Last Call: Join Us to Be Part of the Council’s 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting Featuring Governor Baker, CNBC Best States Founder, and Ray Stata Award Presentation

Registration continues as we approach the Council’s 2017 Annual Meeting scheduled for June 6 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM at the JFK Presidential Library & Museum in Boston. (Click [here](#) to register now.)

We’re looking forward to welcoming back former Council staffer (early 1980s) and now Governor Charlie Baker for a keynote address. Our program will also feature a presentation by CNBC Special Correspondent Scott Cohn, founder of CNBC’s Top States for Business rankings which have become an annual and highly respected barometer of state competitiveness.

In a lasting tribute to technology icon Ray Stata, the Council will present the inaugural Ray Stata Leadership and Innovation Award to Aron Ain, CEO of Kronos and the Council’s incoming Chairman.

Ray Stata, founder of Analog Devices, is also a co-founder and the first president of the Council. He has served continuously as a member of The Council board of directors for 40 years.

The Stata Award will recognize technology leaders who have made unique contributions to the industry and the Commonwealth. The Council will bestow the award on Massachusetts industry leaders who exhibit the key leadership qualities possessed and demonstrated by Ray Stata as well as a commitment to the core beliefs and fundamental values of the Council.

The Council’s Board of Directors will also present “honorary” Stata Awards to Pete Nicholas, Founder of Boston Scientific and John Bertucci, Chairman of MKS Instruments.

As of our publication date, Analog Devices, Brooks Automation, Chelsea Clock, Kronos, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Parthenon-EY, People’s United Bank, and PTC have each generously signed on as Presenting Sponsors of the Annual Meeting. The inaugural Ray Stata Leadership and Innovation Award is sponsored by Oasis Systems. For more information about the event and additional remaining sponsorship opportunities, contact Julie Champion at Julie@mhtc.org.

Council Launches MATTERS TechNav Sector Asset Mapping Tool

On May 9, Council members received emailed instructions on how to set up passwords to access a new member-only feature of MATTERS: TechNav. TechNav was developed under the direction of The MITRE Corporation in collaboration with subject matter experts, from the
TechNav is an online feature of MATTERS that allows Council members and the region’s leaders to gain insight into Massachusetts technology sectors using web-navigable information. Whether searching for emerging technologies, research partners, thought leaders, or sector-specific companies, TechNav delivers the information necessary to spur collaboration and growth. TechNav consolidates a collection of independent data sets including which companies are in the sector, the number of patents issued and to whom, venture capital and grant investment, and employment levels. If you would like a briefing on the new tool or more information please contact Andrew DeFalco at andrew@mhtc.org.

What 200 Legislators Ought to Know Before June 14

On June 14, the Massachusetts Legislature will meet in Constitutional Convention and will likely advance a ballot initiative that would ultimately embed a massive state income tax increase in the Massachusetts Constitution. Only 25% of the 200-member Legislature needs to support the measure in order for it to appear on the 2018 statewide ballot. In 2016, the measure was advanced by a vote of 135-57.

The Council is keenly aware of the societal benefits and competitive advantages that flow from maintaining a world-class public education system and transportation infrastructure in Massachusetts. Throughout its history the Council has supported additional and prudent investment in these and other key state priorities, particularly when additional resources are coupled with important reforms and improvements. But this proposal violates the Massachusetts Constitution, making it an inappropriate option.

On May 8, the Council and Associated Industries of Massachusetts, asked each member of the Legislature to closely review information detailing the "Myths and Facts" of the proposal, pointing out that many of the arguments in support of it are built on false assumptions and flawed information.

At a time when our economy is performing well, the amendment presents a serious risk and one we cannot afford to take. Please contact Mark Gallagher (mark@mhtc.org) to learn more about how you can help fight this troubling proposal.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Presidents at Pops
June 7 – 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM
Location: Symphony Hall, Boston, MA

Inaugurated in 1982, Presidents at Pops celebrates the extraordinary partnership between the Boston business community and the Boston Symphony Orchestra and has proven to be one of the BSO’s most successful events and has become a model for other arts organizations across the country.

Each year, Presidents at Pops offers corporations the opportunity to entertain their valued clients, employees, and friends in the company of Boston’s top-level corporations, capped off with a spectacular performance by the Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Keith Lockhart. Please contact Mary Thomson, BSO’s Director or Corporate Initiatives for more event information and sponsorship details.

CEO Roundtable on State Budget Outlook
Featuring Eileen McAnneny, President of the Mass. Taxpayers Foundation and Hosted by MHTC Cost and Competitiveness Committee

June 19 – 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM
Location: MHTC offices – Waltham, MA

The Council’s Cost and Competitiveness Committee meets to help drive the Council’s mission to make Massachusetts the world’s most attractive place in which to create and grow a high technology business. The team leads the Council’s efforts to assess and improve the quality of the Massachusetts business climate in relation to its chief competitor states, performs high-level analysis of corporate tax rates and other business cost data and identifies top policy priorities.

Our June meeting will feature a presentation on Massachusetts’s budget and fiscal outlook from Eileen McAnneny, President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation. The Mass. Taxpayers Foundation has been a longtime partner and collaborator of the Council’s and Eileen is one the preeminent experts on fiscal and tax policy in the Commonwealth.

To attend, kindly RSVP to Mark Gallagher.
2006 Caution a Reality in 2017: Reforms Needed Now to Rein-In Budget-Busting MassHealth Medicaid

On April 6, 2006, just days before then-Governor Mitt Romney signed the State’s new health care law designed in part to boost access to insurance and reduce the number of uninsured state residents, Council President Chris Anderson updated members on the new measure. Click here to read the memo. After a review of benefits of the proposal that, “if implemented properly,” Anderson warned “already there are health care experts predicting this approach is underfunded and will require significant new revenue streams in the future.”

Fast forward past a dizzying array of “implementation” decisions to.

Enrollment in MassHealth has grown enormously, with a predictably explosive growth in the financial costs borne by the Commonwealth. Today, nearly 30% of the Massachusetts population receives health care coverage under MassHealth. This expansion in enrollment and costs is driven by eligibility standards and coverage mandates included in the Affordable Care Act, the Massachusetts healthcare reform law of 2006 and Medicaid waiver agreements negotiated by the Baker administration and previous Governors.

As outlined in our April 7, 2017 letter to Speaker DeLeo and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brian Dempsey, the Council is urging policymakers to address MassHealth’s unsustainable growth curve.

And for context, the FY 2006 state budget came in at $25.8 billion. A few weeks ago, the House passed a $40 billion FY2018 budget, and the Senate gets to have its’ say a few weeks from now.

A comprehensive set of reforms to the state’s Medicaid program will likely emerge soon as a result of ongoing discussions between the High Tech Council, other business organizations, and state government leadership. Obtaining federal waivers and convincing the legislature to implement reforms to reign in the unsustainable health care cost drivers will be difficult at best. We expect the Council will support this important effort aimed at strengthening the state’s ability to offer an important health care safety net to those in need, but will urge the Legislature and Governor to be as serious about controlling costs as they are about providing access to health care.

As I See It – Mourning the Passing of Henri Termeer

The Mass. High Tech Council mourns the recent loss of former Council director and Vice Chairman Henri Termeer, longtime CEO of Genzyme. In 1988, Council member Gabriel Schmergel (CEO, Genetics Institute) introduced Henri to the Council, and in the years that followed, Henri distinguished himself as a member of the Council’s leadership team. In the mid-2000’s, reflecting a Council-board priority focused on improving our access to talent by strengthening our public education delivery system in response to challenges from global economic competitors, Henri and Ray Stata teamed to convene and co-chair a series of meetings hosted by Henri to tackle the problem. Whether fighting to cure disease or improve education, Henri was a dedicated partner—and the Massachusetts biopharma industry and broader high technology community are grateful for his leadership.
DATA THAT MATTERS

According to the latest results from the MATTERS CEO Competitiveness Survey conducted with the assistance of KPMG, technology executives agree that high cost of doing business along with transportation infrastructure challenges remain the greatest risk to their businesses.

Many believe ‘high cost of doing business’ is the greatest potential risk to their business

Q. Which factors do you believe pose the GREATEST POTENTIAL RISK to your business? Please select up to five (5) factors from the list below:

- High cost of doing business
- Transportation issues (ease of access, traffic, etc.)
- Lack of predictability of government policies
- Unavailability of skilled workers
- Cyber security/data breaches
- Unavailability of qualified scientists and engineers
- Government’s lack of responsiveness to the needs of business
- Lack of state and/or local tax incentives for investment in R&D
- Lack of collaboration between public and private sectors
- Unavailability of experienced managers

Contact Us

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