



Executive Office for Administration & Finance

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MICHAEL J. HEFFERNAN
SECRETARY

December 13, 2021

The Honorable Charles D. Baker, Governor
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley, Clerk of the Senate
State House, Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Steven T. James, Clerk of the House
State House, Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Sirs:

Pursuant to Section 60B(f) of Chapter 29 of the General Laws, as amended, the Capital Debt Affordability Committee (the "Committee"), shall by December 15 of each year submit to the Governor and the General Court the Committee's estimate of the total amount of new Commonwealth debt that prudently may be authorized for the next fiscal year. The Committee has determined that \$2.780 billion of general obligation debt may prudently be issued by the Commonwealth for fiscal year 2023.

In making this determination, the Committee examined the factors required by statute, including the amount of bonds that are and will be outstanding, the Commonwealth's capital program, projections of debt service requirements during the next 10 years, the Commonwealth's bond ratings, pertinent debt ratios, comparisons to other states, and the outlook for interest rates. In addition, the Committee reviewed policy and analysis used by the Administration in its preparation of the annual capital investment plan.

To assess the affordability of debt to be issued by the Commonwealth, the Committee has adopted a three-part test, each part of which must be met for the Committee to consider the debt affordable. First, new debt issuance subject to the debt limit imposed by Section 60A of said Chapter 29 must be within that limit, which is equal to \$29.2 billion for fiscal year 2023. Second, over the next ten years the maximum annual projected debt service, including projected additional debt, as a percent of projected budgetary revenue should be targeted at 7 percent as a benchmark

debt ratio. In addition to the benchmark, debt service as a percent of budgetary revenue should not exceed 8 percent as a debt ratio cap. Third, the amount of additional general obligation borrowing undertaken by the Commonwealth on a fiscal year-over-fiscal year basis should not exceed \$125 million per year.

The Committee analyzed the Commonwealth's proposed general obligation issuance and applied the three-part test described above. From this analysis, the Committee concluded that the Commonwealth may prudently issue the amount of general obligation bonds proposed for fiscal year 2023 and recommended a cap of \$2.780 billion. This represents a \$125 million or 4.7% percent increase over the prior year's bond cap recommendation, allowing for targeted investments in Commonwealth infrastructure while keeping growth in debt service and outstanding principal within long-term targets.

Changing conditions or events during the fiscal year, such as increases or decreases in budgetary revenue, changing interest rates, or specific emerging capital needs, may warrant borrowing more or less during the year than is initially recommended by the Committee. Any such potential change would be subject to the limit on outstanding qualifying debt of \$29.2 billion for fiscal year 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kaitlyn Connors', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kaitlyn Connors
Assistant Secretary
Executive Office for Administration and Finance
Designee of Secretary Michael J. Heffernan, Chair

Voting Committee Members

Kaitlyn Connors	Designee of the Secretary of Administration & Finance, Michael Heffernan
Sue Perez	Designee of the Treasurer and Receiver-General, Deborah Goldberg
Pauline Lieu	Designee of the Comptroller, William McNamara
Michelle Ho	Designee of the Secretary of Transportation, Stephanie Pollack
Catherine Walsh	Appointee of Governor Charles D. Baker
Michael Butler	Appointee of Treasurer and Receiver-General, Deborah Goldberg

Non-voting Committee Members

Michael J. Rodrigues	Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Patrick M. O'Connor	Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Aaron Michlewitz	Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
Todd M. Smola	Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means
Paul R. Feeney	Chair, Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
Ryan C. Fattman	Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
Danielle W. Gregoire	Chair, House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets
David T. Vieira	Ranking Member, House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets