



M A S S A C H U S E T T S
HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

CEO Perceptions of Mass. Business Climate Gleaned from MATTERS Executive Competitiveness Insight Survey

The High Tech Council's Massachusetts Technology, Talent and Economic Reporting System (MATTERS) provides up-to-date data to help measure and evaluate Massachusetts' competitive position among leading technology states. MATTERS is the only dynamic, web-enabled dashboard that consolidates a set of key talent, cost, and economic performance metrics for all 50 states along with respected independent national rankings into a single resource.

In August, Council members were invited and encouraged to participate in the MATTERS Executive Competitiveness Insight Survey to supplement MATTERS data with business leader perceptions of Massachusetts' competitive position. The survey will be conducted by Council member KPMG on a semi-annual basis to gather and trend changes in CEO and senior executive perspectives regarding the business climate in Massachusetts. Survey insights will help inform the Council's advocacy in support of public policies and initiatives that help attract and retain high technology businesses in the Commonwealth.

The Fall 2016 MATTERS Survey closes on September 23 and the results will be released along with revised MATTERS State Profile data when the Council launches MATTERS 2.0 in October. Please respond to our follow-up request to complete the survey if you haven't already.

Council and ReachHIRE to Host September 29 "Women and the Talent Pipeline" Forum with Knowledge Partner McKinsey and Company

On September 29, the Council will partner with Council member reachHIRE to present "Women and the Talent Pipeline: Inclusive Workforce Strategies That Work." Our knowledge partner for the program, Council member McKinsey & Company, will provide their latest research and offer a forum to discuss creative solutions and best practices to help companies optimally engage women at all levels and advance more women to senior leadership roles. The forum will feature a presentation by Mekala Krishnan, a Fellow at the McKinsey Global Institute, followed by a panel discussion moderated by former NECN business reporter Peter Howe. Panelists will include the following senior leaders from Council members:

- Russ Campanello, EVP of Human Resources and Corp. Communications, iRobot
- Patricia Flynn, Trustee Professor, Bentley University
- Rick Miller, President, Olin College of Engineering
- Pamela Norley, President, Fidelity Charitable Services
- Addie Schwartz, CEO, reachHIRE

MISSION STATEMENT

The *High Tech Agenda* keeps the High Tech Council's members and partners up to date on its pro-growth advocacy concerning state and federal public policies and programs in support of its mission.

The goal of the Massachusetts High Technology Council is to help make Massachusetts the world's most attractive place in which to live and work, and in which to create, operate, and grow high technology businesses. Read our Mission Statement at mhtc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women and the Talent Pipeline Presented by MHTC and reachHIRE

September 29 –

8:00 AM to 9:30 AM

Location: McKinsey & Company – Boston, MA

This event will gather corporate leaders committed to the development and retention of female talent. Our knowledge partner, McKinsey & Company, will provide the latest research and offer a forum to discuss creative solutions and best practices to help companies optimally engage women at all stages of the pipeline and move the needle on advancing more women from middle management to senior leadership roles.

This event is open to all MHTC members and special guests by invitation only. Please contact [Mark Gallagher](mailto:Mark.Gallagher@mhmc.org) with questions. Breakfast and registration will begin at 7:30 AM.

The event will provide attendees with insights and real-world solutions from some of Massachusetts' most respected thought leaders on talent development and diversity. Space at the event is limited and attendance is currently open to MHTC members and invitees. Please contact [Mark Gallagher](#) if you are interested in attending.

Council Board to Host Lt. Governor Polito at Boston Symphony Orchestra Reception on October 13

On October 13, the Council's Board of Directors will host an evening reception for Council members and invited senior executives at Symphony Hall in Boston. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM with a private reception followed by a performance of the Boston Symphony Orchestra led by Maestro Jakub Hrůša at 8:00 PM.

Last year's event was a great success and Parthenon-EY, led by Council Chairman Bill Achtmeyer, has again generously sponsored tickets for the performance. As a result, we are able to offer the event for a reduced event fee of \$100 per person which includes the evening reception and concert performance. Please note the reception and concert is by invitation only. Please contact [Julie Champion](#) with questions.

Council Activity on 2016 Ballot Questions Intensifies

With formal sessions of the state legislature over for the 2015-2016 biennial session and the November 8 State Election Day just weeks away, the Council has continued to ramp up its advocacy on two key ballot initiatives voters will consider.



