



THE SPARK

Inform.
Inspire.
Engage.

WHY WE MUST VOTE IN NOVEMBER 7TH'S SPECIAL STATE ELECTION

Did you know that of the 40 seats in our State Senate only 3 are held by Republicans? And in the House only 25 of the 160 seats are in the hands of Republicans? The consequences of the Democrat Supermajority in our State Legislature couldn't be more dire. They vote in lockstep, often against the best interests of the citizens as we labor under increasingly burdensome taxes and regulations. They are masters at Getting Out The Vote and it is time we do the same.

Make your voice heard and VOTE on Tuesday, November 7th!

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BEACON HILL HAPPENINGS

By Kimberly N. Ferguson

Republican State Representative
First Assistant Minority Leader

It is my pleasure to write a brief update on **Beacon Hill Happenings** for my constituents in Holden. As many of you know, we are constantly moving from one "hot item" to another in Boston. From a \$56 billion annual budget, to drivers' licenses for noncitizens, to extreme firearms legislation, there is always something going on and a battle to be fought.

A comprehensive tax package (H4104) was voted on and passed 155-1 in the House on September 27th. An excellent breakdown of what is in the bill can be found in the Mass Taxpayer Foundation's summary at [masstaxpayers.org/tax-relief-compromise-bill](https://www.masstaxpayers.org/tax-relief-compromise-bill).

Additionally, "An Act Modernizing Firearms Laws" (H4135) was passed in the House 120-38 on October 18th - the third version of the proposal in as many months. This bill appears to do nothing to remove illegal guns off our streets, but instead imposes further restrictions on lawful gun owners. I was part of a very vocal minority, outlining many concerns with the bill, but it is now off to the Senate to either build on this proposal or create its own bill. Stay tuned on this one!

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**It is now unlawful
to play Yahtzee with squirrels**



NOTICE: MA DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Two bills that are currently before the State Legislature, H.605 and S.1391, are the antithesis of DESE's diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and goals. Both would expel from public and private schools children of religious families whose sincere religious beliefs conflict with vaccination mandates. Massachusetts should be ashamed that these discriminatory, intolerant and inequitable bills have been proposed. Discrimination against a marginalized religious minority (roughly 2% of families in Massachusetts) should not exist in Massachusetts.

Please let your elected representatives know that you oppose both H.605 and S.1391.

FERGUSON - STATE REP

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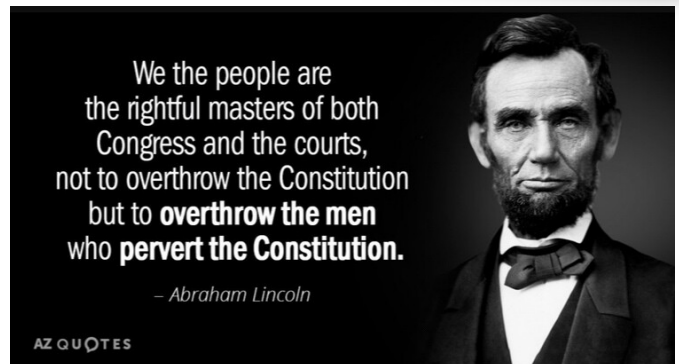
Please check out malegislature.gov frequently to stay up-to-date on topics such as budgets, upcoming hearings and pending bills. You can also watch live sessions and public hearings. It's a great resource for researching elected officials.

Another informative website to explore is statehousenews.com. Many articles are behind a paywall, but just checking the headlines on their home page can be very enlightening.

It is an honor to represent the people of the 1st Worcester District. I am proud to work as your State Representative, and with over 35,000 individuals and businesses to represent, my days are very busy and challenging indeed. Yet I am thankful for the opportunity to represent my constituents and the people across the Commonwealth who want to be heard.

Thank you for your involvement and your support, and God Bless.

kimberly.ferguson@mahouse.gov



MA 4 Voter ID.org

The right to vote is among the most sacred rights we have as Americans. It is fundamental to our democracy. And, this right must be protected.

One way is to ensure election integrity and follow the law.

Why the VOTER ID Law is important!

