

## **Lt. Governor Polito Signs Inaugural Round of Community Compacts in Worcester, Gardner, Agawam**

### **Agreements ensure mutual accountability, sharing of best practices**

**BOSTON** – Today Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, on behalf of the Baker-Polito Administration, signed the inaugural round of Community Compact agreements with the communities of Worcester, Gardner, and Agawam.

“We are excited to support these municipalities in the best practices they selected to strengthen their community,” **said Lieutenant Governor Polito**. “The Commonwealth is looking forward to a robust partnership with these communities as they implement their best practices. It is our hope that many of the municipalities in the Commonwealth will follow these municipalities and enter into Community Compacts.”

Community Compacts are one tool the administration is utilizing to strengthen the partnership between cities and towns and the Commonwealth. In entering into a Community Compact, a community agrees to implement self-selected best practices. As part of this partnership, the Commonwealth agrees to fulfill its own set of commitments and work to provide assistance for a community in implementing their chosen best practice.

In signing their Compact, Agawam committed to best practices centering on preparing communities for success, the development of a housing production plan, and increasing economic growth and supporting workforce development in community. Gardner has committed to best practices around implementing an open data plan, promoting vehicular and pedestrian safety, and the creation of a disaster recovery plans accounting for the preservation of digital and paper records. Worcester has committed to using technology to improve its public communication and engagement.

“The Baker-Polito Administration’s offer to help Agawam work towards sufficient and sustainable housing and economic development is an incredible opportunity for our city,” **said Agawam Mayor Richard A. Cohen**. “I look forward to working together to implement these best practices.”

“Ensuring that our community is safe and walkable is our top priority,” **said Gardner Mayor Mark P. Hawke**. “I appreciate the Baker-Polito Administration’s willingness to work with Gardner as we work to make our community a better place.”

“The opportunity to work with Lieutenant Governor Polito and leverage the resources of state government to improve Worcester’s communications and engagement is a wonderful opportunity,” **said Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty**. “I look forward to continued partnerships as we work together to make Worcester a better place to live and work.”

The Community Compact is a voluntary, mutual agreement entered into between the Baker-

Polito Administration and individual cities and towns of the Commonwealth. In a Community Compact, a community will agree to implement a best practice they select from across a variety of areas. The Compact also articulates the commitments the Commonwealth will make on behalf of all communities, including helping the community attain their chosen best practice. For more information or to apply for a Community Compact go to [www.mass.gov/ccp](http://www.mass.gov/ccp).

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# Community Compact

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. What is a Community Compact?**

The Community Compact is a voluntary, mutual agreement entered into between the Baker-Polito Administration and individual cities and towns of the Commonwealth. In a Community Compact, a community will agree to implement at least one best practice that they select from across a variety of areas. The community's chosen best practice(s) will be reviewed between the Commonwealth and the municipality to ensure that the best practice(s) chosen are unique to the municipality and reflect needed areas of improvement. Once approved, the written agreement will be generated and signed by both the municipality and the Commonwealth. The Compact also articulates the commitments the Commonwealth will make on behalf of all communities.

**2. When was the Community Compact program launched?**

The first Executive Order, signed by the Governor in January 2015, established the Community Compacts. The Order creates a Community Compact Cabinet that will work toward mutual accountability, work to reduce red tape, promote best practices, and develop specific 'Community Compacts' with local governments. These Community Compacts create clear mutual standards, expectations, and accountability for both the state and municipalities as we seek to create better government for our citizens. The Baker-Polito Administration values input from the municipal leaders of the Commonwealth and will utilize the Community Compacts as a way to continue to engage them.

**3. What communities are eligible for a Community Compact? And are these optional?**

The Community Compact agreement is open to all the cities and towns of the Commonwealth. While a great tool for cities and towns, Community Compacts are optional. All Compact agreements are subject to review by the Division of Local Services before they are signed.

**4. How does a Community Compact work? What is the obligation of my community?**

Communities will self-identify the best practice(s) from the list on the Community Compact website. The community's chosen best practice(s) will be reviewed between the Commonwealth and the municipality to ensure that the best practice(s) chosen are unique to the municipality and reflect needed areas of improvement. Once approved, the written agreement will be generated and signed by both the municipality and the Commonwealth. The municipal leader

will be required to sign and authorize the Compact for a community. Those communities participating in the Community Compact will, over a two year period, implement the best practice(s) they selected when entering into the Compact. Resources for technical assistance from the Commonwealth will be prioritized for those communities entered into a Compact and seeking to implement their best practice(s). The Division of Local Services serves as the primary point of entry for communities looking for resources in best practice development and implementation.

