



Accomplishments and Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Managing the Recession.** Governor Patrick and Lt. Governor Murray have demonstrated real leadership, making the tough choices that have set Massachusetts on track to come out of the recession faster and stronger than the rest of the country.
2. **Jobs.** Passed \$1 billion life science bill, comprising a mix of federal and private funds that has made Massachusetts the international leader in the life sciences, and has brought thousands of new jobs to the state, with more anticipated. He has fast-tracked federal and state economic stimulus dollars, putting them towards our roads and bridges, schools, and creating and saving thousands of jobs to date.
3. **Education Reform.** Passed comprehensive education reform legislation that tackles the achievement gap, empowers us to turn around underperforming schools, promotes innovation in education, and increases access to high-performing charter schools in the lowest performing districts.
4. **Green Jobs.** National leader in clean energy policy, enabling Massachusetts to promote the expansion of clean energy, cut greenhouse gases, and capture the green jobs of the 21st century. Ramped-up energy efficiency programs will invest \$2 billion over three years and provide \$6.5 billion in savings for consumers.
5. **Government Reform.** Passed powerful ethics, lobbying, pension and transportation reform bills that will keep special interests out of political decision-making and stop wasteful spending.
6. **Budget Management.** Amid the worst global economic crisis in decades, Governor Patrick submitted three on-time, responsible, and balanced budgets, making the tough decisions necessary to protect key investments in education and local aid for our communities. Massachusetts has had its AA bond rating affirmed by Wall Street's authoritative rating agencies, each of which cited sound financial management—an achievement few states can claim in this economy.
7. **Implemented Health Insurance Reform.** Massachusetts has become the model for the nation, with coverage for 97.5% of Bay State residents, compared to a national rate of 85%. Over 400,000 residents are now covered who were not before reform was implemented.
8. **Curbing skyrocketing health care costs.** Proposed legislation that would limit the cost of health care premiums to small businesses and working families.
9. **Corporate Tax Fairness.** Governor Patrick closed corporate tax loopholes, leveling the playing field for smaller businesses, and bringing in nearly a half-billion dollars in additional tax revenue, while also reducing the overall corporate tax rate for 35,000 businesses.
10. **Civilian Flaggers.** Governor Patrick pushed for Massachusetts to join 49 other states in allowing civilian flaggers at state construction sites, saving state taxpayers millions of dollars annually. Something previous governors only talked about.
11. **Auto Insurance Rates.** Passed auto insurance reforms that reduced insurance premiums by up to 10% for Bay State consumers.
12. **Marriage Equality.** Governor Patrick led the fight to keep discrimination out of the Massachusetts constitution, and preserved the right adults to marry whoever they love.

He is making budget cuts to programs I care about...

- As a result of the global recession, difficult budget cuts are necessary. The question is whether we have a Governor making those decisions who understands the human consequences of those decisions and tries to minimize their impact. Governor Patrick does not view the budget as a math problem, but as a means of helping people.

I'm concerned about education reform...

- Massachusetts can be proud of the public education it offers to most of its families. For the last three years, Massachusetts students placed near the top of national and international rankings. Great teachers have been a major part of this story.
- The Governor's education reform bill targets the achievement gap. Caught in this gap are poor children, those with special needs, and children who speak English as a second language – oftentimes children of color. This is not only an economic problem, but a moral problem too.
- For Massachusetts to tackle underperforming schools and school districts, it needed to introduce greater flexibility to re-structure and experiment with new approaches.
- As a result of this reform, Massachusetts is a finalist for \$250 Million dollars of federal "Race to the Top" funding.

What has he done for labor?

- Massachusetts is the only state in U.S. that has increased union membership over the last two years.
- Invested over \$56 million in worker training.
- Established task force on the underground economy to counter attempts to bypass workforce rules, recovering nearly \$3 million in unpaid assessments and restitution to workers unfairly denied compensation.
- Supported and signed the Commonwealth's Employee Free Choice Act.

How do bond ratings help with jobs? Why should I care?

- The high bond ratings allow the state to fund major transportation and higher education projects that put people to work, and improve the infrastructure of our state. Our rating has been reaffirmed by all three major rating agencies.

Okay, he's trying to improve the economy, but is it working?

- The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics show Massachusetts ahead of most of the country in key indicators.
- For the first time in 20 years, Massachusetts has increased population, as we have become a hub for life science and high-tech jobs.
- Companies have moved thousands of jobs to Massachusetts, including one of the nation's largest pharmaceutical corporations.
- Philadelphia Federal Reserve said that the Massachusetts economy is faring better than 48 other states.
- CNBC ranked Massachusetts the 8th best state in which to do business.

Is it true that the government payroll is growing?

- The size of the state payroll is smaller today than when the Governor took office
- The administration has eliminated 2,000 state jobs, and has also imposed furloughs for most state workers.
- The Governor has also consolidated numerous state agencies, eliminating inefficiencies and reduced waste.

He wants to increase our taxes...

- While the previous Republican administration implemented nearly a billion dollars a year in fee and tax increases and proposed hundreds of millions more, Governor Patrick dealt with a \$9 billion deficit by making difficult decisions that will make Massachusetts stronger in the long run.
- Though the Governor proposed a different approach to closing last year's budget deficit, he only supported the sales tax increase in return for approval of major pension reform, ethics reform, and transportation reform legislation, saving the state billions in the long run.

He hasn't decreased my property taxes...

- The Governor's first major legislative proposal was the Municipal Partnership Act, providing ways for cities to raise revenue and cut costs, and thus stabilizing property taxes. Most of these proposals were passed, and are part of the Governor's long-term solution to high property taxes.
- While the Governor and legislature have worked hard to keep municipal aid intact in the face of the global economic recession, they have found it impossible to fund the kind of increase to aid to cities and towns that would significantly lower property taxes. The Governor is still committed to fighting for lower property taxes.

I'm concerned about gambling proposals...

- Governor Patrick supported creating up to three resort casinos in order to create jobs. \$1.4 billion of Massachusetts taxpayer money is spent at casinos in Connecticut and Rhode Island – dollars and jobs better spent in our state.
- Resort casinos would bring in dining, lodging, and entertainment dollars as well as jobs.
- The Governor understands that there is a human cost as well, and is not in favor of slots at racetracks, which make gambling overly convenient yet do not produce the jobs and tourism benefits that resorts do.

He hasn't done enough to reform state government...

- In just three years, he has implemented landmark pension reform, transportation reform, and ethics reform.
- The Governor eliminated the Turnpike Authority, reorganized the executive branch, cut the timeline to approve transportation projects from six months to 90 days, and streamlined business permits.
- The Governor recognizes that the work is not done – tackling entrenched interests is hard, and is ongoing.

Where has he been?

- The Governor and Lt. Governor Murray have been out listening to and meeting with the public. The two, as well as key cabinet secretaries, have regularly hosted town halls and budget forums around the state.
- Governor Patrick is truly Governor of the whole Commonwealth. As the *Boston Globe* noted in an August 2009 article, "Patrick, who vowed to be the governor of the whole state, spends a large amount of time outside of Boston, particularly in Western Massachusetts."

So why don't people know all this?

- This is why we need our field organization to be strong. As people get their information from an increasing diversity of sources, we need your help in getting word to your networks, and encouraging them to do the same.