



Massachusetts  
Taxpayers Foundation

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2024

# ANNUAL REPORT

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*INSIGHT.INFLUENCE.IMPACT.*

# A Note from the MTF President

Dear MTF Members and Supporters,

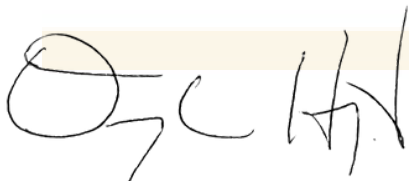
As we begin a new year and look towards a new Legislative Session, I am pleased to share the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation's 2024 Annual Report. This brief report does not capture all that we accomplished over the last year, but we hope it demonstrates MTF's fundamental role in the Commonwealth. We strive to produce high-quality and unbiased research that engages our members and policymakers, and that drives a more equitable and sustainable economy for all Massachusetts residents.

In 2024, MTF published 54 reports that examined issues across the policy spectrum, including the first annual Massachusetts Competitiveness Index. Our reports, analyses, and expertise were cited in the media nearly 800 times, and our work shaped the narrative around some of the most pressing policy issues facing the state. To promote our research and connect stakeholders with key policy leaders, MTF held 27 events over the course of the year.

Ultimately, the impact of our research and events is measured through the strength, engagement, and diversity of MTF's membership and partners, and 2024 was a banner year in that regard. MTF added 30 new members over the last 12 months, reaching new highs for both member and grant support. At the same time, we launched a new Trustee Sponsored Membership program to encourage diverse voices to join MTF and get a sense of what we have to offer. The growth in MTF's publications, events, and impact is a function of the energy and perspective of all those who support us.

We hope you find this Annual report informative and interesting. We also hope that it demonstrates how critical your ongoing support of and engagement with MTF is to our work and success. Thank you for making 2024 such a successful year for MTF, and here's to an even more successful 2025!

Sincerely,



Douglas Howgate  
President, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation

# Research

In 2024, MTF published 54 reports ranging from in-time analysis of the state budget process and long-term research in several public policy areas, including demographics, education, healthcare, housing, transportation, and workforce development.

## 54 Reports



29

Budget and Taxes



8

Healthcare



4

Economic Development  
& Competitiveness



4

Childcare &  
Education



3

Housing &  
Real Estate



2

Workforce



2

Demographics



2

Transportation

## Massachusetts Competitiveness Index

This year, MTF also released its first annual Massachusetts Competitiveness Index with support from the Massachusetts Competitiveness Partnership and in partnership with the UMass Donohue Institute. **The report uses 26 metrics to rank Massachusetts against itself, its economic and geographic competitors, and nationally to measure the state's ability to attract and retain talent and businesses.**

# Media Impact

In 2024, **MTF's reports, analysis, and expertise were featured nearly 800 times in the media**, including online media and local TV coverage. Our work has helped shape important policy decisions this year in areas like federal funding, early education and care, transportation, and commercial real estate.

## Our Insight

### State Budget and Taxes

MTF Bulletin: *Capitalizing on Federal Funding Opportunities*

### Early Education

MTF releases reports on the importance of continued operational grants and need for child care assistance (CCFA) reform

### Transportation

MTF Report: *The Looming Fiscal Fiasco for the MBTA* calling for surtax resources to address multiple years of MBTA funding gaps.

## Our Impact

Gov. Healey signs bill built on MTF's recommendations to implement a state strategy for maximizing federal funds

- The state's Childcare Operational Grant Program (C3) is codified.
- The state reprocures CCFA contract for first time in more than a decade, incorporating a number of MTF recommendations

Governor Healey's Transportation Finance Task Force will soon release its recommendations

## MTF in the Media

POLITICS



Mass.' plan to rescue bankrupt Steward Hospitals may cost \$700M



### Is Boston's Economy Doomed?

Hybrid schedules and fewer office workers are causing buildings in Boston to sit empty and property values to plummet, which could mean less tax revenue, fewer city services, and ultimately fewer residents. Welcome to the "Doom Loop." What are our leaders doing to stop it?