**5. What is the obligation of the Commonwealth?**

The Commonwealth's commitments are found on the Community Compact website. In addition, the Commonwealth will offer incentives to communities for entering into a Community Compact, including prioritizing Commonwealth technical assistance resources to help reach your chosen best practice(s). Extra points on certain grants, and a grant program specifically for Compact communities are also incentives included for participation in the program.

**6. Is there a deadline to apply for the Compact? How do I access the application?**

No. A community may choose to enter into the Community Compact at any time. Each Compact agreement will run for two years. During the two year period of each compact, the Division of Local Services will periodically check in with the communities to monitor progress towards the implementation of the selected best practice(s). The application can be found by visiting [www.mass.gov/ccc](http://www.mass.gov/ccc). You will need a passcode to fill out the Community Compact application. If you do not have a passcode, please contact DLS by sending an email to Daniel Bertrand at [bertrandd@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:bertrandd@dor.state.ma.us).

**7. Can communities have a joint Community Compact?**

Yes, for smaller communities, regionalization of the Compact is an option. The Communities will individually fill out an application, choose the same best practice(s) and choose the regionalization option on the website.

**8. Where can I find out more information?**

To find out more information please visit [www.mass.gov/ccc](http://www.mass.gov/ccc).

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# Executive Order No. 554

By His Excellency  
**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
GOVERNOR  
**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 554**

## Revoking and Superseding Executive Order 537

### CREATING THE COMMUNITY COMPACT CABINET

**WHEREAS**, cities and towns are at the front lines of delivering services to the citizens of the Commonwealth;

**WHEREAS**, cities and towns are vital partners in creating the conditions under which economic development flourishes throughout Massachusetts;

**WHEREAS**, cities and towns face increasing pressures on municipal and school budgets, which impacts those essential services;

**WHEREAS**, cities and towns, through local aid and other programs, are partners with the Commonwealth;

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth wishes to recommit itself to a stronger partnership with its cities and towns;

**WHEREAS**, cities and towns have the right to hold the Commonwealth accountable, the Commonwealth has the right to hold cities and towns accountable, and the citizens have the right to hold all levels of government accountable. There should be a new compact between the state and our communities to create more effective, efficient and accountable governments.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Charles D. Baker**, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution as Supreme Executive Magistrate, Part 2, c. 2, § 1, Art. 1, do hereby revoke Executive Order No. 537 and order as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby established within the Executive Office of the Governor, a Community Compact Cabinet to advise the Governor on its areas of responsibility set forth in Section 4 below.

Section 2. There shall be, within the Department of Revenue, a Senior Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services, who shall report to the Commissioner of Revenue and shall be responsible for the operations and activities of the Division of Local Services. In addition, the new Senior Deputy Commissioner will also be the primary lead on local issues on behalf of the Secretary of Administration and Finance.

Section 3. The Community Compact Cabinet shall be chaired by the Lieutenant Governor. The Senior Deputy Commissioner, Division of Local Services shall serve as the Vice-Chair of the cabinet. The cabinet shall also include the Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Education, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, the Assistant Secretary for Operational Services, the Chief Information Officer, and any other person whom the Lieutenant Governor may designate from time to time.

Section 4. The Community Compact Cabinet shall have the following areas of responsibility:

- a. to champion municipal interests across all executive secretariats and agencies;
- b. to develop, in consultation with cities and towns, mutual standards of best practices for both the state and municipalities, working toward the creation of community compacts that will create clear standards, expectations and accountability for both partners;
- c. to develop ideas to incentivize adoption of best practices at the municipal and school district level;
- d. to work with the Local Government Advisory Commission (the "LGAC") to resolve issues and implement recommendations made by the LGAC and approved by the Governor;
- e. to review state regulatory burdens on municipalities and school districts and recommend reforms to lessen the burdens on municipalities and school districts;
- f. to understand the major cost drivers of municipalities and school districts and identify actions that the Commonwealth, municipalities and school districts can take to control them;
- g. to identify and remove barriers to economic development opportunities for cities and towns; and
- h. to empower cities and towns and school districts by finding new ways for local governments to leverage state resources and capacity.

Section 5. All agencies subject to the Governor's control shall provide assistance to the Community Compact Cabinet by sharing information and expertise, as requested.

Section 6. This Executive Order shall continue in effect until amended, superseded or revoked by subsequent Executive Order.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen and of the Independence of the United States of America two hundred thirty-nine.



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CHARLES D. BAKER

GOVERNOR

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN

Secretary of the Commonwealth

**GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**

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