

MASSACHUSETTS
HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

November 19, 2018



As I See It, Chris Anderson: Political Stage Set

With the 2018 state elections behind us, a host of policy challenges and opportunities await new and reelected public officials.

The November 6th state election saw the reelection of Governor Baker and all of the Commonwealth's incumbent statewide officeholders. Democratic lawmakers will continue to hold supermajorities in both branches of the state legislature. The State Senate will include 34 Democrats and 6 Republicans while the House will see 127 Democrats, 32 Republicans and 1 Independent take office when the new two-year legislative session begins on January 2, 2019 .

We congratulate Governor Charlie Baker, Senate President Karen Spilka, and House Speaker Bob DeLeo on their reelections, and look forward to working together with them and their colleagues to address the necessities of state government that support continued private sector investment and job growth. Despite our strong private economy, the state public finances are strained and are among the lowest-ranked in the nation. For example, [state fiscal rankings](#) published by George Mason University's Mercatus Center on October 9 ranked Massachusetts 47th.

It won't be easy, but if we act together to prevent the problems that have materialized in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Illinois, we'll accelerate our best in class economy and improve weak public finances that will speed up long-awaited improvements that require critical public investments in education, infrastructure, housing, and health care.

National Spotlight on State Fiscal Policies: State Ballot Initiatives and Results

(The enactment of federal tax reform and its caps on the deductibility of state and local taxes paid have elevated the effects state tax policies have on economic competitiveness and heightened the awareness of such policies among economic decision makers. From time to time, the Council will share particularly interesting items and viewpoints from around the country that inform our ongoing efforts to shape the Commonwealth's fiscal policies and improve our competitiveness.)

Ballot questions impacting state tax and fiscal policies were prevalent around the country on election day 2018. Across states spanning the ideological and political spectrum, voters rejected proposals to impose new or increased taxes on individuals and businesses with revenues dedicated to education and transportation. In other states, voters approved ballot initiatives that impose new controls on the imposition of new or increased taxes. Key proposals and results include:

- **Florida:** Requiring 2/3 supermajority vote of the state legislature for any tax or fee increase. Approved 66% to 34%.
- **North Carolina:** Reducing maximum allowable personal income tax rate from 10% to 7%. Approved 57% to 43%.
- **Arizona:** Prohibiting new or increased sales taxes on services. Approved 64% to 36%.
- **Oregon:** Requiring 3/5 supermajority legislative vote for any change to tax deductions/credits/exemptions. (Oregon already requires 3/5 vote for any new tax or rate increase.) Rejected: 65% to 35%.
- **Colorado:** Increasing sales tax rate by 21% to fund transportation. Rejected 60% to 40%.
- **Colorado:** Instituting graduated income tax and raising corporate income tax to fund education. Rejected 54% to 46%.
- **Maine:** Imposing 3.8% payroll tax surcharge on income above \$128,000 to fund universal home health care for elderly/disabled. Rejected 63% to 37%.
- **Missouri:** Increasing gas tax by 10 cents per gallon. Rejected 54% to 46%.

For good or bad, it is likely that efforts to manage state fiscal policies via "direct democracy" will continue to proliferate. The Council's 40-plus years of experience and success managing complex issues and advocacy strategies will be more important than ever to help secure the Commonwealth's fiscal health and stability.

Contact [Chris Anderson](#) or [Mark Gallagher](#) to learn more about the Council's emerging state fiscal stability initiative and how you can get involved.



Council Hosts Third Annual “Closing the Gender Gap” Event

On November 5 the Council, in partnership with Council members McKinsey & Company and reachHIRE, hosted more than 100 senior technology and business leaders for our third annual Closing the Corporate Gender Gap event. Entitled "Changing the Trajectory: How Companies Can Lean In Too" the event focused on how companies can move toward implementing proven and promising organizational initiatives.

The event featured a presentation on McKinsey's [2018 Women in the Workforce](#) report. Following the presentation, an interactive panel discussed creative solutions and best practices to help companies engage women at all stages of the talent pipeline and advance more women from middle management to senior leadership roles. We thank all the attendees and our panelists:

- **Laurie Leshin**, President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- **Paul Lesser**, Head of Talent Acquisition at Fidelity Investments
- **Payal Agrawal Divakaran**, Principal from .406 Ventures
- **Kate Gulliver**, VP & Global Head of Talent at Wayfair
- **Addie Swartz**, CEO of reachHIRE

Members of the Council's Board and Executive Committee have identified as a top 2019 priority the development of Council-lead initiatives and actionable strategies to close the gender gap and we look forward to working with them and all Council members on this critically important opportunity.



Council and AllWays Health Partners Host Forum on “The Evolving Healthcare Landscape: Innovative Solutions for Employers”

On October 25 the Council and member AllWays Health Partners hosted an invitation-only forum on leading edge healthcare solutions for Massachusetts employers.

Dozens of senior business leaders joined in

an interactive discussion of emerging solutions that innovative employers, insurers and providers can implement to improve care, enhance customer experience and contain costs. We thank AllWays and our panelists including:

- Vin Capozzi, *AllWays Health Partners (Moderator)*
- Sue Moss, SVP, Strategy, *Partners HealthCare*
- Peter Mongeau, SVP & Local Practice Leader, *Aon/Hewitt*
- Rob Harkins, Group Marketplace Leader, Brokerage and Advisory, *Willis Group*
- Jeff Hogan, Northeast Regional Manager, *Rogers Group*

New Council Team Members and Offices

This fall, two new staff members joined the Council team. Bernie Prusaczyk serves as our new Vice President for Member Development and Engagement. Bernie has a 25-year history in the Massachusetts technology community and will be an important addition to the team dedicated to leveraging the Council's leadership to unify employers, investors, and professional services organizations behind our multi-year agenda. Aurea Santiago has also joined the Council as Executive Assistant and we are fortunate to add Aurea and the extensive experience she brings to the Council team.

On November 2, the Council moved into our new offices in Burlington and we look forward to hosting you all there in the years to come. Our new address is:

2400 District Avenue
Suite 110
Burlington, MA 01803

Our 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.

Achieving this goal will:

- expand and improve job opportunities for Massachusetts citizens throughout all sectors;
- increase the productivity and well-being of all Massachusetts businesses and citizens and will expand tax revenues to aid the disadvantaged, protect the environment, rebuild the state's infrastructure, and provide support for educational, medical, and cultural institutions.

For more information on our mission, beliefs and activities, [visit our website](#).

