

LAWRENCE INFORMATIVO - ULTIMA HORA

SINDICATO POLICIAL PIDE
RENUNCIA DEL ALCALDE
BRIAN DEPENA





15 NUEVOS CARGOS ESTATALES

- 14 por distribución de comunicación intervenida
- 1 por intimidación de testigos

11 CARGOS FEDERALES PREVIOS

- Total 26 cargos

Presunción de inocencia - Acusaciones deben resolverse en tribunales

Radio Jibara / Maxima FM - Lawrence MA

Policía toma acción contra mopeds

El Departamento de Policía de Lawrence continúa tomando medidas proactivas para abordar la conducción temeraria e ilegal de motocicletas todoterreno (dirt bikes) y ciclomotores de gasolina en toda nuestra comunidad.

Agentes asignados al Grupo de Trabajo de Calidad de Vida (Quality-of-Life Task Force), en colaboración con miembros de la División de Patrulla, llevaron a cabo un operativo específico en respuesta a la creciente preocupación de la comunidad.

Targeted Enforcement Operation: Reckless Moped Activity

Pg. 2

The Lawrence Police Department continues to take proactive steps to address the reckless and illegal operation of dirt bikes and gas-powered mopeds throughout our community.

Officers assigned to the Quality-of-Life Task Force, working alongside

members of the Patrol Division, conducted a targeted operation in response to growing community concerns. Incidents involving the reckless operation of these vehicles have been associated with disturbances, dangerous driving, armed robberies, and reports of shots fired.

(Read it in English on page 2)

Declaración del Alcalde Brian A. DePeña Sobre los recientes cargos federales y estatales

A los residentes de la gran Ciudad de Lawrence, a nuestros dedicados empleados municipales y a los miembros de los medios de comunicación: Me dirijo a ustedes con respecto a los recientes cargos federales y estatales que se han presentado en mi contra.

Después de considerarlo cuidadosamente, quiero dejar claro que no voy a renunciar a mi posición como Alcalde de la Ciudad de Lawrence. Fui elegido por el pueblo de esta ciudad para servir como su Alcalde, y tengo la intención de continuar cumpliendo con las responsabilidades que me fueron confiadas y servir hasta el final de mi período.

Los cargos federales están relacionados con asuntos personales que involucran mis actividades comerciales y conductas que ocurrieron antes de que asumiera mis funciones como Alcalde de la Ciudad de Lawrence. Estos asuntos son independientes de mis responsabilidades y deberes como Alcalde.

Respeto el proceso judicial y el principio fundamental de que toda persona se presume inocente hasta que se demuestre su culpabilidad en un tribunal de justicia. Estoy preparado para enfrentar estas acusaciones a través del proceso legal correspondiente y defenderme firmemente de los cargos presentados en mi contra.

Mientras estos procedimientos legales continúan, mi enfoque permanece en el pueblo de Lawrence y en el trabajo de nuestro gobierno municipal. Mi administración continuará proporcionando servicios esenciales, atendiendo las necesidades de nuestros residentes y negocios, y avanzando con el importante trabajo que se está realizando en toda nuestra comunidad.

Entiendo que los residentes, los empleados municipales y miembros de nuestra comunidad puedan tener preguntas e inquietudes. Les pido a todos que permitan que el proceso judicial siga su curso y que recuerden que una acusación no constituye una condena.

Sigo comprometido con servir al pueblo de Lawrence, trabajar junto a nuestros dedicados empleados municipales y cumplir con las responsabilidades del cargo para el cual fui elegido.

Gracias a los residentes de Lawrence por la confianza que han depositado en mí y por darme la oportunidad de servir a esta gran ciudad.

Brian A. DePeña
Mayor, City of Lawrence

Esperanza Academy Open House

Dear Community Partners,

Help us spread the word! A new building. A new chapter. The same commitment to our girls.

Esperanza Academy is excited to welcome a new generation of girls for the 2026–2027 school year. Our incoming 5th and 6th graders will begin their Esperanza journey in our brand-new home on North Canal Street in Lawrence! As a tuition-free, independent all-girls middle school serving grades 5–8, we are committed to educating the whole girl by nurturing academic excellence, confidence, leadership, belonging, joy, and purpose. Our community is rooted in Justice. Joy. Love. Belonging. Excellence.

If you know a family with a daughter entering 5th or 6th grade in 2026–2027, please share our information. The next generation of Esperanza girls will enter our new building, and we are excited to welcome them!

Mis afectos,

Delia Durán-Clark, Principal

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Operación de Control Selectiva: Conducción Temeraria de Ciclomotores



El Departamento de Policía de Lawrence continúa tomando medidas proactivas para abordar la conducción temeraria e ilegal de motocicletas todoterreno (dirt bikes) y ciclomotores de gasolina en toda nuestra comunidad.

Agentes asignados al Grupo de Trabajo de Calidad de Vida (Quality-of-Life Task Force), en colaboración con miembros de la División de Patrulla, llevaron a cabo un operativo específico en respuesta a la creciente preocupación de la comunidad. Los incidentes relacionados con la conducción temeraria de estos vehículos se han asociado con alteraciones del orden público, conducción peligrosa, robos a mano armada y reportes de disparos.

Mientras patrullaban la concurrida zona de South Broadway, los agentes observaron un grupo numeroso de ciclomotores que circulaban a gran velocidad, zigzagueando entre el tráfico y realizando maniobras con la rueda delantera levantada (wheelies) en

la vía pública, creando así condiciones peligrosas para automovilistas, peatones y el público en general.

Mientras los agentes vigilaban al grupo, cinco conductores se separaron y se dirigieron a un negocio cercano. Los agentes intervinieron como parte de una respuesta coordinada. Los individuos intentaron huir, pero finalmente fueron detenidos.

Los cinco individuos fueron arrestados y acusados de conducción temeraria de un vehículo de motor.

El Departamento de Policía de Lawrence mantiene su compromiso de proteger la seguridad y el bienestar de nuestra comunidad. Seguiremos realizando operativos de fiscalización específicos para abordar las conductas temerarias y otras actividades que amenacen la seguridad pública y la calidad de vida en Lawrence.

Nuestras calles son para todos. Conduzca con responsabilidad. Mantenga a Lawrence seguro.

Targeted Enforcement Operation: Reckless Moped Activity

The Lawrence Police Department continues to take proactive steps to address the reckless and illegal operation of dirt bikes and gas-powered mopeds throughout our community.

Officers assigned to the Quality-of-Life Task Force, working alongside members of the Patrol Division, conducted a targeted operation in response to growing community concerns. Incidents involving the reckless operation of these vehicles have been associated with disturbances, dangerous driving, armed robberies, and reports of shots fired.

While patrolling the busy South Broadway area, officers observed a large group of mopeds traveling at high speeds, weaving through traffic, and performing wheelies on public roads, creating dangerous conditions for motorists, pedestrians, and the general

public.

As officers monitored the group, five riders separated and pulled into a nearby business. Officers moved in as part of a coordinated response. The individuals attempted to flee but were ultimately taken into custody.

Officers arrested all five individuals and charged them with Reckless Operation of a Motor Vehicle.

The Lawrence Police Department remains committed to protecting our community's safety and security. We will continue conducting targeted enforcement operations to address reckless behavior and other activities that threaten public safety and the quality of life in Lawrence.

Our streets are for everyone. Ride responsibly. Drive responsibly. Keep Lawrence safe.

Statement from Mayor Brian A. DePeña Regarding Recent Federal and State Charges

To the residents of the great City of Lawrence, our City employees, and members of the media: I am addressing the recent federal and state charges that have been brought against me.

After careful consideration, I want to make clear that I will not be resigning from my position as Mayor of the City of Lawrence. I was elected to serve the people of this City, and I intend to continue fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to me and serving the remainder of my term in office.

The federal charges relate to personal matters involving my business activities and conduct that predates my service as Mayor of the City of Lawrence. These matters are separate from my responsibilities and duties as Mayor.

I respect the judicial process and the principle that every person is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law. I am prepared to address these allegations through the proper legal process and to vigorously defend myself against the charges.

While these legal proceedings move forward, my focus remains on the people of Lawrence and on the work of the City. My administration will continue to provide essential services, address the needs of our residents and businesses, and move forward with the important work taking place throughout our community.

I understand that residents, employees, and members of the community may have questions and concerns. I ask everyone to allow the judicial process to take its course and to recognize that allegations are not convictions.

I remain committed to serving the people of Lawrence, working with our City employees, and carrying out the responsibilities of the office to which I was elected.

Thank you to the residents of Lawrence for allowing me the opportunity to serve this great City.

Brian A. DePeña
Mayor, City of Lawrence

Fire victims / Víctimas de incendios

When a fire occurs in Lawrence, usually many families are left homeless and in need of everything. Please contact Heal Lawrence if you wish to make a contribution to the victims. The website has a list of items and things that are needed as well as victims' names, ages, sizes, etc. but they suggest giving them gift cards to grocery stores and department stores in any denomination.

Cuando un incendio ocurre en Lawrence, por lo regular muchas familias se quedan sin hogar y necesitados de todo. Favor de ponerse en contacto con Heal Lawrence si desea hacer una contribución a las víctimas. El sitio en la internet tiene una lista de artículos que necesitan así como nombres, edades, tallas, etc. de las víctimas pero ellos sugieren que les compren tarjetas de mercados o tiendas por departamentos de cualquier denominación.

<http://heallawrence.org/>

heallawrence@aol.com



Desde Mi Esquina

POR DALIA DÍAZ

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Deberes del alcalde y del Concejo Municipal

Lawrence necesita rendición de cuentas, no obediencia ciega.

