



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

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

Council Board Convenes to Set 2017 Priorities

On February 23, the Council's Board of Directors convened for its first quarterly meeting of the year to discuss the Council's emerging pro-growth agenda and initiatives for 2017-18, including opposition to the pending proposal to imbed a \$2 billion personal income tax increase in the Massachusetts Constitution.

In the coming months, the Council will continue to develop and communicate data to support our view that the proposed Constitutional Amendment is a tax trap for an array of reasons, including these three facts that tell the early story:

- 1. State spending is the 7th highest (per capita) in America.** The nearly \$40 billion state budget doubled between FY 2001 and FY 2016 (in inflation-adjusted dollars). Total state revenues in 2015 were \$4.4 billion more than they were just 5 years earlier. The state has a spending problem, not a "revenue crisis."
- 2. Claims that the new tax will be dedicated to support education and infrastructure are FALSE and misleading.** Earmarking funds via ballot initiative is prohibited by the state constitution. Any funds raised by the new tax will be available for any purpose the legislature decides at any time, now or in the future.
- 3. The proposal sets a dangerous and divisive precedent.** No other state uses its constitution to impose a specific personal income tax rate on a narrow group of taxpayers. Using the popular vote for this purpose will encourage other special interest groups to pursue similar constitutional amendments in the future.

Much of Massachusetts' explosive state budget growth is directly driven by the expansion of enrollment and benefits in MassHealth, the state's Medicaid program. As part of his FY 2018 budget plan, Governor Baker proposed an employer surcharge of up to \$2000 per employee on employers whose employee health insurance benefit offerings fail to meet certain state-set standards. Instead of a new employer-borne tax to support Medicaid spending, the Council believes that benefit and eligibility corrections should first be employed to ensure that this important state benefit is provided truly as a safety-net to those who need it, and not as a less expensive option for those with access to employer-supplied health coverage options to employees. The Council is actively working with the Baker administration and legislative leaders to develop better, market-based solutions to the state's Medicaid cost expansion challenges.

In April, the Council will deploy the first and only proprietary profiles of Massachusetts' key technology sectors when it launches a third feature of the Massachusetts Technology, Talent, and Economic Reporting System (MATTERS). Board members received a first look at the new **MATTERS Tech Sector Profiles** developed in collaboration with Council staff and members under the leadership of the MITRE Corporation. MITRE's Pete Sherlock and Doug Robbins demonstrated the web-based tech sector profile tool's ability to aggregate data to create dynamic maps that capture and display key innovation assets across the Commonwealth

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

MHTC Board of Directors Meeting

May 8 –
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
By invitation

Please RSVP via calendar response or email to [Julie Champion](mailto:julie@champion.com).

2017 MHTC Annual Meeting

June 6 –
11:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Location: The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum, Boston, MA

The MHTC Annual Meeting is recognized as the state's premier annual technology forum where senior executives and leaders from business, government and academia convene to discuss and advance initiatives that will drive the collective success of our technology sector. Visit our [2017 annual meeting website](http://2017.mhtc.org) for complete event details including sponsorship opportunities and registration link. Please contact [Julie Champion](mailto:julie@champion.com) with immediate questions.

including patents, research grants, venture investments, start-up activity, existing companies and employment data for each sector. ([Click here](#) for more detailed information.) Unlike MATTERS core data, which is openly available to anyone, the Tech Sector Profiles will be accessible only to Council members and our MATTERS project sponsors and knowledge partners. To learn more about MATTERS and the Tech Sector Profile project, contact Andrew DeFalco at andrew@mhtc.org.

Reflecting the critically important nature of the Council's ongoing work, the Board also reestablished an Executive Committee to work with the Board to shape the Council's multi-year strategic direction and drive our priorities. We are fortunate to have the following Council leaders serving in these key roles:

William F. Achtmeyer, Parthenon-EY	Christopher Anderson, Mass. High Tech Council
Gerald Colella, MKS Instruments	Aron Ain, Kronos Incorporated
Ed Mackey, Boston Scientific	Stephen Pagliuca, Bain Capital
Robert Reynolds, Putnam Investments	

Council to Celebrate 40th Anniversary with 2017 Annual Meeting Featuring Governor Baker, CNBC Best States Founder and Ray Stata Award Presentation

The Council's 2017 Annual Meeting is 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.) The Annual Meeting is recognized as the State's premier yearly technology forum where senior executives and leaders from business, government and academia convene to discuss and advance initiatives that will drive the collective success of our technology sector. ([Click to view highlights of our 2016 Annual Meeting](#) and [testimonials about the Council's mission and impact](#) from technology leaders in attendance.)

This year, we will again welcome **Governor Charlie Baker** for a keynote address. Our program will also feature **CNBC Special Correspondent Scott Cohn**. Seven years ago, Mr. Cohn founded **CNBC's Top States for Business** rankings which have become an annual and highly respected barometer of state competitiveness. Mr. Cohn will provide unique insights on state competitiveness and how the business news network assesses individual states for inclusion among the best performers in the country.



In a lasting tribute to tech-icon Ray Stata, the Council will present the inaugural **Ray Stata Leadership and Innovation Award**. Ray Stata, founder of Analog Devices, and co-founder and the first president of the Council, has served continuously as a member of our board of directors for 40 years. Ray has a global reputation as a dedicated and successful industry leader and ardent advocate for cultivating talent and investments in research and innovation.

The Council's Board of Directors will present the Stata Award to a select number of "honorary" recipients who have made unique contributions to the industry and the Commonwealth, as well as to a technology industry leader currently active in Massachusetts who exhibits the key leadership qualities possessed and demonstrated by Ray Stata and a commitment to the core beliefs and fundamental values of the Council.

For additional information about the event and sponsorship opportunities, contact Julie Champion at Julie@mhtc.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

President at Pops

June 7 –
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Location: Symphony Hall, Boston, MA

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.

MHTC Board of Directors Meeting

December 7 –
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

By invitation

Spring 2017 MATTERS Executive Competitiveness Insight Survey

This month, the Council is asking our members to complete our **Spring 2017 MATTERS Executive Competitiveness Insight Survey**. This semi-annual survey of CEO and senior executive perceptions about the state's competitiveness was developed with the assistance of Council member KPMG to inform policy debate across the Commonwealth.

The **MATTERS Executive Competitiveness Insight Survey** provides critical contributions to the ongoing assessment of Massachusetts' strengths and weaknesses and our competitive position relative to other states. Analysis of the survey results will enable business leaders and policy makers to develop a data-driven policy agenda that supports the growth of the technology sector in Massachusetts.

Invitations to participate in the Spring 2017 Survey were sent in early March to all Council members and individuals having primary responsibility for their organization's Council membership. The survey **will remain open until March 31** and participation by your organization is greatly appreciated. Results from the **Fall 2016 MATTERS Survey** can be found [here](#).

Council Leaders Collaborate with BSO on Presidents at Pops

The Council is pleased to partner with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Pops and invites you to join fellow Council members and Greater Boston business leaders at the 36th Annual **Presidents at Pops** corporate gala on Wednesday, June 7. Under the continuing leadership of BSO Chairman Bill Achtmeyer, this year's benefit concert is co-chaired by Council Executive Committee member Bob Reynolds.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL
**PRESIDENTS
AT POPS**

Presidents at Pops 2017 will showcase the world-renowned Boston Pops under the leadership of Keith Lockhart, together with special guest artist, original *Hamilton* cast member and Tony and Grammy Award-winning actor and singer Leslie Odom, Jr.

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.

Council members will receive additional details about event ticketing and sponsorship opportunities in mid-March.

Massachusetts Earns No. 1 Spot in US News Rankings

"The [Massachusetts] economy is benefiting from all those smart people in the technology sector."

~ Brian Kelly

Editor, US News and World Report

On February 28 [US News and World Report](#) revealed its inaugural [Best States rankings](#) and Massachusetts took the top spot. The US News rankings are largely focused on quality of life metrics and, understandably, Massachusetts' top ranking reflects the high standard of living we enjoy in the Commonwealth. It is important to

keep in mind, however, that the US News rankings place less emphasis on (or omit) additional factors that are often utilized in corporate site selection processes. As a result, the US News

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rankings do not measure states' relative economic competitiveness.

For example, the Council-led team that developed MATTERS received significant input from leading national site location consultants that advise companies on where to locate and grow businesses. MATTERS primary data categories of Talent, Tax, Cost of Doing Business and Quality of Life reflect the top considerations of business leaders making site location and investment decisions. MATTERS produces individual State Profiles that measure each state's comparative performance in four indices based on inputs from these categories.

[Massachusetts' current State Profile](#) paints a mixed picture, with the Commonwealth ranking 1st in Talent; 43rd in Tax; 40th in Cost of Doing Business; and 14th in Quality of Life.

Similarly, CNBC's Top States for Business prioritizes workforce, cost of doing business, infrastructure, and the economy in its rankings. Massachusetts secured top ten rankings in CNBC's 2009, 2010 and 2011 rankings but currently ranks just 20th. Visit [MATTERS](#) to see how the state has performed in the CNBC rankings since their inception in 2009.

Click [here](#) to see a clip of Governor Baker and US News Editor Brian Kelly discussing the rankings and Massachusetts' performance on the CBS News This Morning broadcast from February 28.

Council in the News

- [Questioning the process - Boston Globe Talking Points, February 19, 2017](#)
- [Baker, Business Leaders are at Odds on Health Care - Boston Globe, February 18, 2017](#)
- [Tech sector bracing for next move from Trump, on worker visas - Boston Globe, January 31, 2017](#)
- [Mass. Tech Council Leader Wary Of Losing H-1B Visa Holders — But Not Alarmed By Trump's Travel Ban - WBUR, January 31, 2017](#)
- [Warren and McCain could be unlikely allies on armed services - Washington Examiner December 16, 2016](#)
- [Warren raises foreign policy profile with Armed Services assignment - Boston Globe December 14, 2016](#)

DATA THAT MATTERS

According to US Census data in MATTERS, Massachusetts spends more per public school student than 43 other states.

States	2014
	Spending per Student
NY - New York	\$20,610
AK - Alaska	\$18,416
NJ - New Jersey	\$17,907
CT - Connecticut	\$17,745
VT - Vermont	\$16,988
WY - Wyoming	\$15,797
MA - Massachusetts	\$15,087

Contact Us

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