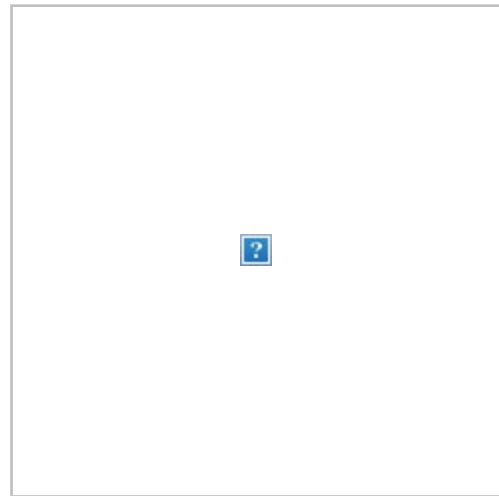
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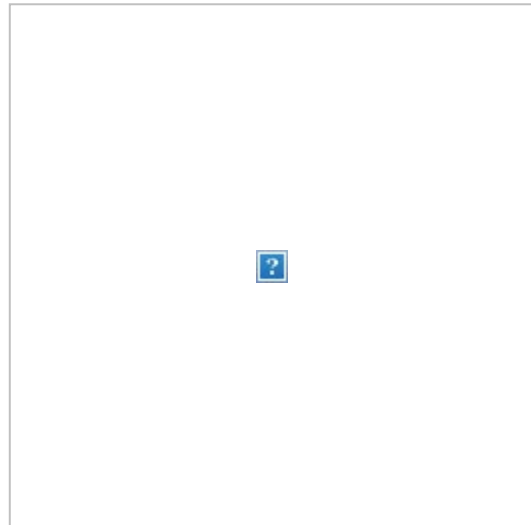
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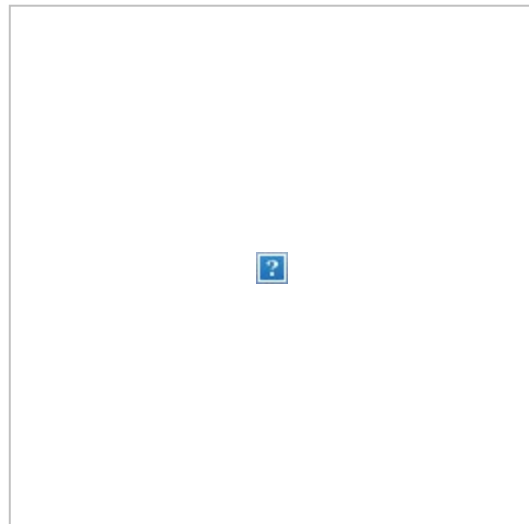
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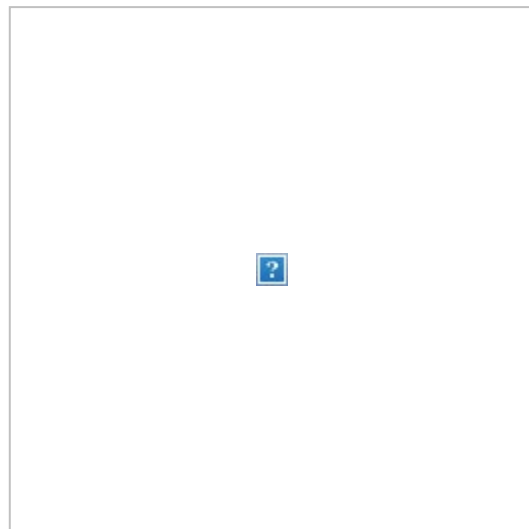
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MMA Weekly Review

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In local happenings: Longfellow's Wayside Inn, located in Sudbury, is the [oldest restaurant in the state and the oldest inn in the country](#). It opened for business in 1716.

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Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the holidays. We will be back in your inbox on Jan. 3.

[Countdown to ARPA obligation](#)

deadline

With the Dec. 31 deadline quickly approaching for obligating American Rescue Plan Act funds, municipal officials are leveraging U.S. Department of the Treasury resources to help them avoid any potential clawing back of federal funds. ...



Webinar covers select board role in community arts, culture

A Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with the Mass Cultural Council discussed how select boards can support arts and culture initiatives and advance economic development. ...



MIIA workshops to cover legal, cyber, wellness topics

MIIA will present several training sessions during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, to be held Jan. 23 through 25 in Boston. ...

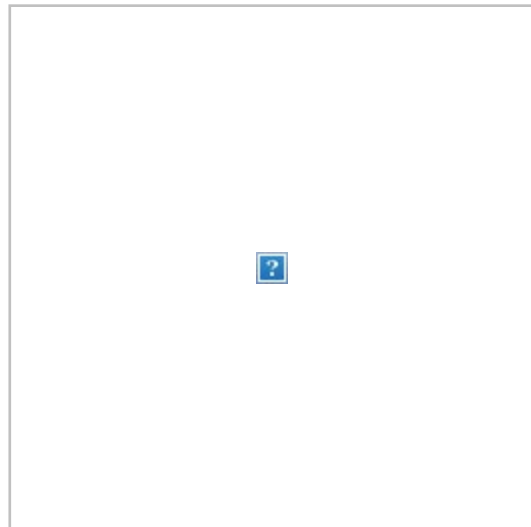


Staying ahead of emerging cyberthreats

As cyberthreats become more

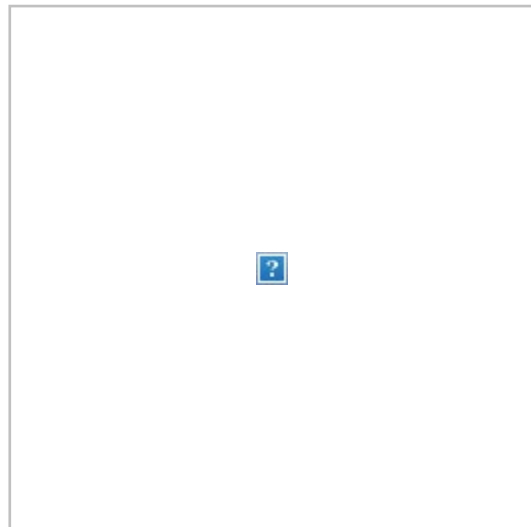
sophisticated, local governments and public entities face increased risk, especially from ransomware attacks.

...



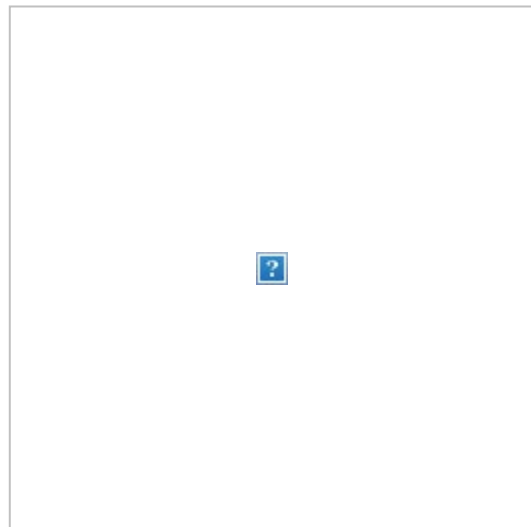
Pittsfield restores pond, enhances park accessibility

A quarter century in the making, a pond restoration project has brought new life to a somewhat neglected section of a Pittsfield park, completing a mission that was both professional and personal for city officials. ...



Worcester conducts Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

In a shift toward a more proactive approach for management of city-owned land, the Worcester Conservation Commission conducted a forest health assessment of more than 850 acres earlier this year. ...



Bourne to scan municipal property for tribal history

The town of Bourne is planning to

deploy ground-penetrating radar on a historic municipal property to search for tribal graves and artifacts, and attempt to forge a deeper connection with its Indigenous past.

...

[Retrofitting outdoor lighting can save energy and cut light pollution](#)

Municipalities must eventually replace components of critical building systems in schools, libraries and other public facilities.



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges legislators to support corrective legislation that would help retain CDL drivers](#)

On Dec. 16, In Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[A \\$180K state grant for a group of South Berkshire towns aims to prevent ambulance deserts](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Somerville City Council votes to ditch required parking rules for new developments](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[New dashboard will offer deep dive into city finances, including salaries](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Computer servers, radio equipment among items approved for ARPA funding in Mattapoisett](#) - Sippican Week

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Special Guests: [Gov. Maura Healey](#) & [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)

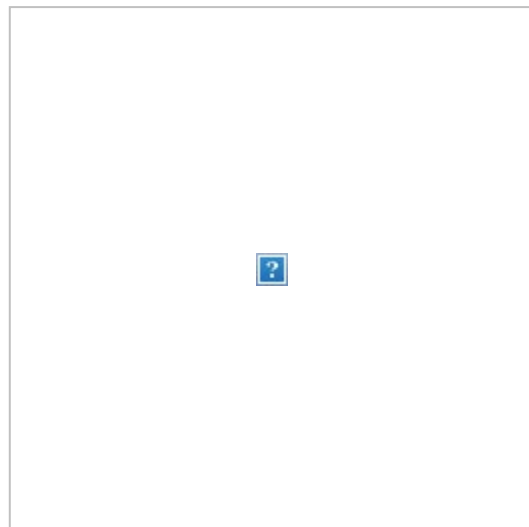
Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to [Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



What We're Reading

[Beyond the noise: How to engage residents effectively](#) - an 8 minute listen from Bloomberg Cities.

"According to a recent Bloomberg Philanthropies survey, 60 percent of mayors believe polarization in their cities is "more extreme than ever." Forty-four percent say they lack sufficient feedback loops with residents, and—with local news outlets vanishing across the world—53 percent report a struggle to wade through the maze of an increasingly fragmented media landscape that's rife with misinformation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation funding webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - Feb. 27

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)

- [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of
Soldier's Monument and The First Church of Monson!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Agent, Chief of Police, Town Planner, Town Solicitor, Treasurer/Collector, Assistant Assessor and Conservation Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).

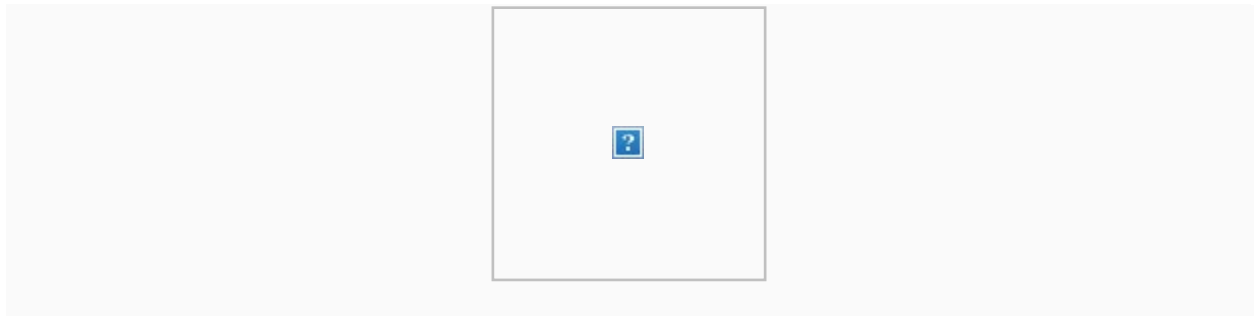


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Visitors to Saint Mary's Cemetery in Milford have likely noticed the [Milford Round Tower](#). Built in 1986, the 73 foot tall tower might be the only of its kind found outside of Ireland.

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](#)!

[Legislature OK's economic
development bill with local
funding](#)

The House and Senate approved a

\$4 billion economic development bill that includes funding for a range of grants and programs that benefit cities and towns. ...



MassDEP amends rules for Low Emission Vehicle Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection filed emergency regulation amendments on Nov. 4 affecting the Low Emission Vehicle Program (310 CMR 7.40). ...



\$5.8M in Public Safety Staffing grants awarded

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on Oct. 31 announced nearly \$5.8 million in fiscal 2025 Municipal Public Safety Staffing grant awards. ...



DLS reminds communities to report ballot question results

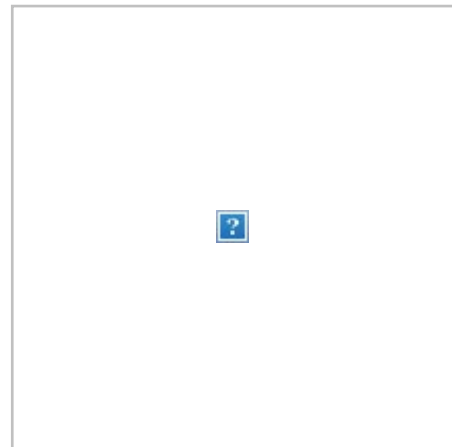
The Division of Local Services is

reminding communities that they must report the outcomes of certain ballot measures using the division's online Gateway. ...



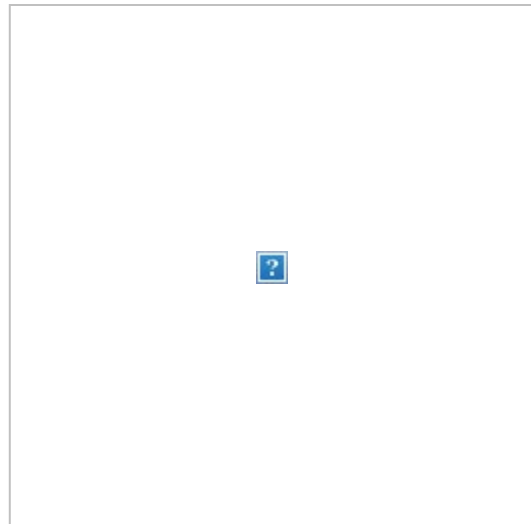
New guidelines in Devens seek to reduce 'embodied carbon'

Devens, a former military base that's now a regional enterprise zone, has spent the past two decades redeveloping with sustainability as an objective. ...



New Bedford and region have new roadmap to address homelessness

In late September, New Bedford Mayor John Mitchell released a report about a city-commissioned study that analyzed New Bedford's response to homelessness. ...



Boston tests 'green' roofs on MBTA bus shelters

Boston has added "green" roofs to 30 bus shelters along a popular

route, shielding bus riders from increasingly hot weather, and better equipping neighborhoods to manage stormwater runoff and flooding risks.

...



Reducing risk, ensuring smooth transitions when decommissioning buildings

When planning for a new municipal building, the disposition of the existing building — whether through sale, demolition or re-commissioning — should be part of the plan. ...



MunEnergy can help with managing winter energy needs

As cities and towns prepare for winter and a high-demand heating season, the MMA's MunEnergy program can help municipal leaders manage these costs. ...



[Great Barrington just got more than \\$6 million in grants. Here's where the money is going.](#)

[Stockbridge and West Stockbridge have agreed to share a fire chief as a possible first step to a larger agreement.](#)

[51 years later, overdue book is finally returned to Worcester Public Library.](#)

What We're Reading

[Strategies for spreading AI throughout local government](#) - Bloomberg Cities
(6 minute read)

"Take Boston, which is currently developing a customized chatbot—trained on the city's hundreds of pages of procurement procedures and rules—to accelerate purchases. To Chief Information Officer Santiago Garces, this work is primarily geared at producing greater efficiency for civil servants by reducing the time they spend seeking approval for purchases."

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

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Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Holiday Decorations in Your Community: Overview and Legal Considerations](#) - Nov. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Situational Supervision](#) - Dec. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

- [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
- [Mass Save introduces municipal energy manager grant](#)
- [‘Climate tech’ event on Nov. 19 to focus on municipal continuity during emergencies](#)
- [Treasury offers resources as ARPA obligation deadline nears](#)
- [Foundation offers grants to help apply for opioid settlement funds](#)
- [Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of Koran's Farm!

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Just 14 days until Connect 351!

In local happenings: The Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks [announced the winners](#) of the “Name a Snowplow” contest, held with students at Worcester Public Schools and voted on by the public. Four trucks will be named Scoop Dogg, Sleetwood Mac, William Scrapespeare and Snow More Mr Ice Guy.

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](#)!

[SJC issues ruling in MBTA](#)

[Communities case](#)

The Supreme Judicial Court has

upheld a state law intended to promote new housing in MBTA Communities and the power of the attorney general to enforce it, but threw out guidelines specifying the terms of compliance. ...



[Connect 351 is just 2 weeks away](#)

More than 1,100 local leaders have already registered for Connect 351, the MMA's annual conference, which will be held Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. ...



[U.S. Sens. Warren, Markey to speak at Connect 351](#)

Massachusetts' two U.S. senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, will address local leaders from across the state during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, on Saturday, Jan. 25. ...



[MMA publishes January issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA published the January

2025 issue of The Beacon, covering the latest news affecting local government and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars, including Connect 351. ...



[New legislative session brings opportunities for cities and towns](#)

Jan. 1 kicked off a new legislative session, and state revenues will be a focal point for the first half of the year, with a cautious outlook guiding the development of the fiscal 2026 state budget. ...



[MMA to host webinar on transportation grants on Jan. 13](#)

The MMA will host a webinar on Jan. 13 covering transportation-related grants available to communities across Massachusetts. ...



[Legislature OK's bill to allow video for school bus safety enforcement](#)

In the final hours of the session on Dec. 31, the Legislature passed a bill giving communities the option to use video monitoring systems for school bus traffic violations. ...



[EOEEA accepting comments on Article 97 open space regulations](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting comments through Jan. 22 on draft regulations relating to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. ...



[Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program. ...



[DOER opens program to promote on-street EV charging](#)

The Department of Energy

Resources is accepting applications for the On-Street EV Charging Program, which provides grants and technical assistance. ...



[\\$25M in Rural Roadway Funding available to communities](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has apportioned and released \$25 million for the Rural Roadway Funding Program to cities and towns. ...



[NLC publishes book recognizing 100th anniversary](#)

The National League of Cities celebrated its 100th anniversary throughout 2024, recognizing a century of municipal advocacy, education, and innovation at the national level. ...



[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On Jan. 3, In Testimony

[As challenges abound, let's use kindness as a tool](#)

On Jan. 3, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Methuen finds short-term use for Searles Estate](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Nantucket's African Meeting House Celebrates Its Bicentennial](#) - Nantucket Current

[A lot of 'little snowstorms' are still eating up Berkshire snow removal budgets](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[It's red, plastic, and snaps together: Provincetown's new flood barrier](#) - GBH

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[Thursday afternoon!](#)



- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!
-

What We're Reading

[Confronting the Local Government Trust Dilemma, Part 2](#) - second in a three-part series discussing community-based strategic planning as an approach to building trust, from International City/County Management Association.

"I would like to share the basic recipe for a community-based approach. There are five basic steps to the creation of a community-based strategic plan: set the stage, listen, identify priorities, compose the plan, and return and report."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation Grants: MassDOT and MassTrails Funding Opportunities webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action: Prioritizing and Funding Decarbonization Measures webinar](#) - Jan. 29

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Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

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 - [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)
 - [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to John Ouellette, MMA Director of Communications for sharing this photo of ZooLights at Stone Zoo in Stoneham!

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- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: A [guide to living in New Bedford](#) was featured in the New York Times Real Estate section last week. Highlights include the city's rich maritime history, new South Coast Rail service and the diverse food scene.

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](#)!

[MMA continues push on Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

The MMA and local leaders are continuing their advocacy for the

governor's proposed Municipal Empowerment Act, a multifaceted package to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government. ...



Rule-making process continues for MBTA Communities Act

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is working to finalize new regulations relative to the MBTA Communities Act. ...



Governor's bill would make historic investment in Ch. 90

At the heart of the transportation bond bill Gov. Maura Healey filed on Jan. 24 is a historic investment in municipal roads and bridges — \$300 million per year for the Chapter 90 program for a period of five years. ...



MassDOT finalizes truck safety device regulations

The Massachusetts Department of

Transportation has finalized updated regulations pertaining to truck safety devices. ...



[Special housing production commission releases report](#)

A special commission today shared a report with the governor that offers more than 50 recommendations to increase the supply of housing across Massachusetts. ...



[MSA hosts workshop with Moderators Association](#)

The Mass. Select Board Association held a virtual workshop with the Mass. Moderators Association on Feb. 25 to discuss select board roles and responsibilities relative to town meetings. ...



[Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

The Mass. Housing Partnership will host a three-part, virtual affordable housing training series in March for local boards and commissions. ...



[BEAD application deadline extended to March 10](#)

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment funding program has extended its Round 1 application deadline to March 10. ...



[Environmental Justice Grant available to municipalities](#)

Municipalities are invited to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grantmaking program. ...



[Planner Training Collaborative to hold annual conference on March 15](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its 30th Annual Conference on Saturday, March 15 in Worcester. ...



[Travel and tourism conference is March 18-19 in Springfield](#)

The 2025 Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, where tourism and hospitality professionals learn about the latest industry trends, will be held on March 18 and 19 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.



[5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Remote, hybrid meetings are local government success story](#)

On Feb. 28, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Secretary Augustus, MMA and Municipal Lawyers Association identify municipal concerns with MBTA Communities draft regulations](#)

On Feb. 21, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Seven years in the making: North Truro housing development groundbreaking date set](#) - Cape Cod Times

[After Steward hospital closure, ambulances rush patients out of town](#) - Boston Globe

[Somerville and Chelsea are asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration's "illegal campaign of bullying and intimidation"](#) - Boston.com

[Natick voters must decide on \\$7M override at town election](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Hudson Town Election to have override question: What money will pay for, plus tax impact](#) - MetroWest Daily News

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Amherst Town Councillor Elisha Walker



What We're Reading

[Resident Engagement: Taking transparency to the next level in cities](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Whether it's erecting glass-walled municipal buildings or launching open-data platforms, cities have long strived to be transparent as a way to engender trust in government. Yet, as confidence in public institutions continues to be challenged, local leaders also realize that the old ways of "being open" aren't enough—and that they have to do more.

A growing number of cities are responding by pushing the boundaries of transparency. Syracuse, N.Y., is reimagining service-delivery communications. Portland, Ore., is raising the bar for open procurement. And Boston is making the mayor's one-on-one meetings accessible in public spaces. These efforts underscore a key lesson: innovation is essential to advancing transparency and deepening public trust."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Dalton & Marlborough\)](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Amesbury & Fall River\)](#) - March 14

[Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Laws webinar](#) - March 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Professional Development Conference](#) - March 20

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Conference](#) - March 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - March 25

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Reading\)](#) - March 27

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Hadley\)](#) - March 27

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [**Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications**](#)
 - [**NLC seeks data on municipal infrastructure needs**](#)
 - [**Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program**](#)
 - [**MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings March 7, 14**](#)
 - [**U.S. Rep. Clark to keynote WEMO Conference in March**](#)
 - [**MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025**](#)
 - [**Administration announces opening of Community One Stop for Growth**](#)
 - [**Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7**](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The bronze sculpture called "Reach for Knowledge," by Nancy Schön, welcomes patrons at the entrance of the Wellesley Free Library on a sunny day this week.

Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

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Job Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

- [MMA Senior Executive and Director of Membership](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA & MIIA Executive Assistant](#)

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We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Technical Records Specialist, Library Branch Manager, Systems Engineer, Town Administrator, Town Planner, Treasurer/Collector, DPW Laborer and Accounting Assistant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Longfellow's Wayside Inn, located in Sudbury, is the [oldest restaurant in the state and the oldest inn in the country](#). It opened for business in 1716.

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](#)!

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the holidays. We will be back in your inbox on Jan. 3.

[Countdown to ARPA obligation](#)

deadline

With the Dec. 31 deadline quickly approaching for obligating American Rescue Plan Act funds, municipal officials are leveraging U.S. Department of the Treasury resources to help them avoid any potential clawing back of federal funds. ...



Webinar covers select board role in community arts, culture

A Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with the Mass Cultural Council discussed how select boards can support arts and culture initiatives and advance economic development. ...



MIIA workshops to cover legal, cyber, wellness topics

MIIA will present several training sessions during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, to be held Jan. 23 through 25 in Boston. ...

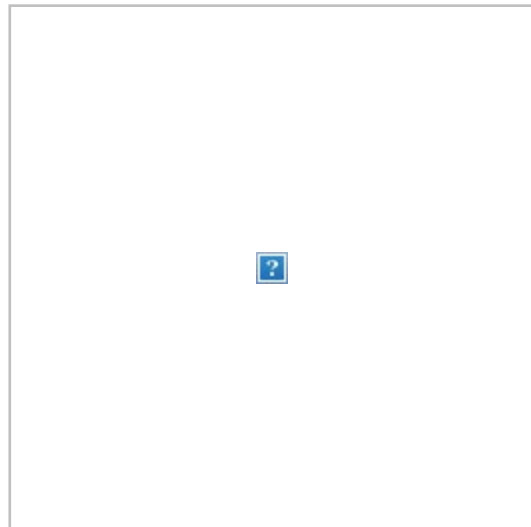


Staying ahead of emerging cyberthreats

As cyberthreats become more

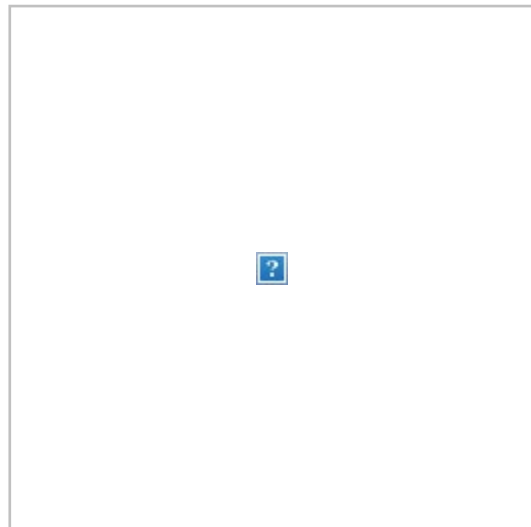
sophisticated, local governments and public entities face increased risk, especially from ransomware attacks.

...



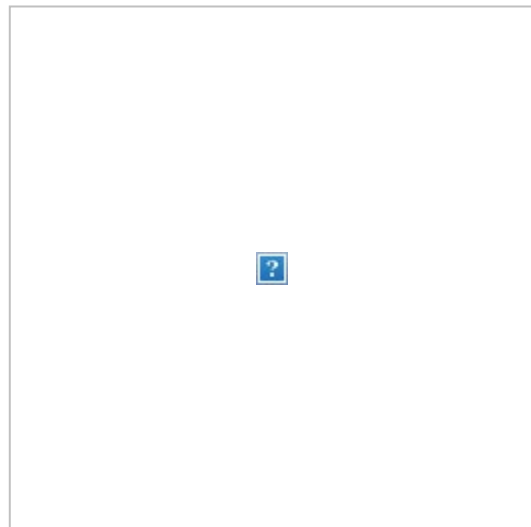
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[New dashboard will offer deep dive into city finances, including salaries](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Computer servers, radio equipment among items approved for ARPA funding in Mattapoisett](#) - Sippican Week

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Special Guests: [Gov. Maura Healey](#) & [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)

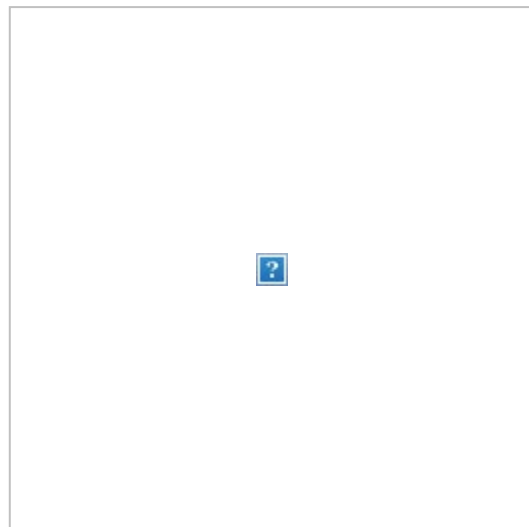
Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to [Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



What We're Reading

[Beyond the noise: How to engage residents effectively](#) - an 8 minute listen from Bloomberg Cities.

"According to a recent Bloomberg Philanthropies survey, 60 percent of mayors believe polarization in their cities is "more extreme than ever." Forty-four percent say they lack sufficient feedback loops with residents, and—with local news outlets vanishing across the world—53 percent report a struggle to wade through the maze of an increasingly fragmented media landscape that's rife with misinformation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation funding webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - Feb. 27

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)

- [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of
Soldier's Monument and The First Church of Monson!

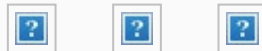
Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Agent, Chief of Police, Town Planner, Town Solicitor, Treasurer/Collector, Assistant Assessor and Conservation Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).

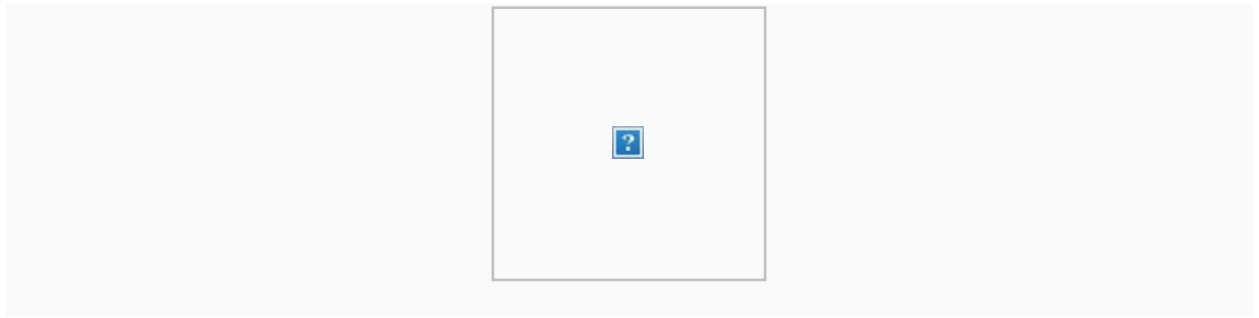


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It is Opening Day - Go Sox!

In local happenings: Deerfield is [piloting a child care program](#) during Annual Town Meeting on April 28. The program is a collaborative effort to make attendance at the meeting more accessible to parents.

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](#)!

[MMA outlines budget pressures at local aid hearing](#)

An MMA panel called for an increase of at least 3% for discretionary

municipal aid and an increase in Chapter 70 minimum new aid to address rising school costs. ...



MMA publishes April issue of The Beacon

The April Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



Tax-exempt municipal bonds a focus of federal advocacy

In Washington, D.C., an MMA delegation focused advocacy efforts on the continuation of the tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. ...



Gov. signs extension of remote and hybrid meeting allowances

Gov. Healey signed a bill to extend

authorizations for local boards and committees to hold public meetings remotely or in a hybrid format through June of 2027. ...



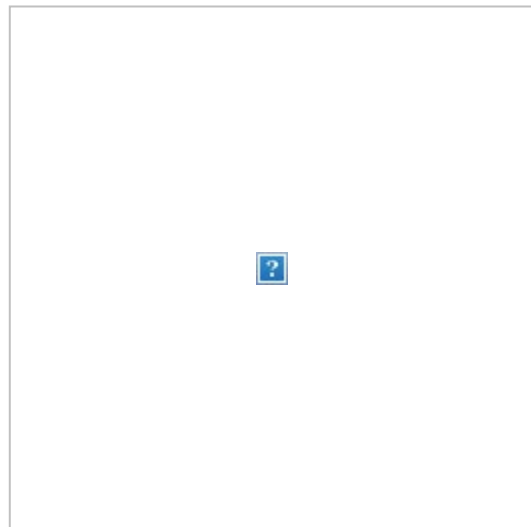
Trump administration targets \$106M in K-12 grant funding for Mass.

State and local officials are condemning federal moves to terminate \$106 million in education grant funding for Massachusetts. ...



Stakeholder sessions set on clean energy siting, permitting

Four stakeholder sessions will be held this spring regarding siting and permitting reforms prompted by a recent clean energy law. ...



Trump administration delays lead pipe replacement funds

State officials are strongly objecting

to a Trump administration decision to delay \$50 million in federal funding for the replacement of lead service lines in Massachusetts. ...



EOHLC issues model zoning for ADUs

The administration has published a model zoning and guidance document for municipalities to help them with the regulation of accessory dwelling units. ...



NLC covers federal issues during partnership meeting

The National League of Cities gave an update to the Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership. ...



U.S. Rep. Clark urges WEMO members to make voices heard

Municipal officials should be the

storytellers who explain the impacts of federal cutbacks that impact local services, U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark told women leaders on March 21 in Wrentham. ...



Women leaders discuss self-advocacy, AI, constructive criticism tips

Women Leading Government discussed timely topics during its fifth annual conference on March 6 in Wrentham. ...



Immigration and employment law

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources' annual spring program webinar on March 13 covered recent updates in immigration and employment law. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[It's budget time on Beacon Hill, and the MMA is working for you](#)

On April 1, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Joint Committee on Ways and Means, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On March 24, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Chatham installs alternative nesting platform for ospreys to prevent fires, outages and electrocutions](#) - Cape Cod Chronicle

[Reading's first mosque opens its doors and receives a warm welcome from the town](#) - GBH

[How Holyoke is fighting blight](#) - MassLive Media

[Nantucket launches "Digital Archive Project" to move land use documents online](#) - Nantucket Current

[Winchendon Schools chosen for cybersecurity pilot](#) - Athol Daily News

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Monson Finance Director/Town Accountant Jamie Farnum



What We're Reading

[A Comprehensive Guide for Local Leaders on Managing PFAS Waste](#) - National League of Cities

"The interventions to combat PFAS range from disposal and destruction to advanced filtration techniques. The brief explores various disposal and destruction options for managing PFAS-containing waste from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and landfills, including underground injection, thermal treatment (pyrolysis) and land application, while also highlighting emerging technologies. While these methods offer benefits such as low life cycle costs and a small footprint, they also present challenges, including environmental impacts related to disposal, increased complexity and higher maintenance requirements."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
- [Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group](#)
- [UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Memorial Hall in Milford was built in 1884 as a Civil War tribute and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. It is now home to the Milford Historical Commission, whose museum is open to visitors on Thursdays. Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 32 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, Health Director, Office Manager, Police Chief, Outreach Coordinator, Civil Engineer and Assistant Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Porchfest season [kicks off this weekend](#) in Somerville.

In local happenings: Weston Town Manager Leon Gaumond Jr. has been recognized by the nonprofit Engaging Local Government Leaders as a [Top Influencer in Local Government](#), for his “openness and proactive attitude toward exploring innovative methods of engaging with the community.” Congrats, Leon!

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](#)!

[Senate budget committee's
proposal would boost key local
accounts](#)

The Senate Way and Means Committee has released a proposed state spending plan for fiscal 2026 with important investments in schools and municipalities. ...



Senate OK's supplemental budget bill

The Senate approved a supplemental budget bill that would primarily allocate surplus surtax funds from fiscal 2024. ...



250th battle commemorations were years in the making

When reenactors fired their muskets on Patriots' Day weekend to mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, they were participating in public events that were years in the making. ...



Community One Stop accepting applications May 5-June 4

Fiscal 2026 funding applications

through the state's Community One Stop for Growth portal must be filed between May 5 and June 4. ...



Culvert replacement grant funding available

The Division of Ecological Restoration is accepting applications for the Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program to assist with local culvert removal and replacement efforts. ...



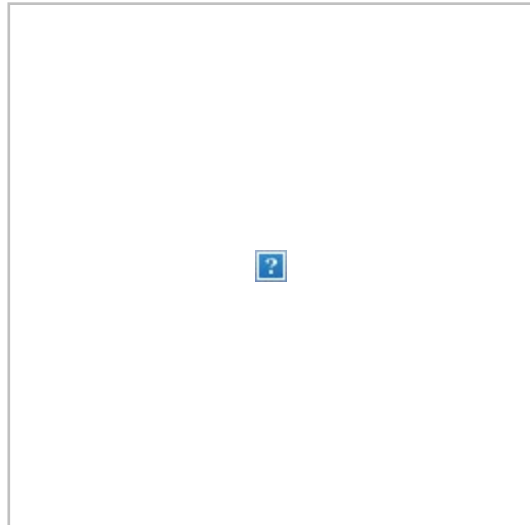
FEMA cancels \$90M in BRIC aid for Mass.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has cancelled the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program for fiscal 2024. ...



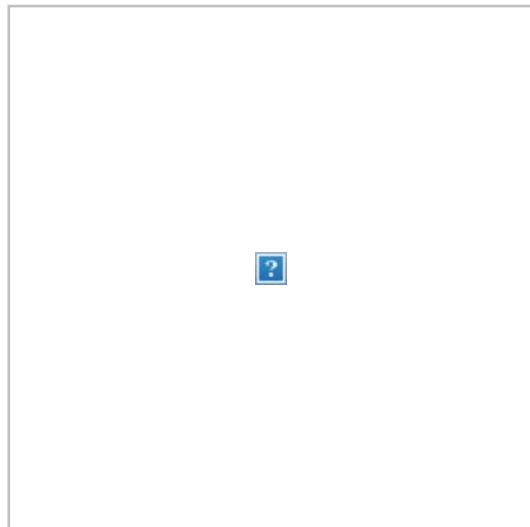
MSA to hold free training for newly elected select board members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a free training for newly elected select board members on Friday, June 13, in Devens. ...



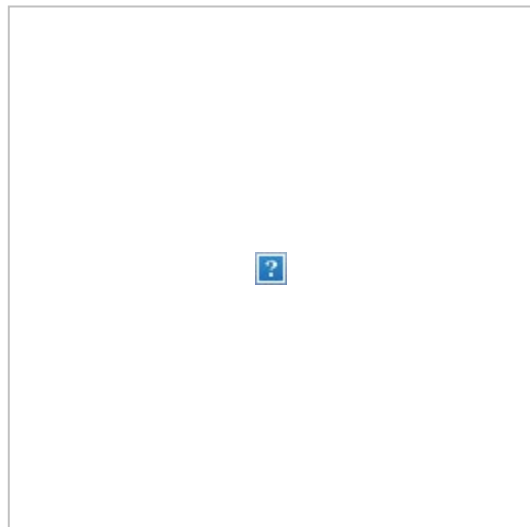
[MMA publishes May issue of The Beacon](#)

The May issue of The Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, as well as grant opportunities and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Somerville installs outdoor kiosk for used needles](#)

In a city park, Somerville has installed an outdoor collection kiosk for needles and other “sharps” — a resource believed to be the first of its kind in the country. ...



[Whitlock Scholarship applications sought](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Management Association is accepting applications for its Gerry Whitlock Scholarship for students enrolled in a masters in public administration program. ...



Clean Water Trust issues nearly \$40 million in loans, grants

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees on April 2 approved \$39.7 million in new low-interest loans and grants. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[Amherst councilors float idea of new 'Four Towns' task force to develop long-term school funding strategy](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[A new project is helping Chelsea residents better understand their air quality](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[The challenges of climate change: Weather events wreak havoc in Merrimack Valley, North Shore](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Cambridge's Community Assistance Response and Engagement \(CARE\) Team releases first impact report](#) - Wicked Local

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Middleton Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Jackie Bresnahan

What We're Reading

[Revolutionizing Crisis Intervention](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The need for mobile crisis response teams in the United States has become increasingly apparent. High-profile incidents across the United States underscore the inadequacy of traditional law enforcement responses to behavioral health crises. Such crises often involve disruptions in mental or emotional stability requiring immediate intervention to prevent severe health deterioration. In the United States, the numbers are staggering:

1. One in five adults experiences a mental illness during their lifetime.
2. Over 12 million people have serious thoughts of suicide annually.
3. Nearly a quarter of those shot by police from 2015 to 2020 had a mental health condition.
4. Two million individuals with serious mental illnesses are incarcerated annually.

These figures highlight the urgent need for community-based mobile crisis response teams that address behavioral health emergencies without relying solely on police intervention. Behavioral health incidents are complex scenarios that require a multi-disciplinary approach in order to achieve a measure of resolution."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Spring Conference](#) - May 28-30

[Introduction to Developing Municipal Financial Policies webinar](#) - June 3

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 5

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - June 12

[Mass. Select Board Association Newly Elected Training](#) - June 13

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - June 26

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Program offers electrification advice for fleets](#)
- [Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)
- [MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)
- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
- [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
- [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Samantha Giffen, communications manager in Amherst, for sharing this photo from the town's Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative on April 18. The photo shows two lanterns, provided by Rep. Mindy Domb, shining in a window at Amherst Town Hall.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Local Inspector, Town Engineer, Utility Director, Outreach Coordinator, Chief of Police, Assistant Town Planner and Conservation Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: This weekend, the [Framingham History Center is hosting](#) “Stitching Revolution in Massachusetts: Quilting, Lectures and Dancing,” highlighting the role of Massachusetts in the American Revolution.

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, July 3.

[Healey signs surplus surtax bill](#)

[with investments for cities, towns](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has signed a \$1.3 billion supplemental budget bill to allocate surplus Fair Share surtax revenue for investments in education and transportation. ...



[Gov. Healey files \\$2.9B, 5-year environmental bond bill](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration joined partners, advocates and municipal officials in Braintree to announce the filing of a \$2.9 billion, five-year environmental bond bill, called the Mass Ready Act. ...



[Lawsuit challenges federal halt of grant funding to states](#)

A coalition of 22 state attorneys general has filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's use of a provision in federal regulations to stop billions in federal grant funding. ...



[MMHR discusses Medicare, elects FY26 officers and board members](#)

At its Annual Meeting in Danvers,

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources focused on strategies for helping employees navigate the Medicare system. ...



[Federal judge blocks immigration enforcement conditions on transportation funding](#)

A U.S. District Court has issued an injunction preventing the federal government from making immigration enforcement a condition for receipt of transportation funding. ...



[MMA webinar discusses mental health in the workplace for staff](#)

An MMA webinar discussed understanding and supporting mental health in the workplace. ...



[MMA to host webinar on private roads](#)

An MMA webinar on July 15 will

provide an overview of private roads, with examples of local practices and insights from an experienced attorney. ...



[NLC awards grant to Chelsea for economic mobility program](#)

The National League of Cities has awarded a \$20,000 grant to the city of Chelsea as part of its 2025 Advancing Economic Mobility Rapid Grant program. ...



[AGs issue guidance affirming legality of environmental justice initiatives](#)

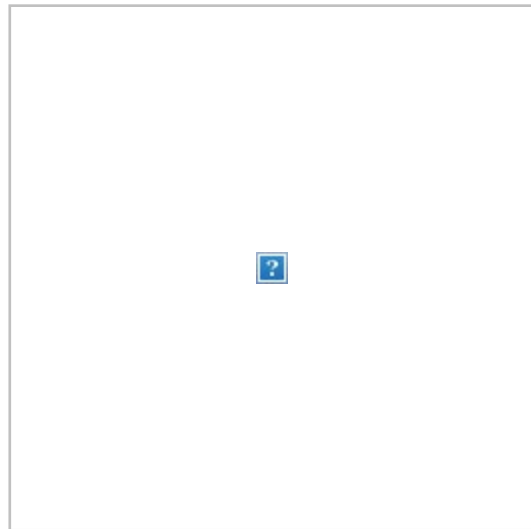
A coalition of 13 state attorneys general, including Andrea Joy Campbell of Massachusetts, has issued guidance affirming the “necessity and legality” of environmental justice initiatives. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Utilities Committee to support legislation protecting municipal authority in public rights of way and expediting double pole removal](#)

On June 18, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Burlington Select Board demands inspection of ICE facility amid reports of poor conditions](#) - Lowell Sun

[Eastham approves \\$170 million wastewater, sewer plans](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Nantucket has a PFAS problem in the drinking water. It's Environmental Contamination Administrator Andrew Shapero's job to solve it](#) - Boston Globe

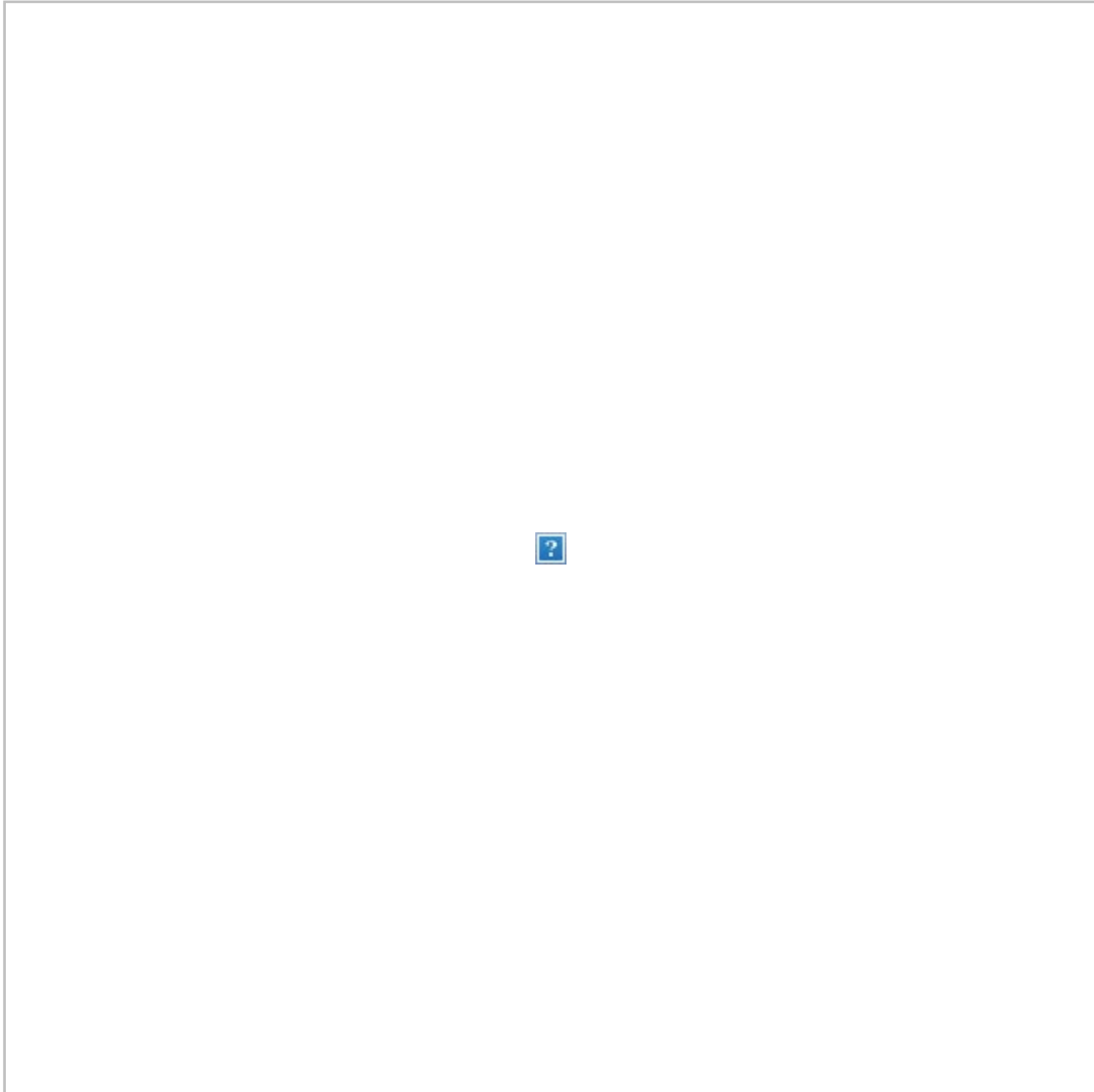
[Orange takes ownership of old cereal factory lot](#) - Greenfield Recorder

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#WhyIServe

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Barnstable Government Access Station Manager Sarah Beal-Fletcher



What We're Reading

[What City Leaders Need to Know About the Senate's Budget Reconciliation Bill](#) - National League of Cities

"The Senate's version of the "One Big, Beautiful Bill" has arrived, with major

implications for local governments. While it mirrors several provisions in the House-passed bill (H.R. 1), it also includes key differences, particularly around Medicaid. The path to passage in the Senate is not straightforward, with negotiations still ongoing on Medicaid, clean energy tax credits and public lands. As the House and Senate move toward negotiations on a final package, local leaders should understand how the Senate's proposal could shape city budgets, services and infrastructure planning."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
- [State sets office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [Electric grid council to hold in-person event on July 17](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxEd on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)

- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Sean Dugan, assistant town administrator in Easton, for sharing this photo from the town's Flag Day ceremony. Dozens of volunteers unfurled several flags spanning the football field at Oliver Ames High School during the event, which was hosted by Easton's Tricentennial Committee as part of a yearlong celebration of the town's 300th anniversary.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for

possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects Manager, DPW Foreman, Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Comptroller, Conservation Agent and Town Planner. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



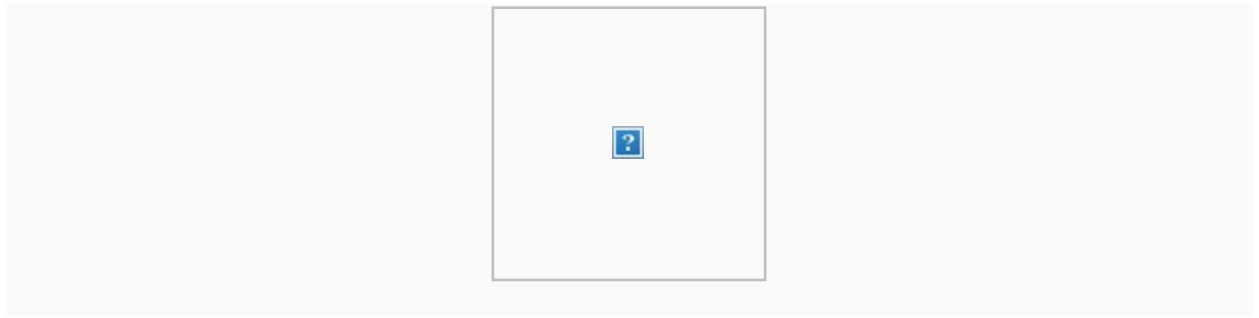
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Communities across the state will be observing the Fourth of July with public events tomorrow and this weekend. We'd love to highlight your parades and gatherings in the Weekly Review! Send your photos to photos@mma.org.

In local happenings: In a [ceremony last month](#), the Danvers Rail Trail was dedicated in memory of former longtime Town Manager Wayne Marquis. Marquis, who died in 2022, served as town manager from 1979 to 2014.

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

[Legislature sends FY26 state budget to governor](#)

The Legislature has enacted a \$61 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2026, an increase of \$3.3 billion over fiscal 2025. ...



[MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)

The MMA this week unveiled new features for its popular Municipal Career Opportunities service and a new, streamlined classified ad rate structure. ...



[Mass. mayors and officials issue statement on ICE actions in communities](#)

Leaders from 13 cities and one town issued a joint statement calling on the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate the activity of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ...

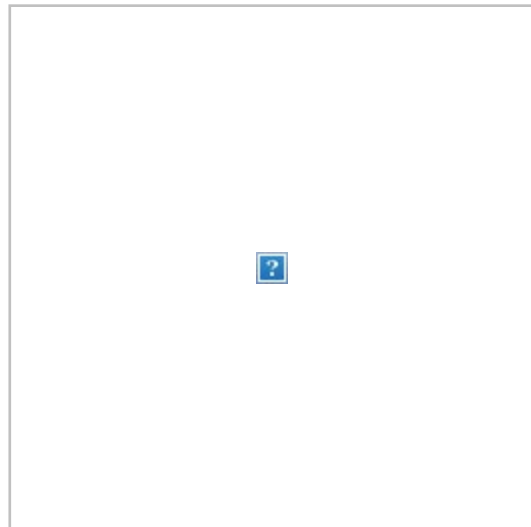


[MA250 grant program expands to support Revolutionary storytelling](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

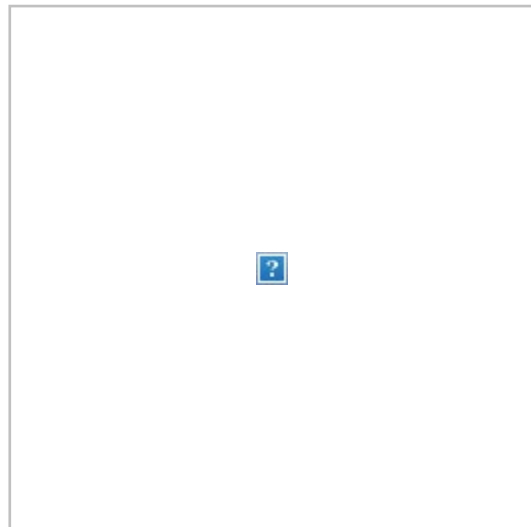
and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism announced a second round of funding through the Massachusetts 250 Grant Program.

...



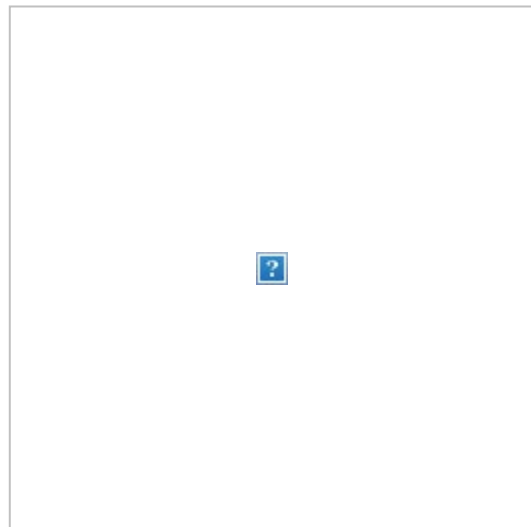
[MSA hosts annual training for newly elected select board members](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association held its annual free training for newly elected members in Devens. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[MMA urges Veterans Committee to support bills to streamline veterans benefits](#)

On June 30, Testimony

[MMA urges Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support bottle bill expansion](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[In testimony to Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, MMA expresses strong support for series of bills that would increase municipal efficiency and effectiveness](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA offers feedback and concerns on a number of water-related bills before Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#)

On June 27, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Local communities taking varied approach to spending opioid settlement money](#)

- The Sun Chronicle

[Many of the more than 58,000 laid-off federal workers are looking to move to Boston](#) - Boston Globe

[Bullet hole by bullet hole, an Arlington house shows the struggle for America's independence](#) - WBUR

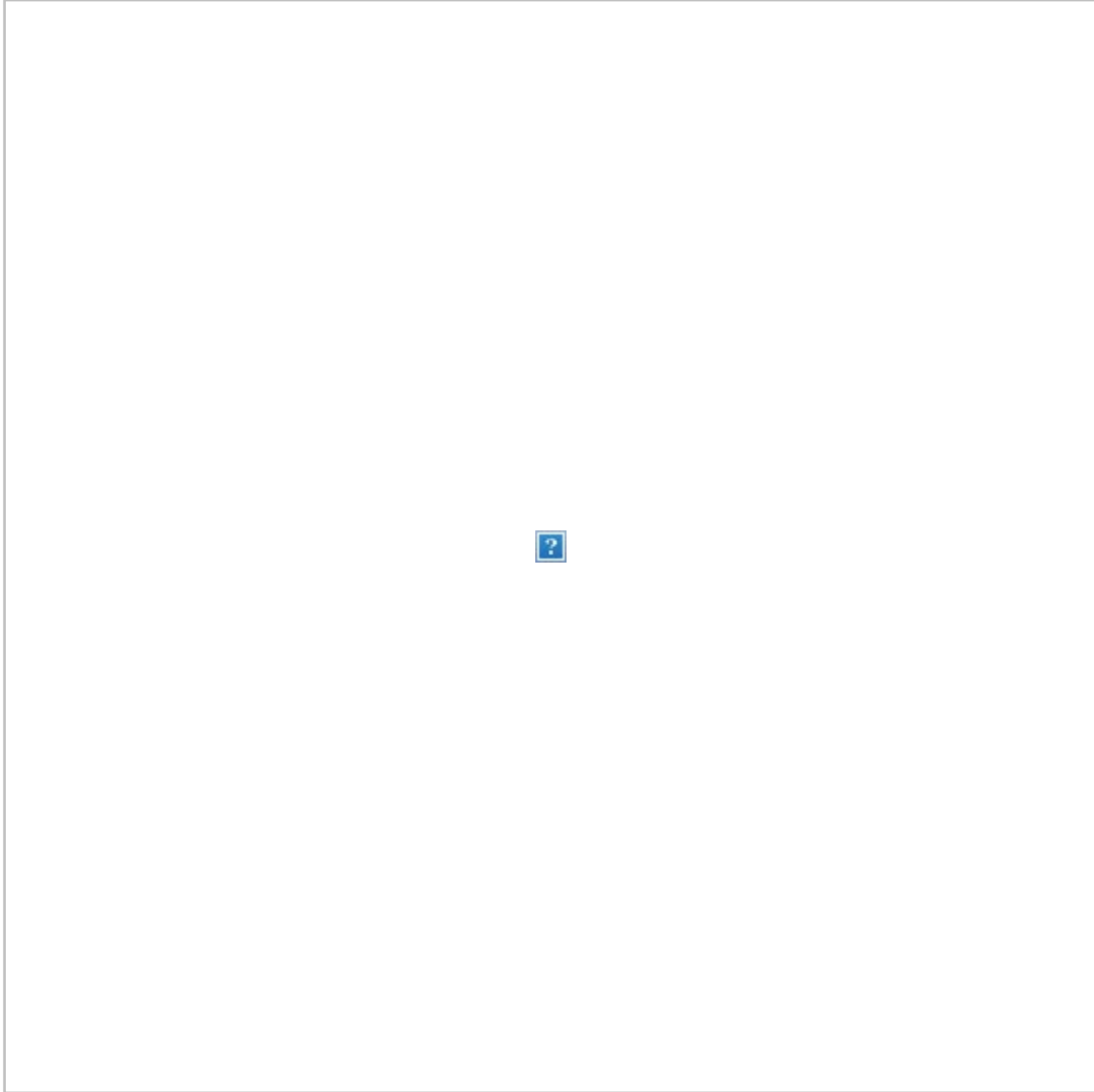
[Peabody Mayor Bettencourt shares 4 new anti-bullying initiatives for Peabody schools](#) - Salem News

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Norfolk Select Board Member Anita Mecklenburg



What We're Reading

[5 summer reads for urban innovators](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"If there are two plot lines that resonate with every local leader, they are that making government work well is a nonstop challenge and that the best ideas often come from the outside. This collection of books reflects both realities by

spotlighting stories and strategies that demonstrate how to make cities more effective and how to better connect them to what residents need. From an Alabama mayor's moving story about reimagining government in his hometown to lessons on improving public services from the United Kingdom, these works offer something to any city innovator looking to raise their game."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar on private roads](#)
- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
- [State sets office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [Electric grid council to hold in-person event on July 17](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Stacy Kilb, sustainability engagement coordinator in Salem, for sharing this photo from Volt & Vibe: An Eco-Rider Showcase, an e-bike and personal electric vehicle expo hosted by the city at Salem State University on June 29.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 38 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Health Agent, Facilities Superintendent, Office Manager, Assistant City Clerk, HVAC Technician and Town Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The town of [Stow will temporarily rename itself “Dunkin”](#) for the day on July 24 to celebrate the opening of a new location. The town has been without a Dunkin' since 2022.

In local happenings: The [38th annual Lowell Folk Festival](#) kicks off on July 25. The free festival celebrates traditional music and arts, and features numerous food vendors, dance spaces and family-friendly areas.

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](#)!

[Connect 351 planning underway at MMA](#)

The MMA staff is hard at work planning the MMA's annual conference, which will return to Boston's Seaport District, at the newly renamed Menino Convention and Exhibition Center, on Jan. 22 through 24. ...



[MMA publishes Summer issue of The Beacon](#)

The Summer Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, grant opportunities, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Gov. Healey's FY26 supplemental budget seeks expanded 9C authority](#)

As Gov. Healey signed the fiscal 2026 state budget into law on July 4, and vetoed \$130 million in spending, she also filed a fiscal 2026 supplemental budget bill. ...



[State holds office hours to discuss ADUs](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is holding office hours to support municipal planners and building officials in understanding the state's new accessory dwelling unit law and regulations. ...



[Leaving Needham, Fitzpatrick says now's 'best time ever' to serve](#)

State and local officials celebrated longtime Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick's retirement after 35 years with the town. ...



['Andover At Work' exhibit focuses on municipal staff](#)

Photographer David Whitney's "Andover at Work" exhibit is the culmination of a year-long volunteer project highlighting the daily work of municipal employees in Andover. ...



[MMA webinar discusses private roadway issues](#)

An MMA webinar on July 15 gave an

overview of private roadways and related issues, providing information municipal officials need to navigate community conversations. ...



DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources is studying the potential for load management tools like demand flexibility, energy efficiency, and virtual power plants. ...



Green School Works program offers technical assistance

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center is accepting requests for technical assistance through the Green School Works program to decarbonize the state's public schools. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[In face of federal pressures, protecting local funding is critical](#)

On July 16, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges legislators to reject proposal to expand emergency budget-cutting authority under Section 9C](#)

On July 14, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Republic Services sees mounting frustration from towns, officials amid worker strike](#) - Boston Globe

[Pittsfield expands list of city-run public restrooms, including the only 24/7 option](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Marlborough Police have something to offer kids in crisis situations. Here's how it works](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Western Mass. communities brace for weather, climate effects with hazard plans](#) - MassLive Media

[Andover Bookstore is the oldest in the country. What to expect when you visit](#) -
Wicked Local

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Methuen City Councillor Neily Soto



What We're Reading

[Chelsea named 2025 All-America city for sustainability projects](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

"Sustainability was this year's theme for the All-America city awards, given annually by the National Civic League. But environmental awareness is nothing new for Chelsea, one of 10 US communities recognized by the organization on June 29 for their "transformative, community-driven efforts to strengthen environmental sustainability and their civic infrastructure."

"Chelsea has been doing this work before this work was catchy," said City Manager Fidel Maltez, who traveled to Denver last month for the awards ceremony.

Many communities have come to value sustainable practices like recycling or increasing green space. But Chelsea's commitment to sustainability was born from years of environmental injustice. The densely populated city of 40,000 residents just north of Boston has long had to contend with a litany of environmental hazards – and the public health problems they bring."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
 - [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
 - [MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)
 - [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
 - [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
 - [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Christopher Holt, human resources administrative assistant in Lakeville, for sharing this photo of the old Lakeville Town Hall, built in 1856.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator](#)

[Instructor](#)

- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Conservation Planner, Director of Elder Affairs, Assessor's Clerk, Senior Town Planner, Town Accountant, Communications Officer and Assistant Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: The city of Lynn has [officially opened Harbor Park](#), a new 30-acre public space along the waterfront that offers walking paths, recreation areas and an outdoor amphitheater.

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](#)!

[House passes transportation bond bill with \\$300M for Ch. 90](#)

The House has passed a
transportation bond bill that would

authorize \$300 million for the Chapter 90 road and bridge program for the upcoming year. ...



MassDOT's LEAP program seeks to jump-start local infrastructure

A program launched by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation seeks to help municipal officials jump-start infrastructure projects, particularly in rural and underserved areas. ...



MMA to host Aug. 20 webinar on crisis communications

An MMA webinar on Aug. 20 will focus on crisis communications and the importance of consistent messaging when cities and towns face unexpected challenges. ...



MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24

The MMA and its partners at

Constellation will hold a free presentation and conversation via Zoom on Sept. 24 to cover two energy topics. ...



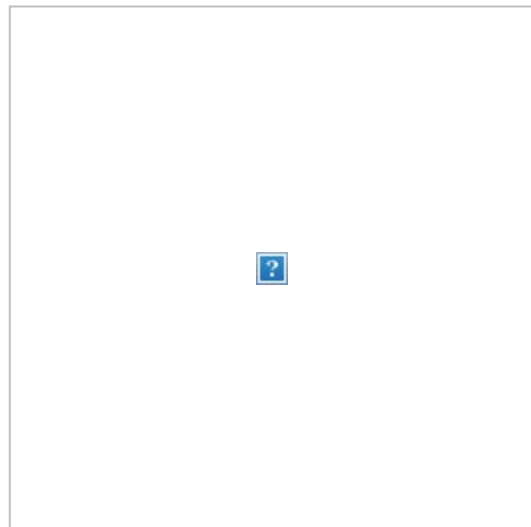
MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30

The MMA will hold a half-day municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept 30 in Wrentham. ...



MMLA to hold program on code enforcement on Aug. 7

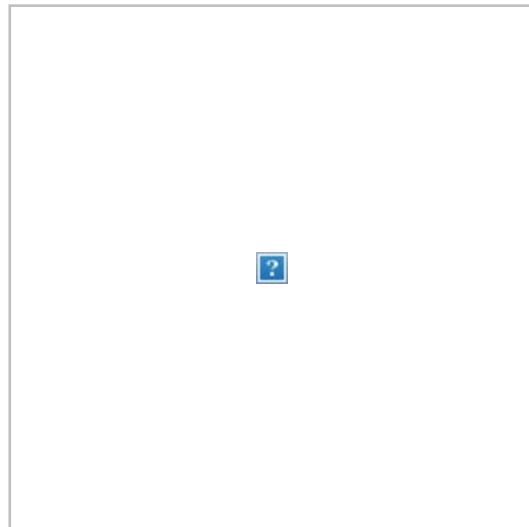
Effective and efficient code enforcement will be the focus of a Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association half-day program on Aug. 7 in Sturbridge. ...



Malloy joins managers' Senior Advisor Program

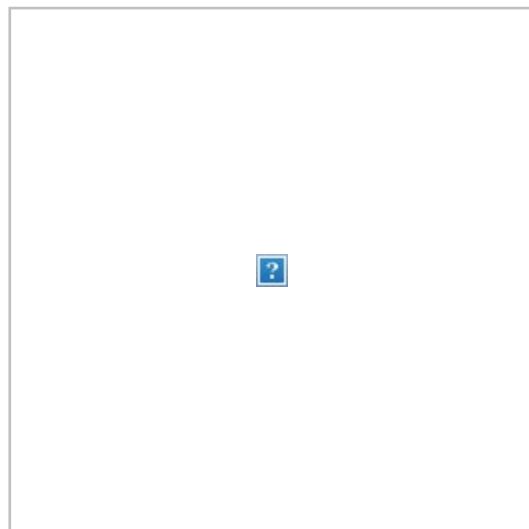
Retired manager James Malloy is

available as a senior advisor to other managers and administrators through a partnership between the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and the International City/County Management Association. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Lenox 'tourist tax' brings in \\$4.5 million for the town as summer season revs up](#)
- Berkshire Eagle

[Hadley weighs removal of three dams](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Western Mass. cities seeking public input on how to spend opioid settlement money](#) - GBH

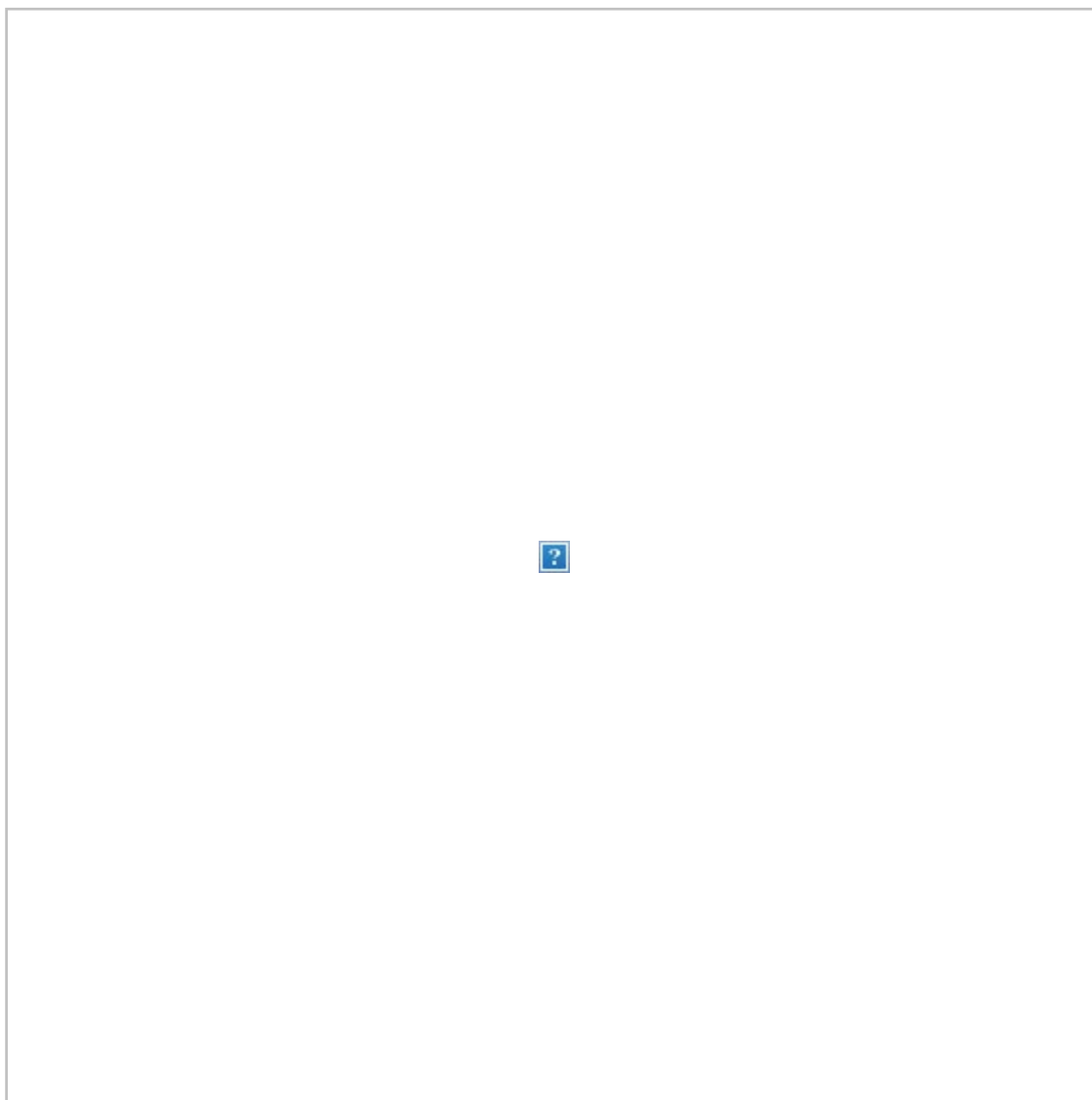
[City shaper: Kolofos honored for 65 years of service to Lawrence](#) - Eagle Tribune

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Fitchburg City Councillor Sally Cragin



What We're Reading

[Food \(Insecurity\) for Thought: In Fresno, California, brownfield redevelopment and local partnerships have generated significant community and climate benefits](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The U.S. food supply is a study in inefficiency, inequity, and contradictions. Americans waste an estimated 30–40% of the country's food, and although much of it is safe and edible, that food ends up in landfills as 22–24% of municipal solid waste. There it becomes a potent source of methane, a greenhouse gas with four times the warming potential of carbon dioxide. At the same time, one in seven Americans, or 47 million people, including 14 million children, experienced food insecurity in 2023. This marked a 6% increase from 2022, and the highest level recorded since 2014.