### Early child care system has a workforce problem

New report highlights need for better pay, potential issues with federal funding

Transportation

MBTA workforce expansion faces 'considerable obstacles'

## The Boston Globe

TRENDLINES

How does Massachusetts stack up in the economic battle among states? A new benchmark offers an in-depth look.

The Massachusetts Competitive Index ranks the state's strengths and weaknesses by 26 measures

## Boston Herald

NEWS > POLITICS

How low can it go? MA misses revenue projections



# Events

We understand how important it is for our members to stay up to date on public policy matters across the commonwealth. Every year, MTF organizes events for our members to meet with policymakers to discuss the most pressing topics on Beacon Hill and hear from our researchers on their comprehensive analysis of the state budget, education, healthcare, transportation, workforce, and more. **In 2024, we hosted 27 events that were attended by MTF members, supporters, and guests.**

## Policy Conversations

MTF hosts monthly candid discussions with members and policymakers across all branches of state government.

- Senate Chair of the Health Care Financing Committee Cindy Friedman
- ANF Sec. Matt Gorzkowicz
- Health and Human Services Sec. Kate Walsh
- Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means Aaron Michlewitz
- Transportation Sec. Monica Tibbits-Nutt
- Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means Michael Rodrigues
- Education Sec. Patrick Tutwiler
- Housing and Livable Communities Sec. Ed Augustus
- House Chair of the Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy Jeff Roy
- MBTA GM Phillip Eng

## Member Briefing

MTF provides monthly briefings on reports and important events. 2024 briefing topics included:

- Gov. FY 25 Budget
- MassHealth Finances & Member Redetermination
- MBTA Workforce and Finances
- HWM FY 25 Budget
- SWM FY 25 Budget
- Demystifying the State Capital Budget
- End of Session Preview & Fiscal Update
- An Update on Workforce Investments
- End of FY 2024 Fiscal Update
- Examining Behavioral Health Pediatric Access & Workforce Challenges

## Tax Thought Leadership

MTF organizes presentations on tax policy issues and current revenue collection trends.

- House Chair of the Committee on Revenue Mark Cusack
- DOR Deputy Commissioner for Tax Policy Rebecca Forter
- DOR Deputy Chief of the Rulings and Regulations Bureau Jacob Blanton

## Trustees Meeting

MTF gathers our trustees three times a year for an update on MTF's research and impact.

- Conversation with Senate President Karen Spilka
- 2025 Research Agenda Update
- Presentation from MassInc Polling Group President Steve Koczela

## Tax Policy Conference

This year's conference featured a conversation with Congressman Richard Neal and other panels to discuss tax issues facing the state.

## Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting included a keynote address and conversation with Speaker Ronald Mariano.



# Fellowship

MTF, in partnership with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Massachusetts (AICU Mass.) and its member schools, offers a 14-month Policy Start Fellowship (PSF) for graduates from communities that have been historically underrepresented in state policy research. The Fellowship provides educational and professional benefits by providing real-world exposure to policymaking, professional experience as a policy researcher, and mentoring and networking to get the Fellow started on a career in policy.

## Leedy Senbetta



MTF's inaugural Fellow, Leedy Senbetta, joined MTF in 2023 after graduating from Boston University's School of Public Health, where he earned a Master of Public Health in Policy and Law. Leedy authored several MTF reports, including MassHealth enrollment trends and the end of continuous coverage and a chartbook on the pediatric behavioral health crisis. Leedy also had the opportunity to network with over 40 members and key stakeholders and participated in nine shadow days with partner organizations. She concluded her Fellowship in November 2024.

## Alexandria Sheehan



Alexandria Sheehan joined MTF in September 2024 after graduating from Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a Bachelor of Science in Economic Science, where she conducted undergraduate research in housing and environmental policy. In addition to general state budget analysis, Alexandria's work at MTF will focus on housing and healthcare policy. Alexandria has begun building her network as she meets with our members, key stakeholders, and staff on Beacon Hill. Her Fellowship will conclude in November 2025.

## Fellowship Sponsors