The Council is urging our members and Massachusetts citizens to vote "yes" on Question 2, which would allow state education officials to expand access to public charter schools, particularly in low-performing school districts. The Council has been a longtime advocate for public charter

schools and has consistently led efforts to rally business and technology leaders to support their expansion. As outlined in Council President Chris Anderson's [August 5 op-ed in the Boston Business Journal](#), expanding access to charter schools is not just a moral and social issue, but also one with critical economic ramifications for the Commonwealth and its citizens. Council members who wish to support this effort personally can contact [Great Schools Massachusetts](#) or [Mark Gallagher](#) for more information.



The Council has also joined a broad coalition of business, political and public safety leaders to oppose Question 4 which would fully legalize the sale and use of marijuana in Massachusetts. Massachusetts currently permits the medical use of marijuana by prescription and has already decriminalized the possession of small amounts of the drug. The Council

believes that full legalization and creation of a large-scale marijuana industry in Massachusetts would be unwise. Proponents of legalization are well-organized and well-resourced with significant funding from out-of-state marijuana industry players. Council members who wish to support the opposition effort personally can contact the [Campaign for a Safe and Healthy Massachusetts](#) or [Mark Gallagher](#) for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MHTC Talent, Workforce and Education Committee Meeting Featuring Results of a Statewide Business Survey on Education

October 4 –
8:30 AM to 10:30 AM

Location: MHTC offices – Waltham, MA

The Council's Talent, Workforce and Education Committee meets regularly to develop and shape the Council's education and workforce priorities and initiatives. On October 4, special guests from MassINC Polling Group and the Mass. Business Alliance for Education will present the results of a statewide survey of business leaders on key education and workforce development issues.

Kindly RSVP via calendar response or email to [Mark Gallagher](#).

MHTC Directors' Reception and Concert

October 13 –
6:00 PM to 10:30 PM

Location: Boston Symphony Hall – Boston, MA

On October 13, the Council Board of Directors will host an evening reception for Council directors and invited senior executives at Symphony Hall in Boston. The evening will feature cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres, remarks from Council officers and Lt. Gov. Polito, and a performance by the Boston Symphony Orchestra, led by Maestro Jakub Hrůša.

Please note the reception and concert is by invitation only. Please contact [Julie Champion](#) with questions.

MHTC Cost Competitiveness Committee Meeting with Special Guest, Mike Heffernan, Commissioner of Massachusetts Department of Revenue

October 24 –
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Ernst & Young offices – Boston, MA

The Council's Cost Competitiveness Committee helps drive the Council's mission to make Massachusetts the world's most attractive place in which to create and grow a high technology business.

Council to Implement Strategy to Oppose 2018 Income Tax Hike Proposal

At our directors meeting in February 2016, the Council voted to oppose the proposed Constitutional Amendment that would impose an additional 4% tax on personal income that exceeds \$1M. In May, the Massachusetts Legislature met in Constitutional Convention to officially move the proposed Amendment to the Mass. Constitution one step closer to appearing on the 2018 statewide ballot for consideration by Massachusetts voters.

Throughout July and August, the Council's senior leaders and staff continued to develop a coalition-based strategy to defeat this short-sighted proposal.

Council members will soon receive a detailed update on our path forward. In the meantime, for more information on this key Council priority and to learn how to get involved please contact [Mark Gallagher](#).

Council Developing 2017 Policy Agenda

As outlined in our [July 21st Public Policy Update](#), the closing weeks of the 2015-16 Massachusetts Legislative session were marked by a flurry of activity and intensive Council advocacy on key policy issues. But the legislature struggled to deal successfully with an array of long-simmering issues and the session produced mixed results on Council priorities. Please see our [August 11th President's Bulletin](#) for a more detailed recap and assessment of these recent Council efforts and results.

The Council has already begun to craft its state and federal policy agenda for 2017-2018. Throughout September and October, efforts by Council staff to develop the policy agenda will be guided primarily through teams of subject matter experts from Council members including our:

- Cost Competitiveness Committee
- Talent, Workforce and Education Committee
- Government Relations Committee

Later this year, Council staff will present a recommended High Tech Council Policy Agenda for 2017 to the Board of Directors for approval and begin the critical work of formulating and executing a strategy to advance and implement the Agenda's priorities and initiatives. For more information on the Council's public policy activities and to learn how to get involved in one or more of the Council's subject matter committees, please contact [Mark Gallagher](#).

