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MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

July 21, 2026

Dear Municipal Leaders,

As Governor and Lieutenant Governor, we know that strong communities are the foundation of a strong Massachusetts. We also know that local government is where many of the most important decisions affecting residents are made each and every day.

This year's budget season has been especially challenging for cities and towns across the state. Communities continue to face an array of rising costs for healthcare, education, public safety, infrastructure and a number of essential services. At the same time, uncertainty surrounding federal funding has added another layer of complexity to an already difficult fiscal environment.

Our administration has made it a priority from day one to maintain close communication with local leaders like yourself and get out directly into communities to best understand your needs and how we can help. We understand the difficult balancing act local leaders face every budget season - making thoughtful investments while managing rising costs and protecting taxpayers.

That is why our administration has remained committed to being a strong partner for local government. In addition to continued increases in Unrestricted General Government Aid and Chapter 70 education funding, we have provided and proposed a total of \$200 million in additional Fair Share investments through supplemental budgets to help municipalities meet critical local needs.

The first \$100 million has already started being distributed to every city and town across Massachusetts to support local transportation infrastructure, including road maintenance, paving, repairs, and snow and ice costs. We know the cost of maintaining local roads continues to outpace available resources, and these funds provide meaningful additional support to preserve the infrastructure residents rely on every day.

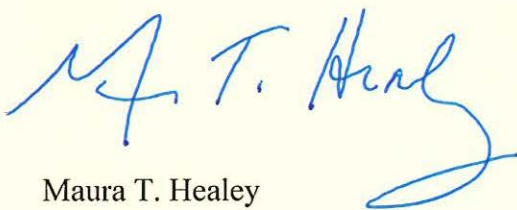
In addition, we just proposed another \$100 million in flexible education funding for school districts, which is currently pending before the Legislature. If approved, this funding would supplement existing Chapter 70 aid and provide districts with additional resources to address their greatest local priorities—whether that means supporting teachers, counselors, mental health professionals, extracurriculars, instructional materials, transportation, or other operating expenses that help students succeed. By providing flexibility, this investment allows local leaders to direct resources where they will have the greatest impact for students and families.

We recognize that no two communities are exactly alike, and neither are the challenges they face. While these investments alone will not solve every budget pressure, we hope they reflect our understanding of the fiscal realities confronting municipalities and our commitment to doing everything we can to support your work.

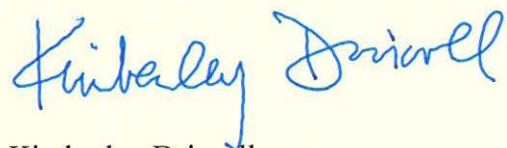
We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to secure this important investment for schools and to building on our partnership with cities and towns as we continue working together to strengthen communities across the state.

Thank you for your continued leadership, partnership, and dedication to serving the people of Massachusetts. We know the work of local government is never easy, and especially not during challenging fiscal times. Please know that our administration remains committed to standing alongside you as we work to deliver the resources and support our communities need to thrive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. T. Healey", with a long, sweeping underline.

Maura T. Healey
Governor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kimberley Driscoll", with a stylized, cursive script.

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor