



News Release

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For immediate release

May 27, 2014

Widmer Announces Retirement

Michael J. Widmer, the long-time president of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation who has played a central role in some of the most important policy debates and decisions of the past 25 years, announced today his intention to retire when the transition to a successor is complete.

Mr. Widmer, who joined the Foundation in 1990 and has been president since 1992, made the announcement at a Board of Trustees meeting at the Newton Marriott Hotel. Earlier this year he informed the Foundation's Governance Committee of his decision. A seven-member search committee, chaired by Karen Green, a partner at Wilmer Hale and a member of the Foundation's Executive Committee, will select a successor.

Fay Donohue, chair of the Foundation and CEO of Delta Dental of Massachusetts, said, "The state and local governments have benefitted enormously from Mike Widmer's bold and innovative leadership. With integrity and persistence, he has blazed a path of reform and shined a spotlight on issues critical to our state's economic future.

"I am delighted that Mike has agreed to continue his strong leadership through the transition," said Ms. Donohue.

Under his leadership, Mr. Widmer and the Foundation have achieved a remarkable record of successes. These have ranged from passage of the state's landmark health care law in 2006 and municipal health reform in 2011 to publishing groundbreaking studies on the enormous unfunded benefits of public employees and leading the effort last year to gain repeal of the tax on computer and software services. Over the past two decades the Foundation has earned an unprecedented 16 national awards for its research and policy achievements on a wide array of issues.