El alcalde Brian DePeña ha sido mi amigo personal desde su llegada a Lawrence. Escribir de manera crítica sobre su administración resulta doloroso, pero la amistad no puede prevalecer sobre la responsabilidad pública. Como periodistas, debemos publicar la verdad, respaldar nuestras afirmaciones con pruebas y exigir la rendición de cuentas a los funcionarios electos.

Esta columna examina las responsabilidades del alcalde y del Concejo Municipal según la Carta Constitutiva de la ciudad de Lawrence, y plantea por qué nuestra ciudad sigue enfrentando turbulencias, una mala gestión y crecientes críticas públicas.

A mi juicio, ambas ramas de gobierno deben asumir su responsabilidad. El alcalde debe administrar la ciudad con competencia, y el Concejo Municipal debe ejercer su autoridad en lugar de seguir ciegamente las decisiones del alcalde.

El alcalde no puede actuar por sí solo

La Sección 4.3 de la Carta Constitutiva establece: *“El alcalde nombrará a todos los funcionarios municipales, jefes de departamento, directores y miembros de organismos colegiados para los cuales la Carta no prevea otro método de nombramiento o selección [...] Salvo en el caso de los nombramientos para organismos colegiados, todos los nombramientos realizados por el alcalde —a menos que se disponga lo contrario— estarán sujetos a revisión y confirmación por parte del Concejo Municipal, conforme a lo establecido en la Sección 3.7”.*

El principio es claro: cuando se requiere la confirmación del Concejo, la elección del alcalde no es automáticamente definitiva.

Los concejales deben evaluar de manera independiente las cualificaciones, la experiencia y la capacidad de los candidatos para desempeñar sus funciones. Deben formular preguntas y determinar si un nombramiento es en el mejor interés de la ciudad. El Concejo Municipal no está para limitarse a aprobar automáticamente las decisiones del alcalde.

Cuando los jefes de departamento carecen de las cualificaciones necesarias o de habilidades de gestión, los empleados pierden la confianza, la moral se deteriora y, en última instancia, los residentes son quienes sufren las consecuencias.

La Carta también aborda los nombramientos temporales: *“Siempre que se produzca una vacante, ya sea temporal o permanente, en un cargo municipal y las necesidades de la ciudad requieran cubrir dicho puesto, el alcalde podrá designar al jefe de otra dependencia municipal, o a un funcionario o empleado municipal, para que desempeñe las funciones del cargo de manera temporal hasta que este pueda cubrirse según lo dispuesto en la Carta, la ley o las ordenanzas”.* Esta disposición plantea una pregunta importante: ¿se están utilizando adecuadamente los nombramientos temporales o se están convirtiendo en una forma de eludir los procedimientos establecidos?

Cuando un nombramiento requiere la confirmación del Concejo, la administración debe cumplir con las normas aplicables. Los concejales no deben guardar silencio cuando surjan dudas legítimas sobre si dichas normas se han cumplido.

Liderar significa corregir errores

La Sección 4.5, relativa a la destitución de funcionarios, establece: *“El alcalde podrá destituir a cualquier persona nombrada en virtud de la Sección 4.3, con sujeción a lo dispuesto en la Sección 3.7(b) de esta Carta Constitutiva”.*

Liderar implica más que realizar nombramientos; también significa reconocer errores y tomar medidas correctivas.

Consideremos el caso de Caryl García, directora de recursos humanos de la ciudad. Su nombramiento implicaba un contrato de tres años, sujeto a una condición vinculada a la realización de cursos relacionados con sus responsabilidades. Las dudas sobre el cumplimiento de dicho requisito merecen una respuesta.

El departamento de recursos humanos es fundamental. Su dirección repercute en las relaciones laborales, en la moral de la plantilla y en la confianza que los empleados municipales depositan en su administración. He escuchado serias preocupaciones sobre cómo García gestiona las relaciones con los empleados y el impacto que esto tiene en el ambiente de trabajo del Ayuntamiento.

Si no se han cumplido los requisitos contractuales o si una directora no está desempeñando sus funciones adecuadamente, el alcalde debería abordar la situación de manera apropiada. Si se contempla la posibilidad de renovar su contrato, la ciudadanía merece saber por qué.

La responsabilidad de un líder no consiste en defender todas las decisiones anteriores, sino en corregir los problemas cuando surgen.

El Concejo Municipal debe ejercer su autoridad

La Sección 3.5(a) de la Carta Constitutiva establece: *“Las facultades legislativas de la ciudad serán ejercidas por el concejo municipal conforme a sus propias normas, salvo que la ley o la Carta Constitutiva dispongan otra cosa”.*

(Cont. en la página 7)

From My Corner

BY DALIA DÍAZ

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Duties of the Mayor and the City Council

Lawrence needs accountability, not blind obedience.

Mayor Brian DePeña has been a personal friend of mine since his arrival in Lawrence. Writing critically about his administration is painful, but friendship cannot take precedence over public responsibility. As journalists, we must publish the truth, support our statements with evidence, and hold elected officials accountable.

This column examines the responsibilities of the mayor and the City Council under the Lawrence City Charter and asks why our city continues to face turmoil, mismanagement, and growing public criticism.

In my view, both branches of government must accept responsibility. The mayor must manage the city competently, and the City Council must exercise its authority rather than blindly follow his lead.

The Mayor Cannot Act Alone

Section 4.3 of the City Charter states: *“The mayor shall appoint all city officers, department heads, directors, and members of multiple member bodies for whom no other method of appointment or selection is provided by the charter [...] Except for appointments to multiple member bodies, all such appointments made by the mayor, unless otherwise provided, shall be subject to review and confirmation by the City Council as provided in Section 3.7.”*

The principle is clear: when Council confirmation is required, the mayor's choice is not automatically final.

Councilors must independently evaluate nominees' qualifications, experience, and ability to perform their duties. They should ask questions and determine whether an appointment serves the city's best interests. The City Council is not supposed to be a rubber stamp for the mayor.

When department heads lack the necessary qualifications or management skills, employees lose confidence, morale deteriorates, and residents ultimately suffer.

The charter also addresses temporary appointments: *“Whenever a vacancy, either temporary or permanent, occurs in a city office and the needs of the city require that such office be filled, the mayor may designate the head of another city agency, or a city officer or city employee to perform the duties of the office on a temporary basis until such position can be filled as provided by the charter, by law, or by ordinance.”*

This provision raises an important question: Are temporary appointments being used appropriately, or are they becoming a way to bypass established procedures?

When an appointment requires Council confirmation, the administration must follow the applicable rules. Councilors must not remain silent when legitimate questions arise about whether those rules have been followed.

Leadership Means Correcting Mistakes

Section 4.5, concerning the removal of officials, states: *“The mayor may remove any person appointed under Section 4.3 subject to the provisions of Section 3.7(b) of this Charter.”*

Leadership means more than making appointments. It also means recognizing mistakes and taking corrective action.

Consider Caryl García, the city's human resources director. Her appointment involved a three-year contract with a condition concerning coursework related to her responsibilities. Questions about compliance with that requirement deserve answers.

Human resources is a critical department. Its leadership affects employee relations, workplace morale, and the confidence city workers place in their administration. I have heard serious concerns about García's handling of employee relations and her impact on the atmosphere at City Hall.

If contractual requirements have not been met or a director is failing to perform her duties, the mayor should address the situation appropriately. If he considers renewing her contract, the public deserves to understand why.

A leader's responsibility is not to defend every previous decision but to correct problems when they arise.

The City Council Must Exercise Its Authority

Section 3.5(a) of the charter states: *“The legislative powers of the city shall be exercised by the city council as determined by its own rules, unless other provision is made by law or by the charter.”*

Section 3.10 adds: *“Except as otherwise provided by law or by the charter, all powers of the city shall be vested in the city council which shall provide for their exercise and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the city by law.”*

La Sección 3.10 añade: *“Salvo disposición en contrario de la ley o de la*
(Cont. on page 7)

La Oficina de Investigaciones Especiales de la Auditora DiZoglio identifica más de \$10.6 millones en fraude a los beneficios públicos



La Auditora Estatal Diana DiZoglio publicó un informe de la Oficina de Investigaciones Especiales (BSI, por sus siglas en inglés) que examina los períodos comprendidos entre el 1 de enero de 2026 y el 31 de marzo de 2026, y entre el 1 de abril de 2026 y el 30 de junio de 2026. El informe resume la labor y las

iniciativas de la BSI para mejorar el funcionamiento del gobierno mediante la investigación de fraudes, abusos y actos ilegales relacionados con los beneficios de asistencia pública en todo el Estado.

Durante estos períodos, la BSI investigó un total de 2,223 casos y calculó pagos en exceso en 402 casos en los que se identificó fraude. A continuación, se ofrecen más detalles sobre estos 402 casos.

"Estos programas importantes están destinados a las personas que los necesitan, no a quienes buscan aprovecharse del sistema", dijo la Auditora DiZoglio. "Cuando alguien comete fraude, está quitando recursos a las personas a las que estos programas debían servir. Nuestra oficina seguirá trabajando con nuestros colaboradores para identificar fraudes, porque los contribuyentes merecen que se proteja el dinero que tanto les costó ganar".

El público puede denunciar posibles fraudes a la BSI llamando a nuestra línea directa al 617-727-6771 o visitando nuestro sitio web en <https://>

Auditor DiZoglio's Bureau of Special Investigations Identifies Over \$10.6 Million in Public Benefit Fraud

State Auditor Diana DiZoglio released a Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) report covering January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2026, and April 1, 2026, to June 30, 2026. The report summarizes BSI's work and initiatives to improve government services by investigating fraud, abuse, and illegal acts involving public assistance benefits throughout the Commonwealth.