Council's Talent, Workforce & Education Committee to Present Business Education Survey Results at October Meeting

The Council's Talent, Workforce and Education Committee will meet next on October 4 when we will host Steve Koczela from the MassINC Polling Group and Linda Noonan from the Mass. Business Alliance for Education. Steve and Linda will present the results of a statewide survey of business leaders on key education and workforce development issues.

Earlier this summer, Council members joined leaders from dozens of other business associations in responding to the survey and we look forward to sharing insights from it and how they can inform the Council's workforce development initiatives and priorities. Talent, Workforce and Education Committee meetings are open to any interested Council member. For meeting details and to RSVP to attend, please contact [Mark Gallagher](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

On October 24, the Committee will host Mike Heffernan, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for a roundtable discussion on key DOR developments and tax administration priorities.

Kindly RSVP via calendar response or email to [Mark Gallagher](#).

MHTC Cost Competitiveness Committee Meeting

**December 1 –
8:30 AM to 10:30 AM**

Location: MHTC offices – Waltham, MA

Kindly RSVP via calendar response or email to [Mark Gallagher](#).

MHTC Government Relations Committee Meeting

**December 7 –
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

Location: MHTC offices – Waltham, MA

The Government Relations Committee is a forum for public policy and government relations professionals from member companies to network with peers and colleagues and share intelligence and ideas about pending state and federal issues of common interest. It also serves as an important mechanism to inform and support MHTC's policy and advocacy agenda and strategy.

Kindly RSVP via calendar response or email to [Mark Gallagher](#).

Council's Cost Competitiveness Committee to Host Roundtable with Mass. DOR Commissioner Heffernan on October 24



On October 24 the Council's Cost Competitiveness Committee will host Mike Heffernan, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for a roundtable discussion on key DOR developments and tax administration priorities. Our roundtables with DOR Commissioners are always well-attended by Council members and the October 24 meeting presents a great opportunity to engage with Commissioner Heffernan and other leaders from this key state agency. Cost Competitiveness Committee meetings are open to any interested Council member. For meeting details and to RSVP to attend, please contact [Mark Gallagher](#).

Council Collaborator CNBC to Co-Host October 5 Cyber Security Summit at MIT

On October 5, CNBC, the Aspen Institute and MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab (CSAIL) will host a groundbreaking cyber security summit at MIT's campus. In recent years, the Council has been proud to partner with CNBC to include CNBC's state competitiveness rankings in MATTERS.



The Cyber Security Summit will bring together top leaders from business, government and academia to combat urgent cyber threats and help secure America's future. Confirmed speakers include: Walter Isaacson, President and CEO, The Aspen Institute; Suzanne Spaulding, Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; Thomas A. Fanning, President and CEO, Southern

Company; and Daniel Weitzner, Founding Director, MIT's Internet Policy Research Initiative and Principal Research Scientist, MIT CSAIL. CNBC's Andrew Ross Sorkin will also be moderating a special session with United States Justice Department Assistant Attorney General for National Security John Carlin.

Council members and friends are invited to attend. Visit www.cnbc.com/cybersummit to register.

Council Welcomes New Staff Member Andrew DeFalco

The Council is pleased to welcome [Andrew DeFalco](#) as our new Manager of Special Projects. Andrew is a familiar face to many of you, as he spent the past summer interning with us. He is a 2016 graduate of Middlebury College where he majored in Political Science. While at Middlebury, Andrew authored a column on politics and social issues for the campus newspaper and interned in Senator Elizabeth Warren's Constituent Affairs Office.

Andrew will be a key contributor to a number of important Council initiatives and will help lead the continued development of MATTERS with a particular focus on MATTERS data informing the Council's opposition to the graduated income tax proposal. Please join us in welcoming [Andrew](#) to the Council team.

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Data that MATTERS

US Census data released on September 15 shows median household income for Massachusetts households grew just 2% from 2014 to 2015 (from \$69,223 to \$70,628). Nationwide, household incomes rose 3.8% (from \$53,713 to \$55,775). With the 2015 income data reported, Massachusetts has the 6th highest median income in the nation, up from 10th in 2014. Visit the Council's [MATTERS website](#) to explore historical median income data and an array of key competitiveness indicators for Massachusetts and all 50 states.

Contact Us

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