Located in California's Central Valley, which produces 25% of the nation's food supply, Fresno County is the third hungriest county in the United States. In Fresno, nonprofits like Fresno Metropolitan Ministry (Metro) help feed hungry people by running just-in-time rescue operations that glean surplus food from institutions and retail outlets. It's an effective strategy, but not a simple one. As Metro's Executive Director Emogene Nelson describes, "Rescuing food involves more than just picking it up. It requires storage, transportation, timing, and trust. If one link in the chain breaks, the entire system is disrupted. Behind every pound of food saved is a mountain of invisible labor."

To streamline and expand their food rescue operations, Metro teamed up with St. Rest Baptist Church (SRBC) to redevelop a vacant and environmentally contaminated former meatpacking warehouse into the St. Rest + Food to Share Hub. The Hub, which opened in May 2024, started with a brownfield—land that is frequently vacant, underutilized, or abandoned, and may be contaminated. Metro and SRBC worked with the city of Fresno to leverage multiple federal funding sources that addressed environmental contamination and cleared the way for redevelopment. Their story exemplifies the power of partnerships to build social resilience and contribute to a sense of place, especially in resource-scarce settings."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Foundations of Crisis Communications webinar](#) - Aug. 20

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [State holds office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction](#)
- [Green School Works program offers technical assistance](#)
- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
- [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Ralph Waldo Emerson House in Concord is open for guided tours for the season. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources,

downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Animal Control Officer, Senior Planner, Town Administrator, Employee Relations Manager, Wastewater Superintendent and Part-time Local Inspector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



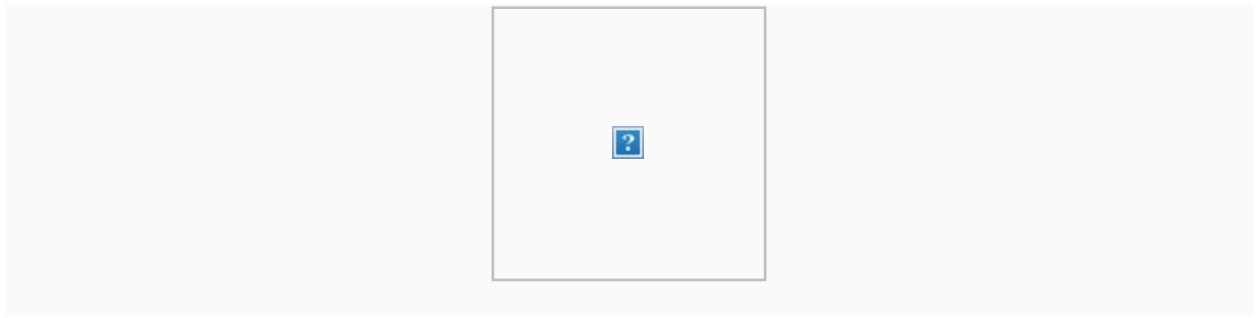
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA will host the first of four [fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#) on Sept. 26 in Lee.

In local happenings: The Big E kicks off in West Springfield tomorrow, featuring [17 days of food, rides, music and fun](#)! The fair welcomed more than 1.6 million people last year and is celebrating its 109th year.

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](#)!

[Two grant programs launched to support local efforts on federal funding](#)

The administration has launched grant programs to advance local infrastructure and economic development projects and bring more federal dollars into the state. ...



[Gov. Healey unveils plan to cut environmental rules to fast-track housing](#)

The plan would cut environmental regulations in order to expedite housing production in Massachusetts and reduce costs. ...



[MMA offers municipal guide to inclusive holidays, recognition days](#)

Cities and towns can determine additional days that they include as holidays, during which no business is conducted. ...



[MMA survey seeks feedback on Connect 351 experience and needs](#)

We're asking members to respond to a brief survey by Sept. 18 to help us make the Connect 351 experience more meaningful and enjoyable. ...



[Stormwater MS4 grant program applications due Oct. 3](#)

Applications are available for the Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on Workplace Equity Act](#)

The MMA hosted a webinar about the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, enacted in 2024. ...



[MMA to hold Health Care Costs Forum on Sept. 30](#)

The MMA will hold a half-day

municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept. 30 in Wrentham. ...



State awards \$10.9 million for dams and coastal infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration has announced nearly \$11 million in grant funding to support the repair or removal of aging dams, levees and coastal infrastructure. ...



MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston

Climate Beacon, New England's

premier climate solutions conference, will be held on Oct. 22-24 in Boston. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In Advocacy

[MMA joins Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association in providing comments to CCC on municipal implications of draft social consumption regulations](#)

On Sept. 8, Testimony

Planning for Connect 351 in



January is underway! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video!](#)



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Cassandra Madison](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[How can Hopedale attract a buyer for Town Hall? What's being discussed](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Meet Somerville's 'rat czar.' He leads the battle against rodents](#) - Boston Globe

[Holyoke seeks public input on how to spend \\$1M opioid settlement funds](#) - New England Public Media

[Five tornadoes confirmed in the Worcester area and Stow, National Weather Service says](#) - Boston Globe

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Northeastern University students Jonathan Oubenslimane, left, and Vamini Jain

What We're Reading

[3 AI roadblocks—and how to overcome them](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Evidence of uneven AI adoption in the private sector grows by the day, with executives worried about falling behind more tech-savvy competitors. But the stakes are different, and considerably higher, in government. For local leaders, AI isn't about winning a race. It's about unlocking new problem-solving capacity to deliver better services and meet pressing resident needs.

Even so, city governments face real barriers to further adoption, including persistent concerns about accuracy and privacy, procurement hurdles, and too

little space for civil-servant experimentation. The good news? Innovative leaders are already showing how to overcome these obstacles. And, in doing so, they're reaping insights of use to others aiming to do the same."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Support from the Red Cross webinar](#) - Sept. 16

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[From Resources to Relationships: Why Councils on Aging Matter webinar](#) - Sept. 25

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Lee](#) - Sept. 26

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Athol & Middleborough](#) - Oct. 3

[Massachusetts Select Board Association fall conference](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Boot Camp](#) - Oct. 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Chelmsford](#) - Oct. 17

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 18-19 in Springfield](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar with Mass. Councils on Aging Sept. 25](#)
 - [Public Works Expo is Sept. 17 and 18 in Marlborough](#)
 - [Green Building Council to hold Local Government Leadership Summit](#)
 - [MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 17](#)
 - [MARPA and DLS Conference is Oct. 7](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar with Red Cross Sept. 16](#)
 - [Town Forest Conference is Oct. 4](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars](#)
 - [Mass. Digital Government Summit to be held on Sept. 18](#)
 - [MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24](#)
 - [MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





The Morse-Kelley Pollinator Habitat Garden in Somerville is a pollinator-friendly pocket park created with Community Preservation Act funds. Other pollinator-friendly spaces are located throughout the city as part of broader pollinator initiatives. Photo by Meredith Gabriliska, MMA Digital Communications Manager.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Treasurer/Collector, Public Safety Dispatchers, Outreach Coordinator, Paramedic, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Municipal Hearing Officer and Grants Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Just 14 days until Connect 351!

In local happenings: The Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks [announced the winners](#) of the “Name a Snowplow” contest, held with students at Worcester Public Schools and voted on by the public. Four trucks will be named Scoop Dogg, Sleetwood Mac, William Scrapespeare and Snow More Mr Ice Guy.

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](#)!

**[SJC issues ruling in MBTA
Communities case](#)**

The Supreme Judicial Court has

upheld a state law intended to promote new housing in MBTA Communities and the power of the attorney general to enforce it, but threw out guidelines specifying the terms of compliance. ...



[Connect 351 is just 2 weeks away](#)

More than 1,100 local leaders have already registered for Connect 351, the MMA's annual conference, which will be held Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. ...



[U.S. Sens. Warren, Markey to speak at Connect 351](#)

Massachusetts' two U.S. senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, will address local leaders from across the state during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, on Saturday, Jan. 25. ...



[MMA publishes January issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA published the January

2025 issue of The Beacon, covering the latest news affecting local government and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars, including Connect 351. ...



[New legislative session brings opportunities for cities and towns](#)

Jan. 1 kicked off a new legislative session, and state revenues will be a focal point for the first half of the year, with a cautious outlook guiding the development of the fiscal 2026 state budget. ...



[MMA to host webinar on transportation grants on Jan. 13](#)

The MMA will host a webinar on Jan. 13 covering transportation-related grants available to communities across Massachusetts. ...



[Legislature OK's bill to allow video for school bus safety enforcement](#)

In the final hours of the session on Dec. 31, the Legislature passed a bill giving communities the option to use video monitoring systems for school bus traffic violations. ...



[EOEEA accepting comments on Article 97 open space regulations](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting comments through Jan. 22 on draft regulations relating to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. ...



[Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program. ...



[DOER opens program to promote on-street EV charging](#)

The Department of Energy

Resources is accepting applications for the On-Street EV Charging Program, which provides grants and technical assistance. ...



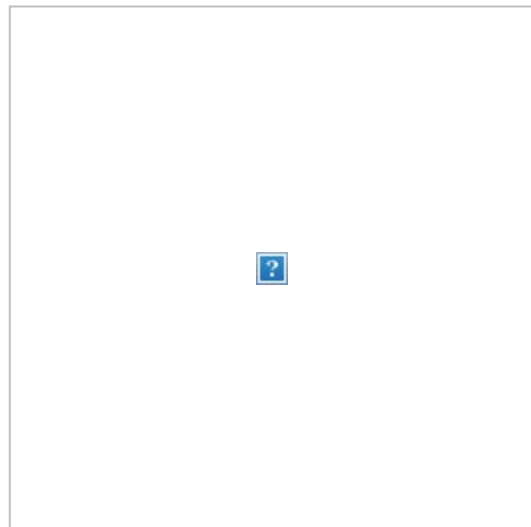
[\\$25M in Rural Roadway Funding available to communities](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has apportioned and released \$25 million for the Rural Roadway Funding Program to cities and towns. ...



[NLC publishes book recognizing 100th anniversary](#)

The National League of Cities celebrated its 100th anniversary throughout 2024, recognizing a century of municipal advocacy, education, and innovation at the national level. ...



[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On Jan. 3, In Testimony

[As challenges abound, let's use kindness as a tool](#)

On Jan. 3, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Methuen finds short-term use for Searles Estate](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Nantucket's African Meeting House Celebrates Its Bicentennial](#) - Nantucket Current

[A lot of 'little snowstorms' are still eating up Berkshire snow removal budgets](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[It's red, plastic, and snaps together: Provincetown's new flood barrier](#) - GBH

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Special Guests: [Gov. Maura Healey](#) & [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to
[Thursday afternoon!](#)



- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!
-

What We're Reading

[Confronting the Local Government Trust Dilemma, Part 2](#) - second in a three-part series discussing community-based strategic planning as an approach to building trust, from International City/County Management Association.

"I would like to share the basic recipe for a community-based approach. There are five basic steps to the creation of a community-based strategic plan: set the stage, listen, identify priorities, compose the plan, and return and report."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation Grants: MassDOT and MassTrails Funding Opportunities webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action: Prioritizing and Funding Decarbonization Measures webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - Feb. 27

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar on Jan. 16 will discuss fire mutual aid](#)
 - [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)
 - [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to John Ouellette, MMA Director of Communications for sharing this photo of ZooLights at Stone Zoo in Stoneham!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)

- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Administrator, Data Collector, Treasury Analyst, Assistant Town Clerk, Stormwater Manager and Human Resources Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

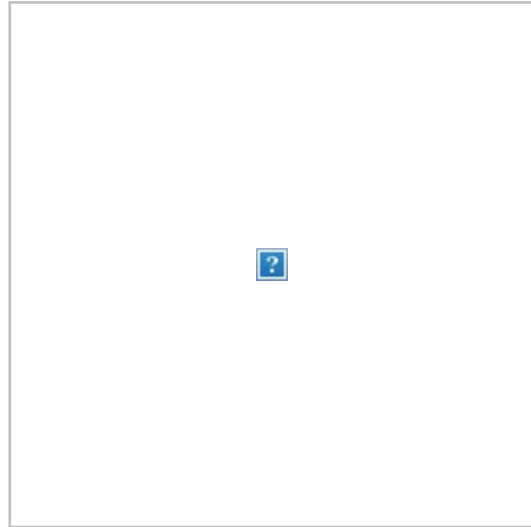
In local happenings: Cambridge and Boston are expecting close to 400,000 spectators over the course of the weekend for the [Head of the Charles Regatta](#). The three-day rowing event features local music and food vendors and family-friendly activities, in addition to cheering on the athletes from nearly 30 countries competing in 74 events.

Send us photos from your community's seasonal celebrations to be featured in a future edition of the Weekly Review!

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](#)!

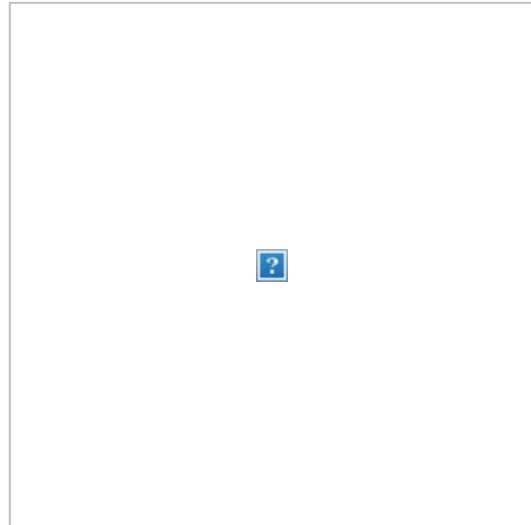
**[Input sought on draft model
bylaws for solar, battery systems](#)**

The Department of Energy Resources is developing model bylaws for photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems to serve as a resource to municipalities. ...



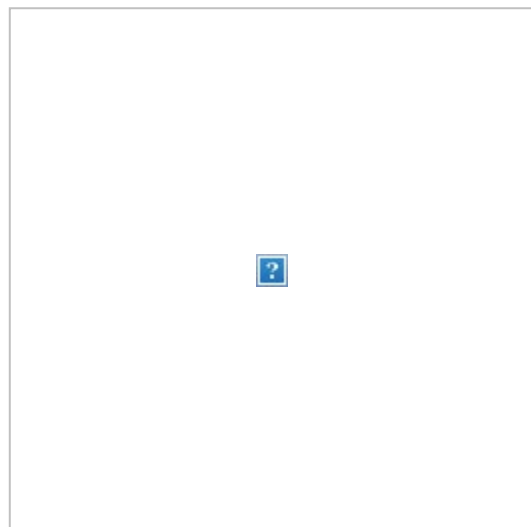
**[Grants opened for drought
resiliency, water efficiency
projects](#)**

The state has opened the second round of a grant program for projects that support climate resiliency through reduced water usage and improved water loss control. ...



**[MSBA to hold roundtable on ballot
questions Nov. 20](#)**

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is hosting a roundtable discussion via Zoom on Nov. 20 on the topic of local ballot question rules. ...



**[MMA webinar addresses
cybersecurity for municipalities](#)**

The MMA hosted a webinar on Oct. 15 on the minimum cybersecurity goals for municipalities. ...



[MMA-Suffolk kick off certificate programs](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University kicked off two Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs in September, in Barnstable and Winchester. ...



[Pittsfield to begin ecological restoration project in park](#)

A new phase in the cleanup and restoration of the Housatonic River is set to begin this fall, with ecological restoration in Kirvin Park, an active recreation area in the city of Pittsfield. ...



[Grant supports military base redevelopment in Weymouth](#)

State and local officials hope that a

\$32.4 million grant that Weymouth received this summer will help remove longstanding obstacles to the redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. ...



What to know about seasonal affective disorder

For some people, the significant loss of daylight that comes with the fall season can worsen their mood, sap energy, and impair concentration due to what's known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. ...



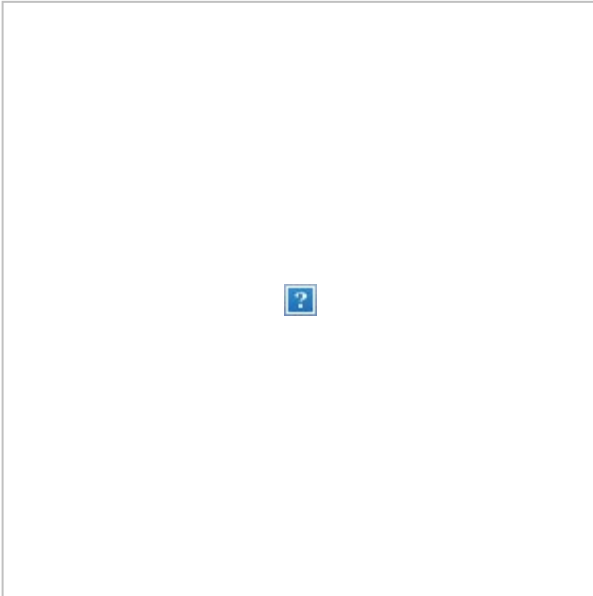
Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...

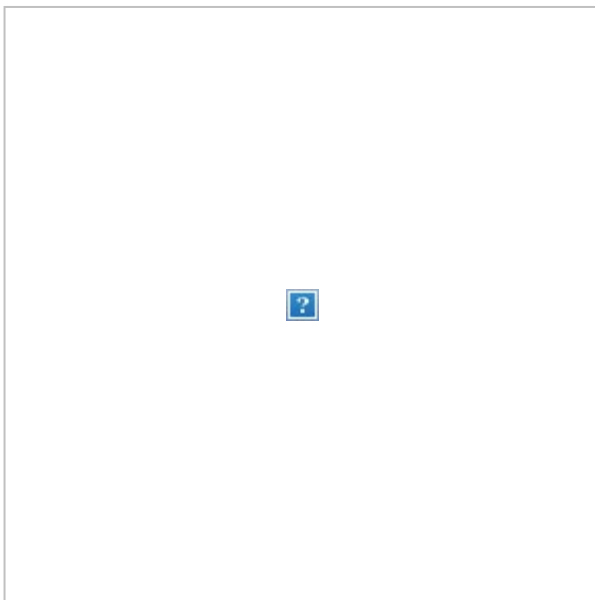


[A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures](#)

Published Oct. 9, The MMA and The Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University



[Register now](#) for Connect 351 in January! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video](#)!



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

['60 Minutes' reports on Chinese hacking of a Massachusetts town's utility network](#) - Boston Dot Com

[Hadley officials to discuss looming layoffs; fire Department facing cuts after failed override](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Methuen housing plan highlights growing senior population](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Taller, and made of timber, a new way to build affordable housing could soon rise in Cambridge](#) - Boston Globe

[Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo 'On the Record' about Halloween tourism, local challenges](#) - WCVB

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

What We're Reading

[Applying a new lens on city storytelling](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Anybody passing through the concourse level of Philadelphia's Municipal Services Building to secure a business license or pay a water bill has probably noticed them: photographs of office windows looking out at skyscrapers, parking lots, thoroughfares. Each of them presents a different perspective of the city from within a civil servant's workplace, and they are interspersed with quotes from city employees describing what it means to them to deliver for residents every day.

Capturing people's attention is one of the first steps in successful storytelling. And, in today's fast-paced and fragmented media space, newsletters, press releases, and Facebook posts are rarely enough for city leaders looking to

connect with residents. That's what makes this effort in Philadelphia stand out. The work of Emilio Martínez Poppe, himself a city employee in New York City, the project powerfully conveys the determination and value of the people who patrol the streets, maintain the parks, and respond to resident complaints. And, in doing so, it offers a model for how cities can be more ambitious, more experimental and, ultimately, more effective in their outreach.

By thinking outside the box, Philadelphia—whose Mayor Cherelle Parker is a participant in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative—is offering lessons to local leaders everywhere as they seek to build trust, improve morale, and show that their city is ready to deliver."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[Navigating Student Debt with Savi webinar](#) - Oct. 22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Fall Mentorship Session](#) - Oct. 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 23

[Unlock MassDOT Funding for your Municipality webinar](#) - Nov. 6

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - Nov. 13

[Planning and Partnering for Impact: Best Practices for Municipal Opioid Settlement Funds webinar](#) - Nov. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 20-21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

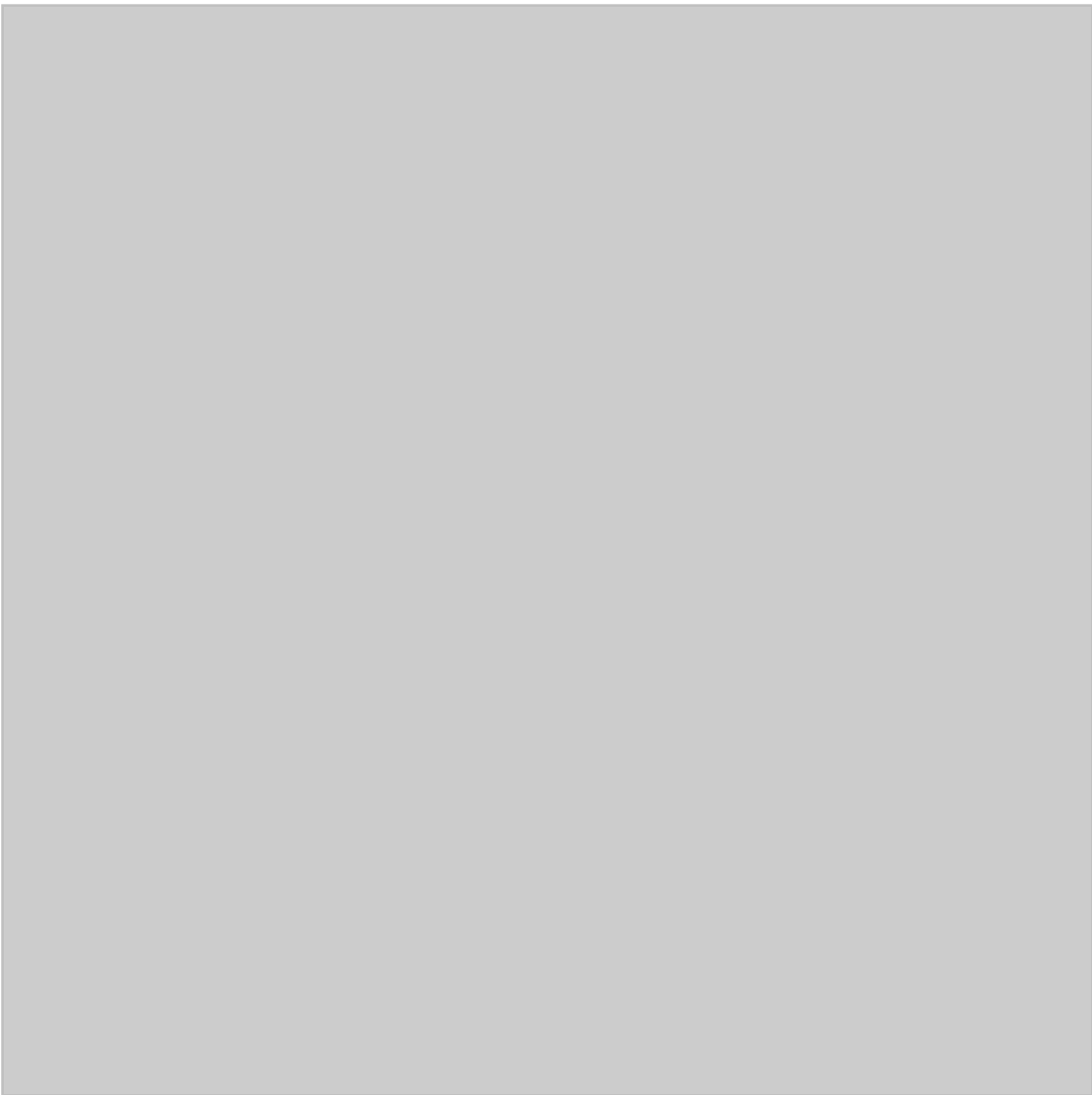
In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar to cover student loan debt strategies for public employees](#)
 - [MMLA to hold conference in Northampton on Oct. 23-24](#)
 - [State to host public hearings to review K-12 school finance formula](#)
 - [ASPA virtual meeting will explore government careers](#)
 - [ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Oct. 18](#)
 - [Survey seeks to assess how cities, towns engage with technology](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars Oct. 21 and 23](#)
 - [Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Runners took part in the Cape Code Marathon Weekend this past weekend in Falmouth. Races included a half-marathon on Oct. 11 (left) and a marathon on Oct. 12 (right). The course hugs the town's coastline, providing views of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Sound. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Medicare Specialist](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Accountant, Wastewater Superintendent, Community Programs Director, Assistant Animal Control Officer, Civil Engineer and City Clerk. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: A [guide to living in New Bedford](#) was featured in the New York Times Real Estate section last week. Highlights include the city's rich maritime history, new South Coast Rail service and the diverse food scene.

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](#)!

[MMA continues push on Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

The MMA and local leaders are continuing their advocacy for the

governor's proposed Municipal Empowerment Act, a multifaceted package to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government. ...



[Rule-making process continues for MBTA Communities Act](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is working to finalize new regulations relative to the MBTA Communities Act. ...



[Governor's bill would make historic investment in Ch. 90](#)

At the heart of the transportation bond bill Gov. Maura Healey filed on Jan. 24 is a historic investment in municipal roads and bridges — \$300 million per year for the Chapter 90 program for a period of five years. ...



[MassDOT finalizes truck safety device regulations](#)

The Massachusetts Department of

Transportation has finalized updated regulations pertaining to truck safety devices. ...



[Special housing production commission releases report](#)

A special commission today shared a report with the governor that offers more than 50 recommendations to increase the supply of housing across Massachusetts. ...



[MSA hosts workshop with Moderators Association](#)

The Mass. Select Board Association held a virtual workshop with the Mass. Moderators Association on Feb. 25 to discuss select board roles and responsibilities relative to town meetings. ...



[Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

The Mass. Housing Partnership will host a three-part, virtual affordable housing training series in March for local boards and commissions. ...



[BEAD application deadline extended to March 10](#)

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment funding program has extended its Round 1 application deadline to March 10. ...



[Environmental Justice Grant available to municipalities](#)

Municipalities are invited to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grantmaking program. ...



[Planner Training Collaborative to hold annual conference on March 15](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its 30th Annual Conference on Saturday, March 15 in Worcester. ...



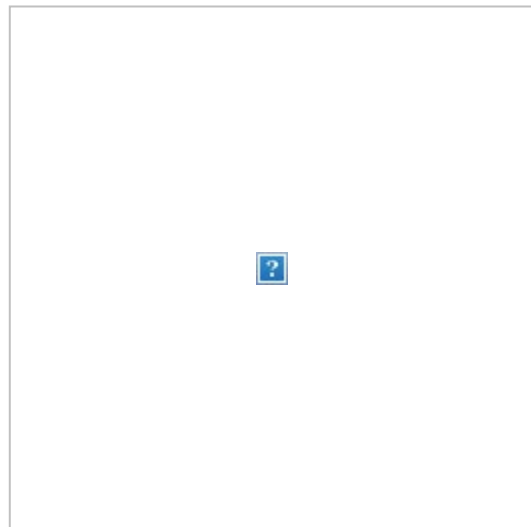
[Travel and tourism conference is March 18-19 in Springfield](#)

The 2025 Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, where tourism and hospitality professionals learn about the latest industry trends, will be held on March 18 and 19 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.



[5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Remote, hybrid meetings are local government success story](#)

On Feb. 28, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Secretary Augustus, MMA and Municipal Lawyers Association identify municipal concerns with MBTA Communities draft regulations](#)

On Feb. 21, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Seven years in the making: North Truro housing development groundbreaking date set](#) - Cape Cod Times

[After Steward hospital closure, ambulances rush patients out of town](#) - Boston Globe

[Somerville and Chelsea are asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration's "illegal campaign of bullying and intimidation"](#) - Boston.com

[Natick voters must decide on \\$7M override at town election](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Hudson Town Election to have override question: What money will pay for, plus tax impact](#) - MetroWest Daily News

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Amherst Town Councillor Elisha Walker



What We're Reading

[Resident Engagement: Taking transparency to the next level in cities](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Whether it's erecting glass-walled municipal buildings or launching open-data platforms, cities have long strived to be transparent as a way to engender trust in government. Yet, as confidence in public institutions continues to be challenged, local leaders also realize that the old ways of "being open" aren't enough—and that they have to do more.

A growing number of cities are responding by pushing the boundaries of transparency. Syracuse, N.Y., is reimagining service-delivery communications. Portland, Ore., is raising the bar for open procurement. And Boston is making the mayor's one-on-one meetings accessible in public spaces. These efforts underscore a key lesson: innovation is essential to advancing transparency and deepening public trust."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Dalton & Marlborough\)](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Amesbury & Fall River\)](#) - March 14

[Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Laws webinar](#) - March 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Professional Development Conference](#) - March 20

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Conference](#) - March 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - March 25

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Reading\)](#) - March 27

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Hadley\)](#) - March 27

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
 - [NLC seeks data on municipal infrastructure needs](#)
 - [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)
 - [MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings March 7, 14](#)
 - [U.S. Rep. Clark to keynote WEMO Conference in March](#)
 - [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
 - [Administration announces opening of Community One Stop for Growth](#)
 - [Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The bronze sculpture called "Reach for Knowledge," by Nancy Schön, welcomes patrons at the entrance of the Wellesley Free Library on a sunny day this week.

Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

Job Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

- [MMA Senior Executive and Director of Membership](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA & MIIA Executive Assistant](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Technical Records Specialist, Library Branch Manager, Systems Engineer, Town Administrator, Town Planner, Treasurer/Collector, DPW Laborer and Accounting Assistant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA has joined Bluesky! Follow us there: [@mma.org](#).

In local happenings: Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick [reflected on her tenure](#) in The Needham Observer. Fitzpatrick, who is planning to retire in early July, cofounded Massachusetts Women Leading Government, a formal committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

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](#)!

[Supplemental road funding now available; Chapter 90 hearing set](#)

MassDOT announced that \$45

million in supplemental funding for road and bridge repair and construction is now available to communities. ...



President signs order calling for dismantling of Education Department

State and local officials, and the state's congressional delegation, are raising concerns about the potential implications of an executive order signed by the president. ...



Program awards \$500,000 for drought resiliency, water efficiency projects

The new grant program supports projects that promote climate resiliency by reducing indoor and outdoor water use, as well as improving water loss control programs. ...



Cyber resilience grant program opens

Massachusetts municipalities can

now apply for the
MassCyberCenter's Cyber Resilient
Massachusetts Grant program,
which provides funding for managed
detection and response services. ...



Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30

The first reports are due on June 30
under a new energy reporting
requirement for buildings larger than
20,000 square feet. ...



Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group

The Mass. Hydrography Framework
Committee is seeking municipal
leaders to participate in its work to
create “next generation hydrographic
spatial data.” ...



MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence

The MMA will host an introductory

webinar on artificial intelligence for municipalities on April 17. ...



MMA to host ‘Demystifying DEI’ webinar on May 6

The MMA will host a webinar, “Demystifying DEI,” on May 6 to provide clarity on the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion. ...



Administration announces ‘Energy Affordability Agenda’

At an event in Lowell on March 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced an “Energy Affordability Agenda” to identify and advance actions to lower energy bills for Massachusetts residents. ...



UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects

The Municipal Fellows program

supports municipalities with clean energy transition projects in conjunction with the state's Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition Initiative. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Are local government and school board meetings getting too long? Some in Fall River say limits needed](#) - Herald News

[Strapped for school funding, Valley schools eye lagging state aid](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

['Live, work, play': Is form-based code the recipe for Eastham's strategic plan](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Mayor Petty: Worcester schools threatened by 'heartbreaking' Trump bid to kill Education Department](#) - Telegram and Gazette

[New Bedford drafts new plan for dealing with disasters](#) - New Bedford Light

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#WhyIServe

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Holyoke City Councillor Israel Rivera



What We're Reading

[Flipping the script on youth engagement](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Young people can be transformative partners to local government. Not only do they possess a font of fresh ideas, but also—because of all the years they have ahead of them—they are the group likely to benefit the most when those ideas are put into action. Yet youth are sometimes among the most challenging communities for leaders to include meaningfully in public problem solving, whether that's because they don't think their values are aligned with those of city hall, they don't trust that they'll be heard, or they're simply focused on other pursuits."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA and Constellation MunEnergy Spring Zoom webinar](#) - April 2

[Bridging the Knowledge Gap: Key Insights for Overseeing Local Assessing Operations webinar](#) - April 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference - May 3](#)

[Demystifying DEI webinar - May 6](#)

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MunEnergy program offers spring energy webinar on April 2](#)
- [MMA webinar to cover assessing on April 3](#)
- [MVP Program Action Grant applications due April 4](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)
- [Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
 - [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)
 - [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Riverwalk in Amesbury is a multi-use path along the Powwow River that connects downtown Amesbury to Carriagetown Marketplace. Photo by John Ouellette, MMA Communications Director.

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work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 71 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Tree Warden, Local Building Inspector, Finance Manager, Community Outreach Librarian and Mental Health Clinician. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).

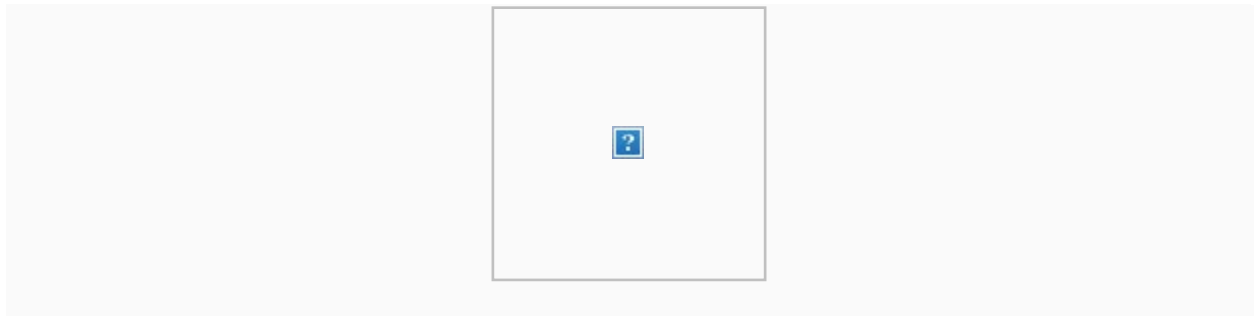


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It is Opening Day - Go Sox!

In local happenings: Deerfield is [piloting a child care program](#) during Annual Town Meeting on April 28. The program is a collaborative effort to make attendance at the meeting more accessible to parents.

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](#)!

[MMA outlines budget pressures at local aid hearing](#)

An MMA panel called for an increase of at least 3% for discretionary

municipal aid and an increase in Chapter 70 minimum new aid to address rising school costs. ...



MMA publishes April issue of The Beacon

The April Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, including legislative and fiscal issues, and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



Tax-exempt municipal bonds a focus of federal advocacy

In Washington, D.C., an MMA delegation focused advocacy efforts on the continuation of the tax-exempt status for municipal bonds. ...



Gov. signs extension of remote and hybrid meeting allowances

Gov. Healey signed a bill to extend

authorizations for local boards and committees to hold public meetings remotely or in a hybrid format through June of 2027. ...



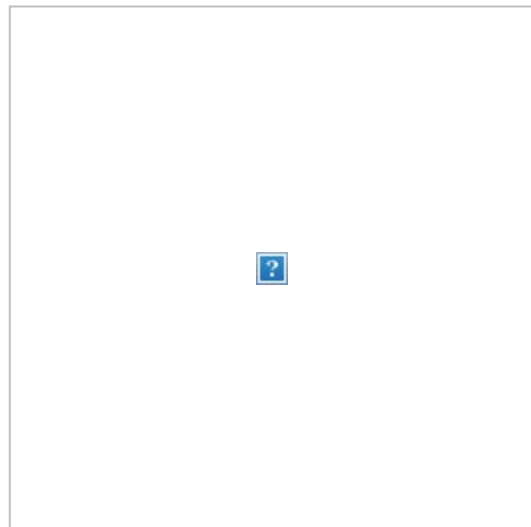
Trump administration targets \$106M in K-12 grant funding for Mass.

State and local officials are condemning federal moves to terminate \$106 million in education grant funding for Massachusetts. ...



Stakeholder sessions set on clean energy siting, permitting

Four stakeholder sessions will be held this spring regarding siting and permitting reforms prompted by a recent clean energy law. ...



Trump administration delays lead pipe replacement funds

State officials are strongly objecting

to a Trump administration decision to delay \$50 million in federal funding for the replacement of lead service lines in Massachusetts. ...



EOHLC issues model zoning for ADUs

The administration has published a model zoning and guidance document for municipalities to help them with the regulation of accessory dwelling units. ...



NLC covers federal issues during partnership meeting

The National League of Cities gave an update to the Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership. ...



U.S. Rep. Clark urges WEMO members to make voices heard

Municipal officials should be the

storytellers who explain the impacts of federal cutbacks that impact local services, U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark told women leaders on March 21 in Wrentham. ...



Women leaders discuss self-advocacy, AI, constructive criticism tips

Women Leading Government discussed timely topics during its fifth annual conference on March 6 in Wrentham. ...



Immigration and employment law

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources' annual spring program webinar on March 13 covered recent updates in immigration and employment law. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[It's budget time on Beacon Hill, and the MMA is working for you](#)

On April 1, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Joint Committee on Ways and Means, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On March 24, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Chatham installs alternative nesting platform for ospreys to prevent fires, outages and electrocutions](#) - Cape Cod Chronicle

[Reading's first mosque opens its doors and receives a warm welcome from the town](#) - GBH

[How Holyoke is fighting blight](#) - MassLive Media

[Nantucket launches "Digital Archive Project" to move land use documents online](#) - Nantucket Current

[Winchendon Schools chosen for cybersecurity pilot](#) - Athol Daily News

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Monson Finance Director/Town Accountant Jamie Farnum



What We're Reading

[A Comprehensive Guide for Local Leaders on Managing PFAS Waste](#) - National League of Cities

"The interventions to combat PFAS range from disposal and destruction to advanced filtration techniques. The brief explores various disposal and destruction options for managing PFAS-containing waste from municipal wastewater treatment facilities and landfills, including underground injection, thermal treatment (pyrolysis) and land application, while also highlighting emerging technologies. While these methods offer benefits such as low life cycle costs and a small footprint, they also present challenges, including environmental impacts related to disposal, increased complexity and higher maintenance requirements."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
- [Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group](#)
- [UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Memorial Hall in Milford was built in 1884 as a Civil War tribute and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. It is now home to the Milford Historical Commission, whose museum is open to visitors on Thursdays. Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 32 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, Health Director, Office Manager, Police Chief, Outreach Coordinator, Civil Engineer and Assistant Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Welcome to May.

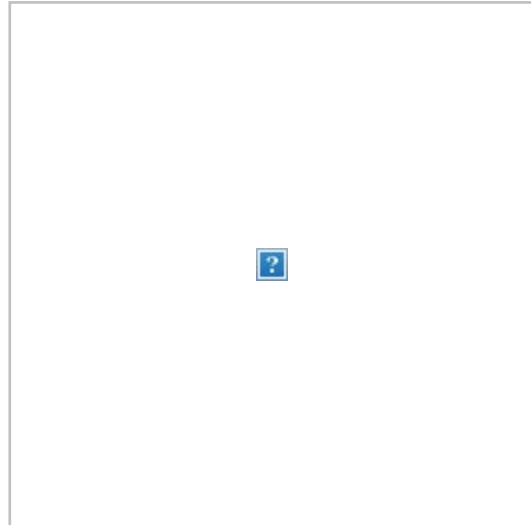
In local happenings: Spring often brings wildlife stories, and this year is no exception. A woodpecker in Rockport has made [national headlines for damaging vehicle windows](#), likely due to mating season behaviors.

In less destructive news, firefighters in [Longmeadow rescued two baby bald eagles](#) from a fallen nest. The protected birds will be rehabilitated until they can be released back into the wild.

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](#)!

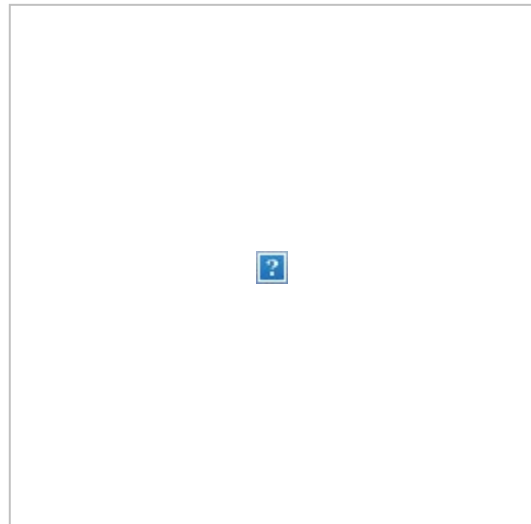
House OK's state budget for FY26

The House approved its state budget bill for fiscal 2026 with several important investments in schools and municipalities despite modest state revenue expectations. ...



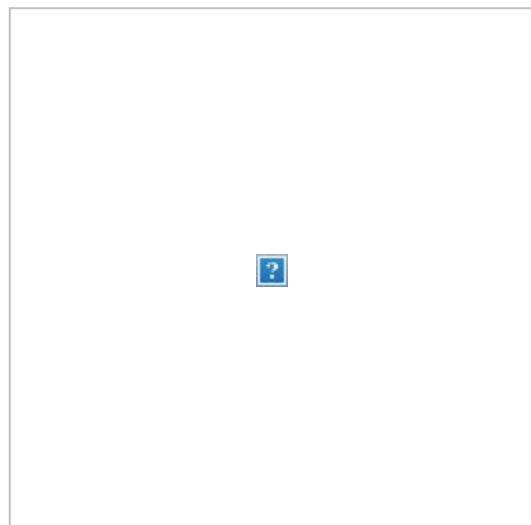
Senate releases surplus surtax supplemental budget

A Senate committee proposed a supplemental budget bill that leverages surplus surtax funds to designate \$613 million for education investments and \$670 million for transportation. ...



Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit in Worcester on May 8. ...



Extended Producer Responsibility Commission begins its work

A new Extended Producer Responsibility Commission, established by a clean energy law enacted last November, held its inaugural meeting on April 14 in Boston. ...



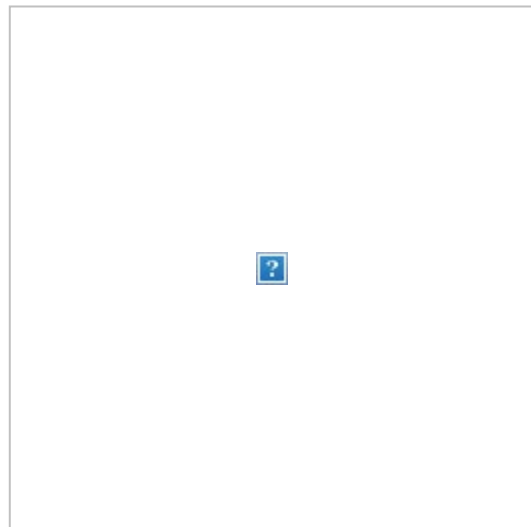
[MMA webinar discusses Office of the Veteran Advocate](#)

An MMA webinar on April 30 introduced the resources available to municipalities and veterans through the Office of the Veteran Advocate. ...



[MMHR, MMMA discuss 'psychological first aid' at joint meeting](#)

Psychological first aid was the focus of a joint meeting of Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources and the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association. ...



[MMHR to hold annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Human Resources association will hold its annual HR 101 Boot Camp on May 8 in Boylston. ...



Federal funds office to hold listening session May 7 in Springfield

Municipal and nonprofit leaders are invited to an information and listening session being held by the state's Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office on May 7 in Springfield. ...



Report: Cities, towns embrace 'green' recovery strategies

A UMass Amherst survey examines the post-pandemic recovery of Massachusetts cities and towns, highlighting progress and persistent challenges in rebuilding while advancing sustainability. ...



Program offers electrification advice for fleets

The Mass Fleet Advisor program is

offering free technical assistance to operators of medium- and heavy-duty truck fleets that want to explore electrification but don't qualify for utility fleet advisory services. ...



[Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)

The Automotive Career Development Center is offering training to help operators of medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets better understand high-voltage systems and technician safety. ...



[MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)

The MassDEP's Electric Vehicle Incentive Program will fund level 1 and 2 charging station projects for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle fleets, in addition to light-duty fleets. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Artificial intelligence is ready for us; are we ready for it?](#)

On May 1, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Milton votes 'yes' on \\$9.5 million Proposition 2 1/2 override request](#) - Boston Globe

[Teen voting petition falls short for second year at Deerfield Town Meeting](#) - Greenfield Recorder

[Sandwich buys 88 acres of undeveloped land for future wastewater infrastructure needs](#) - Cape Cod Times

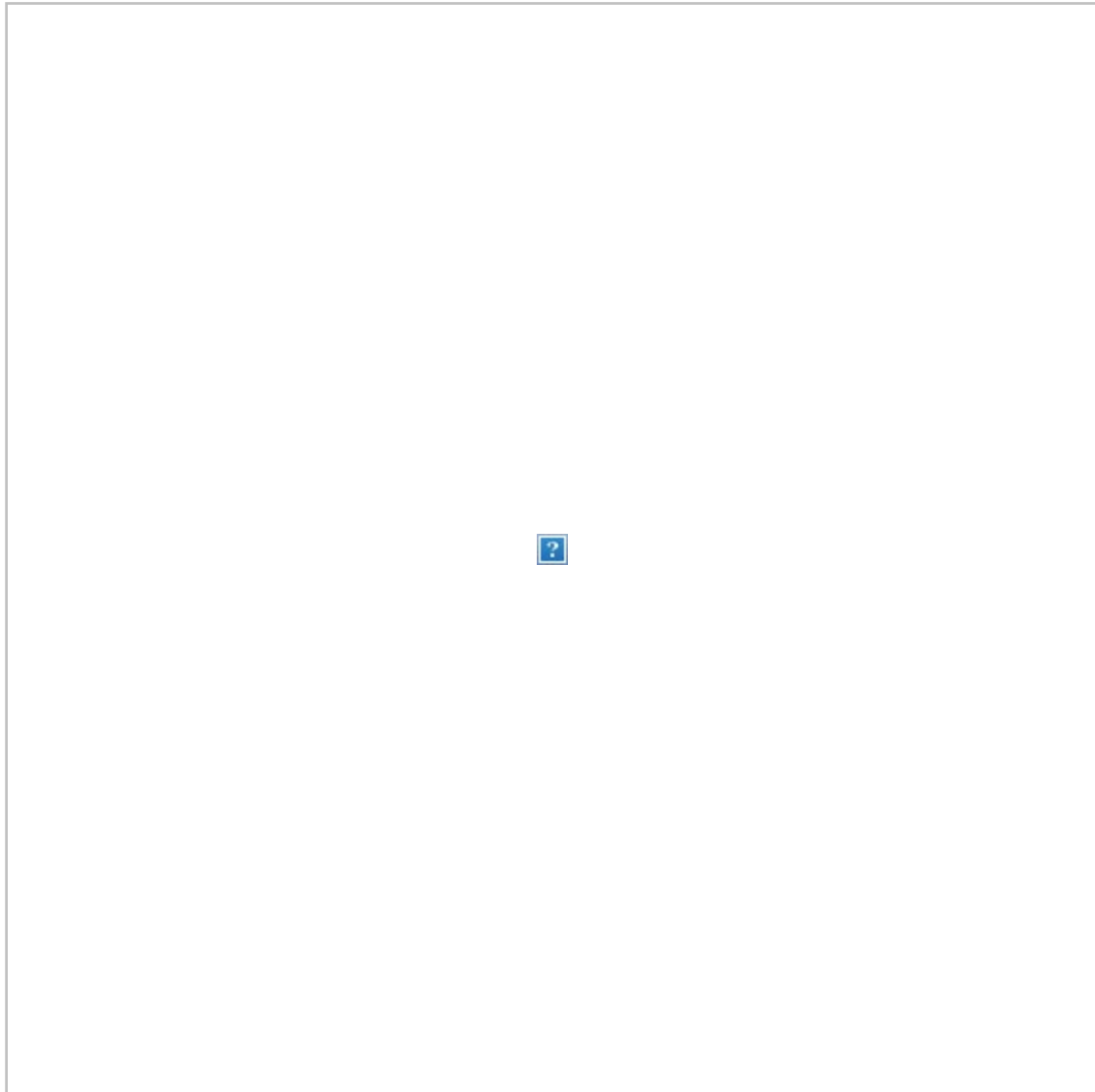
[Foxborough eyes second water treatment plant equipped to remove 'forever chemicals'](#) - The Sun Chronicle

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Bridgewater Town Councillor Mark Linde



What We're Reading

[Sharing data helps cities take anticipation to the next level](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Cities with robust data operations often aim to use that capacity to both

manage performance and anticipate emerging challenges. It's a pursuit that New York City helped pioneer as far back as 2010, when it began more systematically using predictive analytics to better spot nascent trends and fine-tune resource allocation accordingly. However, scaling these efforts citywide has often been challenging due to barriers in data sharing across any given city's agencies.

Now, as more cities enhance their data capabilities, many are also prioritizing breaking down these silos—building on the vision set by New York and other major cities over a decade ago: to share and integrate data to anticipate and prevent problems before they escalate. Whether that means protecting people from potential housing displacement or micro-targeting personalized support for youth who appear likely to miss school, here's how two cities—Charlotte, N.C. and Recife, Brazil—are using stronger internal collaboration to power data-driven anticipation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Mass. Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#)

- May 3

[Demystifying DEI webinar](#) - May 6

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp](#) - May 8

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Spring Conference](#) - May 28-30

[Introduction to Developing Municipal Financial Policies webinar](#) - June 3

[Mass. Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 5

[Mass. Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - June 12

[Mass. Select Board Association Newly Elected Training](#) - June 13

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - June 26

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
 - [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
 - [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
 - [MMA to host 'Demystifying DEI' webinar on May 6](#)
 - [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
 - [Cyber resilience grant program opens](#)
 - [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Jill Hai, a select board member in Lexington, for sharing this photo from the town's Massachusetts 250th anniversary celebrations. Dawn battles were reenacted at Lexington Green and Concord's North Bridge.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at **MMA & MIIA**

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)

- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 57 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Permitting and Engineering Manager, Health Inspector, Senior Clerk, Town Accountant, Building Commissioner, Administrative Coordinator and Firefighter/EMT/Paramedic. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Porchfest season [kicks off this weekend](#) in Somerville.

In local happenings: Weston Town Manager Leon Gaumond Jr. has been recognized by the nonprofit Engaging Local Government Leaders as a [Top Influencer in Local Government](#), for his “openness and proactive attitude toward exploring innovative methods of engaging with the community.” Congrats, Leon!

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](#)!

[Senate budget committee's
proposal would boost key local
accounts](#)

The Senate Way and Means Committee has released a proposed state spending plan for fiscal 2026 with important investments in schools and municipalities. ...



[Senate OK's supplemental budget bill](#)

The Senate approved a supplemental budget bill that would primarily allocate surplus surtax funds from fiscal 2024. ...



[250th battle commemorations were years in the making](#)

When reenactors fired their muskets on Patriots' Day weekend to mark the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War, they were participating in public events that were years in the making. ...



[Community One Stop accepting applications May 5-June 4](#)

Fiscal 2026 funding applications

through the state's Community One Stop for Growth portal must be filed between May 5 and June 4. ...



Culvert replacement grant funding available

The Division of Ecological Restoration is accepting applications for the Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program to assist with local culvert removal and replacement efforts. ...



FEMA cancels \$90M in BRIC aid for Mass.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has cancelled the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program for fiscal 2024. ...



MSA to hold free training for newly elected select board members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a free training for newly elected select board members on Friday, June 13, in Devens. ...



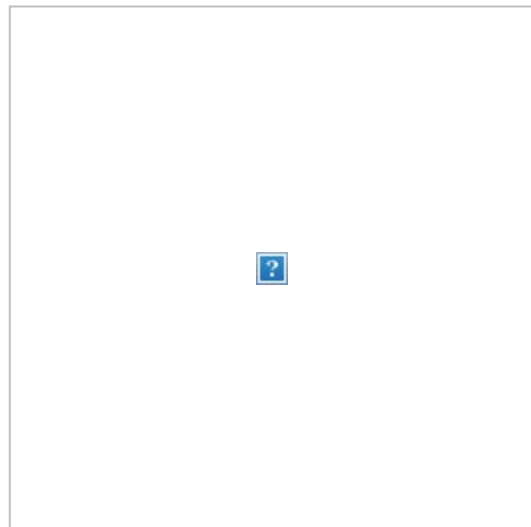
[MMA publishes May issue of The Beacon](#)

The May issue of The Beacon covers the latest news affecting local government, as well as grant opportunities and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Somerville installs outdoor kiosk for used needles](#)

In a city park, Somerville has installed an outdoor collection kiosk for needles and other “sharps” — a resource believed to be the first of its kind in the country. ...



[Whitlock Scholarship applications sought](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal

Management Association is accepting applications for its Gerry Whitlock Scholarship for students enrolled in a masters in public administration program. ...



Clean Water Trust issues nearly \$40 million in loans, grants

The Massachusetts Clean Water Trust's Board of Trustees on April 2 approved \$39.7 million in new low-interest loans and grants. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[Amherst councilors float idea of new 'Four Towns' task force to develop long-term school funding strategy](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[A new project is helping Chelsea residents better understand their air quality](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[The challenges of climate change: Weather events wreak havoc in Merrimack Valley, North Shore](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Cambridge's Community Assistance Response and Engagement \(CARE\) Team releases first impact report](#) - Wicked Local

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#WhyIServe

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Middleton Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Jackie Bresnahan

What We're Reading

[Revolutionizing Crisis Intervention](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The need for mobile crisis response teams in the United States has become increasingly apparent. High-profile incidents across the United States underscore the inadequacy of traditional law enforcement responses to behavioral health crises. Such crises often involve disruptions in mental or emotional stability requiring immediate intervention to prevent severe health deterioration. In the United States, the numbers are staggering:

1. One in five adults experiences a mental illness during their lifetime.
2. Over 12 million people have serious thoughts of suicide annually.
3. Nearly a quarter of those shot by police from 2015 to 2020 had a mental health condition.
4. Two million individuals with serious mental illnesses are incarcerated annually.

These figures highlight the urgent need for community-based mobile crisis response teams that address behavioral health emergencies without relying solely on police intervention. Behavioral health incidents are complex scenarios that require a multi-disciplinary approach in order to achieve a measure of resolution."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar](#) - May 12

[Mental Health Awareness for Managers webinar](#) - May 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - May 22

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Open Forum webinar](#) - May 27

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- [Free high-voltage safety training available for truck fleets](#)
- [MassEVIP funding charging station projects for trucks](#)
- [ACT Bus Program seeks to help electrify school bus fleets](#)
- [Waste and recycling grants available to municipalities](#)
- [MMA to hold webinar for managers addressing mental health awareness](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [MMA webinar on May 12 to focus on arts-based therapeutic supports](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to Samantha Giffen, communications manager in Amherst, for sharing this photo from the town's Two Lights for Tomorrow initiative on April 18. The photo shows two lanterns, provided by Rep. Mindy Domb, shining in a window at Amherst Town Hall.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Local Inspector, Town Engineer, Utility Director, Outreach Coordinator, Chief of Police, Assistant Town Planner and Conservation Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: This weekend, the [Framingham History Center is hosting](#) “Stitching Revolution in Massachusetts: Quilting, Lectures and Dancing,” highlighting the role of Massachusetts in the American Revolution.

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, July 3.

[Healey signs surplus surtax bill](#)

[with investments for cities, towns](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has signed a \$1.3 billion supplemental budget bill to allocate surplus Fair Share surtax revenue for investments in education and transportation. ...



[Gov. Healey files \\$2.9B, 5-year environmental bond bill](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration joined partners, advocates and municipal officials in Braintree to announce the filing of a \$2.9 billion, five-year environmental bond bill, called the Mass Ready Act. ...



[Lawsuit challenges federal halt of grant funding to states](#)

A coalition of 22 state attorneys general has filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's use of a provision in federal regulations to stop billions in federal grant funding. ...



[MMHR discusses Medicare, elects FY26 officers and board members](#)

At its Annual Meeting in Danvers,

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources focused on strategies for helping employees navigate the Medicare system. ...



Federal judge blocks immigration enforcement conditions on transportation funding

A U.S. District Court has issued an injunction preventing the federal government from making immigration enforcement a condition for receipt of transportation funding. ...



MMA webinar discusses mental health in the workplace for staff

An MMA webinar discussed understanding and supporting mental health in the workplace. ...



MMA to host webinar on private roads

An MMA webinar on July 15 will

provide an overview of private roads, with examples of local practices and insights from an experienced attorney. ...



NLC awards grant to Chelsea for economic mobility program

The National League of Cities has awarded a \$20,000 grant to the city of Chelsea as part of its 2025 Advancing Economic Mobility Rapid Grant program. ...



AGs issue guidance affirming legality of environmental justice initiatives

A coalition of 13 state attorneys general, including Andrea Joy Campbell of Massachusetts, has issued guidance affirming the “necessity and legality” of environmental justice initiatives. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here’s a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Utilities Committee to support legislation protecting municipal authority in public rights of way and expediting double pole removal](#)

On June 18, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Burlington Select Board demands inspection of ICE facility amid reports of poor conditions](#) - Lowell Sun

[Eastham approves \\$170 million wastewater, sewer plans](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Nantucket has a PFAS problem in the drinking water. It's Environmental Contamination Administrator Andrew Shapero's job to solve it](#) - Boston Globe

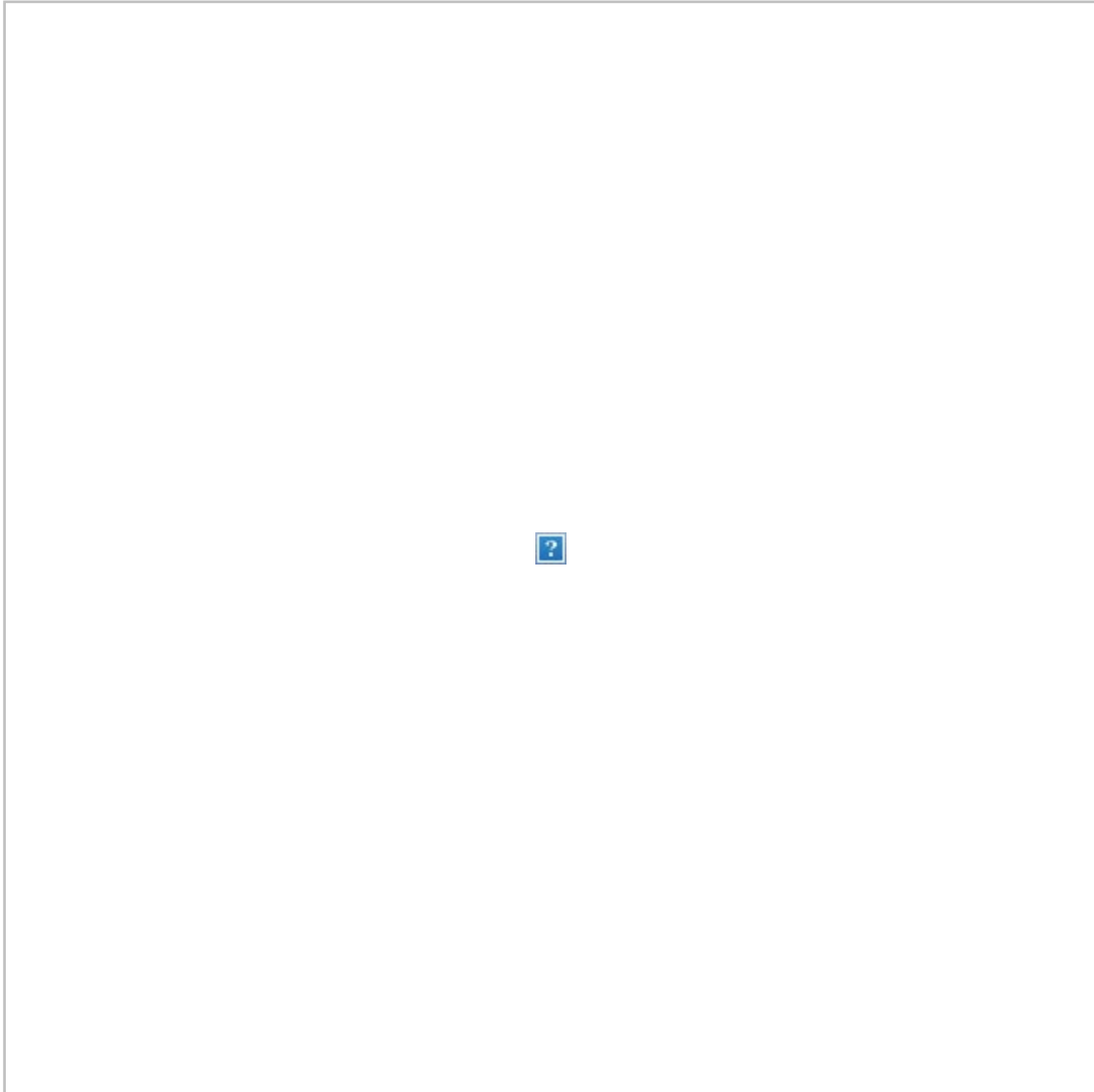
[Orange takes ownership of old cereal factory lot](#) - Greenfield Recorder

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Barnstable Government Access Station Manager Sarah Beal-Fletcher



What We're Reading

[What City Leaders Need to Know About the Senate's Budget Reconciliation Bill](#) - National League of Cities

"The Senate's version of the "One Big, Beautiful Bill" has arrived, with major

implications for local governments. While it mirrors several provisions in the House-passed bill (H.R. 1), it also includes key differences, particularly around Medicaid. The path to passage in the Senate is not straightforward, with negotiations still ongoing on Medicaid, clean energy tax credits and public lands. As the House and Senate move toward negotiations on a final package, local leaders should understand how the Senate's proposal could shape city budgets, services and infrastructure planning."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)
- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
- [State sets office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [Electric grid council to hold in-person event on July 17](#)
- [MMA partners with ArxEd on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)

- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Sean Dugan, assistant town administrator in Easton, for sharing this photo from the town's Flag Day ceremony. Dozens of volunteers unfurled several flags spanning the football field at Oliver Ames High School during the event, which was hosted by Easton's Tricentennial Committee as part of a yearlong celebration of the town's 300th anniversary.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for

possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects Manager, DPW Foreman, Deputy Chief Procurement Officer, Comptroller, Conservation Agent and Town Planner. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



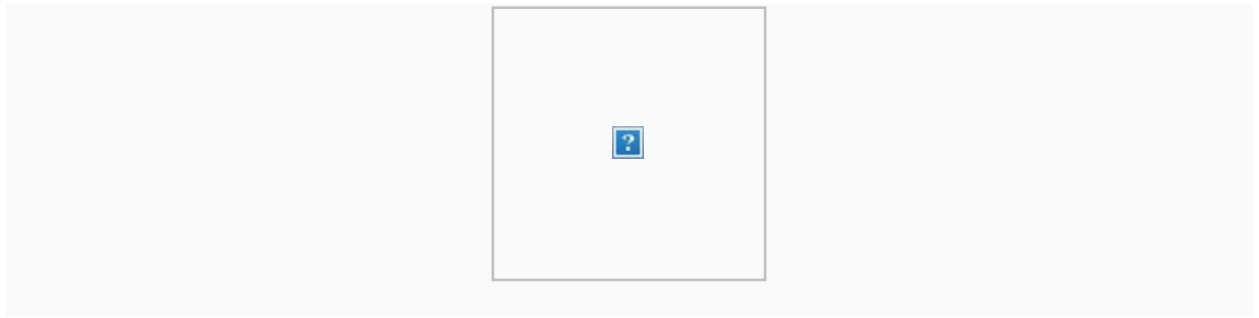
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Communities across the state will be observing the Fourth of July with public events tomorrow and this weekend. We'd love to highlight your parades and gatherings in the Weekly Review! Send your photos to photos@mma.org.

In local happenings: In a [ceremony last month](#), the Danvers Rail Trail was dedicated in memory of former longtime Town Manager Wayne Marquis. Marquis, who died in 2022, served as town manager from 1979 to 2014.

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

[Legislature sends FY26 state budget to governor](#)

The Legislature has enacted a \$61 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2026, an increase of \$3.3 billion over fiscal 2025. ...



[MMA introduces enhanced classified ads service](#)

The MMA this week unveiled new features for its popular Municipal Career Opportunities service and a new, streamlined classified ad rate structure. ...



[Mass. mayors and officials issue statement on ICE actions in communities](#)

Leaders from 13 cities and one town issued a joint statement calling on the U.S. Attorney's Office to investigate the activity of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ...

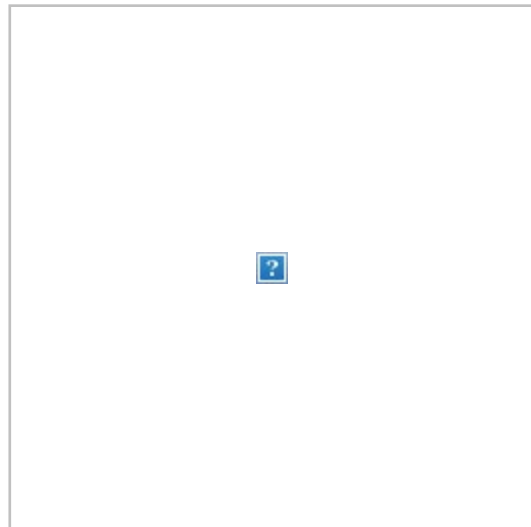


[MA250 grant program expands to support Revolutionary storytelling](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

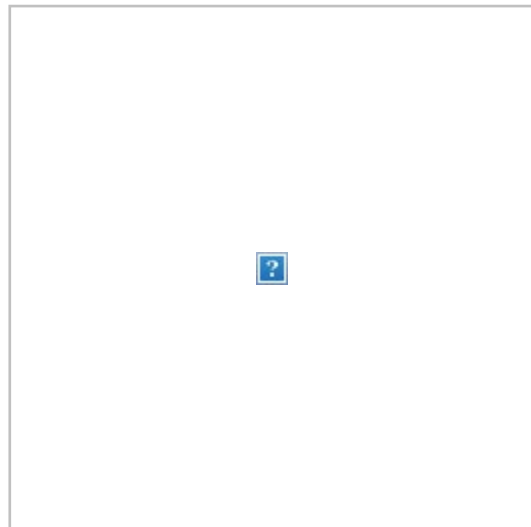
and the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism announced a second round of funding through the Massachusetts 250 Grant Program.

