



## TURNING THE PAGE ON SUMMER

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*Dear Neighbor,*

*As summer gives way to fall and we head back into the hustle and bustle of a new school year, and the final months of this legislative session, I thought it was the perfect time to share an update on what we've been working on.*

*My staff and I remain focused on bringing state resources directly to our community, advancing important legislation at the State House, and **serving you** and your neighbors.*

*Below, you'll find updates on some legislative wins, local resources, and highlights from our work over the past few months.*

*All the best,  
Dan*



Soaking up Summertime ☀️

## NEWS FROM BEACON HILL

As Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws, we've held 11 public hearings and reviewed more than 200 bills addressing critical election issues, including voter access, campaign finance, and election administration. Two key areas we've worked to advance are AI in Elections, including safeguards around artificial intelligence, deepfakes, and deceptive media in campaign communications, and Ballot Question Campaign Finance, focused on transparency and disclosure requirements for funding behind statewide ballot initiatives.

**DAN HUNT**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
Chair, Joint Committee on Election Laws

**House Passes Ballot Question Campaign Finance Legislation**

**H5558** prohibits ballot question signature gatherers from being **paid-per-signature**

**Requires** ballot question campaigns to **disclose** contributions and expenditures monthly

**Establishes** a special commission to **reform** the ballot initiative process

→ NOW HEADED TO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Ballot questions were created to give people a direct voice in government- not to give the biggest checkbook the loudest voice.

On July 1st, the House unanimously passed bipartisan legislation to bring more transparency and accountability to ballot question campaigns. Voters deserve to know who's paying for the ads they're seeing and who's trying to influence their vote *\*before\** they head to the polls.

The bill also establishes a commission to take a comprehensive look at Massachusetts' ballot initiative process and recommend reforms to ensure it continues to serve voters as intended.

Proud to help lead this effort as Chair of the Joint Committee on Election Laws and grateful to my House colleagues for their support.

[READ PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)

**DAN HUNT**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
Chair, Joint Committee on Election Laws

**House Passes AI Election Advertising and Misinformation Bills**

**H5093** prohibits the distribution of **deceptive** AI-generated media about candidates or voting **90 days before an election**

**H5094** requires campaigns to disclose when **AI-generated content** is used to create **political advertisements**

→ NOW HEADED TO THE SENATE

In February, the Massachusetts House of Representatives passed two bills to regulate the use of artificial intelligence in political advertising, requiring clear disclosure when AI is used and banning deceptive communications about a candidate or the electoral process within three months of an election.

As generative AI tools become more advanced and widespread, the risk of misleading content and distorted political discourse grows. Voters deserve to know that what they're seeing is real.

These bills are about protecting voters and strengthening trust in our elections.

As House Chair of the Committee on Election Laws, I'm proud to help lead this effort to set clear standards, guard against deceptive content, and continue strengthening our election infrastructure.

Both bills have moved over to the Senate, where they await further action.

[READ PRESS RELEASE HERE](#)

Over the past several months, the Massachusetts House has passed legislation to lower costs, support families, strengthen communities, and invest in our future. While many of these measures are now law, others are still being worked out as the House and Senate negotiate final agreements.

On July 9th, Governor Maura Healey signed into effect the finalized Fiscal Year 2027 budget, which has delivered a spending plan lowering costs for families, strengthening transportation, education, and public safety, invests in housing, healthcare, and other issues, doing so without increased taxation or fees.

This Legislative Session, in our efforts to win purposeful financial allocations to support the 13th Suffolk District, our office filed a multitude of amendments supporting Massachusetts organizations and causes operating out of the 13th Suffolk district. With Governor Healey's final approval and signature, the budget is in effect as of August 1st.

### **Legislation Creates Honorary License Plates**

On July 14th, we passed legislation that creates a new special license plate as a symbol of respect for the families of fallen law enforcement officers. These plates will be called "Blue Star Families" plates, and will join other specialty plates offered by the Registries of Motor Vehicles to continually honor the sacrifices of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty through their spouses, parents, and children. These plates will be made accessible through RMVs, can be offered as vanity plate registrations, can be up to six characters in length, and will be made available to the Blue Star Families at no charge.

### **The PROTECT Act**

On July 30, the Massachusetts Legislature passed the PROTECT Act, sweeping legislation establishing statewide standards to limit local and state involvement in federal civil immigration enforcement. Originally filed by the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, the bill strengthens due process protections, restricts civil immigration enforcement in courthouses, schools, and hospitals, and expands protections for crime victims.

