



THE HIGH TECH AGENDA

MASSACHUSETTS HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action

March 31, 2019

New Council Website Reflects Critical Priorities, Policies, Programs and 50-State Data

On March 27, the Council launched its [newly designed website](#) with new features and timely content focused on the Council's unique mission, value proposition and leadership model. The new site highlights the Council's unparalleled track record of effective advocacy and impact and our data-driven 2019-20 public policy agenda, powered by [MATTERS](#) our 50-state competitiveness dashboard. A special shout-out to Council members Jennifer Kamerman and Bill Schick of the [MESH Agency](#) for providing us their ongoing advice, development expertise and technical support.

Public Policy Agenda and Advocacy Update: Risk and Opportunity Abound

Council leaders and staff are meeting regularly with key legislators and senior administration officials to discuss shared objectives and advance the Council's policy agenda in these early days of 2019-20 legislative session.

2019 will be a very active year on Beacon Hill and the Council has already presented testimony and provided important public support for proposed legislation that would increase the production of market rate and workforce housing, increase state support for K-12 public schools by \$1.1 billion and target more than \$5 billion in state funding on the Commonwealth's neediest schools and students.

On April 11, the legislature will begin its formal deliberations on an issue of continuing and critical importance: A renewed proposal to amend the state constitution with a permanently embedded tax rate increase. The Council will testify at a hearing of the legislature's Joint Committee on Revenue which will consider whether to recommend passage of the amendment by the full legislature. Legislative support for similar proposals in the past has been high, and many legislators continue to back the measure, even as peers in [New York](#), [New Jersey](#) and other states turn away from punitive tax policies they previously supported.

State Fiscal Stability MATTERS

The Commonwealth's long-term fiscal obligations are an [area of paramount concern and focus](#) for Council leaders. Massachusetts' fiscal condition receives poor ratings in several respected and peer-validated rankings, including the [recently launched](#) MATTERS [State Fiscal Stability Index](#) where Massachusetts ranks 44th.

Fortunately, state tax revenues are already 50% higher than they were just a decade ago and Massachusetts benefits from the 9th highest Gross State Product growth rate in the nation. Our strong private economy is preventing the Commonwealth from suffering the same flight of employment, capital, and tax revenue seen in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Illinois—states with similarly poor fiscal stability rankings. Pursuing the right policy approaches to funding and modernizing public service “delivery systems” in these areas, is critical so we avoid damaging the private economy.

Council Policy Priorities: Five Critical Categories

As noted in a series of [March 27 memoranda](#) to members of the Massachusetts legislature, the Council's policy agenda is informed by member input and driven by data, including the Council-developed [Massachusetts Technology, Talent and Economic Reporting System \(“MATTERS”\)](#). The Council's policy

priorities for the 2019-20 biennial legislative session focus on the following key areas. (Click the links to see the full policy memos):

- [Education and Workforce](#)
- [Housing](#)
- [Publicly Funded Health Care](#)
- [Taxation](#)
- [Transportation](#)

Contact [Mark Gallagher](#) to learn more about the Council's policy priorities and how you can get involved in our advocacy efforts.

Council Testifies in Support of K-12 Education Funding Increase and Reform

On March 22, Council Vice President Mark Gallagher delivered [testimony](#) to the Massachusetts Legislature's Joint Committee on Education in support of Governor Baker's proposed legislation to reform the way more than \$5 billion in annual state funding is allocated to local school districts.

The Governor's proposed [legislation](#) would:

- Commit to a multi-year, \$1.1 billion investment that targets additional state investment and support towards the highest need students and schools;
- Update state aid funding formulas to reflect 2019 circumstances and costs; and
- Ensure appropriate state oversight and authority to ensure improvement in chronically underperforming schools.

Importantly, the legislation's most impactful reforms and expanded financial supports can be implemented now and will be funded with existing available revenues or at no additional cost to the Commonwealth. They are not dependent on the identification of new resources or revenue streams that may or may not materialize in the future. The legislation also recognizes that resources alone and "blank check" spending policies without assessment and accountability are not a silver bullet for improved outcomes or closing achievement and opportunity gaps.

Women in Leadership Initiative Launched; Members Invited to Join McKinsey & Co. Survey

On March 27, a diverse group of 50 prominent Massachusetts leaders participated in the Council's inaugural Women in Leadership meeting at the [state-of-the-art Boston headquarters](#) of Council member PTC.



The forum, sponsored by [Kronos](#), marked the public kickoff of the Council's initiative to guide successful efforts in recruiting, retaining, and promoting women into leadership responsibilities across our organizations.

Council directors will be leading work in the following areas, which will result in the creation of a resource center containing specific practices and/or recommendations:

- McKinsey & Company: Data, framing the business case and measuring success
- PTC: Best practices in recruiting (hiring), retaining and promoting talent
- University of Massachusetts Lowell and WPI: Culture and engaging organizational leadership
- Quarterly member-only focus sessions

Since 2016, the Council has partnered with McKinsey & Co. and reachHIRE to host hundreds of tech leaders at our annual "Closing the Corporate Gender Gap" events and we are pleased announce our continued and expanded collaboration with these two "best in class" Council members. Addie Swartz, CEO of reachHIRE, will co-manage this sustained Women in Leadership initiative along with Council CEO Chris Anderson.

Council members and meeting attendees will soon receive a call to action communications with more detail on the follow-up to this meeting and how your organization can engage. Contact [Bernie Prusaczyk](#) to learn how you can participate in and support this initiative.

Council's 2019 Annual Meeting Set for June 10, 2019: Registration and Sponsorship

Opportunities

This year, we look forward to a keynote by US Representative Joseph Kennedy and the presentation of the [2019 Ray Stata Leadership and Innovation Award](#) to Jacqueline Moloney, Chancellor, University of Massachusetts Lowell. The luncheon meeting will take place on June 10 at the Seaport Hotel in Boston and will also feature comments from Council Chairman Aron Ain, CEO of Kronos Incorporated and Udit Batra, CEO of MilliporeSigma & Member of Executive Board, Merck KGaA.

Contact [Bernie Prusaczyk](#) or [click here](#) for more information on sponsorship opportunities and corporate tables and visit the [event website](#) to register and view additional event details.

Council Webinar: Massachusetts Paid Family and Medical Leave Law

Beginning on July 1, 2019, Massachusetts will require employers to provide paid family and medical leave for workers through a new state-run plan. The [new law](#) requires each employer to contribute to and participate in the state-run program, unless the employer opts out under strict statutory and regulatory guidelines.

Council members and friends are invited to [join this free webinar](#) on April 9 from Noon to 1:00 PM to learn what you need to do to be prepared, stay informed and be in compliance. Led by experts from Spring Consulting Group, the discussion will help you answer the following questions:

- How do the new regulations impact my current policy?
- What management strategies are there for multi-state employers and employees?
- How have similar policies in different states been effectively rolled out and administered?

REGISTER NOW

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](#).

