

2024 ACADEMY FOR NEW LEGISLATORS

**FULL AGENDA FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE SENATE
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – Friday, December 13, 2024**

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

If you are staying at Hotel UMass, you may check in at the hotel lobby on the 3rd floor of the Campus Center.

10 am- noon

Academy Check-In

Marriott Center, 11th Floor, Campus Center

Onboarding for New Senators

Hadley Room, 10th Floor Campus Center

12 pm

Welcome and Working Lunch

Marriott Center, 11th Floor, Campus Center

Welcome and Introductions

Javier Reyes, Chancellor, UMass Amherst

Marty Meehan, President, UMass

Steve Karam, Chair, UMass Board of Trustees

Welcome Greetings

Karen E. Spilka, President, Massachusetts State Senate

Ronald Mariano, Speaker, Massachusetts House of Representatives

Greetings from the District

Jo Comerford, Senator

Mindy Domb, Representative

Program Overview

Nancy Buffone, Associate Vice Chancellor for University Relations, UMass Amherst

1:15 – 2:45 pm

Session #1 – Making an Impact: Breaking Through in the New World of Communications

Marriott Center, 11th Floor, Campus Center

Presenters

John Kennedy, Vice Chancellor for University Relations, UMass Amherst (Moderator)

Mary Anne Marsh, Dewey Square Group

Will Herberich, Keyser Public Strategies

Eileen O'Connor, Keyser Public Strategies
Scott Ferson, Liberty Square Group

Participants

Ana Vivas, House Communications Director
Max Ratner, House Deputy Communications Director
Sarah Blodgett, Senate President's Communications Director
Gray Milkowski, Senate President's Deputy Communications Director

2:45 pm

Break

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Session #2 – The State of the State: Fiscal Affairs of the Commonwealth and The Budget Process

Marriott Center, 11th Floor, Campus Center

Panel A – Fiscal Affairs of the Commonwealth (3:00 – 3:45 pm)

Panelists

Kerry Spitzer, Senior Research Manager, UMass Donahue Institute
Doug Howgate, President, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
Meaghan Callahan, Research Director, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation
Sheanna Gomes, Associate Manager, State Fiscal Health, Pew Charitable Trusts

Panel B – The Budget Process (3:45 – 4:30 pm)

Panelists

Aaron Michlewitz, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
Jo Comerford, Assistant Vice Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Chris Czepiel, Budget Director, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

A shuttle will be available from 4:45 – 5:15 p.m. to take attendees between the Hotel UMass (leaving from the 3rd floor lobby) and the Champions Center. It is also a short walk between the Hotel and the Champions Center for those who are interested.

5:00 pm

**Reception
Kennedy Champions Center**

6:00 pm

**Reception and Hockey Game
Massachusetts Room**

The Minutemen face off against the Boston University hockey team. The puck drops at 7 pm.

A shuttle will be available at the end of the game to take attendees back to Hotel UMass. The shuttle may be picked up at the Northwest entrance, on the lower level. Staff will direct you to the right location.

Thursday, December 12, 2024

- 8:00 am** **Breakfast**
Marriott Center, 11th Floor Campus Center
- 9:15 – 9:45 am** **Session #3A – State Ethics Commission**
Marriott Center, 11th Floor Campus Center
- Moderators
- James DiTullio, Counsel, Massachusetts Senate
 James Kennedy, Counsel, Massachusetts House of Representatives
- Presenters
- Eve Slattery, General Counsel and Legal Division Chief
 Michael McDonald, Senior Associate General Counsel
- 9:45 am – 10:00 am** **Break**
- 10:00 – 10:30am** **Session #3B – Office of Campaign and Political Finance**
Marriott Center, 11th Floor Campus Center
- Moderators
- James DiTullio, Counsel, Massachusetts Senate
 James Kennedy Counsel, Massachusetts House of Representatives
- Presenters
- William Campbell, Executive Director
 Jason Tait, Education and Communications Director
- 10:45 – 11:45 am** **Session #4 – Individual Meetings with the Senate President**
Room 904-908, Campus Center
- 11:45 am – 12:00 pm** **Break**
- 12:00 – 1:15 pm** **Lunch**
Marriott Center, 11th Floor, Campus Center

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Session #5 – Senate Committees Overview

Hadley Room, 10th Floor, Campus Center

Presenter

Senator Jacob Oliveira

Senator Brendon Crighton

3:00 – 4:30 pm

Session #6 – Simulated Senate Legislative Session

Hadley Room, 10th Floor, Campus Center

Led by Presiding Officer Julian Cyr

Senate, Bill No. 2834

An Act relative to the Affordable Homes Act

Presenters

Michael Hurley, Clerk

Stacey LeMay, Assistant Clerk

4:30 – 5:15 pm

Break

Beginning at 5 pm, volunteers will meet Academy attendees in the hotel lobby on the 3rd floor to escort them to the Student Union Ballroom.

5:15 pm

“Made in Massachusetts” Reception and Dinner

Student Union Ballroom, Student Union

Welcome

Javier Reyes, Chancellor, UMass Amherst

Session #7 – Life as a Freshman Legislator

During dessert

Speakers

Senate President Karen E. Spilka introduces:

Senator Robyn Kennedy

Senator Pavel Payano

House Speaker Ronald Mariano introduces:

Representative Judith Garcia

Representative Simon Cataldo

Friday, December 13, 2024

8:00 am

Breakfast

Marriott Center, 11th Floor, Campus Center

9:15 – 9:45 am

Session #8 – Relationship Building: Collaborating to Advance Policy Initiatives

Hadley Room, 10th Floor, Campus Center

Presenter

Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate

10:00 – 11:00 am

Closing Remarks, Presentation of Certificates and Photos

Marriott Center, 11th Floor, Campus Center

Presenters

Karen E. Spilka, President of the Senate

Ronald Mariano, Speaker of the House

Boxed lunches will be provided, starting at 10:15 am.