### **Home Care Licensure**

On July 31, the Massachusetts Legislature passed a bill establishing a licensure and oversight process for home care agencies, whose workers provide non-medical services like dressing, meal preparation, bathing, and companionship to help seniors safely age in place. The legislation requires home care agencies to disclose anyone with at least a 5 percent ownership stake, carry workers'

On July 31, the Massachusetts Legislature passed legislation (S.2696) creating clear guidelines for how schools and libraries select books and respond to challenges, while protecting librarians from political reprisals. The bill requires book selection decisions to be based on professional standards rather than political ideology, and keeps a challenged book on the shelf unless a public hearing process results in a vote to remove it.

### **Child Welfare Protections**

On July 31, the Massachusetts Legislature passed comprehensive legislation to strengthen oversight, transparency, and accountability across the Commonwealth's child welfare system. The bill establishes a DCF Education Unit to support children's educational continuity, creates a Foster Child Bill of Rights, and expands diversion of at-risk youth to Family Resource Centers rather than the court system.

### **Early Literacy Instruction Legislation**

The Legislature passed An Act Relative to Teacher Preparation and Student Literacy, a bill that requires evidence-based reading instruction in K-3 classrooms, bans guessing-based curricula, and mandates twice-yearly reading screenings through third grade. This landmark literacy legislation will transform how the Commonwealth teaches children to read in order to address gaps that emerged during the pandemic, including achievement gaps among major racial and ethnic student groups and students who are low-income.

### **Legislation to Prevent Hot Work Tragedies**

On June 18th, the Legislature passed a bill in honor of two fallen firefighters to track violations related to welding, plasma cutting, and other spark-producing construction work, and to make that data publicly available through an online database. It includes an automated notification system that will also alert property owners and insurers when violations occur. The purpose of this legislation is to protect firefighters and tradespeople from the unsafe conditions that took the lives of Boston Fire Lieutenant Edward Walsh and Firefighter Michael Kennedy in 2014.

compensation and liability insurance, and provide appropriate employee training, while tasking the Executive Office of Health and Human Services with licensing, oversight, and enforcement.

## \$\$ FUNDING WINS \$\$

**DAN HUNT**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Delivering for Dorchester**  
*Funding in the FY2027 Budget  
for the 13th Suffolk District*

|                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>\$250,000</b><br>For Harbor Health Services<br>addiction and substance use<br>treatment program | <b>\$125,000</b><br>For infrastructure and<br>operational upgrades at<br>Geiger Gibson Community<br>Health center |
| <b>\$100,000</b><br>For All Dorchester Sports<br>League, Inc.                                      | <b>\$100,000</b><br>College Bound Dorchester                                                                      |
| <b>\$100,000</b><br>For Codman Square Health<br>Center food security services                      | <b>\$100,000</b><br>For St. Mary's Center for<br>Women and Children                                               |

**DAN HUNT**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Delivering for Dorchester**  
*Funding in the FY2027 Budget  
for the 13th Suffolk District*

|                                                                                                           |                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>\$300,000</b><br>For University of<br>Massachusetts Boston<br>to conduct a climate<br>resiliency study | <b>\$100,000</b><br>For the John F. Kennedy<br>Institute's library<br>digitalization |
| <b>\$75,000</b><br>For the City of Boston Age<br>Strong Commission                                        | <b>\$50,000</b><br>For Project D.E.E.P.                                              |
| <b>\$2,000,000</b><br>For RIZE Massachusetts<br>Foundation, Inc.                                          |                                                                                      |

**DAN HUNT**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FY27 STATEWIDE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

The House's \$63.4B FY27 balanced budget delivers historic investments — while providing record support for cities and towns, with no new taxes or tax increases.

- EDUCATION**  
Expanding access, equity & excellence in schools statewide
- TRANSPORTATION**  
Modernizing roads, bridges & transit corridors
- HEALTHCARE**  
Strengthening community health systems & access to care
- HOUSING**  
Creating affordable, safe housing for every community
- WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**  
Investing in skills, jobs & economic opportunity

[danhunt.org](http://danhunt.org)

**FAIR SHARE  
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET**

Investing in education, opportunity, and the next generation across Massachusetts.

- EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
  - \$875,000** for a statewide college and career readiness program implemented by JFYNetWorks
  - \$1,000,000** for Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, Inc. to expand civics education programs, including investments in curriculum and technology
  - \$750,000** for the implementation of a program to support civics education learning opportunities in coordination with the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library Foundation, Incorporated, that focuses on underserved communities and other communities, across the commonwealth
- STUDENT ENRICHMENT & ACCESS**
  - \$100,000** for Boston Harbor Now to provide free ferry service for educational programming for Massachusetts public school students and youth groups on the Boston Harbor Islands
- STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH**
  - \$200,000** for the Boston Public Schools for evidence-informed school-based mental health intervention programming

**DAN HUNT**  
DEMOCRAT for STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## HELPFUL RESOURCES




# ATTENTION:

## Members ages 19-64

### New Federal Law

### May Impact You

The Trump Administration is making changes to Medicaid programs across the country. Learn how they affect MassHealth members.

[Click here to complete the screener](#)

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE

### B ENERGY BILL SUPPORT FOR BOSTON RESIDENTS

Energy costs are on the rise. The City of Boston is here to help. Consult this list of City programs to help residents and small businesses save money on their energy bills.

#### BOSTON ENERGY SAVER

Boston Energy Saver is a new City of Boston service helping renters, homeowners, and small businesses upgrade their buildings and lower their energy bills. Through its no-cost, 1-on-1 support, Boston Energy Saver makes it easier to pick which options are best for your family or small business. Our Help Desk can connect you with **Mass Save® incentives, utility discounts, and building upgrade subsidies.** Boston Energy Saver has interpretation services in most languages available on demand.

**CITY OF BOSTON**  
**ENERGY SAVER**

Website: [www.boston.gov/save](http://www.boston.gov/save)  
Phone: 617-635-SAVE (7283)  
Email: [energysaver@boston.gov](mailto:energysaver@boston.gov)

#### ENERGY BILL CHECKUPS

If your electricity bills are unusually high, get an energy bill checkup from our Boston Energy Saver team. You might be paying too much for electricity if you accidentally signed up for a predatory third-party or "competitive" energy supplier. These companies often approach people in public or at their front door, sign them up with a low introductory rate, then significantly increase rates without notifying residents.

Schedule your energy bill checkup: [www.calendly.com/energysaver-boston](http://www.calendly.com/energysaver-boston)

#### MASS SAVE HEAT PUMP REBATE

Do you own your home? Through the **Mass Save®** program, you may qualify for up to \$16,000 in rebates for a heat pump installation. If you're switching from oil or electric resistance heating, you may even qualify for a no-cost heat pump installation. Connect with our Boston Energy Saver Help Desk to check your eligibility for this rebate and other building energy upgrades.

### B ENERGY BILL SUPPORT FOR BOSTON RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

#### BOSTON COMMUNITY CHOICE ELECTRICITY

BCCE is the City of Boston's electricity program supplying residents and businesses with affordable, renewable electricity. Over 200,000 Boston households and businesses are currently enrolled, **saving an average of \$200 each year.** As of 2026, BCCE rates are lower than Eversource Basic Service.

#### Confirm Your Enrollment in Boston Community Choice Electricity:

New Eversource customers in Boston are automatically enrolled in BCCE. However, you should check the front of your electricity bill to make sure.

- Below "Your electric supplier is" should say "BILLING FOR CITY OF BOSTON CCE."
- If it says another supplier, you may be getting ripped off by a predatory third-party energy supplier. Learn more at [boston.gov/energy](http://boston.gov/energy).
- Reach out to our team for help with enrollment or support canceling a third-party energy contract.

Website: [www.boston.gov/bcce](http://www.boston.gov/bcce)  
Email: [bccce@boston.gov](mailto:bccce@boston.gov)  
Phone: 617-635-2331



#### UTILITY PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

Do you need to set up a payment plan or apply for shut-off protection with your utility company? We have compiled a list of resources to help you out:

Visit [boston.gov/energy](http://boston.gov/energy) to see the resources available to you.

## Port Norfolk Residents



With funding that I was able to secure through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), The City of Boston's Planning Department and Office of Climate Resilience are offering no-cost home assessments to assist Port Norfolk households in evaluating potential flood risk hazards and retrofit measures specific to their home. **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with participating households expected to be notified by September 2026 at the latest.**

**Apply today for a FREE Home Flood Assessment**

A poster for the City of Boston's OSHA 10-Hour Training in Construction. The poster features a background image of construction workers in safety gear. The text is in multiple languages: English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Brazilian Portuguese. It states that the City of Boston is offering free, monthly OSHA 10-hour construction trainings. The website BOSTON.GOV/CONSTRUCTION-SAFETY is prominently displayed at the bottom, along with logos for Worker Empowerment and MassCOSH.

