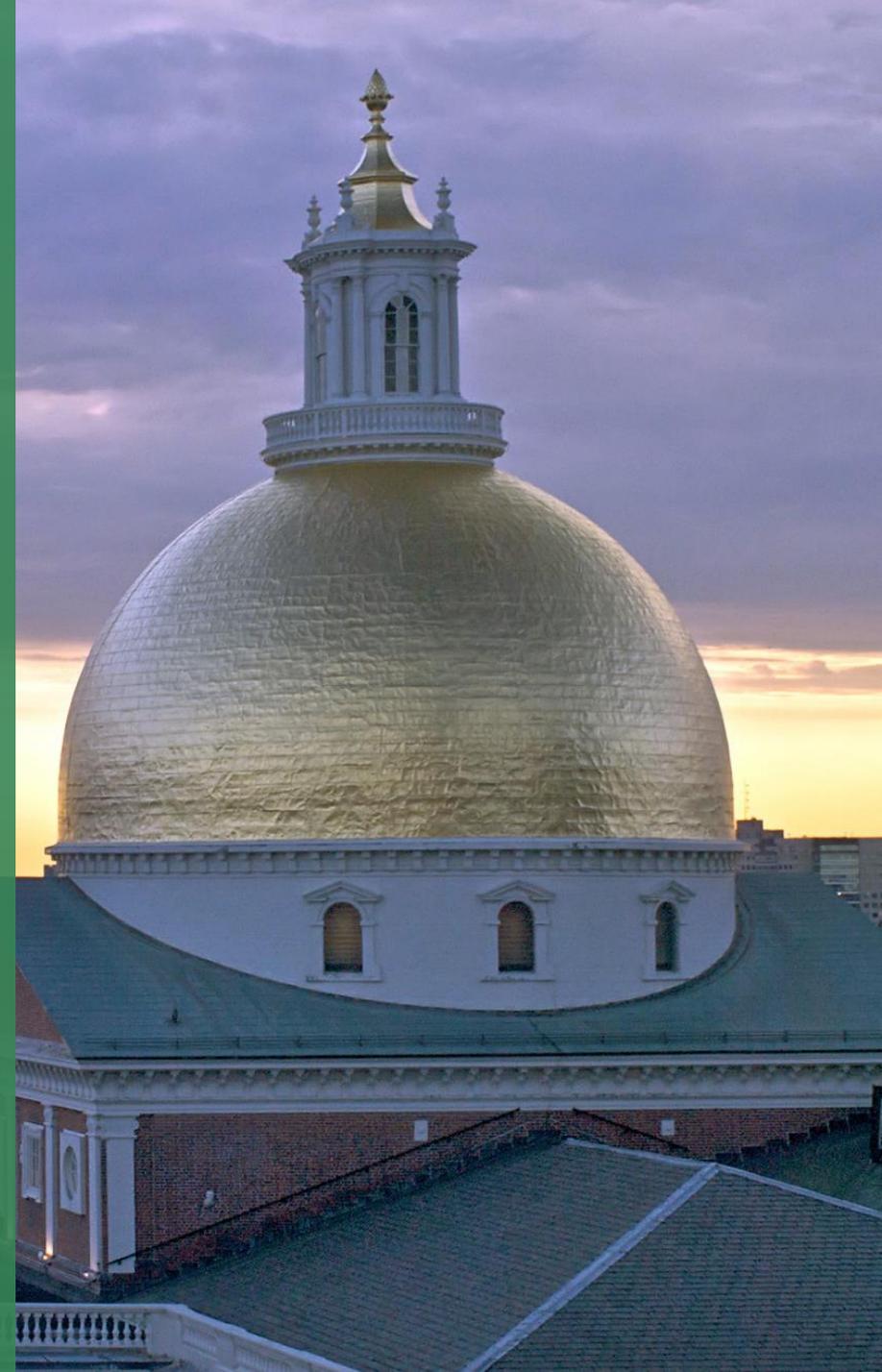


# Office of the Veteran Advocate



Legislative Briefing  
February 11, 2026

Room 428, Massachusetts State House





# TODAY'S AGENDA

## **Introduction:**

*Veteran Advocate Bob Notch*

## **Veteran Benefits Analysis:**

*Elliott Pawlak, Business Intelligence Officer*

## **2024 Value of a Veteran:**

*Truc DeCoste, Southeast Regional Liaison*

## **Closing Remarks and Questions**



# About OVA

## OUR MISSION:

The Office of the Veteran Advocate (OVA) is dedicated to safeguarding the well-being and upholding the rights of veterans under the care of the Commonwealth. OVA ensures veterans and their families receive compassionate, timely, and effective services while advocating for their rights, benefits, and dignified treatment. We strive to:

