



MASSACHUSETTS
HIGH TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

September 12, 2021

Back in Action: Policy Priorities for the Fall

IU Trust Fund: The Push to Pursue Additional Relief for Businesses

On August 18, Governor Baker filed a \$1.6 billion supplemental budget for fiscal year 2021. The supplemental budget proposed dedicating \$1 billion of the state's \$5 billion revenue surplus to partially offset the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund debt from pandemic-related claims. As we noted in [our statement regarding the supplemental budget](#), the proposal is a helpful step to reduce the \$7 billion in borrowing that the business community will share over the next two decades. We continue to urge the state legislature to follow the example of over thirty other states and allocate some portion of the \$5 billion in federal stimulus from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to further alleviate the UI Trust Fund deficit.



As a member of the UI Trust Fund Study Commission, the Council continues to speak for the business community and advocate for necessary reforms to Massachusetts' UI system. The Study Commission, which continues conducting hearings later this month, will produce final recommendations in December. Later this month, we will release a report with our own recommendations.

Time to Hit the Polls for Boston's Preliminary Mayoral Election on Sept. 14

Boston's [historic mayoral race](#) is heating up as voters prepare to head to the polls for the preliminary election on **Tuesday, September 14**. Tuesday's preliminary election will cut the field of five major candidates—City Councilors Andrea Campbell, Michelle Wu, and Annisssa Essaibi George, Acting Mayor Kim Janey, and former Chief of Economic Development John Barros—to two. The most [recent polling](#) indicates Wu has taken a convincing lead, while the battle for the number two spot is a close fight between Janey, Campbell, and George. Voters will choose Boston's next leader on Tuesday, November 2.

Boston's next mayor will have a long to-do list and daunting challenges to address, including improving the quality of schools in the district, solving the affordable housing crisis, and directing COVID-19 federal aid to where it is most needed in the community. No matter the outcome, the election will result in the first person of color elected to lead Boston City Hall.



Ballot Questions Clear Way for 2022

On September 1, Attorney General Maura Healey gave the green light to 16 initiative petitions out of 30 ballot proposals filed over the prior month. The certified petitions can now move forward with the next steps to get on the November 2022 ballot, including collecting around 80,000 signatures from registered voters by November 21 later this year, followed by a review by the state legislature.



Of the 16 petitions approved to move forward, there are several of importance to the Council. A notable example is Initiative Petitions 21-11 and 21-12 Defining and Regulating the Relationship Between TNCs and App-Based Drivers (Versions A and B), which would expand benefits for app-based drivers and establish a new legal framework to govern app-based services and network companies like Lyft, Uber, DoorDash, and Instacart. While the [Massachusetts Coalition for Independent Work](#) goes through the necessary steps to advance the petitions to voters, the state legislature will soon have a hearing on legislation that—if passed—would introduce the same expanded benefits and retention of independent contractor classification for drivers. As a member of the Coalition, the Council will continue to provide a voice advocating for employment flexibility and a healthy gig economy competitive with that of other states.

Other certified initiative petitions seek to impose restrictions on hospital CEO compensation and impose more hospital finance transparency rules, as well as limit Massachusetts' participation in the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI).

Meanwhile, the Council continues to oppose a permanent new \$2B tax increase in the form of the Legislature's proposed Amendment to the State Constitution that would establish a 4% surtax on income above \$1 million. Last week the ballot committee that will officially lead the public campaign, the Coalition for a Strong Massachusetts Economy, was established with the state's Office of Campaign and Political Finance (OCPF).

Historic Additional Federal Stimulus Under Debate in Congress

As the Massachusetts legislature gets back into rhythm post-Labor Day, legislators pick up where they left off on determining where to allocate \$5 billion in federal stimulus via ARPA. The Joint Committee on Ways and Means and the House Committee on Federal Stimulus and Census Oversight held their first [ARPA-related hearing](#) since returning from summer recess on Thursday, September 9.



While state legislative leaders determine uses for those federal funds, more may be on the way soon.