...



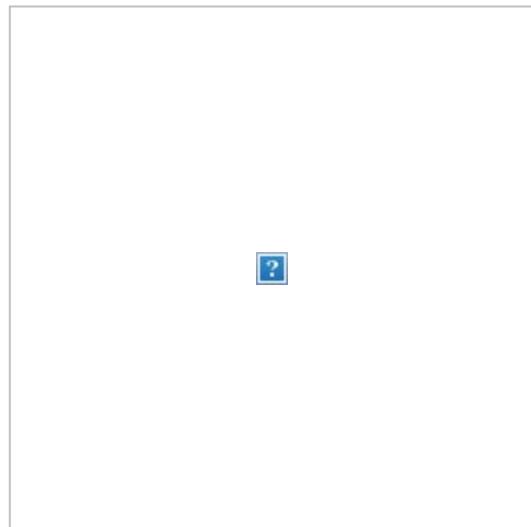
[MSA hosts annual training for newly elected select board members](#)

The Massachusetts Select Board Association held its annual free training for newly elected members in Devens. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



[MMA urges Veterans Committee to support bills to streamline veterans benefits](#)

On June 30, Testimony

[MMA urges Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support bottle bill expansion](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[In testimony to Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, MMA expresses strong support for series of bills that would increase municipal efficiency and effectiveness](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA offers feedback and concerns on a number of water-related bills before Environment and Natural Resources Committee](#)

On June 27, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Local communities taking varied approach to spending opioid settlement money](#)

- The Sun Chronicle

[Many of the more than 58,000 laid-off federal workers are looking to move to Boston](#) - Boston Globe

[Bullet hole by bullet hole, an Arlington house shows the struggle for America's independence](#) - WBUR

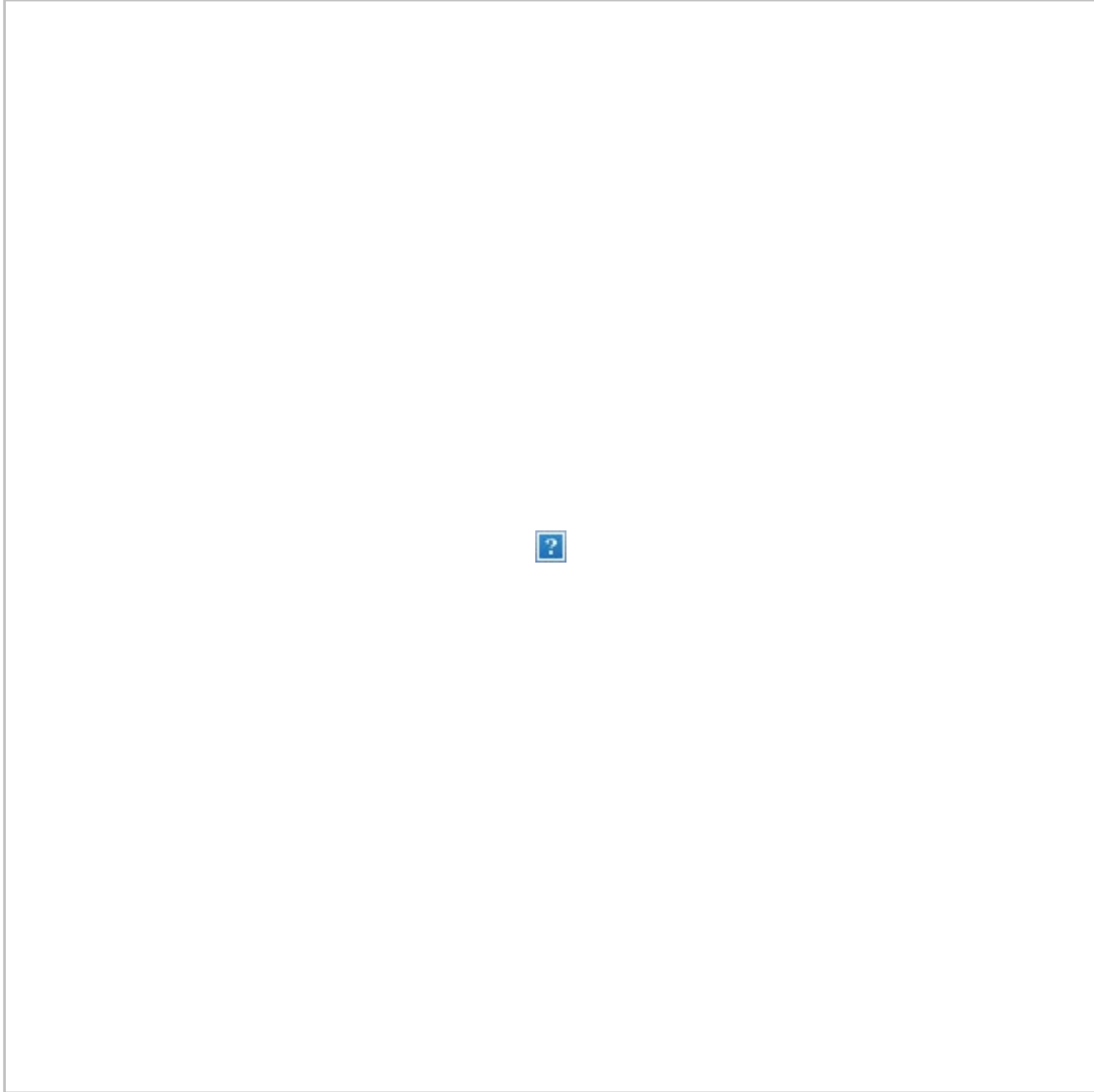
[Peabody Mayor Bettencourt shares 4 new anti-bullying initiatives for Peabody schools](#) - Salem News

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Norfolk Select Board Member Anita Mecklenburg



What We're Reading

[5 summer reads for urban innovators](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"If there are two plot lines that resonate with every local leader, they are that making government work well is a nonstop challenge and that the best ideas often come from the outside. This collection of books reflects both realities by

spotlighting stories and strategies that demonstrate how to make cities more effective and how to better connect them to what residents need. From an Alabama mayor's moving story about reimagining government in his hometown to lessons on improving public services from the United Kingdom, these works offer something to any city innovator looking to raise their game."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Private Roads: What Municipal Officials Need to Know webinar](#) - July 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Summer meeting](#) - July 17

[Digital Communications webinar](#) - July 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA to host webinar on private roads](#)
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- [MMA partners with ArxED on salary benchmarking project](#)
- [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
- [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Stacy Kilb, sustainability engagement coordinator in Salem, for sharing this photo from Volt & Vibe: An Eco-Rider Showcase, an e-bike and personal electric vehicle expo hosted by the city at Salem State University on June 29.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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 - [MMA Member Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 38 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Health Agent, Facilities Superintendent, Office Manager, Assistant City Clerk, HVAC Technician and Town Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: The city of Lynn has [officially opened Harbor Park](#), a new 30-acre public space along the waterfront that offers walking paths, recreation areas and an outdoor amphitheater.

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](#)!

[House passes transportation bond bill with \\$300M for Ch. 90](#)

The House has passed a
transportation bond bill that would

authorize \$300 million for the Chapter 90 road and bridge program for the upcoming year. ...



MassDOT's LEAP program seeks to jump-start local infrastructure

A program launched by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation seeks to help municipal officials jump-start infrastructure projects, particularly in rural and underserved areas. ...



MMA to host Aug. 20 webinar on crisis communications

An MMA webinar on Aug. 20 will focus on crisis communications and the importance of consistent messaging when cities and towns face unexpected challenges. ...



MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24

The MMA and its partners at

Constellation will hold a free presentation and conversation via Zoom on Sept. 24 to cover two energy topics. ...



MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30

The MMA will hold a half-day municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept 30 in Wrentham. ...



MMLA to hold program on code enforcement on Aug. 7

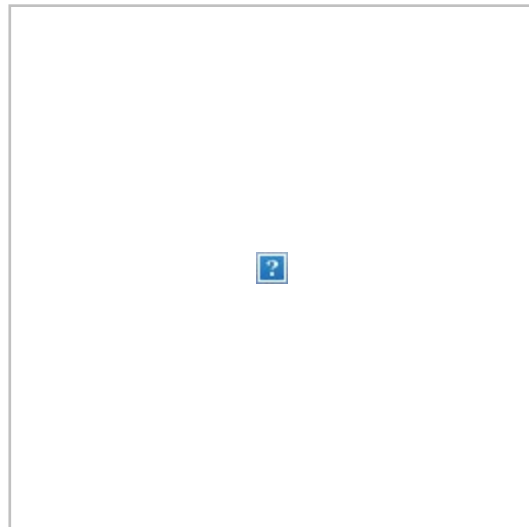
Effective and efficient code enforcement will be the focus of a Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association half-day program on Aug. 7 in Sturbridge. ...



Malloy joins managers' Senior Advisor Program

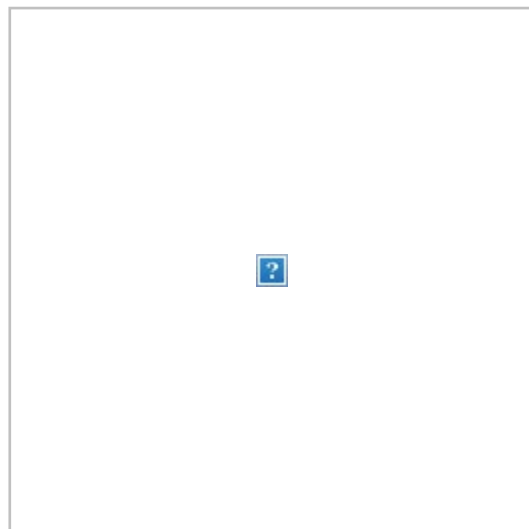
Retired manager James Malloy is

available as a senior advisor to other managers and administrators through a partnership between the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and the International City/County Management Association. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Lenox 'tourist tax' brings in \\$4.5 million for the town as summer season revs up](#)
- Berkshire Eagle

[Hadley weighs removal of three dams](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Western Mass. cities seeking public input on how to spend opioid settlement money](#) - GBH

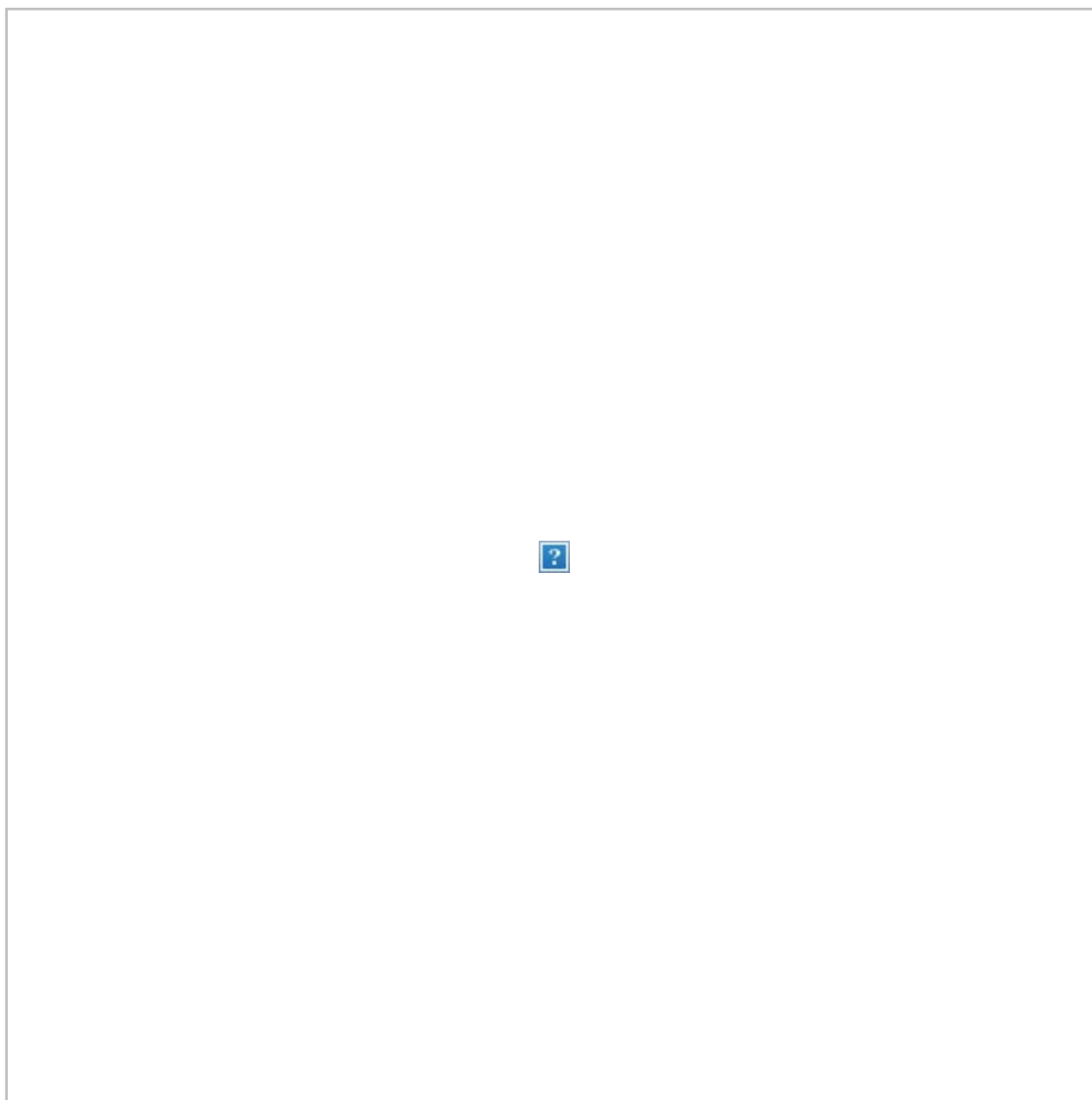
[City shaper: Kolofos honored for 65 years of service to Lawrence](#) - Eagle Tribune

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Fitchburg City Councillor Sally Cragin



What We're Reading

[Food \(Insecurity\) for Thought: In Fresno, California, brownfield redevelopment and local partnerships have generated significant community and climate benefits](#) - International City/County Management Association

"The U.S. food supply is a study in inefficiency, inequity, and contradictions. Americans waste an estimated 30–40% of the country's food, and although much of it is safe and edible, that food ends up in landfills as 22–24% of municipal solid waste. There it becomes a potent source of methane, a greenhouse gas with four times the warming potential of carbon dioxide. At the same time, one in seven Americans, or 47 million people, including 14 million children, experienced food insecurity in 2023. This marked a 6% increase from 2022, and the highest level recorded since 2014.

Located in California's Central Valley, which produces 25% of the nation's food supply, Fresno County is the third hungriest county in the United States. In Fresno, nonprofits like Fresno Metropolitan Ministry (Metro) help feed hungry people by running just-in-time rescue operations that glean surplus food from institutions and retail outlets. It's an effective strategy, but not a simple one. As Metro's Executive Director Emogene Nelson describes, "Rescuing food involves more than just picking it up. It requires storage, transportation, timing, and trust. If one link in the chain breaks, the entire system is disrupted. Behind every pound of food saved is a mountain of invisible labor."

To streamline and expand their food rescue operations, Metro teamed up with St. Rest Baptist Church (SRBC) to redevelop a vacant and environmentally contaminated former meatpacking warehouse into the St. Rest + Food to Share Hub. The Hub, which opened in May 2024, started with a brownfield—land that is frequently vacant, underutilized, or abandoned, and may be contaminated. Metro and SRBC worked with the city of Fresno to leverage multiple federal funding sources that addressed environmental contamination and cleared the way for redevelopment. Their story exemplifies the power of partnerships to build social resilience and contribute to a sense of place, especially in resource-scarce settings."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Legal Updates: Summer 2025 webinar](#) - Aug. 6

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators Meeting](#) - Aug. 14

[Foundations of Crisis Communications webinar](#) - Aug. 20

[Strategic Communications for Local Government webinar](#) - Aug. 27

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [State holds office hours to discuss ADUs](#)
- [DOER holding workshops on potential for load management, peak load reduction](#)
- [Green School Works program offers technical assistance](#)
- [MMA to host webinar with MMLA on legal issues Aug. 6](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on strategic communications for local government](#)
- [MMA-Suffolk offering 3 sessions of finance, HR seminars in '25-26](#)
- [MMA accepting Innovation Award nominations](#)
- [Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

- [Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)
 - [Local leaders urged to participate in Good Neighbor Day](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Ralph Waldo Emerson House in Concord is open for guided tours for the season. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources,

downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MMA Legislative Analyst](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Animal Control Officer, Senior Planner, Town Administrator, Employee Relations Manager, Wastewater Superintendent and Part-time Local Inspector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



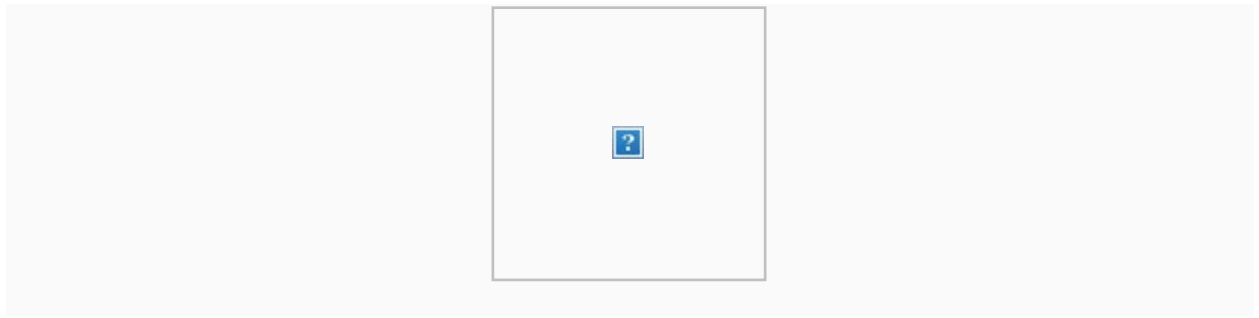
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA will host the first of four [fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#) on Sept. 26 in Lee.

In local happenings: The Big E kicks off in West Springfield tomorrow, featuring [17 days of food, rides, music and fun](#)! The fair welcomed more than 1.6 million people last year and is celebrating its 109th year.

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](#)!

[Two grant programs launched to support local efforts on federal funding](#)

The administration has launched grant programs to advance local infrastructure and economic development projects and bring more federal dollars into the state. ...



[Gov. Healey unveils plan to cut environmental rules to fast-track housing](#)

The plan would cut environmental regulations in order to expedite housing production in Massachusetts and reduce costs. ...



[MMA offers municipal guide to inclusive holidays, recognition days](#)

Cities and towns can determine additional days that they include as holidays, during which no business is conducted. ...



[MMA survey seeks feedback on Connect 351 experience and needs](#)

We're asking members to respond to a brief survey by Sept. 18 to help us make the Connect 351 experience more meaningful and enjoyable. ...



[Stormwater MS4 grant program applications due Oct. 3](#)

Applications are available for the Stormwater MS4 Municipal Assistance Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on Workplace Equity Act](#)

The MMA hosted a webinar about the Frances Perkins Workplace Equity Act, enacted in 2024. ...



[MMA to hold Health Care Costs Forum on Sept. 30](#)

The MMA will hold a half-day

municipal forum to discuss health care and insurance costs on Sept. 30 in Wrentham. ...



State awards \$10.9 million for dams and coastal infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration has announced nearly \$11 million in grant funding to support the repair or removal of aging dams, levees and coastal infrastructure. ...



MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston

Climate Beacon, New England's

premier climate solutions conference, will be held on Oct. 22-24 in Boston. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New In Advocacy

[MMA joins Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association in providing comments to CCC on municipal implications of draft social consumption regulations](#)

On Sept. 8, Testimony

Planning for Connect 351 in



January is underway! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video!](#)



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Cassandra Madison](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[How can Hopedale attract a buyer for Town Hall? What's being discussed](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Meet Somerville's 'rat czar.' He leads the battle against rodents](#) - Boston Globe

[Holyoke seeks public input on how to spend \\$1M opioid settlement funds](#) - New England Public Media

[Five tornadoes confirmed in the Worcester area and Stow, National Weather Service says](#) - Boston Globe

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Northeastern University students Jonathan Oubenslimane, left, and Vamini Jain

What We're Reading

[3 AI roadblocks—and how to overcome them](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Evidence of uneven AI adoption in the private sector grows by the day, with executives worried about falling behind more tech-savvy competitors. But the stakes are different, and considerably higher, in government. For local leaders, AI isn't about winning a race. It's about unlocking new problem-solving capacity to deliver better services and meet pressing resident needs.

Even so, city governments face real barriers to further adoption, including persistent concerns about accuracy and privacy, procurement hurdles, and too

little space for civil-servant experimentation. The good news? Innovative leaders are already showing how to overcome these obstacles. And, in doing so, they're reaping insights of use to others aiming to do the same."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Support from the Red Cross webinar](#) - Sept. 16

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 18-19

[Energy Outlook with Constellation](#) - Sept. 24

[From Resources to Relationships: Why Councils on Aging Matter webinar](#) - Sept. 25

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Lee](#) - Sept. 26

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association Meeting](#) - Sept. 26

[MMA/MIIA Health Care Costs Forum](#) - Sept. 30

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Athol & Middleborough](#) - Oct. 3

[Massachusetts Select Board Association fall conference](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Boot Camp](#) - Oct. 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings – Chelmsford](#) - Oct. 17

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 18-19 in Springfield](#)
 - [MMA to host webinar with Mass. Councils on Aging Sept. 25](#)
 - [Public Works Expo is Sept. 17 and 18 in Marlborough](#)
 - [Green Building Council to hold Local Government Leadership Summit](#)
 - [MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings Sept. 26, Oct. 3, Oct. 17](#)
 - [MARPA and DLS Conference is Oct. 7](#)
 - [MMA to hold webinar with Red Cross Sept. 16](#)
 - [Town Forest Conference is Oct. 4](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars](#)
 - [Mass. Digital Government Summit to be held on Sept. 18](#)
 - [MMA and Constellation to discuss energy outlook on Sept. 24](#)
 - [MMA to hold health care costs forum on Sept. 30](#)
 - [Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 6 in Norwood](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





The Morse-Kelley Pollinator Habitat Garden in Somerville is a pollinator-friendly pocket park created with Community Preservation Act funds. Other pollinator-friendly spaces are located throughout the city as part of broader pollinator initiatives. Photo by Meredith Gabriliska, MMA Digital Communications Manager.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Receptionist and Administrative Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Treasurer/Collector, Public Safety Dispatchers, Outreach Coordinator, Paramedic, Assistant Director of Human Resources, Municipal Hearing Officer and Grants Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

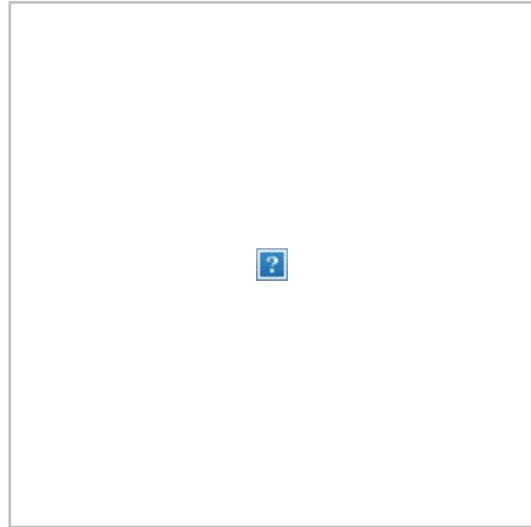
In local happenings: Cambridge and Boston are expecting close to 400,000 spectators over the course of the weekend for the [Head of the Charles Regatta](#). The three-day rowing event features local music and food vendors and family-friendly activities, in addition to cheering on the athletes from nearly 30 countries competing in 74 events.

Send us photos from your community's seasonal celebrations to be featured in a future edition of the Weekly Review!

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](#)!

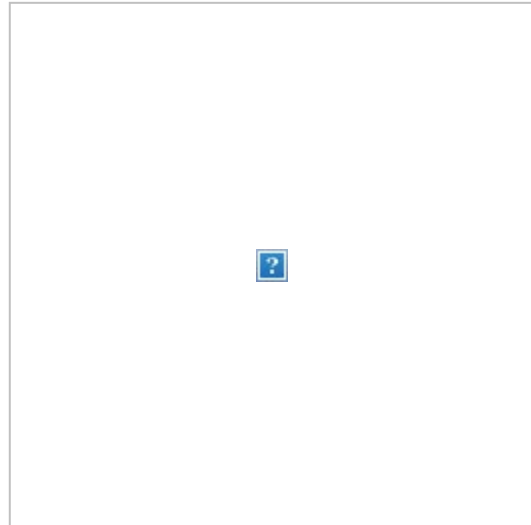
**[Input sought on draft model
bylaws for solar, battery systems](#)**

The Department of Energy Resources is developing model bylaws for photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems to serve as a resource to municipalities. ...



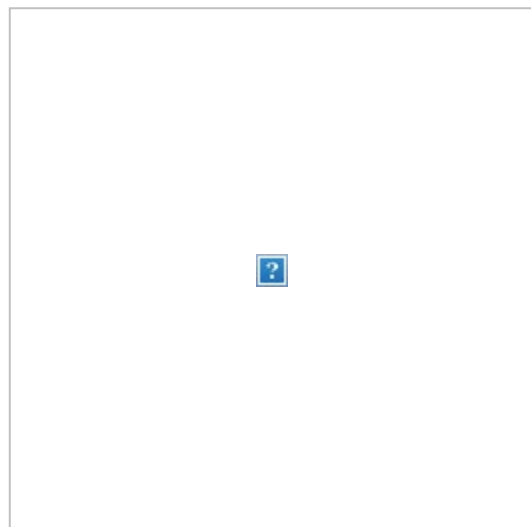
**[Grants opened for drought
resiliency, water efficiency
projects](#)**

The state has opened the second round of a grant program for projects that support climate resiliency through reduced water usage and improved water loss control. ...



**[MSBA to hold roundtable on ballot
questions Nov. 20](#)**

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is hosting a roundtable discussion via Zoom on Nov. 20 on the topic of local ballot question rules. ...



**[MMA webinar addresses
cybersecurity for municipalities](#)**

The MMA hosted a webinar on Oct. 15 on the minimum cybersecurity goals for municipalities. ...



MMA-Suffolk kick off certificate programs

The MMA and Suffolk University kicked off two Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs in September, in Barnstable and Winchester. ...



Pittsfield to begin ecological restoration project in park

A new phase in the cleanup and restoration of the Housatonic River is set to begin this fall, with ecological restoration in Kirvin Park, an active recreation area in the city of Pittsfield. ...



Grant supports military base redevelopment in Weymouth

State and local officials hope that a

\$32.4 million grant that Weymouth received this summer will help remove longstanding obstacles to the redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. ...



[What to know about seasonal affective disorder](#)

For some people, the significant loss of daylight that comes with the fall season can worsen their mood, sap energy, and impair concentration due to what's known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. ...



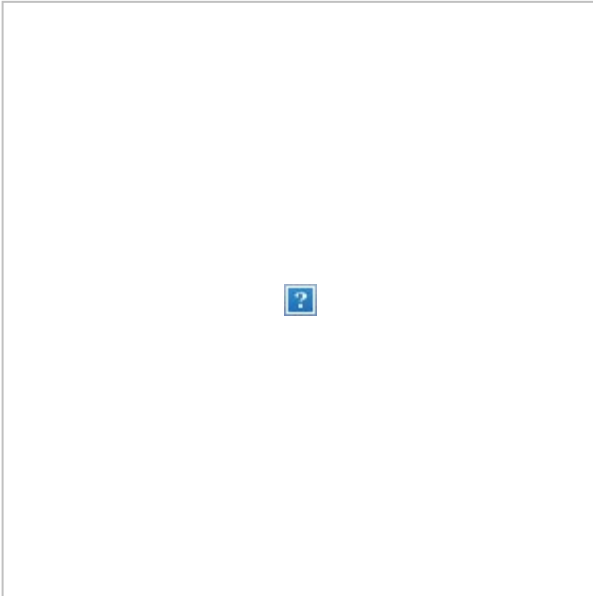
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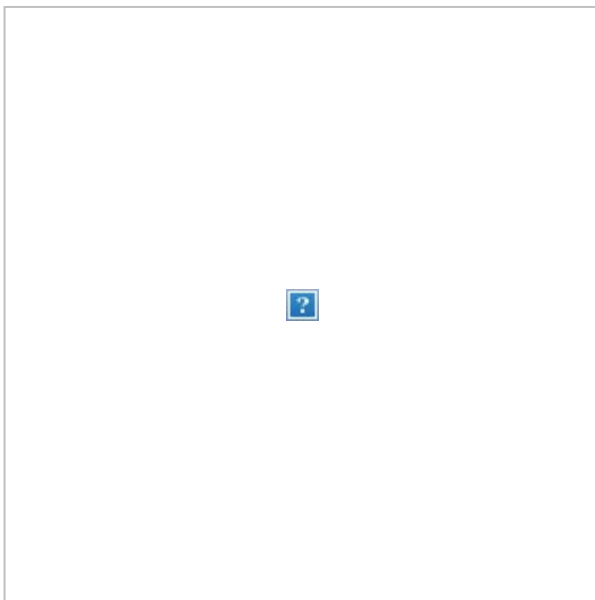


[A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures](#)

Published Oct. 9, The MMA and The Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University



[Register now](#) for Connect 351 in January! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video](#)!



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

['60 Minutes' reports on Chinese hacking of a Massachusetts town's utility network](#) - Boston Dot Com

[Hadley officials to discuss looming layoffs; fire Department facing cuts after failed override](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Methuen housing plan highlights growing senior population](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Taller, and made of timber, a new way to build affordable housing could soon rise in Cambridge](#) - Boston Globe

[Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo 'On the Record' about Halloween tourism, local challenges](#) - WCVB

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

What We're Reading

[Applying a new lens on city storytelling](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Anybody passing through the concourse level of Philadelphia's Municipal Services Building to secure a business license or pay a water bill has probably noticed them: photographs of office windows looking out at skyscrapers, parking lots, thoroughfares. Each of them presents a different perspective of the city from within a civil servant's workplace, and they are interspersed with quotes from city employees describing what it means to them to deliver for residents every day.

Capturing people's attention is one of the first steps in successful storytelling. And, in today's fast-paced and fragmented media space, newsletters, press releases, and Facebook posts are rarely enough for city leaders looking to

connect with residents. That's what makes this effort in Philadelphia stand out. The work of Emilio Martínez Poppe, himself a city employee in New York City, the project powerfully conveys the determination and value of the people who patrol the streets, maintain the parks, and respond to resident complaints. And, in doing so, it offers a model for how cities can be more ambitious, more experimental and, ultimately, more effective in their outreach.

By thinking outside the box, Philadelphia—whose Mayor Cherelle Parker is a participant in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative—is offering lessons to local leaders everywhere as they seek to build trust, improve morale, and show that their city is ready to deliver."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[Navigating Student Debt with Savi webinar](#) - Oct. 22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Fall Mentorship Session](#) - Oct. 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 23

[Unlock MassDOT Funding for your Municipality webinar](#) - Nov. 6

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - Nov. 13

[Planning and Partnering for Impact: Best Practices for Municipal Opioid Settlement Funds webinar](#) - Nov. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 20-21

[View our entire event calendar](#)

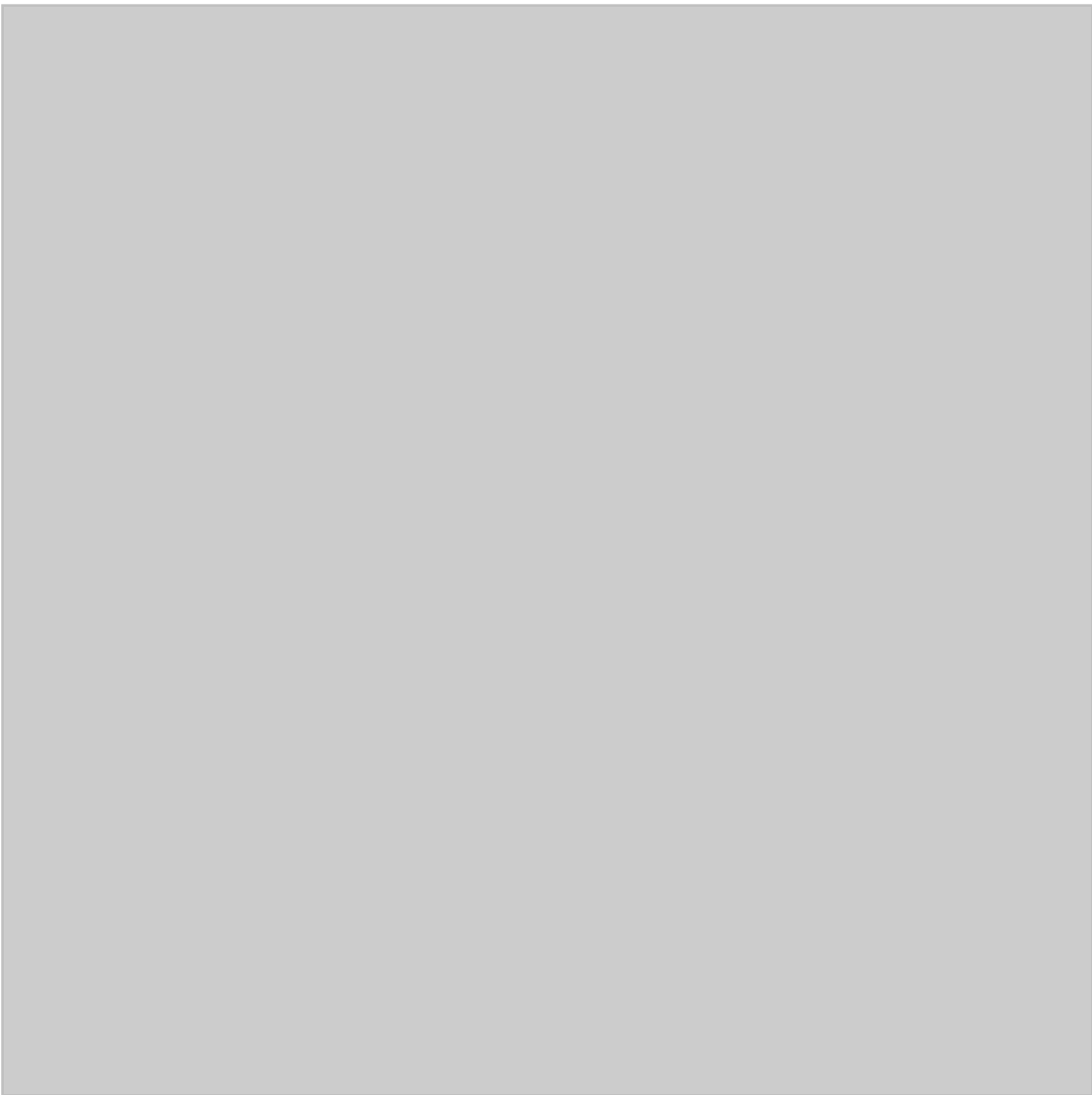
In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar to cover student loan debt strategies for public employees](#)
 - [MMLA to hold conference in Northampton on Oct. 23-24](#)
 - [State to host public hearings to review K-12 school finance formula](#)
 - [ASPA virtual meeting will explore government careers](#)
 - [ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Oct. 18](#)
 - [Survey seeks to assess how cities, towns engage with technology](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars Oct. 21 and 23](#)
 - [Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Runners took part in the Cape Code Marathon Weekend this past weekend in Falmouth. Races included a half-marathon on Oct. 11 (left) and a marathon on Oct. 12 (right). The course hugs the town's coastline, providing views of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Sound. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Medicare Specialist](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 41 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Accountant, Wastewater Superintendent, Community Programs Director, Assistant Animal Control Officer, Civil Engineer and City Clerk. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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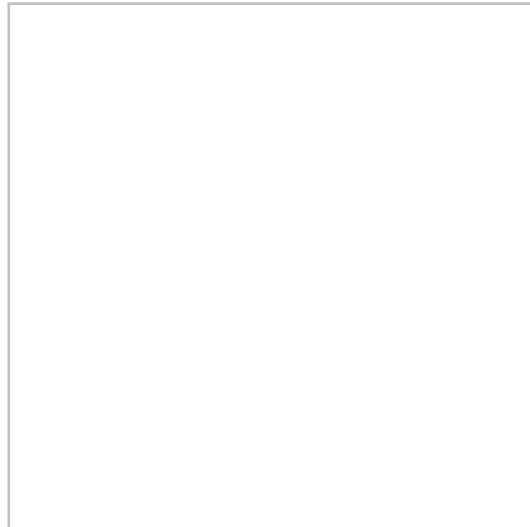
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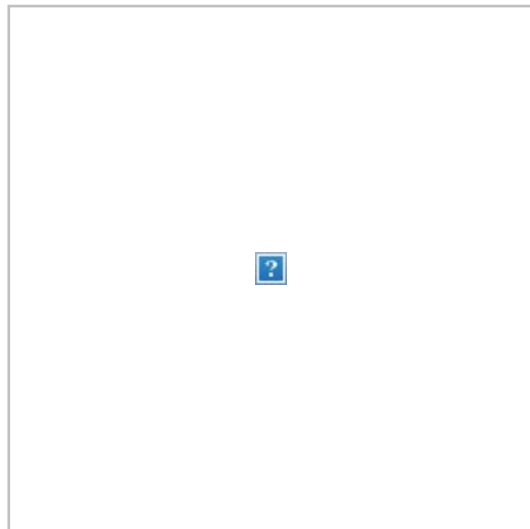
[Gov. Healey files FY24 state budget proposal](#)

Today Gov. Maura Healey filed her \$55.5 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2024, which includes funding for local accounts that she announced last week. ...



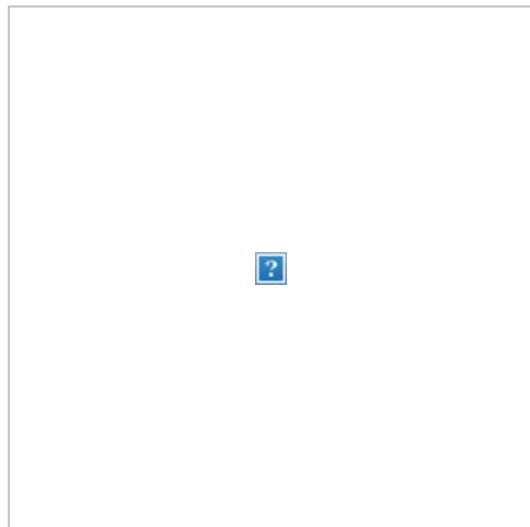
[MMA publishes March issue of The Beacon](#)

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[House OK's budget bill with pandemic extensions](#)

Today the House passed a redrafted version of a \$282 million supplemental 2023 budget bill filed by Gov. Maura Healey in January that includes a majority of her "immediate needs" bond bill, as well as extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining. ...



[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

Registration is now open for the

MMA's spring series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on March 17 and March 24. ...



Housing task force files report

A special task force established to help determine the structure of a new housing secretariat and inform the process of filling the position has filed its report with Gov. Maura Healey. ...



Community One Stop for Growth accepting Expressions Of Interest

Community One Stop for Growth is accepting Expressions of Interest through March 17 from potential applicants prior to submitting a full application. ...



'Nero's Law' training deadline extended by a year

The Office of Emergency Medical

Services in the Department of Public Health has extended the compliance deadline for emergency medical service providers to be trained in police dog treatment and transport.

...



MMA to host social media best practices webinar on March 7

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 7 about how to use social media as a tool to communicate and engage with communities while complying with the unique requirements imposed on municipal officials. ...



Local Technical Assistance Program to host grant writing webinar on March 9

The Local Technical Assistance Program will host a free grant writing webinar on March 9 covering the basics of completing a grant or funding application and a method for approaching and completing applications. ...



MMA to host 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series

On March 15, the MMA will launch

“Reframing Recruitment,” a free monthly webinar series for appointed and elected municipal officials that will showcase timely hiring strategies that can set your community up for success. ...



[MMA to host webinar on dealing with conflict March 28](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 28 will highlight strategies for effective conflict management. ...



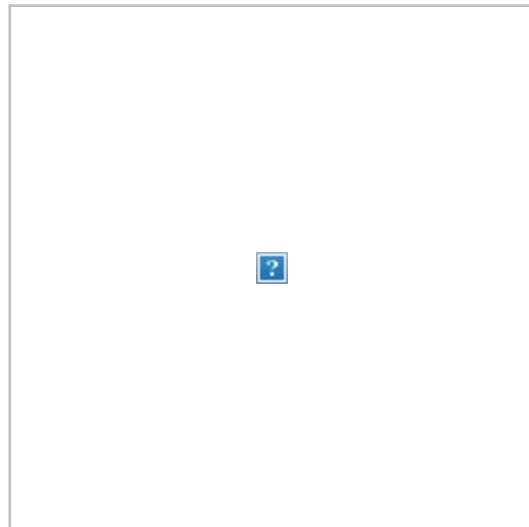
[TransitMatters publishes toolkit to promote 'Mobility Hubs'](#)

TransitMatters has published a new toolkit to help municipalities, nonprofits and other community leaders bring Mobility Hubs into their neighborhoods. ...



[Citizen Planner Training Collaborative annual conference is March 18](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its annual conference on March 18 in Worcester. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Budget-setting season kicks off on Beacon Hill](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

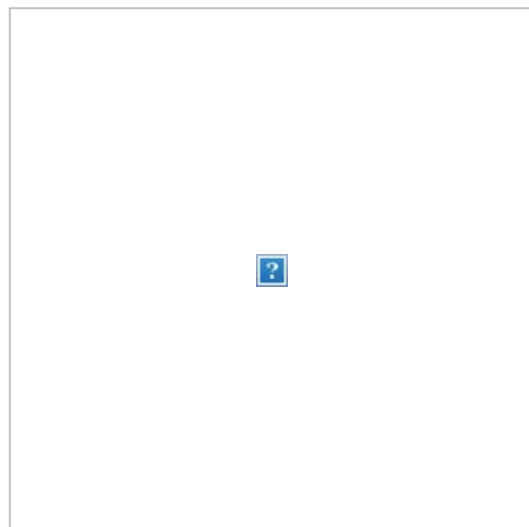
[MMA urges legislators to extend remote meeting authority](#)

On Feb. 24, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

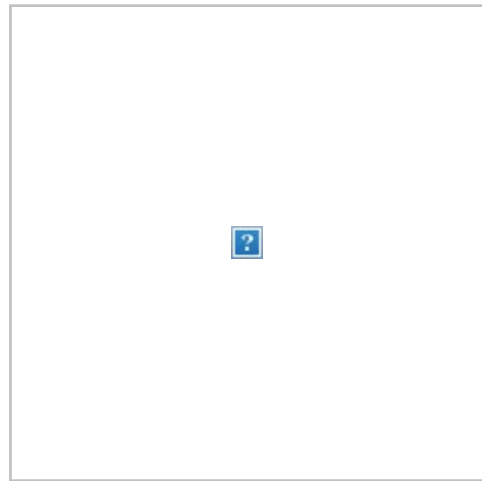
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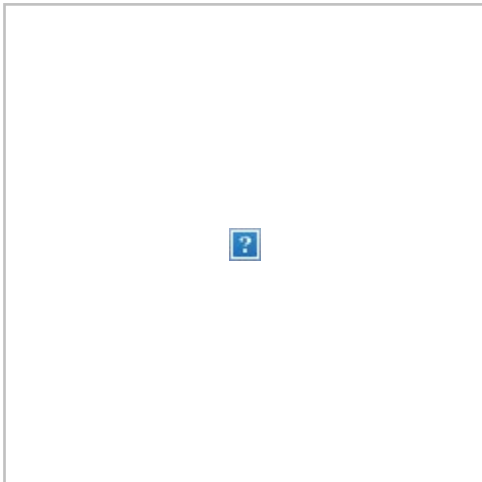
[MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show is March 23](#)

The MassRecycle Conference and Trade Show will be held on March 23 in Marlborough. ...



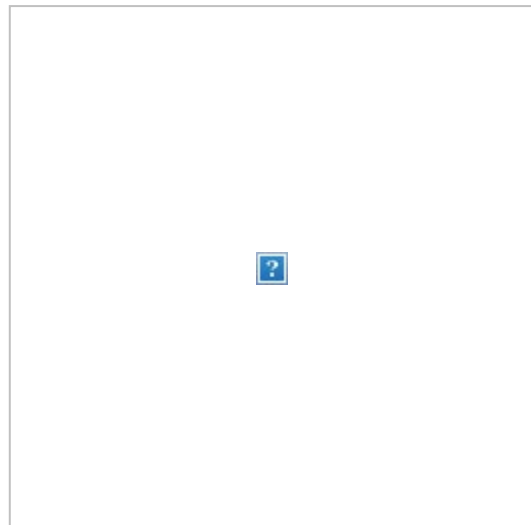
[NLC holding Congressional City Conference March 26-28](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 26-28, in Washington, DC. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

MassHousing has opened the application period for the Planning for Housing Production Grant Program, which provides cities and towns with the technical capacity needed to implement local planning and transform priority development sites into new affordable homes. ...



[Municipalities must respond by April 18 for additional opioid settlement funds](#)

In late 2022, the Attorney General's Office announced proposed opioid

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[MMA launches Mass Municipal Data Hub](#)

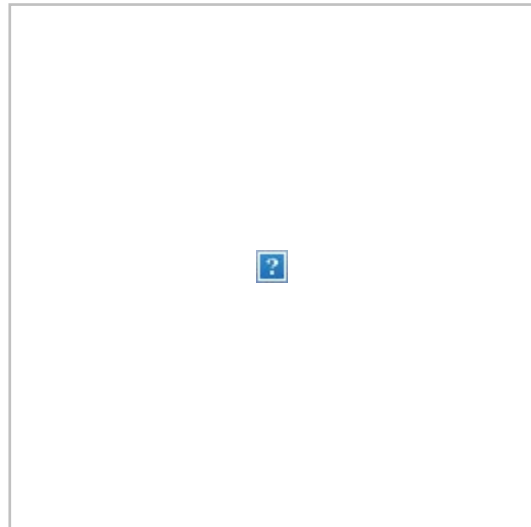
Just hours before its Annual Meeting began on Jan. 20, the MMA launched a new, online members service: the Mass Municipal Data Hub. ...

[CDBG application deadline coming soon](#)

The Department of Housing and Community Development is accepting applications for a round of Community Development Block Grants, with a deadline of March 3. ...



Federal Funds Resource Area



New in COVID-19 Guidance

[See our entire COVID-19 resource center](#)

Upcoming MMA Events

[Social Media Best Practices Webinar](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Association webinar](#) - March 9

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: Setting the Table – Vacancies and Advertising](#) - March 15

[MMA-Suffolk Certificate and Finance Seminar Programs Zoom Information Session](#) - March 16

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Fairhaven and Tyngsborough\)](#) - March 17

[Select Board Association webinar](#) - March 17

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - March 23

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Adams and Westfield\)](#) - March 24

[Coping with Conflict Webinar](#) - March 28

[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 58 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Accountant, Library Director, Electrician, Public Health Nurse, Finance Director, Assistant Conservation Agent, Office Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Accounting Clerk. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



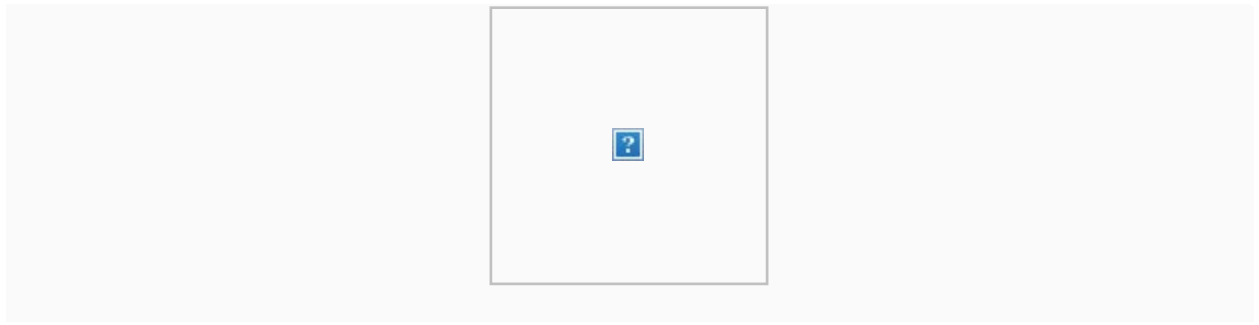
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MMA Website Weekly Review

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Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

[Gov. signs supplemental budget with pandemic-era extensions, key investments](#)

Gov. Maura Healey this afternoon signed a fiscal 2023 spending package that includes more than \$740 million in bonding

authorizations, \$389 million in supplemental spending, and a number of policy provisions, including extensions of pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining.

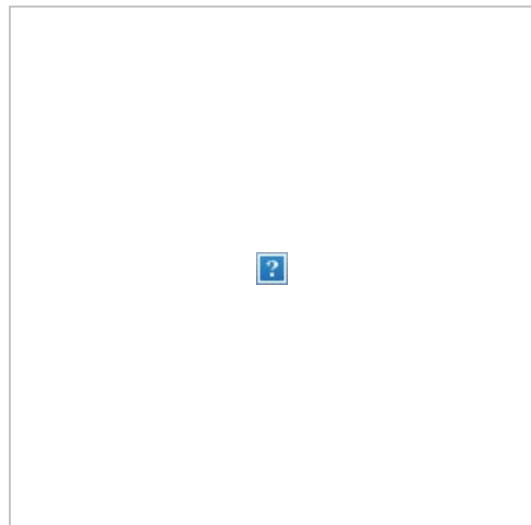
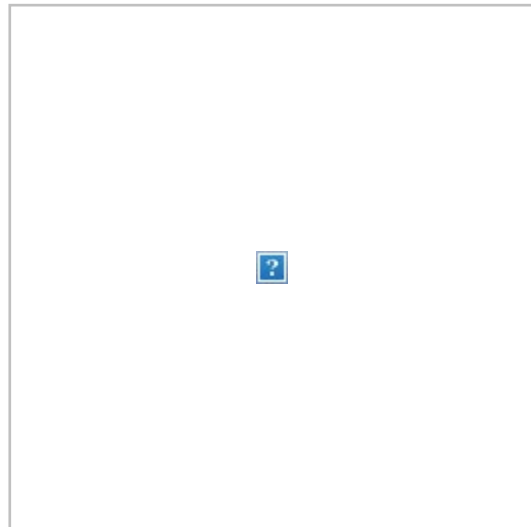
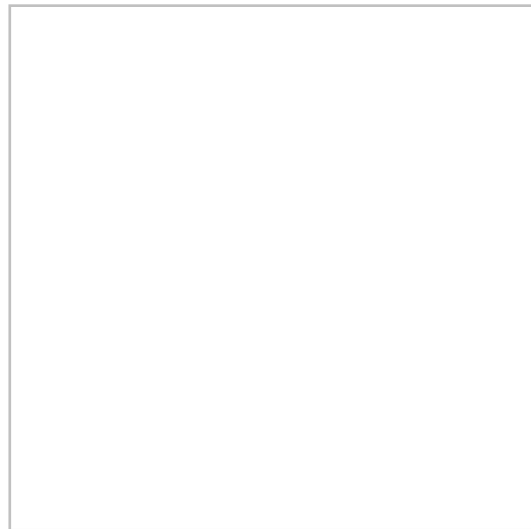
...

Senate passes Ch. 90 bill with small variations from House version

The Senate today passed a Chapter 90 bond bill that would level-fund the local road and bridge program at \$200 million for fiscal 2024, while also providing a total of \$150 million for six transportation-related programs. ...

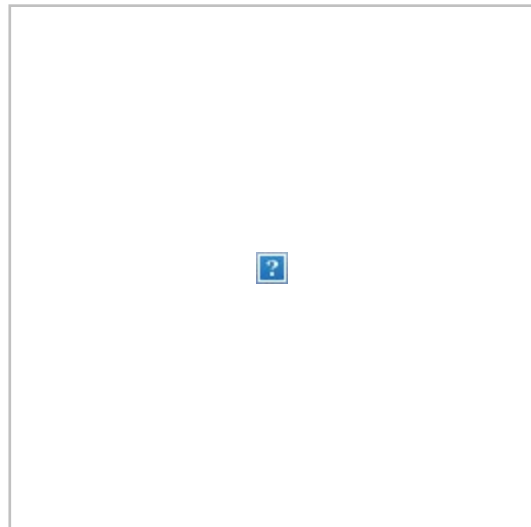
MMA holds spring Legislative Breakfast Meetings

On two Fridays in March, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for a series of four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



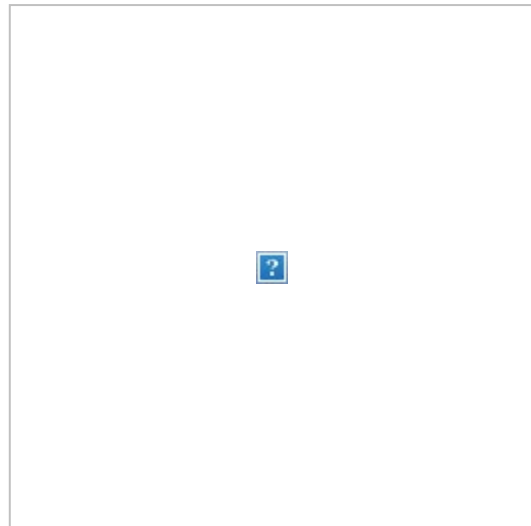
[**MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials**](#)

Amid a busy start for the 2023-24 legislative session and the new Healey-Driscoll administration, the MMA's Legislative team hosted a briefing webinar for local officials today to provide updates on key legislative matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



[**EPA seeks to regulate 6 PFAS in drinking water nationwide**](#)

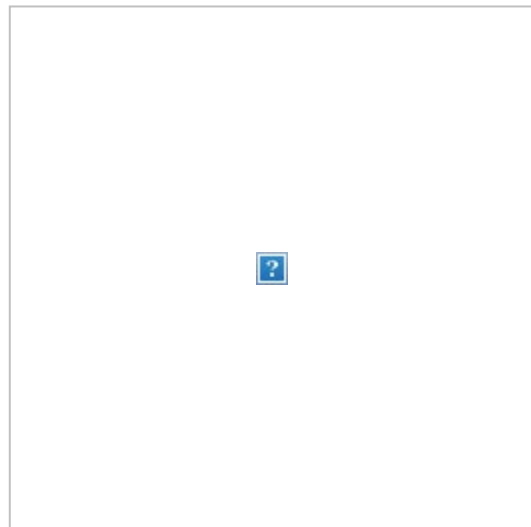
On March 14, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a new regulatory proposal to set enforceable limits on six PFAS, known as “forever chemicals,” in drinking water across the nation. ...



[**Administration announces end of COVID public health emergency**](#)

Three years after it began, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state's COVID-19 public health emergency will end on May 11, to align with the end of the federal public health emergency.

...



[**MMA webinar shares effective internal conflict resolution strategies**](#)

An MMA webinar today covered how to skillfully manage internal conflict, neutralize its negative effects, and maintain a positive and healthy work culture. ...



2nd session of ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar series is April 19

“The Interview Process,” the second session in the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” webinar series, will be held on April 19. ...



MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws

A free MMA webinar on April 25 will provide an overview of recent developments related to the state’s public records and open meeting laws. ...



Communities form new coalition to facilitate broadband efforts

More than 25 cities and towns have

formed a coalition to facilitate networking among communities with broadband ambitions. ...



[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



New in [Resources](#)

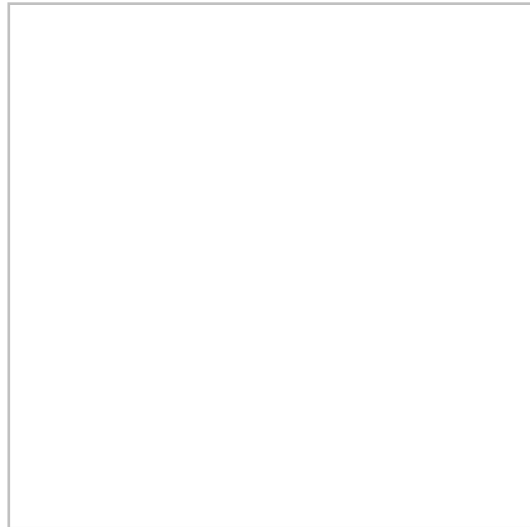
[Seven Strategies to Minimize Negative Impacts of Outdoor Light at Night](#)

In Case You Missed It

[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

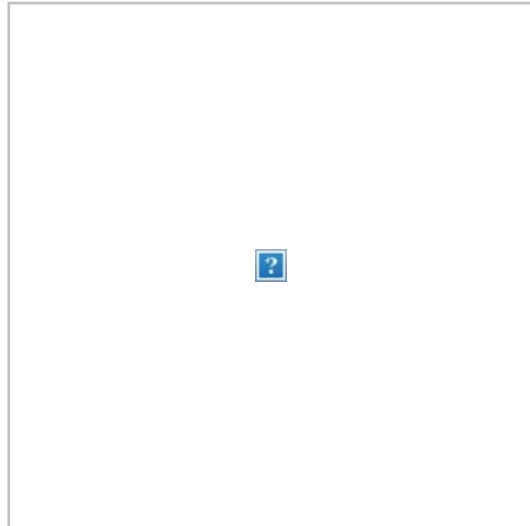
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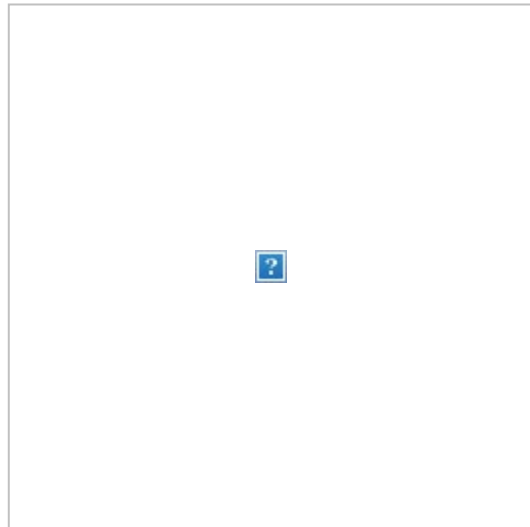
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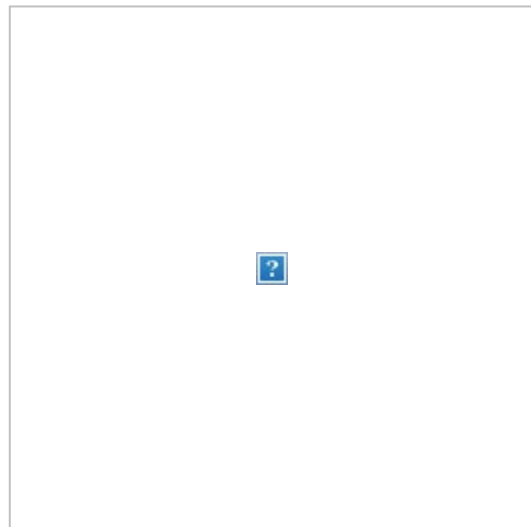
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

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Upcoming MMA Events

[MSA Western Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 1

[MMA Policy Briefing Webinar: The Future of Cannabis & Municipalities](#) - April 6

[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: The Interview Process](#) - April 19

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Webinar](#) - April 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association statewide meeting](#) - April 27

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium](#) - April 28

[Association of Town Finance Committees Spring Conference](#) - April 29

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources HR101 bootcamp](#) - May 11

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: What Happens After the Offer](#) - May 17

[View our entire event calendar](#)

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We've added 52 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Director, Town Clerk, Youth Development Coordinator, Network

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[MMA hosts webinar on regulatory developments related to cannabis](#)

The MMA held a virtual briefing today to discuss regulatory developments at the Cannabis Control Commission and how regulations being developed for

three areas — host community agreements, municipal equity, and social consumption — will impact municipalities. ...

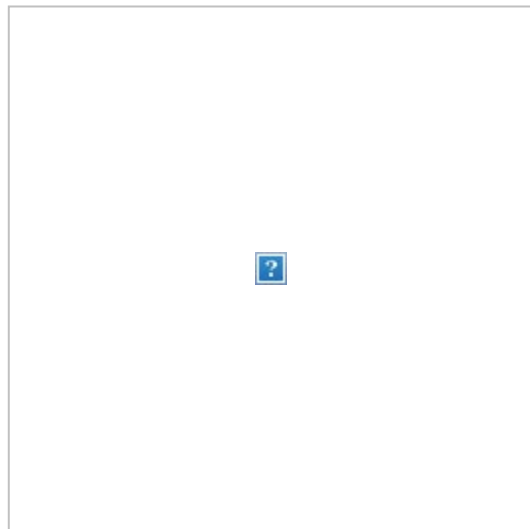
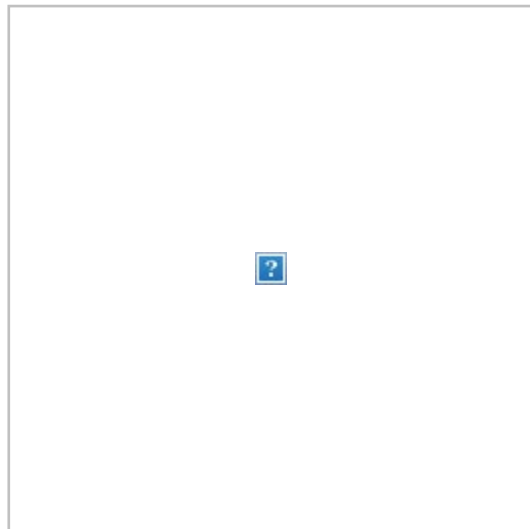
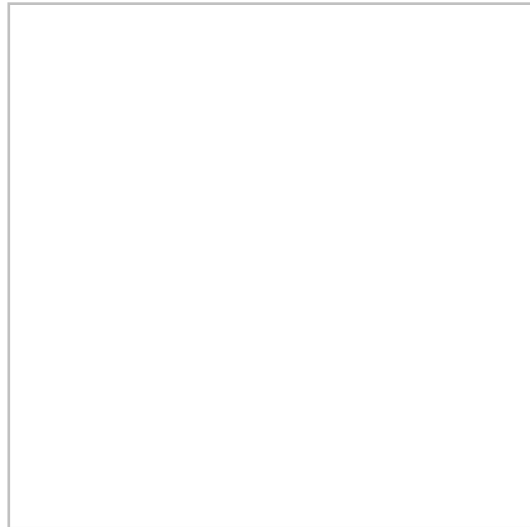
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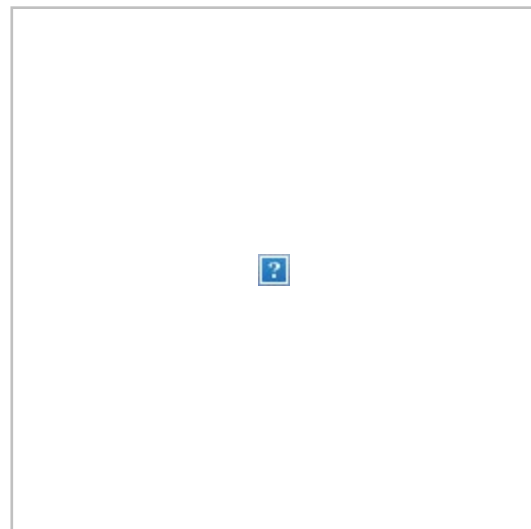
[**Officials discuss unique challenges facing western and rural Mass.**](#)

Municipal officials from across the western part of the state gathered on April 1 in Holyoke to hear from state officials and legislators about priorities and opportunities for collaboration. ...

[**MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program**](#)

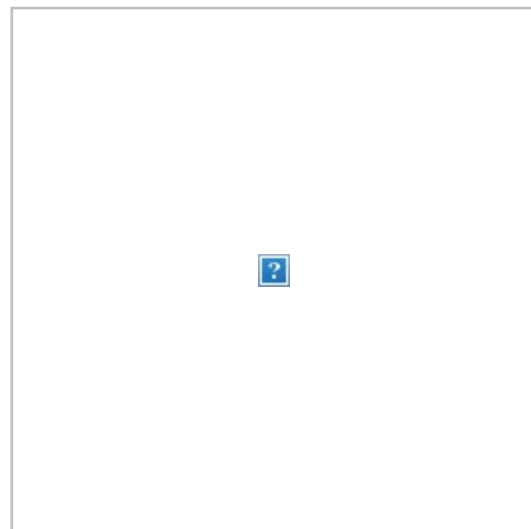


The application deadline is April 30 for the MMA and Suffolk University's Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs scheduled for this fall. ...



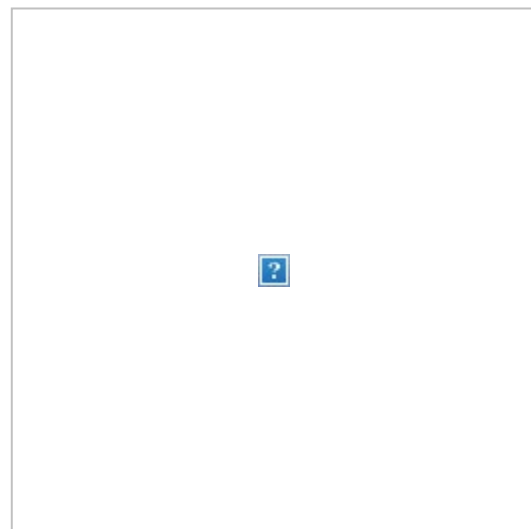
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Franklin County, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket team up to improve road safety

Relying on their shared rural character instead of geographic proximity, Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and the communities of Franklin County are sharing a federal grant to improve road safety. ...



[Northampton creates new climate department](#)

Hoping to inject climate awareness into all of City Hall's operations, Northampton is assembling a new department that focuses on climate change and sustainability. ...



[Police turn to co-response protocol for mental health crises](#)

Local police departments are increasingly implementing "co-response" protocols for calls involving mental health crises, where a licensed social worker serves on department staff and responds to calls alongside police officers. ...



