



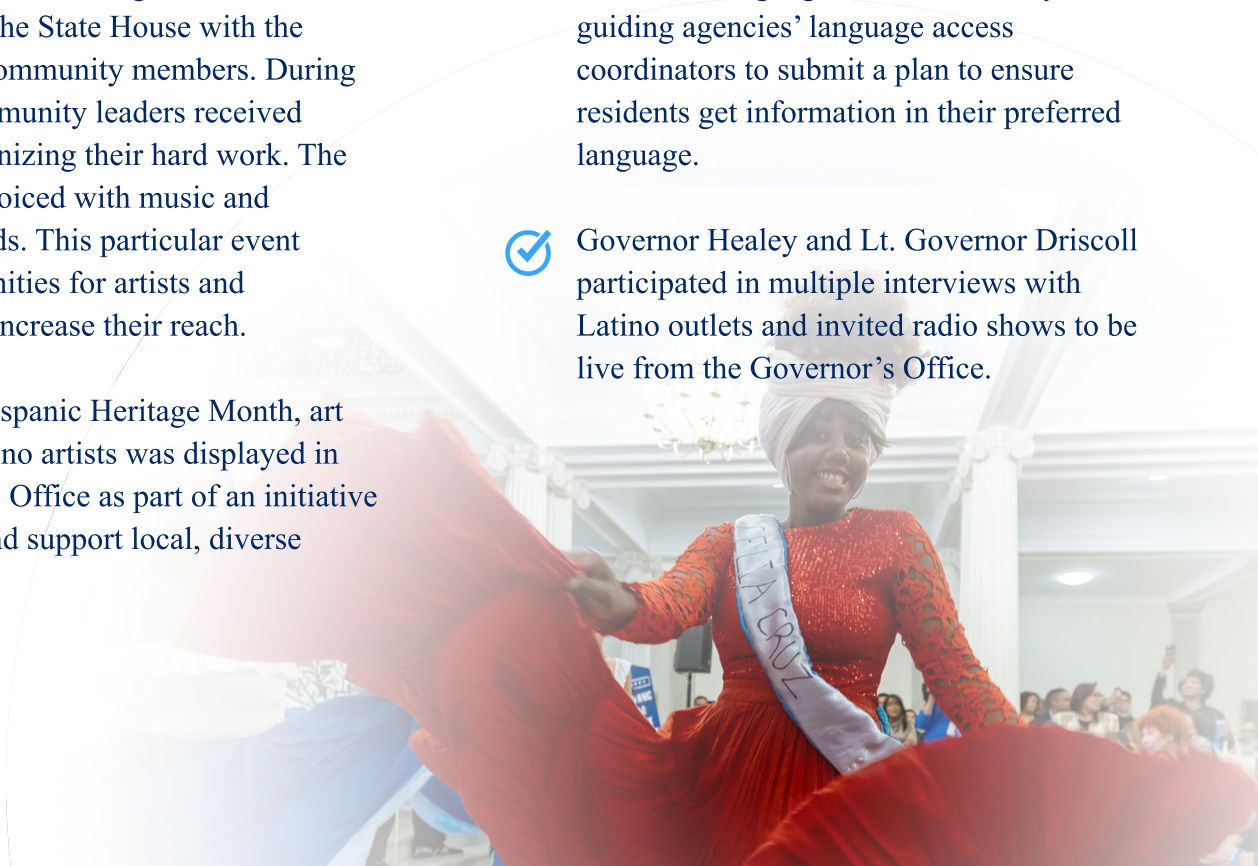
HEALEY-DRISCOLL ADMINISTRATION

Year in Review

In their second year in office, Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll continued to address key priorities of Massachusetts' Latino community, including lowering costs for families, creating jobs, and expanding access to education.

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

- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration worked with the Governor's Advisory Council on Latino Empowerment (GACLE) to listen and ensure the priorities of the Latino community are at the forefront of the administration's efforts.
- ✓ Hosted a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration at the State House with the GACLE and community members. During the event, community leaders received citations recognizing their hard work. The community rejoiced with music and traditional foods. This particular event opens opportunities for artists and performers to increase their reach.
- ✓ Throughout Hispanic Heritage Month, art created by Latino artists was displayed in the Governor's Office as part of an initiative to showcase and support local, diverse artists.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration released the first equity assessment report, analyzing how each state agency can improve equity, accessibility and accountability.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Administration increased Language Access efforts by guiding agencies' language access coordinators to submit a plan to ensure residents get information in their preferred language.
- ✓ Governor Healey and Lt. Governor Driscoll participated in multiple interviews with Latino outlets and invited radio shows to be live from the Governor's Office.



The Healey-Driscoll Administration invested access to public and individual transportation and mobility:

- ✓ Under Governor Healey's leadership, the Sumner Tunnel was fully restored on schedule accelerating mobility and safety for many East Boston, Chelsea, Revere and North Shore residents.
- ✓ 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 Healey-Driscoll Administration continued to implement the Work and Family Mobility Act, which allows undocumented immigrants in the state to obtain a Massachusetts license.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll Admissions progress to move forward several critical projects that will improve transportation infrastructure across the state – the Cape Cod Bridges, West-East Rail and South Coast Rail.
- ✓ 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 increased access to high-quality education, career pathways and generational opportunity:

- ✓ Massachusetts 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, opening the door for more students to get trained with the skills that employers are looking for.
- ✓ Signed into law the Educator Diversity Act to help to bring in more diverse educators and support the needs of children.
- ✓ Significantly 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.

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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Signed into law 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.
- ✓ 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 for everyone.
- ✓ Signed into law an expansion of ConnectorCare, which will result in more than 51,000 people getting more affordable health care coverage.

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- ✓ Governor Healey signed a maternal health bill that expands access to midwifery, birth centers and doulas in Massachusetts 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 preventing any increase in patient cost-sharing to ensure that women can get the screenings and care they need without cost being a barrier.

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

- ✓ Governor Healey expanded youth mental health access at local centers to provide urgent crisis response, serving thousands of children and 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 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 took nation-leading executive action to pardon misdemeanor marijuana possession convictions in Massachusetts.
- ✓ Governor Healey signed a law that bans revenge porn and expands protections against abuse and exploitation.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration supported Latino business owners and workers by improving wages and small business opportunities by expanding grants:

- ✓ The Massachusetts economy added 33,000 jobs and nearly 100,000 workers to the labor force. The state's unemployment rate remains consistently lower than the national average.
- ✓ Governor Healey became the first Governor in more than 50 years to create a Labor Advisory Council and also appointed a Labor Advisor in the Office of the Governor.
- ✓ Governor Healey signed the Physicians Pathway Act for Foreign-Trained Physicians, 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.

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- ✓ Governor Healey signed 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.
- ✓ Governor Healey expanded access to Career and Technical Education programs, in addition to community colleges, because good-paying jobs shouldn't require a four-year degree.
- ✓ The Healey-Driscoll administration increased state contracts with diverse and small businesses by assessing and reopening contracts.
- ✓ Governor Healey 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.

