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## **Statement From the Massachusetts High Technology Council on Memo Filed with the Attorney General's Office Challenging the Proposed 2024 Ballot Question to Eliminate the MCAS Exam as a Graduation Requirement**

Today, the Massachusetts High Technology Council was joined by over a dozen organizations and individuals, including three past chairs of the State Board of Education, in filing a memo with the Attorney General's Office challenging the proposed ballot question to eliminate the use of the MCAS exam as a graduation requirement.

The memo, drafted by Kevin Martin and Henry Dinger of Goodwin Procter, explains that the petition submitted by the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) does not meet the constitutional requirements for an initiative petition. As the memo details, the initiative petition combines two different public policy questions and therefore "fails the relatedness requirement as it has been articulated by the Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) and should not be certified" to appear on the 2024 ballot.

"This proposed ballot question fails to meet the constitutional requirement for initiative petitions," said High Tech Council President Chris Anderson and former Chair of the State Board of Education. "The High Tech Council also [stands firmly opposed](#) to the substance of this proposal, which would reverse three decades of progress for kids in every zip code, jeopardize the futures of Massachusetts high school graduates, endanger the state's standing as a national leader in education, and put the state's economy at a further competitive disadvantage."

The MTA's ballot question would eliminate the statewide requirement that students pass the MCAS exam to graduate high school and would dictate that local school districts create new certification standards that consider only students' completion of coursework in determining their eligibility to graduate. As the memo articulates, this impermissibly combines two policy issues—state control over graduation requirements and local control over graduation requirements—into one ballot question.

The full memo can be found [here](#).

### **About the Massachusetts High Technology Council**

The [Massachusetts High Technology Council, Inc.](#) is an organization of CEOs and senior executives representing innovation, technology, and scientific companies; professional services firms; and research institutions dedicated to collaborating to create and sustain 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 and scientific 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 businesses within the innovation ecosystem.

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