[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[DEI builds stronger, healthier communities](#)

On March 31, Executive Director's Report

[MMA joins firefighters, fire chiefs and ambulance association in asking legislators to help address staffing crisis impacting emergency medical service providers](#)

On March 31, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

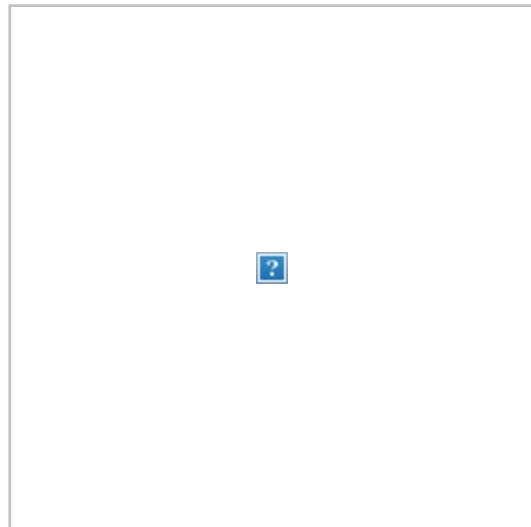
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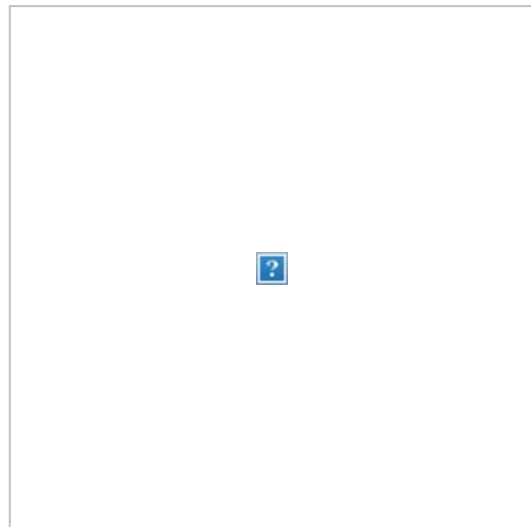
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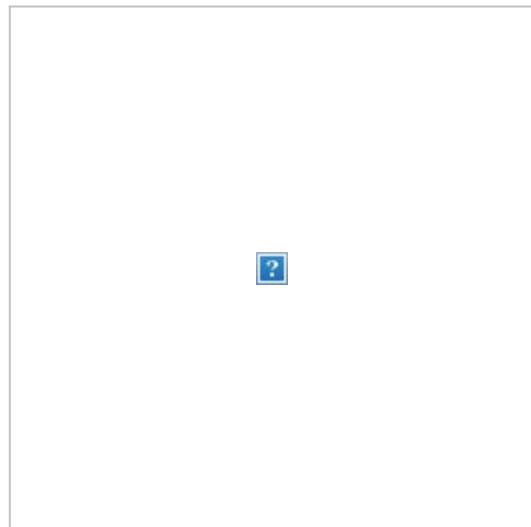
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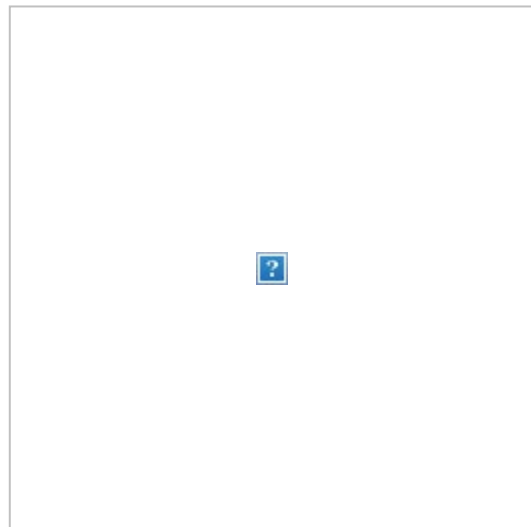
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[Management Association and Human Resources association joint meeting](#) - April 13

[Reframing Recruitment Webinar: The Interview Process](#) - April 19

[Public Records and Open Meeting Law Webinar](#) - April 25

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association statewide meeting](#) - April 27

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[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Annual Meeting](#) - June 15

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - June 22

[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 44 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Town Planner, Application Specialist, Project Manager, Building Commissioner, Heavy Equipment Operator, Staff Accountant and Principal Assessor. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[House releases FY24 state budget proposal](#)

The House Committee on Ways and Means today released a \$56.2 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2024 that will be taken up by the full House later this month. ...

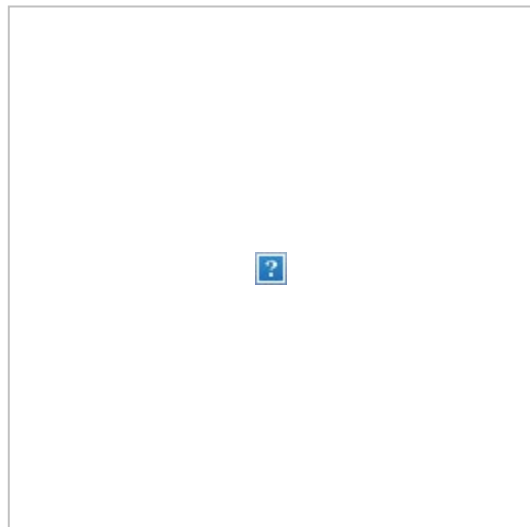
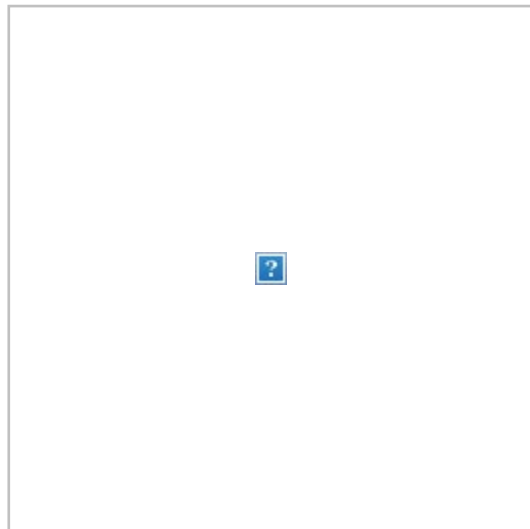
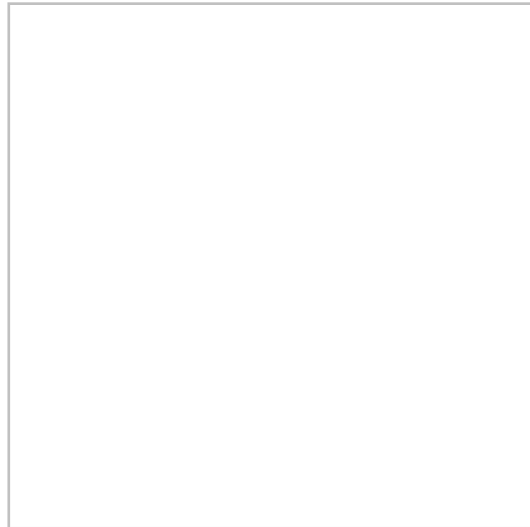
[Deadline is Friday for MSBA Core Program Statements of Interest](#)

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is reminding school districts that they have until Friday to submit Core Program Statements of Interest for consideration in 2023. ...

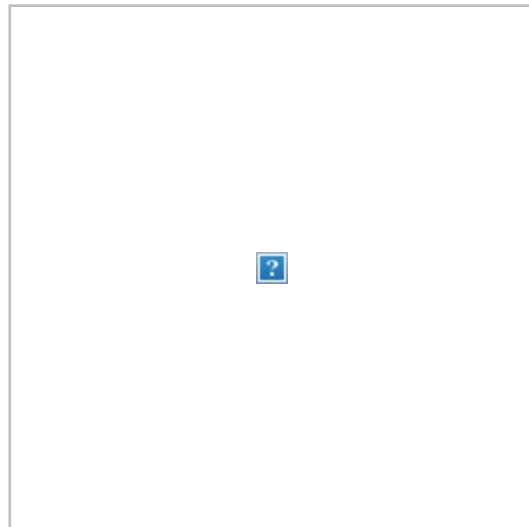
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[2nd session of 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar series is April 19](#)

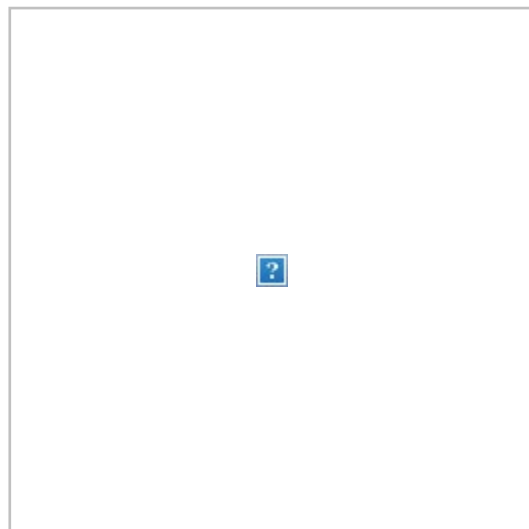


“The Interview Process,” the second session in the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” webinar series, will be held on April 19. ...



[MMA to host webinar on public records and open meeting laws](#)

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New in [Advocacy](#)

[In developing regulations, MMA urges CCC to avoid infringing on existing host community agreements](#)

On April 10, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program](#)

The application deadline is April 30

for the MMA and Suffolk University's Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs scheduled for this fall. ...



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The federal Office of Community Services is urging all water districts, particularly those serving large populations of low-income residents, to participate in a program to help low-income water and wastewater ratepayers. ...



[Tech support available through federal Thriving Communities Network](#)

Three technical support opportunities are now available through the federal government's Thriving Communities Network, a partnership among federal agencies intended to align and coordinate technical assistance offerings for communities. ...



[Electric and alternative vehicle charging infrastructure grant opens](#)

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI program), a new competitive grant program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration, is accepting applications through May 30. ...



[MassHousing offers Planning for Housing Production grants](#)

MassHousing has opened the application period for the Planning for Housing Production Grant Program, which provides cities and towns with the technical capacity needed to implement local planning and transform priority development sites into new affordable homes. ...

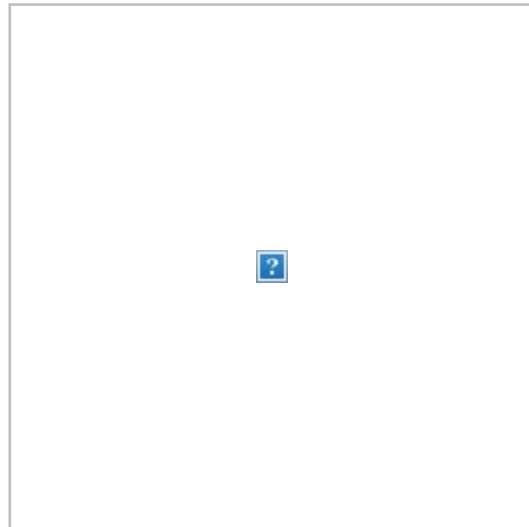


[Municipalities must respond by April 18 for additional opioid settlement funds](#)

In late 2022, the Attorney General's Office announced proposed opioid settlements with Teva, Allergan, Walgreens, Walmart and CVS, which will bring additional funds for prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery across Massachusetts. ...



[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New in [COVID-19 Guidance](#)

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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Director of Finance, Assistant Planner, Grants Administrative Assistant, Fire Chief, ISD Paralegal, Building Commissioner, Health Agent and Maintenance Craftsperson. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[FY24 MVP Action Grant applications due May 4](#)

Applications are due by 2 p.m. on
May 4 for fiscal 2024 Municipal
Vulnerability Preparedness Action
Grants, which offer financial
assistance to communities seeking

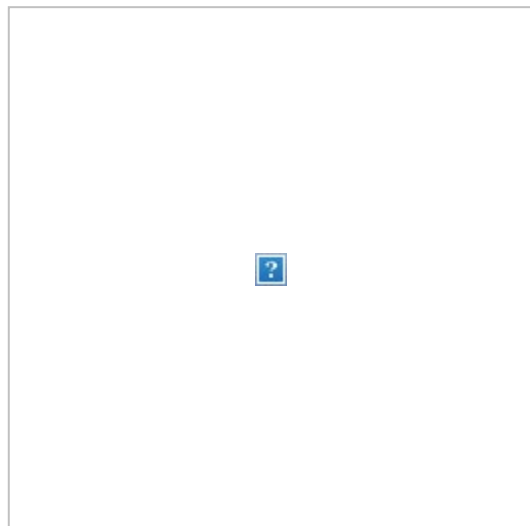
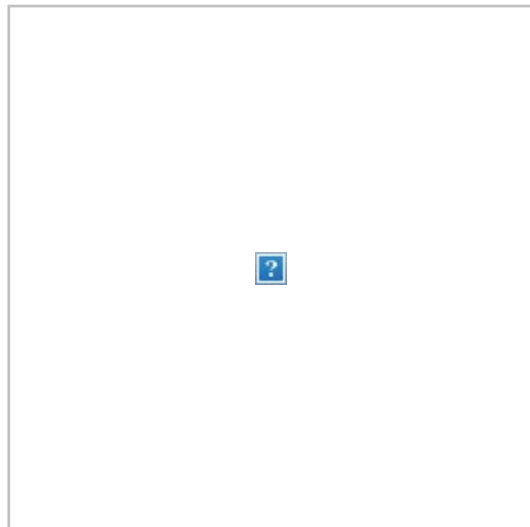
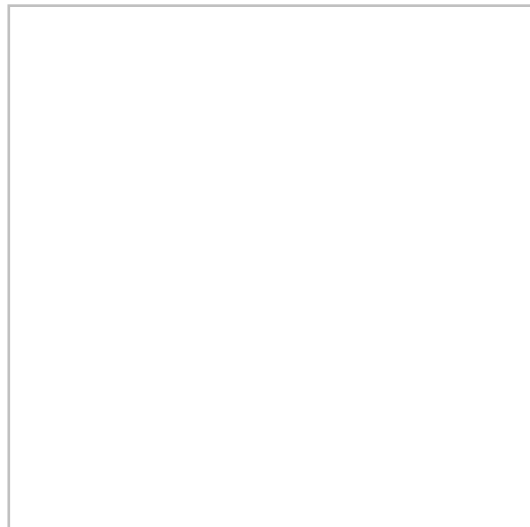
to address climate change impacts such as extreme weather and heat, sea level rise, flooding of inland and coastal areas, and other impacts. ...

[CCC working groups seek comment on regulatory areas under review](#)

Three working groups set up by the Cannabis Control Commission are seeking public comment through April 28 on areas where the CCC is reviewing its regulations and considering policy changes that respond to a comprehensive cannabis law enacted in August 2022. ...

[Administration awards \\$1.3B in loans, grants for water infrastructure projects](#)

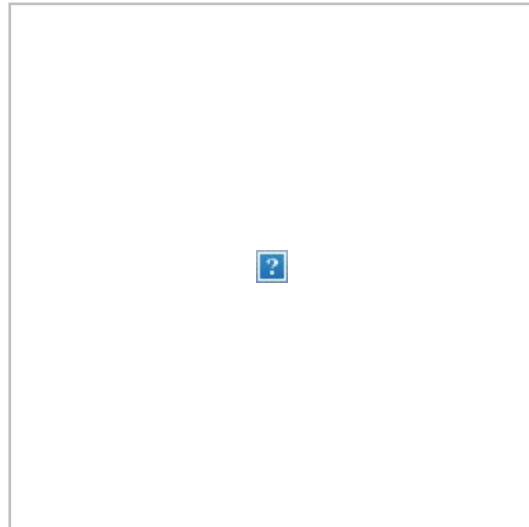
On April 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced that 185 projects across the Commonwealth are eligible to receive approximately \$1.3 billion in low-interest-rate loans and grants to fund construction, planning and asset management projects designed to improve water quality, upgrade or replace aging drinking water and wastewater



infrastructure, and cut treatment plant energy use and costs. ...

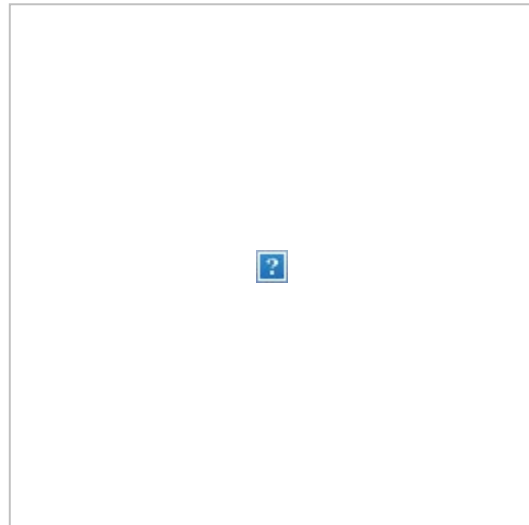
[Grants awarded for municipal clean energy projects](#)

On April 10, the Department of Energy Resources awarded 24 grants totaling \$344,736 to cities and towns across the Commonwealth to support clean energy projects. ...



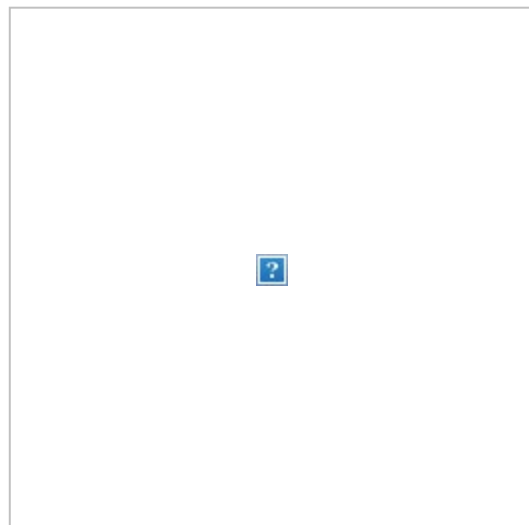
[CISA and partners release 'Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities'](#)

An international coalition of cybersecurity agencies today announced the publication of "Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities." ...



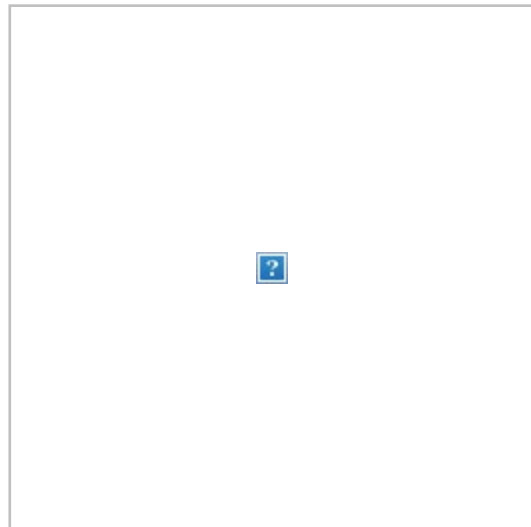
[AG reminds employers about laws for youth employment](#)

With summer employment on the horizon, the office of Attorney General Andrea Campbell is reminding municipal officials of the laws relating to employment of workers under the age of 18. ...



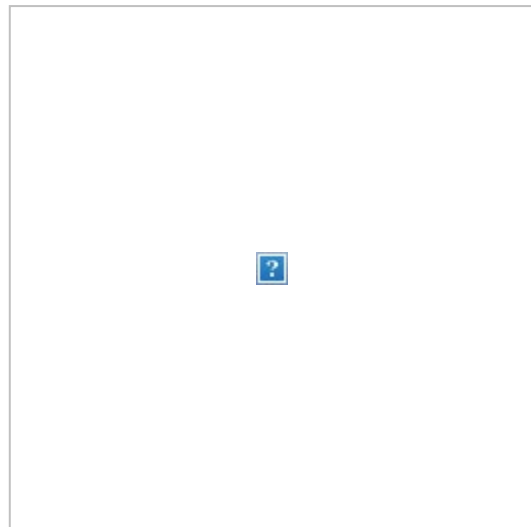
[Interview process is topic of 2nd 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar](#)

The MMA today hosted the second in a series of webinars for municipal officials to showcase timely hiring strategies to help communities succeed in a tight labor market. ...



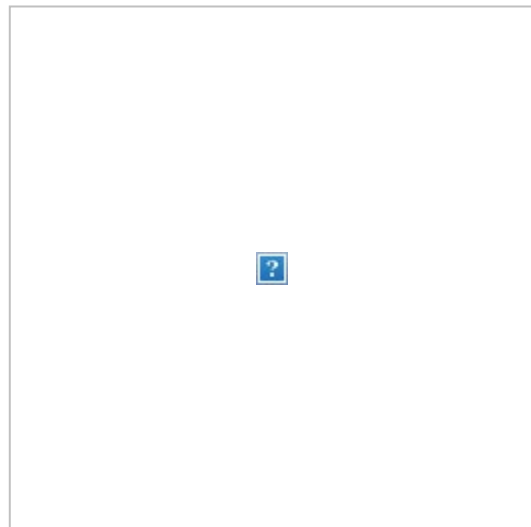
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The Massachusetts Municipal

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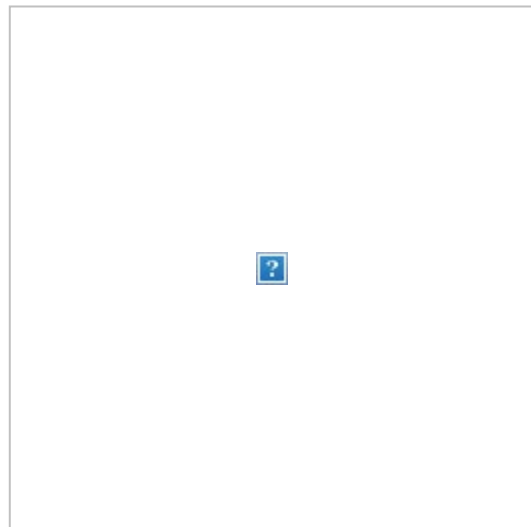
[May 23 webinar to offer practical guidelines for affordable housing](#)

A free MMA webinar on May 23 will discuss the “why” behind affordable housing and highlight the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...



[Newly enhanced BioMap available to support local conservation efforts](#)

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and The Nature Conservancy have enhanced an online resource, known as BioMap, that identifies critical lands and waters throughout Massachusetts most in need of conservation. ...



[MMA urges House members to support and build on impressive investments in House budget bill](#)

On April 20, Testimony

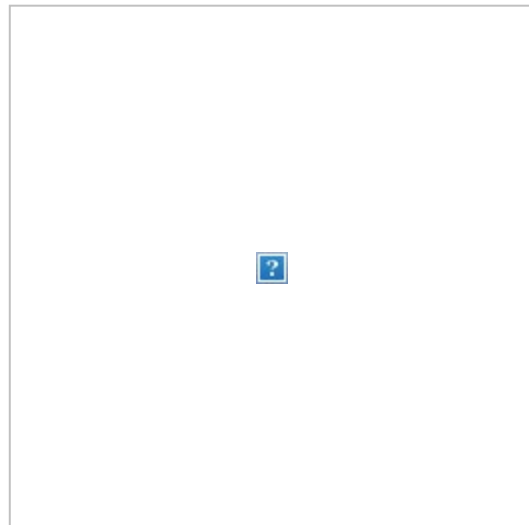
New in [Resources](#)

[Cybersecurity Best Practices for Smart Cities](#)

In Case You Missed It

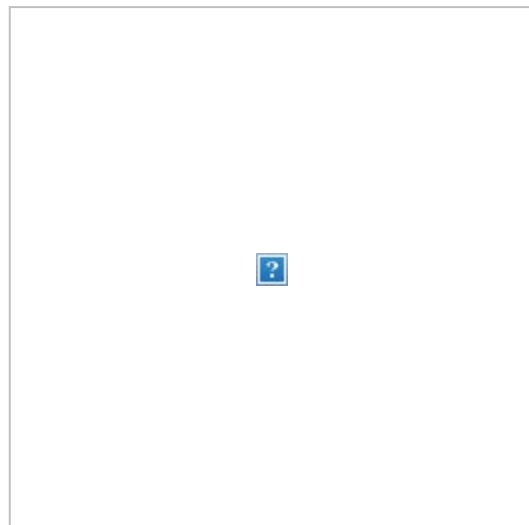
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[Water districts urged to sign on to program to help low-income ratepayers](#)

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[Tech support available through](#)

[**federal Thriving Communities Network**](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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We've added 49 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Special Projects and Grant Manager, Park and Tree Superintendent, Head Clerk, City Treasurer/Collector, Economic Development Planner, Data Analyst and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](https://mma.org).

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[House approves \\$56.2B state budget for FY24](#)

On Wednesday evening, the House of Representatives approved a \$56.2 billion state spending plan for fiscal 2024 that would increase Unrestricted General Government

Aid by 1.6% over the current year and significantly increase Chapter 70 school aid, in part by doubling minimum new aid to \$60 per pupil. ...

[MMA advertises executive director position, outlines schedule](#)

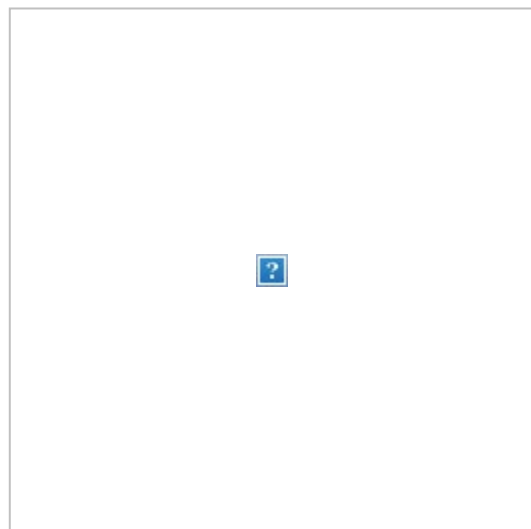
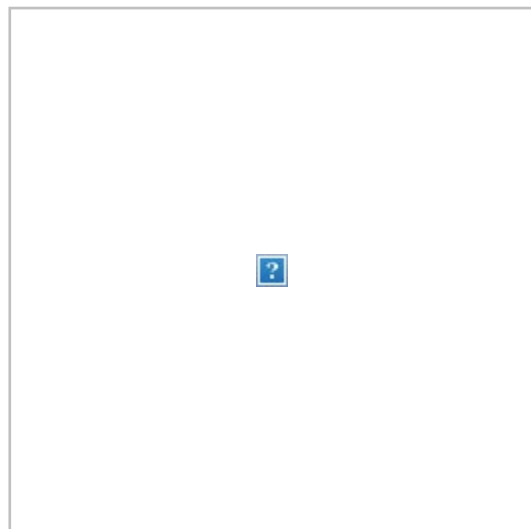
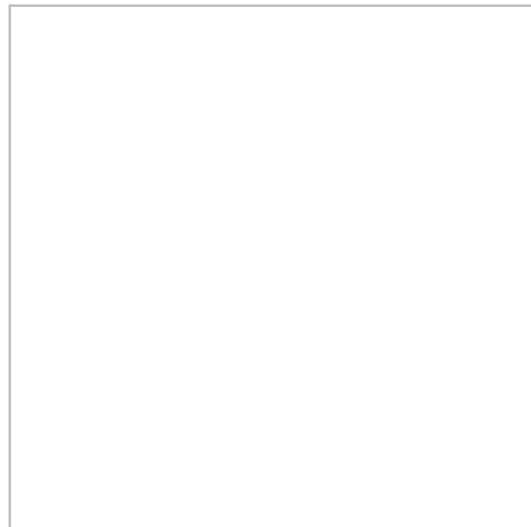
On April 21, the MMA published the job advertisement, along with a brochure, for the next executive director of the association. ...

[Gov. Healey announces next phase of climate resilience grant program](#)

Gov. Maura Healey and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper have announced a relaunch of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program's planning component, which they're calling MVP 2.0. ...

[Administration can move forward with new housing secretariat](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration



can now move forward with its plans to divide the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development into two separate offices, creating a new Office of Housing and Livable Communities and renaming the current office to the Office on Economic Development. ...

Chapter 90 bills await reconciliation

With the Legislature focused on the state budget process, the Chapter 90 bond bills passed by both the House and Senate in March have yet to be reconciled. ...

Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...

Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications

Back for its second year of awards,



the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. ...



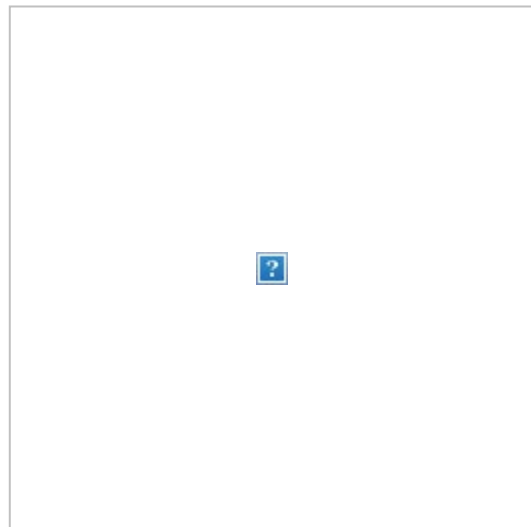
Infrastructure workforce development grants available

The U.S. Department of Labor, in coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



MMA webinar covers public records and open meeting laws

The MMA today hosted a webinar to highlight the importance of government transparency and review developments related to the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



Third 'Reframing Recruitment' webinar is May 17

"What Happens After the Offer," the

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[MMHR to hold HR101 boot camp in Boylston on May 11](#)

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[May 23 webinar to offer practical guidelines for affordable housing](#)

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[Former Beverly school to be reused as affordable housing for seniors and artists](#)

The city of Beverly held a ceremonial groundbreaking with state and local officials on March 6 at the site of a new housing project that will have 85 units for low-income seniors along with six live/work studio spaces for artists. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

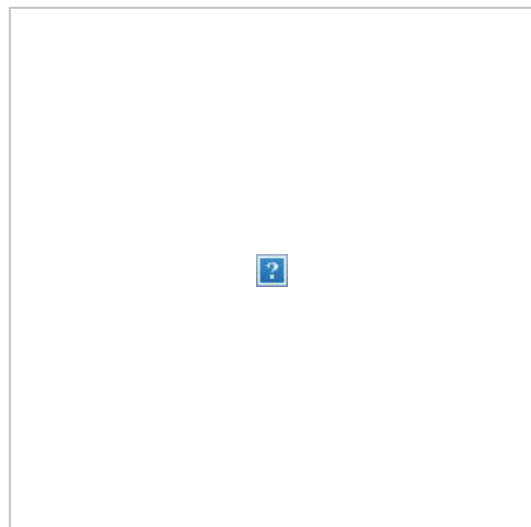
[MMA opposes costly bills that would move municipal employees into different retirement groups, increasing pension and health liabilities](#)

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[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA

[MMA Executive Director & CEO](#)

[Member Program Coordinator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[Senate passes \\$55.9B state budget for FY24](#)

The Senate last night approved a \$55.9 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that would increase discretionary local aid by 3.2% and provide \$60 per student in minimum

new Chapter 70 aid. ...

Sen. Anne Gobi named as director of rural affairs

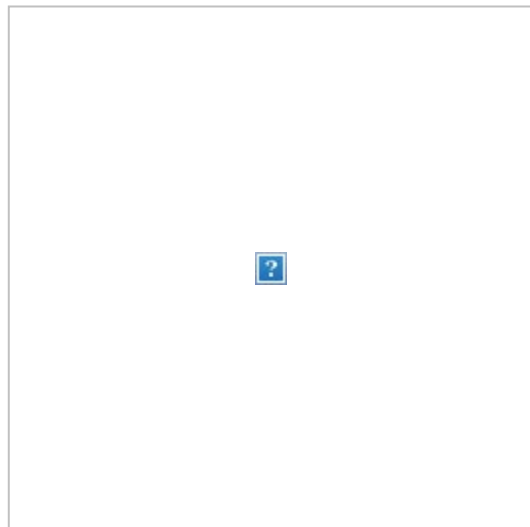
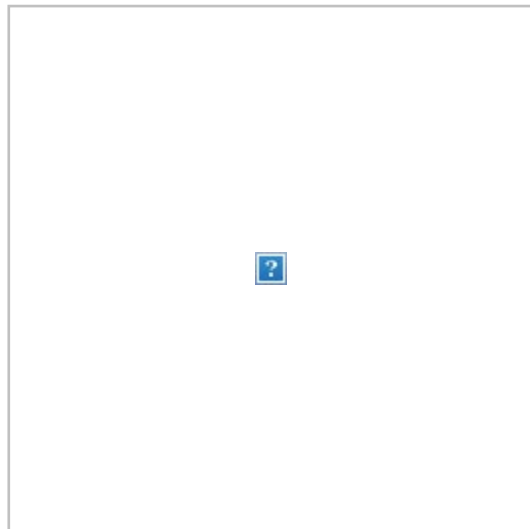
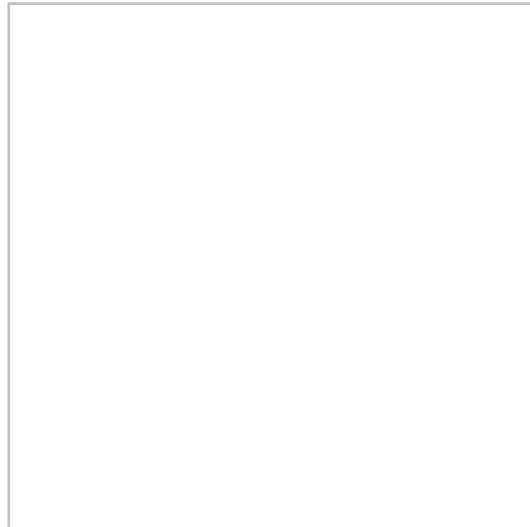
Gov. Maura Healey and Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced today that Sen. Anne Gobi will join the administration as the new director of rural affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development. ...

MMA webinar offers practical guidance for affordable housing

The MMA today hosted a webinar that explored the “why” behind affordable housing and emphasized the importance of building complete neighborhoods. ...

Management Association, DLS discuss role of assessors

The local assessing function was the



topic of a Massachusetts Municipal Management Association webinar on May 18 led by Chris Wilcock, chief of the Bureau of Local Assessment at the Division of Local Services. ...



MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



Final ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar is June 14

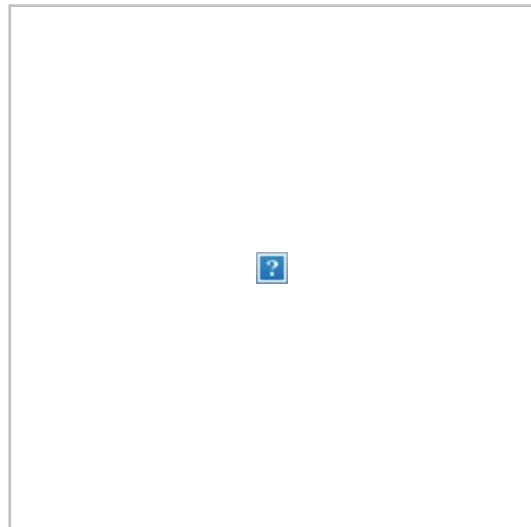
“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



Moderators Association to hold workshop for new moderators June 7

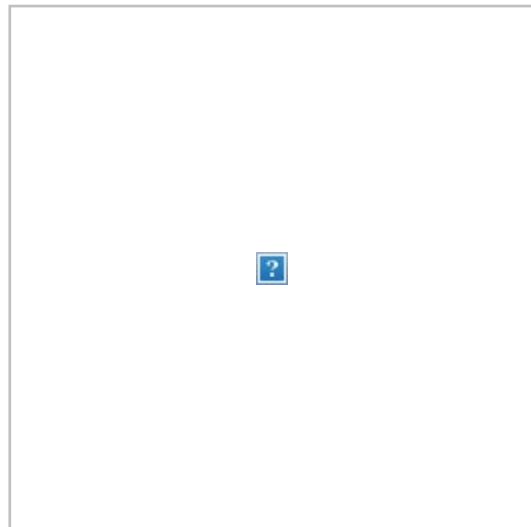
The Massachusetts Moderators Association will hold a free workshop for newly elected moderators on June 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom.

...



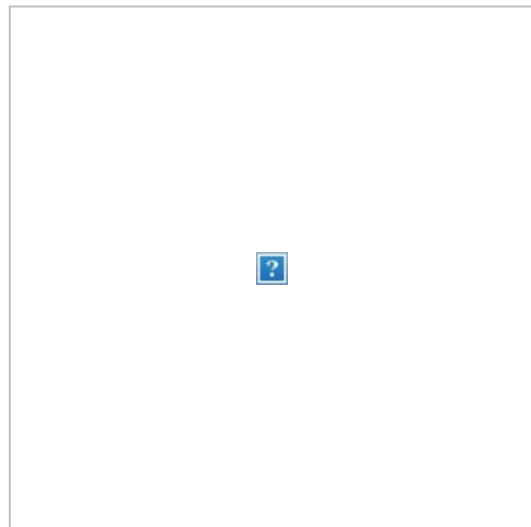
[MBLC to hold webinar on library operations and statutory requirements](#)

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will host a webinar for municipal leaders on June 15 to provide an overview of library operations, procedures and statutory requirements. ...



[Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



In Case You Missed It

[Administration makes additional grants available for housing production](#)

At the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting with local officials from across the state this afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the availability of additional funding for municipalities to support community planning and engagement efforts geared toward increasing the production of housing.

...

[MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7 in Boston](#)

The MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show will be held on June 7 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...

[Performance Recognition Program nomination process opens](#)

The Human Resources Division has opened the nomination process for the Commonwealth's Performance Recognition Program, which has been publicly acknowledging the outstanding performance of public employees for 38 years. ...

[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)



[Awareness Grant Program accepting applications](#)

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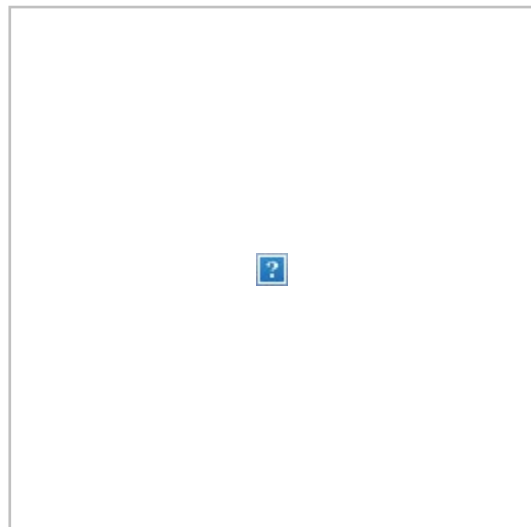
[Electric and alternative vehicle charging infrastructure grant opens](#)

The Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program (CFI program), a new competitive grant program overseen by the Federal Highway Administration, is accepting applications through May 30. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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[Job](#) Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 54 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Administrator, Town Engineer, Veterans Services Officer, Deputy Fire Chief, Community Development Accountant, HR Generalist and Director of Public Works. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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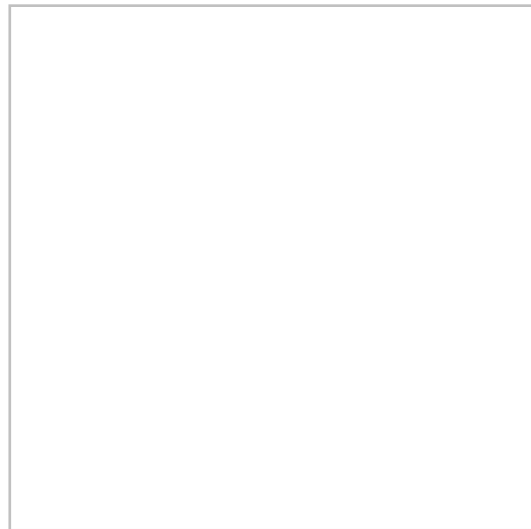
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[MMA publishes June issue of The Beacon](#)

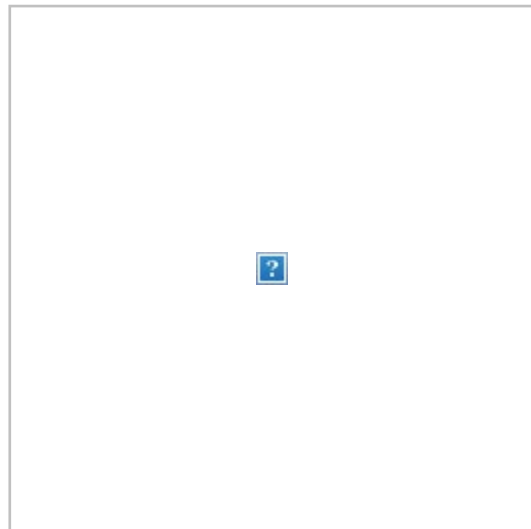
The MMA today published the June 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including fiscal 2024 state budget updates, plus

details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



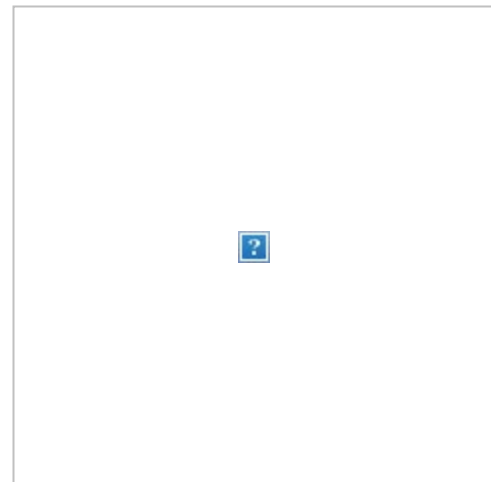
MMA testifies in support of wage equity push

The MMA testified on May 9 in support of a group of bills intended to close gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



NLC report: SLFRF funds not affected by debt ceiling agreement

As the U.S. Congress and the president work to lift the federal debt ceiling, the National League of Cities is reporting that State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act are not at risk of rescission by the federal government. ...



Training for newly elected select board members is June 9

On June 9, the Massachusetts Select Board Association will hold a

free training session for newly elected select board members to help them have a successful start in their new role. ...



MMA to host webinars in June on SJC ruling in Southborough case

Two free MMA webinars in June will cover the implications of a recent Supreme Judicial Court ruling that a public comment policy, or “civility restraint,” violates free speech rights. ...



Final ‘Reframing Recruitment’ webinar is June 14

“Key Takeaways from Vacancy to Post-Recruitment,” the final webinar of the MMA’s monthly “Reframing Recruitment” series, will be held on June 14 and begin at 1 p.m. ...



Sustainable materials recovery program grant applications due June 14

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has opened the application period for a new round of Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grants. ...



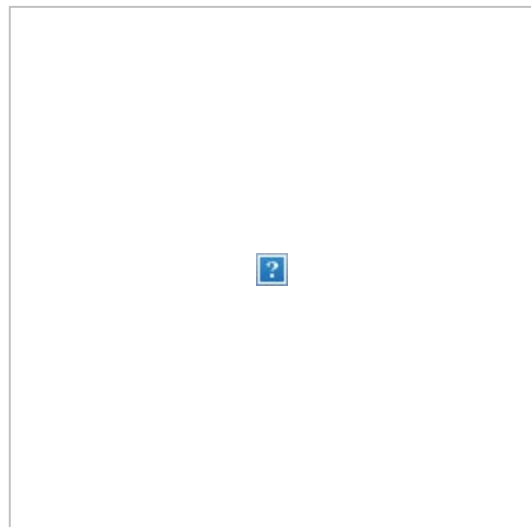
[Broadband and Digital Equity Summit is June 13](#)

A Broadband and Digital Equity Summit on June 13 at Union Station in Worcester will bring together state, local and federal government officials, as well as representatives from industry, community organizations and others, to discuss the once-in-a-generation federal investment coming to the Commonwealth to close the digital divide and provide internet for all. ...



[Federal, state clean school bus programs accepting applications](#)

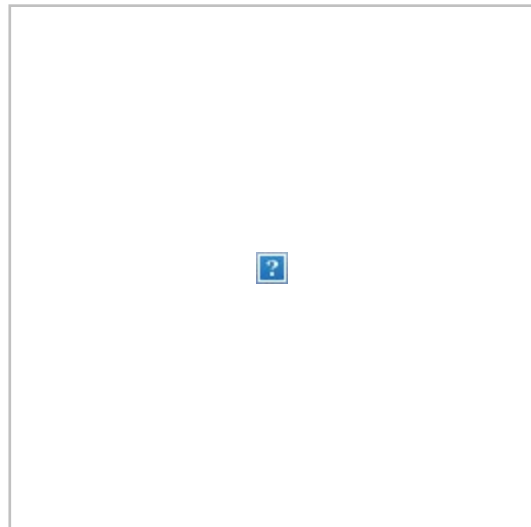
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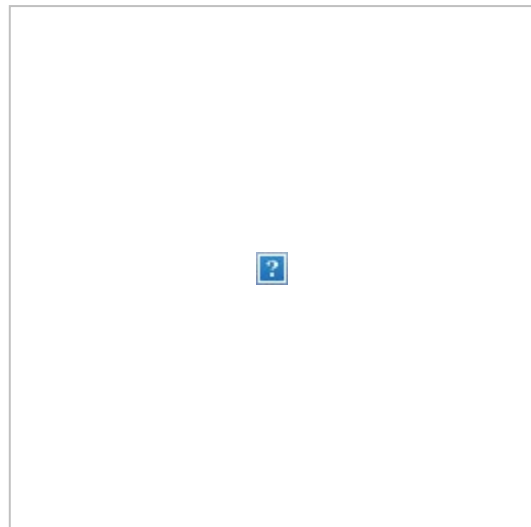
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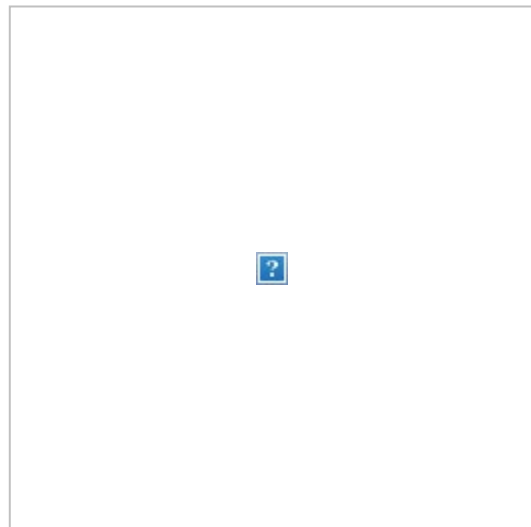
[Moderators Association to hold workshop for new moderators June 7](#)

The Massachusetts Moderators Association will hold a free workshop for newly elected moderators on June 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., via Zoom. ...



[MBLC to hold webinar on library operations and statutory requirements](#)

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will host a webinar for municipal leaders on June 15 to provide an overview of library operations, procedures and statutory requirements. ...



[Unchecked, AI will disrupt government and communities](#)

On June 1, Executive Director's Report

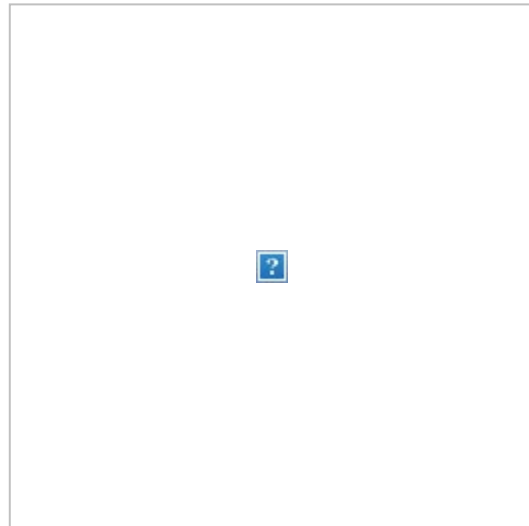
[In letter to EPA, MMA raises concerns about costs and timelines for PFAS remediation](#)

On May 30, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

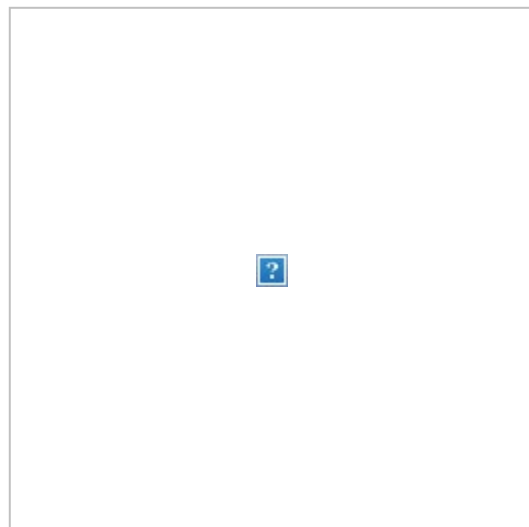
[Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...



[Administration makes additional grants available for housing production](#)

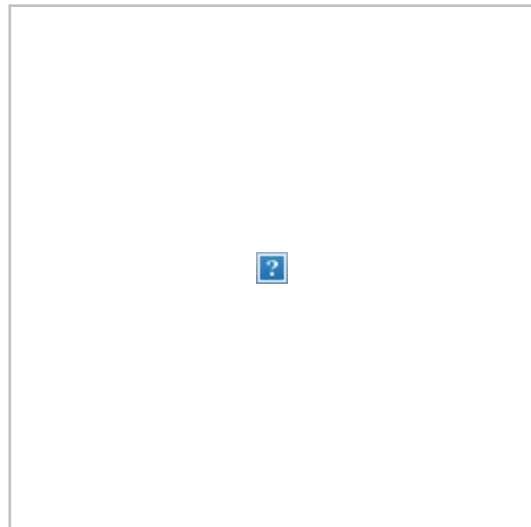
At the Local Government Advisory Commission meeting with local officials from across the state this afternoon, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll announced the availability of additional funding for municipalities to support community planning and engagement efforts geared toward increasing the production of housing. ...



[MASSBUYS Expo business-to-government trade show is June 7](#)

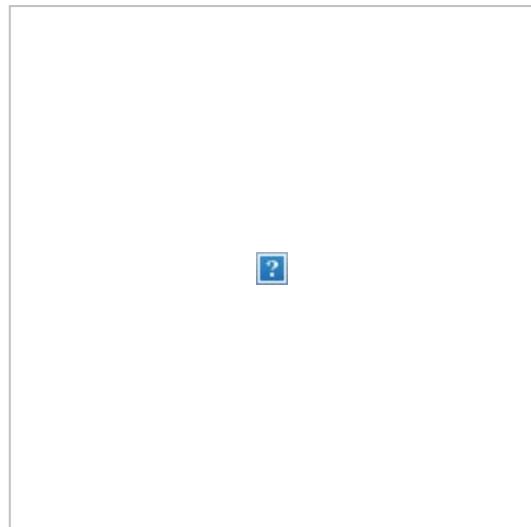
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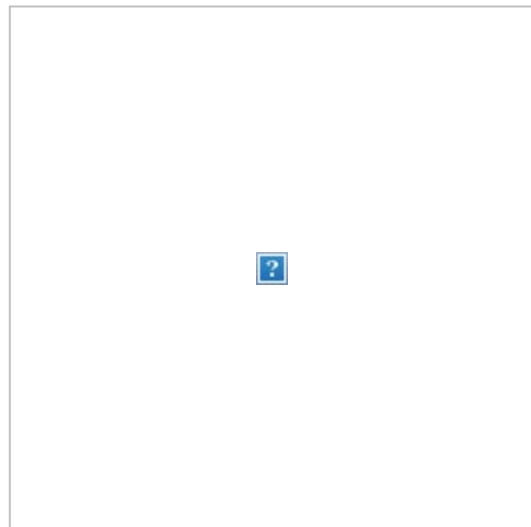
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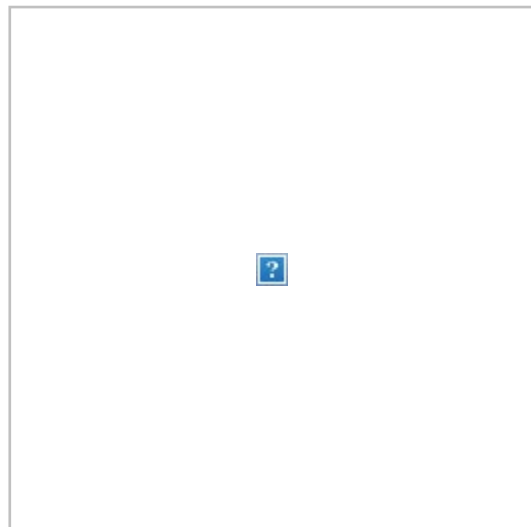
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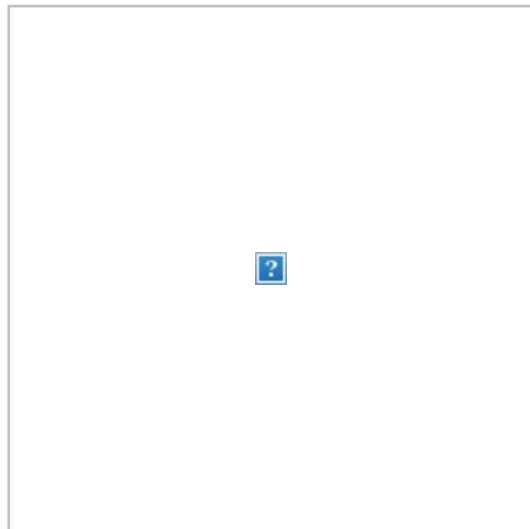
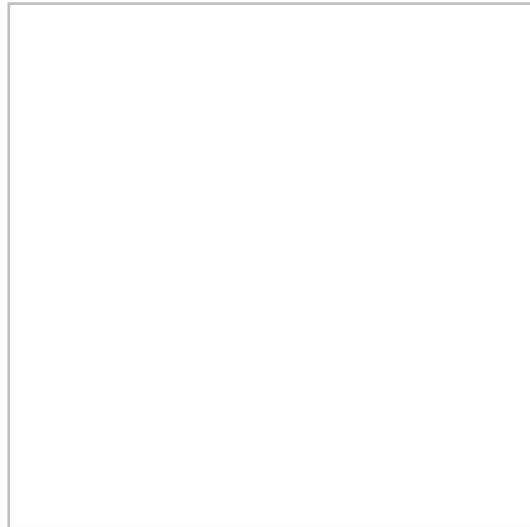
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[Conference committee meets on Chapter 90 bill](#)

A conference committee named to resolve differences between House and Senate Chapter 90 bond bills held its first meeting on June 13. ...

**Gov. announces nation's first
'green bank' dedicated to
affordable housing**

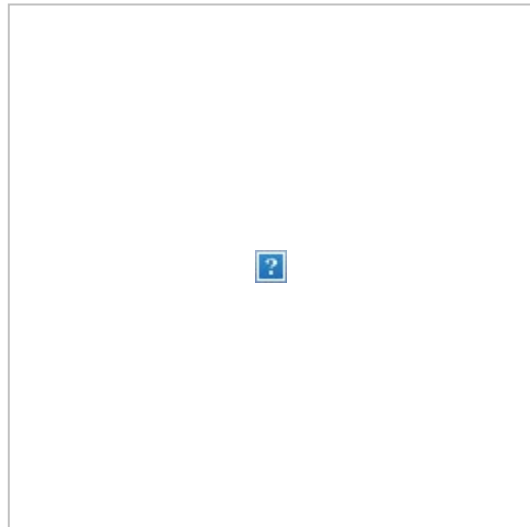
Gov. Maura Healey today announced the launch of the first "green bank" in the country dedicated to affordable housing. ...



**MassDOT mounts education
campaign about Sumner Tunnel
closure this summer**

At the June 13 meeting of the Local Government Advisory Commission, Transportation Secretary and CEO Gina Fiandaca discussed plans to close the Sumner Tunnel this summer and asked local officials to help get the word out about the closure as well as mitigation plans.

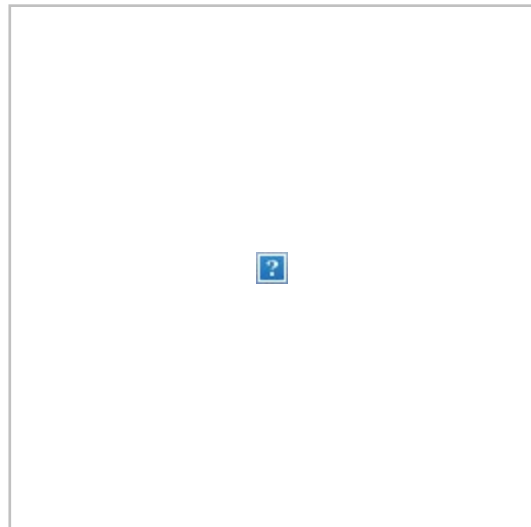
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**Final 'Reframing Recruitment'
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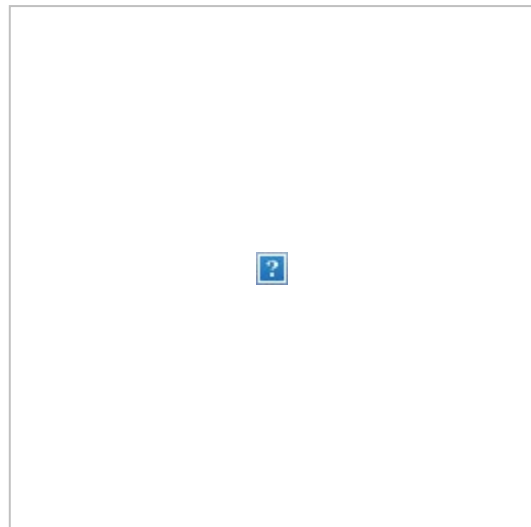
[from series](#)

An MMA “Reframing Recruitment” webinar today featured speakers from previous webinars and workshops in the series, covering topics including innovative hiring strategies, vacancies and advertising, interviewing, and onboarding. ...



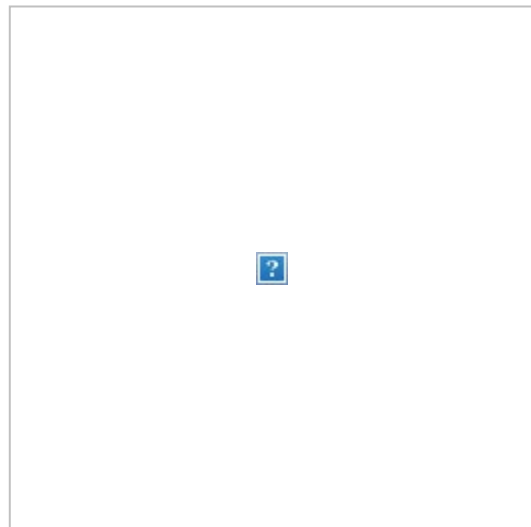
[MMA webinar shares strategies for de-escalating public anger](#)

An MMA webinar today discussed how to maintain composure and use constructive language when confronted with uncivilized discourse at public meetings. ...



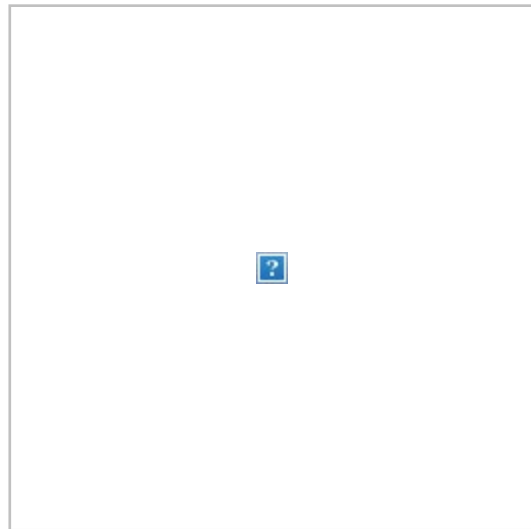
[Lexington OK's MBTA communities zoning well ahead of schedule](#)

Following an April Town Meeting vote approving 12 new overlay districts accounting for 227 acres of multifamily zoning, Lexington is on track to complete its MBTA communities zoning submission to the state a year and a half ahead of schedule. ...



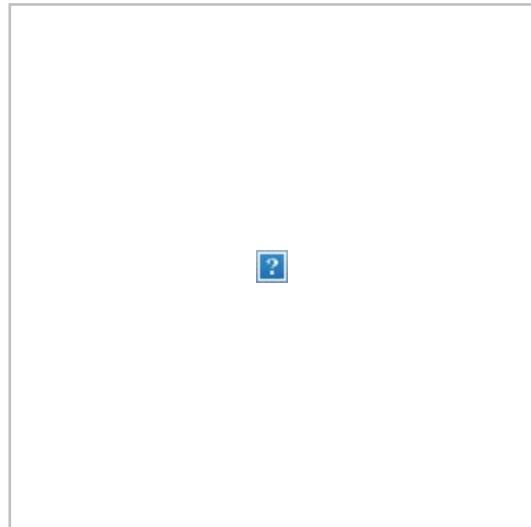
[Easthampton launches EV conversion plan and employee benefit](#)

To help the city meet a 2040 net-zero emissions goal set by a Climate Action Plan, and to provide pathways for residents to do the same, Easthampton is partnering with MoveEV, an electric vehicle consultant based in Somerville, to help the city transition the entire municipal fleet and provide a benefit to municipal employees. ...



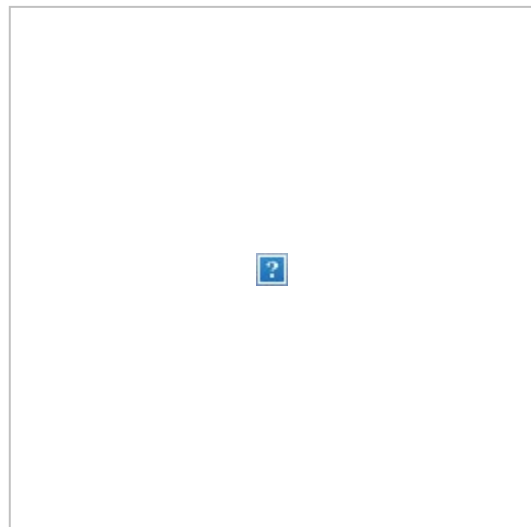
[West Tisbury invests funds, planning into tree population](#)

In the face of climate change, West Tisbury has established a tree committee, invested in new tree plantings, and developed plans to protect and expand its tree canopy. ...



[Many factors could drive up health care costs](#)

The combination of COVID-19 pandemic relief expiring, along with health care staff shortages, inflation and other general population health challenges, could continue to drive up health care costs over the next several years. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support product stewardship legislation](#)

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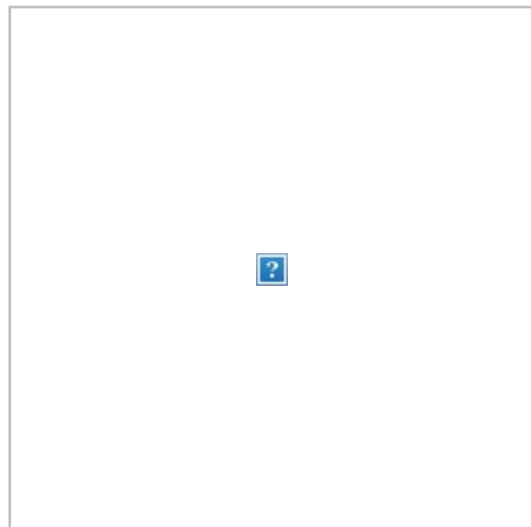
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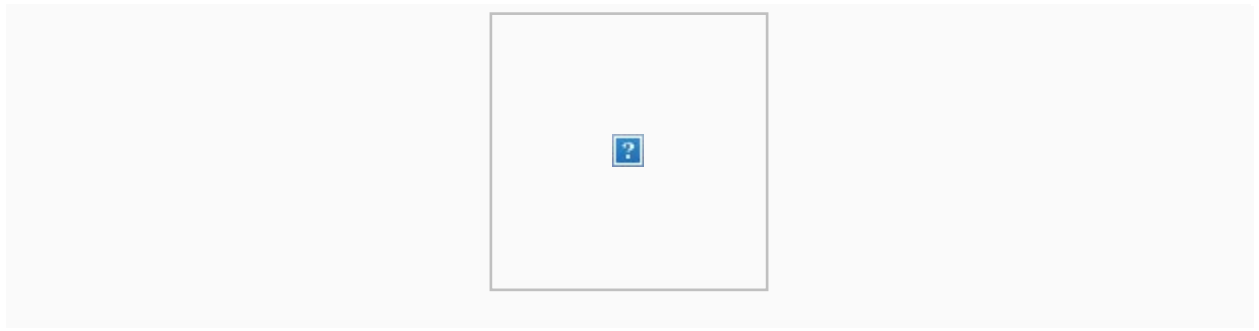
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[Gov. Healey announces capital plan, affordable housing program](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced today a new five-year, \$14 billion capital investment plan that includes more than \$1.5 billion in housing-related spending and a

new program to incentivize the creation of more affordable housing.

...

Administration announces \$11.6M in grants for 68 trail projects

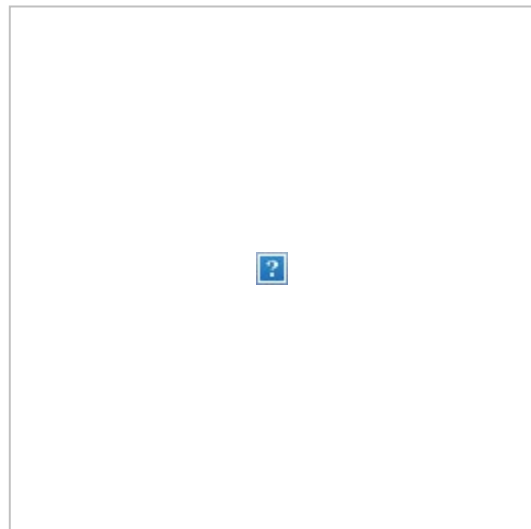
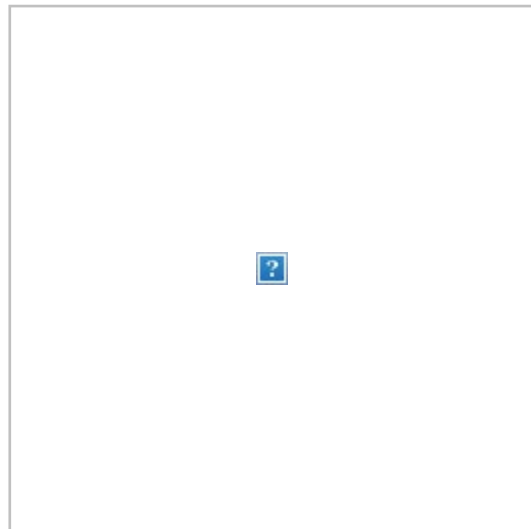
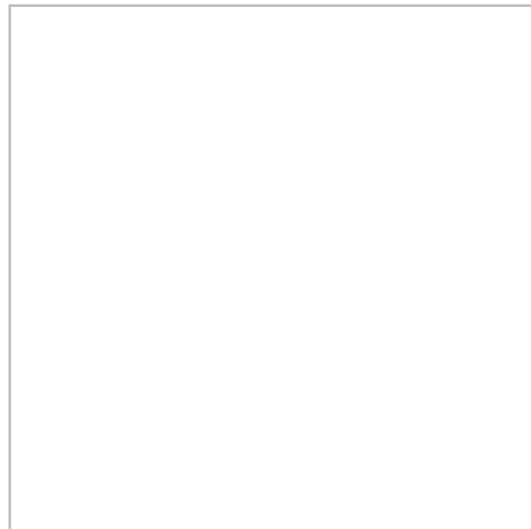
On June 15 in Billerica, Healey-Driscoll administration officials announced \$11.6 million in funding through the MassTrails Grant Program to support 68 trail improvement projects across the state. ...

DLS publishes issue dedicated to new local officials

The June 15 edition of the Division of Local Services' e-newsletter, City & Town, is dedicated to newly elected or appointed local officials, with municipal finance resources, information and policy guidance for those who might be new to local government. ...

STAM hosts state officials, elects officers at its Annual Meeting

Small Town Administrators of



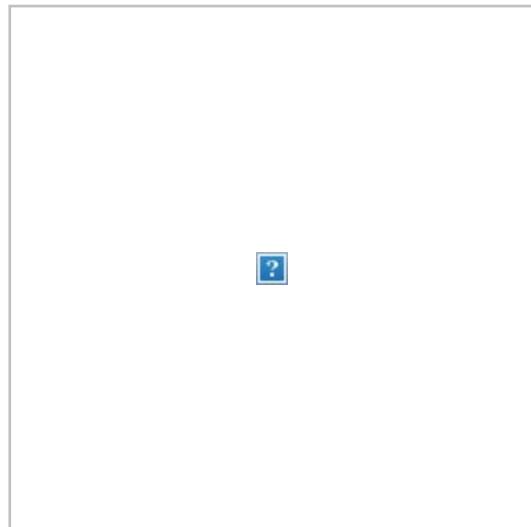
Massachusetts held its Annual Meeting on June 15 in Boylston to hear from state officials on a variety of topics and to elect a new leadership team. ...



[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

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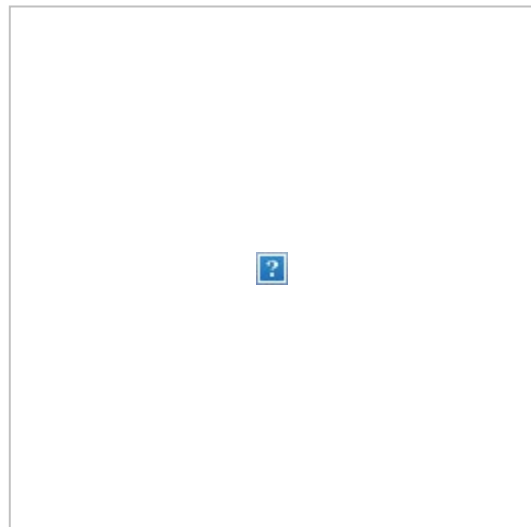
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[MMA to host open forum on public records and open meeting laws](#)

A free, interactive MMA webinar on the state's public records and open meeting laws on July 18 will offer an extended opportunity for discussion.

...