The U.S. House of Representatives concluded summer by passing a \$3.5 trillion budget plan that advances key features of President Biden's economic agenda. The budget plan includes proposals for "human infrastructure" expansion to complement the \$1 trillion infrastructure package, which the U.S. Senate passed earlier in August and would modernize the nation's roads, bridges, transit, and utilities and send approximately \$8 billion to Massachusetts.

U.S. House Democrats are advancing the \$3.5 trillion budget plan through a controversial process called reconciliation, which makes it immune to filibusters and does not require support from House Republicans. The current package includes resources for universal preschool, paid family leave, Medicare expansion, and significant investments to combat climate change. As Senator Joe Manchin recently signaled, though, there remains much work to be done to garner adequate support to advance the budget plan, especially in the absence of any bipartisan agreement. The U.S. House stares down a number of key dates between now and September 30 following a busy month of debate and growing uncertainty about the jobs market, ongoing supply chains issues, inflation, and COVID-19 impact.

Noteworthy News

Member Opportunity: Keep Your Employees Safe with Access Bio Rapid Home Tests & Honeywell Masks

Since the start of the pandemic, the Council's leadership team has

worked to provide members with timely information, insights, and recommendations to keep employees safe, advance public health strategies, and minimize business disruptions. To assist members looking for COVID-19 testing strategy solutions, the Council is pleased to offer access to **Access Bio's CareStart™ COVID-19 Antigen Rapid At-Home Tests**. Having recently received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the FDA, the at-home test is in high demand. The CareStart™ COVID-19 Antigen Test is a lateral flow immunochromatographic assay for the detection of extracted nucleocapsid protein antigens specific to SARS-CoV-2 in anterior nasal swab specimens, which are appropriate for self-collection with just a simple swab inside of the nose. As an intended point-of-care (POC) designated test with a 10-minute processing time, the CareStart™ COVID-19 Antigen Test enables employees to receive critical, timely answers about active infections among employees.



Prices for members are volume-based and between \$18 and \$20 per kit, each of which contains two tests. Currently, the minimum quantity order is 10 thousand kits. For members who want N95 masks, we proudly offer Honeywell DF300 foldable and DC300 Soft Mold Cup, which are NIOSH approved and come with 20 masks to a box. The price is also volume-dependent, however, the cost for the DF300 is \$0.85 for large orders and \$1.10 for the DC300 in large quantities. Prices for all products change rapidly and are subject to demand.

Council members interested in learning more should contact **John Marini**, CEO, JWM Advisory Services: John@JWMAS.com | 315-415-2963

Former MHTC Chair & Stata Award Winner Peter Nicholas Honored by Duke University

Congratulations to Co-founder and Board Chair of MHTC member Boston Scientific **Peter Nicholas** for receiving Duke's 2021 University Medal! As the institution's highest honor, the University Medal is awarded to individuals who make transformational contributions to the Duke community. Nicholas, a longtime MHTC Director, served as MHTC's Board Chair from 2013 to 2015 and was a recipient of the inaugural [Ray Stata Leadership and Innovation Award](#) in 2017.



We extend our deepest gratitude to Pete for his invaluable contributions to the Council and the Commonwealth's innovation economy, and distinguished leadership and accomplishments in the medical device industry. To learn more about the award, click [HERE](#).

Council Expands DEO Initiative with New Program Launching This Month

Introducing The School Series

One of the most important challenges and opportunities our Commonwealth faces in our efforts to move the state towards greater equity for all is the continued improvement of Massachusetts' public schools. The Council is proud to announce the launch of **The School Series**, a new Diversity, Equity and Opportunity (DEO) Initiative dedicated to addressing educational opportunity gaps. In line with our longstanding history of supporting and advancing education policies that (1) balance state financial aid with high standards of student and educator assessment and accountability, and (2) ensure all public school students and parents have access to innovative and high-performing institutions, **The School Series** will connect members and other leaders with K-12 schools that operate in low-income and under-resourced communities across the state through events, partnerships, and the sharing of data-driven insight.

