



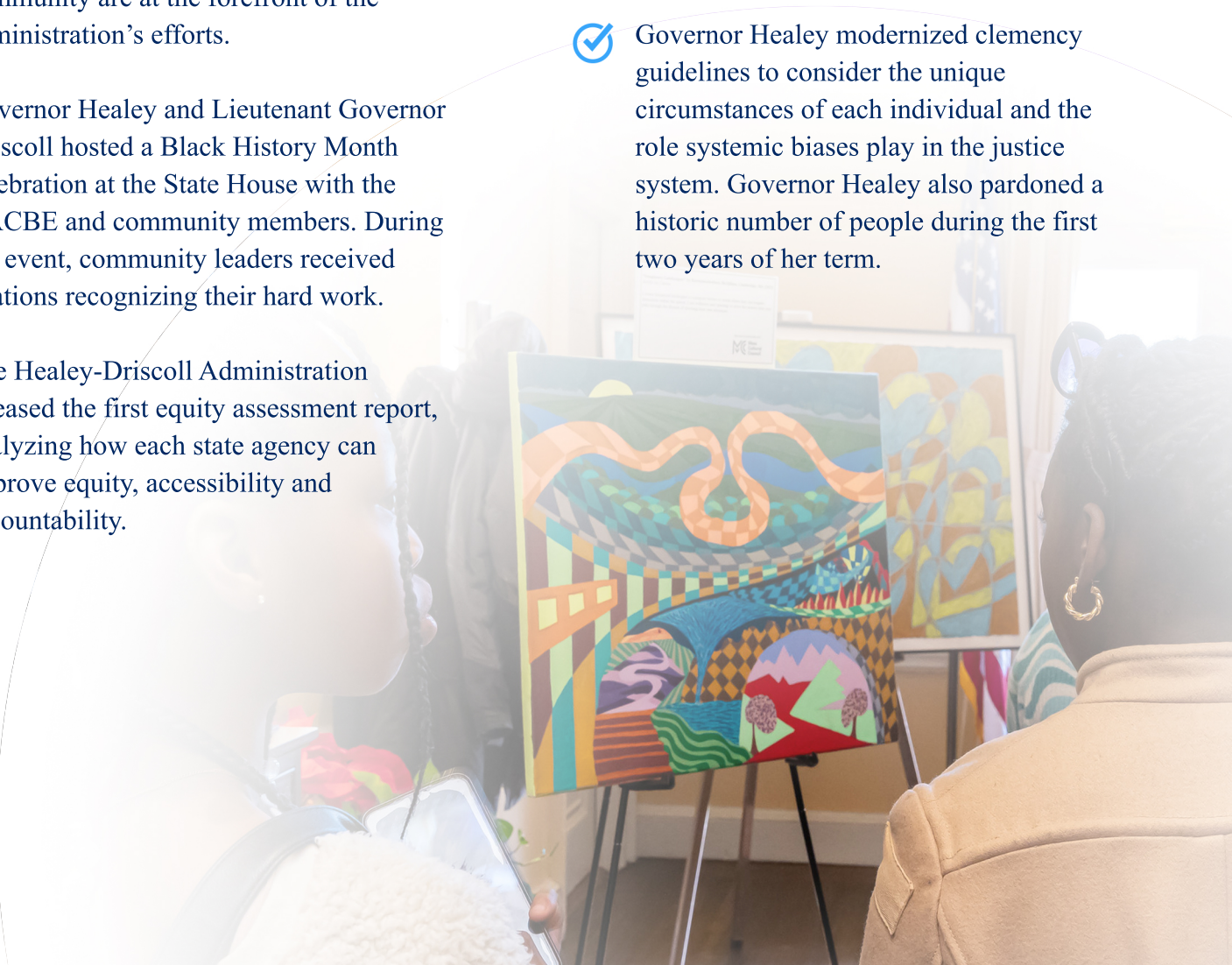
## HEALEY-DRISCOLL ADMINISTRATION

# Year in Review

In their second year in office, Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll strengthened their partnership with the Black community and took action to promote equity and opportunity:

### In 2024, the Healey-Driscoll Administration made a strong commitment to meaningful representation and change for the Black community:

- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration worked with the Governor's Advisory Council on Black Empowerment (GACBE) to listen and ensure the priorities of the Black community are at the forefront of the administration's efforts.
- ✓ Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll hosted a Black History Month celebration at the State House with the GACBE and community members. During the event, community leaders received citations recognizing their hard work.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration released the first equity assessment report, analyzing how each state agency can improve equity, accessibility and accountability.
- ✓ Throughout Black History Month, art created by Black artists was displayed in the Governor's Office as part of an initiative to showcase and support local, diverse artists.
- ✓ Governor Healey modernized clemency guidelines to consider the unique circumstances of each individual and the role systemic biases play in the justice system. Governor Healey also pardoned a historic number of people during the first two years of her term.