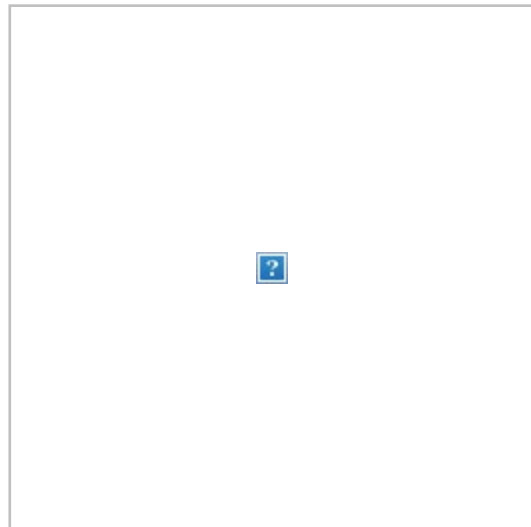


[Conference explores how cities, towns can boost their resilience](#)

The 2023 Resilient Cities Summit,

held June 6 through 8 in Falmouth, brought together municipal officials, advocates and nationally recognized experts in urban development, design, finance and infrastructure to discuss how cities and towns can better prepare for climate risks and work toward a more resilient future.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

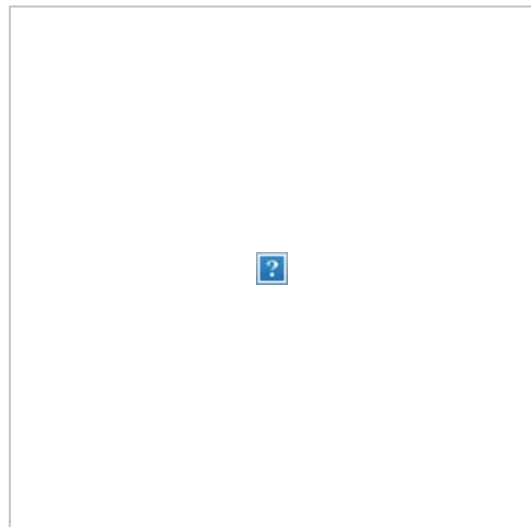
[MMA urges Education Committee to support bill to promote transparency and accountability in charter school finance](#)

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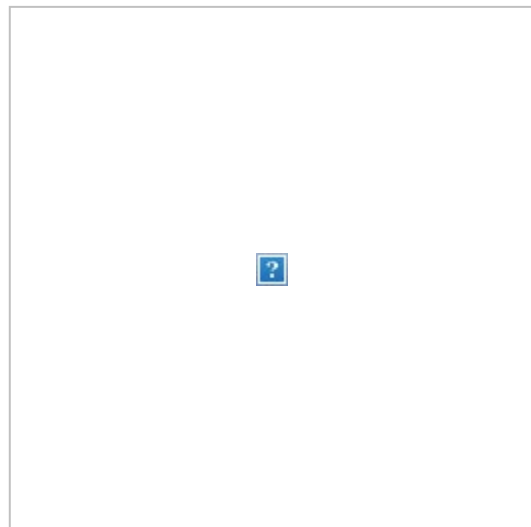
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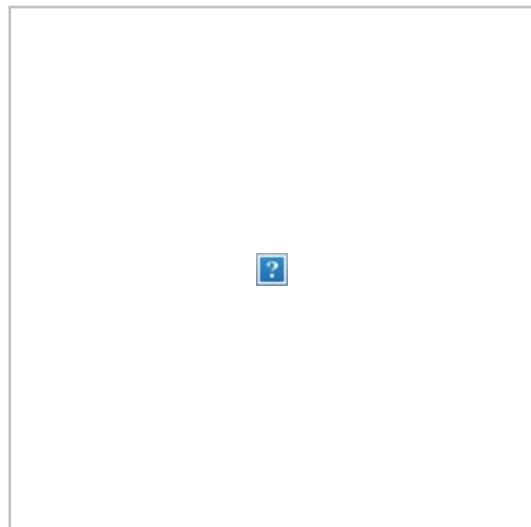
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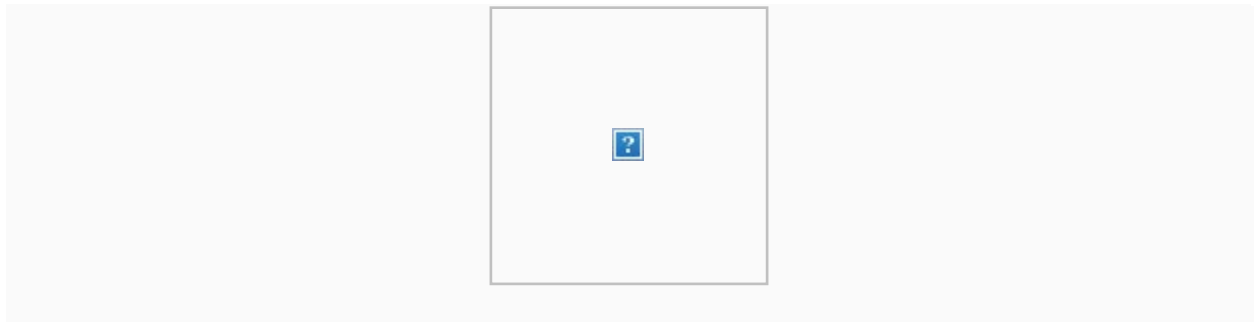
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A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

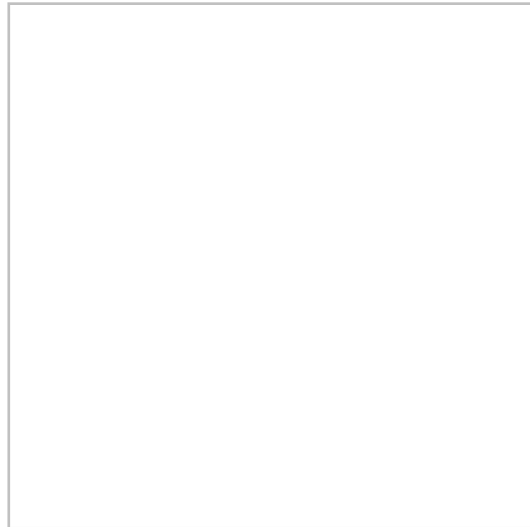
Do your colleagues get this newsletter? Forward this edition to them so they can [subscribe!](#)

Note: The Weekly Review will be taking next week off for the holiday and will return to inboxes on July 14.

[Massachusetts to receive \\$147M in new federal broadband funding](#)

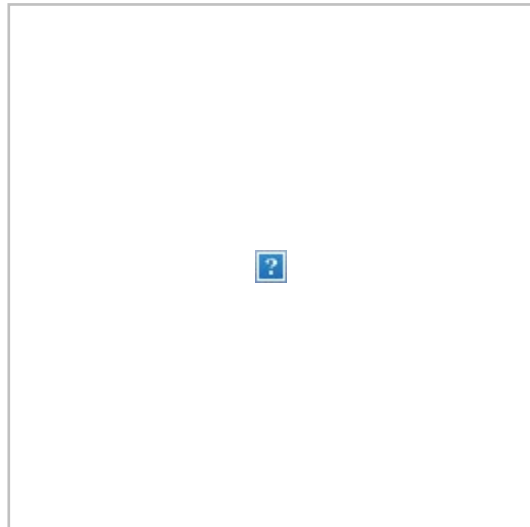
During an event at the White House yesterday, President Joe Biden, U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, and federal

telecommunication leaders announced that Massachusetts will receive \$147 million from the national Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program, funding that will help the state further close the digital divide. ...



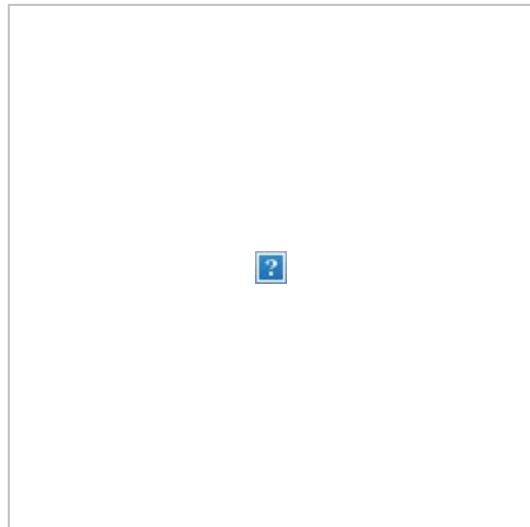
[MMHR elects officers and directors for FY24](#)

During its Annual Business Meeting on June 15 in Burlington, Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources elected Southborough Assistant Town Administrator Vanessa Hale as the association's chair for fiscal 2024. ...



[MMA seeks help with annual database updates](#)

For those who have not yet responded, the MMA is asking local leaders for help to ensure that the association has complete and accurate personnel information for every community. ...

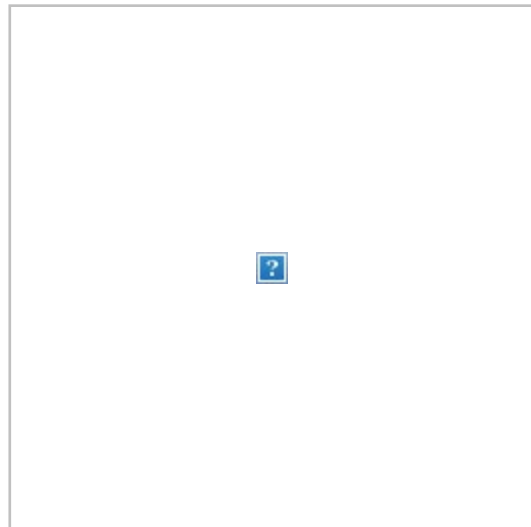


[MMA to host open forum on public](#)

[records and open meeting laws](#)

A free, interactive MMA webinar on the state's public records and open meeting laws on July 18 will offer an extended opportunity for discussion.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support an update and expansion of the state's bottle bill](#)

On June 28, Testimony

[MMA urges Judiciary Committee to support bills that would allow legal notices in online-only newspapers](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA asks Election Laws Committee to reject bill that would require creation of federal, state legislative districts before municipalities set local precincts](#)

On June 27, Testimony

[MMA expresses concerns to Public Health Committee about legislation concerning PFAS](#)

On June 23, Testimony

[In order to promote solar, MMA asks Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee to support bills to eliminate monthly minimum reliability contributions](#)

On June 23, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting applications through Aug. 22 for the second year of Clean School Bus program grants.

...



FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants

The Federal Highway Administration has opened the application period for a new discretionary grant program called PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation). Up to \$848 million is available. ...



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The MMA is seeking topic suggestions from members for the timely, informative and interactive workshops that are a key component of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show each January. ...



EPA grants available for habitat restoration, ecosystem protection

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 is accepting applications for grants to fund climate resilient infrastructure that promotes nature-based solutions, habitat restoration, and restoration of ecosystems degraded by poor stormwater and development practices. ...

[Grants available to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions, connect habitats](#)

A new, federal Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program will provide up to \$112 million in competitive grant funding for projects intended to reduce the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions and improve habitat connectivity for terrestrial and aquatic species. ...

[Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program accepting applications](#)

The Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program is accepting applications through July 15 for the Abbreviated 2 Training Track, which will run from September through December. ...

[Infrastructure workforce development grants available](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor, in



coordination with the U.S. Department of Transportation, has announced the availability of \$80 million in funding through the Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program. ...



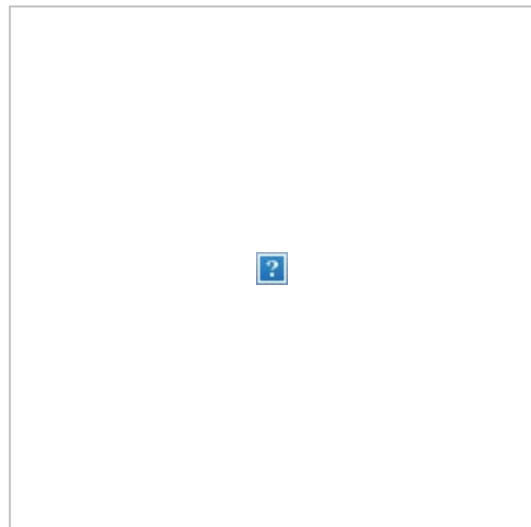
[Safe Streets and Roads for All accepting applications](#)

Back for its second year of awards, the U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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[Risk Management Information Coordinator](#)

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We've added 39 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for City Manager, Treasurer/Collector, Staff Planner, Building Commissioner, Assistant Assessor, Grant Writer and Water Treatment Plant Operator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[CCC publishes draft regulations: regulatory process to begin soon](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission yesterday published preliminary draft regulations regarding adult-use and medical cannabis that would upend existing host community contracts. ...

[House passes supplemental budget with conditional special education funding](#)

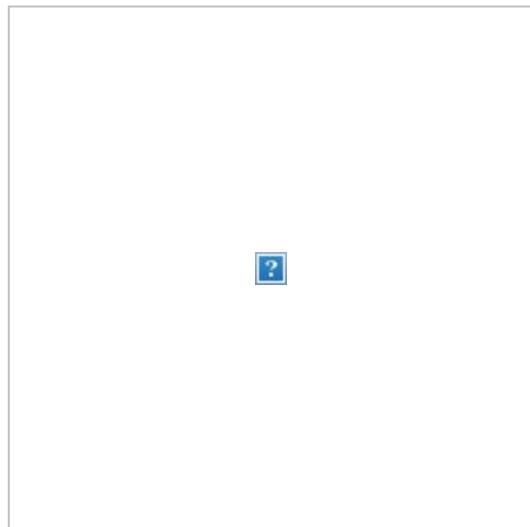
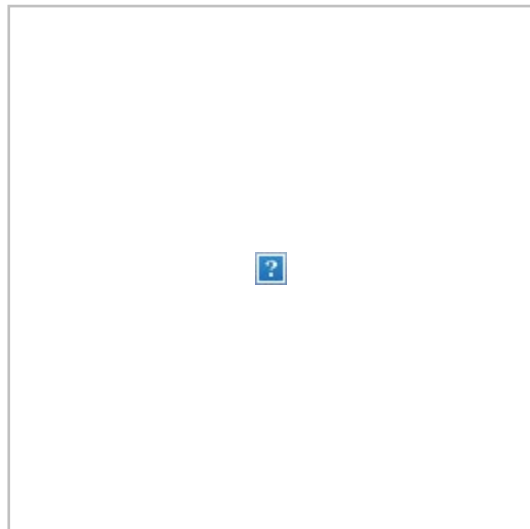
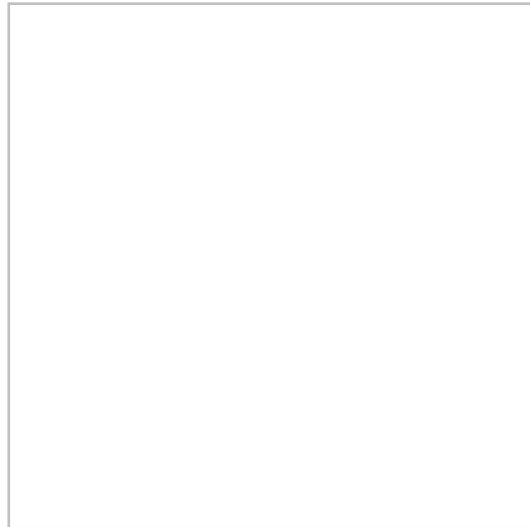
The House yesterday passed a \$693 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill that includes conditional funding to address extraordinary special education cost increases, as well as an expansion of the Housing Development Incentive Program. ...

[MMA-Suffolk certificate program graduates 2022-23 class](#)

On June 27, the MMA and Suffolk University graduated the 19th and 20th classes of the Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program. ...

[Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors](#)

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging



all Massachusetts cities, towns and school districts “to take full advantage of newly available federal grants to clean up our school bus fleets.” ...



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[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



[IRS proposes regulations for 'direct pay' option under IRA](#)

The Internal Revenue Service has

released proposed regulations and frequently asked questions regarding the “direct pay,” or “elective pay,” provision of the Inflation Reduction Act. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Education Committee to support bills to study special education funding and increase reimbursement rates](#)

On July 12, Testimony

[MMA urges Labor and Workforce Development Committee to support unemployment insurance reform bill](#)

On July 11, Testimony

[MMA urges Public Service Committee to oppose costly bills that would increase the unfunded liability for public employee pensions](#)

On July 6, Testimony

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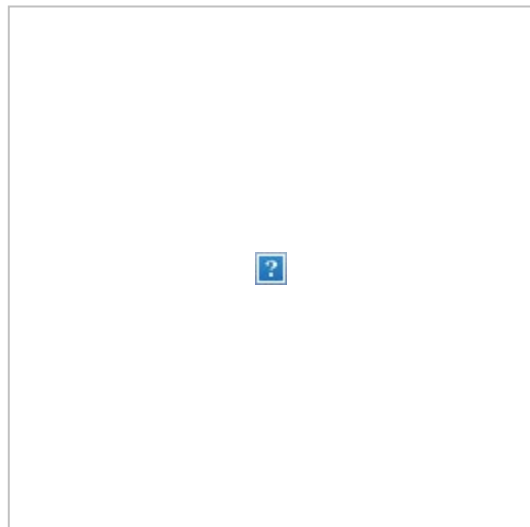
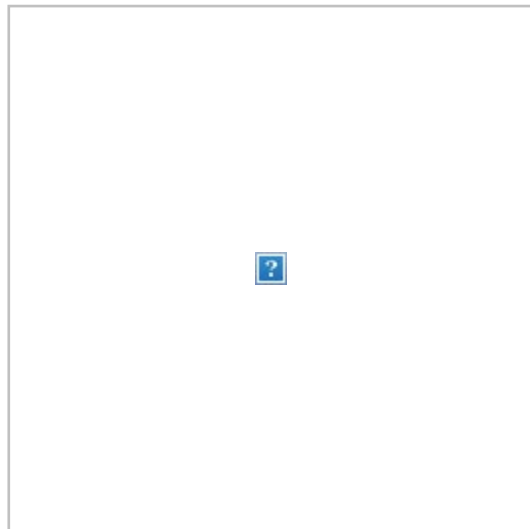
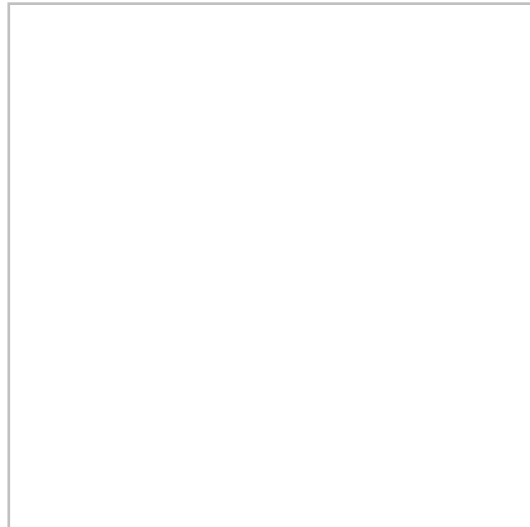
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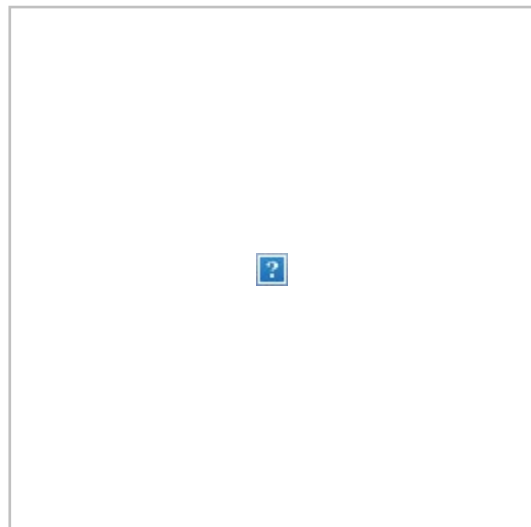


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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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We've added 61 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, Human Resources Generalist, Executive Assistant, Network Administrator, Procurement Analyst, Chief of Inspections and Municipal Policy Analyst. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



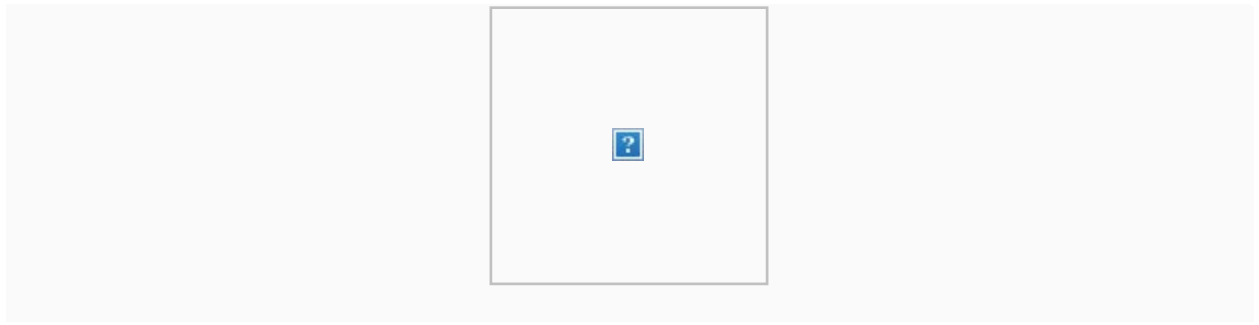
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[FY24 state budget remains in conference committee](#)

As the state operates on an interim budget for July, a House-Senate conference committee is continuing its work toward a compromise fiscal 2024 state spending plan. ...

[MassDOT accepting requests while Ch. 90 bill remains in committee](#)

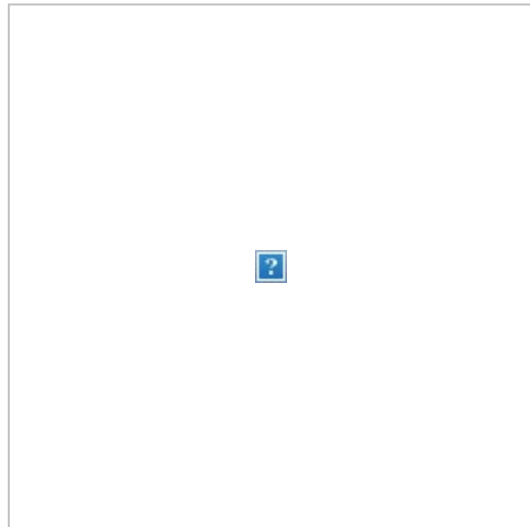
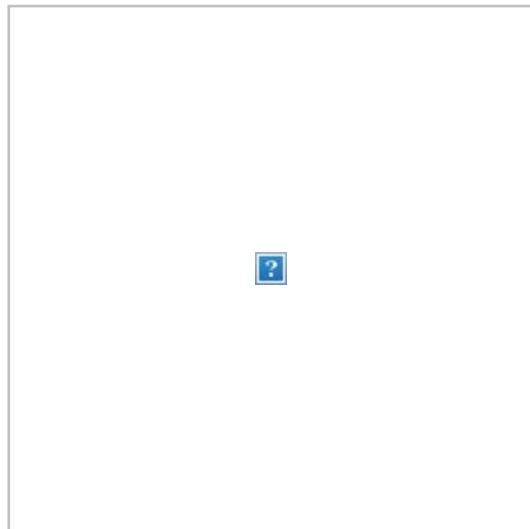
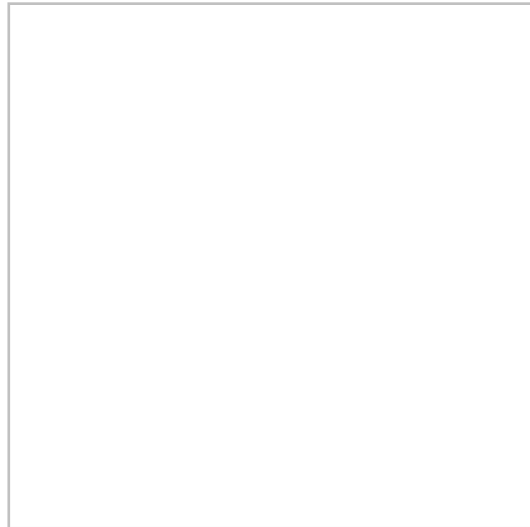
While the fiscal 2024 Chapter 90 bond bill remains in a conference committee, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation today said it will begin to accept, review and approve project requests from municipalities in advance of the legislation's final passage. ...

[MMA publishes Summer issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the Summer 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government, including a fiscal 2024 state budget update, plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[Swift to WLG: Lead with confidence and empathy](#)

As a former acting governor and



business leader, Jane Swift has plenty of career tips to offer women: Use your power to improve people's lives, lead with confidence, take credit for your wins, and support your female colleagues. ...



[MMA forum answers questions on public records, open meeting laws](#)

An interactive MMA webinar yesterday offered an extended opportunity to discuss the state's public records and open meeting laws. ...



[MMA webinar to discuss statewide contracts and procurement](#)

On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[IG announces pilot program to offer free procurement training to cities, towns](#)

On June 22, Inspector General Jeffery Shapiro announced a pilot program, called One Free Designee, offering core public procurement training at no cost to every municipality in Massachusetts. ...



MSA holds training for new members

The Massachusetts Select Board Association held a free training for newly elected select board members on June 9 in Devens, covering key state laws, budgeting, funding sources, insights from current members, and collaborative decision making. ...



Efforts to battle PFAS contamination continue

As cities and towns grapple with the management of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in drinking water across the Commonwealth, discussions continue on state and federal efforts. ...



Legislature considers extended producer responsibility and bottle bills

The Legislature is considering several bills this session that would hold producers responsible for the end-of-life management of their products and packaging, a concept that could help local governments manage their increasing recycling and solid waste costs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Local government is teamwork](#)

On July 18, Executive Director's Report

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USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced on July 5 that up to \$3.16 billion is available for planning and construction projects through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods discretionary grant program. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants](#)

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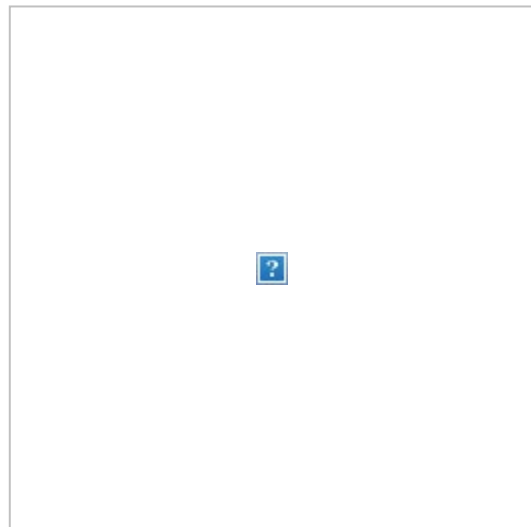
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[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the Draft Regulations on Host Community Agreements webinar](#) - Aug. 7

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We've added 75 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Accountant, Engineer, Project Manager, Public Health Nurse, Assistant City Solicitor, Social Worker, Recreation Coordinator, Principal Clerk and Civilian Dispatchers. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[House, Senate approve FY24 Ch. 90 bill](#)

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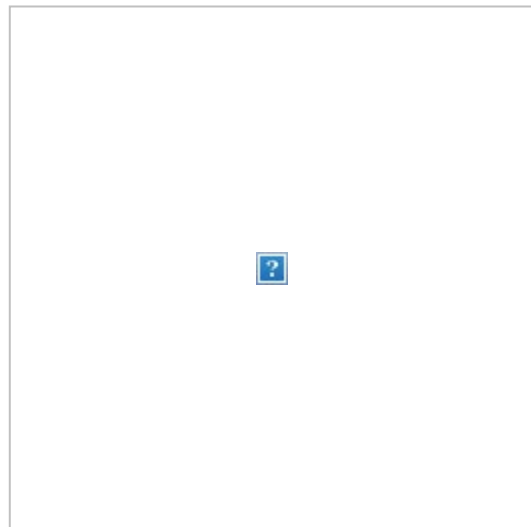
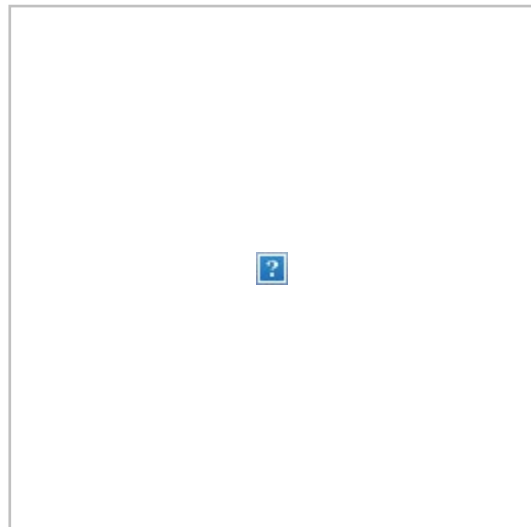
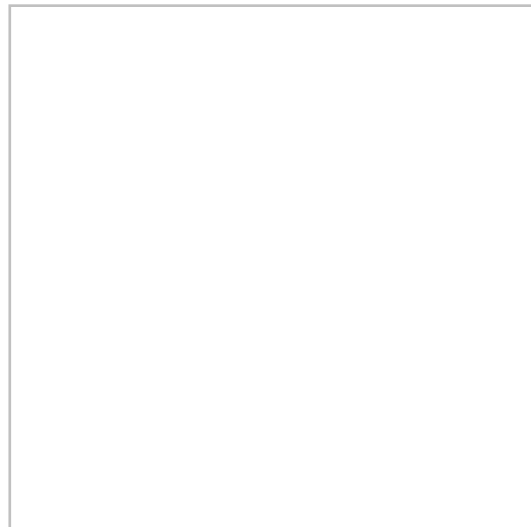
[Senate OK's \\$513M supplemental budget with \\$75M for special education](#)

The Senate today passed a \$513 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill that includes conditional funding to address extraordinary special education cost increases, as well as \$20 million in disaster relief related to recent flooding in western Massachusetts. ...

[MassCyberCenter releases 'Minimum Baseline of IT' guide](#)

Recent cyberattacks on cities and towns across the country have shed light on the importance of strengthening cybersecurity resiliency at the municipal level. ...

[MMA webinar on Aug. 7 will discuss proposed CCC regulations](#)



A free webinar for MMA members on Aug. 7 will review the Cannabis Control Commission's draft regulations on host community agreements and social equity. ...



[MMA members invited to MMLA meeting on climate change](#)

Climate change and related issues will be the focus of the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association's annual half-day program on Aug. 10 at the Publick House in Sturbridge. ...



[MMA webinar to discuss statewide contracts and procurement](#)

On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[DPH issues reminders to reduce risks of mosquito-borne illnesses](#)

With mosquito season upon us, the

Department of Public Health is reminding residents and municipal officials that mosquitoes can spread illness-causing viruses such as West Nile and eastern equine encephalitis.

...



Member Spotlight

[Pooler to retire as Arlington town manager](#)

After serving for a quarter century in municipal government, Arlington Town Manager Sandy Pooler will be retiring on July 28. ...



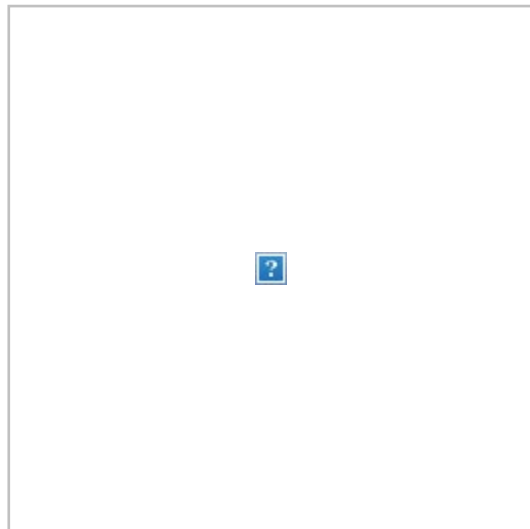
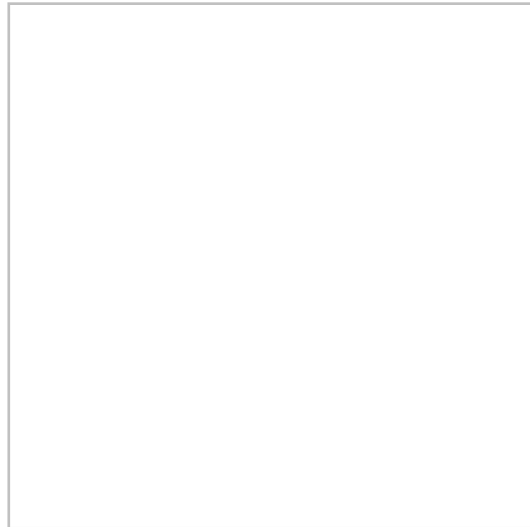
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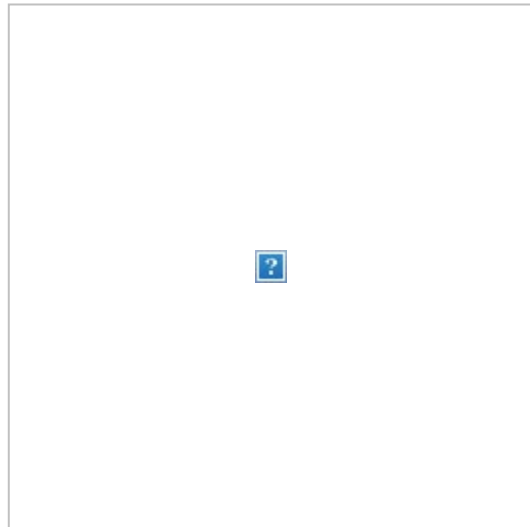
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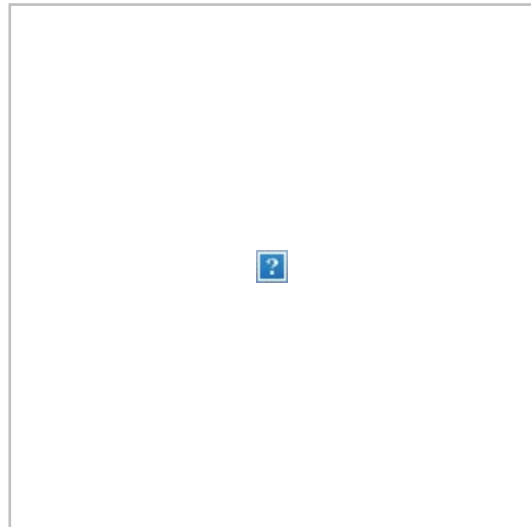


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Federal Funds Resource Area



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[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Oct. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 27

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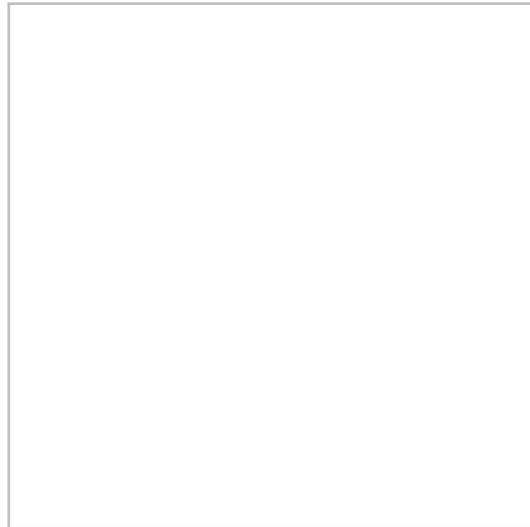
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[Governor signs Chapter 90 bill](#)

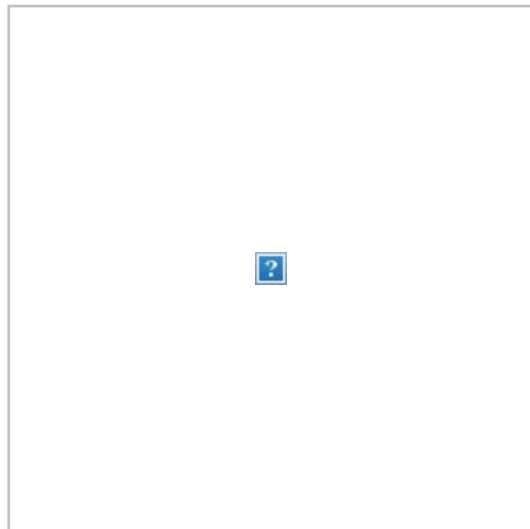
Alongside key stakeholders, Gov. Maura Healey signed the fiscal 2024 Chapter 90 bond bill today at an event in Lowell. The House-Senate compromise bill authorizes \$200 million for the road bridge program and \$175 million for seven

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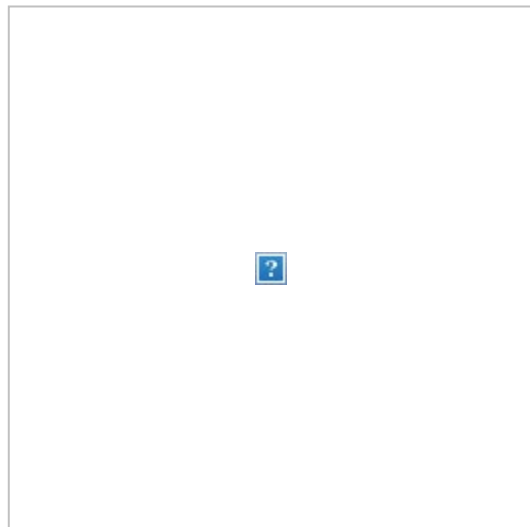
[Legislature enacts FY24 budget with key investments in municipal and school aid](#)

The House and Senate on July 31 passed a \$56.2 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024. ...



[Adam Chapdelaine appointed as MMA's new executive director](#)

The MMA Board of Directors today appointed Adam Chapdelaine as the association's next executive director to succeed the retiring Geoff Beckwith. ...



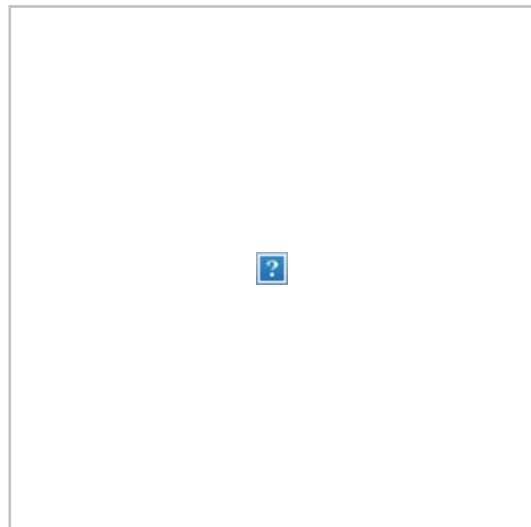
[Governor signs \\$200M FY23 supplemental budget bill, \\$20M for flood relief in western Mass.](#)

Soon after completing its work on the fiscal 2024 compromise state budget bill, the Legislature on Monday passed a fiscal 2023 supplemental budget bill (H. 4034) providing \$20 million in mitigation funds for natural disasters, including the recent floods in western Massachusetts. Gov. Maura Healey signed the bill into law on Tuesday morning. ...



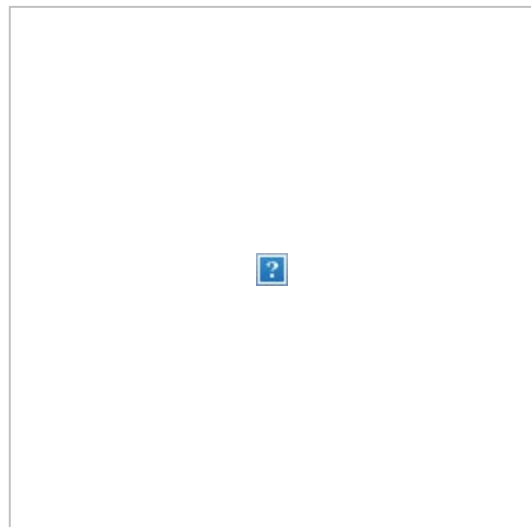
[State announces \\$11.5 million grant program to electrify heavy-duty vehicles](#)

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[MMA webinar on Aug. 7 will discuss proposed CCC regulations](#)

A free webinar for MMA members on Aug. 7 will review the Cannabis Control Commission's draft regulations on host community agreements and social equity. ...



[MMA members invited to MMLA](#)

[meeting on climate change](#)

Climate change and related issues will be the focus of the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association's annual half-day program on Aug. 10 at the Publick House in Sturbridge. ...



[MMA webinar to discuss statewide contracts and procurement](#)

On Aug. 15, the MMA will host a free, hour-long webinar with the Operational Services Division to review statewide contracts and the use of COMMBUYS for procurement. ...



[With override, Nantucket boosts affordable housing efforts](#)

Faced with an increasingly dire housing shortage, the town of Nantucket has invested more than \$67 million in housing efforts in recent years, approved an override for future projects, and partnered with developers to bring additional housing to the island. ...



[Amherst completes comprehensive solar assessment](#)

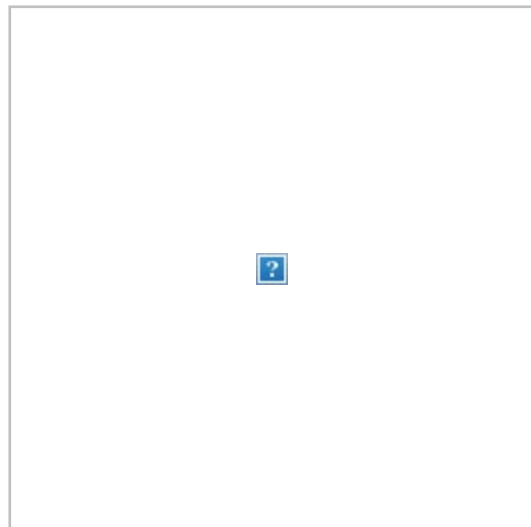
The town of Amherst recently

completed a townwide solar assessment as a part of an effort to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. As a result, the town now has a mapping tool that shows where solar is feasible for the town, as well as for businesses and residents who may be interested in solar installation in the future. ...



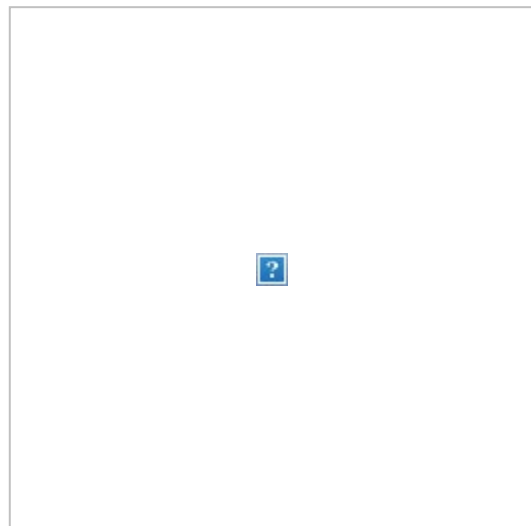
[Harvard report highlights Somerville's civic engagement](#)

A recent study on Somerville's civic engagement activities published by the Harvard Kennedy School offers insights on citizen interaction at a time when local governments seek new ways to engage residents and create a more civil environment for public discourse. ...



[MMA seeks entries for Municipal Innovation Award contest](#)

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New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges governor to support key municipal investments in FY24 state budget](#)

On Aug. 2, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

[MMA seeks help with annual database updates](#)

For those who have not yet responded, the MMA is asking local

leaders for help to ensure that the association has complete and accurate personnel information for every community. ...



MMA seeks input for Annual Meeting workshops

The MMA is seeking topic suggestions from members for the timely, informative and interactive workshops that are a key component of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show each January. ...



Federal clean school bus grants available to districts, contractors

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren is urging all Massachusetts cities, towns and school districts “to take full advantage of newly available federal grants to clean up our school bus fleets.” ...



\$575M available for coastal resilience projects

Approximately \$575 million is

available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced on July 5 that up to \$3.16 billion is available for planning and construction projects through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods discretionary grant program. ...



USDOT accepting applications for Multimodal Project Discretionary Grants

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for three discretionary grant programs that involve surface transportation projects designed to strengthen supply chains, spur economic development, and improve safety. ...



USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program

On June 15, the U.S. Department of

Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



[FHA seeks applications for new transportation resilience grants](#)

The Federal Highway Administration has opened the application period for a new discretionary grant program called PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-Saving Transportation). Up to \$848 million is available. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the Draft Regulations on Host Community Agreements webinar](#) - Aug. 7

[Best Practices for Navigating Statewide Contracts and COMMBUYS Purchasing webinar](#) - Aug. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 14

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources fall conference](#) - Sept. 21-22

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[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 12

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[View our entire event calendar](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 64 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Budget Director, Conservation Agent, Network Manager, Public Works Engineer, Interim Town Administrator, Health Assistant, Safety Specialist and Fire Department Dispatcher. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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The Weekly Review is taking a vacation next week. We will be back in your inbox on Aug. 25.

[Gov. Healey signs FY24 state budget](#)

Gov. Maura Healey today signed a \$56 billion state budget bill for fiscal 2024 that increases unrestricted

local aid by 3.2% over fiscal 2023 and boosts Chapter 70 education aid by \$603 million. ...



Governor declares emergency, calls for support for rush of migrant families

Gov. Maura Healey this morning declared that a state of emergency exists in Massachusetts due to rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in need of shelter and services and a severe lack of shelter availability. ...



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[Annual Town Forest Conference is Oct. 21 in Ashland](#)

The annual Massachusetts Town Forest Conference, a platform for fostering collaboration among a range of professionals and volunteers who contribute to the management of community forests, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Ashland Community Center. ...



[Navigating unemployment: fraud, complexity and safeguards](#)

The Massachusetts Department of

Unemployment Assistance recently issued an alert about another uptick in fraudulent claims, three years after many states were hit with an initial spike during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Public Service Committee to oppose bills that would add costly new unfunded mandates for employee benefits](#)

On Aug. 4, Testimony

In Case You Missed It

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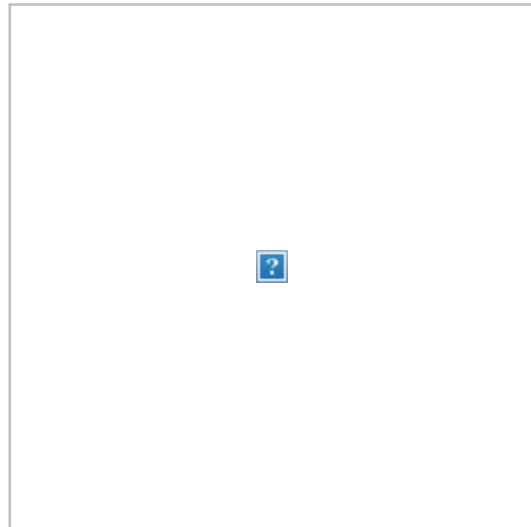
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Federal Funds Resource Area



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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 42 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Clerk, EMS Director, Library Technician, Shared Conservation Agent/Stormwater Coordinator, Assistant Collector, Water Manager and Community Engagement Specialist. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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[State makes revisions to MBTA communities guidelines](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities today released additional revisions to its compliance guidelines for multi-family zoning districts in MBTA communities. ...

[**Municipal leaders urged to comment on CCC draft regulations**](#)

The MMA is encouraging municipal officials to weigh in on draft regulations approved by the Cannabis Control Commission on July 28 regarding host community agreements and social equity. ...

[**DOER requests feedback on Solar for All straw application proposal**](#)

The Department of Energy Resources, in partnership with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, is requesting feedback on a straw proposal for the state's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Solar for All program. ...

[**Municipal officials request permanent remote, hybrid meeting options**](#)



During a July 26 legislative hearing, the MMA and local officials from across the state called for the existing authorization for public body remote and hybrid meetings to be made permanent. ...



[MMA webinar highlights navigation of contracts, purchasing in COMMBUYS](#)

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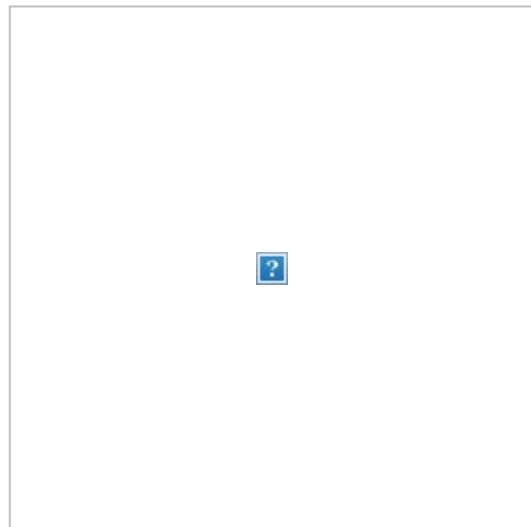
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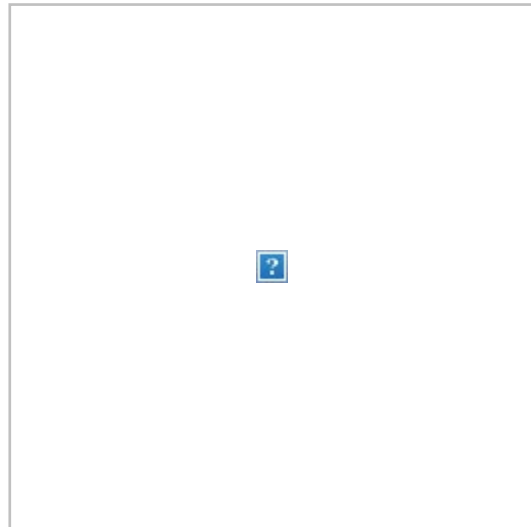
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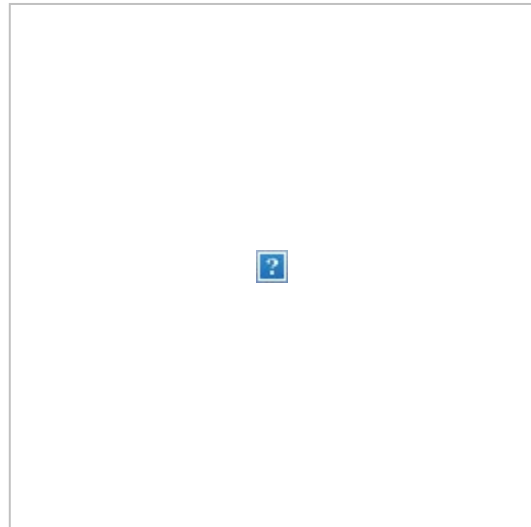
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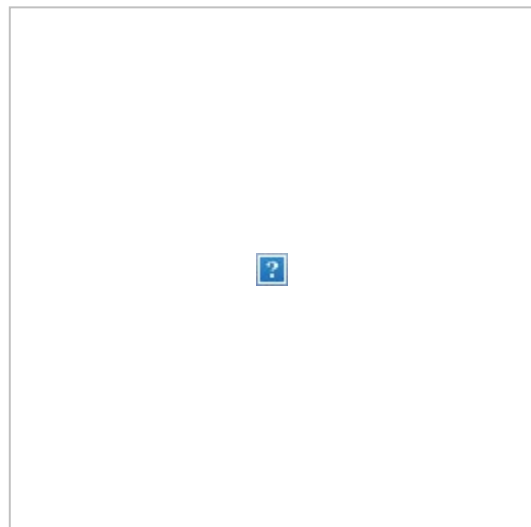
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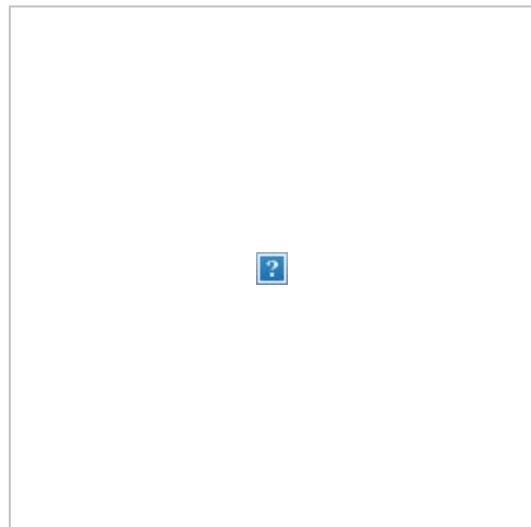
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

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[Administration awards \\$31.5M in climate resiliency funding to communities](#)

At an event in Stockbridge today, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll and Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper announced \$31.5

million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grants for climate resilience implementation and planning throughout Massachusetts.

...

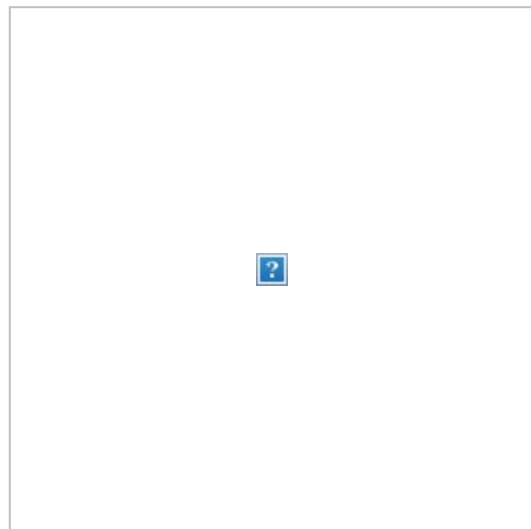
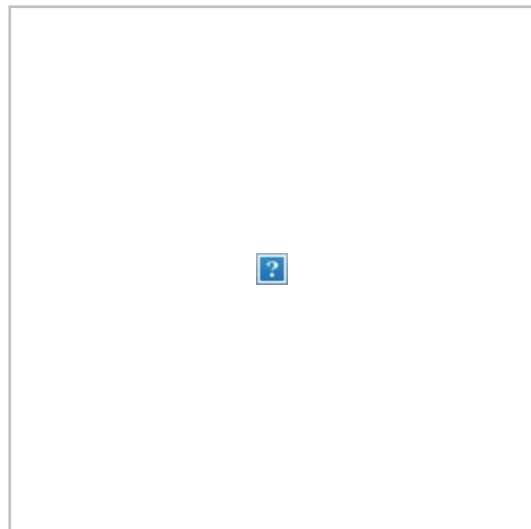
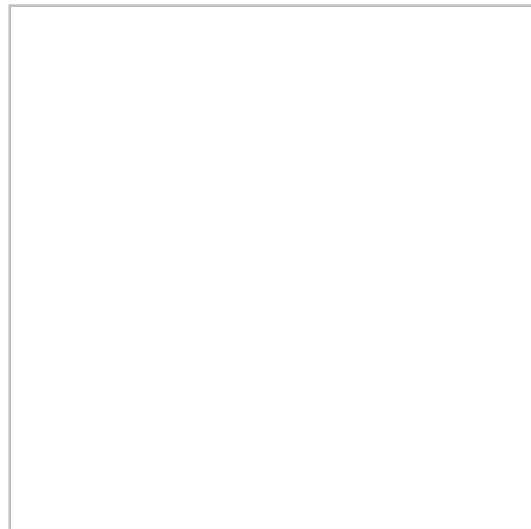
[Treasury issues new guidance on ARPA Flex provision](#)

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[Webinars to discuss allocation of opioid settlement funds](#)



The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has contracted with JSI Research & Training Institute to provide training and technical assistance to municipalities regarding the allocation of opioid settlement funds. ...



Massachusetts Broadband Institute seeks input on Internet for All plan

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute this month will begin a series of public listening sessions as it develops a five-year plan to deploy \$147 million in federal investments to support actions to bridge the digital divide. ...



Grants available to boost resilience in disadvantaged communities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities. ...



Energy Future planning grant applications being accepted

Phase 1 of the federal Energy Future

Grants program is making \$27 million in financial assistance available to government-led partnerships that will advance clean energy innovation. ...



[EV charger report forecasts significant needs for infrastructure](#)

A new report from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council provides a comprehensive view of the current electric vehicle charging landscape, as well as recommendations for policy actions to support a robust, equitable and accessible charging network across the Commonwealth. ...



[USDOT accepting applications for SMART grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grant applications for the second year of its Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation grants program. ...



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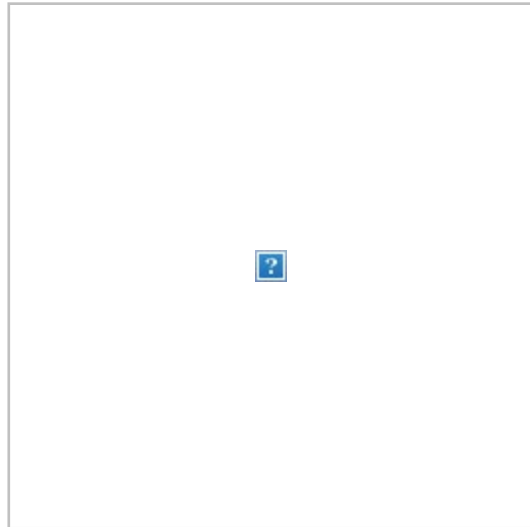
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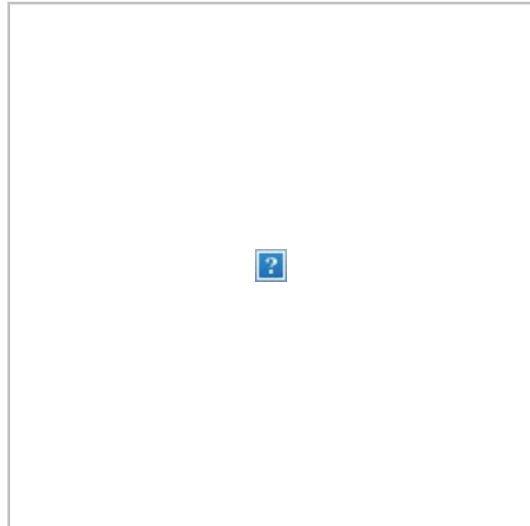
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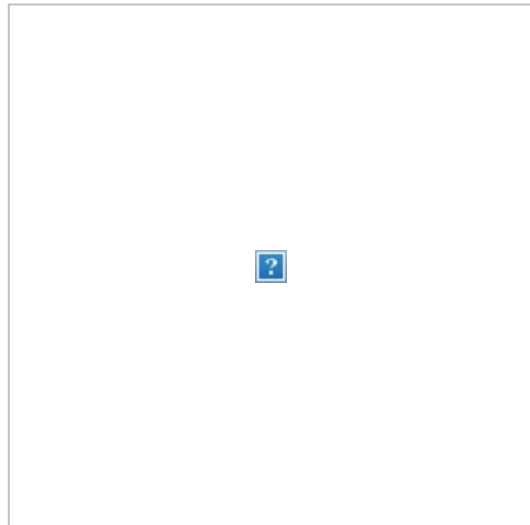
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[Incoming Director Chapdelaine prepares for MMA's future](#)

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inner workings of the State House,
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[Beckwith reflects on 31 years leading the MMA](#)

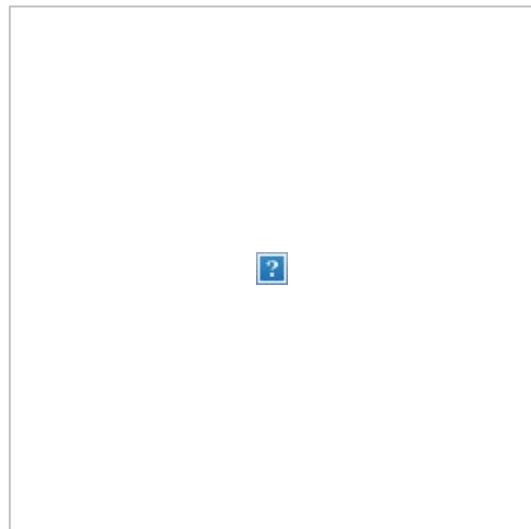
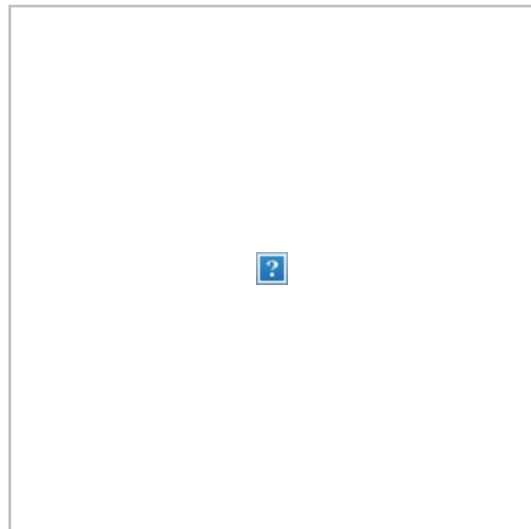
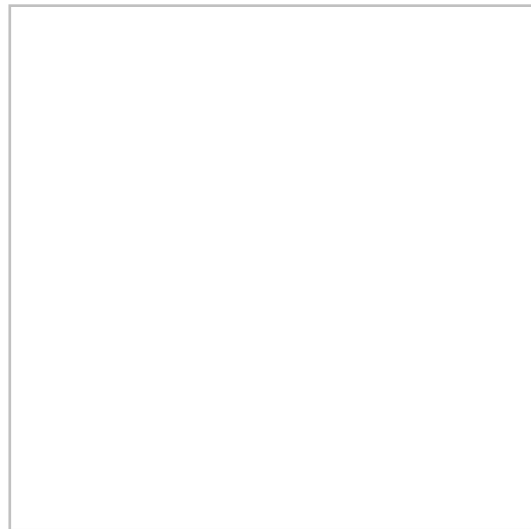
Geoff Beckwith welcomes a visitor
into his office of the past two years
and points out that, despite his
collection of plaques, photos and
memorabilia, nothing is hung up. ...

[Racial Equity Group selected to lead MMA's DEI work](#)

The MMA has contracted with the
Racial Equity Group to develop a
strategic plan to advance diversity,
equity and inclusion efforts in local
government. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

Registration will open soon for the



MMA's fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on Oct. 6 and 13. ...



[MMA publishes September issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the September 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government — including the change in leadership at the MMA — plus details about upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[Save the date for MMA Annual Meeting in 2024](#)

The MMA is hard at work on plans for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20 at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...



[MMA webinar will offer tips for finding and securing grant funding](#)

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[DPU seeks feedback on municipal aggregation investigation through Oct. 6](#)

The Department of Public Utilities opened an investigation on Aug. 15 into municipal aggregation, with a goal to create a streamlined process for Massachusetts municipalities to establish new programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA, MMLA offer to work with CCC to recraft draft regulations viewed as unconstitutional and an unfunded mandate](#)

On Sept. 7, Testimony

[MMA's best days are ahead of us](#)

On Sept. 5, Executive Director's Report

Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 14

[Grants 101 webinar](#) - Sept. 18

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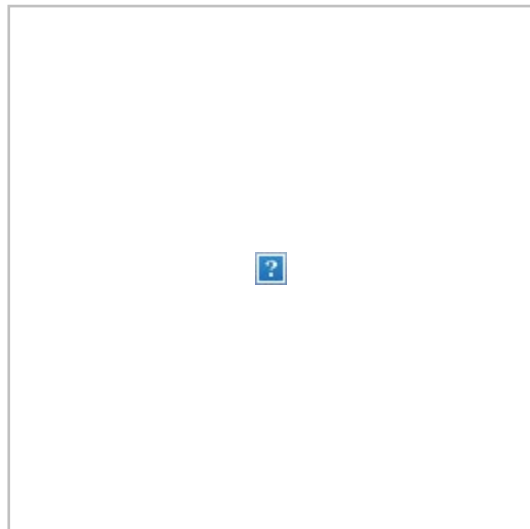
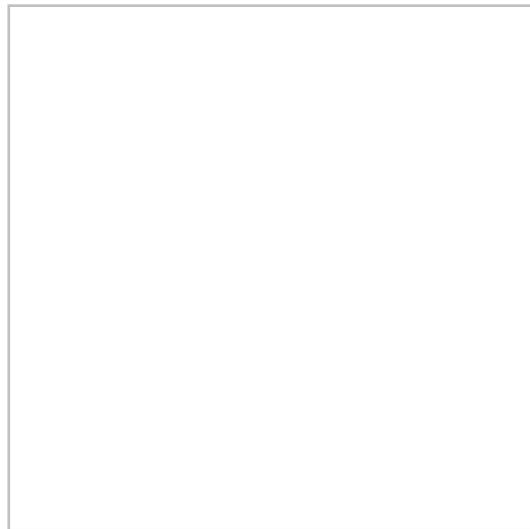
In Case You Missed It

[Grants available to boost resilience in disadvantaged communities](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southeast New England Program is accepting applications through Sept. 15 for an Opportunity to Advance Resilience in Disadvantaged Communities. ...

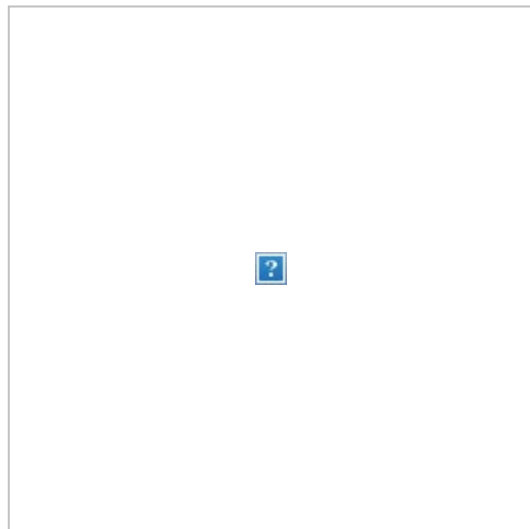
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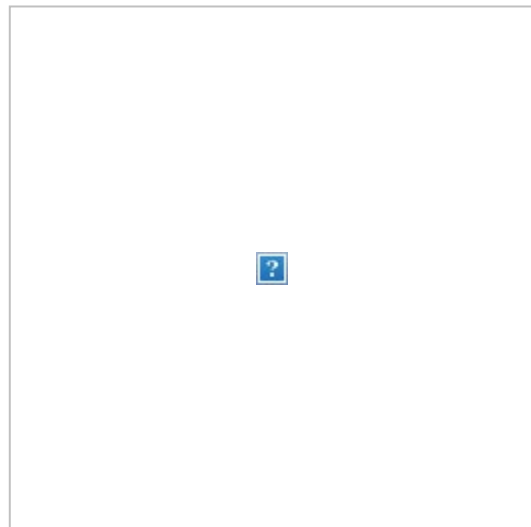
[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



[State announces \\$11.5 million grant program to electrify heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recently announced a new competitive grant program as part of the Volkswagen Settlement and the state's climate trust: the Massachusetts VW and Refuse Truck Electric Solicitation. ...



[\\$575M available for coastal resilience projects](#)

Approximately \$575 million is

available through the federal Inflation Reduction Act for projects that would increase the resilience of coastal communities to extreme weather, sea level rise and drought. ...



[USDOT offers Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods grants](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced on July 5 that up to \$3.16 billion is available for planning and construction projects through the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods discretionary grant program. ...

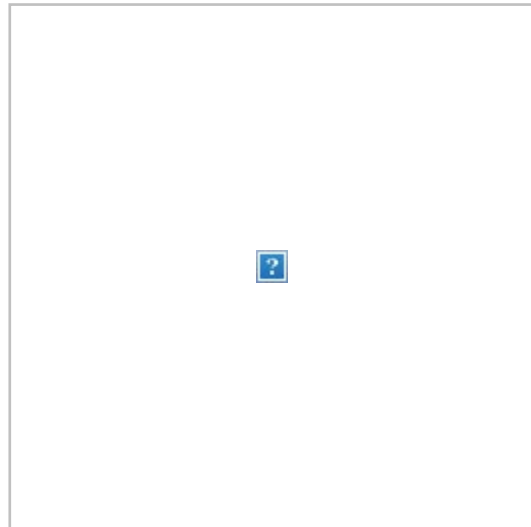


[USDOT announces new Rural and Tribal Assistance pilot program](#)

On June 15, the U.S. Department of Transportation released a Notice of Funding Opportunity for a new Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, which provides technical assistance grants to rural and tribal communities for infrastructure projects. ...



