

Changing the Culture on Beacon Hill

In just over two years, the Patrick-Murray administration has delivered reforms that have been talked about for decades.

Ethics Reform. Governor Patrick took the lead in working with the legislature to restore the public trust in government by increasing the penalties for ethics and lobbying violations and strengthening state enforcement authorities.

Transportation Reform. Governor Patrick worked with the legislature to find real savings by reforming our outdated transportation bureaucracy and ending the “23 years and out” MBTA pension perk. The Governor’s bill has already saved over \$190 million.

Pensions Reform. Working with the legislature, Governor Patrick helped to end decade old abuses and gamesmanship that eroded the public’s trust and threatened the system’s sustainability. Furthermore, he fought to ensure that these reforms applied to both current and future employees.

Civilian Flaggers. Governor Patrick pushed for Massachusetts to join 49 other states in allowing civilian flaggers at state construction sites, saving Massachusetts taxpayers millions of dollars annually.

Auto Insurance Reform. Governor Patrick introduced competition into the Massachusetts auto insurance market, giving good drivers everywhere lower rates and more choices. Managed competition has attracted 11 new companies – including some of the nation’s leading insurers.

21st Century Jobs

Facing unprecedented budget challenges caused by the global economic crisis, the Patrick-Murray administration continues to govern for the long-term by making investments today that will help position the Commonwealth for a strong recovery now and in the future:

Life Science Initiative. Governor Patrick signed into law legislation positioning Massachusetts as a world leader in the emerging biotechnology industry. In one year the state has invested \$46 million, leveraged an additional \$357 million in private and federal funds, and has helped to create a projected 950 jobs in its first year.

Clean Energy and the Environment. Governor Patrick signed into law the first in the nation oceans planning bill. In addition, the Governor pushed for comprehensive energy and biofuels bills allowing consumers to save money and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

Cape Wind. The nation’s first offshore wind turbine project passed through the state environmental review process, bringing the environmental benefits and hundreds of jobs one step closer to being realized in the Commonwealth.

Commitment to Education. Because education is the key to maintaining the Commonwealth's competitive edge and preparing our students to succeed in the global economy, Governor Patrick introduced legislation to help promote innovation and to close the achievement gap by lifting the charter school cap for the lowest-scoring 10 percent of school districts in the state and authorizing Readiness Schools to promote choices for families.

Furthermore, the Governor worked to hold harmless Chapter 70 funding for public schools, protect financial aid for higher education, and continue to make investments in extended learning time and early education.

Making Government Work for You

The Patrick-Murray administration is committed to delivering the innovation, efficiencies and protections people rightly expect and deserve from their government.

Health Care Reform. The Governor continues to successfully implement health care reform. Over 97% of Massachusetts residents have health insurance, the highest rate in the nation.

Identity Theft Prevention. Moving to protect consumers, Governor Patrick signed into law legislation requiring businesses and government to notify consumers when their data is lost or stolen.

Closing Corporate Tax Reform. Governor Patrick advocated for and approved tax changes to close corporate tax loopholes, a move that aligned Massachusetts with competitor state and leveled the playing field for smaller businesses.

Relieving Pressure on Communities. Moving to help local government reduce costs and maintain essential services for residents, Governor Patrick signed a bill to allow municipalities to take part in the state's cost-effective, high-value health care system. So far, 17 communities, six school districts and three planning councils have joined, reducing local health care spending by tens of millions of dollars annually.

In addition, the Governor successfully championed measures to help cities and towns raise targeted revenues to support essential school, public safety and municipal services. Closing the telecommunications tax loophole will save communities an estimated \$26 million and local option means and hotel/motel taxes will lead to a potential \$91 million in benefits if adopted by all communities.

Marriage Equality. Governor Patrick led the fight to keep discrimination out of the Massachusetts constitution and preserved the right of same sex couples to marry in Massachusetts.