1. It increases confidence and credibility in the election process.
2. It helps eliminate identity theft.
3. It assures that the person casting a vote is verified as the person on the voter list.
4. It enables people without a Voter ID to sign an affidavit attesting to identity, residency and citizenship.
5. It provides a voter identification process for individuals who vote by mail.
6. It acknowledges the priceless value of a vote that determines governance by *we the people*.
7. This law is widely supported by Republicans, Democrats and Independent (unenrolled) voters.
8. Voter identification laws are already in effect in 35 other states.
9. Voter identification laws are already in effect in 46 European countries.
10. It helps to ensure the continuation of our freedom.



Join Us!

Email: MA4voterID@gmail.com
Call: 413-ID-VOTES (438-6837)

Leave your name, phone number, email address, and your town.
Your support is needed now!

KEEP THE SPARK ALIVE!

If you would like to see this monthly newsletter continue please consider subscribing to the email version at thesparkforholden@gmail.com and/or by making a donation by check to HRTC, PO Box 63, Holden MA 01520

Thank you for your support!

Peter Durant

State Senate



HEAD TO THE POLLS FOR THE SPECIAL STATE ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
VOTE for Republican Peter Durant to be the next State Senator
for the Worcester & Hampshire Senate District

DurantForStateSenate.com Peter@DurantForStateSenate.com

State Representative Peter Durant is a lifelong resident of Spencer, Massachusetts. Throughout his career in public service, he has earned a reputation as a defender of the taxpayer and as an advocate for small businesses.

Now in his 12th year as a State Representative, Peter serves as the Ranking Member on both the Joint Committee on the Judiciary and the House Post Audit and Oversight Committee.

These committees investigate pressing issues within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including high-profile cases like the tragic incidents within the Department of Veteran Services.

Throughout his tenure, Peter has consistently stood up for taxpayers, earning a perfect score from Citizens for Limited Taxation, and a 100% rating for supporting small businesses from the National Federation of Independent Business.

Peter owned a small business and worked as a construction manager for over 20 years.

PETER'S PRIORITIES:

LOWER YOUR TAX BURDEN

Will work to hold the line against new taxes and reduce the sales tax back to 5 percent.

AFFORDABILITY

Will work to lower the cost of utilities, oppose open road tolling and new tolls, reduce fees, oppose transfer taxes, and stop endless government regulations.

STRENGTHEN PUBLIC SAFETY

Fully supports law enforcement and will continue to stand with them and victims - not convicted criminals.

GROW OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Will reduce the corporate filing fees for new businesses, will work to revitalize downtown areas, and will require accountability of state agencies.

TRANSPARENCY AT THE STATE HOUSE

Will end the legislative exemption from open meeting and records laws, and require public hearings on all tax bills.

HOLDEN TOWN CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	1	1	1	2	3	4
			Real Estate Taxes Due FinCom 6:30			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	BOS 6:30 Town Hall	ELECTION DAY VOTE!	FinCom 6:30		VETERANS DAY Observed	VETERANS DAY
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	WRSD School Cttee 7:00		HRTC 7pm Sr Ctr FinCom 6:30			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	BOS 6:30 Town Hall		FinCom 6:30	THANKSGIVING DAY		
26	27	28	23	24	25	26
			FinCom 6:30			
27	28	29	30	Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Recycling weeks are shown in dark grey.		
			FinCom 6:30			

MEETING LOCATIONS:

Board of Selectmen (BOS) Town Hall on the 2nd floor.

Finance Committee (FinCom) Municipal Light Dept. on the ground floor

WRSD School Committee High School library

Town Clerk: Jeanne Hudson
(508) 210-5530

www.holdenma.gov/town-clerk

BOS Chairman: Stephanie Mulroy
(508) 210-5501

www.holdenma.gov/board-of-selectmen

FinCom Chairman: Paul Challenger
(508) 210-5501

www.holdenma.gov/finance-committee

WRSD Superintendent: Dr. James Reilly
508-829-1670

james_reilly@wrsd.net

School Committee Chairman: Scott Runstrom

Holden School Committee Members:

Jana Brennan, Maleah Gustafson,
George Kaminski, Laura Kirshenbaum,
Linda Long-Bellil, Shannon Poole,
Lauren Salmon-Garrett, Asima Silva

The Spark for Holden is sponsored by the Holden Republican Town Committee (HRTC).
Please send your questions, comments and suggestions to thesparkforholden@gmail.com.

The Spark for Holden
PO Box 172
Holden, MA 01520