[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 61 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Budget Coordinator, Principal Assessor, Staff Engineer, Design Planner, Housing Director, Conservation Assistant and Assistant Town Manager. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



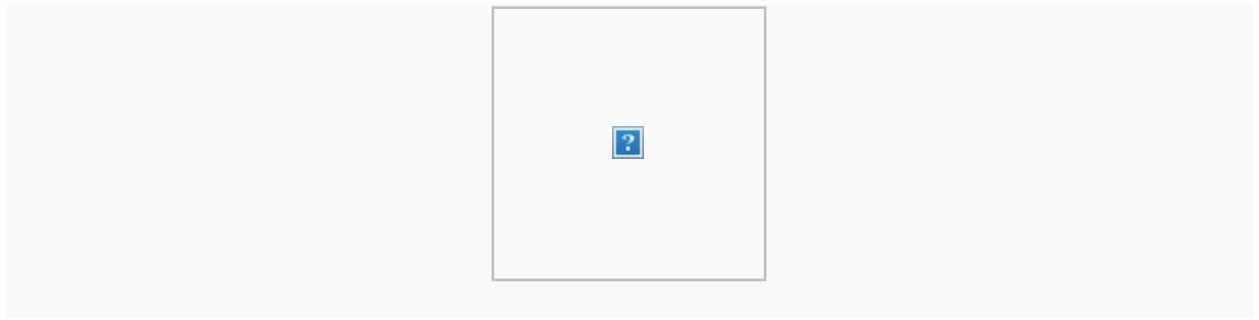
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MMA Website Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Gov. files closeout budget with funds for emergency shelter crisis](#)

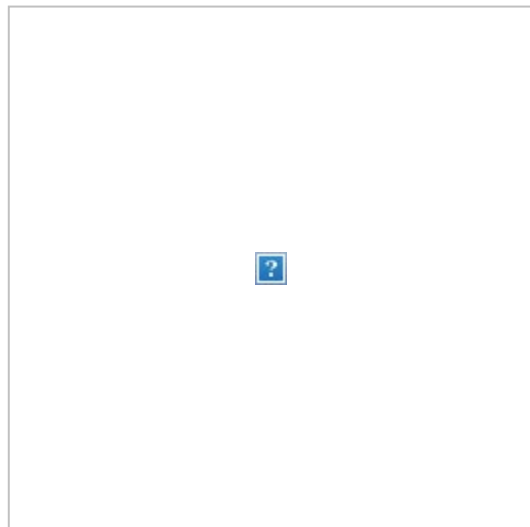
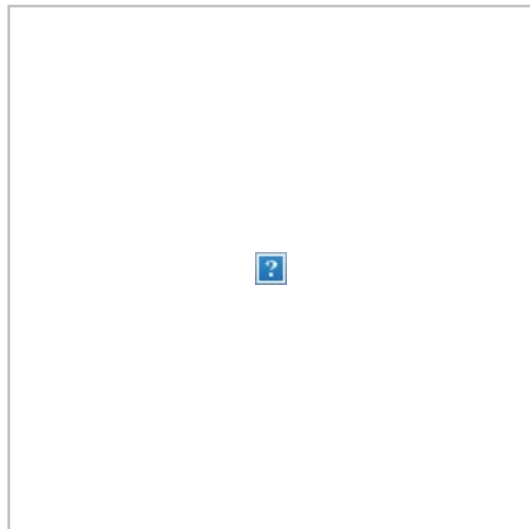
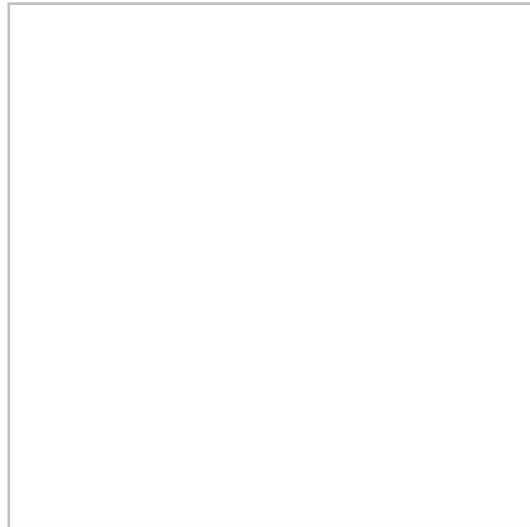
Looking to close the books on fiscal 2023, Gov. Maura Healey filed a final supplemental budget bill on Sept. 13 that would allocate additional funding for several key priorities. ...

[MMA, local leaders working with administration to address shelter crisis](#)

With a surge of emergency shelter needs that shows no signs of abating, and temporary placements in hotels and other settings in roughly 80 communities across the state, the MMA and the administration will begin conducting biweekly briefings with chief municipal officials later this month to provide the latest information and take questions. ...

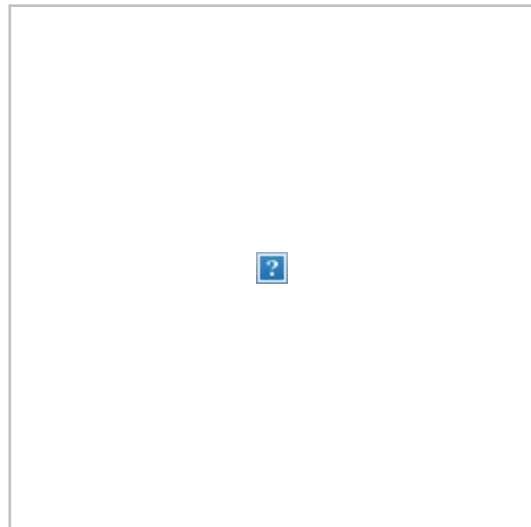
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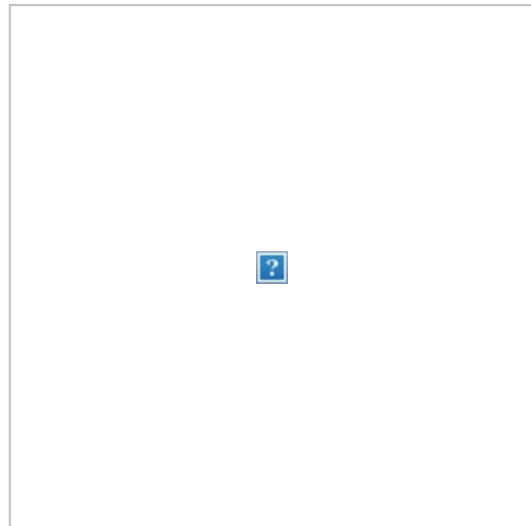
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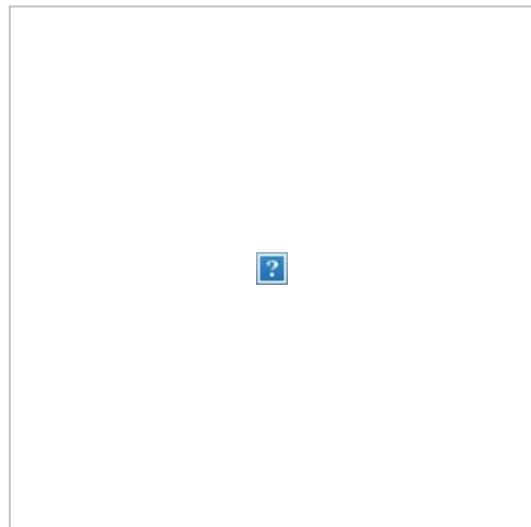
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[MMA to launch Municipal Leadership Academy with communication webinars](#)

On Oct. 17, the MMA will launch a new Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy to help promote professional development among municipal officials. ...



[Cambridge focuses on flood prevention, zoning as part of larger climate action](#)

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the city of Cambridge is taking a multi-pronged approach to resiliency, looking at the impacts of flooding, heat and emissions. ...



[Boston program encourages office-to-residential conversions downtown](#)

As big cities nationwide attempt to revitalize downtown office districts hollowed out by the pandemic and the rise of remote work, the city of Boston is seeking to incentivize the conversion of underused office buildings into residential units. ...



[Southern Berkshire County towns offer public ride-share service](#)

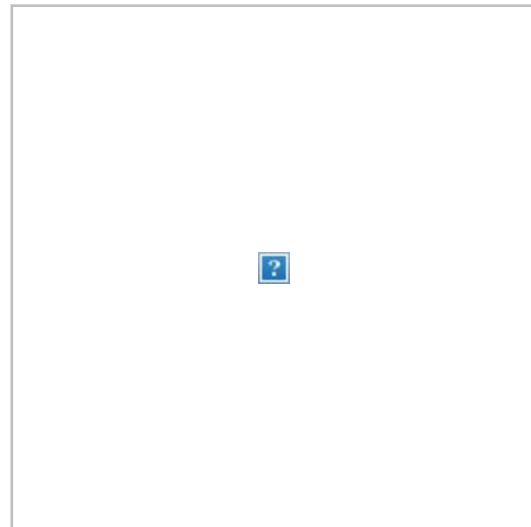
Seeking to bridge the gap for seniors, workers and others lacking transportation options, several Berkshire County towns have banded together to create a public on-demand ride service. ...



[Workplace Safety Grant application period opens Oct. 2](#)

The Department of Industrial

Accidents will be accepting applications for its fiscal 2024 Workplace Safety Grant program from Oct. 2 through Oct. 23. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee to support bills to create municipal and public safety building authority](#)

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**[MMA seeks entries for Municipal
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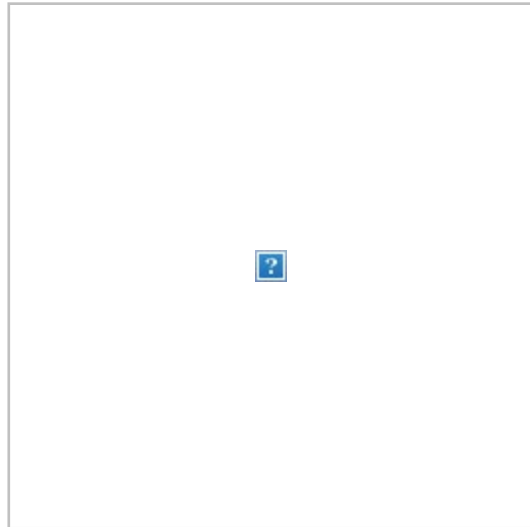
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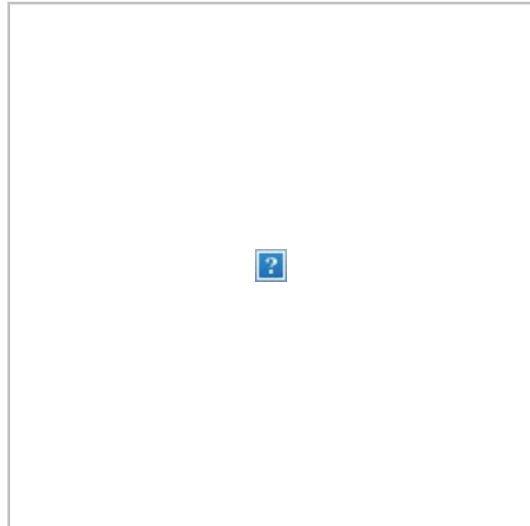
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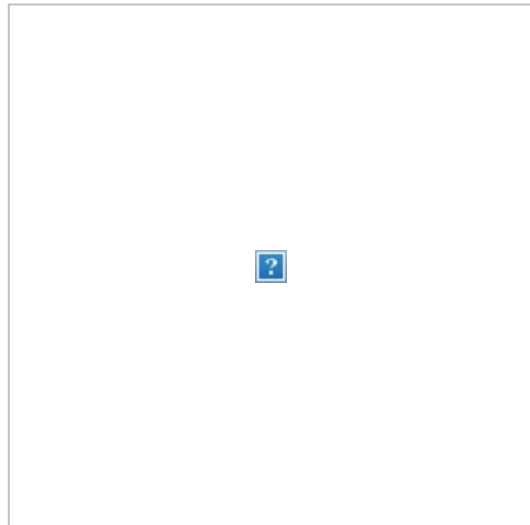
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MMA Website Weekly Review

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[CCC approves extensive revisions to marijuana regulations](#)

On Sept. 22, the Cannabis Control Commission voted, 3-1, to approve extensive revisions to state regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana. ...

[House, Senate send tax relief bill to governor's desk](#)

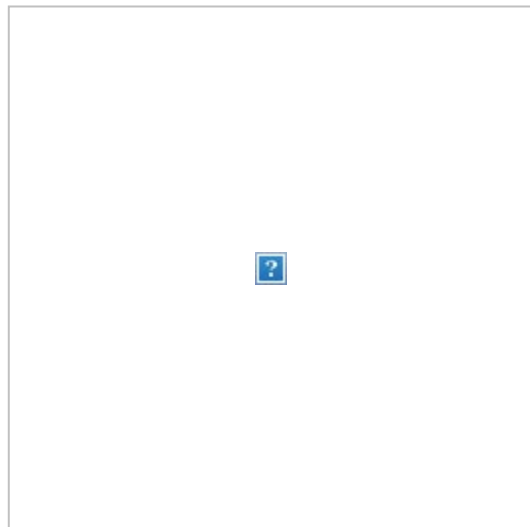
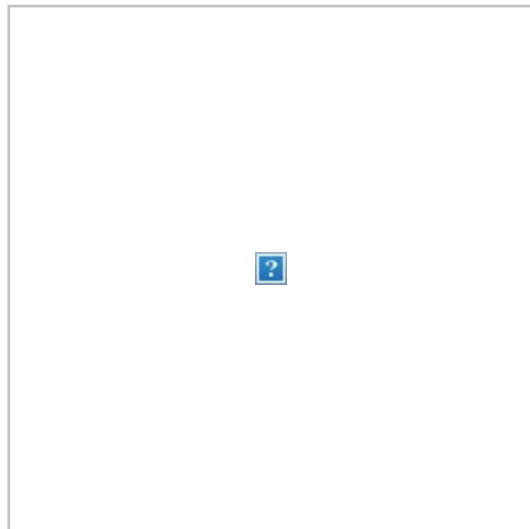
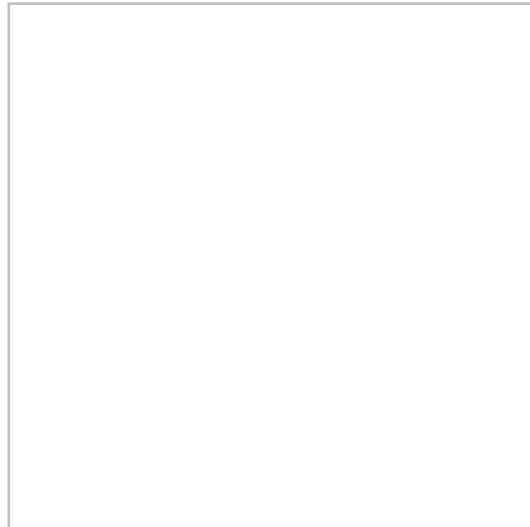
The House and Senate have passed a compromise tax relief bill that would provide \$561 million in tax breaks and credits this year, with the value growing to approximately \$1 billion once the law is fully implemented in 2027. ...

[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in October](#)

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[What to know about \\$325M for municipal roads, bridges in FY24](#)

A bond terms bill signed by Gov.



Maura Healey on Sept. 12 concludes the legislative process for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2024 and will enable the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to process reimbursements for approved projects. ...



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[MunEnergy to hold webinar on winter energy costs](#)

On Oct. 24 at noon, the MunEnergy

program will hold a one-hour webinar to provide timely information about winter energy costs and what winter weather will mean for energy markets. ...



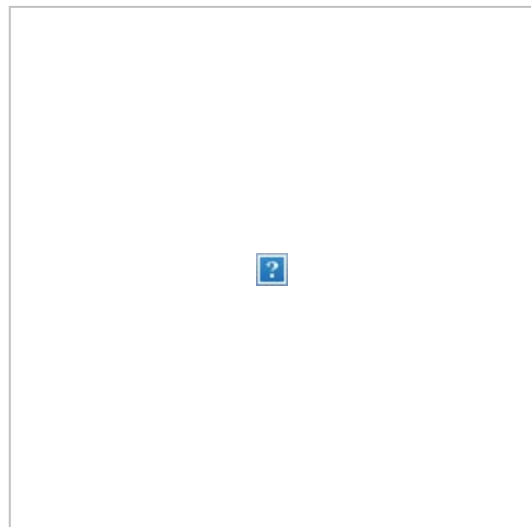
[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



[AG holds webinars to help government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA weighs in on several bills related to procurement before the State Administration and Regulatory Oversight Committee](#)

On Sept. 22, Testimony

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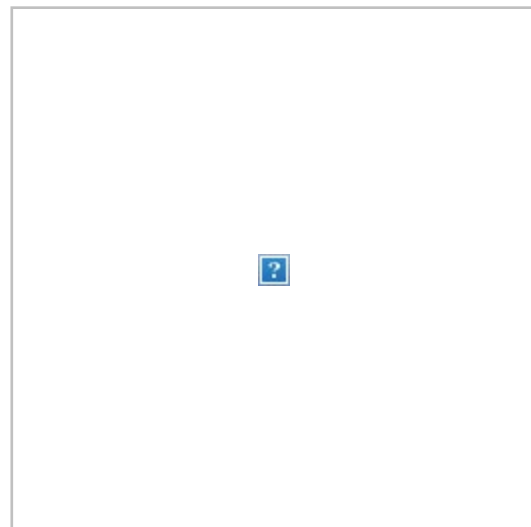
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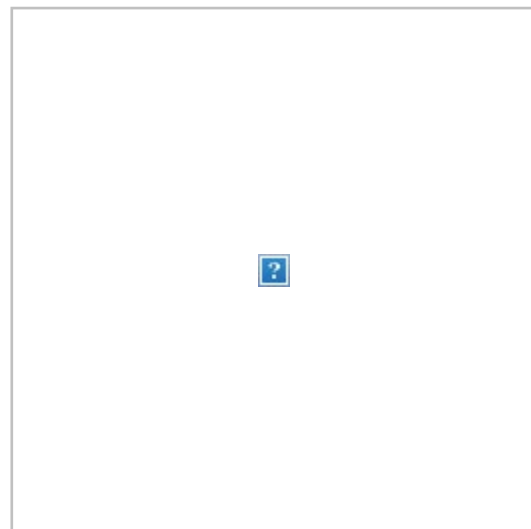
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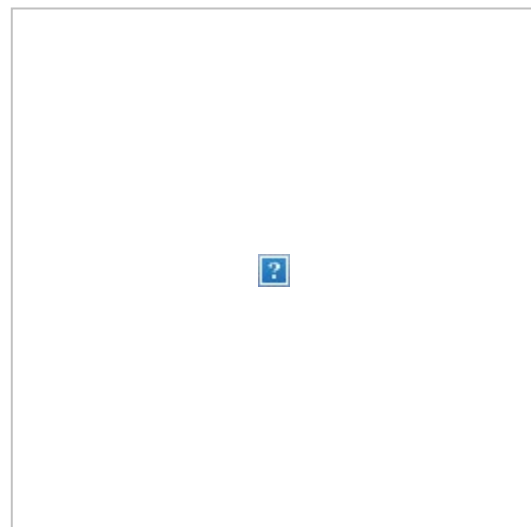
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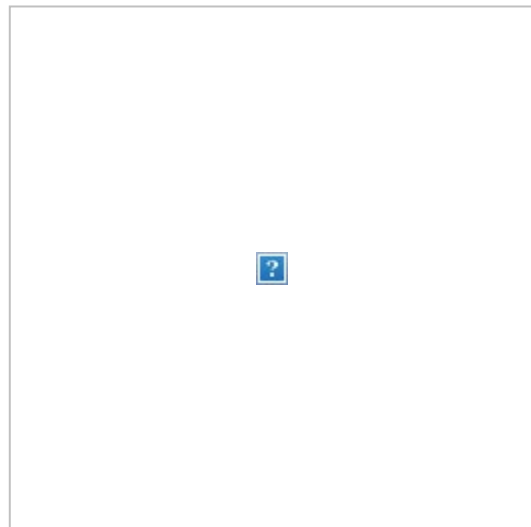
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MMA Website Weekly Review

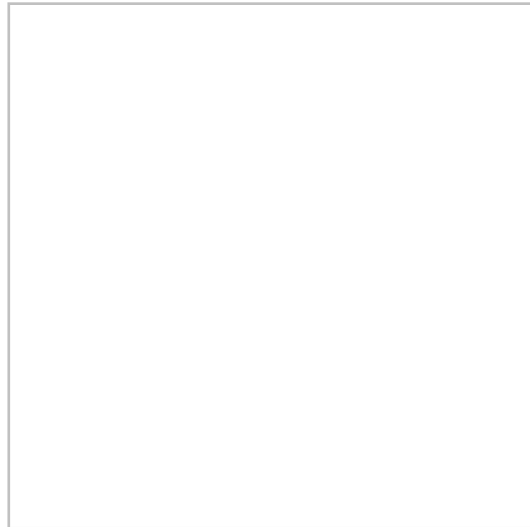
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[Administration announces \\$164M in Community One Stop for Growth grants](#)

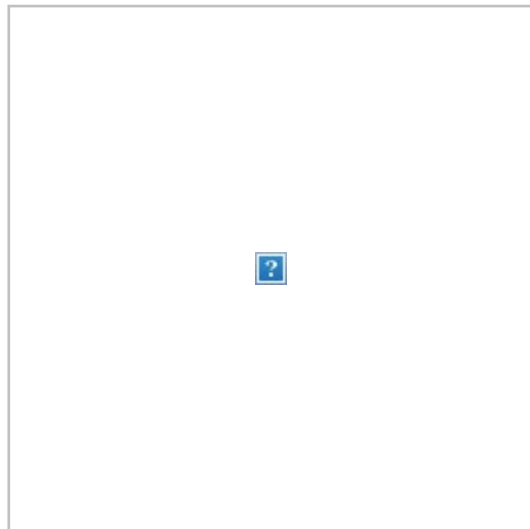
At an event in Revere today, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced \$164 million for 338 grant awards through the Community

One Stop for Growth program to support local economic development projects in 161 communities across the state. ...



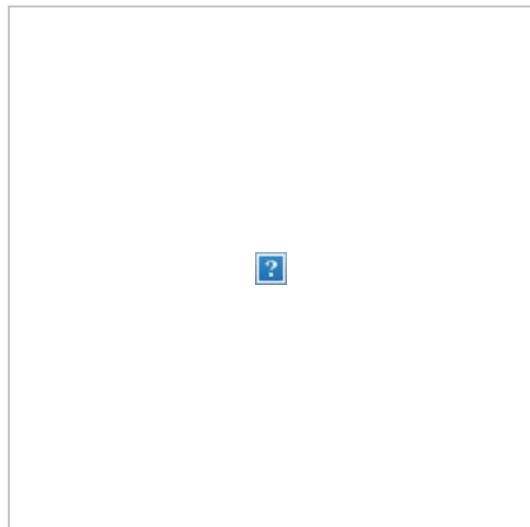
[Climate chief makes recommendations for addressing climate crisis](#)

The state's climate chief, Melissa Hoffer, published a report today with recommendations to implement the Healey-Driscoll administration's whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis. ...



[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free,

75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



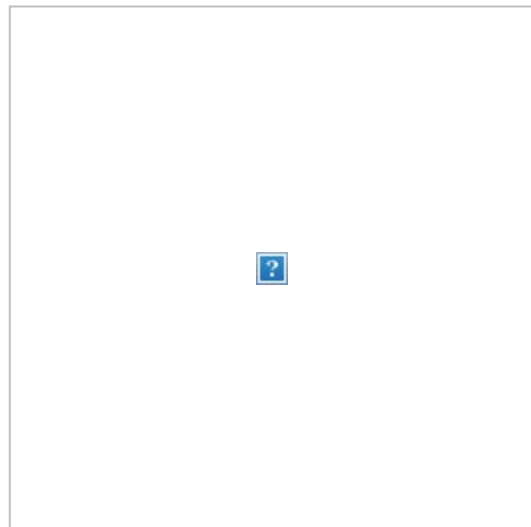
[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[New podcast highlights Mass. as age- and dementia-friendly leader](#)

The administration on Oct. 10 announced the release of a podcast series on age- and dementia-friendly innovations across Massachusetts called “ReiMAging Aging.” ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate

Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



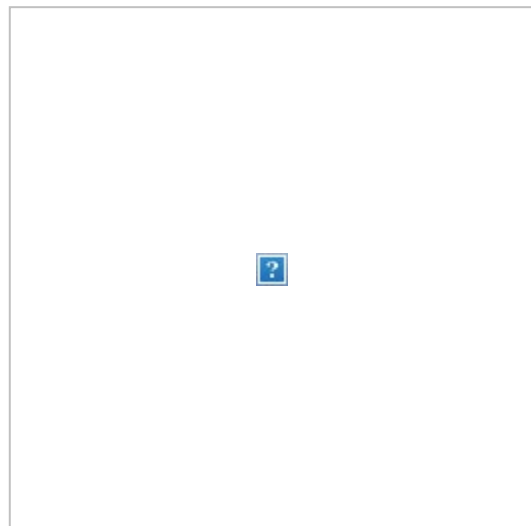
[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[State offers grants for AED equipment](#)

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...

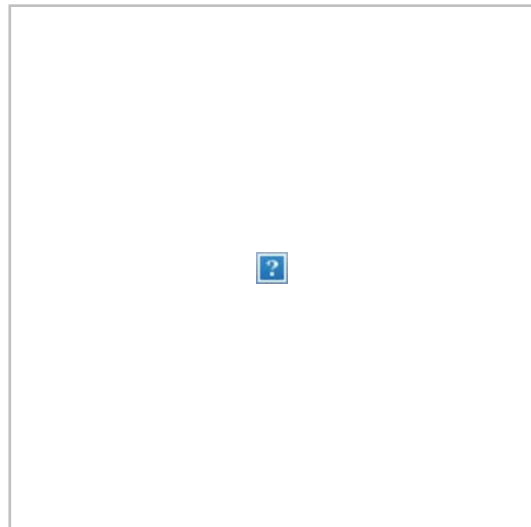


[Timely responses sought for Survey of Occupational Injuries](#)

[and Illnesses](#)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is reminding selected municipal departments to continue their record-keeping efforts needed to complete the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, a federal/state program that collects information on and provides estimates of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses.

...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges State Administration Committee to support bills to enhance grant opportunities for rural communities and provide for alternative delivery of infrastructure projects](#)

On Oct. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

Mark your calendars for the return of the live, in-person MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024.

Friday Keynote Speaker: [Eddie Glaude Jr.](#)

Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Upcoming MMA Events

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Delivering Hard-to-Hear Feedback webinar](#) - Oct. 31

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 4

[Live Demonstration of COMMBUYS webinar](#) - Nov. 7

[Municipal Leadership Academy: Embracing Critical Feedback webinar](#) - Nov. 8

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[Legislative Session Review webinar](#) - Nov. 20

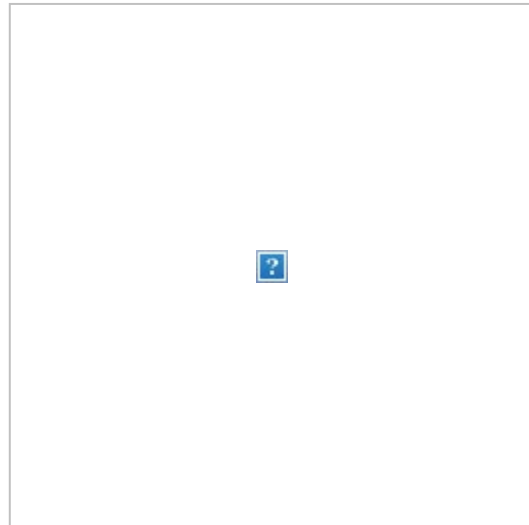
[Forms of Government webinar](#) - Nov. 29

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

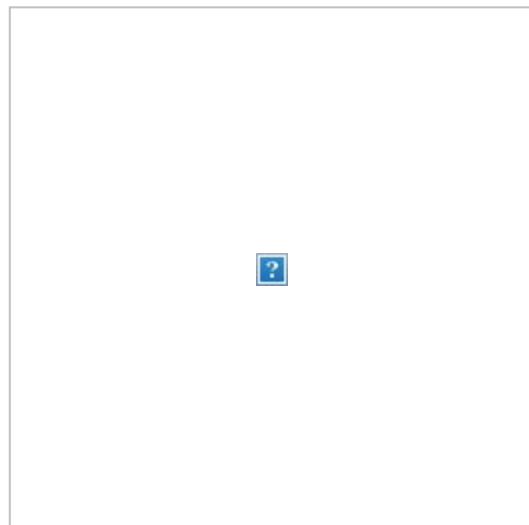
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[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Webinar will cover upcoming SCOTUS cases affecting local government](#)

The Local Government Legal Center will host a free webinar on Oct. 31 to discuss the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court term and cases relevant to local governments. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles](#)

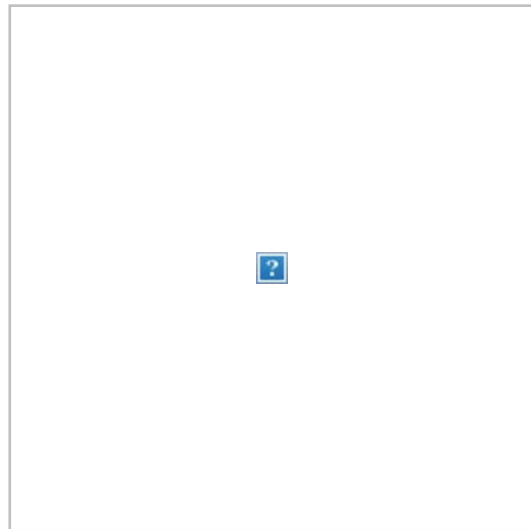
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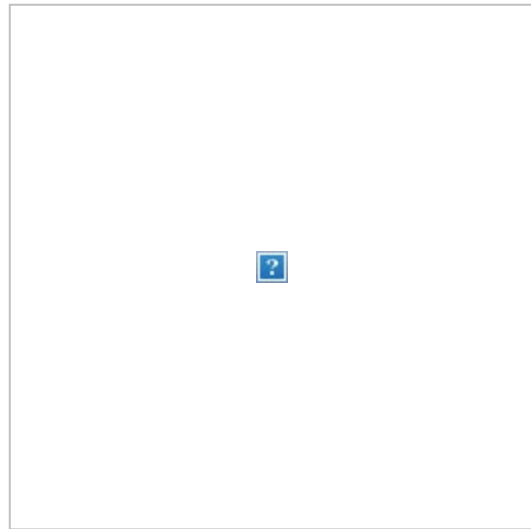
[government workers gain student debt relief](#)

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down President Joe Biden's plan to provide \$10,000 to \$20,000 in student loan debt relief, but there is still another historic and time-limited opportunity for nonprofit and government workers to get closer to loan forgiveness and lower their monthly payments. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

[Executive Assistant](#)

[Human Resources Manager](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 62 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Library Director, Local Building Inspector, Social Worker, Communications Specialist, Public Health Agent, Finance Director and Town Treasurer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Website Weekly Review

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](#)!

Scheduling note: In recognition of the holiday, next week's review will arrive in inboxes on Thursday, Nov. 9.

[Administration gives emergency
shelter update as system
approaches limit](#)

With the emergency family shelter
system quickly approaching its

capacity limit, the administration gave an update today on next steps.

...



[MMA publishes November issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA today published the November 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including federal grant opportunities, the emergency shelter system, and climate change, plus details about the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show and other upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...



[MMA Annual Meeting planning continues](#)

Planning continues for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held in person on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel in Boston. ...

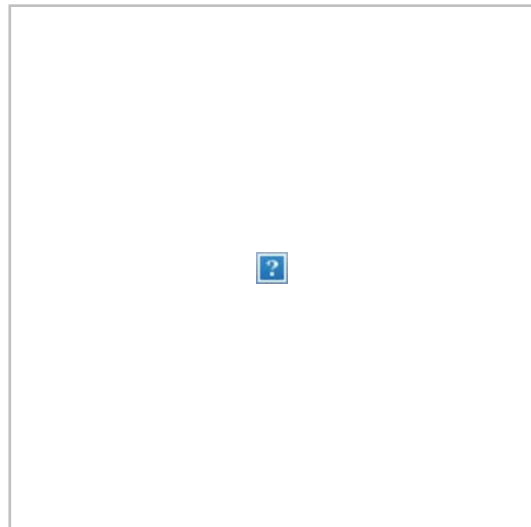


[MMA's DEI work moving forward](#)

[on several tracks](#)

The MMA is continuing to move forward with its diversity, equity and inclusion work on a number of fronts.

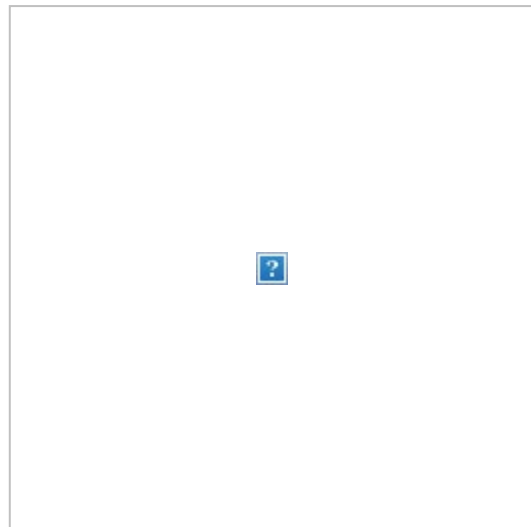
...



[Final CCC marijuana regulations published](#)

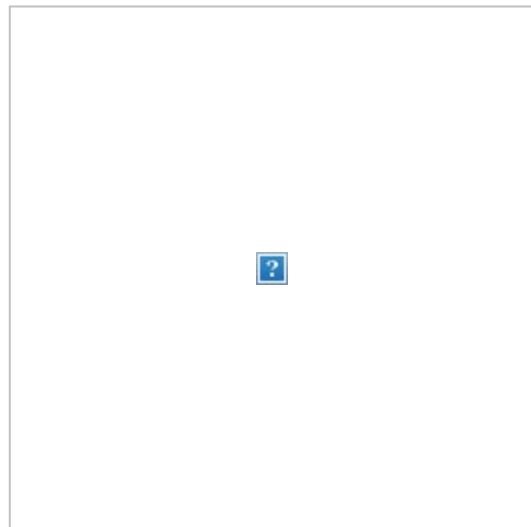
The Secretary of the Commonwealth on Oct. 27 published the Cannabis Control Commission's final updated regulations governing adult and medical use of marijuana, the final step in enacting the new regulations.

...



[MMA holds fall Legislative Breakfast Meetings](#)

On two Fridays in October, legislators and local officials from across Massachusetts gathered for four MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings. ...



[MMA to hold virtual legislative briefing Nov. 20](#)

MMA members are invited to a

virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[MMA webinar to demonstrate key features of COMMBUYS](#)

On Nov. 7, the MMA will host a free, 75-minute webinar with the Operational Services Division demonstrating how to navigate the COMMBUYS landing page and conduct an advanced search for contracts, vendors and grants. ...



[MMA webinar to review effective meeting management](#)

A free MMA webinar on Nov. 15 will share valuable tips for running an effective meeting from start to finish. ...



[Changes proposed for CDBG one-year action plan for FY24](#)

The Executive Office of Housing and

Livable Communities is proposing changes to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant program for federal fiscal 2024. ...



[Applications for sewage notification grant program due Nov. 10](#)

Regional and municipal wastewater utilities have until Nov. 10 to apply for a grant to help them meet notification requirements for wastewater discharges. ...



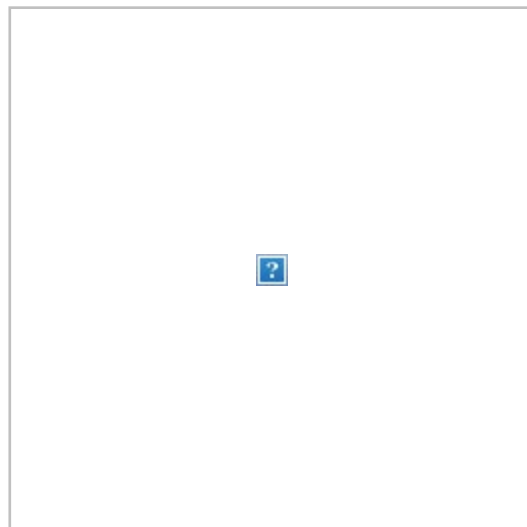
[Federal funding available for EV charging infrastructure](#)

Applications are due by Nov. 13 for up to \$100 million in federal funding available for the repair and replacement of non-operational electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[MassDEP awards \\$5.2M to support recycling, composting and waste reduction](#)

On Sept. 28, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced the award of \$5.2 million in grants to 283 municipalities and regional solid waste districts for recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[On migrant shelter crisis, cities and towns need help in 3 key areas](#)

On Nov. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Environment and Natural Resources Committee to support bills to label wipe products with "Do Not Flush" to avoid costly wastewater problems](#)

On Oct. 25, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

[Register now for the 2024 MMA](#)

[Annual Meeting & Trade Show!](#)

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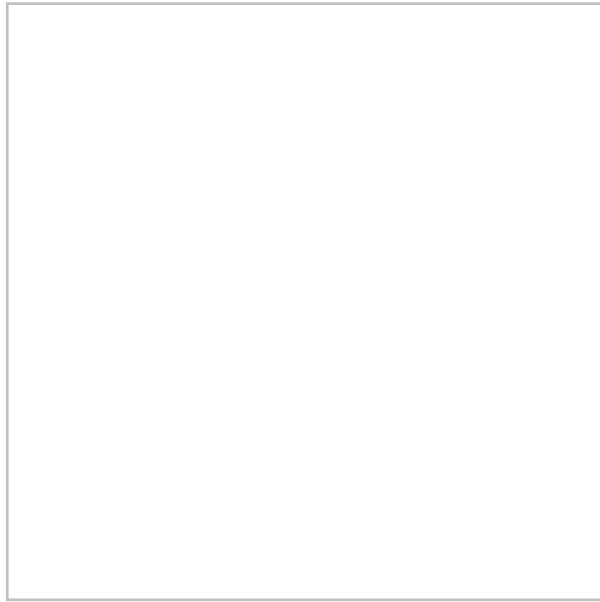
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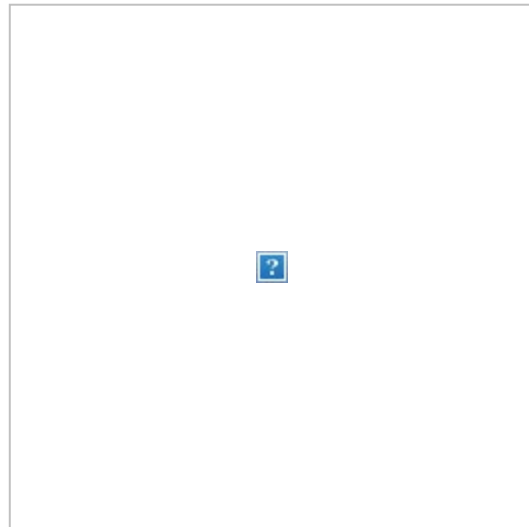
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

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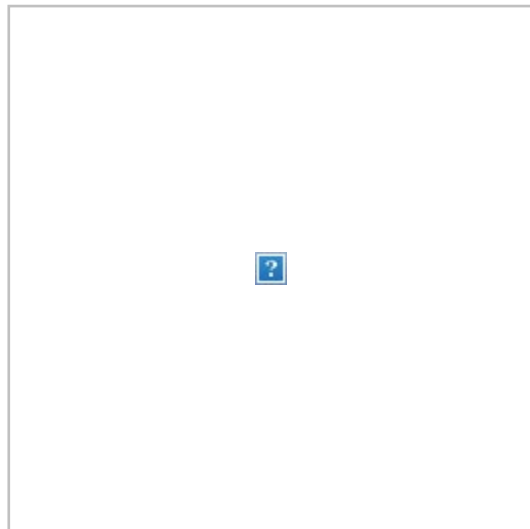
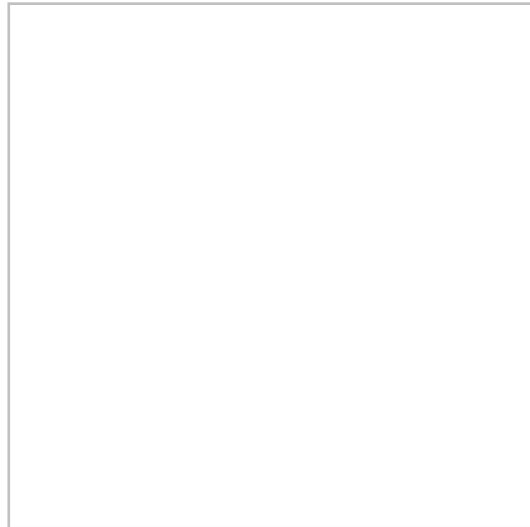


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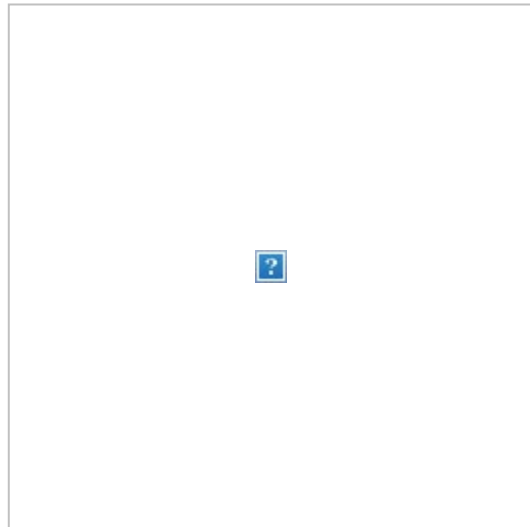
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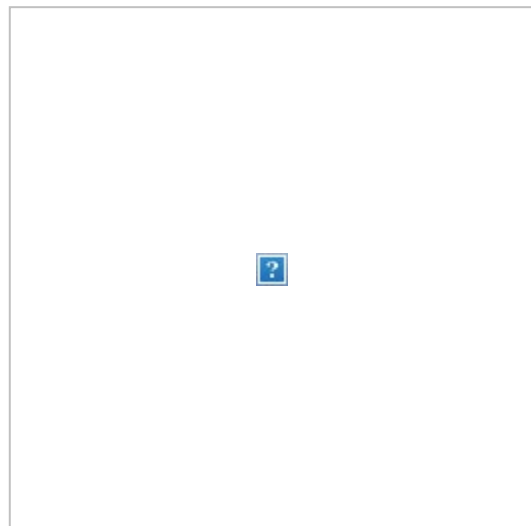
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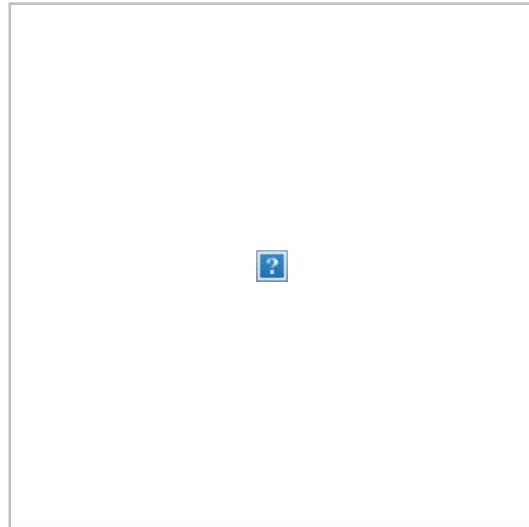
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 44 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Assistant Town Manager, Senior Planner, Finance Manager, Town Engineer, Town Administrator, Conservation Agent, Senior Climate Program Manager, and Planner and Land Use Administrator. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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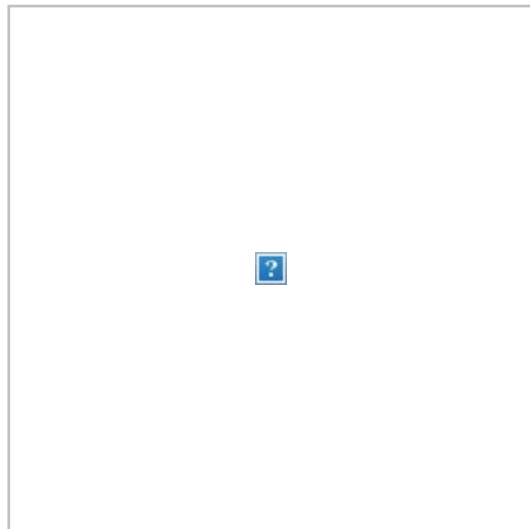
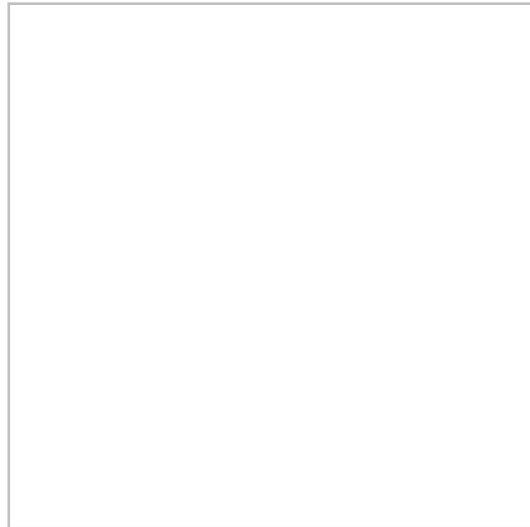
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[Voters elect 33 mayors across Massachusetts](#)

Voters yesterday elected mayors in 33 cities across the state, including nine new mayors. ...

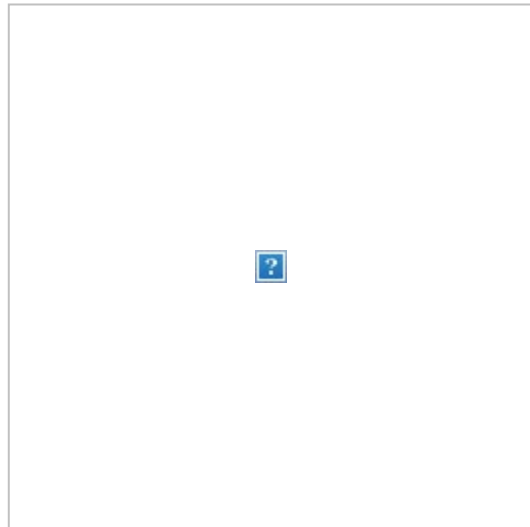
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MMA members are invited to a virtual legislative briefing on Nov. 20 to hear about the latest activity in the current legislative session that has implications for cities and towns. ...



[**Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program opens**](#)

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



[**MMA webinar to review state-level disaster response protocol**](#)

The MMA will host a free, one-hour

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[House, Senate adopt wage equity bill](#)

The House and Senate have both adopted their own versions of legislation aimed at closing gender and racial wage gaps in the Commonwealth. ...



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[Broadband Institute launches \\$145M Gap Networks Infrastructure Grant Program](#)

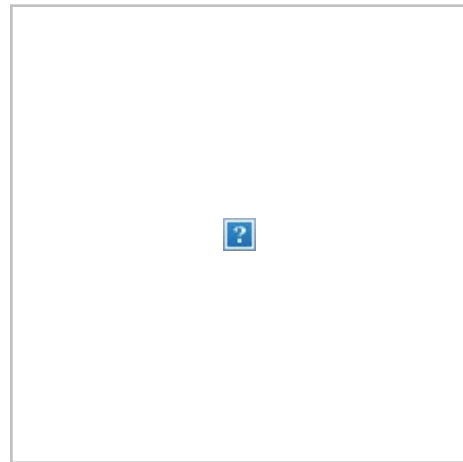
The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...



[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

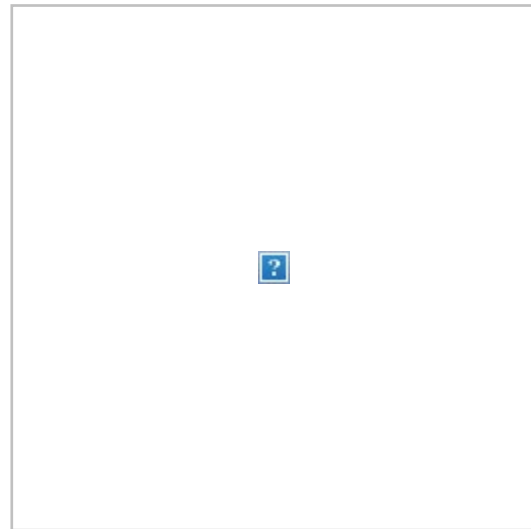
The Municipal Vulnerability

Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Dec. 15 for its fiscal 2025 Action Grant round. ...



[DOER launches Climate Leader program, awards green grants](#)

The Department of Energy Resources has announced a new program that builds on the Green Communities designation and grant program. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Municipalities and Regional Government Committee to support bill to expand the uses of water banking](#)

On Oct. 24, Testimony

[MMA urges Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy to support bills to expedite removal of doubled up utility poles](#)

On Oct. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

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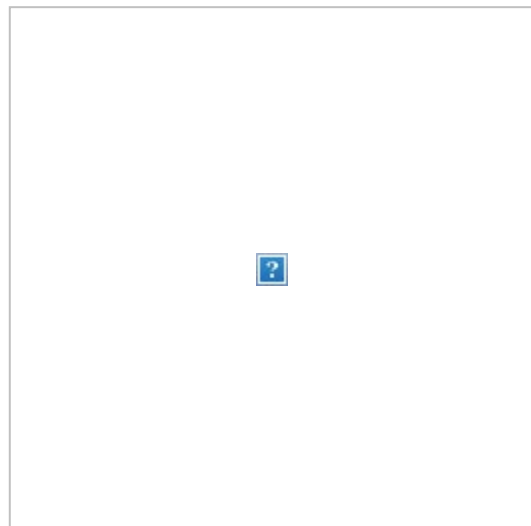
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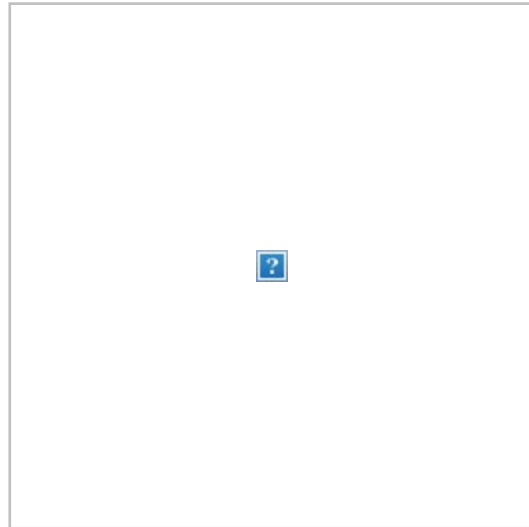
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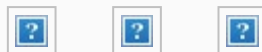
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Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be back in your inbox on Dec. 1.

[Conference committee takes up
FY23 closeout supplemental
budget](#)

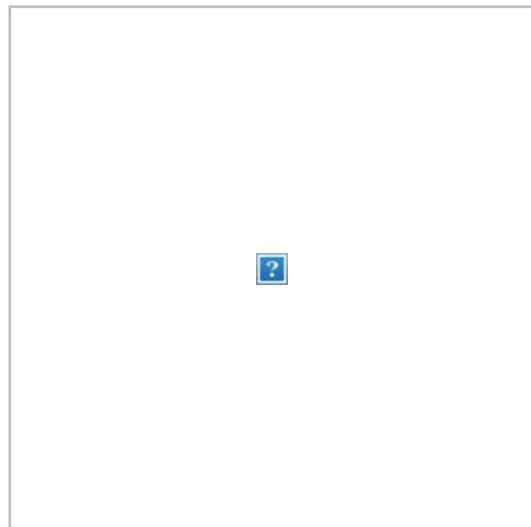
As the formal legislative session

came to a close for the calendar year yesterday, the House and Senate were unable to reach a consensus on a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget bill, and a six-member conference committee was named to resolve differences between the two branches. ...



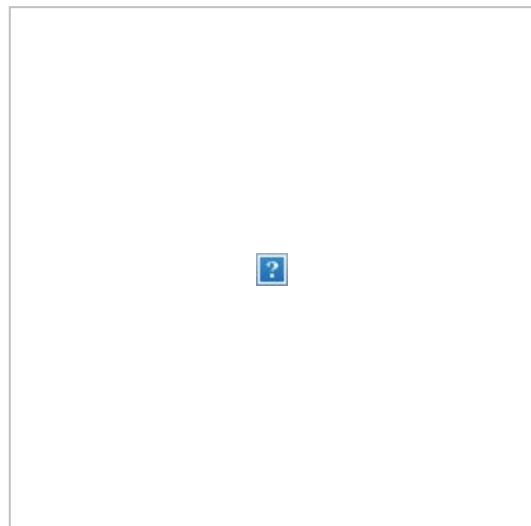
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[MMA webinar reviews MEMA's role in municipal disaster response](#)

An MMA webinar today with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency shared municipal best practices for before, during and after an emergency or disaster. ...



[MMA webinar shares best practices and pitfalls of meeting](#)

[management](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed best practices for running an effective meeting from start to finish.

...



[MMHR seminar focuses on DEI, negotiations, accommodations, health plans](#)

Diversity, equity and inclusion, union contract negotiations, reasonable ADA accommodations, and health plan conversations were the main topics of the Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Labor Relations Seminar on Oct. 27 in Devens. ...



[Augustus to address MSA Leadership Conference on Dec. 8](#)

Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Leadership Conference on Dec. 8 in Stow. ...



[MBI seeks feedback on Internet for All plan](#)

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts

Broadband Institute opened a month-long public comment period to gather feedback about the state's Internet for All Plan. ...



'Form of Government FAQ' webinar is Nov. 29

The Massachusetts Municipal Management Association will host a "Form of Government FAQ" webinar for all MMA members on Nov. 29 from noon to 1 p.m. ...



MMA to host 2nd annual POST update

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...



Gov. appoints Monica Tibbits-Nutt as Transportation secretary

Gov. Maura Healey today

announced that she is appointing Monica Tibbits-Nutt as secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation effective today. ...



Worcester receives federal funds for lead remediation

Worcester has received a \$4.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for a lead hazard reduction program for qualified property owners. The city plans to use the grant to rehabilitate 165 units that house low-income families with children. ...



Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge consolidate building inspection services

Faced with a staffing crunch and a lack of qualified job applicants in the region, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge have created a regional building inspection department to serve the four towns. ...



Reading looks to address flooding, watershed concerns

In collaboration with regional

partners, the town of Reading has embarked on a project to reduce the effects of precipitation-based flooding from the Aberjona River, a Mystic River tributary, by constructing a stormwater wetland storage system, essentially a series of storage pools. ...



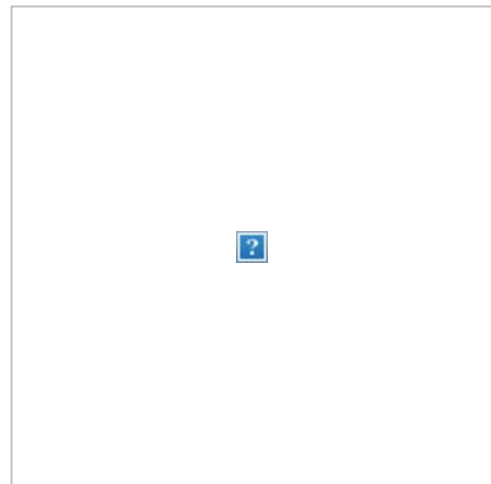
[Guidance released to help municipalities promote EV charging infrastructure](#)

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council and RMI have released a free guidance document designed to help municipalities as they develop and implement strategies to provide their communities with electric vehicle charging infrastructure. ...



[Rural community leaders invited to apply for Reaching Rural Initiative Fellowships](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance will be selecting a new group of fellows to participate in a rural leadership program called Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions. ...



[Now is the time to prepare for winter maintenance emergencies](#)

With unpredictable weather patterns

and a volatile property insurance market, it's more crucial than ever to complete comprehensive maintenance protocols ahead of winter. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges Education Committee to support bills targeting challenges facing rural school districts, MSBA rules, transportation for out-of-district vocational education, and special ed costs](#)

On Nov. 8, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

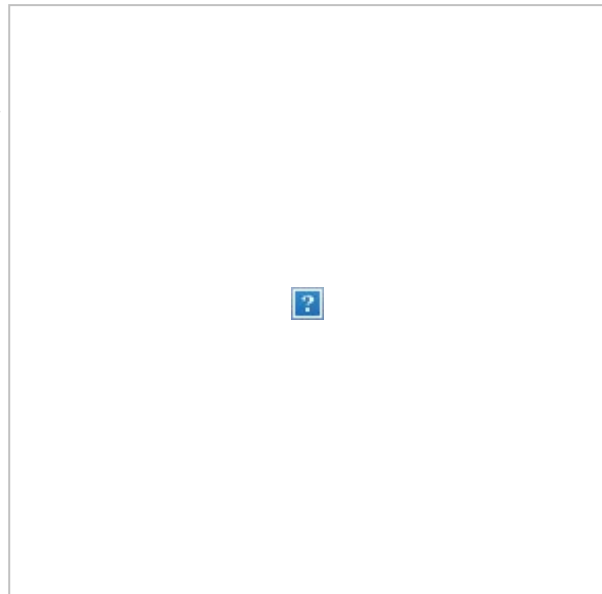
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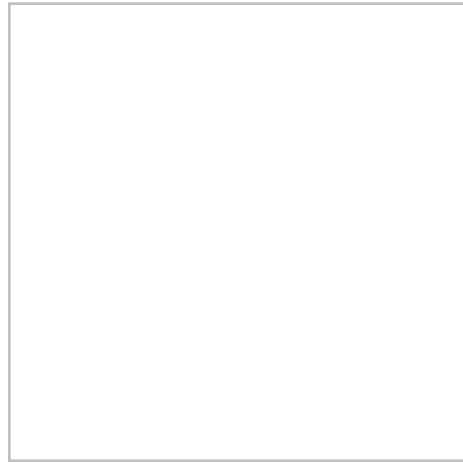
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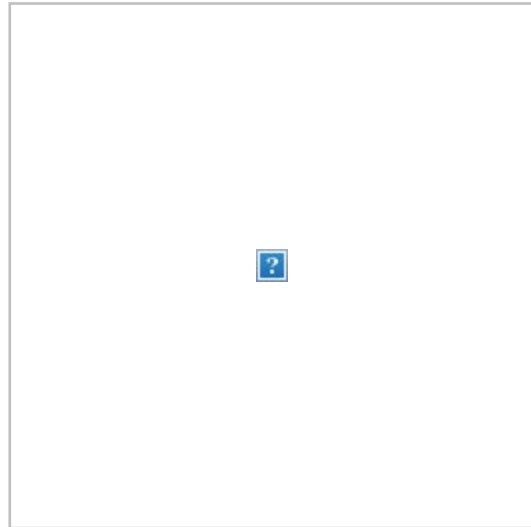
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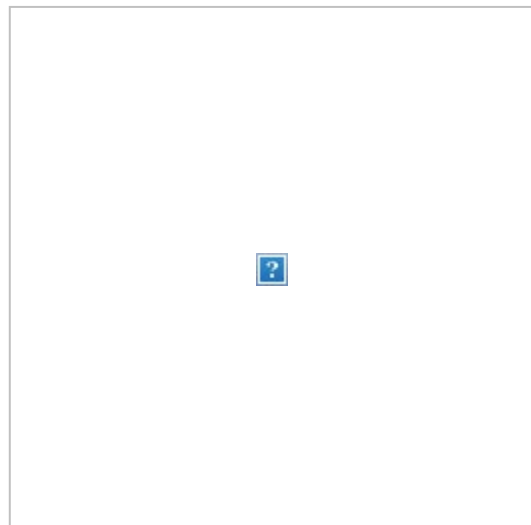
**Broadband Institute launches
\$145M Gap Networks
Infrastructure Grant Program**

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech has launched a new competitive grant program that aims to deliver high-speed internet infrastructure to areas that currently lack broadband-level service. ...



**Municipal Cybersecurity
Awareness Grant Program opens**

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security has opened the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program for 2024. ...



**State offers grants for AED
equipment**

The Office of Grants and Research will make \$330,000 in state funds

available to equip public safety and first responder vehicles with automated external defibrillators. ...



[EPA opens 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)

The 2023 Clean School Bus Rebate Program, which promotes the replacement of school buses with clean and zero-emission models, is open for applications through Jan. 31. ...



[Thriving Communities program now accepting applications](#)

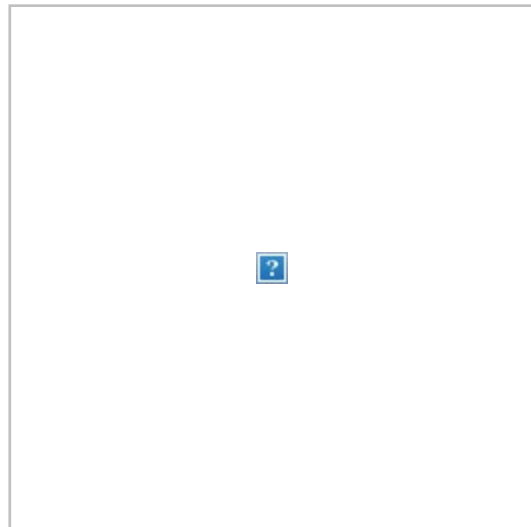
The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for its fiscal 2023 Thriving Communities Program, which provides free technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to help communities scope, fund and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. ...



[MassDEP issues reporting requirement for medium- and](#)

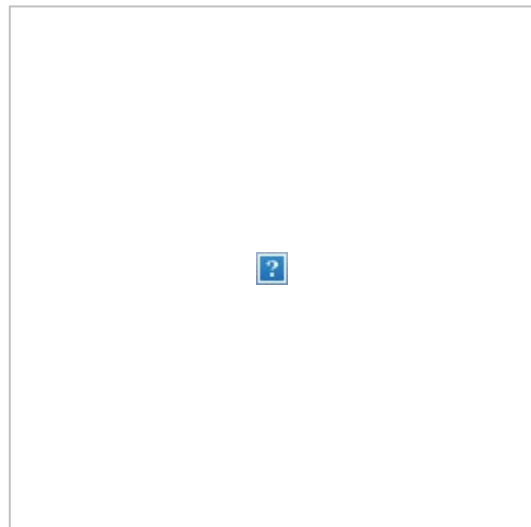
[heavy-duty vehicles](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has finalized a regulation requiring municipalities and other large entities to submit a one-time report on their use of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as part of an effort to assess future electrification infrastructure needs and programs across the Commonwealth. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



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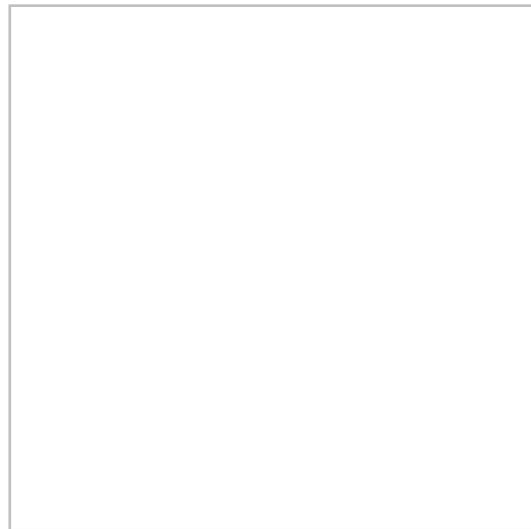
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[Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll to address MMA Annual Business Meeting](#)

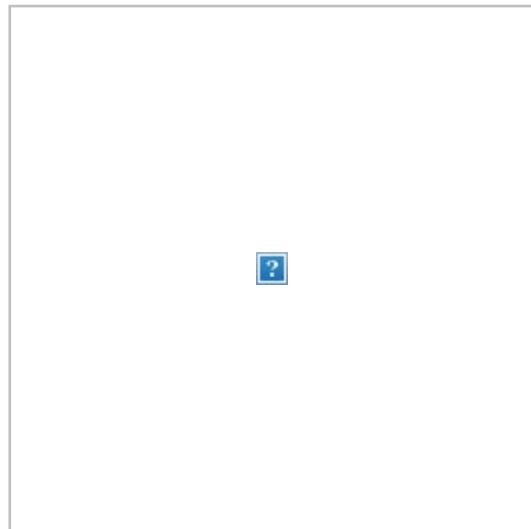
A year into her tenure as lieutenant governor — following 17 years as mayor of Salem — Kim Driscoll will address local leaders during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on

Saturday morning, Jan. 20, in
Boston. ...



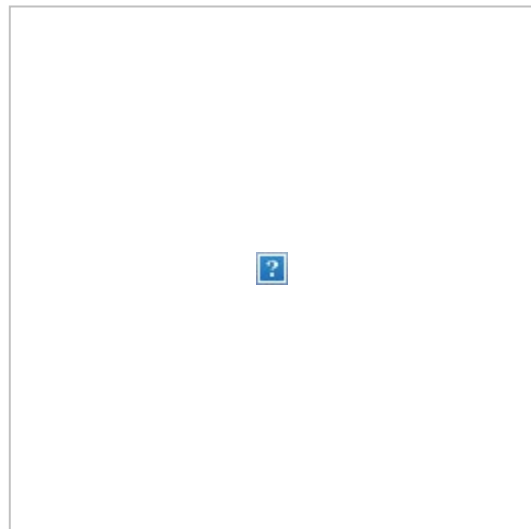
**State budget writers to hold
revenue hearing on Dec. 4**

The fiscal 2025 state budget process will begin in earnest on Dec. 4 with the annual hearing where the Department of Revenue and other fiscal experts and economists discuss the prospects for the economy and state revenue over the second half of the current fiscal year and in the fiscal year to come. ...



**FY23 closeout supplemental
budget moves a step closer**

A legislative conference committee named to iron out differences between House and Senate versions of a fiscal 2023 closeout supplemental budget released a compromise bill on Nov. 30. ...



**MMA publishes December issue
of The Beacon**

The MMA today published the

December 2023 issue of The Beacon, which includes the latest news affecting local government on topics including the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, ARPA funding and numerous grant opportunities, coastal resilience and climate change, and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars. ...

[Annual Meeting to feature 21 timely workshops](#)

Timely and informative workshops are a central feature of the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in January, and this year attendees can learn how to protect municipal infrastructure from climate impacts, improve their advocacy for their community, boost their local diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, and build thriving business districts, among other topics. ...

[Administration launches statewide coastal resilience strategy](#)

At an event held at a waterfront park in Beverly yesterday, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced a new effort to pursue a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the Massachusetts coastline. ...



Federal funds office provides support to municipalities

Looking to maximize federal funding for Massachusetts through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act and CHIPS and Science Act, a new state office is reaching out to cities and towns with key details on grant opportunities and technical assistance to help them reel in federal dollars. ...



MMA to present fiscal policy, climate resolutions at Annual Business Meeting

Local leaders from across Massachusetts will consider two resolutions during the MMA's Annual Business Meeting on Jan. 20 in Boston — one on the state-local fiscal partnership and one on climate challenges. ...



More MMA Annual Meeting details finalized

In the past few days, the MMA has announced its roster of workshops and another key speaker, Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll, for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show, which will be held on Jan. 19 and 20, 2024, at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. ...



ARPA deadline is one year away

Cities and towns have about a year

left — until Dec. 31, 2024 — to obligate their State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act. ...



MMA webinar on Dec. 11 will discuss new CCC regulations

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 11 with attorney Nicole Costanzo of KP Law will discuss the Cannabis Control Commission's [newly promulgated regulations](#) and their impact on host communities. ...



MMA to host 2nd annual POST update

A free MMA webinar on Dec. 12 will review common themes of policing reform, as well as the charge of the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission. ...

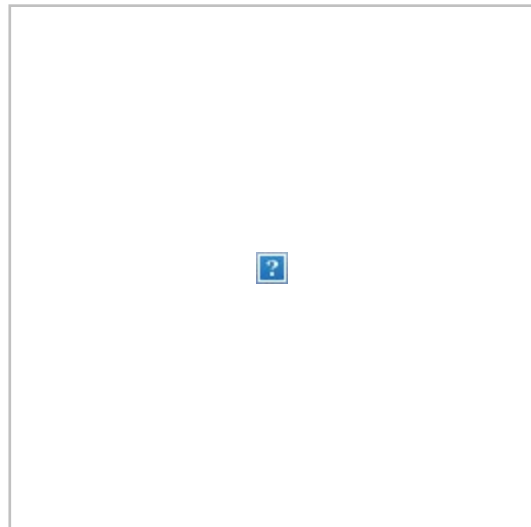


Form of government webinar answers FAQs

A Massachusetts Municipal

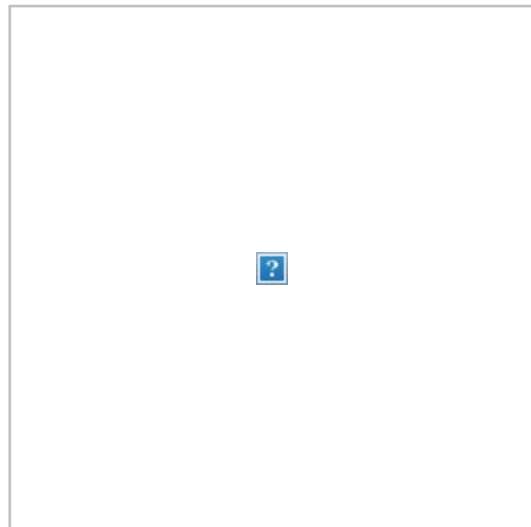
Management Association “Form of Government FAQ’s” webinar today addressed common questions that arise when a community is considering a change in governance.

...



[MMA holds legislative briefing to update municipal officials](#)

As a busy formal legislative session recently came to a close, the MMA’s Legislative Division hosted a webinar for local officials yesterday to provide updates on key legislative and regulatory matters and highlight MMA priorities for the next several months. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[December is a great time to think about the year ahead](#)

On Dec. 1, Executive Director's Report

[MMA urges Revenue Committee to support bills to allow municipalities, at local option, to increase local revenue](#)

On Nov. 20, Testimony

Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

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Saturday Keynote Speaker: [Gina McCarthy](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Melissa Hoffer](#)

Guest Speaker: [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting, virtual](#) - Dec. 7

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association newly elected training](#) - Dec. 9

[Cannabis Compliance: Reviewing the New Regulatory Requirements for Host Communities webinar](#) - Dec. 11

[POST Update webinar](#) - Dec. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 14

[Goal Setting webinar](#) - Jan. 9

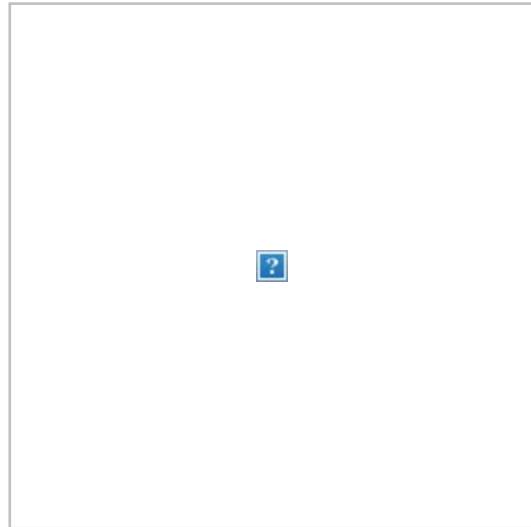
[MMA Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) - Jan. 19-20

[View our entire event calendar](#)

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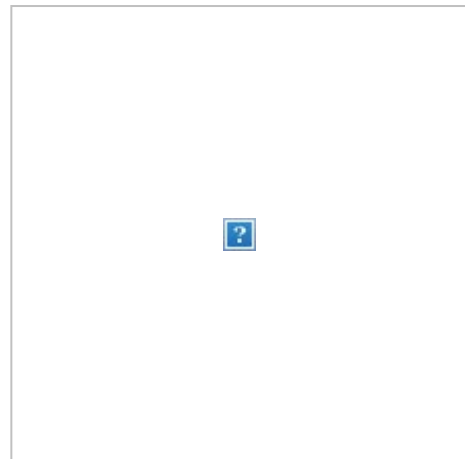
[MBI seeks feedback on Internet for All plan](#)

On Nov. 14, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute opened a month-long public comment period to gather feedback about the state's Internet for All Plan. ...



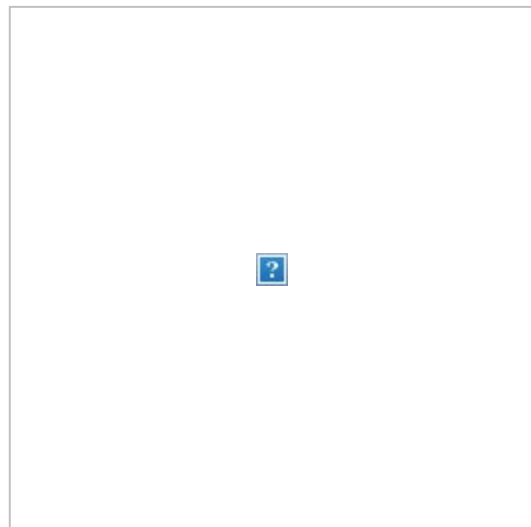
[MVP Action Grant expressions of interest due Dec. 15](#)

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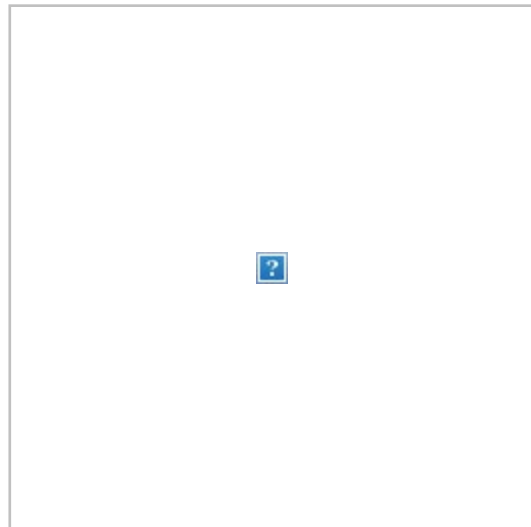


[Municipal Cybersecurity](#)

[Awareness Grant Program opens](#)

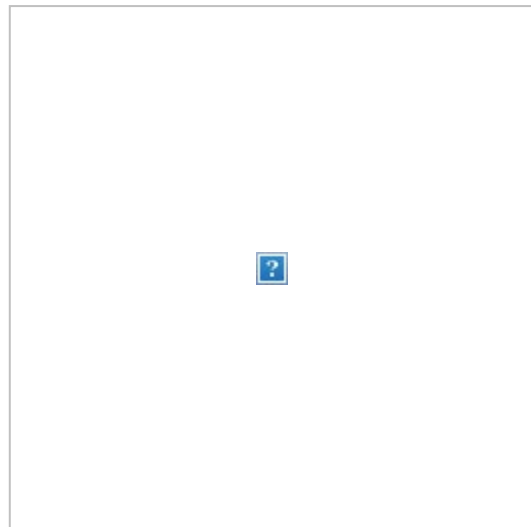
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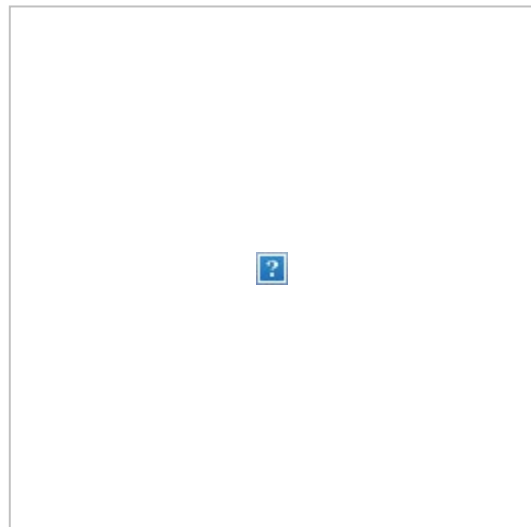
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[Administration makes 9C budget cuts, but avoids cutting local aid](#)

After six months of state tax collections falling short of benchmarks, the Healey-Driscoll administration today announced \$375 million in mid-year budget cuts

under Section 9C for fiscal 2024. ...

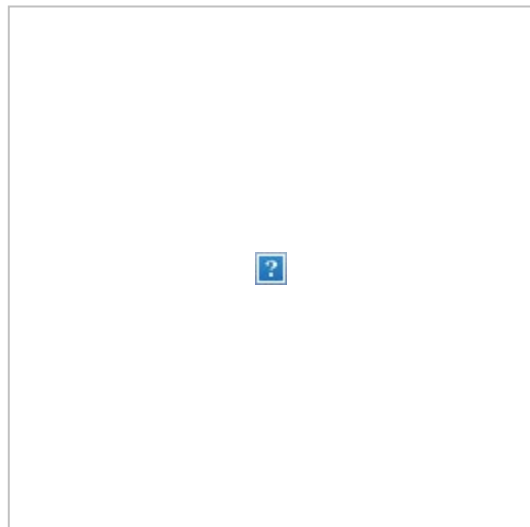
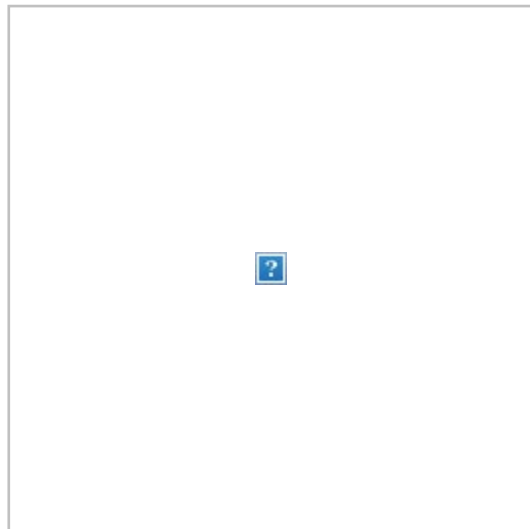
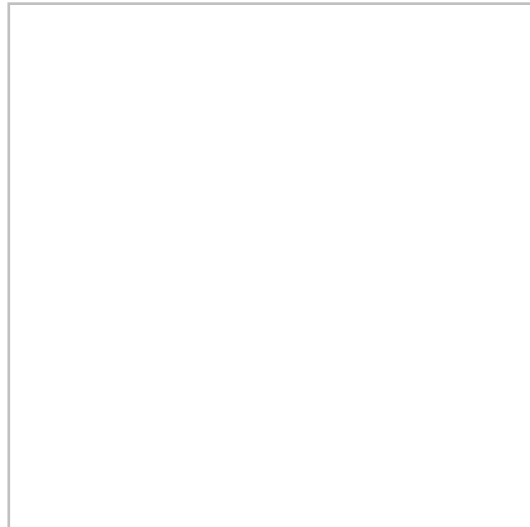
[Administration's \\$1.23B IT bond bill includes funds for local grant programs](#)

On Jan. 9, the Healey-Driscoll administration filed a \$1.23 billion, five-year bond bill intended to modernize IT systems across state agencies. ...

[Inspector General releases first in series of advisories for municipal officials](#)

The Office of the Inspector General today released its first OIG Advisory for municipal officials. ...

[MMA hosts webinar on conducting empathetic dialogue during conflict](#)



An MMA webinar today shared practical tips for fostering constructive dialogue and overcoming volatile feelings in challenging times. ...



[MMA hosts webinar on performance appraisals and ‘SMART’ goals](#)

An MMA webinar today reviewed performance appraisals and offered practical tips for setting “SMART” goals to help local officials start the year off right. ...



[Utilities submit drafts of electric sector modernization plans](#)

The state’s investor-owned electric distribution companies — Eversource, National Grid and Unitil — have submitted drafts of their electric sector modernization plans. ...



[Video features Franklin officials discussing road salt reduction strategies](#)

Just in time for winter, two public works officials from Franklin are featured in a short video offering advice on treating roads in ways that promote safety while minimizing impacts on the environment. ...



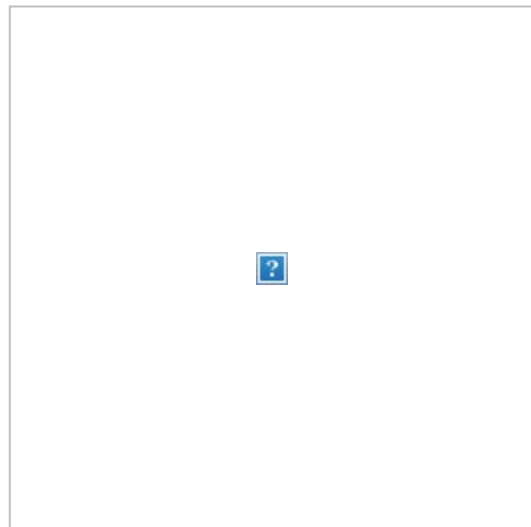
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[Workshop schedule & descriptions](#)



Upcoming MMA Events

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[Municipal Finance 101 webinar](#) - Feb. 6

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[MMA-Suffolk Certificate & Finance Seminars Information Session](#) - March 13

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[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting - March 21](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

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[MMA's 45th Annual Meeting & Trade Show starts today!](#)

The Hynes Convention Center in Boston will be buzzing today and tomorrow as more than 1,300 local leaders gather for the 45th MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show. ...

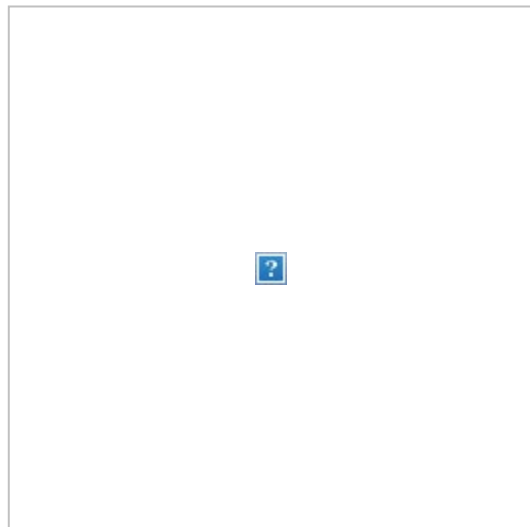
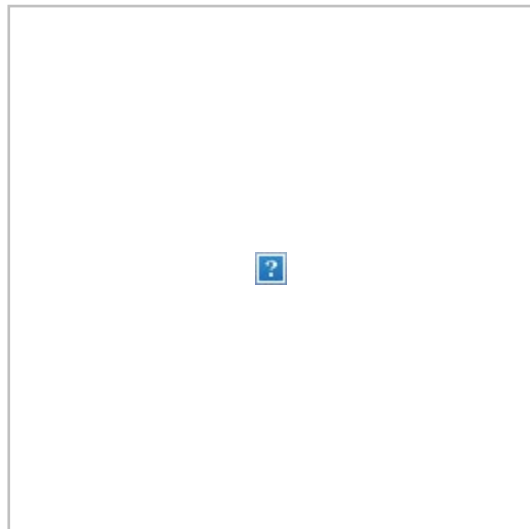
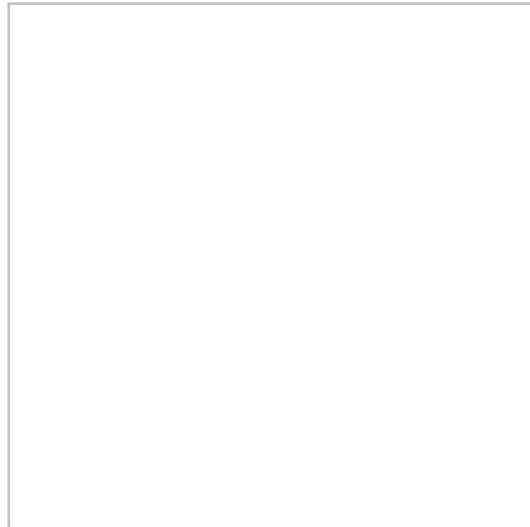
**[Budget writers announce
consensus revenue growth
forecast of 2% for FY25](#)**

The state's budget writers announced on Jan. 8 that state tax collections are expected to grow by 2% in fiscal 2025 over a recently reduced projection for fiscal 2024 revenue. ...

**[MMA to host VMLA webinar series
on emotional intelligence](#)**

Last fall, the MMA launched its Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar series to help promote professional development among municipal officials. The program's three-part pilot, exploring effective communication and feedback, was led by Cally Ritter, principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, and is still available for purchase. ...

[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)



[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



[Easthampton updates hate crimes policy](#)

With war raging abroad and hate crimes increasing nationally, Easthampton recently updated its Hate Crimes Policy to improve public safety, promote inclusivity, and provide greater clarity around its investigation processes and community outreach. ...



[Methuen takes collaborative approach to mental health, homelessness, addiction issues](#)

In an effort to address concerns about mental health, addiction and homelessness in the community, Methuen has convened a monthly mental health task force with representation from across municipal departments to collaborate on addressing the issues. ...



[Cambridge/Anmoughcawgen to add Indigenous language translations to some street signs](#)

As it seeks to acknowledge its Indigenous past and present, the city of Cambridge will soon install bilingual street signs translated in the Massachusetts language on several streets in the eastern part of town. ...



Climate change drives municipal planning challenges

With changing weather patterns creating a growing challenge for communities, multiple sessions during this year's MMA Annual Meeting will focus on the impacts of climate change, as well as what municipalities can do to maintain buildings and prevent costly damages. ...



Annual Meeting & Trade Show News and Reminders

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[Driscoll, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey](#)
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New In [Advocacy](#)

[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY25 state budget](#)
On Jan. 17, Testimony

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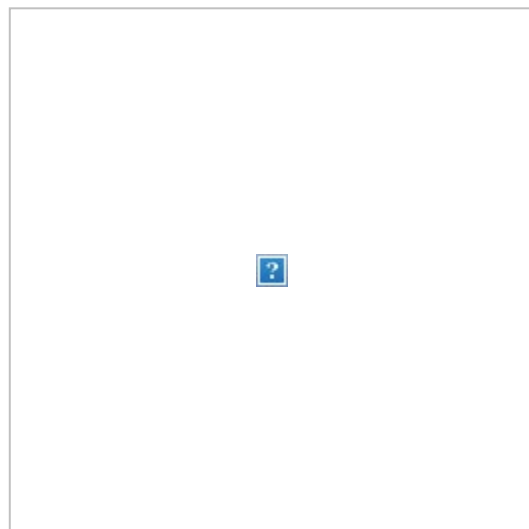
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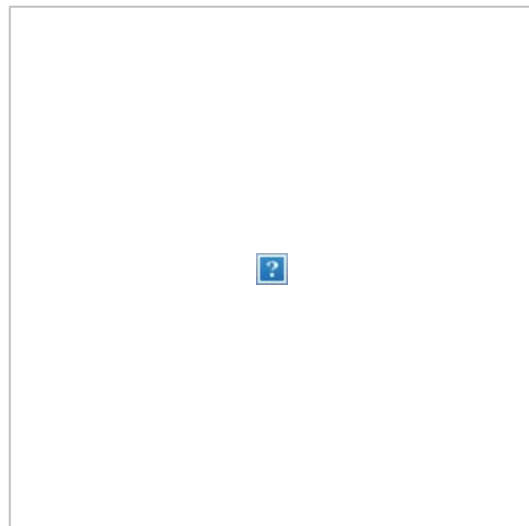
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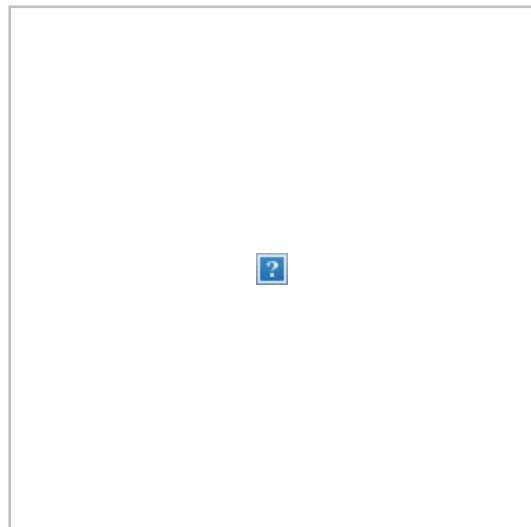
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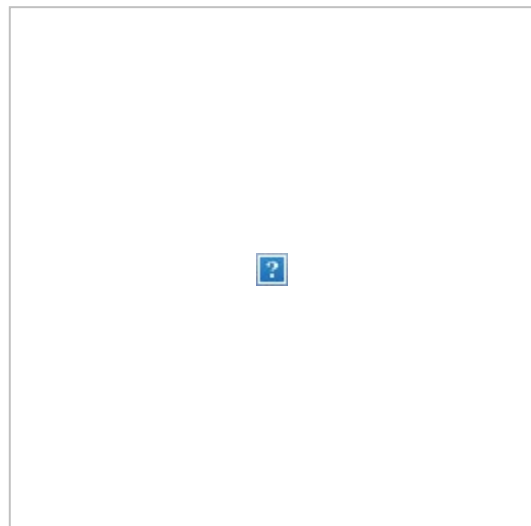
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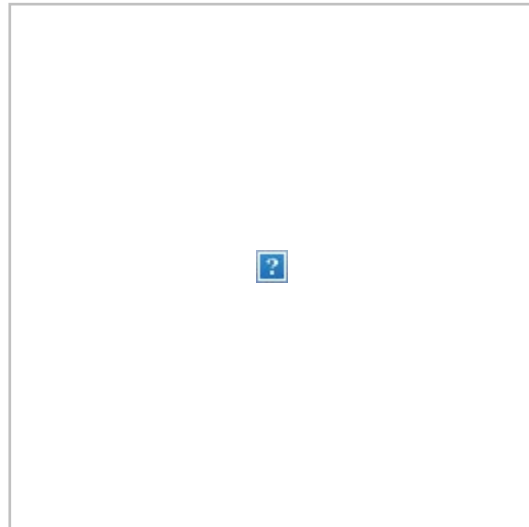
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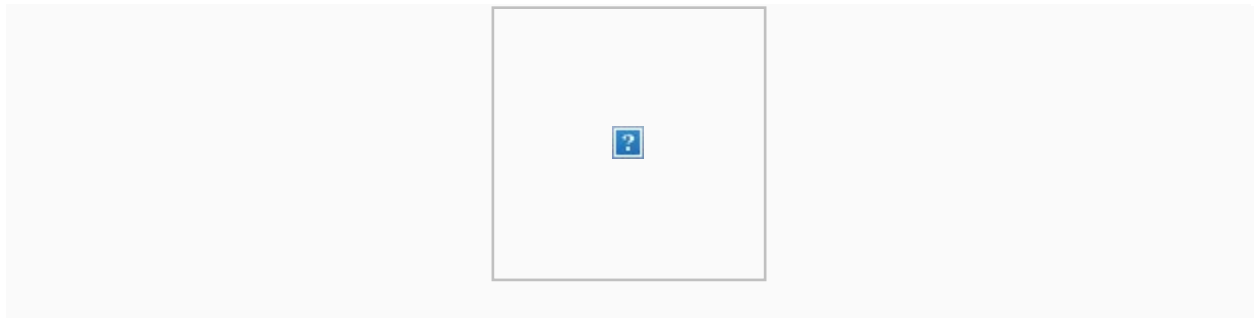


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[MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings in March](#)

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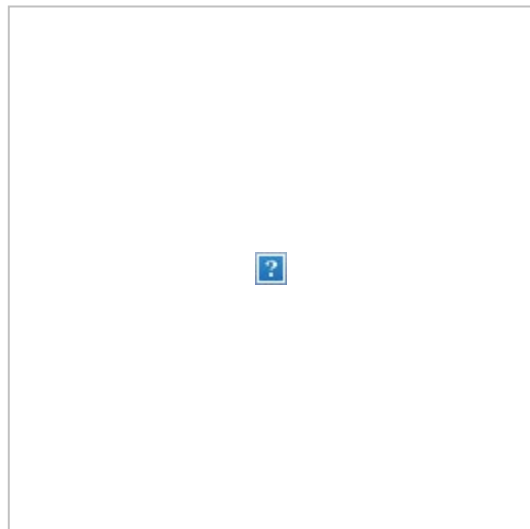
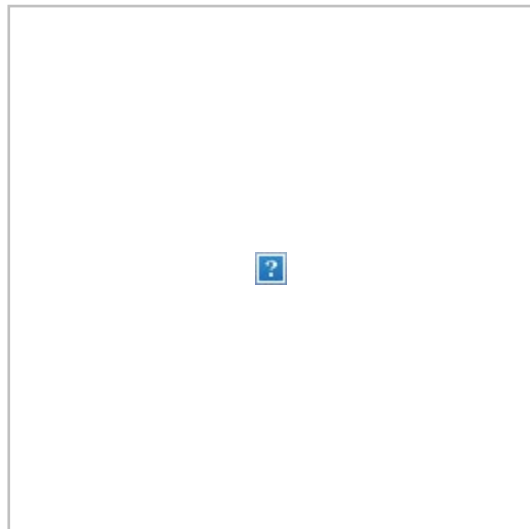
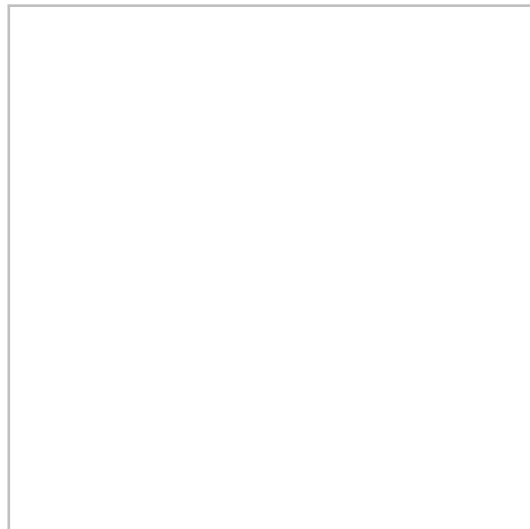
Applications due March 8 for \$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...

Administration announces \$50M for EV charging infrastructure

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 7 announced an investment of \$50 million in initiatives to build out electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Massachusetts. ...

MMA-Suffolk launch 2024 programs, hold information sessions



The MMA and Suffolk University will hold an information session about the MMA-Suffolk Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program on March 13 at 10 a.m. via Zoom. ...



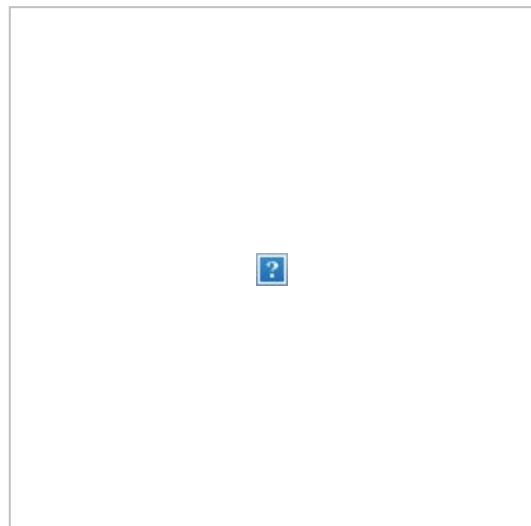
MunEnergy webinar on Feb. 29 will focus on spring weather impacts

The MMA's MunEnergy program will hold a free, one-hour webinar on Feb. 29 to provide timely information about spring energy costs and to discuss what spring weather and climate change will mean for energy markets, as well as the optimal time to purchase energy as we head into the spring. ...



'Meet DLS' webinar set for March 11

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual "Meet DLS" webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



MIIA presents safety, risk management, wellness awards

During its Annual Business Meeting in Boston on Jan. 20, MIIA presented awards to outstanding member communities and municipal entities to recognize their commitment to safety, risk management, and employee wellness. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[MBTA Communities: Municipalities & Compliance webinar](#) - Feb. 26

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[MunEnergy webinar](#) - Feb. 29

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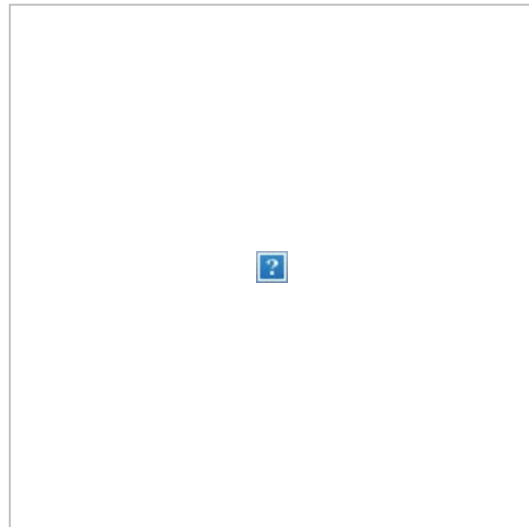
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[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Municipal Law Unit hosts trainings on bylaw processes, MBTA Communities rules](#)

The Attorney General's Municipal Law Unit is holding three free, online training sessions this month on the zoning bylaw amendment process and bylaw filing. ...



[MMA to host VMLA webinar series on emotional intelligence](#)

Last fall, the MMA launched its Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar series to help promote professional development among municipal officials. The program's three-part pilot, exploring effective communication and feedback, was led by Cally Ritter,

principal of Positive Ripple Training and Consulting, and is still available for purchase. ...

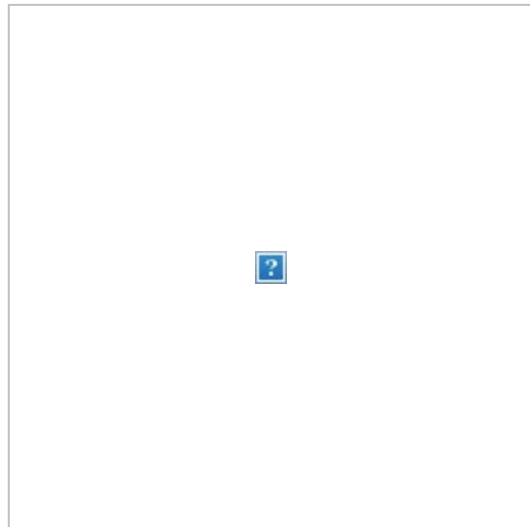
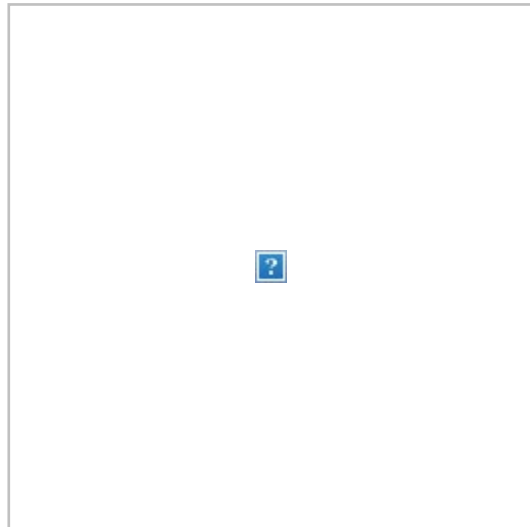
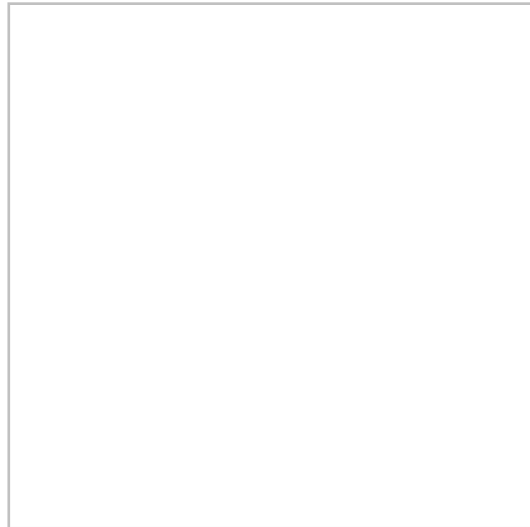
[Community One Stop for Growth opens for fiscal 2025](#)

Community One Stop for Growth, a portal where municipalities can apply for state community and economic development grant programs, has opened for fiscal 2025. ...

[MSA launches online Handbook for Massachusetts Select Board Members](#)

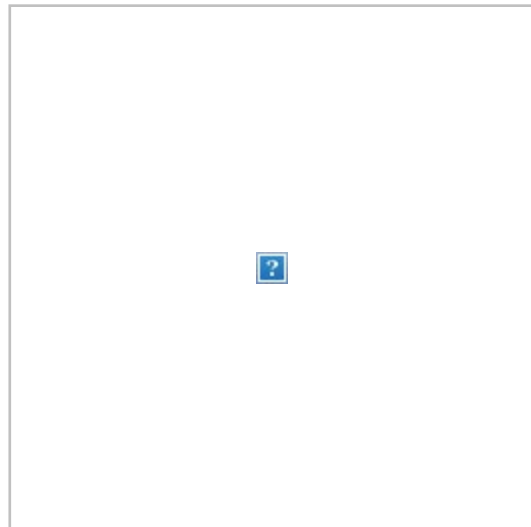
At the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show in Boston this morning, the Massachusetts Select Board Association launched a new online version of its comprehensive guide for Select Board members. ...

[MSBA accepting Statements of](#)



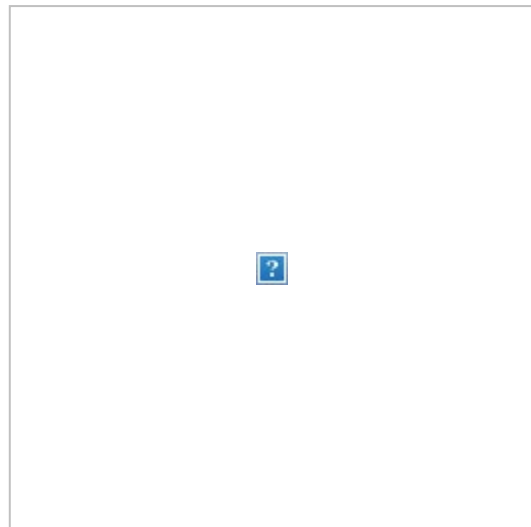
[Interest for school construction and repair projects](#)

On Jan. 12, the Massachusetts School Building Authority opened the 2024 Statement of Interest period for the Accelerated Repair Program and the Core Program. ...



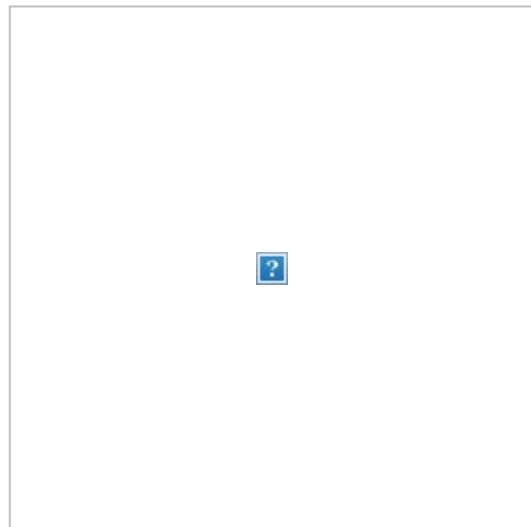
[Application period opens for CDBG program](#)

The federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants opened on Dec. 8, and the application deadline is March 25. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 46 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Principal Assessor, Human Resources Specialist, Town Clerk, Conservation Agent, GIS Technician, Recreation Coordinator and Assistant Treasurer/Collector. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

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The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has extended the public comment period through April 30 on several

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[Clean energy siting and permitting group seeks public comment](#)

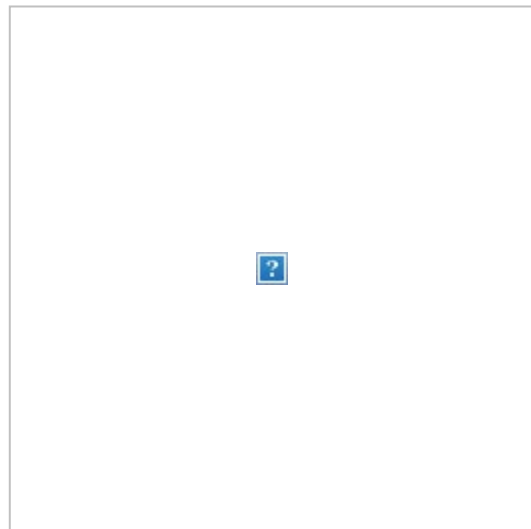
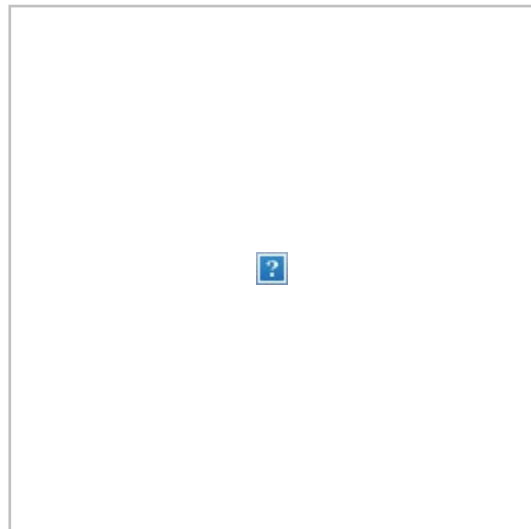
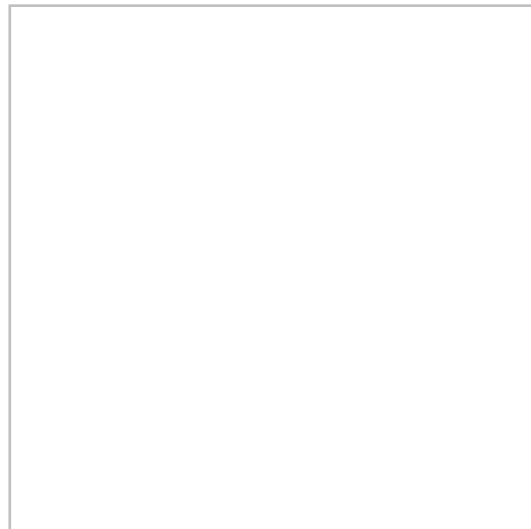
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[Executive order establishes AI Strategic Task Force](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed an

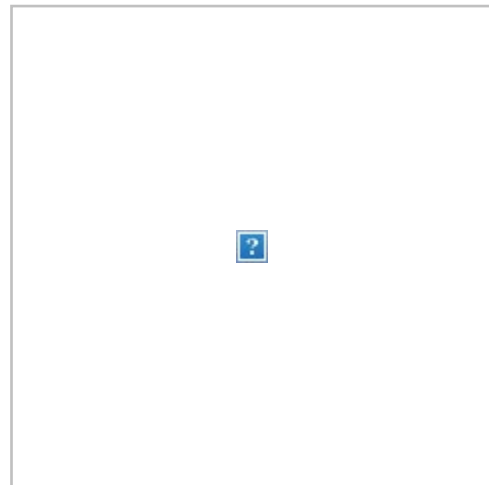


Executive Order on Feb. 14 establishing the Artificial Intelligence Strategic Task Force to study AI and Generative Artificial Intelligence technology and its impact on the state, private businesses, higher education institutions, and constituents. ...



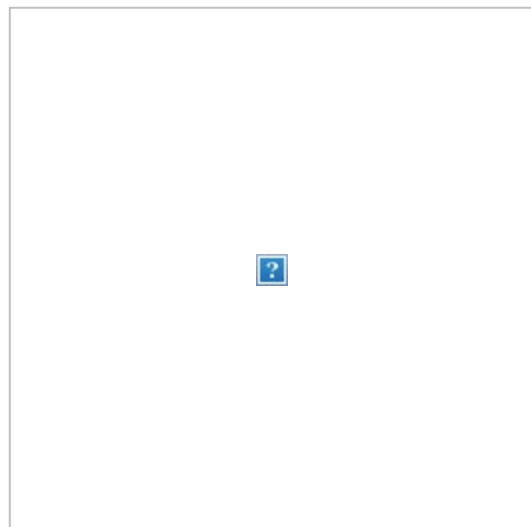
[NLC's Congressional City Conference is March 11-13](#)

The National League of Cities will hold its annual Congressional City Conference on March 11-13 in Washington, D.C. ...



[Public water systems to conduct service line inventories](#)

Under recent revisions to lead and copper rules from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, all community public water systems and non-transient, non-community public water systems in Massachusetts must develop and submit a service line inventory to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection by Oct. 16. ...



[State leaders urge EPA to restore lead water pipe replacement funding](#)

Top state officials submitted a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Feb. 1 urging the agency to reconsider a new grant formula that has reduced lead service line replacement funding to Massachusetts by more than \$30 million. ...



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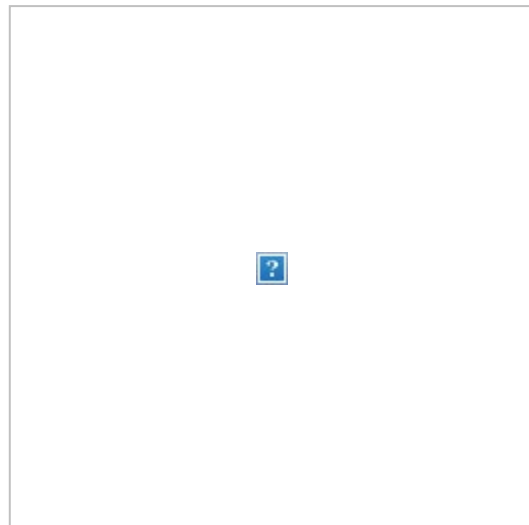
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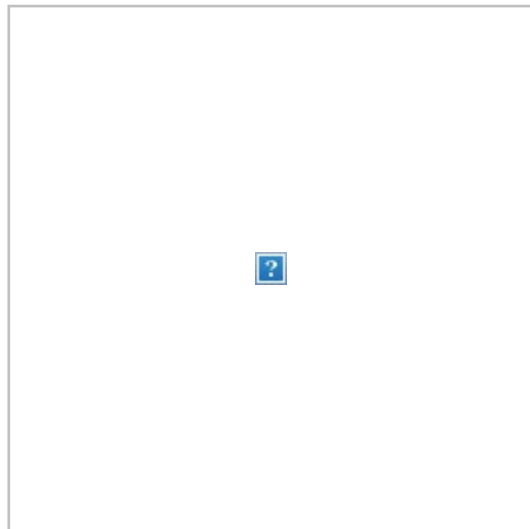
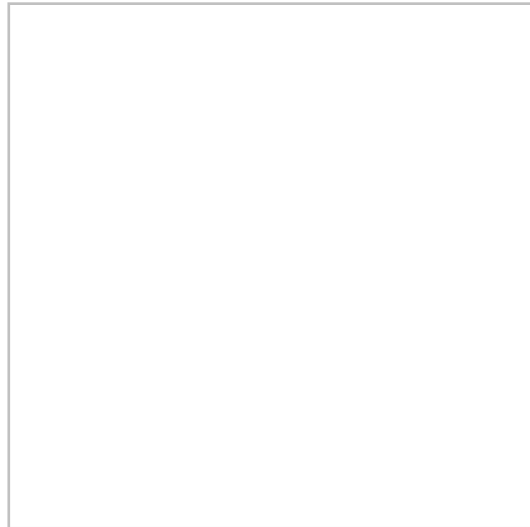


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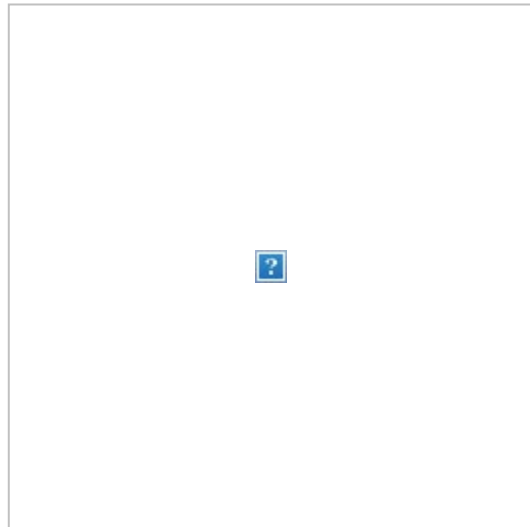
[**'Meet DLS' webinar set for March 11**](#)

The Division of Local Services will hold its annual "Meet DLS" webinar, geared toward new local officials but open to all, on March 11. ...



[**Applications due March 8 for \\$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding**](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...

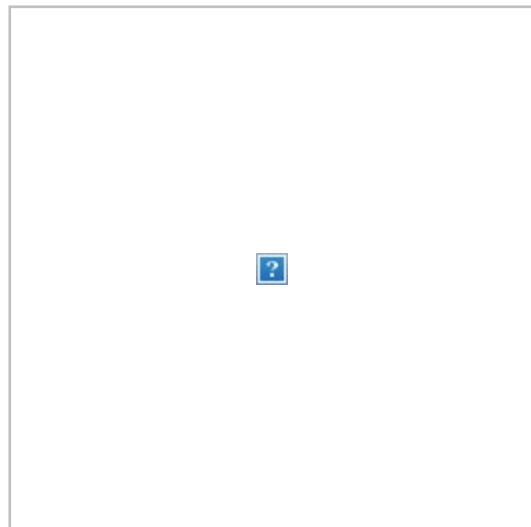
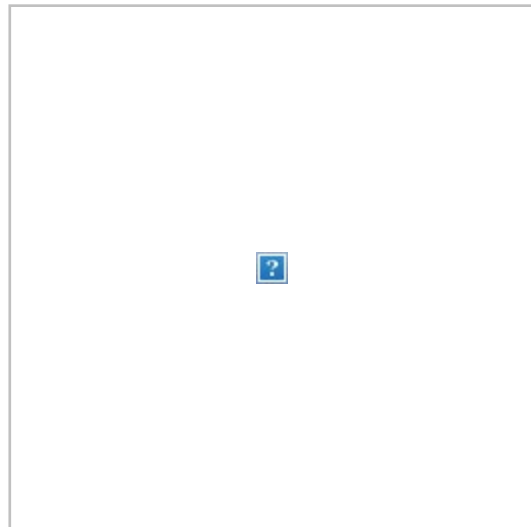


[**MunEnergy webinar on Feb. 29 will focus on spring weather impacts**](#)

The MMA's MunEnergy program will hold a free, one-hour webinar on Feb. 29 to provide timely information about spring energy costs and to discuss what spring weather and climate change will mean for energy markets, as well as the optimal time to purchase energy as we head into the spring. ...

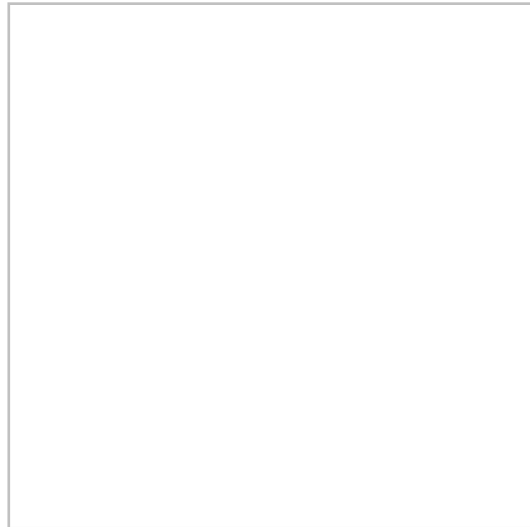
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We've added 40 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Town Planner, DPW Business Manager, Senior Network Engineer, Shared Services Coordinator, Payroll Administrator, Animal Control Officer and Firefighter/EMT. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



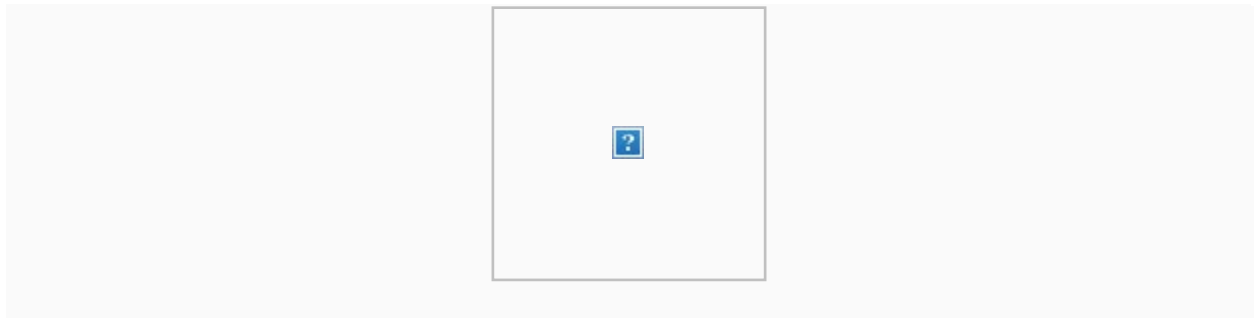
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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

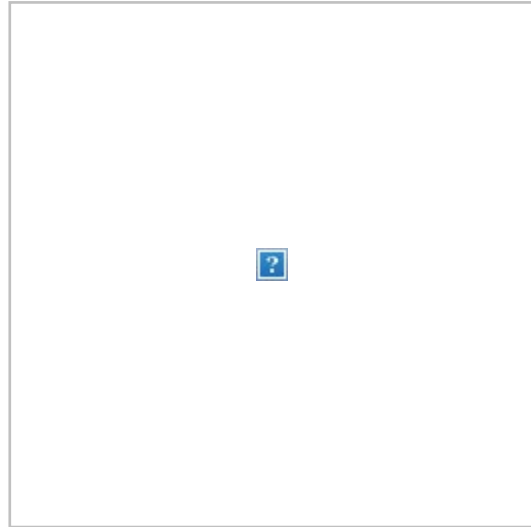
In local happenings: Cambridge and Boston are expecting close to 400,000 spectators over the course of the weekend for the [Head of the Charles Regatta](#). The three-day rowing event features local music and food vendors and family-friendly activities, in addition to cheering on the athletes from nearly 30 countries competing in 74 events.

Send us photos from your community's seasonal celebrations to be featured in a future edition of the Weekly Review!

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](#)!

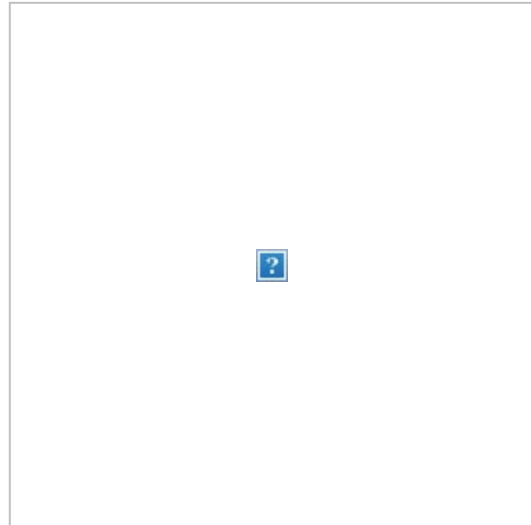
**[Input sought on draft model
bylaws for solar, battery systems](#)**

The Department of Energy Resources is developing model bylaws for photovoltaic systems and battery energy storage systems to serve as a resource to municipalities. ...



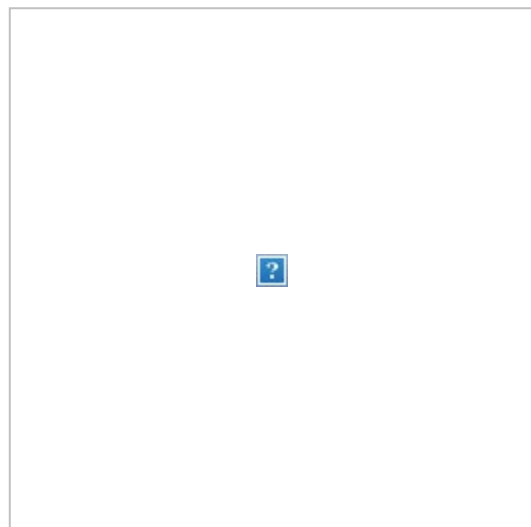
**[Grants opened for drought
resiliency, water efficiency
projects](#)**

The state has opened the second round of a grant program for projects that support climate resiliency through reduced water usage and improved water loss control. ...



**[MSBA to hold roundtable on ballot
questions Nov. 20](#)**

The Massachusetts School Building Authority is hosting a roundtable discussion via Zoom on Nov. 20 on the topic of local ballot question rules. ...



**[MMA webinar addresses
cybersecurity for municipalities](#)**

The MMA hosted a webinar on Oct. 15 on the minimum cybersecurity goals for municipalities. ...



[MMA-Suffolk kick off certificate programs](#)

The MMA and Suffolk University kicked off two Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management programs in September, in Barnstable and Winchester. ...



[Pittsfield to begin ecological restoration project in park](#)

A new phase in the cleanup and restoration of the Housatonic River is set to begin this fall, with ecological restoration in Kirvin Park, an active recreation area in the city of Pittsfield. ...



[Grant supports military base redevelopment in Weymouth](#)

State and local officials hope that a

\$32.4 million grant that Weymouth received this summer will help remove longstanding obstacles to the redevelopment of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. ...



What to know about seasonal affective disorder

For some people, the significant loss of daylight that comes with the fall season can worsen their mood, sap energy, and impair concentration due to what's known as seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. ...



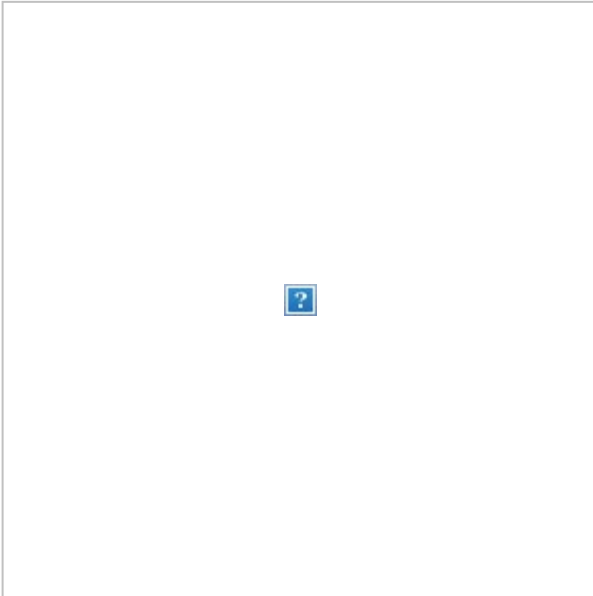
Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...

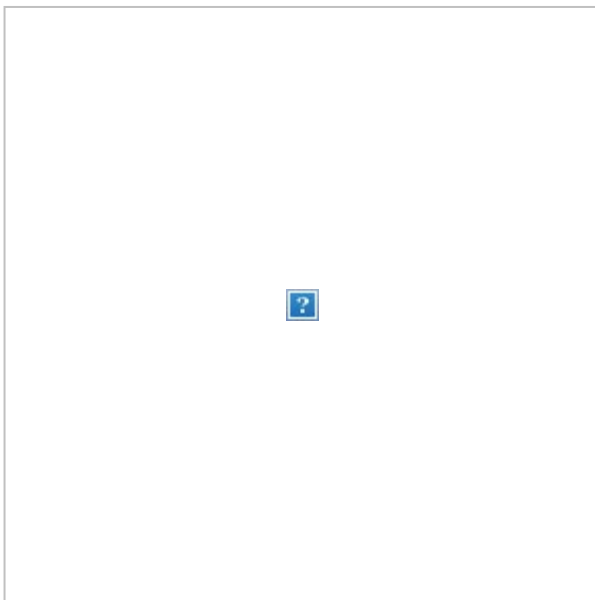


[A Perfect Storm: Cities and Towns Face Historic Fiscal Pressures](#)

Published Oct. 9, The MMA and The Center for State Policy Analysis at Tufts University



[Register now](#) for Connect 351 in January! Hear what our members have to say about the event in our [new video](#)!



Friday Keynote: [Timothy Shriver](#)

WEMO Luncheon Speaker: [Tami Pyfer](#)

Applications are being accepted through Oct. 31 for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

['60 Minutes' reports on Chinese hacking of a Massachusetts town's utility network](#) - Boston Dot Com

[Hadley officials to discuss looming layoffs; fire Department facing cuts after failed override](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

[Methuen housing plan highlights growing senior population](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Taller, and made of timber, a new way to build affordable housing could soon rise in Cambridge](#) - Boston Globe

[Salem Mayor Dominick Pangallo 'On the Record' about Halloween tourism, local challenges](#) - WCVB

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

What We're Reading

[Applying a new lens on city storytelling](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Anybody passing through the concourse level of Philadelphia's Municipal Services Building to secure a business license or pay a water bill has probably noticed them: photographs of office windows looking out at skyscrapers, parking lots, thoroughfares. Each of them presents a different perspective of the city from within a civil servant's workplace, and they are interspersed with quotes from city employees describing what it means to them to deliver for residents every day.

Capturing people's attention is one of the first steps in successful storytelling. And, in today's fast-paced and fragmented media space, newsletters, press releases, and Facebook posts are rarely enough for city leaders looking to

connect with residents. That's what makes this effort in Philadelphia stand out. The work of Emilio Martínez Poppe, himself a city employee in New York City, the project powerfully conveys the determination and value of the people who patrol the streets, maintain the parks, and respond to resident complaints. And, in doing so, it offers a model for how cities can be more ambitious, more experimental and, ultimately, more effective in their outreach.

By thinking outside the box, Philadelphia—whose Mayor Cherelle Parker is a participant in the Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative—is offering lessons to local leaders everywhere as they seek to build trust, improve morale, and show that their city is ready to deliver."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Oct. 18

[Navigating Student Debt with Savi webinar](#) - Oct. 22

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Fall Mentorship Session](#) - Oct. 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 23

[Unlock MassDOT Funding for your Municipality webinar](#) - Nov. 6

[Women Leading Government Meeting](#) - Nov. 13

[Planning and Partnering for Impact: Best Practices for Municipal Opioid Settlement Funds webinar](#) - Nov. 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Fall Conference](#) - Nov. 20-21

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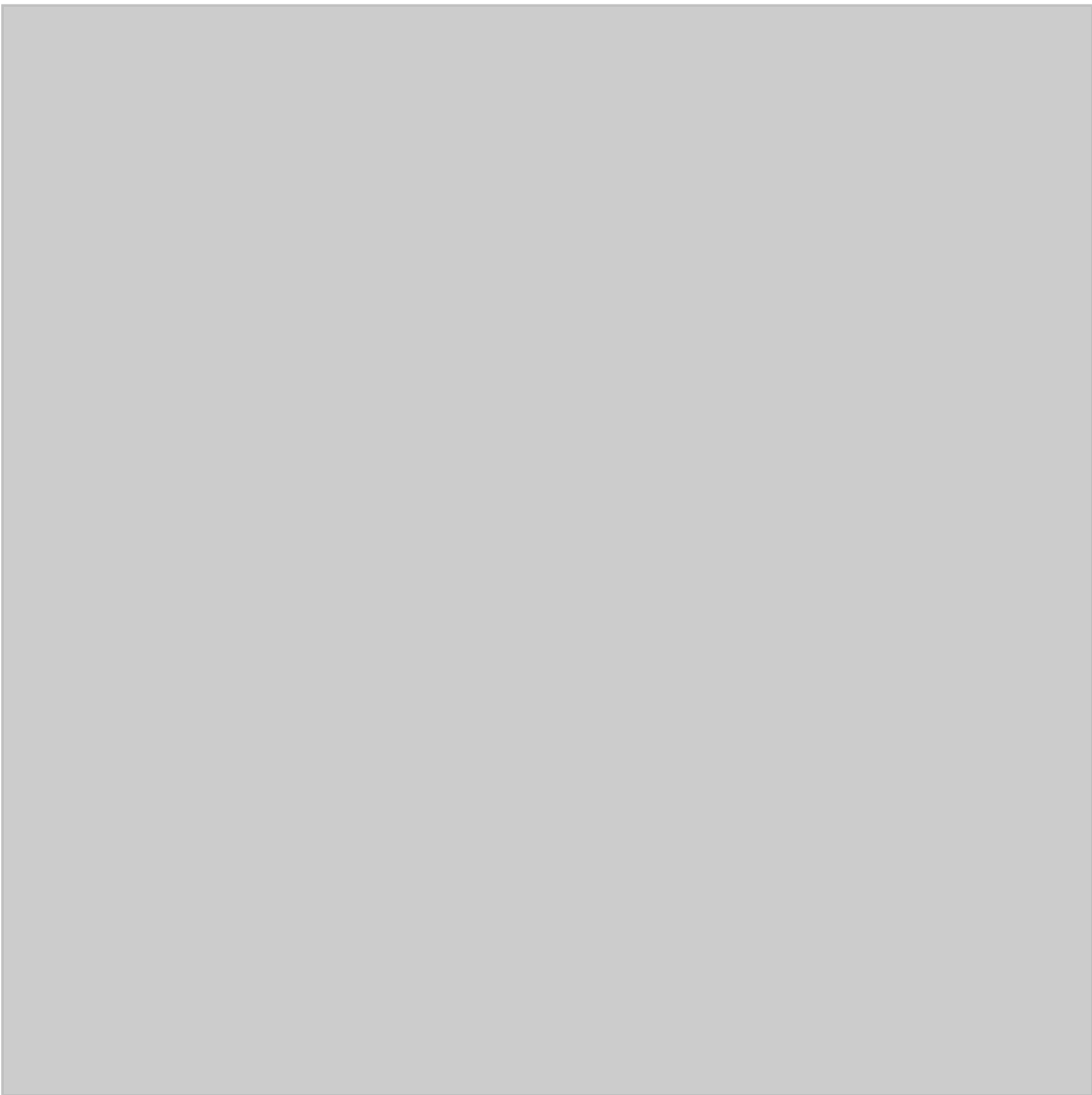
In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar to cover student loan debt strategies for public employees](#)
 - [MMLA to hold conference in Northampton on Oct. 23-24](#)
 - [State to host public hearings to review K-12 school finance formula](#)
 - [ASPA virtual meeting will explore government careers](#)
 - [ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Oct. 18](#)
 - [Survey seeks to assess how cities, towns engage with technology](#)
 - [DLS to hold 'What's New in Municipal Law' seminars Oct. 21 and 23](#)
 - [Climate Beacon conference is Oct. 22-24 in Boston](#)
 - [Free public sector cybersecurity summit is Oct. 30](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Runners took part in the Cape Code Marathon Weekend this past weekend in Falmouth. Races included a half-marathon on Oct. 11 (left) and a marathon on Oct. 12 (right). The course hugs the town's coastline, providing views of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Sound. Photo by Jen Kavanaugh, MMA Associate Editor.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Medicare Specialist](#)

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[CCC approves model host community agreement](#)

The Cannabis Control Commission today voted to approve a model host community agreement that it developed in accordance with a comprehensive cannabis law

enacted in 2022 that requires the CCC to draft rules around HCAs, as well as social equity. ...

[State to begin lodging tax reimbursements for shelters in cities, towns](#)

State officials have announced a new program to financially support municipalities that have lost local hotel excise tax revenue due to emergency assistance shelter placements in hotels and motels in their community. ...

[MMA to host ‘Climate Action’ webinar series](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a “climate action” webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...

[MMA Board approves policy committees for 2024](#)

At its Feb. 13 meeting, the MMA



Board of Directors approved the rosters for the MMA's five policy committees for 2024. ...



[MMA panel testifies at Chapter 90 hearing](#)

On Jan. 30, the MMA and several municipal officials testified before the Joint Committee on Transportation in support of Gov. Maura Healey's Chapter 90 bond bill. ...



[MMA joins 23 municipal leagues, NLC for congressional visit](#)

A delegation from the MMA joined 23 municipal organizations from other states and the National League of Cities in Washington, D.C., in late January to meet with members of Congress and push for federal help on issues such as infrastructure investment, cybersecurity, gun safety, PFAS regulations, and avoiding a federal government shutdown. ...



[MMA webinar reviews MBTA](#)

[Communities law](#)

An MMA webinar today outlined the process and schedule for municipal compliance with the MBTA Communities law. ...



[MMA webinar to share best practices for procurement](#)

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 5 exploring how to streamline the procurement process. ...



[MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...



[MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education](#)

The MMA will host a free webinar on

March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



MassDEP updates recycling market development plan

In February, the Massachusetts

Department of Environmental Protection released a revised Recycling Market Development Action Plan. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[Municipalities can't be left to recover from climate disasters alone](#)

On March 1, Executive Director's Report

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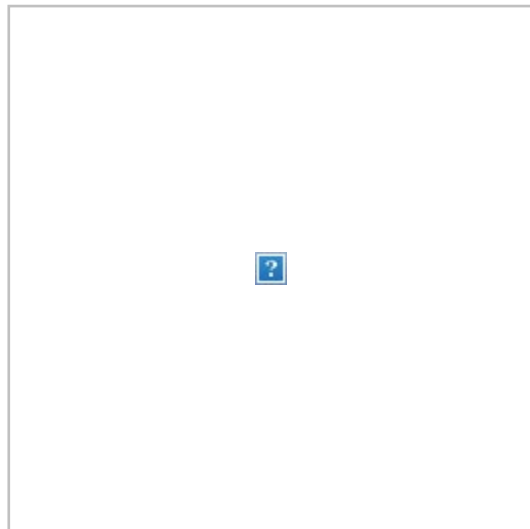
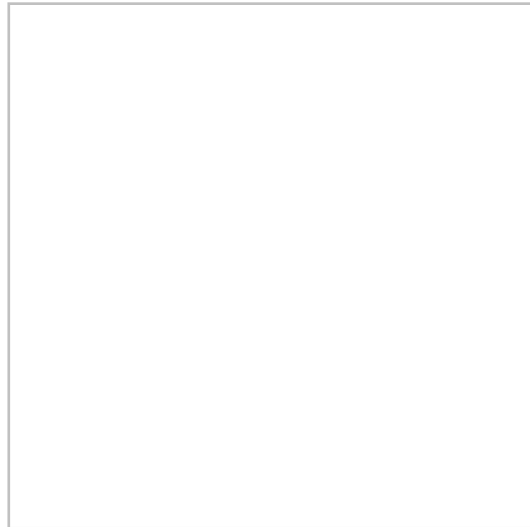


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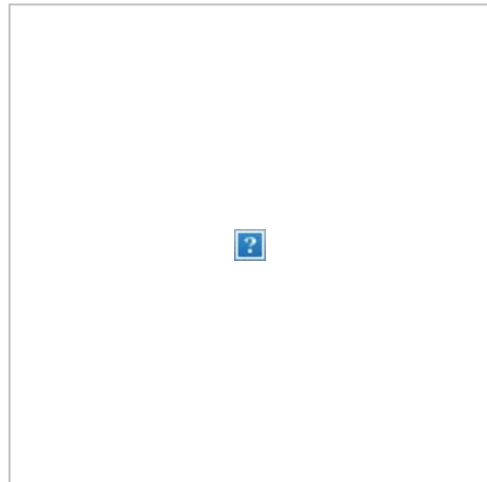
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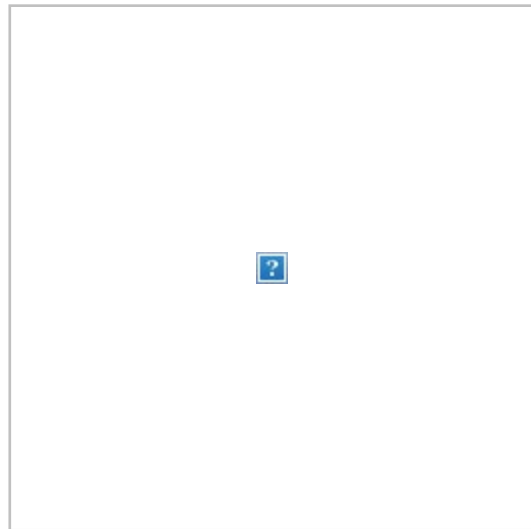
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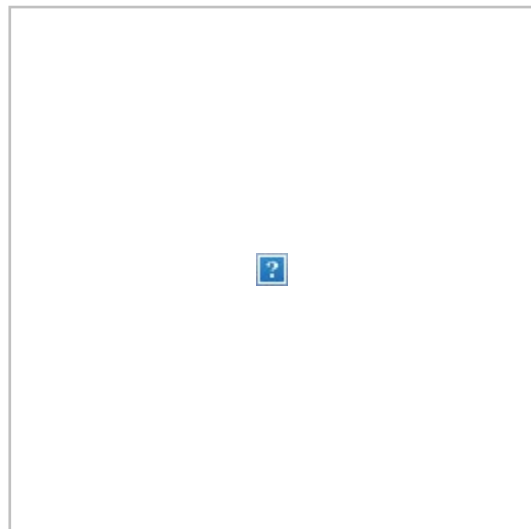
[Applications due March 8 for \\$9.1M in cybersecurity grant funding](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration on Feb. 9 announced that more than \$9.1 million in federal grant funds will be made available to strengthen cybersecurity and reduce systemic cyber risk for public agencies statewide. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 53 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Conservation Agent, Town Accountant, Resilience Manager, Treatment Operator, DPW Principal Clerk, Regional Inspector, Senior Planner and Land Use Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[Healey appeals denial of major disaster declaration for September storms](#)

Gov. Maura Healey has formally appealed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's denial of her request for a major disaster

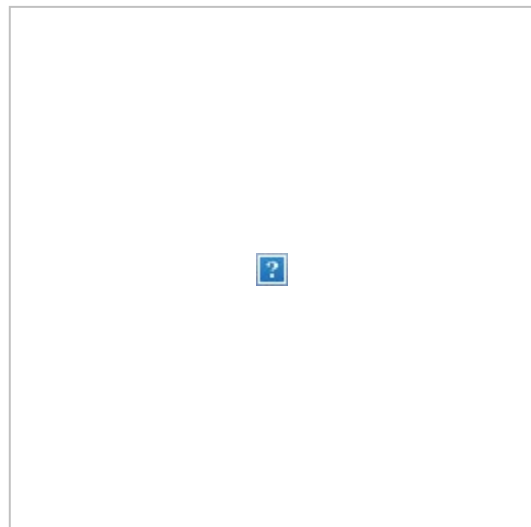
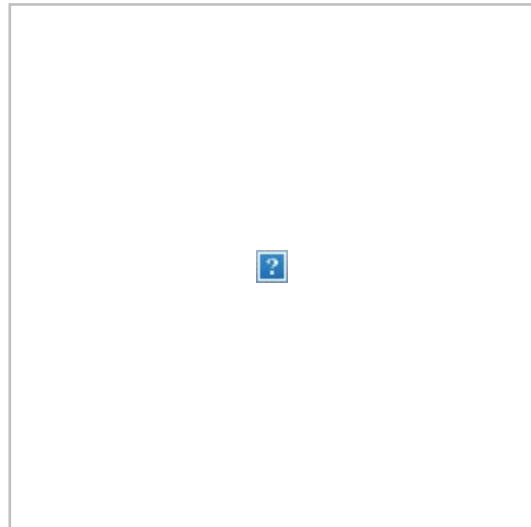
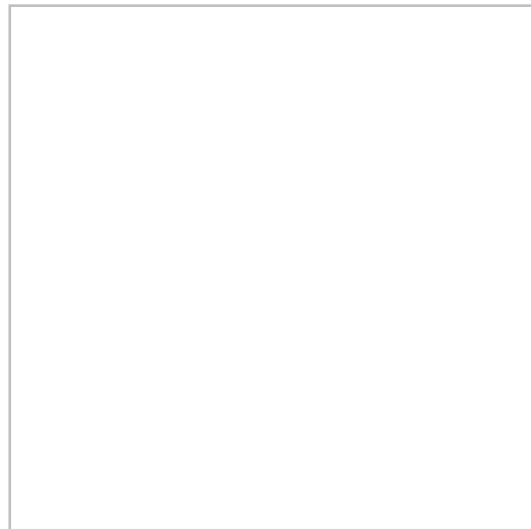
declaration to support the ongoing recovery of Massachusetts communities impacted by severe weather and flooding last September in Worcester, Hampden and Bristol counties. ...

