

From the office of Senator Marc R. Pacheco

Commonwealth Report

News for the Citizens of the First Plymouth and Bristol District

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New Legislative session begins: **Facing Today's Challenges Together**

These are tough times for the Commonwealth. Many people in my district are struggling and many others are worried. As we consider how to cope with revenue shortfalls and budget deficits at the state level and in towns and cities across Massachusetts, it is important to remember that this is an international crisis. Other states, and nations, have even more dire financial stories to tell.

We do have resources at hand. We are entering a new legislative session, and we have new committee chairmen and chairwomen who are looking at the problems with fresh eyes. This brings opportunities to try new ideas.

At the same time, we have a lot of experience on our side. I believe my experience guiding public policy during economic crises of the past will be an important asset in helping to maneuver through these current tough times. We will get through this, the way we have gotten through challenges before.

Cities and towns are facing difficult choices as the state is forced to cut back on funding. Along with my colleagues, I am looking very closely at the proposals on Beacon Hill to increase revenue or cut spending. Right now, we are working to find the best way to move forward. I will be sure to keep you informed as the legislative session proceeds.

As always, I welcome your calls and letters.



Pacheco named to lead stimulus fund oversight panel **Will continue as chairman of Post Audit and Global Warming**

Senator Marc Pacheco will lead a newly formed committee to oversee and review state spending of federal stimulus funds. The Special Standing Committee on Federal Stimulus Oversight will act on behalf of the legislature to coordinate efforts with the administration to maximize federal assistance for Massachusetts, Senate President Therese Murray announced Feb. 12.

As the state prepares to distribute its share of a \$787 billion federal stimu-

lus package, Pacheco said he wants to be sure the cities and towns of Massachusetts will be positioned to ensure that federal assistance goes to job-creating projects on the ground.

"We intend to see that this assistance is used as intended to pay for infrastructure projects, for Medicaid, and for education, but most of all to create jobs throughout the state and stimulate the economy," Pacheco said. "The taxpayers can be certain that we will be watching very closely. We are here

to give them that accounting."

Murray also tapped Pacheco again for major leadership roles in the senate. He will continue to chair both the powerful Post Audit and Oversight Committee and the Global Warming and Climate Change Committee. He will also sit on the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, as well as the joint committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy and the joint committee on Health Care Financing.

Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership wins Buy Local grant

One of only four agricultural organizations honored statewide

Four \$25,000 grants aimed at encouraging consumers to buy Massachusetts-grown food, including Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership in East Wareham, were announced in February by Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles.

“As a long-time supporter of our community farms and the Buy Local objective, I congratulate the South-

eastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership for winning the grant,” said Senator Marc R. Pacheco. “When we buy locally grown food, we eat tastier and fresher food, enhance the diversity of the local economy, and reduce our carbon footprint, helping to create a sustainable future for everyone.”

Under this program, the Department of Agricultural Resources

awards grants to community organizations in four regions of the Commonwealth to support efforts to encourage consumers and businesses to buy produce from local farmers, which ensures the availability of farm-fresh produce and promotes the state’s agricultural economy.

Morton Hospital receives \$300,000 grant

Funds will help the hospital continue to provide essential care to the community

Morton Hospital and Medical Center in Taunton has won a \$300,000 grant from the state’s Essential Community Provider Trust Fund, which will enable the center to continue to provide the essential and wide range of care to the community that it provides.

“Morton Hospital provides a critically needed point of access for a

wide range of patient care for the people of Taunton and the surrounding area,” Senator Marc Pacheco said. “This was a highly competitive process, and we advocated strongly for Morton. The hospital clearly stood out to the evaluators due to the hospital’s continuing attention to excellent management and the essential need for this quality care for children, adults, and the eld-

erly.”

The goal of the trust fund is to improve providers’ abilities to serve populations in need more effectively and efficiently through community-based care: clinical support; disease management; primary care; care coordination; and pharmacy management services.

NEWS NOTES:

International environmental award: Senator Pacheco was the first recipient of the United Nations’ Sustainable Future Campaign award, which he accepted in Vienna in October. [See photos here.](#)

Unsung heroes: Boston Phoenix writer David S. Bernstein was asked on his blog in February, Who are your unsung heroes in Massachusetts politics that do a lot of good work but do not get enough public acclaim? His answer: “An excellent question. If we’re talking about elected officials, I think maybe someone like Marc Pacheco, Cynthia Creem, Stan Rosenberg, Kevin Honan, Michael Costello. I’m kind of pulling names out of thin air here, but they kind of stay out of the limelight but seem serious about getting things done.” [Talking Politics](#)

National appointment: Senator Pacheco was appointed to serve on the Agriculture and Energy Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures for the 2009-2010 legislative session. The committee is responsible for guiding NCSL policy on these issues on behalf of states in Washington, D.C.

One century mark, plus: Congratulations to Mrs. Gloria A. Paquin of Middleboro, who reached the age of 105 in February. Senator Pacheco’s office is making arrangements to present her with a legislative resolution marking the occasion. Congratulations also to Mrs. Jennie Keelin, who celebrated her 100th birthday in February. Senator Pacheco presented her with a resolution at the Nemasket Health Care Center in Middleboro.

In the news:

- Pacheco joins Regional Transportation Authority group: [Wicked Local Raynham](#)
- Odds now favor casinos and slots: [The Enterprise](#)
- Local legislators get state leadership posts: [Taunton Daily Gazette](#)