



THE OFFICE OF  
**GOVERNOR MAURA T. HEALEY**  
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## **Governor Healey Signs Executive Order, Releases Updated State Plan for Supporting Older Adults in Massachusetts**

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**PLYMOUTH, MA** — Today, Governor Healey signed an [\*\*Executive Order\*\*](#) and released a new age-friendly state plan which will outline improved ways for Massachusetts agencies to serve older adults, following feedback gathered from across the state. In recognition of Older Americans Month, Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll and Aging & Independence Secretary Robin Lipson visited the Plymouth Center for Active Living to discuss how communities across the state can implement the new state plan.

The Executive Order directs all offices across the executive branch to identify areas where age-friendly policies and practices can be embedded in their work to improve the health and wellbeing of aging adults in Massachusetts. The Executive Order also establishes a Governor's Advisory Group on Age-Friendly Policies and Practices to gather stakeholder and expert input on relevant areas such as transportation, housing, regional planning, economic security, retirement and other issues affecting older adults and aging populations.

“Massachusetts isn't just the best state to go to school or start your career – it's also the best state to retire and live your happiest, healthiest life. But we know that far too many of our older residents are facing challenges, especially with affordability, housing and health care,” said **Governor Maura Healey**. “To help ensure older adults in Massachusetts can live longer, healthier lives on their own terms, we are taking steps to make Massachusetts even more age- and dementia-friendly. We want all of our residents, as well as those who are making decisions about where to spend their retirement, to know that we are working every day to make life easier and more affordable for people of all ages.”

“1.7 million adults over the age of 60 call Massachusetts home — nearly a quarter of our population,” said **Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll**. “Our administration is committed to making our state more affordable, competitive and equitable, and a key piece of that strategy is to empower our residents to make the best decisions for themselves when it comes to work, retirement and living a happy and healthy life right here in Massachusetts.”

Additionally, Governor Healey today unveiled the state's updated age- and dementia-friendly state plan, which provides a framework for both communities and state agencies to guide their age- and dementia-friendly actions for the next five years. "ReiMAgine Aging 2030: The Massachusetts Plan" articulates the state's vision and aspirations for growing older in Massachusetts. The plan, which includes an in-depth analysis of the state's aging population, identifies challenges older residents face when aging in Massachusetts. Additionally, the plan outlines strategies and specific actions that state agencies, local communities, community-based organizations, and the private sector can implement to ensure Massachusetts continues to be a great place for everyone to grow old.

The plan has been updated from the previous 2019 plan to reflect the most current priorities, needs, and aspirations of Massachusetts communities. This refreshed plan was developed with significant community and stakeholder input. Throughout 2024, the state hosted a series of community listening sessions to understand our residents' priorities for the future. The following goals emerged from these sessions:

1. **Economic Opportunity & Security:** Every older individual across Massachusetts can meet their basic financial needs
2. **People & Communities:** Older adults and families are empowered decision makers with meaningful connections to their communities
3. **Places & Spaces:** Natural and built environments enhance older adults' mobility and livability
4. **Health & Wellness:** Older adults have optimal health for a high quality of life
5. **Aging in All Policies:** All local, regional, and statewide policies consider the implications for older adults
6. **Information, Communication & Framing:** Information is broadly accessible and reframes aging to value older adults

"Since Massachusetts released its first age-friendly plan five years ago, the Commonwealth – and country – have changed significantly, and some of the needs and goals of our older residents have changed with it," said **Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh**. "As we spoke to older adults to create this plan, we learned what matters most to today's residents: serving them in their communities whenever possible, clear and effective communication, preventative care and mental health resources. This new plan is a guide to help us accomplish that."

"This plan is a fantastic resource for our municipalities and regional agencies to refer to when applying for age-friendly grants," said **Aging and Independence Secretary Robin Lipson**.

“The Healey-Driscoll Administration and legislature continue to increase investments to Councils on Aging and senior centers, enabling our communities to innovate and expand their age-friendly actions. Our hope is that this plan will be used as a roadmap to guide these projects.”

“With 47% of Plymouth’s population aged 50 and older—compared to approximately 38% statewide—it is essential that we remain dedicated to initiatives that support older adults in our community,” states **Plymouth Town Manager Derek Brindisi**. “We appreciate the ongoing commitment of the Healey-Driscoll administration to fostering age-friendly policies that enhance the quality of life for Plymouth’s seniors.”

The purpose of this plan is to align the partners around a shared vision and provide a framework for our efforts over the next five years (2025-2030). A full digital version of the plan was also launched today and can be accessed [here](#).