[Administration announces \\$335M in federal funds for Mass Pike project](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration announced that the state has won \$335.4 million in federal grant funding for a major “Reconnecting Communities” project around the Massachusetts Turnpike near the Charles River in Boston. ...

[MMA-MMLA webinar reviews best practices for MBTA zoning proposals](#)

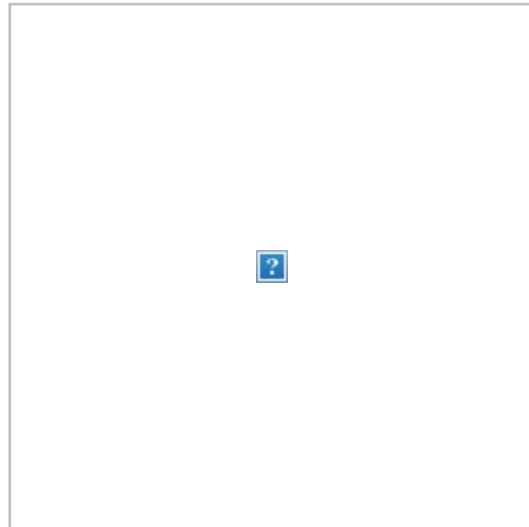
An MMA webinar with the Massachusetts Municipal Lawyers Association reviewed what the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Attorney General’s Municipal Law Unit have learned from their preliminary review of proposed local zoning amendments relative to the



MBTA Communities Act. ...

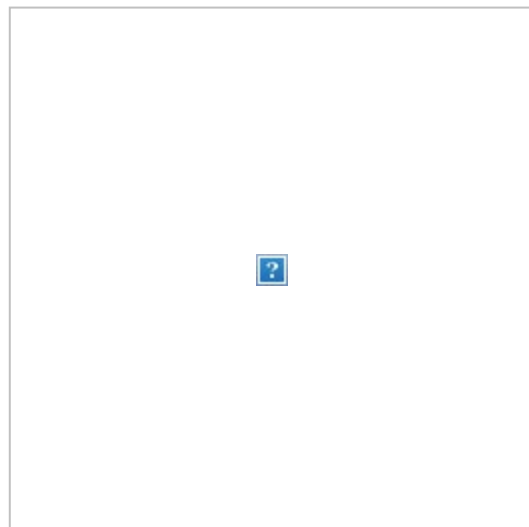
[Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference](#)

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



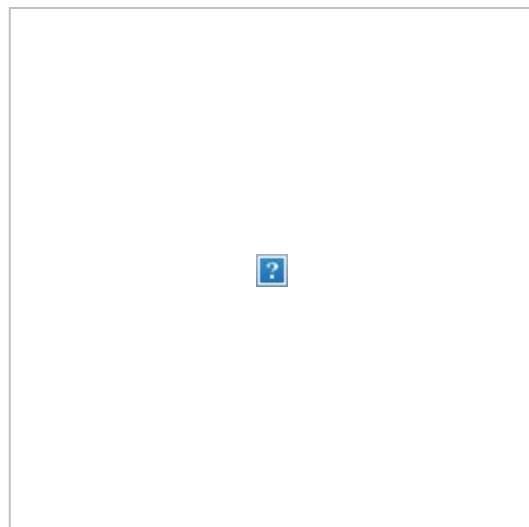
[Applications due March 25 for CDBG program](#)

The application deadline is March 25 for federal fiscal 2024 application for Community Development Block Grants. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

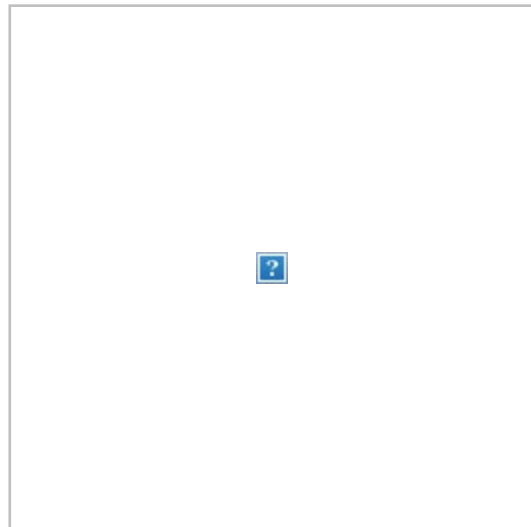
The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[DPU to host 4 'Road Show'](#)

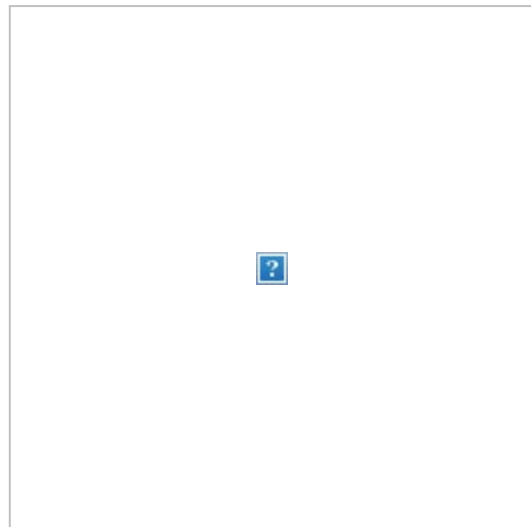
[meetings with public in 2024](#)

The Department of Public Utilities will be hosting four “Road Show” events during 2024, starting in Boston on March 27. ...



[\\$22M retrofit program will expand high-speed internet in affordable housing](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute at MassTech on March 6 announced the launch of the Residential Internet Retrofit Program, a \$22 million statewide initiative to equip public and affordable housing units across the state with high-speed internet for current and future residents. ...



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA asks Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government to support Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

On March 8, Testimony

Upcoming MMA Events

[Digitizing Municipal Records webinar](#) - March 19

[Chapter 70: Understanding the Funding Formula for Education webinar](#) - March 20

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association monthly meeting](#) - March 21

[Inspiring Climate Action: A Fireside Chat with Chief Hoffer \(webinar\)](#) - March 26

[Conflict Conversations \(Part 2\): Productive Dialogue in Volatile Times webinar](#) - April 2

[Association of Town Finance Committees spring conference](#) - April 6

[ICMA Local Government Reimagined Conference](#) - April 10-12

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[View our entire event calendar](#)

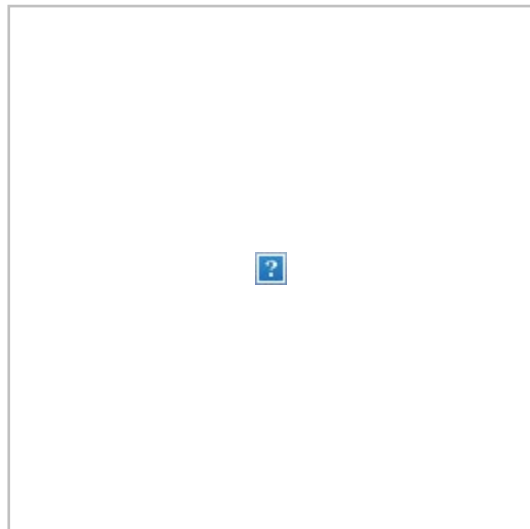
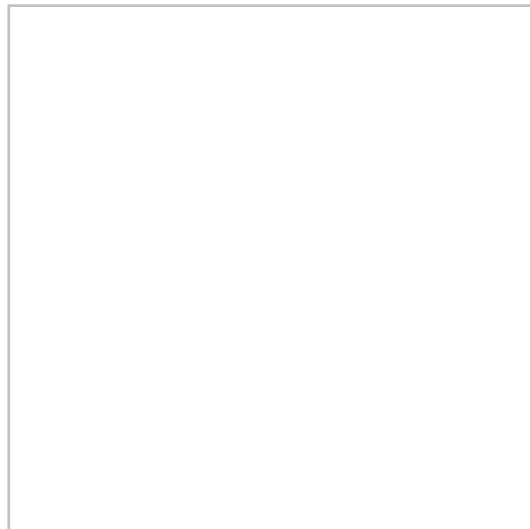
In Case You Missed It

[MMA webinar to share tips for getting started with digitization](#)

A free MMA webinar on March 19 will offer tips for building a sustainable document management strategy and digitizing municipal records. ...

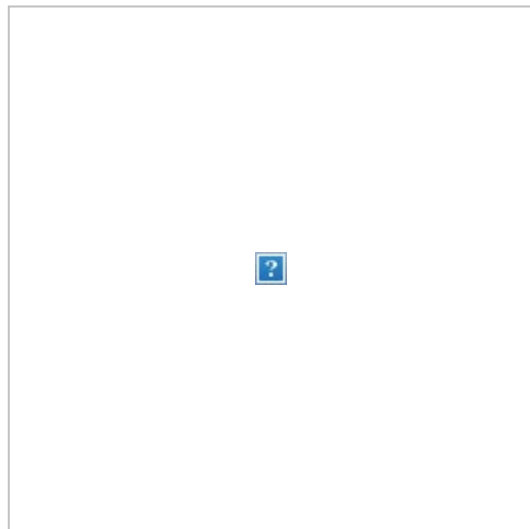
[**MMA webinar to review Chapter 70 funding formula for education**](#)

The MMA will host a free webinar on March 20 to review key elements of Chapter 70, the major state aid program for public schools. ...



[**MMA to host 'Climate Action' webinar series**](#)

On March 26, the MMA will launch a "climate action" webinar series, which will explore how climate change impacts municipalities and address questions about how appointed and elected officials can take action. ...



[**MMA to host second 'Conflict Conversations' webinar**](#)

A free MMA webinar on April 2 will

review, step-by-step, how to have productive conversations amidst tension and volatility. ...



[FTA accepting applications for bus and bus facility grants](#)

The Federal Transit Authority is accepting applications through April 25 for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. ...



[Local leaders invited to happiness symposium at Kennedy School](#)

Massachusetts municipal leaders can discover how to become “happiness teachers” during a free symposium being held June 19 through 21 by the Leadership and Happiness Laboratory at the Harvard Kennedy School’s Center for Public Leadership. ...



[Culvert replacement grant program opening soon for FY25](#)

The Division of Ecological

Restoration announced that it will soon be accepting applications for the fiscal 2025 Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program. ...



[ICMA to hold Local Government Reimagined Conference in Boston April 10-12](#)

The International City/County Management Association will hold one of its Local Government Reimagined conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston April 10 through 12. ...



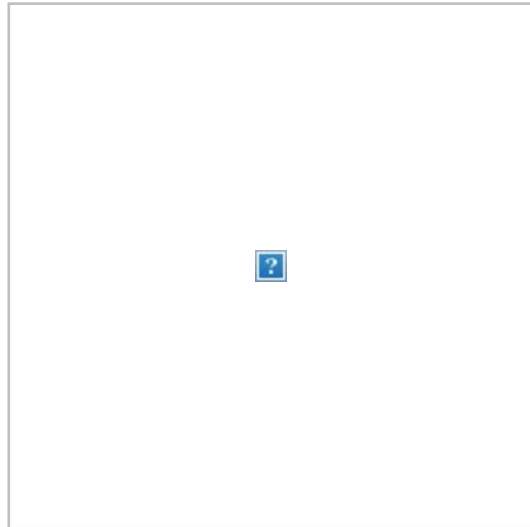
[MassDOT seeks nominations for its Municipal Innovation Award](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation is seeking nominations through March 18 for its Municipal Innovation Award. ...



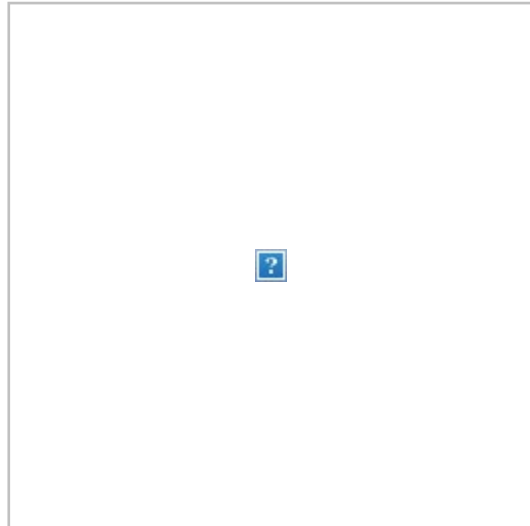
[Massachusetts Broadband Institute announces new funding opportunity](#)

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute has announced that funding is available for communities participating in the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program, as well as other communities working toward digital equity. ...



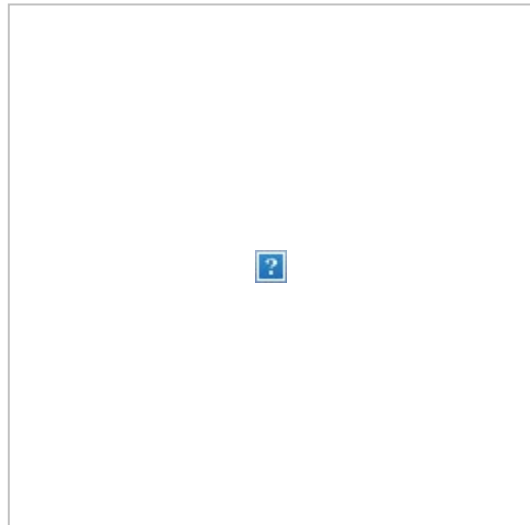
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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Budget and Fiscal Analyst, Town Planner, Police Officer, Administrative Assistant, Firefighter, Assistant City Clerk, Conservation Agent and Community and Development Director. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

A digest of all the latest updates we've posted this week on [MMA.org](#).

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[House budget committee files \\$57.9B state spending proposal for FY25](#)

The House Ways and Means
Committee released a \$57.9 billion
state spending plan for fiscal 2025
that includes several important

investments in schools and municipalities despite state revenue expectations that are more modest than in recent years. ...

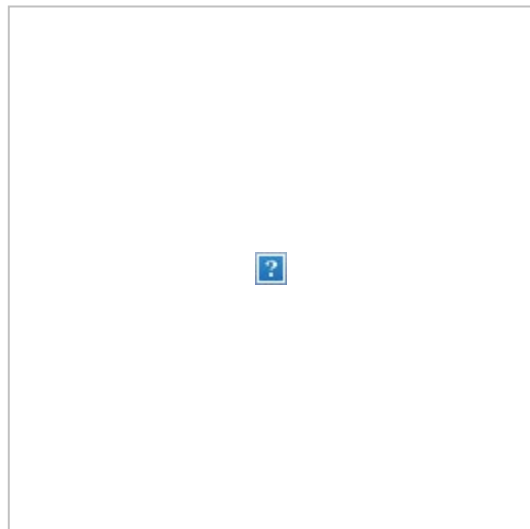
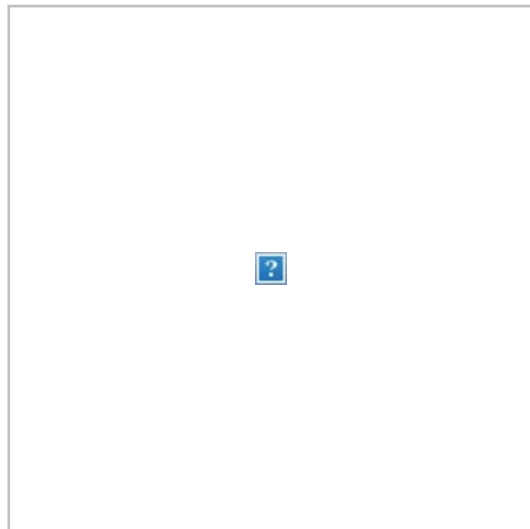
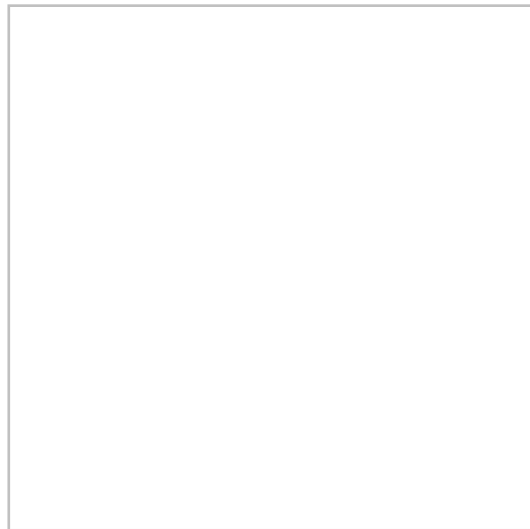
[Senate OK's transportation bond bill with Ch. 90 funds](#)

The Senate passed a transportation bond bill that includes \$200 million for the Chapter 90 local road and bridge program for fiscal 2025, as well as \$175 million for specified additional infrastructure programs. ...

[EPA sets national limits on PFAS contamination](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to harmful per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “forever chemicals.” ...

[EOHLC seeks comments on draft plan for CDBG and other federal programs](#)



The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is accepting comments on its draft one-year Action Plan for federal fiscal 2024 for a range of federal programs (CDBG, HOME, ESG, HOPWA and HTF), and will hold a public hearing on April 18. ...

[Applications sought through April 12 for SAFER fire dept. grants](#)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is accepting applications through April 12 for a new round of federal grant funding for fire departments. ...

[Equitable land development is focus of April 18 forum](#)

Municipal leaders, state officials and developers seeking best practices and strategies for creating an equitable development environment within their communities are invited to a Land Access Forum in Boston on April 18. ...

[Municipal hearings officer training is April 25](#)

A free, virtual training program for



municipal hearings officers will be held on April 25, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., via Microsoft Teams. ...



MMA-Suffolk accepting applications for certificate program

Applications are due April 30 for the MMA-Suffolk University Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management program. ...



DEI strategic plan for municipalities nears completion

The MMA's DEI Advisory Committee is working with Racial Equity Group CEO Bird Guess to complete its DEI strategic plan for municipalities. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 18

[Digital Equity Planning webinar](#) - April 22

[Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association webinar](#) - April 24

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources webinar](#) - April 25

[Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference](#) - April 27

[Inspiring Climate Action Series webinar](#) - April 30

[Promoting Civil Discourse at Town Meeting webinar](#) - May 2

[Women Elected Municipal Officials spring symposium webinar](#) - May 3

[Municipal Law 101 webinar](#) - May 8

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources boot camp](#) - May 9

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Women's Equality Day webinar](#) - May 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association spring conference](#) - May 29-31

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Application period opens for Housing Choice Designation](#)

Applications are being accepted through April 26 for the 2024 Housing Choice Communities

Designation. ...



MMA's 'Climate Action' webinar series continues on April 18

The second session in the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, "From Planning to Practice," will be held on April 18. ...



Third 'Climate Action' webinar will discuss community engagement

The third session of the MMA's "Climate Action" webinar series, on April 30, will explore how to design effective community engagement efforts. ...



Rural affairs director to address MSA's rural/western Mass. conference

Rural Affairs Director Anne Gobi will be the keynote speaker at the Massachusetts Select Board Association's annual Rural and Western Massachusetts Conference on Saturday, April 27, in Northampton. ...



[USDOT seeks applications for Safe Streets and Roads for All](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the third year of the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant program. ...



[School districts eligible for federal credits under IRA, BIL for 'green' projects](#)

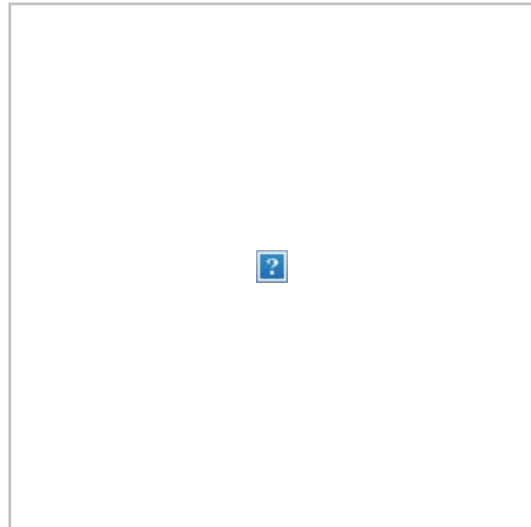
School districts that do not file federal taxes are eligible for some fully refundable credits this fiscal year under the Inflation Reduction Act, particularly for green infrastructure (e.g., installing heat pumps or buying electric vehicles). Schools may also be eligible to access other grants and credits through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also known as the



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). ...

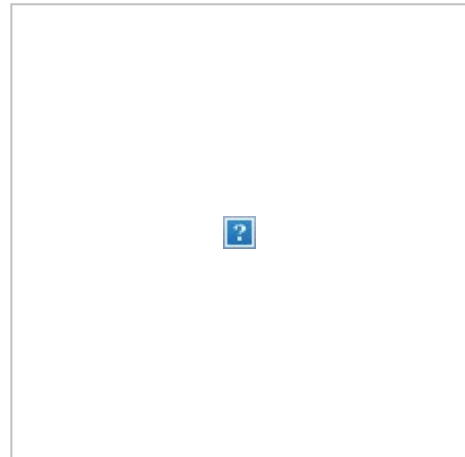
[Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit is May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter will hold its annual Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit on May 8 in Worcester. ...



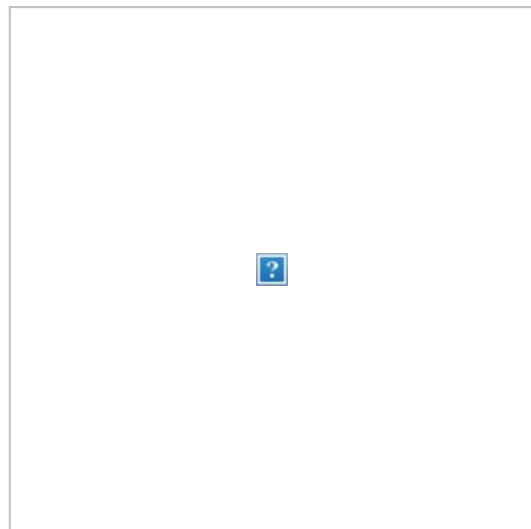
[MVP Action Grant applications due April 24](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting proposals through April 24 for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grants for fiscal 2025. ...



[MassDEP to launch Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grant applications](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has announced that the Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro-Grants have been updated for 2024. ...



[FTA accepting applications for](#)

[bus and bus facility grants](#)

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ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Principal Assessor, Financial Analyst, Police Officer, Director of Planning, Assistant City Engineer, Collector and Assistant Accountant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! It's a long weekend.

In local happenings: The 2024 Paris Paralympics kicked off this week with at least [6 athletes](#) sporting Massachusetts roots.

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](#)!

[Gov. signs law addressing PFAS in firefighter turnout gear](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a bill that addresses exposure to so-called

“forever chemicals,” also known as PFAS, in personal protective equipment worn by firefighters. ...



[Language in psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control](#)

The five statewide ballot initiatives certified for the November election include one that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, with language that would preempt local control. ...



[Gov. signs veterans services bill](#)

Gov. Maura Healey signed a broad bill known as the HERO Act that aims to modernize and increase veterans benefits with a mix of policy changes and tax incentives. ...



[Emergency Assistance shelter policies updated](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

has implemented new policies for the overburdened Emergency Assistance shelter system that are aimed at limiting shelter stays while prioritizing the needs of Massachusetts residents over migrants for long-term placements. ...



Budget included concerning tax title changes

The fiscal 2025 state budget signed by Gov. Maura Healey on July 29 included changes to the tax title foreclosure process that were intended to bring the state into compliance with a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the issue. ...



Applications sought for Cyber Resilient grant program

The MassCyberCenter at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative is accepting applications for the Cyber Resilient Massachusetts Grant Program from municipalities across the state to boost their cybersecurity infrastructure. ...



MMHR to hold Fall Conference Sept. 12-13 in Falmouth

Massachusetts Municipal Human

Resources will hold its annual Fall Conference on Sept. 12 and 13 at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in Falmouth. ...



[MMA webinar to review essentials of capital planning](#)

A free MMA webinar on Sept. 24 will highlight best practices for maintaining and building a community's capital assets. ...



[MMA webinar to cover use of opioid settlement funds](#)

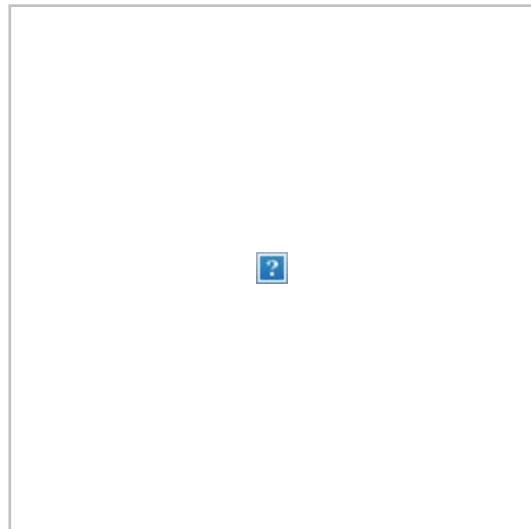
A free MMA webinar on Sept. 26 will review issues and strategies related to the use of opioid settlement funds. ...



[WEMO to hold annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27](#)

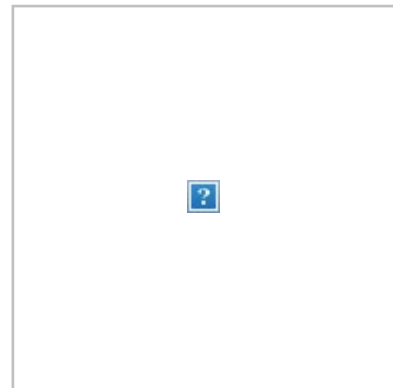
With the theme "Growing Trust in

Local Government,” Women Elected Municipal Officials will hold its sixth annual Leadership Conference on Sept. 27 in Devens. ...



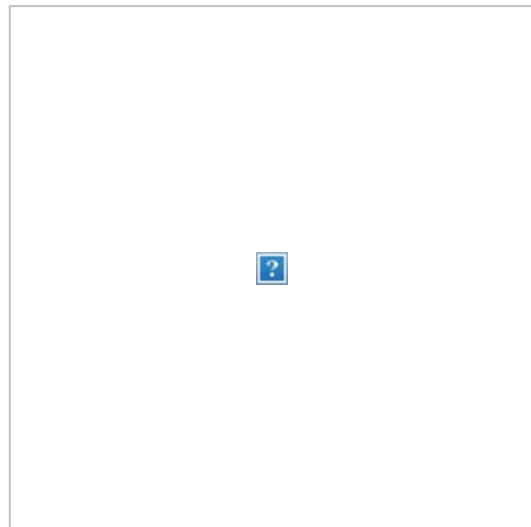
[MMHR seeking nominations for the 2024 Skop Award](#)

Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources is accepting nominations for its annual Emil S. Skop Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions made to the field of municipal human resources management. ...



[MCOA seeks annual award submissions](#)

The Massachusetts Councils on Aging is accepting nominations through Sept. 6 for its annual awards, which honor individuals, groups, and programs that have significantly impacted the lives of older adults. ...



[COPS Office to provide technical assistance to Boston Police Department](#)

The U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services announced on Aug. 8 that it will engage with the Boston Police Department to provide a review and assessment of operations within the Boston Police Department's Human Resources section. ...



Upcoming MMA Events

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Fall Conference](#) - Sept. 12-13

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association boot camp](#) - Sept. 18

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar](#) - Sept. 19

[Capital planning webinar](#) - Sept. 24

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Sept. 25

[Opioid settlement funds webinar](#) - Sept. 26

[Women Elected Municipal Officials leadership conference](#) - Sept. 27

[First Amendment audits webinar](#) - Oct. 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 9

[Massachusetts Select Board Association leadership conference](#) - Oct. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Oct. 15

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association meeting](#) - Oct. 17

[Massachusetts Mayors' Association monthly meeting](#) - Oct. 23

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources labor relations seminar](#) - Oct. 25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

[Town Report Contest entries due Oct. 31](#)

The MMA is accepting entries for its Annual Town Report Contest. ...



[Entries sought for municipal website contest](#)

The MMA is accepting nominations for its annual municipal website awards, which will be presented during the MMA's annual conference in January 2025. ...



[Annual AltWheels Fleet Day set for Oct. 7 in Norwood](#)

Municipal fleet managers can learn about sustainable transportation

options at the 21st annual AltWheels Fleet Day event on Oct. 7 in Norwood. ...



MMA seeks input on local roadway needs with Ch. 90 survey

The MMA will be sending its biennial Chapter 90 funding survey this summer to chief municipal officials and public works and highway department officials in all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns. ...



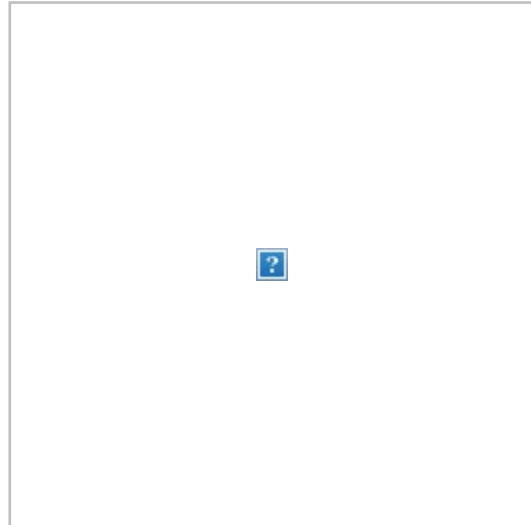
MMA announces new name, location, dates for conference

Big changes are in store for the MMA's conference in January, as the event moves to the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center and expands into a third afternoon. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)



Local photos sought

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or the important work of your local government? Whether it's municipal buildings or natural resources, construction projects or downtown streets, the MMA would appreciate a copy of your photos for possible use in future editions of The Beacon or on the MMA website. Photos must be free of copyright restrictions. Municipal officials and staff may email photos (.jpeg format and high resolution if possible) to **photos@mma.org** as an attachment.

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Risk Management Program Coordinator](#)
- [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 59 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Planning Director, Recreation Services Coordinator, Senior Traffic Engineer,

Conservation Agent, Fiscal Manager, Solutions Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! POLCO asked practitioners & thought leaders to reflect on the [biggest challenges facing local governments today](#) and identified 8 key areas.

In local happenings: Worcester residents interested in working on their physical fitness now have a new [fitness court at University Park](#).

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](#)!

[Community One Stop awards](#)
[\\$161M for economic development projects](#)

The Healey-Driscoll administration

announced that \$161 million in grant funding is going to 313 projects to support economic development in 171 communities across the state. ...



[EPA sets lead pipe removal deadline, awards new funding](#)

President Joe Biden has announced a 10-year deadline for public water systems across the country to replace lead service lines, a requirement aimed at ensuring safe drinking water for all Americans. ...



[Psychedelics ballot question would preempt local control](#)

The Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth has published a summary of a statewide ballot initiative that would legalize natural psychedelic substances, without an avenue for individual cities and towns to opt out. ...



[MMA webinar outlines strategies for 'First Amendment audits'](#)

An MMA webinar addressed the

challenge of so-called “First Amendment audits” and strategies for dealing with them. The webinar was led by attorneys Lauren Goldberg and Janelle Austin from KP Law. ...



MMA offers range of conflict management webinars

At a time when effective conflict management has become increasingly important, the MMA offers a number of webinars that are available on www.mma.org and MMA On-Demand. ...



Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens

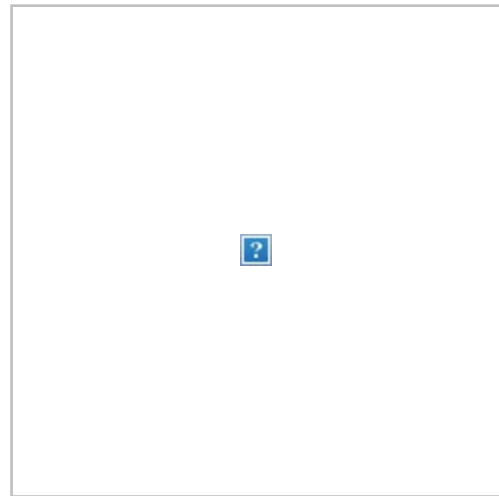
The Green Communities Division will hold the first Green Communities Summit on Nov. 22 to discuss innovative energy solutions and share best practices. ...



National League of Cities to mark 100 years at City Summit in Nov.

The National League of Cities will

continue its celebration of its 100th anniversary during its annual City Summit on Nov. 13-16 in Tampa, Florida. ...



[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

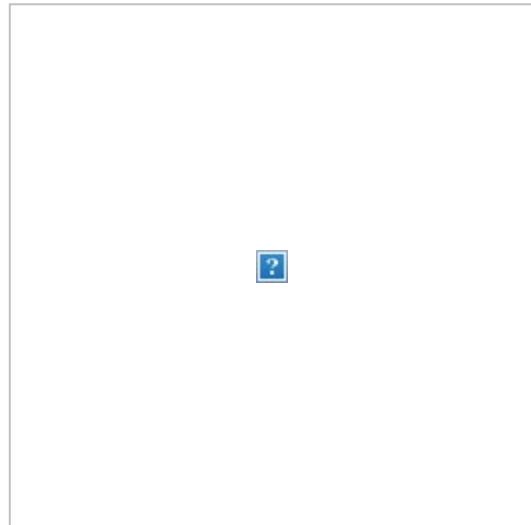
[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Applications are being accepted through **Oct. 31** for the annual [Kenneth Pickard Municipal Innovation Awards](#), [Municipal Website Awards](#) & [Town Report contest](#).



Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar](#) - Oct. 30

[Association of Town Finance Committees Annual Meeting](#) - Nov. 2

[Women Leading Government meeting](#) - Nov. 7

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 2

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

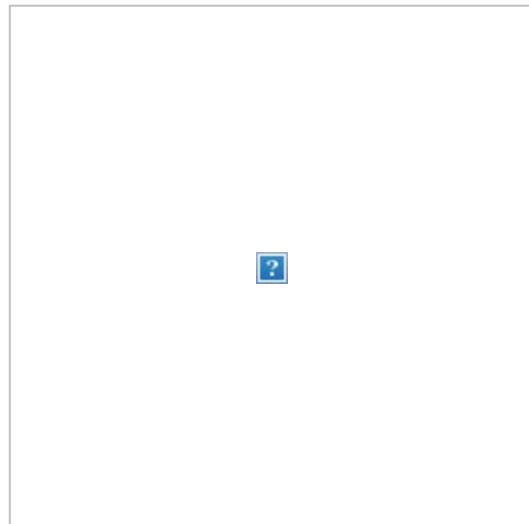
[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

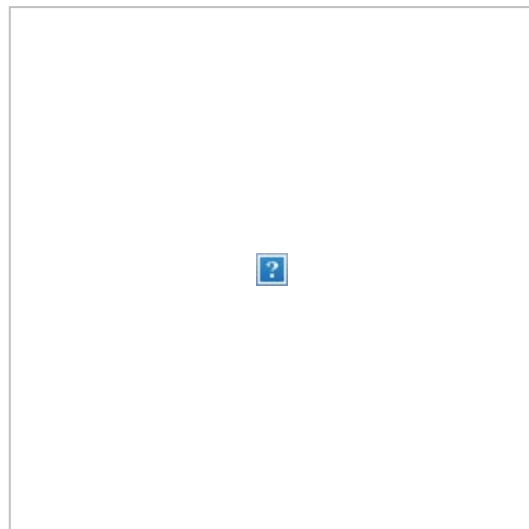
[WEMO seeks nominations for its 2025 Steering Committee](#)

Women Elected Municipal Officials, a group within the MMA's membership, is seeking nominations for its 2025 steering committee. ...



[MMCA seeks nominations for its Board of Directors](#)

The Massachusetts Municipal Councillors' Association, a member group of the MMA, is seeking nominations for its Board of Directors. ...



[Just City Mayoral Fellowship](#)

[seeks 2025 fellows](#)

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is accepting expressions of interest through Nov. 15 from mayors who want to participate in the fifth year of the institute's Just City Mayoral Fellowship program in spring 2025.

...



[MVP Expressions of Interest due Nov. 1](#)

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program is accepting Expression of Interest forms through Nov. 1 for its fiscal 2026 Action Grant round. ...



[ATFC to hold Annual Meeting on Nov. 2](#)

Local finance committee members are invited to the Association of Town Finance Committees' Annual Meeting on Nov. 2 at the Sharon Community Center. ...



[FCC seeks applicants for Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program](#)

The Federal Communications

Commission is accepting applications for the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program. ...



ARPA, BIL, CARES and FEMA

[Federal Funds Resource Area](#)

Local photos sought

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or the important work of your local government? Whether it's municipal buildings or natural resources, construction projects or downtown streets, the MMA would appreciate a copy of your photos for possible use in future editions of The Beacon or on the MMA website. Photos must be free of copyright restrictions. Municipal officials and staff may email photos (.jpeg format and high resolution if possible) to **photos@mma.org** as an attachment.

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Risk Management Program Coordinator](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 42 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Associate Town Counsel, Building Commissioner, Part-time Benefits Coordinator, Procurement & Project Administrator and Traffic Engineer. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Visitors to Saint Mary's Cemetery in Milford have likely noticed the [Milford Round Tower](#). Built in 1986, the 73 foot tall tower might be the only of its kind found outside of Ireland.

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](#)!

[Legislature OK's economic
development bill with local
funding](#)

The House and Senate approved a

\$4 billion economic development bill that includes funding for a range of grants and programs that benefit cities and towns. ...



MassDEP amends rules for Low Emission Vehicle Program

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection filed emergency regulation amendments on Nov. 4 affecting the Low Emission Vehicle Program (310 CMR 7.40). ...



\$5.8M in Public Safety Staffing grants awarded

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security on Oct. 31 announced nearly \$5.8 million in fiscal 2025 Municipal Public Safety Staffing grant awards. ...



DLS reminds communities to report ballot question results

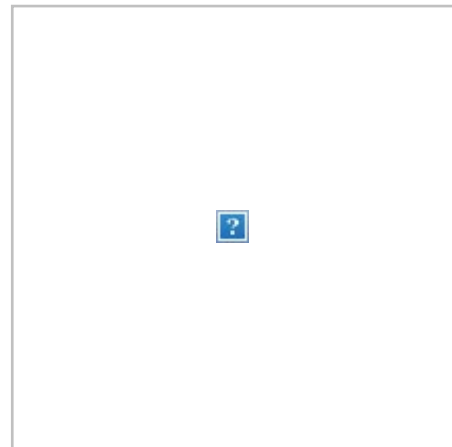
The Division of Local Services is

reminding communities that they must report the outcomes of certain ballot measures using the division's online Gateway. ...



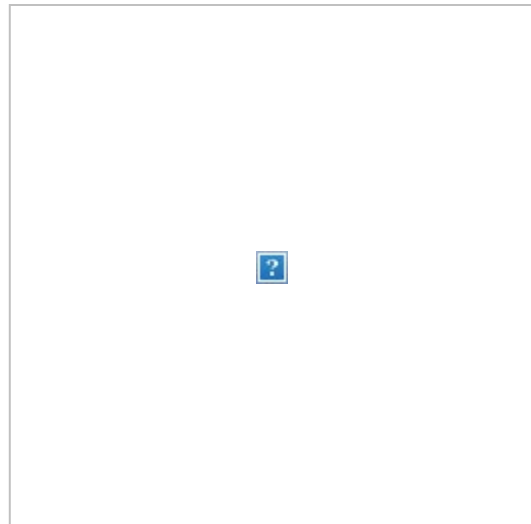
New guidelines in Devens seek to reduce 'embodied carbon'

Devens, a former military base that's now a regional enterprise zone, has spent the past two decades redeveloping with sustainability as an objective. ...



New Bedford and region have new roadmap to address homelessness

In late September, New Bedford Mayor John Mitchell released a report about a city-commissioned study that analyzed New Bedford's response to homelessness. ...



Boston tests 'green' roofs on MBTA bus shelters

Boston has added "green" roofs to 30 bus shelters along a popular

route, shielding bus riders from increasingly hot weather, and better equipping neighborhoods to manage stormwater runoff and flooding risks.

...



Reducing risk, ensuring smooth transitions when decommissioning buildings

When planning for a new municipal building, the disposition of the existing building — whether through sale, demolition or re-commissioning — should be part of the plan. ...



MunEnergy can help with managing winter energy needs

As cities and towns prepare for winter and a high-demand heating season, the MMA's MunEnergy program can help municipal leaders manage these costs. ...



[Great Barrington just got more than \\$6 million in grants. Here's where the money is going.](#)

[Stockbridge and West Stockbridge have agreed to share a fire chief as a possible first step to a larger agreement.](#)

[51 years later, overdue book is finally returned to Worcester Public Library.](#)

What We're Reading

[Strategies for spreading AI throughout local government](#) - Bloomberg Cities
(6 minute read)

"Take Boston, which is currently developing a customized chatbot—trained on the city's hundreds of pages of procurement procedures and rules—to accelerate purchases. To Chief Information Officer Santiago Garces, this work is primarily geared at producing greater efficiency for civil servants by reducing the time they spend seeking approval for purchases."

[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

[Register now for Connect 351!](#)

Join your colleagues Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Exhibition & Convention Center.

Opening Keynote: [Suneel Gupta](#)

Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to
[Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



Upcoming MMA Events

[Public Holiday Decorations in Your Community: Overview and Legal Considerations](#) - Nov. 18

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association fall conference](#) - Nov. 21-22

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Situational Supervision](#) - Dec. 4

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 5

[Massachusetts Municipal Communicators webinar](#) - Dec. 10

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association holiday meeting](#) - Dec. 12

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

- [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
- [Mass Save introduces municipal energy manager grant](#)
- [‘Climate tech’ event on Nov. 19 to focus on municipal continuity during emergencies](#)
- [Treasury offers resources as ARPA obligation deadline nears](#)
- [Foundation offers grants to help apply for opioid settlement funds](#)
- [Green Communities Summit is Nov. 22 in Devens](#)

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of Koran's Farm!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

- [MIIA Enrollment and Eligibility Representative](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 30 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Procurement Director, Assistant Town Clerk, Part-time Local Inspector, Town Coordinator, Senior Clerk and Chief of Police. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: Longfellow's Wayside Inn, located in Sudbury, is the [oldest restaurant in the state and the oldest inn in the country](#). It opened for business in 1716.

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](#)!

Note: The Weekly Review is taking a break next week for the holidays. We will be back in your inbox on Jan. 3.

[Countdown to ARPA obligation](#)

deadline

With the Dec. 31 deadline quickly approaching for obligating American Rescue Plan Act funds, municipal officials are leveraging U.S. Department of the Treasury resources to help them avoid any potential clawing back of federal funds. ...



Webinar covers select board role in community arts, culture

A Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with the Mass Cultural Council discussed how select boards can support arts and culture initiatives and advance economic development. ...



MIIA workshops to cover legal, cyber, wellness topics

MIIA will present several training sessions during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, to be held Jan. 23 through 25 in Boston. ...

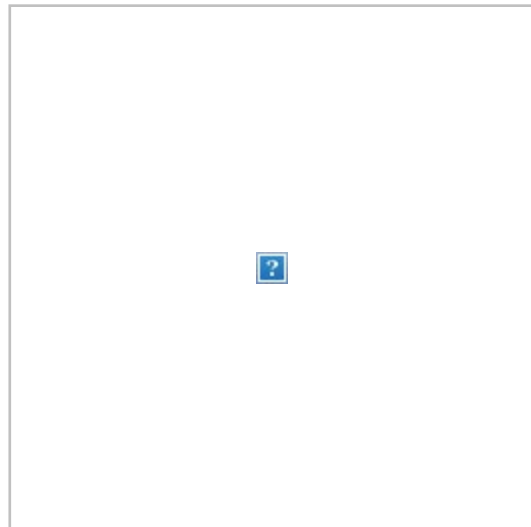


Staying ahead of emerging cyberthreats

As cyberthreats become more

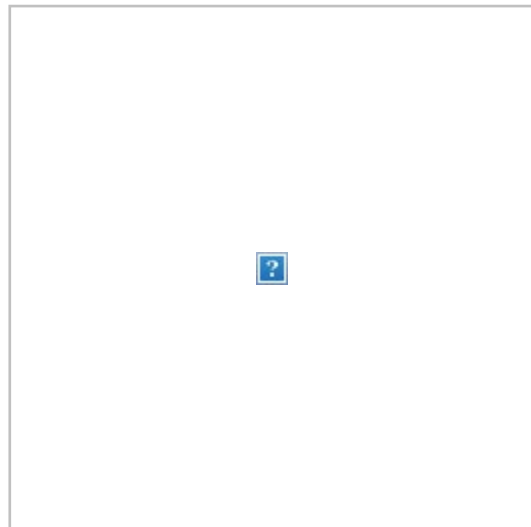
sophisticated, local governments and public entities face increased risk, especially from ransomware attacks.

...



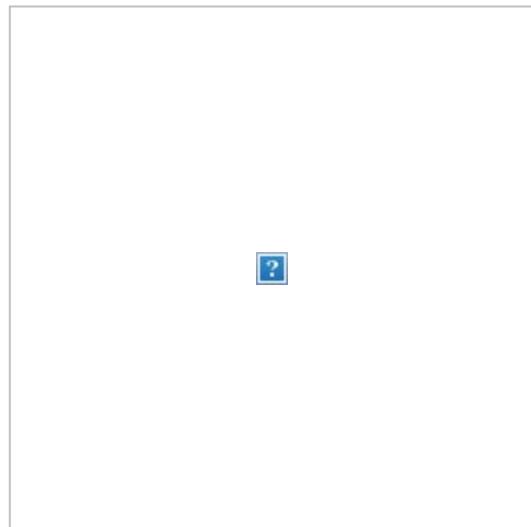
Pittsfield restores pond, enhances park accessibility

A quarter century in the making, a pond restoration project has brought new life to a somewhat neglected section of a Pittsfield park, completing a mission that was both professional and personal for city officials. ...



Worcester conducts Urban Tree Canopy Assessment

In a shift toward a more proactive approach for management of city-owned land, the Worcester Conservation Commission conducted a forest health assessment of more than 850 acres earlier this year. ...



Bourne to scan municipal property for tribal history

The town of Bourne is planning to

deploy ground-penetrating radar on a historic municipal property to search for tribal graves and artifacts, and attempt to forge a deeper connection with its Indigenous past.

...

[Retrofitting outdoor lighting can save energy and cut light pollution](#)

Municipalities must eventually replace components of critical building systems in schools, libraries and other public facilities.



New In [Advocacy](#)

[MMA urges legislators to support corrective legislation that would help retain CDL drivers](#)

On Dec. 16, In Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[A \\$180K state grant for a group of South Berkshire towns aims to prevent ambulance deserts](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[Somerville City Council votes to ditch required parking rules for new developments](#) - CommonWealth Beacon

[New dashboard will offer deep dive into city finances, including salaries](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Computer servers, radio equipment among items approved for ARPA funding in Mattapoisett](#) - Sippican Week

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[Connect 351](#) News and Reminders

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Special Guests: [Gov. Maura Healey](#) & [Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll](#)

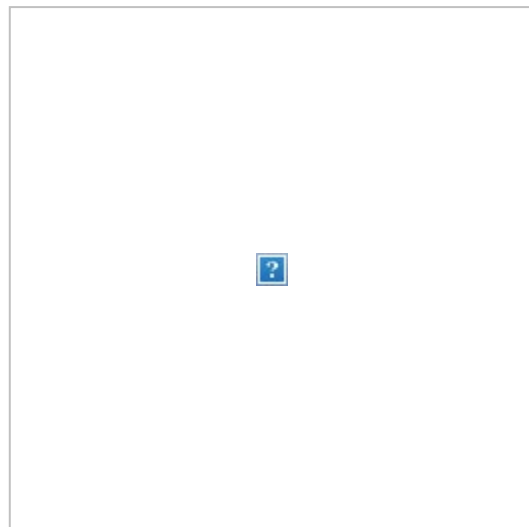
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Saturday Keynote: [Matt Lehrman](#)

WEMO Speaker: [Kate Walsh](#)

Don't miss this year's additions to [Thursday afternoon!](#)

- Trade Show hours, speed coaching, Women Leading Government session & a welcome reception!



What We're Reading

[Beyond the noise: How to engage residents effectively](#) - an 8 minute listen from Bloomberg Cities.

"According to a recent Bloomberg Philanthropies survey, 60 percent of mayors believe polarization in their cities is "more extreme than ever." Forty-four percent say they lack sufficient feedback loops with residents, and—with local news outlets vanishing across the world—53 percent report a struggle to wade through the maze of an increasingly fragmented media landscape that's rife with misinformation."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation funding webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Mini Boot Camp](#) - Feb. 27

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)

- [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



Thanks to Gaylin Bingle, Administrative Assistant in Monson for sharing this photo of
Soldier's Monument and The First Church of Monson!

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

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- [MIIA Senior Risk Management Trainer](#)
- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 51 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Health Agent, Chief of Police, Town Planner, Town Solicitor, Treasurer/Collector, Assistant Assessor and Conservation Agent. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).

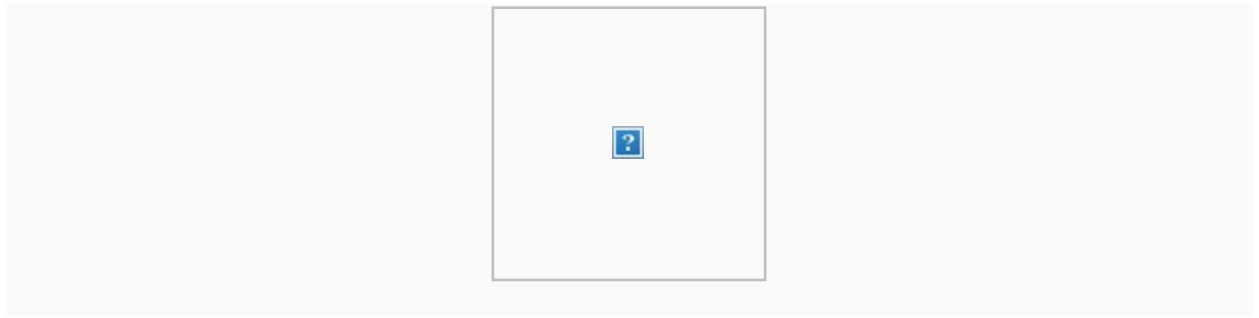


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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! Just 14 days until Connect 351!

In local happenings: The Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks [announced the winners](#) of the “Name a Snowplow” contest, held with students at Worcester Public Schools and voted on by the public. Four trucks will be named Scoop Dogg, Sleetwood Mac, William Scrapespeare and Snow More Mr Ice Guy.

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](#)!

**[SJC issues ruling in MBTA
Communities case](#)**

The Supreme Judicial Court has

upheld a state law intended to promote new housing in MBTA Communities and the power of the attorney general to enforce it, but threw out guidelines specifying the terms of compliance. ...



[Connect 351 is just 2 weeks away](#)

More than 1,100 local leaders have already registered for Connect 351, the MMA's annual conference, which will be held Jan. 23-25 at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. ...



[U.S. Sens. Warren, Markey to speak at Connect 351](#)

Massachusetts' two U.S. senators, Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, will address local leaders from across the state during the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, on Saturday, Jan. 25. ...



[MMA publishes January issue of The Beacon](#)

The MMA published the January

2025 issue of The Beacon, covering the latest news affecting local government and recent and upcoming MMA meetings and webinars, including Connect 351. ...



[New legislative session brings opportunities for cities and towns](#)

Jan. 1 kicked off a new legislative session, and state revenues will be a focal point for the first half of the year, with a cautious outlook guiding the development of the fiscal 2026 state budget. ...



[MMA to host webinar on transportation grants on Jan. 13](#)

The MMA will host a webinar on Jan. 13 covering transportation-related grants available to communities across Massachusetts. ...



[Legislature OK's bill to allow video for school bus safety enforcement](#)

In the final hours of the session on Dec. 31, the Legislature passed a bill giving communities the option to use video monitoring systems for school bus traffic violations. ...



[EOEEA accepting comments on Article 97 open space regulations](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is accepting comments through Jan. 22 on draft regulations relating to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution. ...



[Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for the Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program. ...



[DOER opens program to promote on-street EV charging](#)

The Department of Energy

Resources is accepting applications for the On-Street EV Charging Program, which provides grants and technical assistance. ...



[\\$25M in Rural Roadway Funding available to communities](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation has apportioned and released \$25 million for the Rural Roadway Funding Program to cities and towns. ...



[NLC publishes book recognizing 100th anniversary](#)

The National League of Cities celebrated its 100th anniversary throughout 2024, recognizing a century of municipal advocacy, education, and innovation at the national level. ...



[In letter to governor, MMA outlines municipal priorities for FY26 state budget](#)

On Jan. 3, In Testimony

[As challenges abound, let's use kindness as a tool](#)

On Jan. 3, Executive Director's Report

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Methuen finds short-term use for Searles Estate](#) - Eagle Tribune

[Nantucket's African Meeting House Celebrates Its Bicentennial](#) - Nantucket Current

[A lot of 'little snowstorms' are still eating up Berkshire snow removal budgets](#) - Berkshire Eagle

[It's red, plastic, and snaps together: Provincetown's new flood barrier](#) - GBH

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[Thursday afternoon!](#)



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-

What We're Reading

[Confronting the Local Government Trust Dilemma, Part 2](#) - second in a three-part series discussing community-based strategic planning as an approach to building trust, from International City/County Management Association.

"I would like to share the basic recipe for a community-based approach. There are five basic steps to the creation of a community-based strategic plan: set the stage, listen, identify priorities, compose the plan, and return and report."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Transportation Grants: MassDOT and MassTrails Funding Opportunities webinar](#) - Jan. 13

[Mutual Aid During Crisis and Everyday: Severe Weather, Wildfire, and Emergency Medical Services webinar](#) - Jan. 16

[Connect 351](#) - Jan. 23-25

[Inspiring Climate Action: Prioritizing and Funding Decarbonization Measures webinar](#) - Jan. 29

[MMA-Suffolk Fellowship Information Session](#) - Feb. 6

[Massachusetts Select Board Association webinar with Massachusetts Moderators Association](#) - Feb. 25

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Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MMA webinar on Jan. 16 will discuss fire mutual aid](#)
 - [MMA and Suffolk offer robust program lineup in 2025](#)
 - [MMA seeks members for its five policy committees](#)
 - [MassTrails grant program accepting applications for 2025](#)
 - [USDOT opens infrastructure, sustainability and equity grant program](#)
 - [Federal funding opportunities available](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots





Thanks to John Ouellette, MMA Director of Communications for sharing this photo of ZooLights at Stone Zoo in Stoneham!

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- [MIIA Driver Training Instructor – EVOC & Simulator](#)

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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday!

In local happenings: A [guide to living in New Bedford](#) was featured in the New York Times Real Estate section last week. Highlights include the city's rich maritime history, new South Coast Rail service and the diverse food scene.

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](#)!

[MMA continues push on Municipal Empowerment Act](#)

The MMA and local leaders are continuing their advocacy for the

governor's proposed Municipal Empowerment Act, a multifaceted package to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local government. ...



Rule-making process continues for MBTA Communities Act

The Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities is working to finalize new regulations relative to the MBTA Communities Act. ...



Governor's bill would make historic investment in Ch. 90

At the heart of the transportation bond bill Gov. Maura Healey filed on Jan. 24 is a historic investment in municipal roads and bridges — \$300 million per year for the Chapter 90 program for a period of five years. ...



MassDOT finalizes truck safety device regulations

The Massachusetts Department of

Transportation has finalized updated regulations pertaining to truck safety devices. ...



[Special housing production commission releases report](#)

A special commission today shared a report with the governor that offers more than 50 recommendations to increase the supply of housing across Massachusetts. ...



[MSA hosts workshop with Moderators Association](#)

The Mass. Select Board Association held a virtual workshop with the Mass. Moderators Association on Feb. 25 to discuss select board roles and responsibilities relative to town meetings. ...



[Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

The Mass. Housing Partnership will host a three-part, virtual affordable housing training series in March for local boards and commissions. ...



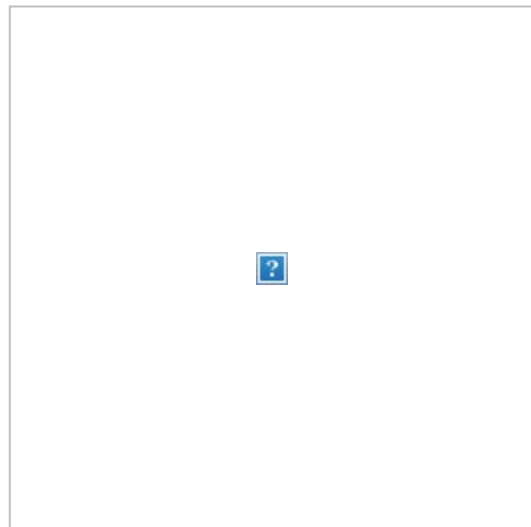
[BEAD application deadline extended to March 10](#)

The Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment funding program has extended its Round 1 application deadline to March 10. ...



[Environmental Justice Grant available to municipalities](#)

Municipalities are invited to apply for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grantmaking program. ...



[Planner Training Collaborative to hold annual conference on March 15](#)

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will hold its 30th Annual Conference on Saturday, March 15 in Worcester. ...



[Travel and tourism conference is March 18-19 in Springfield](#)

The 2025 Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, where tourism and hospitality professionals learn about the latest industry trends, will be held on March 18 and 19 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield.



[5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)

The MassCyberCenter is inviting all municipalities to its fifth annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit. ...



[Overview of timely state and federal issues](#)

Here's a brief look at some of the

key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



New in [Advocacy](#)

[Remote, hybrid meetings are local government success story](#)

On Feb. 28, Executive Director's Report

[In letter to Secretary Augustus, MMA and Municipal Lawyers Association identify municipal concerns with MBTA Communities draft regulations](#)

On Feb. 21, Testimony

Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Seven years in the making: North Truro housing development groundbreaking date set](#) - Cape Cod Times

[After Steward hospital closure, ambulances rush patients out of town](#) - Boston Globe

[Somerville and Chelsea are asking a federal judge to block the Trump administration's "illegal campaign of bullying and intimidation"](#) - Boston.com

[Natick voters must decide on \\$7M override at town election](#) - MetroWest Daily News

[Hudson Town Election to have override question: What money will pay for, plus tax impact](#) - MetroWest Daily News

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#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Amherst Town Councillor Elisha Walker



What We're Reading

[Resident Engagement: Taking transparency to the next level in cities](#) - Bloomberg Cities Network

"Whether it's erecting glass-walled municipal buildings or launching open-data platforms, cities have long strived to be transparent as a way to engender trust in government. Yet, as confidence in public institutions continues to be challenged, local leaders also realize that the old ways of "being open" aren't enough—and that they have to do more.

A growing number of cities are responding by pushing the boundaries of transparency. Syracuse, N.Y., is reimagining service-delivery communications. Portland, Ore., is raising the bar for open procurement. And Boston is making the mayor's one-on-one meetings accessible in public spaces. These efforts underscore a key lesson: innovation is essential to advancing transparency and deepening public trust."

Upcoming MMA Events

[Women Leading Government Conference](#) - March 6

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Dalton & Marlborough\)](#) - March 7

[MMA-Suffolk 2025 Programs Information Session](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 12

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Spring Program Webinar](#) - March 13

[MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings \(Amesbury & Fall River\)](#) - March 14

[Navigating Public Records and Open Meeting Laws webinar](#) - March 19

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association Professional Development Conference](#) - March 20

[Women Elected Municipal Officials Conference](#) - March 21

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - March 25

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Reading\)](#) - March 27

[Association of Town Finance Committees Regional Meeting \(Hadley\)](#) - March 27

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
 - [NLC seeks data on municipal infrastructure needs](#)
 - [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)
 - [MMA to hold Legislative Breakfast Meetings March 7, 14](#)
 - [U.S. Rep. Clark to keynote WEMO Conference in March](#)
 - [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
 - [Administration announces opening of Community One Stop for Growth](#)
 - [Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant applications due March 7](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The bronze sculpture called "Reach for Knowledge," by Nancy Schön, welcomes patrons at the entrance of the Wellesley Free Library on a sunny day this week.

Photo by Owen Page, MMA Communications Coordinator.

Do you have photos that exemplify your community or your local government at work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

Job Opportunities at MMA & MIIA

- [MMA Senior Executive and Director of Membership](#)
 - [MIIA Part-Time Emergency Vehicle Operator Course \(EVOC\) & Simulator Instructor](#)
 - [MMA & MIIA Executive Assistant](#)
-

New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 47 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Technical Records Specialist, Library Branch Manager, Systems Engineer, Town Administrator, Town Planner, Treasurer/Collector, DPW Laborer and Accounting Assistant. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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MMA Weekly Review

Happy Friday! The MMA has joined Bluesky! Follow us there: [@mma.org](#).

In local happenings: Needham Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick [reflected on her tenure](#) in The Needham Observer. Fitzpatrick, who is planning to retire in early July, cofounded Massachusetts Women Leading Government, a formal committee of the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association.

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](#)!

[Supplemental road funding now available; Chapter 90 hearing set](#)

MassDOT announced that \$45

million in supplemental funding for road and bridge repair and construction is now available to communities. ...



President signs order calling for dismantling of Education Department

State and local officials, and the state's congressional delegation, are raising concerns about the potential implications of an executive order signed by the president. ...



Program awards \$500,000 for drought resiliency, water efficiency projects

The new grant program supports projects that promote climate resiliency by reducing indoor and outdoor water use, as well as improving water loss control programs. ...



Cyber resilience grant program opens

Massachusetts municipalities can

now apply for the
MassCyberCenter's Cyber Resilient
Massachusetts Grant program,
which provides funding for managed
detection and response services. ...



Energy use reports for large buildings due June 30

The first reports are due on June 30
under a new energy reporting
requirement for buildings larger than
20,000 square feet. ...



Municipal leaders invited to join hydrography group

The Mass. Hydrography Framework
Committee is seeking municipal
leaders to participate in its work to
create “next generation hydrographic
spatial data.” ...



MMA to host introductory webinar on artificial intelligence

The MMA will host an introductory

webinar on artificial intelligence for municipalities on April 17. ...



MMA to host ‘Demystifying DEI’ webinar on May 6

The MMA will host a webinar, “Demystifying DEI,” on May 6 to provide clarity on the topic of diversity, equity and inclusion. ...



Administration announces ‘Energy Affordability Agenda’

At an event in Lowell on March 10, the Healey-Driscoll administration announced an “Energy Affordability Agenda” to identify and advance actions to lower energy bills for Massachusetts residents. ...



UMass Lowell seeks municipal fellows for energy projects

The Municipal Fellows program

supports municipalities with clean energy transition projects in conjunction with the state's Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition Initiative. ...



Overview of timely state and federal issues

Here's a brief look at some of the key state and federal issues the MMA is watching closely this season. ...



Headlines From Around the Commonwealth

[Are local government and school board meetings getting too long? Some in Fall River say limits needed](#) - Herald News

[Strapped for school funding, Valley schools eye lagging state aid](#) - Daily Hampshire Gazette

['Live, work, play': Is form-based code the recipe for Eastham's strategic plan](#) - Cape Cod Times

[Mayor Petty: Worcester schools threatened by 'heartbreaking' Trump bid to kill Education Department](#) - Telegram and Gazette

[New Bedford drafts new plan for dealing with disasters](#) - New Bedford Light

** This list may include news items from outlets that have paywalls, so there may be cases where the entire content of the article is not viewable without a subscription.*

#WhyIServe

Every year at the MMA's annual conference, Connect 351, we ask municipal officials and employees to share why they choose to serve in local government. We are sharing their inspiring messages with our weekly readers.

Holyoke City Councillor Israel Rivera



What We're Reading

[Flipping the script on youth engagement](#) - Bloomberg Cities

"Young people can be transformative partners to local government. Not only do they possess a font of fresh ideas, but also—because of all the years they have ahead of them—they are the group likely to benefit the most when those ideas are put into action. Yet youth are sometimes among the most challenging communities for leaders to include meaningfully in public problem solving, whether that's because they don't think their values are aligned with those of city hall, they don't trust that they'll be heard, or they're simply focused on other pursuits."

Upcoming MMA Events

[MMA and Constellation MunEnergy Spring Zoom webinar](#) - April 2

[Bridging the Knowledge Gap: Key Insights for Overseeing Local Assessing Operations webinar](#) - April 3

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 8

[Citizen Academies: How to Engage your Communities webinar](#) - April 9

[Massachusetts Municipal Management Association and Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Joint Meeting](#) - April 10

[MMA Virtual Municipal Leadership Academy webinar: Managing for Excellent Performance workshop](#) - April 15

[Artificial Intelligence for Municipalities 101 webinar](#) - April 17

[Office of the Veteran Advocate \(OVA\): What Municipalities Need to Know webinar](#) - April 30

[Massachusetts Select Board Association Western and Rural Massachusetts Conference - May 3](#)

[Demystifying DEI webinar - May 6](#)

[Massachusetts Municipal Human Resources Boot Camp - May 8](#)

[Leveraging arts & culture for substance use prevention and recovery webinar - May 12](#)

[View our entire event calendar](#)

In Case You Missed It

Stories from the MMA that remain relevant

- [MunEnergy program offers spring energy webinar on April 2](#)
- [MMA webinar to cover assessing on April 3](#)
- [MVP Program Action Grant applications due April 4](#)
- [Diesel replacement grant applications due April 7](#)
- [Municipal decarbonizing workshop is April 9](#)
- [MMA to host webinar on citizen academies on April 9](#)
- [Applications due April 18 for Housing Choice Communities Designation](#)
- [Applications open for Round 2 of MA250 Grant Program](#)
- [Complete Streets program accepting applications](#)
- [5th annual Municipal Cybersecurity Summit set for May 8 in Worcester](#)
- [Mass. Housing Partnership hosting affordable housing training](#)

- [Municipal Digital Equity Planning Program accepting applications](#)
 - [Applications open for MMA-Suffolk Certificate program](#)
 - [MSBA accepting Statements of Interest for consideration in 2025](#)
-

Commonwealth snapshots



The Riverwalk in Amesbury is a multi-use path along the Powwow River that connects downtown Amesbury to Carriagetown Marketplace. Photo by John Ouellette, MMA Communications Director.

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work? (Could be municipal facilities, community gatherings, natural resources, downtown, etc.) Please email them (as an attachment) to photos@mma.org for possible use in our Weekly Review, The Beacon or mma.org. (Photos must be free of copyright restrictions; .jpeg format and high resolution preferred.)

[Job Opportunities](#) at MMA & MIIA

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New this week in [Municipal Job Listings](#)

We've added 71 new listings to our municipal job board, including openings for Human Resources Coordinator, Tree Warden, Local Building Inspector, Finance Manager, Community Outreach Librarian and Mental Health Clinician. View these listings, and more, on our [job board](#).



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