

PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION: TOP 20 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

People inside and outside of the Patrick-Murray Administration were asked to offer the top three accomplishments of the Patrick-Murray Administration to date—this is a compilation of the top 20.

① making Massachusetts a national leader on clean energy

Joined the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.
Worked with Legislature to develop comprehensive energy and advanced biofuels legislation to help consumers deal with the rising cost of fossil fuels.
Passed a first-in-the-nation comprehensive oceans bill for our state waters.
Approved the final state environmental review for Cape Wind.
Launched Commonwealth Solar rebate program to spur installation of solar electric power.

② marriage equality for all Massachusetts residents

③ \$1 billion life science initiative

Worked with the Legislature to position Massachusetts as a world leader in the emerging biotechnology industry, create thousands of new jobs, help develop life-saving new cures, and establish an international stem cell bank.

④ the readiness project

Developed a grassroots coalition to bring global standards to all students, close the achievement gap, and build upon the lessons learned from the past 15 years of education reform.
Made the strongest investment in education in state history, and expanded early childhood education, extended learning opportunities and higher education funding.
Created a Secretary of Education for increased accountability and leadership.

⑤ civic engagement

Created Commonwealth Corps to further civic engagement throughout the state, expanded the SERV Program, developed a Statewide Youth Council, instituted Park Serve Day and the Offices of Civic Engagement and Public Liaison.

⑥ successfully implemented health care reform

providing health insurance for 340,000 previously uninsured residents and making Massachusetts a national leader in providing health care coverage.

⑦ closed corporate tax loopholes

froze the unemployment insurance rate and lowered the business tax rate for 15,000-20,000 small and mid-sized Massachusetts companies.

⑧ increasing access to state government

increased the number of women and people of color serving in state government and on boards and commissions, established the Access and Opportunity Initiative as a central coordinating point for accessing state government provided for constituent services on-line and improved accessibility via the web.

⑨ foreclosure prevention initiatives

Established best-in-the-nation practices to deal with the foreclosure crisis, including a 90-day “right to cure” cooling off-period to help residents stay in their homes.
Initiated a process to apply the Community Reinvestment Act to some of the state’s largest lenders in order to hold them accountable.

⑩ a concerted commitment to job creation

Over 15,000 new jobs created, 8th in job creation in the country for the first quarter of 2008.
Streamlined state permitting processes to spur job creation.
Development of regional growth districts to spur regional economy.
Ninety-day economic stimulus plan to help protect Massachusetts from national economic downturn.
Worked with the Legislature to pass the film tax credit resulting in over \$630 million in new economic activity.

⑪ instituting real reforms and long-term change

Introduced managed competition in auto insurance to lower rates and provide more choices.
Instituted significant management reforms at the Turnpike Authority, saving \$14 million.
Fought to institute long-term savings by asking state employees to contribute more for their health insurance contributions based on an ability to pay.
Major reforms in transportation policy, including reducing the average time to complete projects from 10 years to 5.8 and developing a policy for using civilian flaggers on road projects.
Significantly reduced the backlog at the state crime lab and instituted reforms that helped law enforcement solve more crimes.

⑫ making our communities safer

Increased the number of police officers on the streets, expanded Shannon grants, DPH anti-violence grants, and summer jobs programs to support law enforcement and crime prevention efforts, and established the Governor's Statewide Anti-Crime Council. Filed legislation for CORI reform, post-release supervision and to limit gun purchases to one per month.

⑬ after 16 years of neglect, made long-term investments in our roads and bridges

through passage of a \$3.5 billion transportation bond bill and the development of a \$3 billion program to repair over 400 structurally deficient bridges across the state. Brought coordination to the many transportation agencies through the Massachusetts Mobility Compact, and instituted the 511 Traveler Information System, which gets 50,000 calls each month.

⑭ first-ever five-year capital spending plan

supported by national bond rating agencies to ensure fiscal responsibility and long-term planning and investment, and filed \$16 billion in bond bills to invest in public infrastructure.

⑮ governor of the whole state

opening a western Massachusetts office and convening cabinet, Anti-Crime Council, and Readiness meetings around the state. Filed legislation to deliver universal broadband access across the Commonwealth.

⑯ passed parts of the municipal partnership act

to give cities and towns the relief they need from skyrocketing health care and pension costs.

⑰ appointed reform-minded leaders

and established responsive, accountable management in historically challenging agencies like DSS, DCR, Department of Corrections, Division of Insurance, and the Turnpike Authority. Established the first Child Welfare Advocate.

⑱ moving an agenda to affirm human dignity

Extended the buffer zone to protect the safety of women seeking reproductive health services, secured \$10 million to help end homelessness in Massachusetts, and made major improvements in food stamp eligibility and processing.
Rejected federal abstinence-only funding, and overturned Gov. Romney's stem-cell regulations.
Signed legislation that enhances workers' freedom of choice in deciding whether to join unions.
Developed a New Americans Agenda to support the role of immigrants in our state.
Creation of an Advisory Council on Veterans Services, chaired by the Lieutenant Governor, to coordinate and improve services to our military veterans.

⑲ investing in the state's DC office

which helped with the state's response to the Uxbridge fire, fisheries aid, the hunger summit, the Medicaid waiver, CyberCommand, and federal grants.

⑳ governor's role as the state's chief salesperson

including a trade mission to China, a trip to California to attract biotech companies, personal calls to CEOs, an increased role for the Governor's Development Cabinet, and a strengthened MA Office of Business Development.

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