During this period, BSI investigated 2,223 cases, and overpayment calculations were completed in 402 cases with identified fraud. Further details regarding these

402 cases may be found below.

"These important programs are meant for the people who need them – not for those looking to game the system," said Auditor DiZoglio. "When someone commits fraud, they're taking resources away from the people these programs were created to serve. Our office will continue to work with our partners to identify fraud because taxpayers deserve to have their hard-earned money protected."

The public can report potential fraud to BSI by dialing our hotline at 617-727-6771 or by visiting our website at <https://>

Summary of Investigations Completed with Fraud Identified

• MassHealth/Medicaid	\$6,051,185
• Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$3,854,119
• Personal Care Attendant (PCA)	\$ 538,332
• Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC)	\$ 130,483
• Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC)	\$ 38,463

Grand Total \$10,612,582

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Resumen de investigaciones completadas con fraude identificado

• MassHealth/Medicaid	\$6,051,185
• Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP)	\$3,854,119
• Asistente de Cuidado Personal (PCA)	\$ 538,332
• Ayuda Transitoria para Familias con Hijos a Cargo (TAFDC)	\$ 130,483
• Ayuda de Emergencia para Ancianos, Discapacitados y Niños (EAEDC)	\$ 38,463

Gran total \$10,612,582

Brensley Promete Apoyo Legal a DiZoglio Para la Auditoría

(Read it in English on page 5)

Anne Brensley, candidata republicana a Secretaria de Estado, se ha comprometido a que, de resultar elegida en noviembre, pondrá los recursos legales de la oficina de la Secretaría de Estado a disposición para apoyar la iniciativa de la Auditora Estatal DiZoglio de realizar una auditoría de la Legislatura de Massachusetts.

Brensley afirma que este compromiso incluiría recurrir al sólido equipo jurídico de la Secretaría de Estado para brindar apoyo legal en la aplicación de la ley de auditoría aprobada por los votantes.

«El Secretario de Estado Galvin ha prometido hacer lo que sea necesario, incluso utilizar drones, para luchar contra Trump. Yo me comprometo a hacer lo que sea necesario, incluido el uso del equipo legal de la oficina, para hacer cumplir la auditoría», declaró Brensley. La disputa gira en torno a una consulta

popular estatal de 2024 que modificó la legislación de Massachusetts para autorizar expresamente a la Auditora Estatal a auditar la Legislatura. La «Pregunta 1» fue aprobada con aproximadamente el 72 por ciento de los votos, contando con el respaldo de más de 2,3 millones de electores. La ley modificada entró en vigor el 5 de diciembre de 2024.

Desde entonces, la oficina de DiZoglio y los líderes legislativos han mantenido un conflicto sobre el alcance y la aplicación de la ley. DiZoglio ha argumentado que la medida aprobada por los votantes otorga a su oficina la autoridad para examinar las cuentas, programas, actividades y funciones de la Asamblea Legislativa (General Court), así como para obtener los registros necesarios para llevar a cabo la auditoría. Por su parte, los líderes legislativos han cuestionado la interpretación de la ley hecha por la auditora y han planteado objeciones de índole constitucional y relativas a la separación de poderes.

Brensley sostiene que su propia batalla legal en torno a la auditoría demuestra por qué considera que la oficina de la Secretaría de Estado debería desempeñar un papel más activo en la implementación de la medida aprobada en las urnas, la cual refleja la voluntad de los votantes.

En octubre de 2025, Brensley presentó una demanda contra Mariano y Spilka ante el Tribunal Superior del condado de Middlesex. En su demanda, solicitó una declaración judicial que estableciera que los procedimientos de auditoría interna de la Legislatura no cumplían con la ley aprobada por los votantes, y pidió al tribunal que ordenara a los líderes legislativos facilitar a DiZoglio los registros necesarios para llevar a cabo la auditoría.

Brensley también refutó el argumento de que la trayectoria previa de DiZoglio como legisladora le impide realizar dicha auditoría. Su demanda buscaba una declaración judicial confirmando que la ley no inhabilita



a la Auditora Estatal para auditar a la Legislatura debido a su experiencia legislativa anterior.

La oficina del Fiscal General defendió a la Legislatura, lo que suscitó serios interrogantes sobre la imparcialidad de su papel al optar

(Cont. en la página 5)

Brensley Pledges Legal Support to DiZoglio for the Audit



Anne Brensley, the Republican Secretary of State nominee, is pledging that if elected in November, she will make the legal resources of the Secretary of State’s office available to support State Auditor DiZoglio’s effort to carry out an audit of the Massachusetts Legislature.

Brensley says the commitment would include utilizing the Secretary of State’s robust legal staff, to provide legal support for enforcement of the voter-approved audit law.

“Secretary of State Galvin has pledged to do whatever he has to, including getting drones, to fight Trump. I am pledging to do whatever I have to, including using the office’s legal team, to enforce the audit,” Brensley said.

The dispute centers on a 2024 statewide ballot question that amended Massachusetts law to expressly

authorize the State Auditor to audit the Legislature. Question 1 passed with approximately 72 percent of the vote, with more than 2.3 million voters supporting the measure. The amended law took effect on December 5, 2024.

Since then, DiZoglio’s office and legislative leaders have remained locked in a dispute over the scope and enforcement of the law. DiZoglio has argued that the voter-approved measure gives her office authority to examine the accounts, programs, activities and functions of the General Court and to obtain records necessary to conduct the audit. Legislative leaders have disputed the auditor’s interpretation of the law and have raised constitutional and separation-of-powers concerns.

Brensley says her own legal battle over the audit demonstrates why she believes the Secretary of State’s office should take a more active role in enforcing the ballot which is enforcing the will of the voters.

In October 2025, Brensley filed a lawsuit against Mariano and Spilka in Middlesex Superior Court. In her complaint, she sought a declaration that the Legislature’s internal auditing procedures did not satisfy the voter-approved law and asked the court to order legislative leaders to provide DiZoglio with the records necessary to conduct the audit.

Brensley also challenged the argument that DiZoglio’s previous service as a legislator prevents her from conducting the audit. Her lawsuit sought a declaration that the law does not disqualify the State Auditor from auditing the Legislature based on her

prior legislative service.

The Attorney General’s office defended the legislatures raising serious questions on the impartiality of the Attorney General’s role in choosing to defend one division of the state’s government over another. The assistant attorney general argued Brensley was, “nothing more than a Massachusetts citizen.” Brensley criticized that remark by reminding the assistant attorney general that he works for the people of the state; not the other way around.

“State Auditor DiZoglio has single-handedly been fighting for the audit and in doing so is single-handedly fighting for the will of the people,” Brensley said. “The fight has been uneven. She will get the full legal backing of the Secretary of State’s office if I win in November.”

The proposed role for the Secretary of State’s office would represent a significant expansion of Brensley’s stated involvement in the audit dispute. Rather than relying solely on the Auditor’s office or litigation initiated by individual citizens, Brensley says she would use the legal capacity of the

Secretary of State’s office to support enforcement of the law.

The issue has become one of the more prominent disputes over the separation of powers in Massachusetts state government. DiZoglio’s office maintains that the voters expressly amended state law to authorize an audit of the Legislature, while legislative leaders and the Attorney General have raised questions about the auditor’s authority, the constitutional separation of powers and the procedures governing litigation involving state officials.

For Brensley, however, the issue is fundamentally one of accountability. “The people voted for this audit,” Brensley said. “The Secretary of State should not stand on the sidelines when the enforcement of a voter-approved law is being challenged. They are the protector of the ballot.”

Brensley says a fundamental difference between the current Secretary of State, Bill Galvin, and herself, is she is focused on issues within this state, while he is focused on fighting Trump. “It’s just a fundamental difference in leadership focus. Voters get to decide what they want prioritized.”

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Brensley Apoya a DiZoglio

(Cont. de la página 4)

por defender a una rama del gobierno estatal frente a otra. La fiscal general adjunto argumentó que Brensley no era "más que una ciudadana de Massachusetts". Brensley criticó tal afirmación recordando al fiscal adjunto que él trabaja para el pueblo del estado, y no a la inversa.

"La Auditora Estatal DiZoglio ha luchado en solitario por la auditoría y, al hacerlo, lucha también en solitario por la voluntad del pueblo", declaró Brensley. "Ha sido una lucha desigual. Contará con el respaldo legal pleno de la oficina del Secretario de Estado si yo gano en noviembre".

El papel propuesto para la oficina del Secretario de Estado supondría una ampliación significativa de la participación declarada de Brensley en la disputa sobre la auditoría. En lugar de depender exclusivamente de la oficina de la Auditora o de litigios iniciados por ciudadanos particulares, Brensley afirma que utilizaría la capacidad legal de la oficina del Secretario de Estado para apoyar el cumplimiento de la ley.

Esta cuestión se ha convertido en una de las disputas más destacadas sobre la separación de poderes en el gobierno estatal de Massachusetts. La

oficina de DiZoglio sostiene que los votantes modificaron expresamente la legislación estatal para autorizar una auditoría de la Legislatura; por su parte, los líderes legislativos y el Fiscal General han cuestionado la autoridad de la auditora, el principio constitucional de separación de poderes y los procedimientos que rigen los litigios en los que intervienen funcionarios estatales.

Para Brensley, sin embargo, el asunto es fundamentalmente una cuestión de rendición de cuentas. "El pueblo votó a favor de esta auditoría", afirmó Brensley. «El Secretario de Estado no debe permanecer al margen cuando se impugna la aplicación de una ley aprobada por los votantes. Es el defensor del proceso electoral».

Brensley afirma que una diferencia fundamental entre el actual Secretario de Estado, Bill Galvin, y ella es que ella se centra en cuestiones propias del estado, mientras que él se concentra en luchar contra Trump. «Es simplemente una diferencia fundamental en el enfoque de liderazgo. Los votantes son quienes deciden qué debe tener prioridad».



Nevins Library is looking for its next Literacy Program Coordinator:

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Mayor Brian A. DePeña Joins Main Streets on Its Lawrence Outreach



Mayor Brian A. DePeña joined the Main Streets team as they visited different areas of Lawrence, connecting directly with small business owners to introduce them to this important energy efficiency initiative.

The Mayor emphasized that Main Streets is a program of great importance to our city, as it can provide significant benefits to our small businesses and, in turn, to the entire community.

The program offers small business owners a free energy assessment, along with recommendations and solutions to reduce energy consumption and operating costs while improving the comfort and efficiency of their businesses.

Areas that can be evaluated include HVAC systems, refrigeration, LED lighting, insulation and air sealing, motors and equipment, and hot water systems.

If you are a small business owner in Lawrence and would like to learn how you can benefit, you can request your free energy assessment by calling 860-854-8090 or emailing brian.regan@eversource.com.

Main Streets is out in our community, working directly with our small businesses to help them save, improve, and continue to grow.

El Alcalde Brian A. DePeña acompaña a Main Streets en su recorrido por Lawrence



El Alcalde Brian A. DePeña acompañó al equipo de Main Streets durante su recorrido por diferentes áreas de Lawrence, acercándose a propietarios de pequeños negocios para dar a conocer esta importante iniciativa de eficiencia energética.

El Alcalde destacó que Main Streets es un programa de gran importancia para nuestra ciudad, ya que puede representar un beneficio significativo para nuestros pequeños negocios y, a la vez, para toda la comunidad.

El programa ofrece a los propietarios de pequeñas empresas una evaluación energética sin costo, con recomendaciones y soluciones que pueden ayudar a reducir el consumo de

energía y los costos operativos, además de mejorar la comodidad y eficiencia de sus establecimientos.

Entre las áreas que pueden evaluarse se encuentran los sistemas HVAC, refrigeración, iluminación LED, aislamiento y sellado de aire, motores y equipos, y sistemas de agua caliente.

Si usted es propietario de un pequeño negocio en Lawrence, puede solicitar su evaluación energética sin costo llamando al 860-854-8090 o escribiendo a brian.regan@eversource.com.

Main Streets está en nuestras calles, trabajando directamente con nuestros pequeños negocios para ayudarles a ahorrar, mejorar y seguir creciendo.

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Speak Spanish? Young People in Your Community Need You as a Mentor

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts Offers One-to-One Mentoring

Every child carries real potential, but not every child has equal access to the guidance that helps that potential take root. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Massachusetts (BBBSEM), the region's leading one-to-one youth mentoring program, exists to close that gap by matching children with caring adult mentors who show up consistently in their lives.

BBBSEM pairs children with adult mentors, known as Bigs, based on shared interests, geography, and personality. When a mentor and a child share a language, trust often builds faster, since a child doesn't have to translate their own life to be understood. Matches spend a few hours at a time together, a couple of times a month, from baking a family recipe to exploring a museum exhibit by a Hispanic artist, building relationships that last for years. Many Spanish-speaking families are waiting to be matched, and without more Spanish-speaking volunteers, some children wait longer than they should for a mentor who understands where they come from.

For Spanish-speaking families, Spanish-speaking staff and interpreters work directly with them to make sure every step of the process, from enrollment to matching, is clear and comfortable.

Anyone can enroll a child or become a mentor. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and able to commit a few hours, a couple of times a month, for at least a year.

For more information, to become a volunteer, or to register your children, visit: www.emassbigs.org.

Cartas al Editor // Letters to the Editor

Hablando de transparencia

Llevo más de un año denunciando la falta de transparencia en los procesos de contratación, la insuficiente fiscalización de los fondos públicos y la falta de transparencia de esta administración.

He hablado sobre el LRA y su demanda. También he denunciado casos de nepotismo, discriminación y abuso de poder.

Más recientemente, he señalado casos de acoso sexual dentro de la administración y cómo esta protege a los acosadores mientras ignora a las víctimas.

Asimismo, me he quejado de que la administración no nos proporciona la información solicitada mediante FOIA, entre otras situaciones preocupantes.

Muchas de mis reclamaciones han sido demostradas como ciertas, y otras aún están en proceso de investigación o resolución. La ciudad está siendo demandada por múltiples razones, lo que representa gastos que, al final, recaen sobre nosotros, los contribuyentes.

Ya nada que provenga de esta administración me sorprende. Sin embargo, sí me sorprende —y me llama profundamente la atención— que los oficiales electos, quienes tienen la responsabilidad de aprobar o rechazar decisiones y de fiscalizar el uso de los fondos públicos, se mantengan en un silencio sepulcral.

Ese silencio me lleva a hacerme varias preguntas:

- ¿Son cómplices?
- ¿Están pensando en sus propios intereses y no en los de la comunidad?
- ¿Tienen miedo a represalias?

Este rompecabezas me tiene muy preocupada.

En pocos meses comenzará la campaña para la reelección. Solo espero que el pueblo los juzgue como los concejales que permitieron que la ciudad cayera en un precipicio sin fondo, tanto económica como moralmente.

Sarah B. Pérez Márquez
Lawrence, MA

Speaking of transparency

For over a year, I have been speaking out against the lack of transparency in hiring processes, the insufficient oversight of public funds, and the general lack of transparency within this administration.

I have addressed the LRA and the lawsuit filed against it. I have also exposed instances of nepotism, discrimination, and abuse of power.

More recently, I have highlighted cases of sexual harassment within the administration and how it protects harassers while leaving victims unprotected.

Furthermore, I have complained about the administration's failure to provide information requested under FOIA, among other troubling issues.

Many of my claims have been proven true, while others remain under investigation or pending resolution. The city is facing lawsuits on multiple fronts, resulting in costs that ultimately fall upon us, the taxpayers.

Nothing coming from this administration surprises me anymore. However, I am surprised—and deeply struck—by the fact that elected officials, who bear the responsibility of approving or rejecting decisions and overseeing the use of public funds, remain completely silent.

That silence raises several questions for me:

- Are they complicit?
- Are they prioritizing their own interests over those of the community?
- Do they fear retaliation?

This situation is deeply concerning to me. The re-election campaign begins in just a few months. I only hope the public judges them as the council members who allowed the city to plunge into a bottomless abyss—both economically and morally.

Sarah B. Pérez Márquez
Lawrence, MA

From My Corner...

(Cont. from page 3)

These provisions establish the Council's important role in Lawrence's government, subject to the limitations of the charter and applicable law.

Councilors cannot disregard every mayoral decision simply because they disagree with it. However, they must exercise the authority the law grants them. When confirmation is required, they must evaluate nominees independently. When administrative decisions raise legitimate concerns, they must demand answers.

The mayor has executive responsibilities, but he does not possess unlimited power. The City Council has its own obligations, and political convenience is no excuse for neglecting them.

Silence Is Not Leadership

I have become increasingly frustrated by the difficulty of obtaining meaningful responses from some elected officials. I have personally experienced unanswered calls, and residents deserve better.

I cannot presume to know why individual councilors fail to respond, but public officials must understand that questions and criticism come with the job.

Residents do not elect councilors merely to attend meetings and vote on routine matters. They elect them to represent the public, ask difficult questions, and hold the administration accountable.

When officials fail to do so, residents have every right to demand explanations. We must attend City Council meetings, raise our concerns, and insist on answers. Silence and resignation will not improve Lawrence.

Lawrence Deserves Better

Public confidence cannot be restored through political loyalty or personal relationships. It must be earned through competence, transparency, and accountability.

Our councilors must understand the City Charter and exercise their authority responsibly. They must be willing to question appointments, demand explanations, and make independent decisions.

The mayor, meanwhile, must ensure that departments operate effectively, personnel decisions comply with the law, and problems are addressed rather than ignored.

Neither branch can fulfill its responsibilities alone.

The City Council is not powerless, and the mayor is not omnipotent. Both are public servants entrusted with the responsibility of serving Lawrence's residents.

After years of watching our city struggle with these issues, I believe it is time for our elected officials to remember whom they work for. The people of Lawrence deserve a government that follows the law, respects its employees, answers its residents, and accepts responsibility for its decisions.

Nothing less should be acceptable.

Desde Mi Esquina...

(Cont. de la página 3)

Carta Constitutiva, todas las facultades de la ciudad residirán en el concejo municipal, el cual determinará su ejercicio y el cumplimiento de todas las obligaciones y deberes impuestos a la ciudad por la ley”.

Estas disposiciones establecen el importante papel que desempeña el Concejo en el gobierno de Lawrence, sujeto a las limitaciones de la Carta Constitutiva y de la legislación aplicable.

Los concejales no pueden desestimar cualquier decisión del alcalde simplemente porque no estén de acuerdo con ella. Sin embargo, deben ejercer la autoridad que la ley les confiere. Cuando se requiera confirmar los nombramientos, deben evaluar a los candidatos de manera independiente. Cuando las decisiones administrativas susciten preocupaciones legítimas, deben exigir respuestas.