The Healey-Driscoll Administration improved public transportation to ensure access and mobility:

- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration implemented the first reduced fare program for income-eligible riders of the MBTA's buses, subways, commuter rail, ferries, and paratransit for riders across the state.
- ✓ The MBTA is on track to deliver on their promise to remove all slow zones across the system by the end of the year. The Red Line is slow zone free for the first time in 20 years and the Orange Line is slow zone free for the first time in nearly 15 years. So far, this work has returned more than an hour and a half in travel time to riders.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration delivered year-round, fare-free service at Regional Transit Authorities, lowering costs for hundreds of thousands of residents to get to and from work, the grocery store, doctor's appointments and school. This will impact positively the communities in Brockton, Merrimack Valley, Worcester, Lowell, and other eleven regions in Massachusetts.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration advanced several critical projects that will improve transportation infrastructure across the state – the Cape Cod Bridges, West-East Rail and South Coast Rail.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration increased access to high-quality education to ensure career development and generational opportunities:

- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration made community college cost-free for everyone, building on the success of the MassReconnect program. As a result, community college enrollment has risen by 14 percent.
- ✓ Governor Healey signed the Educator Diversity Act to help to bring in more diverse educators and support the needs of children.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration reduced the cost of public higher education for middle class families. As a result, enrollment at public four-year colleges in Massachusetts increased for the first time in more than a decade.
- ✓ As part of Governor Healey's Gateway to Pre-K agenda, the Healey-Driscoll Administration expanded universal pre-k access in eight additional school districts, adding 259 affordable pre-k seats for children in Gateway Cities and rural communities.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration increased funding for child care, resulting in more seats for kids, higher wages for educators, improvements in quality, and lower costs for families. Massachusetts added 508 licensed early education and care programs this year, with the capacity to serve 9,407 more children compared to last year.

- ✓ Made school breakfast and lunch free in all public schools. Over 300 million meals have now been provided to students across the state, removing a stressor and cost for parents and ensuring no child goes hungry at school.
- ✓ Created Literacy Launch, a new approach to improving early literacy that makes sure schools, educators and students have the resources and support they need to make sure students can read and read well.

### The Healey-Driscoll Administration lowered costs and tackled housing and health care costs:

*Governor Healey's \$1 billion tax cuts went into effect this year. As a result:*

- ✓ 591,000 families benefited from the expanded child tax credit, putting money back in their pockets that can be used for groceries, child care, gas and more.
- ✓ 868,000 renters benefited from the expanded rental deduction to help with high housing costs.
- ✓ 64,000 seniors benefited from the expanded senior circuit breaker tax credit. The average senior homeowner saw nearly \$1,000 in increased savings.
- ✓ 32,6000 taxpayers benefitted from earned income tax credit, providing relief to low- and moderate-income workers and families.
- ✓ Governor Healey signed the Affordable Homes Act, the most ambitious housing plan in Massachusetts history which will create and save 65,000 homes so that the people who work in our communities can afford to live in our communities.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration partnered with communities to pass new zoning in compliance with the MBTA Communities Law. To date, more than 110 MBTA Communities have embraced new housing. Nearly 3,000 new units are already in the pipeline to bring down costs.
- ✓ Governor Healey expanded ConnectorCare, resulting in more than 51,000 people getting more affordable health care coverage.
- ✓ Governor Healey signed a maternal health law expanding access to midwifery, birth centers and doulas to help women before, during and after pregnancy and improve the health of babies.
- ✓ Governor Healey signed a law ensuring that patients have access to follow-up breast cancer screenings and exams and prevented any increase in patient cost-sharing to ensure that women can get the screenings and care they need.





### The Healey-Driscoll Administration increased access to mental health services and enhancing public safety in communities:

- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration expanded youth behavioral health care access, cutting youth mental health emergency room stays in half. The administration also made an unprecedented investment to expand access to in-school programming for students who have fallen behind academically due to challenges with their mental health.
- ✓ Governor Healey took nation-leading executive action to pardon misdemeanor marijuana possession convictions in Massachusetts.
- ✓ Governor Healey signed a gun safety law that bans ghost guns, strengthens the Extreme Risk Protection Order statute to keep guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves or others, and invests in violence prevention programs.
- ✓ Governor Healey signed a law that bans revenge porn and expands protections against abuse and exploitation.

### The Healey-Driscoll administration supported Black business owners and workers by improving wages and small business opportunities by expanding grants:

- ✓ The economy added 33,000 jobs and nearly 100,000 workers to the labor force. The unemployment rate remains below than the national average.
- ✓ Governor Healey signed The Physicians Pathway Act, including provisions for issuing licenses to internationally trained physicians, allowing them to practice in physician shortage areas after meeting certain criteria and completing an assessment and evaluation program.
- ✓ Governor Healey became the first in more than 50 years to create a Labor Advisory Council and also appointed a Labor Advisor in the Office of the Governor.
- ✓ Increased state contracts with diverse and small businesses by assessing and reopening contracts.
- ✓ Signed into law wage equity legislation that increases equity and transparency in pay by requiring employers to disclose salary ranges and protecting an employee's right to ask for salary ranges.
- ✓ Expanded access to Career and Technical Education programs, in addition to community colleges, because good-paying jobs shouldn't require a four-year degree.
- ✓ Appointed members to the first-ever Supplier Diversity Office and Small Business Advisory Board, made up of 15 diverse business leaders from across the state that will guide the SDO in its mission and work to identify and remove barriers for diverse and small businesses. The Chair of the Board is Nicole Obi, President and CEO of the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA).