

# SENATOR BECCA RAUSCH

NORFOLK • BRISTOL • MIDDLESEX

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## **Senator Becca Rausch, District Delegation Achieve Big Wins in \$43.1 Billion Final FY2020 Budget**

*Senator Rausch secured amendments for Councils on Aging, transparency and oversight on executive spending, and teen healthy relationships maintained in conference committee budget; 12 municipalities in the District received over \$2 million combined in local support*

Boston, MA – Senator Becca Rausch (D-Needham) voted in favor of the \$43.1 billion final budget for Fiscal Year 2020 on Monday, July 22. The budget, passed to be engrossed by both the House (158-0) and the Senate (39-1), makes significant investments in public education, health care, state parks, regional transit authorities, and workforce development, while also directing \$476 million to the Stabilization Fund. Through her amendments, Senator Rausch secured statewide funding for Councils on Aging and \$1 million (representing an \$850,000 increase over last year) in grants to promote healthy dating relationships among young people, as well as notable improvements in transparency and oversight on executive spending and data management. The Senator and her many colleagues representing the 12 municipalities of the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District also secured over \$2 million in local funding and infrastructure development.

“A budget is a comprehensive statement of our shared values,” Senator Rausch said. “Especially in my first budget experience, it was a privilege to collaborate with my legislative colleagues to improve local infrastructure, prevent unhealthy behaviors, advance public safety, promote experiential learning for our students, and improve our open spaces and playgrounds. Our teamwork is a real achievement. I am also proud and grateful that this budget contains several of my statewide priorities, including the largest investment in decades to prevent teen sexual assault and domestic violence, full funding for innovative programs supporting our seniors aging in communities of choice, and improved administrative transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness.”

Senator Rausch’s statewide budget successes include: (1) full funding for the Service Incentive Grant (SIG) program to our Commonwealth’s Councils on Aging, while maintaining the Formula Grant rate of \$12 per senior per year; (2) \$1 million to fund the Healthy Relationships Grant Program, which supports partnerships between the Department of Public Health and community- and school-based organizations to offer effective programming that promotes healthy intimate partner relationships among our young people and reduces teen dating violence; and (3) a policy change to significantly

improve transparency and fiscal oversight of the Executive Office of Technology Services and Supports (EOTSS), as the office's expenditures could reach \$1.5 billion in a five-year period if Governor Baker's recent bond bill passes. The Healthy Relationships Grant Program stems in part from the advocacy of one of Senator Rausch's Wayland constituents, whose daughter was murdered by her former intimate partner.

The municipalities in Senator Rausch's district received a combined total of more than \$2 million in local aid through the coordinated and collaborative teamwork of the full legislative delegation.

For the towns of **Natick, Needham, Wayland, and Wellesley**, Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland), Senator Rausch, Senator Cindy Creem (D-Newton), Senator Mike Rush (D-West Roxbury), Representative Denise Garlick (D-Needham), Representative Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley), Representative David Linsky (D-Natick), and Representative Carmine Gentile (D-Wayland) secured funding to support the following programs, upgrades, and developments:

- Improved playground space in Wayland
- Renovations to Hunnewell Fields in Natick
- Traffic signal improvements at the Bacon St. / Route 135 intersection in Wellesley
- Needham Heights streetscape improvements
- At-risk youth mentoring program in Wayland
- After-school programming in Wellesley
- Veterans Oral History Project in Natick
- Education programs at the WWII Museum in Natick
- Public health and substance use programming for veterans in Natick
- Senior Center improvements in Needham
- Expansion study of the Needham Rail Trail
- Wayland permitting software
- Conditions assessment of the Stone Building in Wellesley

For the towns of **Sherborn, Millis, and Franklin**, Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland), Senator Rausch, Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin), and Representative Shawn Dooley (R-Norfolk) secured funding to support the following programs, upgrades, and developments:

- Vaping prevention pilot program in Franklin public schools
- IT and communications growth in Millis
- Sustainability coordinator for Sherborn
- Feasibility study to construct a Senior Center in Millis
- Parking lot for Franklin State Forest
- Sherborn Town Hall campus safety improvements
- Millis town buildings assessment

- Repair of the Dover Road / West Street Bridge in Millis
- Franklin Substance Abuse Coalition support and treatment programs
- Franklin Downtown Partnership
- Funding for adaptive camp programming in Millis

For the municipalities of **Norfolk, Wrentham, Plainville, North Attleboro, and Attleboro**, Senator Rausch, Senator Paul Feeney (D-Foxboro), Representative Jim Hawkins (D-Attleboro), Representative Shawn Dooley (R-Norfolk), and Representative Betty Poirier (R-North Attleboro) secured funding to support the following programs, upgrades, and developments:

- Creation of a “maker space” at North Attleboro High School
- A new transitional housing shelter in Attleboro
- Networking and IT upgrades for Plainville
- A new animal shelter to serve Norfolk, Wrentham, and Plainville
- Stormwater permitting in Norfolk, Wrentham, and Plainville
- Extrication tools for the Plainville Fire Department
- Gear extractor and drying cabinet for the Attleboro Fire Department
- Re-entry programming in Attleboro
- Development of the North Attleborough Council on Aging
- Safety improvements to the North Attleborough WWII Memorial Pool

“Education is a top Senate priority, and I am therefore proud of the significant investments we make in K-12 education in the final FY2020 budget,” said **Senate President Spilka**. “Not only have we voted to advance the largest year-over-year increase in Chapter 70 education funding in the last two decades, we have also made a substantial down payment towards funding the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC). I commend all of the members of the conference committee for their very fine work on this budget.”

“Our Commonwealth’s collective values are well represented and advanced in this budget,” said **Senator Feeney**. “It remains vital that we make significant investments in public education, and the FY20 budget reflects that commitment. Our regional priorities, including economic development, transportation, environmental protection, resources for our seniors and public safety professionals, and investments in programs important to working women and men in our communities have been overwhelmingly supported in this budget. I’m proud that the members of our region’s legislative delegation work closely together as a team to advocate for the people we represent.”

**Representative Garlick** said Monday, “the Needham legislative delegation is strong. We have brought attention to the concerns of the communities we represent and to the needs of many individuals we serve. Throughout the budget process, we have been united in

representing the individuals, families, older adults and veterans of Needham. This final budget reflects the values and priorities that make our town exceptional, and delivers tangible results that improve our safety and quality.”

“This budget reaffirms our commitment to local aid and our communities and includes funds for important projects in Franklin,” said **Representative Roy**. “The House and Senate were successful at including significant local and regional money throughout the Commonwealth in this coming fiscal year’s budget. Additionally, Massachusetts is dealing with several important societal issues, like the opioid epidemic, public safety, aging infrastructure, and an aging population. The Legislature has struck a balance that takes on these challenges and maintains our commitment to our communities, our children, our seasoned citizens, and the disabled as well as advancing economic development and the arts.”

“I am pleased that my amendment for \$50,000 for the Town of Wayland was included in the final conference committee report,” said **Representative Gentile**. “This funding will help streamline and automate permitting functions in the town through new software which ultimately will enhance the experience of residents, developers, business owners, and others while at the same time serving the Town by clarifying areas where further improvement is needed.”

**Representative Hawkins** said, “the \$50,000 for the Northern Bristol County facility will be key in addressing the lack of beds and permanent supported housing for people in Attleboro who are experiencing homelessness. And the \$550,000 for MCIEA will allow the work to continue that Attleboro and six other school districts are doing to create a system of standardized testing that is more fair than MCAS.”

“The needs of all the residents from the youngest child to our seniors is the responsibility of our government,” said **Representative Poirier**. “I am so happy to have helped to maintain our WWII veterans’ wishes to serve every child for free in a safe nurturing environment at the WWII Memorial Pool as well as to provide a new well-deserved inclusive center for our seniors.”

**Representative Dooley** said, “I am pleased that we were able to bring back more of our citizens’ tax dollars to the district, including increased funding for our schools; critical infrastructure; and public safety. While I had hoped for tax saving reforms and spending reductions, I am happy we were able to increase our emergency reserves to over 3 billion dollars.”

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*Senator Becca Rausch represents the Norfolk, Bristol and Middlesex District, comprised of Attleboro, Franklin, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, North Attleborough, Plainville, Sherborn, Wayland, Wellesley, and Wrentham. Currently in her first term, Senator Rausch*

*serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government and the Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs.*