El alcalde tiene responsabilidades ejecutivas, pero no posee un poder ilimitado. El Concejo Municipal tiene sus propias obligaciones, y la conveniencia política no es excusa para descuidarlas.

El Silencio no es Liderazgo

Me siento cada vez más frustrada por la dificultad para obtener respuestas significativas de algunos funcionarios electos. He vivido personalmente la experiencia de llamadas sin respuesta, y los residentes merecen algo mejor.

No pretendo saber por qué algunos concejales no responden, pero los funcionarios públicos deben entender que las preguntas y las críticas forman parte del cargo. Los residentes no eligen a los concejales simplemente para que asistan a reuniones y voten sobre asuntos rutinarios. Los eligen para representar a la ciudadanía, plantear preguntas difíciles y exigir la rendición de cuentas a la administración.

Cuando los funcionarios no cumplen con esto, los residentes tienen todo el derecho a exigir explicaciones. Debemos asistir a las reuniones del Concejo Municipal, exponer nuestras inquietudes e insistir en obtener respuestas. El silencio y la resignación no mejorarán Lawrence.

Lawrence merece algo mejor

La confianza pública no se recupera mediante la lealtad política ni las relaciones personales; debe ganarse mediante la competencia, la transparencia y la rendición de cuentas.

Nuestros concejales deben comprender la Carta Constitutiva de la ciudad y ejercer su autoridad con responsabilidad. Deben estar dispuestos a cuestionar nombramientos, exigir explicaciones y tomar decisiones de manera independiente.

Por su parte, el alcalde debe garantizar que los departamentos funcionen eficazmente, que las decisiones sobre el personal cumplan con la ley y que los problemas se aborden en lugar de ignorarse.

Ninguna de las dos ramas puede cumplir sus responsabilidades por sí sola.

El Concejo Municipal no carece de poder, y el alcalde no es omnipotente. Ambos son servidores públicos a quienes se les ha confiado la responsabilidad de servir a los residentes de Lawrence.

Tras años de ver a nuestra ciudad lidiar con estos problemas, creo que es hora de que nuestros funcionarios electos recuerden para quién trabajan. Los habitantes de Lawrence merecen un gobierno que cumpla la ley, respete a sus empleados, responda a los residentes y asuma la responsabilidad de sus decisiones.

Nada menos que eso debería ser aceptable.

Running the Campus: Exercise Your Right to Vote

By Lane Glenn, President
Northern Essex Community College

As a runner, I've learned that staying healthy means exercising regularly. As citizens, there's another kind of exercise that's just as important: exercising our right to vote.

Voting is one of the most powerful ways each of us can shape our communities, our state, and our country. Whether it's your first election or your fiftieth, your voice matters.

The freedoms we enjoy today were built through the efforts and sacrifices of generations who believed in democracy and worked to expand it.

Voting honors that legacy, and ensures that our government, which is of the people, by the people, and for the people, will endure.

Here in Massachusetts, we have a remarkable democratic tradition, from Faneuil Hall, the "Cradle of Liberty," home of our nation's first town hall meeting, to the Old South Meeting House and the earliest acts of the American Revolution, to the Massachusetts Constitution, the oldest democratic constitution in the world, to generations of civic leadership.

Our Democracy has always depended on people showing up and participating.

At Northern Essex Community College, we encourage you to stay active, stay informed, and stay engaged.

And whether you run, walk, bike, swim, or simply take the next step to the polls:

Exercise your body

Exercise your mind.

And most importantly, exercise your right to vote. Here is how:

Step 1: Register to Vote

In order to be eligible to vote in Massachusetts or New Hampshire, you must be at least 18 years old and a citizen of the United States.

In Massachusetts, you can use the Online Voter Registration System to check your voter registration status and register to vote online. The deadline to register to vote, update your registration, or change your party in Massachusetts is ten days before the date of the election (October 24 for the upcoming November 3 General Election)

In New Hampshire, you may register to vote at your town or city clerk's office or, if you are unable to do so, may request a voter registration form by mail. Visit the New Hampshire Secretary of State's Register to Vote site for more information. In New Hampshire, you can register to vote any time, including at your polling

location on election day.

Step 2: Make a Voting Plan

Decide now how you are going to cast your vote.

In Massachusetts, you can vote in person on election day, you can vote early in person, or you can vote early by mail.

- If you plan to vote in person on election day, Tuesday, November 3, you can find your local polling place here.

- If you plan to vote early in person, here is a list of Early Voting Dates and Locations near you.

- If you plan to vote by mail, applications were sent to state residents on September 19, so you may have already received yours. If not, you can complete an online application here. By state law, the deadline to return your ballot is 5:00 p.m. on October 27 (five business days before Election Day), so the Secretary of State's office recommends requesting your ballot by October 13 (at least three weeks before Election Day) and mailing it back by October 20 (seven days before Election Day).

In New Hampshire, you can vote in person on election day, or you can vote early by mail with an absentee ballot. New Hampshire does not offer early in-person voting.

- If you plan to vote in person on election day, you can find your local polling place here.

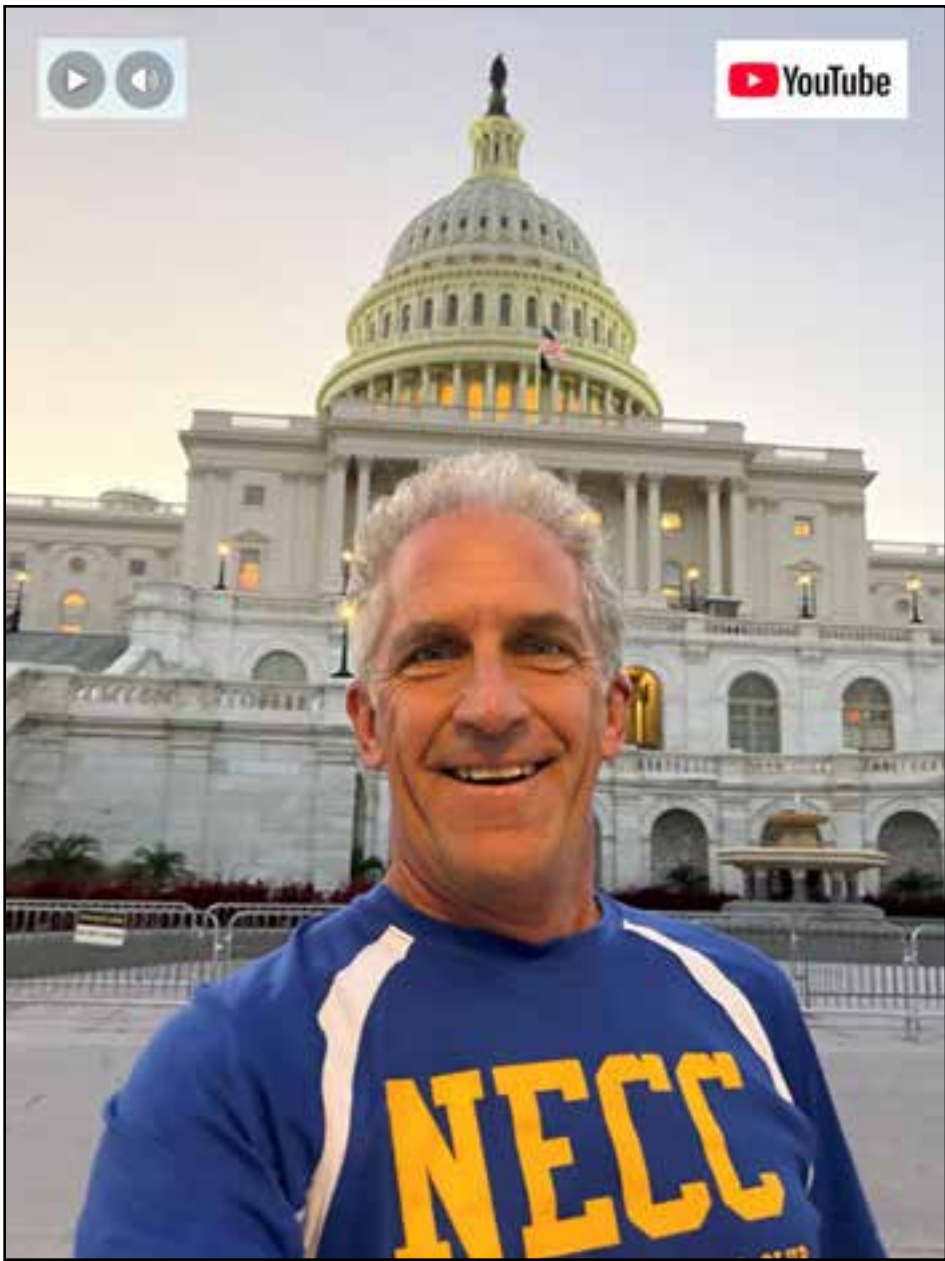
- If you plan to vote using an absentee ballot, note that New Hampshire has special requirements for approving your absentee ballot application that may take extra time. You can click here to download an application and learn more about the process.

Step 3: Research Your Ballot

Who are the candidates and what are the specific issues in your voter district? Before you cast your vote, research the people running for office and be sure you understand each issue you are voting on.

Here are a couple of nonpartisan web sites that present helpful information without making endorsements. Learn all you can, and make your own decision: Ballotpedia: Compare candidates and issues and look at sample ballots that are specific to your zip code.

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts: Provides information on how to vote, compares candidates and issues.



Step 4: Vote!

vote.

Because your vote matters.

This year, whatever your party, whatever your interests, whatever issues compel you the most, whatever candidate you favor, do your part, speak your mind, express your freedom of speech.