Earlier this year, Massachusetts [was named](#) the top destination for older adults moving to a new state specifically for retirement in 2024.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has prioritized investments to make life more affordable for and improve the health and wellbeing of older residents, including:

- Governor Healey signed the state’s first tax cuts in 20 years, which included [doubling the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit](#). Under this expansion, seniors were eligible to receive up to \$2,730 this year. The tax cuts package also created the most generous Child and Family Tax Credit in the country, which provides families with \$440 per dependent, including those who are 65 and older.
- Governor Healey signed legislation that she had proposed to rename the [Executive Office of Elder Affairs to the Executive Office of Aging & Independence](#) to better represent and reflect the values of older adults in Massachusetts.
- Governor Healey increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 the maximum property tax abatement available to seniors who perform volunteer services.
- Each year since Governor Healey took office, she and the Legislature have increased funding to Councils on Aging.
- [Governor Healey expanded Medicare Saving Program](#) eligibility to allow more older residents to take advantage of benefits and save money on health care costs. The new guidelines allow for more Massachusetts residents to enroll in the program and save up to \$3,000 per year.

- Earlier this year, [\*\*the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \\$5.8M in grants\*\*](#) to expand mobility for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals. Many grant recipients were Councils on Aging and/or Aging Services Access Points.

### **Statements of Support:**

#### **Senator Patricia D. Jehlen (D-Middlesex):**

"I am encouraged by the steps Governor Healey, Secretary Lipson, and Secretary Walsh have taken to highlight issues of aging across many of our agencies in order to help us all age with dignity, purpose, and access to quality care, housing and services."

#### **Senator Dylan A. Fernandes (D- Plymouth and Barnstable):**

"Massachusetts is taking real action to make sure people can grow older with dignity, purpose, and the support they need. The updated State Plan on Aging, the Governor's Executive Order, and the new public awareness campaign all show our commitment to making the Commonwealth the best place for our neighbors to age and live well. Here in Plymouth, the Center for Active Living sets a powerful example of how communities can support older adults in staying healthy, independent, and connected. I'm proud to support this work and the local leaders who bring it to life every day."

#### **Representative Michelle Badger (D-Plymouth):**

"As a town with more than 40% of residents over the age of 50, achieving dementia-friendly status is a meaningful step that reflects Plymouth's shared commitment to building supportive, inclusive communities where people can age with dignity, connection, and the care they need. To truly serve our aging population, towns and policymakers must embed age-friendly practices into everyday decision-making process—such as expanding affordable and accessible housing, ensuring safe pedestrian infrastructure, increasing access to transportation options, and integrating social engagement and caregiver support programs into community planning."

#### **Representative Kathleen R. LaNatra (D-Kingston):**

"It is critical that we as policymakers work to create a Commonwealth that better serves the needs of our older residents. Massachusetts should be a place where older residents can remain active members of their community for as long as they wish. This means improving affordability, creating more housing options for older adults, ensuring access to high-quality services, and making Massachusetts more accessible and welcoming for those with dementia. I am proud of the work local communities like Plymouth are doing in this space, the work of the Legislature, and am thankful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration for making critical investments into ensuring that older adults can continue to thrive in Massachusetts."

**Representative Thomas M. Stanley (D-Waltham):**

“I commend the Healey-Driscoll administration for taking these important steps to ensure the Commonwealth continues to support our aging population. Promoting age- and dementia-friendly policies and practices benefits us all, not just older adults.”

**James Fuccione, Executive Director, Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative:**

“Community voices from across Massachusetts drove this plan, which builds on years of incredible, innovative practices and policies at the state, regional and local levels that support older adults. Alongside our statewide, cross-sector network of partners, this plan will continue to empower communities and stakeholders to advance inclusive age and dementia friendly initiatives. We are grateful to the Governor and the Executive Office of Aging and Independence for their commitment and leadership in continuing to make Massachusetts a great place to grow up and grow old.”

**Caitlin Coyle PhD, Director, Center for Social & Demographic Research on Aging, Gerontology Institute and Michelle Putnam PhD, Director, Gerontology Institute:**

“For more than a decade, Massachusetts has been a national leader in advancing age-friendly communities. At the Gerontology Institute, we've proudly partnered with over 85 cities and towns across the Commonwealth—engaging residents, informing local decision-making, and supporting grassroots efforts to build communities where people of all ages can thrive. We've had the privilege of serving as both a thought partner within Massachusetts on issues like financial security, social isolation and access to services and a global translator of the innovative work happening here. This new plan represents a major milestone. It reflects the systems-level changes that now ensure residents at all life stages are both considered and celebrated. It's a testament to the hard work taking place in neighborhoods, senior centers, and town halls across the state. And it sends a powerful message to residents of all ages: in Massachusetts, growing older is not just expected—it's something to look forward to.”

**Beth Chandler, Executive Director, Point32Health Foundation:**

“As we ReIMAgine Aging for 2030, we build on the past successes of community organizations who are improving accessibility, affordability and connection for older adults every day. The strategies outlined in Massachusetts' updated age- and dementia-friendly plan set the stage for continued investment in the systems that make the commonwealth a great place to grow up and grow old. On behalf of Point32Health Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Tufts Health Plan, I would like to sincerely thank the community members and team who helped bring this plan to fruition.”

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