**CITY of BOSTON**

### OSHA 10-HOUR TRAINING IN CONSTRUCTION

The City of Boston is offering free, monthly OSHA 10-hour construction trainings in English, Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Brazilian Portuguese.

Vil Boston ap ofri fòmasyon gratis chak mwa sou OSHA 10 Èdtan nan Konstriksyon an angle, panyòl, kreyòl ayisyen, ak pòtigè brezilyen.

La Ciudad de Boston ofrece capacitaciones gratuitas mensuales de 10 horas en seguridad en la construcción (OSHA 10-Hour Construction) en inglés, español, criollo haitiano y portugués brasileño.

A Cidade de Boston está oferecendo treinamentos gratuitos mensais de 10 horas sobre segurança na construção civil (OSHA 10-Hour Construction) em inglês, espanhol, crioulo haitiano e português brasileiro.

**BOSTON.GOV/CONSTRUCTION-SAFETY**

Worker Empowerment MassCOSH

## FREE OSHA 10 AND OSHA 30 TRAININGS

The City of Boston is offering to Boston residents. Training will be available in multiple languages to make these important safety courses accessible to more residents. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) courses provide essential workplace safety training for individuals working in or entering the construction industry. Topics include hazard identification, fall protection, electrical safety, and other key workplace safety practices. This is a valuable opportunity for Boston residents to gain important safety knowledge and earn OSHA training credentials at no cost.



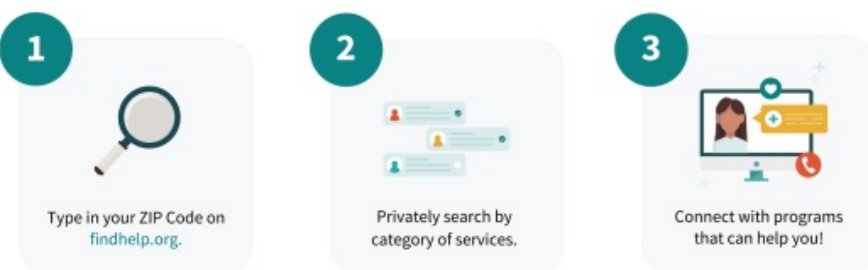
## > Looking for help for you or your family?

### Find Local Resources

Search our nationwide network for free or reduced-cost programs for food, housing, healthcare, support, transportation, education, legal support, and more – locally.

### Connect Someone to Help

It's easy to refer others to social care programs, or for you to find help on your own.



### It's free and easy to use.

- > View hours and locations
- > Find free and reduced-cost services
- > Apply for benefits

Is findhelp.org helpful? Share this with a friend!

## SNAPSHOTS FROM THE LAST FEW MONTHS



### living the dream

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston hosted their 13th Annual Living the Dream Dinner, honoring the Hunt Family with the "Dear Neighbor" award for longstanding commitment to faith, family, and community. The evening raised \$850,000 to support the Sisters' ministries and celebrated the many ways the

congregation and its partners continue to serve the community.

[Read Full Article Here](#)



## Healey's temporary ban on kratom sales follows a push from Rep. Hunt's office

By BILL FORRY  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

A years-long effort by Dorchester state Rep. Daniel J. Hunt's office to put safeguards around the sale of kratom in Massachusetts chalked up a win last week when Gov. Maura Healey announced an emergency order that temporarily classifies the substance as a Schedule I drug and restricts its sale statewide.

Kratom, made from the leaves of a tree native to Southeast Asia, contains naturally occurring compounds, but can produce a stimulant-like or opioid-like effect. Healey said the move is intended to respond to kratom products in smoke shops, convenience stores, and gas stations, where it is sold as powders, pills, capsules, gummies, dissolvable strips and other products.

The order will take effect following a 14-day notice period and can remain in force for up to one year.

Rep. Hunt credits his chief of staff, Erin Walsh, for bringing concerns about kratom to his attention after a conversation with her younger sister, Elizabeth, who has been in recovery from opioid use since 2015.

The Walsh sisters were struck by the fact that kratom could be purchased legally in convenience stores even as people in recovery were using it and experiencing effects that resembled opioid use.

Elizabeth Walsh had first encountered kratom

while living in a sober home on Cape Cod, Hunt's office said.

What particularly alarmed the family was how accessible the substance was to children.

"What terrified Erin and Elizabeth were the thought of their younger brother Dennis, just 11 years old, being able to walk into a corner store, buy kratom, and not even understand what it was," Hunt told the Reporter.

He first filed legislation during the 2023-2024 legislative session and returned with a new version, H.2454, this session. The bill, filed with Reps. Jacob Oliveira and Colleen Garry, would require kratom products to carry ingredient and manufacturer information and directions for safe use and ban sales to people under 21.

The latest bill was reported favorably by the Legislature's Judiciary Committee in February.

"Our goal was to get ahead of a growing concern and start a thoughtful conversation about how Massachusetts should respond," Hunt said. "At the same time, we recognized that people have different experiences with kratom, including people who report using it to manage opioid cravings or withdrawal."

Last week's emergency order from the state's Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Robbie Goldstein temporarily freezes the sale of all forms of kratom. It also give local boards of health and



Kratom products derived from plants.

municipal officials additional enforcement authority over retailers.

DPH plans to provide guidance to health departments, clinicians and treatment providers and has launched a public information campaign on kratom risks and treatment resources.

Hunt said he still sees a need for the Legislature and administration to work toward a permanent policy after the emergency action expires. He also noted a personal coincidence in the timing of the governor's announcement: It came on the 11th anniversary of Elizabeth Walsh's "clean date."

He added: "We are glad to see the Healey Administration taking action to address these public health concerns, but we hope to continue the conversation."

PHD STUDENT IN PUBLIC POLICY AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOSTON

### INTERN SPOTLIGHT

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT  
THE CENTER FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS  
AND PUBLIC POLICY

# MEET SONIA



Sonia Arthur, a PhD student in Public Policy at the UMass Boston and Graduate Research Assistant at the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy (CWPPP), joined our office for an eight-week internship this summer. During her time with us, Sonia brought her background in public policy research and her interest in emerging issues in elections to a range of projects in our office.

She contributed to an expansive research project examining the regulation of AI-generated political content across the European Union, Canada, Brazil, and Japan. Through comparative policy analysis, Sonia found that the European Union's 2024 AI Act provides the strongest legal framework among the jurisdictions examined for addressing artificial intelligence and elections.

Beyond her research, Sonia participated in the Legislative Summer Speaker Series, an opportunity for interns to hear directly from legislators, advocates, lobbyists, and other policy professionals. During one of the sessions, Sonia was honored to introduce Rob McLaughlin, the Vice President of external and government affairs at the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans to the group of interns. This was an experience that highlighted her growing engagement with policymakers.

Sonia's summer experience also included opportunities to explore Boston's cultural and civic institutions. She attended the grand opening of the Franklin Park Zoo's new African Experience Habitat, featuring the African Penguin Coast and an expanded Serengeti Crossing, home to zebras and ostriches.

She also joined a field trip to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute, where interns explored the Institute's exhibits and engaged with a media panel focused on local politics in Massachusetts. The day concluded with the Institute's Senate Immersion Module on Election Reform, providing interns with an interactive opportunity to learn about the legislative process and engage with a timely policy issue.

I'm incredibly grateful for the support you've shown me over the years. It's what keeps this work so meaningful. I'd love to have your vote on Tuesday so we can keep building on what we've started together. **See you at the polls!**

## Polling Places in the 13th Suffolk District



**DAN HUNT**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Open from 7: 00 AM to 8:00 PM on September 1st



**Annapolis Apartments, 8A Annapolis St, 02125**



**Catherine F. Clark Apartments, 915 Dot Ave, 02125**



**Jennison Community Building, 270 Mt. Vernon St, 02125**



**Savin Hill Apartments, 130 Auckland St, 02125**



**Cristo Rey High School, 100 Savin Hill Ave, 02125**



**Saint Mark's School Hall, 197A Centre St, 02124**



**The Henderson School, 1669 Dot Ave, 02124**



**Florian Hall, 55 Hallet St, 02124**



**The Murphy School, 1 Worrel St, 02122**



**Saint Ann's School, 239 Neponset Ave, 02122**



**Adams Street Library, 690 Adams St, 02122**

Find your polling place at: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/WhereDoIVote>



CTE State Representative Daniel Hunt | 31 Pierce Avenue | Dorchester, MA 02122 US

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