After you've taken the first few steps above, be sure to take the most important one: Cast your ballot and

NOTE: Northern Essex Community College is a proud member of Campus Compact, a national organization encouraging student civic engagement, and of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, which supports nonpartisan student democratic engagement.

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine - and shadows will fall behind you."

Walt Whitman

Lappin Foundation presents "Jewish Art Around the World: Henna Traditions in Sephardi and Mizrahi Communities"

Lappin Foundation presents "Jewish Art Around the World: Henna Traditions in Sephardi and Mizrahi Communities" on Monday, November 2 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.

In honor of Mizrahi Heritage Month, join Noam Sienna, Ph.D., Deinard Memorial Chair in Jewish History at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, for a look at the centuries-old traditions of henna art in Jewish communities across North Africa and the Middle East.

The program will explore henna as a form of adornment, healing and celebration and its place in Sephardi and Mizrahi Jewish culture. Free and open to the community. Register here: [LappinFoundation.org](https://lappinfoundation.org).

For more information contact Sharon Wyner at 978-565-4450 or email swyner@lappinfoundation.org.

Recorriendo el campus: Ejercita tu derecho al voto

**Por Lane Glenn, Presidente
Northern Essex Community College**

Como corredor, he aprendido que mantenerse saludable implica hacer ejercicio regularmente. Como ciudadanos, existe otro tipo de ejercicio igual de importante: ejercer nuestro derecho al voto.

Votar es una de las formas más poderosas que tenemos para dar forma a nuestras comunidades, a nuestro estado y a nuestro país. Ya sea tu primera elección o la quincuagésima, tu voz cuenta.

Las libertades de las que disfrutamos hoy se construyeron gracias a los esfuerzos y sacrificios de generaciones que creyeron en la democracia y trabajaron para expandirla.

Votar honra ese legado y garantiza que nuestro gobierno —que es del pueblo, por el pueblo y para el pueblo— perdure.

Aquí en Massachusetts, contamos con una extraordinaria tradición democrática: desde Faneuil Hall, la "Cuna de la Libertad" y sede de la primera asamblea ciudadana de nuestra nación; pasando por la Old South Meeting House y los primeros actos de la Revolución Americana; hasta la Constitución de Massachusetts —la constitución democrática más antigua del mundo— y generaciones de liderazgo cívico.

Nuestra democracia siempre ha dependido de que la gente se presente y participe.

En Northern Essex Community College, te animamos a mantenerte activo, informado y comprometido.

Y ya sea que corras, camines, andes en bicicleta, nades o simplemente des el siguiente paso hacia las urnas:

Ejercita tu cuerpo

Ejercita tu mente.

Y, lo más importante, ejerce tu derecho al voto. Aquí te explicamos cómo hacerlo:

Paso 1: Regístrate para votar

Para poder votar en Massachusetts o New Hampshire, debes tener al menos 18 años y ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos.

En Massachusetts, puedes utilizar el Sistema de Registro de Votantes en Línea para verificar tu estado de registro y registrarte para votar por internet. La fecha límite para registrarse para votar, actualizar su registro o cambiar de partido en Massachusetts es diez días antes de la fecha de la elección (el 24 de octubre para las próximas elecciones generales del 3 de noviembre).

En New Hampshire, puede registrarse para votar en la oficina del secretario municipal o de la ciudad o,

si no puede hacerlo, puede solicitar un formulario de registro de votante por correo. Visite el sitio web de registro de votantes del Secretario de Estado de New Hampshire para obtener más información. En New Hampshire, puede registrarse para votar en cualquier momento, incluso en su centro de votación el día de la elección.

Paso 2: Elabore un plan de votación

Decida ahora cómo va a emitir su voto.

En Massachusetts, puede votar en persona el día de la elección, votar de forma anticipada o votar por correo.

- Si planea votar en persona el día de la elección, el martes 3 de noviembre, puede encontrar su centro de votación local aquí.

- Si planea votar de forma anticipada, aquí encontrará una lista de fechas y lugares de votación anticipada cerca de usted.

- Si planea votar por correo, las solicitudes se enviaron a los residentes del estado el 19 de septiembre, por lo que es posible que ya haya recibido la suya. Si no es así, puede completar una solicitud en línea aquí. Según la ley estatal, la fecha límite para devolver su boleta es el 27 de octubre a las 5:00 p. m. (cinco días hábiles antes del día de la elección); por ello, la oficina del Secretario de Estado recomienda solicitar su boleta antes del 13 de octubre (al menos tres semanas antes del día de la elección) y enviarla por correo antes del 20 de octubre (siete días antes del día de la elección).

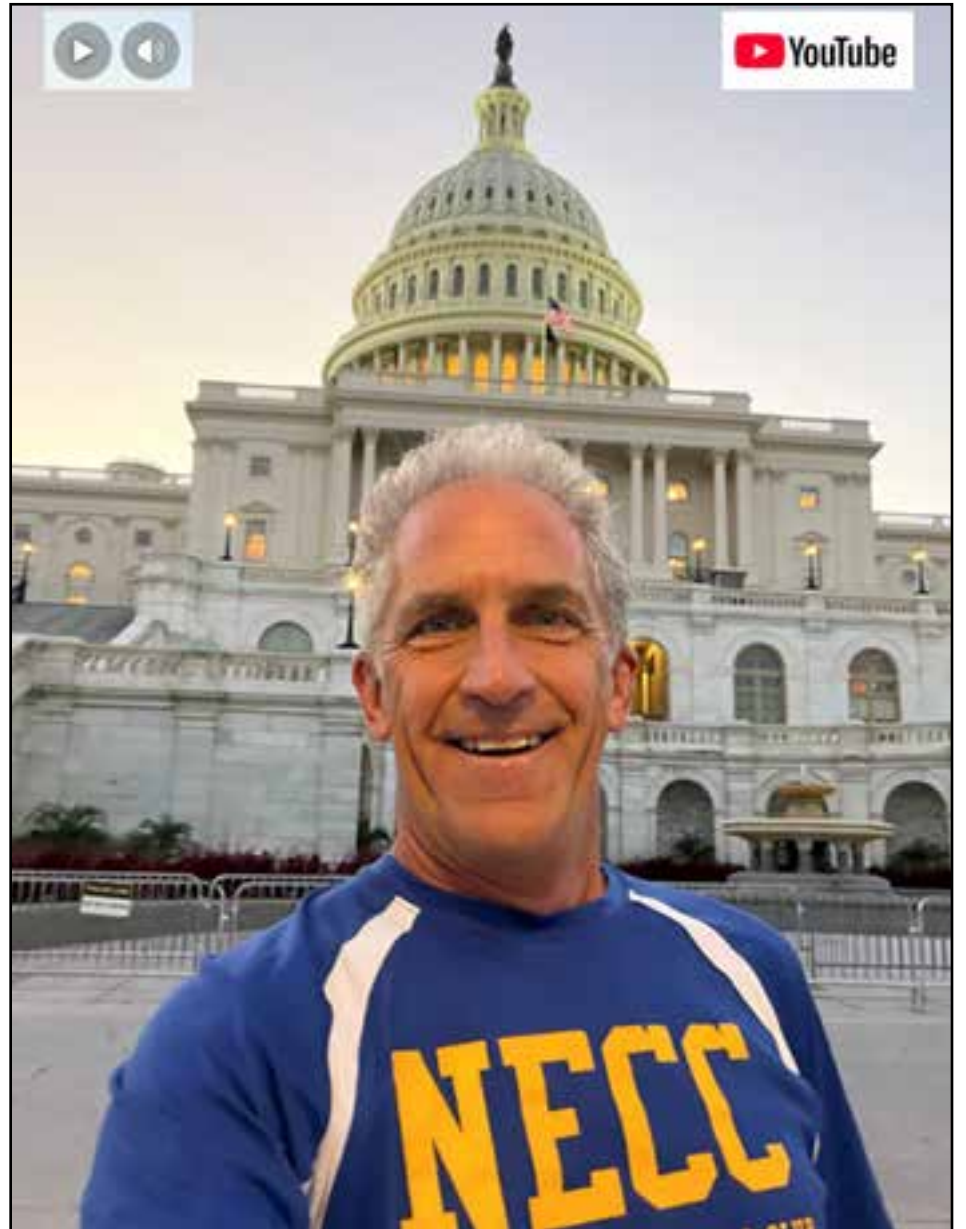
En New Hampshire, puede votar en persona el día de la elección o anticipadamente por correo mediante una boleta de voto en ausencia. New Hampshire no ofrece votación anticipada presencial.

- Si planea votar en persona el día de la elección, puede encontrar su centro de votación local aquí.

- Si planea votar mediante boleta de voto en ausencia, tenga en cuenta que New Hampshire tiene requisitos especiales para aprobar su solicitud, lo que puede llevar tiempo adicional. Puede hacer clic aquí para descargar una solicitud y obtener más información sobre el proceso.

Paso 3: Infórmese sobre su boleta electoral

¿Quiénes son los candidatos y cuáles son los temas específicos de su distrito electoral? Antes de emitir su voto, investigue a las personas que se postulan para el cargo y asegúrese



de comprender cada uno de los temas sobre los que votará.

Aquí tiene un par de sitios web apartidistas que ofrecen información útil sin respaldar a ningún candidato ni postura política. Infórmese todo lo que pueda y tome su propia decisión:

Ballotpedia: Compare candidatos y temas, y consulte modelos de boleta específicos para su código postal.

League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (Liga de Mujeres Votantes de Massachusetts): Ofrece información sobre cómo votar y compara candidatos y temas.

Paso 4: ¡Vote!

Este año, independientemente de su partido, de sus intereses, de los temas que más le motiven o del candidato que prefiera, haga su parte, exprese su opinión y ejerza su libertad de expresión.

Tras completar los pasos anteriores, asegúrese de dar el más importante: emita su voto.

Porque su voto cuenta.

NOTA: Northern Essex Community College es un orgulloso miembro de Campus Compact, una organización nacional que fomenta el compromiso cívico estudiantil, y de ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, que apoya la participación democrática estudiantil apartidista.



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Northern Essex Launches Surgical Technology Degree



Students wearing blue scrubs, masks and hair covers gather together in a surgical lab.

This fall, Northern Essex Community College has launched a new Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology, allowing students to earn a degree while gaining hands-on experience in a hospital operating room. The program is offered in partnership with Merrimack Health Haverhill Hospital and is supported by the Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant, as well as funding from the Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation and Accelerate the Future.

The program includes a mix of apprenticeship and non-apprenticeship seats. Currently, the apprenticeship seats are open to students who are employed by Merrimack Health.

During the program, students will develop the knowledge and technical skills needed to provide safe, effective patient care before, during, and after surgical procedures while eventually working alongside healthcare professionals. This first cohort of NECC students learns weekly in a real operating room at Merrimack Health Haverhill Hospital. NECC utilized the \$250,000 Skills Capital Grant

to purchase equipment, technology, and supplies for realistic, hands-on training.

“Surgical technologists are in high demand across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, but training pipelines have been limited, especially in the Merrimack Valley,” said NECC Dean of Health Professions Kathy Hudson. “NECC’s Surgical Technology program was built to close that gap—and in a striking, concrete way: Merrimack Health–Haverhill contributed its closed operating rooms to become classrooms and labs for the program. That’s a rare kind of investment/opportunity—a hospital repurposing its own clinical space so the next generation of surgical techs can train in an environment that looks and functions like a real OR, not a simulated one.”

Surgical technologists play an essential role in supporting surgeons and the broader healthcare team before, during, and after procedures. At Merrimack Health Haverhill Hospital, students will train to perform duties such as maintaining medical supply inventories during operations, washing

and sterilizing equipment, and cleaning and restocking operating rooms by gathering and organizing equipment, supplies, and instruments.

“We are proud to collaborate with Northern Essex Community College to provide students with hands-on experience in a real hospital environment and to help create a pathway to these in-demand careers, including opportunities at Merrimack

Health. It is especially meaningful to see this opportunity taking place here at Merrimack Health Haverhill Hospital, connecting education and workforce development right in the community we serve. We are grateful to NECC and our partners for their investment in the future of healthcare in our region,” said Anthony Alley, MSN, RN, chief nurse executive and quality officer, Merrimack Health.

NECC’s first cohort of Surgical Technologist students



Group shot of surgical tech students wearing scrubs, face masks and hair covers. They stand posed in OR looking at the camera.

Program coordinator Ellen Chouinard echoed the importance of this program in addressing workforce needs right here in the Merrimack Valley: “Hospitals in Merrimack Valley need qualified Surgical Technologists to support the operating room demands, and we need education that is accessible to healthcare professionals who work, live, and contribute to the local economy. NECC is providing students with an affordable and local pathway to a stable and skilled Surgical Technology career.”

Students who complete the Surgical Technology degree program will qualify to take the certification exam required by the state of Massachusetts for employment as a surgical technologist.

Northern Essex will also offer an Associate of Science: Medical Laboratory Technology in the apprenticeship model, scheduled to launch in the fall of 2027. Informational sessions are scheduled for both the Surgical Technology and Medical Laboratory programs this week. Find dates and more information here for Surgical Technology and here for Medical Laboratory Technology.

About Apprenticeship Degrees

The apprenticeship degree model is new in Massachusetts but is gaining momentum nationwide. Apprenticeship

degrees take a long-proven workforce development approach, common in careers such as plumbing and electrical trades, and apply it to new occupations where there is a significant and long-standing need for talent with post-secondary credentials. With this model, the learning takes place in both the classroom and at the workplace, and students earn both wages and credit while in the program. These programs open doors to high-demand careers for students who may need to work while they learn, while providing employers with a reliable, local pipeline of skilled talent. NECC plans to launch an additional apprenticeship degree in Radiological Technology in 2028 and is exploring adopting the model to several certificate programs.

About NECC

Northern Essex Community College, the first Federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution in New England, is an education leader for the Merrimack Valley. Through a supportive learning environment and cultural inclusion, NECC embraces all identities and inspires initiative and excellence through top-notch, affordable certificate and associate degree programs online and at campuses in Haverhill and Lawrence. NECC currently offers more than 60 programs of study. Visit necc.edu to learn more.



Students wearing blue scrubs, masks and hair covers gather together in a surgical lab.

Dozens of NECC Faculty Address AI Literacy with Open Educational Resources Projects

This summer, more than 30 Northern Essex Community College faculty and staff members embarked on innovative projects to address student AI Literacy. They're creating Open Educational Resources (OER), which are free, accessible, openly licensed teaching, learning, and research materials. Anyone can use, share, and adapt OER.

"For years, faculty have had great ideas for course materials but lacked the time and tools to bring them to life – AI is changing that. When you pair AI-powered content creation with the openness of OER, faculty become authors, designers, and innovators, and students get resources that are free, current, and designed specifically for them," said Sue Tashjian, NECC's Academic Innovations Programs Manager and Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education OER Advisory Council. Tashjian oversees OER projects at the college.

Dental Assisting Program Coordinator Davann Chhem is one of the faculty members who turned existing course materials into a new, interactive resource for students. She organized her Dental Materials and Procedures course into 15 modules, which include readings, terminology, learning activities, knowledge checks, and quizzes. Each module also includes an AI-generated introduction video that gives students an overview of what they will learn, highlights key topics, and explains the activities and assignments they will complete.

"I believe OER is important because it can remove some of the financial barriers students face while also giving faculty the opportunity to create materials that are specific to their courses and their students," said Chhem. "For me, this project was also an opportunity to incorporate career readiness, technology, and responsible AI use so that my students are better prepared for both their education and their future careers."

NECC Associate Professor Devan Walton helped Chhem and other faculty members design applications for their projects. This additional technology component helps to further the accessibility and functionality of the materials.

"Davann's app lets students do more than read about dental materials. They can try different materials and see how they respond to pressure or curing light. Across the CA-ROTEL apps,

we're creating more opportunities for students to learn by doing, without adding to their costs. Making these resources open also means other educators can use them, adapt them, and share improvements," Walton said.

This work is supported by a \$1.98 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop open-source textbooks for high-enrollment general education courses that are applicable across public college systems in Massachusetts. Framingham State is the lead recipient and has partnered with UMass-Lowell and NECC on the initiative, which is called the Career and AI Readiness while Remixing Open Textbooks through an Equity Lens (CA-ROTEL) project. The project is now in its second year.

This round includes the widest range of disciplines yet, including Business Law, Introduction to Psychology, Tax Accounting, Practical Logic, Dental Material & Procedures, Interpersonal Communication, Introduction to Respiratory Disease, English Composition 1 and 2, and World Religions.

"This work is about more than the content itself. AI literacy is fast becoming an essential skill that students need to navigate higher education and the workforce, and when we support faculty in integrating it thoughtfully into their courses, we're not just keeping up with the times; we're making sure our students aren't left behind," noted Tashjian.

This initiative builds on a previous project– supported by a separate \$1.3 million grant from the DOE – which produced nearly 30 OER textbooks being used at the partner colleges and beyond. NECC's first open textbook, The Whole Child: Development in the Early Years, is in use at more than a dozen colleges and universities, including institutions in Canada and Portugal.

Tashjian estimates the first round of CA ROTEL resulted in \$50,000 in savings for students. Over the last 11 years, the use of free and low-cost course materials has saved Northern Essex students \$10 million.

NECC currently offers 80 courses that use OER. Students can search specifically for these classes in the course search tool and select the Free/Low-Cost Books icon. For more information about free and low-cost textbooks or OER, please contact Sue Tashjian at 978-556-3686 or stashjian@necc.mass.edu.



Three students walk up the center staircase in the NECC library.



Sports with Northern Essex Community College

By Dan Blair, Director of Athletics

Knights Soccer, Volleyball keep wins coming

Haverhill, MA (September 30th, 2026) – The Northern Essex Community College men's soccer and women's volleyball teams are both in the midst of solid winning streaks that continued on Tuesday evening as the men's soccer team, currently ranked #9 in the NJCAA poll are winners of seven straight, while the volleyball team has won three straight.

Men's Soccer:

The Knights raced out to 5-0 halftime lead in Boston before defeating Roxbury by a 9-1 final score.

Cristian Lopez (Chelsea) recorded a hat trick as he scored a pair of first half goals and added his third goal of the game to open the second half scoring. Gabe Garcia (Everett) added a pair of goals of his own which now gives him a team best 10 goals on the season.

Gustavo Maximano (Marlborough) and Matheus Martins (Malden) also had multiple points recording a goal and assist.

Justin Guerard (Littleton) picked up the win in the net for the Knights

(7-2, 4-0) who will return home on Saturday to take on MassBay at 2:00pm at Whittier Tech High School.

Volleyball:

NECC defeated Quinsigamond in straight sets (25-7, 25-6, 25-9) at home on Tuesday evening and improved their overall record at 5-5 and 4-2 in region play.

Rachelle Torres (Lawrence) dished out 26 assists on Tuesday evening to go along a season best 11 service aces. Her 26 assists allowed her to surpass the 500-assist mark for her career at Northern Essex.