The School Series will kick off on **Thursday, September 23 at 11:00 AM EDT** with a [virtual roundtable](#) featuring [Lawrence Catholic Academy \(LCA\)](#), a Pre-Kindergarten (Age 3) through Grade 8 Elementary School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. Established in 2010, the institution offers a motivating and full-bodied curriculum, enlightened by Catholic teaching, and provides all students an excellent education in a faith-filled and supportive environment.



We invite you to join us for the inaugural event to hear from members of the LCA community and state academic leaders and learn about opportunities to engage in the success of a local story operating in one of our most under-resourced communities.

RSVP for the Inaugural School Series Event Here

Attendance for this event is free, but pre-registration is required.

WATCH: Latest DEO Webinar Explores Effective Talent Management for Women & URMs

On Thursday, September 9, 2021, the Council hosted our first combined **Black Representation and Equity (BRE)** and **Women in Leadership (WIL)** event, ***A Systematic Approach to Talent Management for Women and URMs***. Co-hosted by 2021 Annual WIL Sponsor **PTC**, Knowledge Partner **McKinsey & Company**, 2021 Annual BRE Sponsor **Waters Corporation**, and Strategic Partner **Bain & Company**, the virtual event incorporated aspects from BRE and WIL, the Council's pillar DEO programs. With a focus on effective talent management strategies for women and underrepresented minorities (URMs), the program included a keynote address from **Belinda Hyde, Ph.D.**, SVP and chief human resources officer at Waters Corporation, and a panel discussion featuring **Andy Youniss**, president and CEO of Rocket Software, **Burunda Prince**, COO of the Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and **Kenya Jacobs**, director of Diversity and Inclusion at Trane Technologies, moderated by PTC's Chief Diversity Officer and Corporate Social Responsibility Leader **Kameelah Benjamin-Fuller**.

Missed the program? Watch the full event below and click [HERE](#) to view the materials and takeaways.

A MHTC DIVERSITY, EQUITY & OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE EVENT

A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO TALENT MANAGEMENT FOR WOMEN & URMs

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EDT
ZOOM

BAIN & COMPANY | MASSACHUSETTS HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL | ptc | Waters™

The graphic features a dark blue background with a large white play button icon in the center. To the right, there are three hexagonal inset images showing diverse professionals in a meeting setting. At the bottom, a red banner contains the logos of the event's sponsors: Bain & Company, Massachusetts High Technology Council, PTC, and Waters.

Interested in getting involved with the Council's DEO Initiatives? Contact [Chris Anderson](#) to learn more.

MHTC Member Corner

Welcome to Our New Member!



Member News

- [Partners of the Year: RSM aims to improve the neighborhood](#), *Boston Business Journal*, September 9, 2021

- [CarGurus Announces Partnership with Jay Leno’s “You Bet Your Life” Revival](#) , CarGurus Press, September 9, 2021
 - [Creation Technologies Acquires Computrol, Inc.. Further Expanding its Reach into High Reliability End Markets](#), Creation Technologies Newsroom, September 9, 2021
 - [Mercury Systems wins five product excellence awards in Military & Aerospace Electronics 2021 Innovators Awards program](#), Mercury Newsroom, September 1, 2021
 - [UKG Acquires Great Place to Work](#) , UKG Newsroom, September 1, 2021
 - [KPMG’s Noemi Campos Santana & BIDMC’s David Chiu Make BBJ’s 2021 40 Under 40](#) , *Boston Business Journal*, August 31, 2021
 - [BIDMC researchers awarded \\$24.5 million by NIH to find a cure for HIV](#) , BIDMC Newsroom, August 19, 2021
 - [Islands of One: The Importance of Community & Connection to Retain Women in Tech \(eBook\)](#) , reachHIRE
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OUR MISSION

The Massachusetts High Technology Council, Inc. is an organization of CEOs and senior executives representing technology companies, professional services firms, and research institutions who are dedicated to creating and sustaining conditions that support investment, job growth, and improved quality of life in Massachusetts. Our members are growth-oriented, knowledge-intensive employers and institutions that develop, deliver, and depend on technology products, services, and innovations to advance their organizational objectives—a definition that covers just about all business enterprises in Massachusetts today.

Our mission 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.

For more information, [visit our website](#).