- Foster collaboration among state agencies;
- Facilitate access to federal and state benefits; and
- Conduct thorough investigations to enhance the quality of care provided to veterans.



## OUR VISION:

Every veteran in the Commonwealth receives the highest standard of care, enjoys the full spectrum of available benefits, and is treated with unwavering respect and dignity.



# Veteran Benefits Analysis

Designed to provide users access to public data, in one centralized location, regarding veterans and the allocation of their benefits by municipality.

- Centralizes veteran benefits data
- Allows municipal comparison
- Allows filtering by demographics
- Cites data sources and provides information regarding veteran benefits
- Allows Veteran Agents to view benefits usage and assist with outreach

The screenshot shows the 'Veteran Benefits Analysis' web application. At the top left is a 'View Disclaimer' button. The main header is 'Veteran Benefits Analysis'. Below the header, there are two main sections: 'General Data' and 'Veteran Benefits Data'. 'General Data' includes 'Population Estimates' and 'Municipal Comparison'. 'Veteran Benefits Data' includes 'Property Tax Exemptions', 'Veteran Annuities', 'Ch. 115 Financial Assistance', and 'U.S. Veteran Affairs'. Below these sections is a 'Quick Comparison' section with a 'Calendar Year' dropdown set to '(Blank)'. It has two 'Municipality' dropdowns, both set to '(Blank)'. Below the dropdowns are two tables with columns for 'Municipality', 'Estimated Vet Percent', and 'Unemployment Rate\*'. The first table has a 'Total' row. The second table also has a 'Total' row. At the bottom left of the disclaimer area is the 'Department of Economic Research' logo and text.

[View Disclaimer](#)

*The Office of the Veteran Advocate is an independent state agency tasked with ensuring veterans under the care of the Commonwealth receive dignified treatment and access to all available benefits and services. The OVA works collaboratively with its partners, providing policy recommendations and investigative oversight. Click our logo to visit our website*



*\*Unemployment rates are current as of June in the selected calendar year and are provided by the Department of Economic Research.*

[Department of Economic Research](#)

## Veteran Benefits Analysis

### General Data

- [Population Estimates](#)
- [Municipal Comparison](#)

### Veteran Benefits Data

- [Property Tax Exemptions](#)
- [Veteran Annuities](#)
- [Ch. 115 Financial Assistance](#)
- [U.S. Veteran Affairs](#)

### Quick Comparison

Calendar Year: (Blank)

Municipality: (Blank)

Municipality: (Blank)

Municipality	Estimated Vet Percent	Unemployment Rate*
Total		

Municipality	Estimated Vet Percent	Unemployment Rate*
Total		



# 2024 Value of a Veteran

Designed to assist communities with quantifying the estimated financial value of their veteran community, and to promote veterans within communities.

- Value of a Veteran can give municipalities a snapshot of the economic impact of veterans in their community
- This tool gives key stakeholders and decision makers the data to inform policy changes (tax abatement, etc.)
- A town that supports its Veteran agent and the Veteran Services Office will in turn see a more supported veteran community





# Closing Remarks and Questions

Access to the Value of a Veteran will be provided upon completion of training.

We will provide a weekly training hour starting Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

To receive the training link, please contact Elliott Pawlak:

[elliott.pawlak@mass.gov](mailto:elliott.pawlak@mass.gov)

**February 26<sup>th</sup>**



**March 5<sup>th</sup>**



**March 12<sup>th</sup>**



**March 19<sup>th</sup>**



THANK YOU!



[www.mass.gov/OVA](http://www.mass.gov/OVA)