Maria Rosario (Lawrence) led the Knights with seven kills while hitting a perfect 1.000 in the match.

Noella Santos (Haverhill) added seven service aces of her own while Faith Martin (Billerica) added six kills as the Knights hit a season high .415 in the match.

NECC will hit the road for a pair of matches later this week at MassBay and Roxbury before returning home on Thursday October 8th to take on Massasoit.

“¿Qué dulzura queda en la vida, si le quitas la amistad? Robar la vida a la amistad es como robarle al mundo el sol. Un verdadero amigo es más digno de estima que un pariente”.

“What sweetness is left in life, if you take away friendship? Robbing life of friendship is like robbing the world of the sun. A true friend is more to be esteemed than kinsfolk.”

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Ballot questions and how I'm planning to vote

By Richard Russell

Having nothing to do on this rainy Sunday until the football games start, I decided to stir things up with my critique of the 9 ballot questions on the Ballot in November.

Question #1 - Public Records Law: If the taxpayers are paying for it, then we have the right to know what we are paying for; blame and simple! I fully expect this to pass overwhelmingly, similar to the Audit question from 2 years ago. But I foresee stonewalling by the King of Massachusetts, Ron Mariano, and the Queen of Massachusetts, Karen Spilka; and the Princess of Massachusetts, Maura Healey, will go along with it for the votes.

Question #2 - Collective Bargaining for CPCS Employees: Pay them what they are worth.

Question #3 - State Primary Elections: Keep them 2-party primaries unless the State agrees to run a one-party election and take the top person in that race from each party. Somehow, this ballot question seems to want to keep the status quo with the one-party political makeup on Beacon Hill.

Question #4 - Election Day Registration: No; we don't need many outsider registrations to potentially change the outcome of a race.

Question #5 - State Revenue Limit & Rebate: We all realize that the prevailing philosophy on Beacon Hill is that what we manage to steal from the taxpayers is 'ours,' and "We aren't giving any of it back!" As a quick

aside, I am old enough to remember 60 years ago when the 5% Sales Tax was supposed to be temporary. How did that one work out?

Question #6 - Natural Resources Conservation Fund: I support it if there are safeguards to prevent financial abuse of funds for studies, consultants, etc.

Question #7 - Single Family Homes: Anything that helps young people get started with a small home would help.

Question #8 - Prohibit Retail Sale of Adult Recreational Use Marijuana: For a variety of reasons, I am dead set against the sale of any drugs without a prescription! Until law enforcement officials can come up with a valid test for driving under the influence, I will remain against the sale of recreational use marijuana. I also witnessed several appalling events while in Vietnam that make me question the non-medical use of marijuana, period. I am hesitant to put the events in print as they are rather revolting.

Question #9 - Firearms Regulation: I have mixed emotions about this question. I am not overjoyed with the variety of restrictions that the state wishes to place on firearms. I agree that 'ghost guns' and weapons without serial numbers should be illegal, but just because someone thinks that my AR-15-style weapon looks like an 'assault' weapon shouldn't take away from my 2nd Amendment right to it.

Bottom line for me is YES on numbers 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, and 8; NO on 3, 4, and 9.

Las preguntas en la boleta y cómo voy a votar

Por Richard Russell

Como no tengo nada que hacer este domingo lluvioso hasta que empiecen los partidos de fútbol americano, decidí animar el ambiente con mi crítica a las 9 propuestas que aparecerán en la boleta electoral de noviembre.

Pregunta No. 1 - Ley de Registros Públicos: Si los contribuyentes pagan por ello, tenemos derecho a saber qué estamos pagando; ¡así de simple! Espero que se apruebe por abrumadora mayoría, al igual que la propuesta sobre auditorías de hace dos años. Sin embargo, preveo obstrucción por parte del "Rey de Massachusetts", Ron Mariano, y la "Reina de Massachusetts", Karen Spilka; y la "Princesa de Massachusetts", Maura Healey, les seguirá la corriente para ganar votos.

Pregunta No. 2 - Negociación colectiva para los empleados de la CPCS: Páguenles lo que valen.

Pregunta No. 3 - Elecciones primarias estatales: Que sigan siendo primarias bipartidistas, a menos que el Estado acepte celebrar una elección única y seleccionar al candidato más votado de cada partido en esa contienda. De alguna manera, esta propuesta parece querer mantener el *statu quo* de la hegemonía de un solo partido en Beacon Hill.

Pregunta No. 4 - Registro el día de las elecciones: No; no necesitamos que muchos registros de última hora puedan alterar potencialmente el resultado de una contienda.

Pregunta No. 5 - Límite de ingresos estatales y reembolso: Todos sabemos que la filosofía imperante en Beacon Hill es que lo que logran quitarles a los contribuyentes es "suyo", y dicen: "¡No vamos a devolver nada!". Como paréntesis, tengo la edad suficiente para recordar hace 60 años, cuando se suponía que el impuesto sobre las

ventas del 5 % era temporal.
¿Cómo terminó aquello?

Pregunta No. 6 - Fondo de Conservación de Recursos Naturales: La apoyo siempre que existan salvaguardas para evitar el abuso financiero de los fondos destinados a estudios, consultores, etc.

Pregunta No. 7 - Viviendas unifamiliares: Cualquier medida que ayude a los jóvenes a empezar con una vivienda pequeña sería beneficiosa.

Pregunta No. 8 - Prohibición de la venta minorista de marihuana recreativa para adultos: Por diversas razones, ¡me opongo rotundamente a la venta de cualquier droga sin receta médica! Hasta que las autoridades competentes desarrollen una prueba válida para detectar la conducción bajo los efectos de sustancias, seguiré oponiéndome a la venta de marihuana para uso recreativo. Además, fui testigo de varios sucesos espeluznantes durante mi estancia en Vietnam que me llevan a cuestionar el uso no médico de la marihuana, sin más. Me resisto a poner esos sucesos por escrito, ya que resultan bastante repugnantes.

Pregunta No. 9 - Regulación de armas de fuego: Tengo sentimientos encontrados respecto a esta cuestión. No me entusiasma la variedad de restricciones que el estado pretende imponer a las armas de fuego. Estoy de acuerdo en que las llamadas "armas fantasma" y las armas sin número de serie deberían ser ilegales; sin embargo, el hecho de que alguien considere que mi arma —de tipo AR-15— se asemeja a un arma de "asalto" no debería privarme del derecho a poseerla, garantizado por la Segunda Enmienda.

En resumen, mi postura es SÍ a las propuestas 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 y 8; y NO a las

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Freedom Trail® Announces Official Smartphone App Available in Spanish

The Freedom Trail Foundation has launched the official Freedom Trail® app in Spanish during National Hispanic Heritage Month and as part of the Freedom Trail’s 75th anniversary. Available for iOS and Android devices, the Freedom Trail app connects 16 of America’s most significant historical landmarks. The innovative offering highlights the rich history of the American Revolution as it unfolded in Boston, as well as a wide assortment of historic sites just steps off the Trail. Bringing the stories of the brave people who helped shape America to life, it makes any visit to and walk along the Freedom Trail fun and educational. The Freedom Trail Foundation has partnered with STQRY, a leading mobile app technology platform to create this Freedom Trail experience.

“The best stories make you feel like you’re part of them. We’re proud to

help the Freedom Trail bring Boston’s history to life for more people” says STQRY CEO and President, Thomas Dunne. “Adding Spanish means even more visitors can experience these incredible stories in a way that feels personal.”

Signature events such as Paul Revere’s midnight ride, the Battle of Bunker Hill, the Boston Tea Party, and the Boston Massacre are featured as well as other historic events and over 250 years of history. The app guides users on the Trail with automatic audio at stops with GPS mapping as well as an interactive map that helps find stops with ease, and over 1.5 hours of audio content, including music and guest interviews with historians and academics. Additionally, photos, images and text for all stops invite people to experience the Trail and historic sites featured on the app. It is the only official

app, historically accurate, with text approved by Boston-based historians and the Freedom Trail Foundation.

The partnership with STQRY for the new Spanish and original app came to fruition due to STQRY’s unique technology offering, their experience in working with the travel and tourism industry, and its common mission to help educate and entertain a technology-driven audience visiting major sites, like the Freedom Trail. STQRY’s state-of-the-art Mobile App Producer, a web-based content management system allowed the Foundation to organize and construct an app that can be easily published and updated across multiple app stores, as well as their connection with Spanish speaking narrators made it seamless to create.

“The Freedom Trail Foundation endeavors to help all navigate and enjoy experiencing the Freedom Trail, and this initiative makes the Freedom Trail more accessible to Spanish speaking residents and visitors alike” says Freedom Trail Foundation Executive Director Suzanne Segura Taylor. “We are delighted to welcome more people to visit Boston’s historic gems while using the new Spanish app that is educational and entertaining.”

The Freedom Trail apps are available in Spanish and English on the iOS App Store and the Android Market for \$9.99. For more information or to purchase the app, visit <https://www.thefreedomtrail.org/tours/freedom-trail-tour-app>.



EARLY-STAGE SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday | October 20 | 11:00 a.m.
Online via Zoom

A dementia diagnosis can be overwhelming. We invite those living with early-stage dementia to join us for a guided conversation to connect with others also living with a dementia diagnosis, who truly understand the specific challenges and emotions that they may be going through.

Our Bridges® experts will provide recommendations to resources and information about the disease, and practical tips and advice to help these attendees through their dementia journey.

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Massachusetts - Andover, Hingham, Lexington, Mashpee, Pembroke, Sudbury, Westford, Westwood
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