



Office of State Representative
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Rep. Dykema Secures Funding Priorities in State Budget

BOSTON – This week, Representative Carolyn Dykema (D-Holliston) joined her colleagues in voting to finalize the Fiscal Year 2022 state budget, which has now been signed into law. Earlier this month, the Legislature unanimously passed the final version of the bill, and on Wednesday the House voted to restore a funding and language for a number of programs vetoed by the Governor.

The final legislation authorizes \$48.1 billion in total spending on critical programs that protect the Commonwealth's most vulnerable residents, support local communities and schools, and invest in long-term economic growth. Thanks to rebounding tax revenue projections and continuing federal stimulus assistance, the FY22 budget makes significant investments in key areas while also depositing \$1.5 billion into the state's "rainy day fund," which in turn supports the Commonwealth's good credit for bonding and ability to weather additional economic uncertainty.

The FY22 budget package includes \$5.5 billion in Chapter 70 education funding to continue implementing the provisions of the landmark Student Opportunity Act, \$1.2 billion in unrestricted local aid to cities and towns, \$24 billion in health care spending, and \$586 million in housing supports. On Wednesday, the House voted to restore \$7.85 million in vetoed funding to the final budget, including \$1 million in funding for police training for municipalities to comply with the requirements of the 2020 police reform law and \$3.5 million in funding for regional transit authorities.

“The FY22 budget reflects key values and priorities that we as a Commonwealth share to serve our most vulnerable residents, support our cities and towns, and invest in our economic future,” said Rep. Dykema. “Under Speaker Mariano and Chair Michlewitz, we continue to successfully navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining funding for critical programs, setting us up for a speedy and productive economic recovery in the months and years to come.”

As House Chair of the Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, Rep. Dykema also advocated for robust funding totaling over \$300 million for programs that protect the Commonwealth's natural resources and native species, offer much-needed recreation opportunities to residents, and help protect communities from the worst impacts of climate change. Significant investments included \$50 million in spending on state parks, increased funding for the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program, climate adaptation and preparedness work, and a \$50,000 authorization to study the impacts of glyphosate pesticides on the environment.

“The targeted spending in this budget protects our natural resources, supports our food system and agriculture economy, and offers equitable access to recreation statewide,” said Rep. Dykema. “Over the last year, we have been reminded again and again of the value that our parks and open spaces provide to our communities, as well as the increasing threat of climate change. Our commitment to funding environmental programs will ensure that we continue to offer these same benefits to Massachusetts residents for generations to come.”

Rep. Dykema was also able to help secure critical local investments that directly serve the residents of Holliston, Hopkinton, Southborough, and Westborough. The following local appropriations were included in the final budget:

- \$100,000 for Goodwill Park improvements in the Town of Holliston;
- \$30,000 for Holliston American Legion Post 47 to build a monument to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom;
- \$25,000 for the Holliston Drug and Alcohol Awareness Coalition;
- \$50,000 for facility improvements to Project Just Because in Hopkinton;
- \$25,000 for Hopkinton Organizing for Prevention;
- \$25,000 for water infrastructure improvements in the Town of Southborough;
- \$25,000 for equipment for the Southborough Fire Department;
- \$38,404 for body cameras for the Westborough Police Department.

As a longtime leader of the legislative effort to support funding of Massachusetts YMCAs, Rep. Dykema also helped secure \$1.8 million in funding for the YMCAs' Youth-At-Risk program. Youth-At-Risk grants, which are matched by private funds at a rate of 24:1, offer critical services to vulnerable children and teens in communities across the Commonwealth, including out-of-school learning supports, summer camp programming, and water safety instruction. Demand for these services has only increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this funding helps support children receiving education and care in increasingly hybrid or virtual settings.

The budget, now finalized, is currently going into effect as FY22 funding begins to be distributed to municipalities, school districts, and state agencies.

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Representative Carolyn Dykema represents the communities of Holliston, Hopkinton, Southborough and Precinct 2 of Westborough in the Massachusetts House of Representatives.